

# Summer Festival of Bridge

Wednesday 14 - Sunday 25 January 2026

## Daily Bulletin



Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Editor: Lauren Travis — [notbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:notbulletin@gmail.com) / 0402 614 301

## Pre-Bulletin

### Welcome from the Tournament Organiser

Welcome to the Summer Festival of Bridge!

As Tournament Organiser, it's my pleasure to welcome you to the first National Event of 2026. Whether you've come from just down the road or travelled a long way to be here, we're delighted to have you with us. We know it's no small effort, and we truly appreciate it.

Over the next 12 days, the tables will be full of clever plays, bold bids, and the occasional lucky guess. This festival is for everyone — seasoned champions, devoted addicts, and first-timers alike. It's a chance to test your skills, enjoy the company of some of the best players in the country, and experience bridge at its best: played with fairness, respect, good humour, and a love of the game.

Play well, give our incoming Bulletin Editor, Lauren Travis, plenty of hands to write about, and above all, play in the true spirit of bridge. Enjoy the festival, make new friends, and savour the many memorable moments it will bring.

Here's to 12 days of great bridge!

Laura Ginnan, Tournament Organiser



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# Welcome from the ABF President

I welcome you to the Canberra Rex Hotel for the 56<sup>th</sup> Summer Festival of Bridge. This event brings together players of all abilities and ages not only from Australia but also from overseas.

I am confident that the Tournament Organiser Laura Ginnan and her team have set the scene to make sure the Summer Festival of Bridge is a friendly, yet competitive event.

Thank you to our sponsors, Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers, Fixed Income Solutions, Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies, Heart Research Institute and the Canberra Rex Hotel. I encourage you all to support those who support our wonderful game.

I wish one and all continued success at the bridge table. Every hand has a problem to solve, so enjoy this year's journey.

*Allison Stralow, President, Australian Bridge Federation*



# Welcome from the ABF Executive Director

On behalf of the Australian Bridge Federation, I warmly welcome you to the Summer Festival of Bridge. Whether you have travelled a long distance or joined us from close to home, we are delighted to have you here and hope you enjoy everything the Festival has to offer.

An event of this scale does not happen without the commitment and hard work of many people. I would like to acknowledge and thank our Tournament Organiser, **Laura**, whose planning, attention to detail and calm leadership underpin the Festival, along with the entire tournament staff, directors and volunteers who work long hours behind the scenes to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Their efforts allow players to focus on what matters most – enjoying the game.

The Festival would also not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. We are grateful to **TBIB, Fixed Income Solutions, Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies, Heart Research Institute and the Canberra Rex Hotel** for their continued support of Australian bridge and of this event in particular. Their contribution plays an important role in enabling us to deliver a Festival that players look forward to year after year.

Our thanks also go to **Lauren**, our Bulletin Editor. The daily bulletin is an important part of the Festival experience, capturing not only results but also the stories, moments and personalities that make this event special. I encourage players to share their stories, reflections and photos with Lauren so they can be enjoyed by the wider Festival community.

Whether you are here with a strong competitive focus or simply to enjoy great bridge and good company, I wish you a successful and enjoyable Festival. Events like this rely on all of us – players, officials, staff and spectators alike – showing courtesy, patience and respect, and recognising that everyone has a role to play in making the experience a positive one for others.

Finally, as we come together for this Festival, it is impossible not to reflect on the recent tragedy at Bondi. The Australian bridge community was deeply saddened by the loss of **Marika Pogany**, a much-loved member of the Sydney bridge community. Our thoughts remain with her family, friends and all those affected. Moments like these remind us of the importance of community, kindness and connection – values that sit at the heart of bridge.

I wish you all a safe, enjoyable and memorable Summer Festival of Bridge.

