



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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2025 Central West Festival Winners





JUNE 2025

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Cover photos by Rob Ward: winners from the Central West Festival (captions on page 11)

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**IMPROVE
YOUR
DEFENCE**
with
Ron Klinger
Solution on page 23

Teams. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

♠ Q J 10 8 6 2
♥ Q 6
♦ Q 7 5 2
♣ 10

♠ K 7 5
♥ K 10 4 2
♦ J 8
♣ K J 7 4



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	4♥ ²	pass	1NT ¹
all pass		pass	4♠

1. 15-17 points.

2. Transfer to spades.

West leads the ♠5: two - three - nine. South cashes the ♠A: seven - six - four.
Declarer plays the ♣5. What would you do as West?



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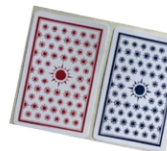
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David Fryda

Executive Director

✉ david.fryda@abf.com.au

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I know it has only been two months since our last newsletter but with so much happening in the Australian bridge world it seems like longer!

Gold in Hefei!

In our last newsletter, I shared the news that Australians had won the inaugural World Bridge Tour Pairs Final. This time, the big news is that our Seniors Team won **gold** at the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Championships held in Hefei, China, in May. This is the first time one of our teams has won gold at an APBF since the Seniors last did so in 2013. The Open Team also reached the podium, collecting bronze, while the Women's Team just missed out, finishing fourth. Our Mixed Team wasn't as successful, but no doubt valued the opportunity to compete internationally.

These four teams will all be heading to Denmark in August to do it all again, this time against teams from all over the world. We also have two Youth Teams participating in world championships in Italy in July. If you'd like to support these younger players and help cover the high costs of international competition, please visit their GoFundMe page.

If you're reading about these results here for the first time, I encourage you to follow the Australian Bridge Federation on Facebook to stay up to date during major events.

National Gold Point Events

In early April, the inaugural Central West Festival was held in my hometown of Orange (NSW). The organisers, fresh from running last year's ANC, demonstrated their natural flair for delivering outstanding events. The early sell-out of several sessions was no surprise – survey results showed the vast majority of players thoroughly enjoyed the festival.

May was packed with gold point events. The Autumn Nationals in Adelaide and the Barrier Reef Congress took place at the start of the month. The Western 60+ Pairs followed in Perth, and just last weekend, the River City Gold Mixed Pairs were held in Brisbane. I consistently receive positive feedback on all these events, which explains why attendance is growing and entries are filling quickly.

In June, the VBA will host the inaugural Victorian Festival of Bridge, incorporating the Victor Champion Cup. This will be Laura Ginnan's first time running Victoria's premier gold point event. With a new venue in Richmond and Laura's proven success at the Summer Festival, it looks like we are in for a treat.

And of course, July brings the Australian National Championships. This year, the QBA will host the event, running the Interstate Teams, the Butlers, and several other pairs competitions. Check it all out on MyABF!

Speaking of the ANC, I'm excited to announce that the Northern Territory has accepted the opportunity to host the ANC in 2028! With fewer than 150 registered bridge players in the NT, this is a bold undertaking. Thankfully, the NT Government is generously supporting them, and the event will be held in **Alice Springs** in July 2028.

Another upcoming gold point event is the **Club Teams Knockout**. This online event is open to teams representing their club in different masterpoint categories. It runs over several months, starting with a round-robin phase, where you play against teams in your category, followed by a final to determine the winners. With plenty of gold points on offer, this is a great chance for players who may not otherwise have access to them to boost their standings. More details are available in this newsletter. I encourage you to form a team and participate – it's a great way to meet other players of similar strength across the country, all from the comfort of your home!

Are you interested in supporting the ABF?

Since taking on this role in November 2023, I've been amazed by the time and dedication contributed by a relatively small group of volunteers. Whether they're Board or Council members, committee participants, or professionals sharing their expertise, their support is invaluable.

If you're interested in getting involved and feel you have something to contribute – whether through experience or enthusiasm – please don't hesitate to contact me directly via email at david.fryda@abf.com.au and I will set up a time for us to chat.



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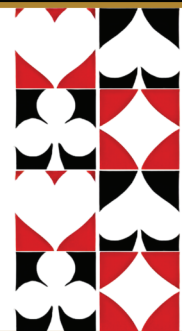


Allison Stralow

President

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The Bridge community can be very proud of our Australian teams that competed in the APBF Championships in Hefei, China. All the players and captains were wonderful ambassadors for Australian bridge.

Congratulations to the Seniors' Team Maurits van der Vlugt, David Beauchamp, Terry Brown, Phil Gue, Hugh Grosvenor, George Kozakos and non-playing captain Laura Ginnan who won gold. Also on the podium were the Open Team Sophie Ashton, David Wiltshire, Phil Markey, Joe Haffer, James Coutts, Liam Milne, and non-playing captain Mike Doecke who won bronze.

The ABF Annual General Meeting was held in Brisbane on 23 May, and I thank all Councillors, proxies and supplemental Councillors for their contributions. The meeting acknowledged the contributions of the retiring councillors Ian Thomson from the ACT and Charles Page from Queensland, and welcomed Wendy Boxall (replacing Ian) and Jan Peach (replacing Charles) on Council.

The ABF and Licensed Gold Point events I have played in this year are a credit to the states and territories, the Tournament Organisers and the volunteers who contributed in some form to their success. As players, we should take the time to acknowledge their work as we often take for granted the hours these tireless workers put in before, during and after the events.

Thank you to all the players who took the time to chat with me about various aspects of the ABF. This informal feedback gives the Board food for thought and helps us to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of our organisation.

The ABF values the relationship that has been developed with our sponsors Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers, Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies, and Fixed Income Solutions. I am pleased that Red Plum Automotive car buying specialists are now available to help players find their next car.

Daisy Pools has been the proud sponsor of the Joan Prince Memorial Swiss Pairs in Western Australia for more than twenty years, and they also offer 10% discount to all members. Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer are coming to play in this year's event on 23-24 August, and I hope many more interstate players will join them.

Please support all our wonderful sponsors who donate prize money for our events, offer us the best services on their products and give us discounts.

The next Board meeting will be held online on Wednesday 30 July. If you have any issues you would like to raise with the ABF Board, please email:

president@abf.com.au

The best of bridge to you all.

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2025 Barrier Reef Congress

FRED WHITAKER reunites with an old partner for a journey to Queensland's Capricorn Coast, with a stopover at the local bridge club

For those that are not aware, it is a five-hour drive from Yeppoon to Hervey Bay. My wife Anna and I were to head home on the Wednesday following the Barrier Reef Congress, having arrived the previous Wednesday, but we felt it would be a good ending to our holiday to drop in to the Yeppoon Club's 9:30am session 'on the way past'.