*David Fryda, Executive Director, Australian Bridge Federation*



# Schedule

Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	National Women's Teams National Seniors' Teams National Rookie (U20 MP) All-Rounder National Novice (U100 MP) All-Rounder
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Fixed Income Solutions One Day Swiss Pairs
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	TBIB Open Swiss Pairs TBIB U750/U500 Swiss Pairs TBIB U300/U100 Swiss Pairs
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	National Women's Teams Semi Finals National Seniors' Teams Semi Finals
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	National Women's Teams Final National Seniors' Teams Final
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	National U750 MP All-Rounder National Restricted (U300 MP) All-Rounder
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	South West Pacific Teams
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Mixed Matchpoint Swiss Pairs
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	National Open Teams Quarter Finals
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	National Open Teams Semi Finals
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	National Open Teams Final

## Event Officials

**Tournament Organiser:** Laura Ginnan – [not@abf.com.au](mailto:not@abf.com.au) / 0411 694 248 (if urgent)

**Chief Tournament Director:** Laurie Kelso

**Review Consultants:** Please speak to directing staff who will recommend a review consultant

**ABF On-Site Representatives:** Warren Lazer and Matthew McManus

**Recorders:** Kim Frazer, Bob Sebesfi and Richard Ward



# RED DAY

## TUESDAY 20 JANUARY

Wear **RED** to support  
groundbreaking  
cardiovascular research



### The Heart Research Institute (HRI) partners with ABF

Much like a game of bridge, strong hearts and sharp minds are built through connection, strategy and care over time. That's why we're delighted to welcome HRI to this year's Festival. Their scientists are dedicated to understanding and preventing cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death globally, so more Australians can enjoy long, active lives filled with the people and pastimes that they love.

Joining us from 19 - 21 January, HRI will be running a suite of activities that will be sure to keep your hearts happy and your cards in play. HRI will also be providing prizes to the Junior and Senior team champions.

You can get involved by:

- Wearing **RED** on Tuesday 20 January.
- Having a heart health check. HRI will be providing complimentary ECG and blood pressure checks. These 5 minute checks could save your life.
- Attending the complimentary lunch time health information session moderated by ABF member Professor Mathew Vadas.
- Chatting with the HRI team to learn about making a tax-deductible donation or gift that supports their groundbreaking research.



BREAKING  
GROUND.  
HEALING  
HEARTS.

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[hri.org.au/donate](https://hri.org.au/donate)



# First Day's Program

## Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

### National Women's Teams Qualifying

9.45am – 6.30pm, 3 x 20-board rounds

### National Seniors' Teams Qualifying

9.45am – 6.30pm, 3 x 20-board rounds

### National Rookie (U20 MP) All-Rounder Matchpoint Pairs

9am – 9.30am *Celebrity Speaker Talk (optional)*, 10am – 5pm *Competitive Game*, 5pm – 6pm *Practice Hands (optional)*

### National Novice (U100 MP) All-Rounder Matchpoint Pairs

9am – 9.30am *Celebrity Speaker Talk (optional)*, 10am – 5pm *Competitive Game*, 5pm – 6pm *Practice Hands (optional)*

### Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

9.45am – 6pm, 4 x 14-board rounds

## What's New This Year?

This year's Summer Festival of Bridge offers events to suit every skill level, from Rookies (U20 MPs) to our most experienced national competitors. A highlight of the program is our series of All-Rounder events, designed especially for Rookie (U20 MP), Novice (U100 MP), Restricted (U300 MP) and U750 MP players. Each All-Rounder follows the same format:

Day 1: Matchpoint Pairs

Day 2: IMP Swiss Pairs

Day 3: Swiss Teams

### Daily Schedule

9am – 9.30am: Optional celebrity speaker session

10am – 5pm: Competitive play

5pm – 6pm: Optional practice session with hands linked to the morning talk

On the final day, many pairs will be looking to form teams. You may meet another pair during the first day or two that you'd like to team up with – or, if not, we'll happily help match you with teammates so everyone can enjoy the Swiss Teams together.

## Car Parking

Limited car parking is available at the Rex. Parking can be used across the road at the Canberra Accommodation Centre (enter from Northbourne Avenue). If approaching down Northbourne Avenue from the south you will need to do a U-turn at Wakefield Avenue (not Ipima Street).



# Celebrity Speaker Series

## Week 1

Rex Hotel – 9.00-9.30am

Free for National Rookies All-Rounder and National Novice All-Rounder players, \$5 for all other attendees

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

Damon Flicker

**What Will You Do?**



Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Will Jenner-O'Shea

**Competitive Bidding**



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Laura Ginnan

**Opening Leads**



In this practical, hands-on session, Damon puts you in the hot seat and presents real situations where you choose your actions. Compare your decisions with others at the table and see whether you would make the same choices as Damon – and why.

A fresh new approach to When to Compete, and When to Defend. Which contracts should you aim to PLAY and when should you push the opponents out of their contract. Discussion about which cards are better for playing and better for defending.

The opening lead is the defence's first strike and often sets the course of the entire hand. This hands-on session puts cards in your hands, exploring how a well-chosen opening lead can build tricks, apply pressure, and put declarer on the back foot. Discussion will include choosing the right suit, leading with purpose, and using the auction to make that crucial first move count.

## Week 2

Canberra Accommodation Centre – 9.00-9.30am

Free for National Restricted All-Rounder and National U750 All-Rounder players, \$5 for all other attendees

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January

Andy Hung

**Defending With or Without Signals**



Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Will Jenner-O'Shea

**Tournament Tools**



Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Laura Ginnan

**Decision Dynamics**



Defence can be straightforward when your partner provides a helpful signal, but there are times when partner had no opportunity to give a signal and you must rely on your own judgment. How do the top players still manage to find the winning defence? Join Andy as he shares some of the hidden secrets to improve your defence!

Conventions and Bids you need to be prepared for in Competitions. Defence to 1NT (Strong AND Weak). Defence to Weak Twos. Defence to Multi Twos. How to Handle Strange and Undiscussed situations.

Every hand presents a series of choices that shape the final result. In this hands-on session, Laura guides you through different situations, exploring the options at each turn and putting you in the position to decide what you would do.

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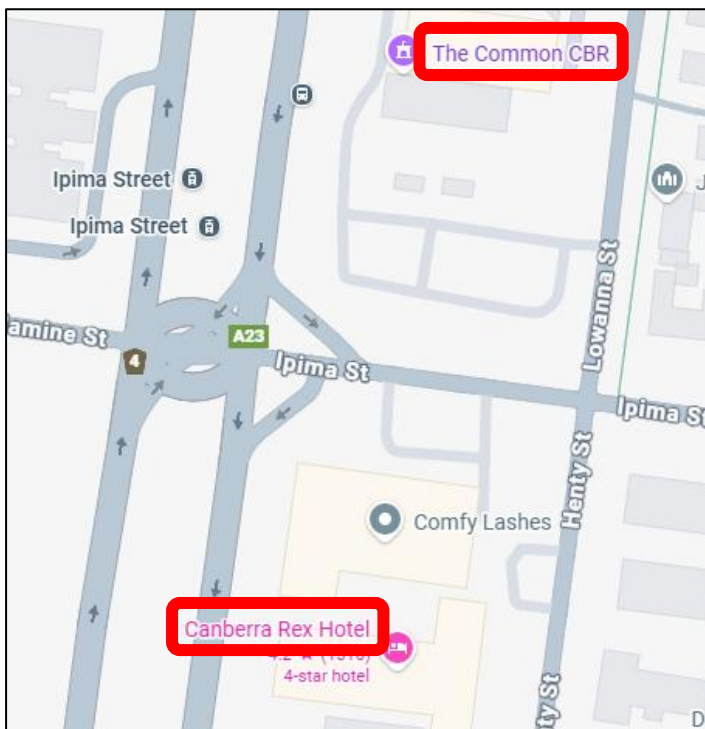
# Public Transport

As an Interstate Senior cardholder, you're entitled to free off-peak travel. To travel during peak hours (weekdays before 9.00am and between 4.30 and 6.00pm), you will need to pay a discounted concession fare. Interstate Senior cardholders are not eligible for over 70s free travel.