We were very welcome, as it meant the table number was four, rather than the 3½ without us!

The Yeppoon Bridge Club has only 37 members, but they had just hosted a great event of 70 tables, and done so without any apparent hitch and with smiles all around. So heartiest congratulations to Karin le Roux and her wonderful and willing team.

My recollection of previous articles in this newsletter is that they are written by the winners... sadly, this correspondent was a narrow loser in the Pairs, and a convincing loser in the Teams.

Partner helped me out by sending through some disasters, and then she rather too enthusiastically enquired whether I needed more.

Rachael and I played in Auckland back in the 90s, and she received a call-up when last year's partner Ashley Bach found urgent business a long way away! It was a treat to become reacquainted and play with Rachael again.

We had seemed to have a fortunate passage in the Pairs, with our fate mostly in our own hands, and we led for several rounds including entering the last round when we held a narrow 3 VP lead.

Nothing much seemed to have happened over the first five boards, and my mind may have been pondering lunch and wondering whether we had won. Notice that fateful word 'had' won!

On that fateful penultimate board the opps declared 4♠, and partner led the ♥J which was a good start:



Board 27. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.

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

Declarer drew trumps, and on the second round pard pitched an encouraging two of diamonds.

A diamond was led from the table and, having concluded the roast of the day at the pub up the road was what was needed, I followed with the ten. That was that, and I shall take it to my grave. There is no layout where that would be right, but I had it fixed in my lame brain that partner had the king.

So, congratulations to the winners, the very deserving Kim Ellaway and Alison Stralow.

I reached the pub and gritted my teeth to look at the final scores, but there was nothing there to ease the pain. Rising with the king would have won the event by a margin, while ducking consigned us to third. That called for a large bracer before the Teams, and into battle we returned.

Round 3 was lively, as on Board 4 partner overcalled West's 1♠ opening with 5♣:

Board 4. Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.

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

5♣ was passed back to West, who bid again! When that came back to me I awoke from my slumbers and bid the 6♣ that I should have bid on the first round. That was whacked by West, and I gave some thought to sending it back. When the ♠A wasn't cashed, partner had 13 tricks for +1740.

Board 24 in round four of the teams was a bit stiff:

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither side vulnerable.

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

Partner, North, opened a weak two in spades, and the 26-count on her left found a double. I passed, trying to look like a man without a care in the world, and so did the next hand! Her pass was immediately followed by a sharp intake of breath, and the comment, "I didn't see the double". Eager as I was to give her a mulligan, the rules alas precluded it. Partner milked her four tricks from the war zone, but it was 8 imps out nonetheless.

It was noticeable that the trend to ever lighter openings paid off. In our match against the eventual winners, Paul Gosney opened 1♦ on

♠ A 8 5 ♥ — ♦ J 10 6 5 4 ♣ A 10 7 5 3 .

I agree with 1♦, as he has an easy rebid, and good spade support should partner have those. The opening bid enabled them to reach this laydown 6♦:

Board 21. Dealer North. North-South vulnerable.

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

In the same match North didn't open in third seat with
♠ J 10 ♥ A 10 7 4 2 ♦ A J 7 4 ♣ 6 5 .

South failed to find the killing heart lead, with the full deal being:

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.

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

South's fourth best spade seemed routine, but it gave declarer time to knock out the ace of diamonds for his ninth trick.

I guess the most extreme example of bidding when at all possible was on this deal:

Board 23. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

This was bid quickly to the cold 4♠ at our table, but passed in at the other!

Congratulations to Nick Jacob, Jasmine Skeate, Kate Macdonald and Paul Gosney (pictured) who won the event with a storming finish.

Australia's Bridge Day Out

ABF Foundation Fundraiser: Tuesday September 23rd, 2025

BRIDGE IN SCHOOLS

A key goal for the Foundation from 2025-2028 is to support a scalable, enduring nationwide Bridge in Schools program. The Foundation is exploring a holistic model that connects bridge clubs and schools, offering high-quality resources and training from bridge professionals. An early-stage pilot is underway.

THE ABF FOUNDATION

The ABF Foundation, established in 2020, is a not-for-profit organisation that supports bridge through grants and scholarships for research and projects that strengthen the game's future. Funded by bequests, donations, and fundraisers, it has already made a meaningful impact and is exploring charity status.

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2nd Central West Festival

Will Jenner-O'Shea & Catherine Chaffey

Despite being in its infancy, the Central West Festival has already established itself as a not to be missed event on the bridge calendar, selling out again this year.

It is easy to see why. Not only do bridge players get four days of competitive bridge, they can enjoy what Orange has to offer when they are not playing, including quality food, wineries, distilleries, boutique shops, galleries, and walking and cycling options. Players from across Australia and overseas make the trip to Orange to attend the Central West Festival and enjoy a holiday experience.

Another great feature of the Festival is its offering of events for novice and restricted players. These events help new and emerging players to develop their game, and in doing so, they support the growth of the bridge playing community. We all benefit from a larger and more diverse community.

The last round of the Teams threw up this misfitting hand:

Board 22. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

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

The bidding started with a 1♣ opening, and South overcalled with a 2♣ Michaels Cuebid (showing 5-5 or better in the majors).

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♣	2♣

Note that a Michaels Cuebid is preferable to a double, and can also be made on a weaker than opening hand.

First things first: West should not bid hearts over the Michaels Cuebid. Perhaps they should double to show some points (around 10+ at the two-level), with the next double by East-West being takeout of the suit that North-South bid to.

North has a terrible hand to be responding to a 2♣ Michaels, and many Norths suspected that they were in a lot of trouble if they tried to play in 2♥ or 2♠. Some Norths found an excellent alternative to bidding a major, which was to PASS in 2♣. While 2♣ might not be a fun contract, at least you aren't doubled (yet).

When I saw this hand record, I made a mental bet with myself that of all the North-South scores in the room, someone would be playing in each of the trump suits.

I was right. North-South played in spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs and notrumps.

Those who managed to stop at the two-level were mostly not doubled. Those who continued bidding to the three-level were frequently doubled.

In a misfit, stop low, and try to play in a suit contract.

What I hadn't appreciated when I was looking at the hand records, was what East-West might do. They also played in hearts, diamonds, clubs and notrumps, but never in spades.

Since East-West have significantly more HCP than North-South, they were rarely doubled, but ran into terrible breaks, so went down in most of the contracts they bid.

The next Central West Festival will be held from 9-12 April next year.