All concession holders must carry their proof of concession while travelling on public transport. For more information follow [this link](#).

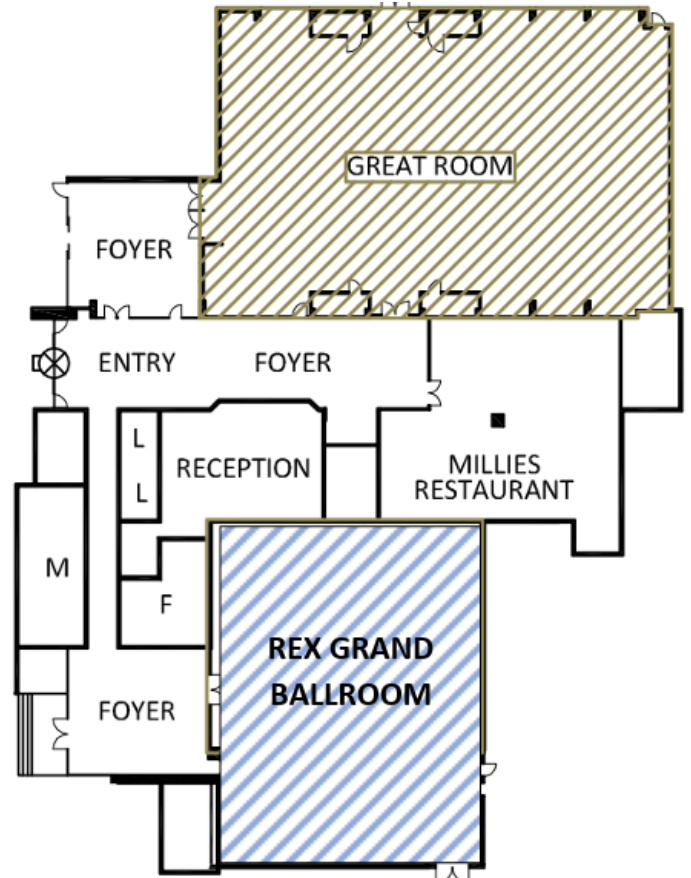


## Venue Maps



This map shows the two venues for this year. The pin marks the Canberra Rex Hotel, where most events will be held. To the north, just across Ipima Street, is the Canberra Common which will host the finals series of the National Women's Teams and National Seniors' Teams, as well as the U300 MP and U750 MP All-Rounders.

### Canberra Rex Hotel Floor Plan



Within the Canberra Rex Hotel, most games will be played in the Great Room (straight ahead and to the left as you enter the building) or the Ballroom (to the right as you enter the building).

Female toilets are located in the hallway leading towards the Ballroom and at the rear of the Great Room. Male toilets are located in the hallway leading to the Ballroom.

The bars and restaurants are a quick lift ride to levels 5 and 6. Be sure to head there after you play to discuss the day's hands and enjoy the view.



# UPDATE

## ARE YOU AND YOUR CLUB USING MY ABF?

**Over 32,000 players now appear in My ABF and over 150 clubs are using it to manage their activities.**

**Come along to hear an update from Julian Foster on the latest developments and the future Masterpoint Centre integration.**

**During 2026 the Masterpoint Centre will be joining My ABF. That means there will be changes that will impact all clubs and all players. There will obviously be lots of communication during the year – but this is your chance to get an early indication of what will be happening.**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January  
8.30am – 9.15am**

**Location: Main playing area, Rex Hotel**

- Latest My ABF developments
- Masterpoint Centre Integration
- Questions

If you can't attend in person more information can be found here:

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/>



# Using Bidding Boxes, System Cards + Bridgemates

Learn what to expect at the Summer Festival from our Tournament Organiser, Laura Ginnan, in [this video](#).

Bidding boxes are used at all Summer Festival events. [Click here](#) to watch a video explaining how to use them.

All ABF events require each partnership to have two identical system cards on the table for the opponents. Learn how to locate the convention card editor and fill in your system card [here](#).

For those who are new to Teams bridge, [this video](#) explains how to score up with your teammates and calculate your final VP score. Don't worry though, scoring up is not a mandatory process – the scoring team will automatically compute your score too.

If you are unfamiliar with using Bridgemates or bidding boxes, you are welcome to attend a session explaining the use of both tools on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at approximately 9:30am, after the celebrity speaker talk. There you can see a demonstration and ask any questions before you start play for the day.

## Need Help?

Directors are in red shirts – please consult them about bridge-related matters. Caddies are in black shirts and are there if you run out of boards to play. For venue-related matters and lost property, please speak to the Rex staff.

The ABF is committed to ensuring that all players compete in a pleasant and respectful environment. To assist in this, we appoint recorders to facilitate the smooth running of bridge events. The role of recorders is to receive information (either verbal or written) from individual players as to concerns which may arise from events at the table, be available for consultation prior to commencement of play (10 minutes) and at the end of play (20 minutes), and consider the issue/s raised and take appropriate action. If you require a recorder, please speak with one of the directors who will assist you.

## Support Our Sponsors



## Lunch + Kiosk

Food and beverage is available for purchase onsite. Bridge patrons (not staying at the Rex) are kindly requested not to bring food or beverages purchased elsewhere into the hotel for consumption on the premises as it contravenes Rex Hotel policy.

The kiosk will be staffed from 8:30am to 4pm for snacks and light refreshments. Lunch can be purchased from the kiosk at lunch (see kiosk menu below) or pre-ordered at the kiosk in the morning (see pre-order menu below). The Swan & King restaurant lunch menu is also available below and bookings are recommended.



# KIOSK MENU

## SFOB 2026

Sandwich of the Day | \$12

2 available each day

Egg Salad

Smoked Ham, Swiss Cheese & Tomato

Tuna Mayo

Chicken, Lettuce, Tomato

Smoked Salmon & Dill Cream Cheese

Rueben

Wrap of the Day | \$15

2 available per day

Chicken Salad

Falafel, Hummus & Roasted Capsicum

Roast Pork w Apple Slaw

Honey Mustard Chicken

Pesto, Bocconcini, Cherry Tomato

Selection of sweet baked items | \$8

Pastries, cookies, muffins

Snack Box | \$14

1 sweet item, 1 savory item, 1 piece of whole fruit



# PRE-ORDER MENU

## SFOB 2026

Fish & Chips | \$21

Bacon & Egg Roll | \$17

Beef Burger with Fries | \$24

Potato Wedges with Sour Cream & Sweet Chilli | \$12

Club Sandwich with Fries | \$25

Caesar Salad | \$20

Thai Beef Salad | \$22

Toasties (assorted flavors) | \$15





# RESTAURANT MENU

## SFOB 2026

Roast of the Day | \$28

Served with steam vegetables, mashed potatoes & gravy

Soup of the Day | \$16

Served with a bread roll

Caesar Salad | \$20

Thai Beef Salad | \$22

Pasta of the Day | \$20

# Vale Marika Pogany

The Australian Bridge Federation was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Marika Pogany, who was tragically killed in the recent Bondi Beach attack.

Marika was a long-time and much-loved member of the Australian bridge community. A talented player who had been involved in the game from a young age, she was a regular presence at clubs and bridge competitions over many years. She was widely admired not only for her ability at the table, but for her warmth, generosity of spirit and the genuine care she showed to those around her.

Marika was a treasured friend to many, always bringing positivity, kindness and a wonderful sense of energy wherever she played. She was also a devoted mother and grandmother, and our thoughts are especially with her family and loved ones at this unimaginably difficult time.