Captions for Page 1 (photos by Rob Ward)



Novice Teams champions: Jen Woodhouse, Miriam & Peter Dayhew and Greg Brackenreg



Intermediate Teams champions: Deanna & John Stuart, Atul Hajela and Chris Tough



Open Teams champions: Sue Lusk, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Bruce Neill



Restricted Teams champions: Melissa Ardern, Kathy Duke, Shannon Queree and Connie Szenczy



Restricted Pairs champions: Michael Jackson and Claire Bonic



Open Teams runners-up: Sandra Richman, William Jenner-O'Shea, Vanessa Brown, Andrew Richman



Novice Pairs champions: Denise Reid and Judy King

2025 Autumn Nationals

Brad Coles

The ANOT is changing next year (29 April to 3 May 2026) to include a top-level Matchpoint Pairs event, along the lines of the Bobby Richman Pairs at the Gold Coast. The event will include prizemoney and other prizes, across several categories: Open, Under Grand Master, Under Life Master, and Novice.

The Teams final will be held alongside the qualifying round of the Pairs, after which the Teams finalists will join the Pairs at the semi-final stage.

This year's Teams event was won by Dalley (Mike Doecke, Andrew Spooner, Ashley Bach, Arlene Dalley, Paul Dalley, pictured right), beating Jacob (Justin Williams, Ella Jacob, Hugh Grosvenor, George Smolanko pictured below) 123-36 in the final. Here are two slam swings from that match:

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.

♠ —

♥ 9 7

♦ K J 7 6 4 3 2

♣ Q J 6 5

♠ A Q J 5

♥ A K J

♦ 10 9

♣ A 9 3 2

♠ K 9 8 7 2

♥ Q 10 8 6 5

♦ A 5

♣ 8

♠ 10 6 4 3

♥ 4 3 2

♦ Q 8

♣ K 10 7 4

WEST
Doecke

NORTH
Williams

EAST
P Dalley

SOUTH
Jacob

1♣
5NT
6♠

3♦
pass
all pass

4♦ *
6♦

pass
pass
pass



Dalley had the right tool for a dealing with a 3♦ overall: bidding 4♦ to show a 5-5 hand. This call made a stronger impression on West than the takeout double which was made at the other table, and Doecke was able to drive to slam. The sequence was actually undiscussed, so Doecke was not certain that it showed both majors (as opposed to any 5-5 hand). Luckily, he had room for a jump to 5NT (pick a slam) so that Dalley would be able to clarify the position.

At the other table Smolanko made a takeout double of 3♦, buying just a 4♠ bid from West for 480 and 11 imps to Dalley.

Smolanko and Grosvenor found a 500-point sacrifice against a vulnerable slam here, but the board did not have a happy ending for them:

Board 33. Dealer North. North-South vulnerable.

♠ —

♥ 7 4

♦ A Q 10 9 6 4

♣ A Q J 4 2

♠ K 9 7 3

♥ 9 3

♦ K J 7 3 2

♣ 9 8

♠ Q 8 6 5 4 2

♥ Q 10 8 6 5

♦ —

♣ K 10

♠ A J 10

♥ A K J 2

♦ 8 5

♣ 7 6 5 3

WEST
Grosvenor

NORTH
Bach

EAST
Smolanko

SOUTH
P Dalley

3♠
pass
all pass

1♦
4NT
6♣

2♦ majors
5♠
6♠

dbl
pass
dbl

The sacrifice was destined for -800, which is still a great price, but the defenders dropped a trick to reduce the penalty to just 500. At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Spooner	Williams	Doecke	Jacob
	1♦	2♦	3NT
pass	6♣	all pass	

South's 3NT bid was just enough to shut West out of the auction, and Williams' six-level rebid was left unchallenged. However, the bad diamond break, that helped to make 6♠ such a cheap sacrifice, proved to be too big an obstacle for 6♣.

There are several winning lines in 6♣: cashing the ♣A and playing for a complete crossruff works, as

does playing ace then queen of clubs (this line also requires the heart finesse, taking four trumps, three hearts, two diamonds, two ruffs and one spade).

However, the most straightforward line (winning the heart lead in dummy and taking the club finesse) was the line that failed. Doecke won with the ♣K and found the only killing return of a second heart, removing dummy's ♥K. With no further reentry to dummy, declarer now had no choice but to take the diamond finesse immediately, and the 5-0 break allowed Doecke to ruff this for one off and 12 imps to Dalley.

Other winners, pictured below: Under Grand Master Teams (Caprice Davey, Alice Handley, Tina Hesketh, Tony Georgeson); David Lusk Rookie Pairs (Andrea and Jennifer Bissett); Under Life Master Pairs (Gayle Bagg and Kevin Gu). Photos by Di Marler.



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Photo: Mike Doecke

Aussie Seniors win APBF Teams

Brad Coles

The Australian Senior Team (Phil Gue, George Kozakos, Hugh Grosvenor, Maurits van der Vlugt, Laura Ginnan npc, David Beauchamp and Terry Brown) were leading as they started the final day of the seven-day event. They were faced with an intimidating schedule: China, who were running fourth, then Japan (second) and Indonesia (third).

All four teams were in easy reach of the gold medal if they could score a couple of good wins against the other highly-ranked teams.

Grosvenor and Kozakos judged well on this early board in the first match:

Board 20. Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ J 7 5 2

♥ A 3

♦ A J

♣ A 7 5 4 2

♠ A 8 4 3

♥ 10 8 6 4

♦ 8 6 4 3 2

♣ —

♠ Q 9 6

♥ J 9

♦ Q 10 9

♣ 10 9 8 6 3

♠ K 10

♥ K Q 7 5 2

♦ K 7 5

♣ K Q J

WEST
Jianwei
pass
pass
all pass

NORTH
Grosvenor
1NT
2♥

EAST
Qingliang
pass
pass

SOUTH
Kozakos
2♦ hearts
4NT

Holding a balanced aceless 17 opposite a 15-17 no-trump, Kozakos opted for an invitational auction. Grosvenor had an easy pass, with three of his alleged 15 HCP consisting of just two jacks. The Chinese pair reached the failing slam when South found the same invitational auction opposite a 12+ hand:

WEST
van der Vlugt
pass
pass
pass
pass

NORTH
Yixin
1♣
1♠
2NT
6♣

EAST
Beauchamp
pass
pass
pass
all pass

SOUTH
Songhe
1♥
2♦ art GF
4NT

With a correct guess in spades, a 4-2 heart break and a 4-1 trump break, twelve tricks are possible, but the 5-0 trump break was fatal and a misguess in spades led to two off. 13 imps to Australia.

What would you bid with this hand, after partner has opened a strong notrump?

♠ J 9 7 6 ♥ Q 10 7 ♦ K 7 6 5 4 ♣ 10

Grosvenor chose 2♣ Stayman, planning to pass whatever partner bid. That was a big success when this was the layout:

Board 26. Dealer East. Both sides vulnerable.