Marika's loss will be felt deeply across the bridge community. She will be remembered with great affection and respect by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

On behalf of the ABF, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Marika's family, friends, and all those affected by this tragedy.



## Share Your Stories

I am always happy to receive stories to publish in the bulletin. Whether you or your partner (or an opponent) found a great bid or play, or you'd just like to share a funny story from the table, feel free to send it through to [notbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:notbulletin@gmail.com). To submit a hand in detail, you can also [use our online form](#) to ensure you provide all relevant information. Alternatively, feel free to approach me in or around the playing area and tell your story in person. — Lauren



## Please Be Considerate

- ♥ Value your partner/s
- ♥ Be polite to other competitors and tournament officials
- ♥ Greet your opponents as they arrive at the table
- ♥ Introduce yourself to people you don't know
- ♥ Be on time
- ♥ Thank your opponents at the end of the round/match
- ♥ Explain your system clearly and simply, if asked
- ♥ Acknowledge good play by your opponents
- ♥ Don't discuss hands until the break
- ♥ Be understanding of newer players
- ♥ Respect our directors
- ♥ Report poor behaviour to the Recorder

# Systems + System Cards

Each pair is required to have two current ABF approved, identical system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of each round.

GREEN and BLUE systems are permitted without restriction.

RED systems and BROWN STICKER conventions are permitted in all events except for Novice All-Rounder, Rookie All-Rounder, Under 300/100 Swiss Pairs and Restricted All-Rounder. In addition, in these events, the CTD may also further restrict a pair from playing any method which the director judges may not be readily understood by a significant proportion of players in the field.

Eligible pairs may claim Protected Pair status in the Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs, Fixed Income Solution One Day Swiss Pairs, Under 750/500 Swiss Pairs and Intermediate All-Rounder.

Provided the required system submission (detailed below) has been complied with, YELLOW systems will be allowed in the South West Pacific Teams from Round 2 onwards. They may not be played against a contestant with a current position in the lower two-thirds of the field (decimals rounded up). YELLOW systems may be played in all matches of the National Open Teams.

Pairs intending to play a YELLOW system must provide the Tournament Organiser with an adequately completed ABF Standard system card and a bona fide defence before 7 January 2026.

## Matchpoint Pairs Tips

For those who are playing the Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs, National Rookie Matchpoint Pairs or National Novice Matchpoint Pairs first up, or are entered in the or National U750 MP Matchpoint Pairs or National Restricted Matchpoint Pairs later on, here are some tips to maximise your success at matchpoint scoring:

- ♠ Look for overtricks
- ♠ Bid to the highest scoring game – think about 3NT (even ahead of 4-Major)
- ♠ If you have received a favourable lead, then play safely. You are already ahead!
- ♠ If you have received an unfavourable lead, then take more risks to catch up to the rest of the field
- ♠ If you are in a normal contract (ie you will get an average score) then you should take risks for overtricks
- ♠ If you are in a great contract that others will not reach, then play safely for your contract
- ♠ If you are in a hopeless contract but can see that the opponents can make a contract their way, try to minimise your damage to a score that is less than what they can make
- ♠ Don't push for close games or slams (it is all about getting plus scores)
- ♠ Overcall often – but in and out early
- ♠ Be aggressive competing – try to push the opponents around if they are in a part-score and have found a fit – 'steal but don't get stolen from'
- ♠ Double aggressively (+200 is often a top and -200 a bottom) – if they are stealing the hand/contract from you, you need compensation
- ♠ Try to interfere over the opponents' 1NT contracts, because it's a tough contract to defend





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## ITEMS YOU MAY NEED THIS WEEK