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

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

South's response to Stayman was 2♦, and the threat of likely four-card major holdings in the North hand was enough to keep the opponents silent.

At the other table North passed 1NT, and Beauchamp balanced with 2♥. Both partscores made, for 7 imps to Australia.

The final result was a 9-imp win to Australia, extending their lead over China, but their next opponents Japan had also won their match to remain close behind. Either team could take a big lead with a win in this match. The aggressive Aussie style got the match off to a great start:

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither side vulnerable.

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

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

Grosvenor opened 2♠ as North, which is becoming quite popular in Australia as an 8-11 five-card opening (always five, never six, and always 8-11). South had an easy raise to 4♠, and Grosvenor made an overtrick when East led ace and another heart.

At the other table, NS had no chance to get into the auction. Beauchamp opened 1♥ as East, stealing South's main suit, and when West's 1NT response came back, South did not have any appropriate bid. Just a non-vulnerable game swing, so 7 imps to Australia.

History repeated itself on the next board, this time for a vulnerable game swing:

Board 2. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
van der Vlugt	Ino	Beauchamp	Imakura
pass	2♦	1♥	pass
3♥	all pass	3♣	pass

After passing on the first round, South could not find a way into the auction at the three-level with just doubleton support for partner's balancing 2♦. North would have done much better to bid 3♦ rather than 2♦, which is stronger in passout seat.

At the other table, Kozakos overcalled 1♠ with the South cards, and again an easy game was reached for 11 imps to Australia.

This was a great start for Australia, and they held on to this lead to end with a 25-imp win, leaving them with an almost-unassailable 19.39 VP lead over Japan, with no other teams still in contention.

In his daily blog on the Tasmanian Bridge Association website, Hugh described this as, "a great position but we have all managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory in the past so we approach the last match determined to finish well!"

He needn't have worried; the team's lead was extended with their third win of the day, against Indonesia, leaving Australia 21.95 VP clear of the field to easily take the gold medal.

In other divisions, the Open Team (Sophie Ashton, Dave Wiltshire, Joe Haffer, Phil Markey, Liam Milne, James Coutts and Mike Doecke npc) came third, winning Australia's first Open APBF medal since 2011. The Women's Team (called the Ladies' Team in this event) were fourth, and the Mixed Team were eighth.

After the Teams event ended, Zonal Playoffs were held with Chinese Taipei vs Korea, Japan vs Thailand, and of course Australia vs New Zealand. Australia won their Open, Senior and Women's playoffs.

Hugh's daily blog from the event can be viewed at

<http://tasbridge.com.au>

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com



YOUR LHO 2♣ OVERCALL IS PASSED BACK TO YOU

What would you call on the following hands, neither side vulnerable?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♣	pass	pass	1♠ ?
1. ♠ A J 8 7 2 ♥ J 10 2 ♦ K Q 3 ♣ 8 2			
2. ♠ Q 10 9 5 4 2 ♥ A Q 2 ♦ K 10 8 ♣ 2			
3. ♠ A K J 10 9 7 ♥ 10 9 3 ♦ Q 8 7 ♣ 5			
4. ♠ A Q J 4 3 ♥ K 7 ♦ A 10 9 ♣ 6 3 2			
5. ♠ A Q J 10 8 2 ♥ A 10 7 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ 5			
6. ♠ A K 8 7 6 ♥ 8 ♦ K Q J 9 ♣ K 8 2			
7. ♠ K 10 9 8 7 2 ♥ K Q 9 6 ♦ Q 4 2 ♣ –			
8. ♠ A Q J 10 7 6 3 ♥ 4 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ 8 3			
9. ♠ A Q 8 7 6 2 ♥ 6 ♦ 5 2 ♣ A 10 9 6			
10. ♠ K Q J 5 4 ♥ A Q J ♦ 10 9 ♣ K Q 4			

SOLUTIONS

1. Double. Experts are always on the lookout for penalties, especially when opponents overcall at the two-level. Imagine your partner sits over the 2♣ overcaller with ♣AQ107. That should give your side four club tricks plus your hand has at least two tricks in defence and possibly three.

With the clubs so well-positioned, hopefully partner will pass your double. At Matchpoint Pairs +300 for two down doubled will be a clear top board and at teams it will be a swing of at least 5 imps.

I recommend, and have always played, that opener must reopen in fourth seat on any hand with 0-2 in the opponent's suit. That way if your partner holds

♠ 5 2 ♥ K 10 4 ♦ A 10 6 5 ♣ A Q 10 7

they can pass in comfort knowing that you will not pass out 2♣ with 0-2 clubs, even with a minimum. On this hand you figure to collect at least 800, or possibly 1100, when partner passes your double. If opponents are vulnerable the penalty is at least 1100, and possibly 1400.

2. Double. You must do something, and the temptation is to bid 2♠. However you have good defensive

cards, and it is likely partner is waiting to pass your double and collect a juicy penalty.

3. 2♠. With most of your points in spades your side may not do well in defence, so with such a strong suit just rebid 2♠ and warn partner you have a minimum opening with 6+ spades.

4. Pass. You have an attractive hand, but it is still a minimum opening. Your agreement is you can only pass out 2♣ with 3+ in the suit, so you stick by that and pass. Keep in mind partner couldn't rake up a raise to 2♠ or a negative double, so he either has a weak hand or 3+ clubs as well.

5. Double. With such a powerful hand your first move should be to double 2♣ for takeout. If partner passes, prepare for a bloodbath. If partner takes out your double, then you have plenty of space to follow up with a strong bid.

6. 2♦. You have a solid hand and it looks like partner has passed over 2♣ through lack of high cards. Even so, your side could make any number of diamonds, and you don't want to make a takeout double with only one heart.

7. 2♥. I would steer clear of double since your hand may have little defence against 2♣ doubled. Partner could have up to four, five or even six hearts, and 2♥ is a far better choice than 2♠.

8. 3♠. The jump to 3♠ is more a matter of quantity than quality. With a good hand you would double as in Question 5. Preserving space is a virtue in bridge, and jumps on strong hands don't make a lot of sense.

9. Pass. The choice is between pass and 2♠. Keep in mind that partner chose to pass 2♣. I suspect opponents have lots of points, but clubs is not their best trump suit by a long way.

10. Don't know. With 18 balanced you are too strong to open 1NT, but to bid 2NT now when partner may have very little could be very expensive. Then again, partner could pass over 2♣ with as many as 8 or 9 HCP, so if you pass out 2♣ you could be missing a game or a winning partscore.

Over a very long period I have found passing here to be a losing option. Perhaps double is best?