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# Last Year's Winners

## National Open Teams

YOSHA: Geeske Joel – Liam Milne – James Coutts – Shane Harrison – Andy Hung

## South West Pacific Teams

APPLETON: David Appleton – Brad Coles – Joachim Haffer – Philip Markey

## Women's Playoff

TUTTY: Jodi Tutty – Dagmar Neumann – Ella Jacob – Renee Cooper



Winners – National Open Teams



Winners – National Women's Teams (with Pele Rankin and Jessica Brake) and Women's Playoff

## Seniors' Playoff

BEAUCHAMP: David Beauchamp – Maurits van der Vlugt – Avinash Kanetkar – George Kozakos – Terry Brown – Ian Thomson

## National Women's Teams

TUTTY: Jodi Tutty – Dagmar Neumann – Ella Jacob – Renee Cooper – Jessica Brake – Pele Rankin

## National Seniors' Teams

BLOOM: Martin Bloom – Nigel Rosendorff – Malcolm Carter – Tony Hutton

## Under 750 Teams

WILLIAMS: Daria Williams – Phil Halloran – Eugene Pereira – Barry Koster

## Under 500/300 Teams

MOSS: Liz Moss – Gwen Riordan – Ann Berry – Bev Furner

## The Bridge Shop Novice (U100) Teams

KLOREN: Bricet Klore – Craig Beconsall – Debra Birkby – Paul Birkby



Winners – Seniors' Playoff



Winners – South West Pacific Teams



Winners – U100 MP Welcome Pairs



Winners – Mixed Swiss Pairs





Winners – U20 MP Teams

## The Bridge Shop Rookies (U20) Teams

LAKOTA: Mark Lakota – Peter Brook – Maria Mills – Stephen Mills

## TBIB Open Swiss Pairs

Ashley Bach – Arlene Dalley

## TBIB 750/500 Swiss Pairs

Kevin Gu – Lilly Jia

## TBIB 300/100 Swiss Pairs

Geoff Hayes – Chris Hamam



Winners – Chris Diment Swiss Pairs

## Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

Jenna Gibbons – Julian Foster



Winners – Fixed Income Solutions Swiss Pairs

## Fixed Income Solutions One Day Swiss Pairs

Jack James – Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin

## Mixed Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

Andrew Peake – Giselle Mundell

## Under 100 Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

Carolyn Hope – Sharon Michael

## Under 20 Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

Sharon Woodward – Robert Longair



Winners – U20 MP Welcome Pairs

## Novice Welcome Pairs

North-South: Margaret Cusack – Rhonda Khong

East-West: Paul Birkby – Debra Birkby

## Rookie Welcome Pairs

North-South: Lyndall Kennedy – Kate Latimer

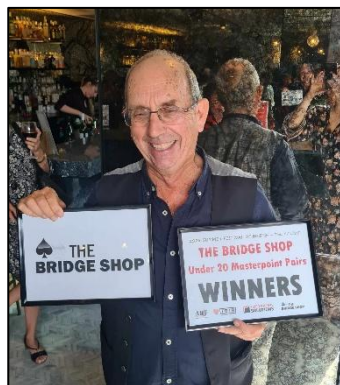
East-West: Elizabeth Redman – Vicki Hildebrand



Runners Up – National Open Teams



Winners – U100 MP Pairs



Winner – U20 MP Pairs



Winners – TBIB Open Swiss Pairs





Winners – U100 MP Teams



Winners – U20 MP Welcome Pairs



Winners – U100 MP Welcome Pairs



Winners – U100 MP Teams



Winners – U100 MP Pairs



Winners – U300 MP Pairs



Winners – National Seniors' Teams



Winners – U100 MP Pairs



Winners – U100 MP Teams



Winners – U750 MP Teams





PLAY YOUR CARDS **RIGHT**

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**INSURANCE BROKERS**

## Travelling this year?

**TBIB ABF Members' travel insurance is available online at [www.abfinsurance.com.au](http://www.abfinsurance.com.au).**

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- Choose multi-trip or single trip cover, cover worldwide – and you can opt in or out of travel to the US and Canada for a premium saving.
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