System Cards

Most regular partnerships (and many casual ones) find it beneficial to go through the process of preparing a system card, since it facilitates discussion and thus generally helps consolidate whatever agreements one decides to employ. The simplest way to produce a permanent record of these agreements is to download and fill in the ABF PDF Form. This is available from the ABF website at: <https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/system-cards/abf-convention-card-pdf/>. The Form works via Acrobat Reader (which is also free).

Many clubs however do not have any regulations regarding the use of system cards in their duplicates. The issue of the use of a system card in club events remains solely within the remit of each individual club, and such decisions are often based upon the standard of the field and the general ethos of the group of players in question.

Conversely, in an ABF National event it is a pre-requisite to have a fully completed ABF System Card for the benefit of each of your opponents at the table. The opposition are thus entitled to refer to your card (in addition to their right to ask your partner about the agreed meaning of any call or play). This is in accordance with the general principle that your opponents are entitled to know as much about your methods and agreements as your partner does.

The next question to address is what one should do if a pair arrives at your table without the necessary cards? As with most other types of irregularity a player's correct course of action is to call the Director. The TD will then usually hand the deficient pair a blank card (or cards) and get them to fill it out. For situations where a pair has only one properly filled-out card, it will often be easier and quicker for the TD to generate a second photocopy to replace the other missing one.

Otherwise, the Director should not allow the errant pair to start the round until after they have filled in at least the basic stuff (i.e., the information on the outside of a 'Standard' card). Any boards missed in the interim that require the award of an Artificial Adjusted Score should receive one based upon only one pair being at fault (i.e., 60% to the pair who were inconvenienced and 40% to the pair with no system card).

If, as a player, you elect to simply tolerate the fact that the opponents don't have system cards, then the problem will just be perpetuated until someone else at another table subsequently objects.

Whilst the above might seem overly officious or pedantic to some, the ABF wants disclosure to be on a level playing field for everyone, hence it behoves the Directors to enforce the current regulations. The players can assist in this by calling out anyone who flouts their obligations.

Laurie Kelso, ABF National Director

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Tasmanian Festival of Bridge

Warren Lazer made this difficult 5♣ contract in the last round of the Mixed Pairs event:

Board 15. Dealer South. North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST Smith	NORTH Gumby	EAST de Livera	SOUTH Lazer
3♥ all pass	dbl ²	4♥	2NT ¹ 5♣
1. 21-23. 2. Takeout.			

4NT would have been a better spot, as 5♣ can be beaten with a diamond ruff, but there is always some doubt that 4NT might be asking for a minor.

West led the ♥Q, won by the ace. With no indication that an opponent would have five spades, Warren decided to set up a spade trick to discard the potential diamond loser. As there was only one sure entry to dummy, Warren could not afford to draw trumps first; drawing even one round of trumps might allow West to dislodge the ♣K while the spades are still blocked. So Warren led a spade at trick two.

West won with the ace, and had another chance to score a diamond ruff, but preferred to try to give partner a spade ruff. There were several indicators supporting this choice:

- declarer's light 2NT opening suggested East had just 0-4 HCP, so East holding the ♦A was unlikely;
- declarer's notrump opening was more likely to be 3-2-3-5 rather than 2-2-3-6;
- East's raise to 4♥ on such a weak hand could easily have been based on a singleton spade.

On the other side of the argument, it's not clear why South would risk attacking spades before drawing trumps, if not holding queen-jack doubleton.

Warren won the spade return, drew two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, and attempted to cash the ♠K, after which he was planning to claim. Unfor-

Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer
Photo from tasbridge.com.au



tunately, East ruffed the spade winner, and Warren had to overruff and reassess his prospects.

West was now known to have five spades, and was certain to have at least six hearts. Together with the club that she played on the first round of the suit, that left room for at most one diamond. This left East with at least four diamonds – not an easy holding to pick up, with no more entries to dummy.

Warren ran the trumps to reach this ending:

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

On the last trump, East had to discard a heart, protecting his diamond guard. Now Warren cashed the ♥K, stripping East of his last heart, and played a diamond to the queen. East won the ace, and had to lead away from the jack – with a full count on the hand, Warren inserted the ten to make the contract.

The winners of the Mixed Pairs were Ashley Bach and Arlene Dalley, while Warren and Pauline returned the next day to win the Open Pairs. The winners of the other events were Nigel Rosendorff and Peter Reynolds (Senior), Louise Cowan and Susan Bezette (Restricted), Jan Van Riel and Margaret Grant (Novice) and Nat Wright and Jo Wright (Rookie).

See the June issue of Australian Bridge Magazine for Warren's report on the Open Swiss Pairs.



A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

Have you given proper consideration to your continuations after 1NT and 2NT opening bids?

For instance, what does this auction mean?

1NT	2♥
2♠	4NT

Is it Roman Key Card Blackwood, setting spades (and indicating at least six spades), or it is quantitative, inviting slam, with five spades? And similarly after a 2NT opening bid.

I love four-level transfers, whether you play "two-under" meaning 4♣ shows hearts and 4♦ shows spades, or "one-under" where 4♦ shows hearts and 4♥ shows spades. Since I play that 4♦ shows hearts, let me demonstrate how different auctions work using that method:

1NT	4♦
-----	----

4♦ shows 6+ hearts. Responder might pass, wanting to play in 4♥:

1NT	4♦
4♥	pass

or responder might bid 4NT to ask for keycards:

1NT	4♦
4♥	4NT

If instead, responder chooses to transfer at the two-level, there are other options:

1NT	2♦
2♥	3♠ / 4♣

The jump in a new suit is a splinter bid (six or more hearts, with a shortage in the bid suit).

With no shortage, just jump in hearts:

1NT	2♦
2♥	4♥

This shows a slam interest hand with six or more hearts and no shortage (without slam interest, responder would just transfer at the four-level).

With only five hearts:

1NT	2♦
2♥	4NT

This shows five hearts, quantitative (invitational).

Another option with five hearts is to bid a second suit – game forcing – and determine whether partner has support before considering slam.

A similar scenario applies after Stayman. What does this mean to you:

1NT	2♣
2♥	4NT

Is it agreeing hearts, and therefore RKCB? Or is it quantitative, showing four spades?

It should be the latter. So, if that's the case, you need a method to show hearts and either invite slam, or head to slam. There is a modern method to do so:

1NT	2♣
2♥	3♠

and

1NT	2♣
2♠	3♥

Apart from Smolen (which applies after a 2♦ response to Stayman), these bids of the other major at the three-level show four-card support for opener's major and slam interest (or better). Having agreed your suit, even if partner signs off in game, a 4NT bid next is RKCB for the agreed major.

It's relatively simple, because you can't be bidding the suit naturally or you should have used a transfer bid! You do, however, sacrifice a spade splinter after

a 2♥ response. This structure, though, gives you back your 4NT quantitative bid, showing four cards in the other major.

Sometimes people tell me they don't like their hand, e.g. a balanced hand with four aces, and they choose to downgrade the hand. Look what can happen though:

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

A 1NT opening bid bought a raise to 3NT by East. 6NT is an excellent contract but, when East thinks partner has 15-17 HCP, they usually won't look for slam on such an 'aceless' hand. The diamond finesse worked and there was a Vienna Coup (squeeze on North in hearts and clubs) for 13 tricks. There may be a reason to downgrade an aceless 18 HCP hand, especially if partner is already a passed hand, but not at other times.

Speaking of which, there are people who play 15-18 HCP for 1NT (or 14-17 HCP), and there are people who open 1NT with 16-18, making their 1NT rebid 12-15 HCP. All those scenarios are inferior, primarily because the four-point range (whether opening or rebid) puts too much pressure on responder. Responder will often look for game, then you go down in 2NT, instead of going positive in 1NT. Three-point ranges are more than sufficient for 1NT bids/rebids; two-point ranges are superior for 2NT opening bids (because of the lack of space for partner to explore game).

Sitting West, you hold:

♠ A Q 8 7 6 3	♥ 8	♦ 7 5 3	♣ J 9 5
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
?		1NT	2♥ hearts + minor

If you planned to bid 4♠ over 1NT, you should still bid 4♠ after the overcall. It hasn't changed anything; in fact, it has probably improved your hand, given your heart shortage. My bid would be 4♥ – a transfer to 4♠, making partner the declarer (see the first page of this article).

It was a pity partner and I had not discussed our defence to Specific Twos – in this instance the 2♦ opening bid that shows both majors. My preferred defence is that a double shows a hand willing to defend, and all doubles thereafter are penalty. I've had some delicious outcomes.

Partner held:

♠ A 8 5	♥ K Q J 10 2	♦ 2	♣ A 7 5 2
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		pass	pass
	2♦ both majors ?		

This hand suits a double rather nicely, and partner would be more than happy to penalise anything they now bid, holding:

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

The only halfway decent outcome is if they choose to play in 2♦ doubled. Any other contract makes game our way, meaning a rather large penalty!

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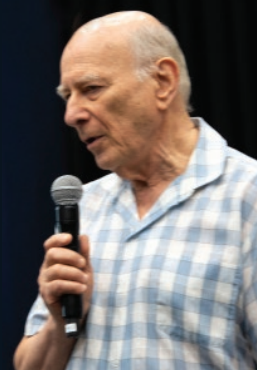
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IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

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Solution to problem on page 2



A DUCKING GOOD IDEA

Teams. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

♠ Q J 10 8 6 2
♥ Q 6
♦ Q 7 5 2
♣ 10

♠ K 7 5
♥ K 10 4 2
♦ J 8
♣ K J 7 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

You are West, defending 4♠. You lead the ♠5: two - three - nine. South cashes the ♠A: seven - six - four. Declarer plays the ♣5. What would you do as West?

* * * * *

You have 11 HCP, dummy has 7, total 18. Declarer has 15-17, total 33-35. That gives partner 5-7 points. Given declarer's play, partner is sure to have ♣A, maybe ♣A-Q. It looks automatic to play ♣J, but there is no need for that. What you really want is partner on lead to play a heart, so that you can score the ♥K. Recommended play: Play low and let partner win the trick. Partner figures to switch to a heart. You will then make the ♥K and collect a diamond trick later if available.

The deal arose in the quarter-finals of the 2024 Spingold (USA Open Teams):

Board 21. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

♠ Q J 10 8 6 2
♥ Q 6
♦ Q 7 5 2
♣ 10

♠ K 7 5
♥ K 10 4 2
♦ J 8
♣ K J 7 4

♠ 4 3
♥ 9 7 5
♦ A 6
♣ A 9 8 6 3 2

♠ A 9
♥ A J 8 3
♦ K 10 9 4 3
♣ Q 5

At one table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	4♥ ²	pass	1NT ¹
all pass		pass	4♠

1. 15-17 points.
2. Transfer to spades.

West led the ♠5: two - three - nine. South cashed the ♠A: seven - six - four, followed by the ♣5. West won with the ♣J, cashed the ♠K and exited with the ♣4. Declarer ruffed this in dummy and continued with the ♦2: six - king - eight and the ♦3: jack - queen - ace. A heart switch now by East is too late. Declarer takes the ♥A and cashes the rest of the diamonds, discarding dummy's heart loser, North-South +620.

If West had played low on the ♣5 at trick three, East would have won, and a heart switch would have defeated 4♥. After taking the ♣J, West can still beat 4♠ double dummy with a switch to diamonds (without cashing the ♠K). East takes the ♦A and plays a heart. The ♥K will then beat 4♠. However, the diamond switch after winning with the ♣J could look very silly if East held ♦K6 and South ♦A10943.

At the other table, South opened a strong 1NT, North bid 2♥ (transfer to spades), South bid 2♠, all pass. Note that both Souths opened 1NT with 14 HCP. Both upgraded the hand because of the good five-card diamond suit. Even though 4♠ can be defeated, North's heading for 4♠ appeals more than settling for 2♠. After all, North has a seven-loser hand and the heart finesse might have worked, or East could have held ♠Kx or ♠K bare.

West led the ♦J. East took the ♦A and returned the ♦6. Declarer won this in dummy and finessed the ♠9, losing to the ♠K. West shifted to the ♣4, taken by the ♣A. East switched to the ♥7. South rose with the ♥A, cashed ♠A, ruffed the ♣Q in dummy, drew the missing trump and ran diamonds, ditching dummy's ♥Q for ten tricks, +170, but -10 imps.

MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

Masterpoints

I have mentioned this a few times as it's the next major development work planned for My ABF. There are still a lot of discussions to have in this area – both internal and with clubs, states and their respective masterpoint secretaries (watch this space). But here are a few basics:

WHY ARE WE GOING TO MOVE THE MASTER-POINT CENTRE (“MPC”) INTO MY ABF?

Two main reasons:

a) Technology. The existing MPC was written back in 2011 so the software is now very old and out of date to maintain. What's more the current developer isn't keen to keep maintaining it!

b) Integration. It has a close linkage to other functions already in My ABF – most notably membership and billing (remember the MPC today looks after much more than literally just masterpoints – it tracks all ABF members, all clubs, all home club memberships, and issues bills for masterpoints and capitation fees).

WHAT WILL AND WON'T CHANGE?

A lot of details are still to be sorted out but the basics are:

- The masterpoint scheme itself (point calculations, ranks, etc) won't change.
- Billing for masterpoints and capitation fees will continue but My ABF will generate them.
- We are aiming to streamline the processes by which masterpoints get from their original source (nearly always a scoring program) to your masterpoint account.

The third point is probably the most important one. Much of this is quite manual at the moment – points are collated to form a separate masterpoint text file, submitted to the MPC, approved (sometimes via a State masterpoint secretary, sometimes directly by the MPC), initially processed as provisional points and then finally reach your account “properly” at the month-end update. All those steps require manual intervention – our plan is to automate as many of them as we can to reduce the amount of work required at all levels.



We have also looked at some more fundamental changes around where points are calculated and what data and files need to be transmitted by scoring programs in the first place – but those will come later.

WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN?

Again the full details of the project are still being planned, if feasible we will implement at the end of March 2026 which is when annual fees are billed.

Club Session payments

In the last couple of months there has been a pleasing number of new clubs starting to use the function in My ABF allowing them to collect money for club sessions via bridge credits. Not only can this be very convenient for the players it can greatly streamline the administration work for clubs in terms of reconciling, banking, etc (club treasurers take note!)

Effectively what it does is allow players to run a pre-payment account via their bridge credits which they can then use to pay for club sessions. Their names/ABF numbers are uploaded from the scoring program during, or shortly after, the session; charges automatically calculated and then applied (the table money is set in advance by the club and can obviously vary based on session type, membership status, type of payment, etc).

This is a sample of one of the screens that is generated for the director after the import. It lists the players by table – showing what's initially picked up and where things can be changed before the charges are applied:

Summary Details Table 1/2024						
Table	Direction	Player	Membership	Fees	Payment Method	Processed
1	IN	Alan Adams	Standard	10.00	My ABF	OK
1	IN	Betty Bunting	Standard	10.00	My ABF	OK
1	IN	Karen Kennedy	Standard	10.00	My ABF	OK
1	IN	Larry Lovable	Standard	10.00	My ABF	OK
2	IN	Visitor Visitor	Guest	20.00	Cash	OK
2	IN	Debbie Dyson	Standard	10.00	My ABF	OK
2	IN	Morris Minor	Standard	10.00	My ABF	OK
2	IN	Natalie Noisy	Standard	10.00	My ABF	OK
3	IN	Another Visitor	Guest	20.00	Cash	OK
3	IN	Yeti Visitor	Guest	20.00	Cash	OK

Administrators:

Make sure your email account is secure!

I sometimes hear concern about "My ABF security" etc. But it is interesting to note that in 4.5 years since My ABF launched there has not been a single incident where My ABF security has been a problem.

What has happened, however, are two incidents where a player's own personal email account has been compromised. Here's what happened on each occasion:

1. A hacker was able to access a player's email account, use it to reset their My ABF password, and then log in as them. They then used the person's stored card to top up funds into My ABF. But, because of the system design, they were unable to get any of the funds out of My ABF. All they could do was transfer the credits to another My ABF account. The next morning when we found out what had happened we could reverse it all with no cost to the player.

2. More recently a tournament organiser's email was broken into. We received an email request supposedly from her that an interim settlement for that tournament be paid to their "new bank account". Although the responses appeared quite legitimate, we were suspicious. The BSB details provided were from a different state to the club involved when we did a lookup. When we requested an account name, we were given a name we had never heard of. A phone enquiry to the organiser (on holiday in South Africa at the time) confirmed she knew nothing of these emails and someone had broken into her account and was masquerading as her. Obviously no settlement monies were paid!

It was a deliberate design decision that nowhere in the system can a player or a club direct a payment out of My ABF to a bank account. All such payments are handled separately by the ABF head office. That design ensured that no funds were lost in either of the incidents mentioned.

It's also worth reflecting that neither of these incidents were hackers breaking into My ABF. Nor were they hackers obtaining a player's credit card details (which are not stored in My ABF anyway). Both arose because a hacker broke into the player's own email account. These incidents show how important it is to protect your email. Particularly if you have administration access to some parts of My ABF on behalf of your club or for a major tournament. Or of course if your email is used as a log in to other non-bridge systems!

*Julian Foster, My ABF Manager
julian.foster@abf.com.au*

Adjustments can always be made on the day (or later). Alternative payment methods can still be used and are tracked in the same area to ensure there's a full financial reconciliation for the session. It's entirely up to the club to decide what payment methods they accept (a few have almost mandated bridge credits, most still allow other methods although an increasing number are now cashless). Other items besides table money can be set up and charged for as well if desired (coffee, books, etc).

A bridge credits account is not specific to any one club – so if you play at multiple clubs (either as a member or a visitor) the same account can be used for any of them which use My ABF.

Both players and clubs can see every individual transaction in their bridge credits accounts at any time.

Players can set up an "auto top-up" arrangement which makes their account operate a bit like a public transport card – once their balance drops below \$20, the account is automatically topped up by an amount they specify (between \$50 and \$300). Just to reiterate once again – no card details are ever stored, or even seen, by the ABF – they are all securely handled through Stripe. If they don't want to do that they can top up manually – either directly themselves or (if their club accepts it) via their club.

There's a load of details about bridge credits here:

<https://www.abf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/MY-ABF-WHAT-ARE-BRIDGE-CREDITS-AND-HOW-DO-THEY-WORK.pdf>

As usual there are clubs and players jumping at the chance to use the system; others that loathe the whole idea; and everywhere in between! We have tools to help clubs get up and running – and can upload balances from an existing system into My ABF for you if need be. Get in touch for more information. More information is available, as usual, on the My ABF resources page for clubs in the main ABF website:

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



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27-31 August 2025

At the Alice Springs Convention Centre

Director: Matthew McManus

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and 29 August 9:30am and 2:15pm

Swiss Pairs (with PQPs):
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Enquiries to the Tournament Organiser: Eileen Boock
Mobile: 0409 677 356, phone 08 8952 4061
eileenbcck@gmail.com

Letters to the editor



THE WEAK FREAK – ANALYSIS COMPLETED

Fred Whitaker's question, about the probability of the hand his partner held in the Monday duplicate, was too much for me to pass up. The question was, what is the likelihood of holding an eight-high Yarborough with a six-card suit.

I'm a bit rusty, but here are my calculations.

Board 15. Dealer South. North-South vulnerable.

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

Note: The exclamation mark means that you should multiply together all the numbers up to and including that number. For example, $4! = \text{"Four factorial"} = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 = 24$.

There are seven ways of having a six-card suit that is at most eight-high (876543, 876542, etc.), which can be in any of the four suits, which gives $4 \times 7 = 28$ such six-card suits.

There are seven other cards in your hand, and 21 other cards in the deck no higher than an eight. These seven cards can be ordered in $21!$ different ways. However, they don't have to be in order, and there are $7!$ ways of ordering the cards that were

in the given hand, and $14!$ ways of ordering the 14 cards that weren't.

This gives $\frac{21!}{7!14!}$ ways of having seven other cards.

As this can be in any of the four suits, the number is therefore

$$\frac{4 \times \frac{21!}{7!14!}}{7!14!} = 3.3 \text{ million ways.}$$

With similar reasoning to the above, the number of possible bridge hands is $\frac{52!}{13!39!} = 635 \text{ billion}$.

If we stop here, we get

$$\frac{3300000}{635000000000} = 1 \text{ in } 195,000.$$

But we've left a few cases out ...

I'm assuming that a seven-card suit would also fit Fred's conditions. There's only one way to have a seven-card suit headed by the eight; similar to the above, the calculations are

$$\frac{4 \times \frac{21!}{6!15!}}{6!15!} = 217,056 \text{ such hands.}$$

However, there's a small amount of double counting here, as some hands have two six-card suits, or a six- and a seven-card suit. There are six combinations of two suits, each of them can be chosen in seven ways, and the final card can be any of the other 14 cards. That makes $6 \times 7 \times 7 \times 14 = 4116$ six-six hands, plus $4 \times 3 \times 1 \times 7 = 84$ seven-six hands.

So the number is

$$\frac{3.3m + 217k - 4116 - 84}{635b} = 1 \text{ in } 183,069.$$

Fraser Rew

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Apology

The photos on page 1 and page 34 of our April edition should have been credited to Lauren Travis, rather than to the Gold Coast Congress. Lauren and Barbara Travis were the editors of this year's Congress Daily Bulletins, and they also took on the role of photographer, after the retirement of long-time GCC photographer Anne Russell.

Zephyr Education

The following update is from CARMEL MARTIN, co-founder and treasurer of Zephyr Education. Zephyr helps those affected by domestic and family violence to resume their education – usually within 24 to 48 hours of receiving a request for assistance. The vast majority assisted by Zephyr are children.



A huge thank you to the many bridge players who have continued to support Zephyr Education since it was founded in 2013. Zephyr provides the full educational needs of children affected by domestic and family violence in 254 DFV shelters, Family Service organisations, and outreach services across every Australian State and Territory.

Our imperatives are to provide immediate, practical, uncomplicated support. We believe that education enhances the chances of finding a way out of the scourge that afflicts so many, and which we know has a lasting, traumatic effect on all – especially the vulnerable children caught in the middle.

In the words of one of the shelter managers:

It was lovely to hear about the wonderful work that Zephyr does. It is so great that we have wonderful people in our community who think about and really understand what our kids go through when they experience DFV and are forced to suddenly leave their homes and come into a crisis refuge away from other family, friends, pets and forced to change schools and not know anyone. It is so important for them to try to fit in and feel part of it all as quickly as possible so thank you for what you do, it is absolutely amazing.

You who contribute financially - either personally or by fundraising - motivate us to keep going. The well-placed faith you have in our work is inspiring.

We are all volunteers at Zephyr and no one is reimbursed for personal expenses – let alone paid a wage. Zephyr receives no government funding and our overheads are negligible. This means that virtually the whole of your (tax deductible) donation goes where you mean it to go. Unique, I dare say with great pride.

Our funding needs increase every year in line with our expanding work. The total value of the support

we provided in the 23-24 financial year was \$884,573 – an increase of over 18% on the previous year. **Our expenditure for this financial year has already exceeded \$1 million.**

Zephyr now supports more than 3000 children each year and is an acknowledged game changer in the sector. The reality is that no other charity provides the complete package and no one does it within 24-48 hours if necessary.

Please go to our website at

www.zephyreducation.com.au



for further information or to donate online. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and for those of you who may wish to donate by bank transfer, Zephyr's bank account details are:

NAB: Zephyr Education Inc
BSB: 084-004
ACC: 15-629-0526

Please reference your name and send your email address to

admin@zephyreducation.com.au

so I can forward your receipt.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Carmel Martin
Co-founder and Treasurer, and addicted bridge player
Zephyr Education Inc

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WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with Will Jenner-O'Shea

SCORING: HOW ARE THE SCORES CALCULATED (OPENING WITH 11 POINTS)

In one popular workshop that I delivered this month we played real hands that were used in this year's Gold Coast Congress Pair's Final.

We looked at the scores from the Restricted Pairs (Under 300 MPs) A-Final and compared the scores from the tournament to what happened in the lesson. It gave many players a good insight into how Matchpoint scoring works. As well as calculating the score for making your contract, the players got to compare their scores to a table of real scores to look up their matchpoint score.

It was very interesting to see the results and how sometimes making your contract wasn't good enough – the overtricks made a difference. Also there were some hands where bidding and going down scored well, because others went down by more, or the opponents could have made their contract.

Using Bridgemes to score has meant that many people aren't great at knowing what the scores are for making various contracts, and also how that score is converted into the percentage that is displayed.

There was one interesting deal that occurred where West was the dealer (neither side vulnerable):

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

If West opens the bidding with 1♣ or 1♦, then East will bid hearts and South will overcall spades. East-West will compete in hearts and North-South will

compete in spades and will likely win the auction and make 2♠ or 3♠.



There were a couple of discussion points. Firstly, make sure that you and your partner have agreed which minor suit to open when you have three diamonds and two clubs. I usually recommend opening the longer or better minor, so my 1♣ opening might only be 3+ clubs and my 1♦ can sometimes be a three-card suit.

The next point of discussion was what happens if West passes with 11 HCP. North will pass, East will pass, and South might also pass. Some South players might feel obligated to open the bidding, but you can all pass.

When you "pass in" a board at Duplicate, it is not a 50-50 or an average. It is a score of 0 points. Scoring 0 points is better than scoring -50, but not as good as +50. On this board, since more North-South pairs made 2♠ than other contracts, passing the board out would have been bad for North-South (around 40%) and great for East-West (nearly 60%). Playing a normal sensible style of bridge, opening 11 HCP with a balanced hand is not necessarily a good idea. You should consider opening with 11 HCP if you have some shape and good suits.

There is a "Rule of 15" which helps you decide whether to open the bidding in the fourth seat. It suggests that if you add your HCP to the number of spades that you have, and it equals 15 or more, then you should open the bidding. The theory is that if you have fewer points or fewer spades, then you risk getting outbid. The team with the spade fit often wins, as in the example above. For players who use the Rule of 15 to decide whether to open the bidding in fourth seat, this hand meets the Rule of 15, but it is not great. I would probably pass the hand out rather than open the South hand after three passes. Opening and hoping for a plus score seems a little optimistic.

Tournament results

Central West Festival

OPEN SWISS PAIRS

1 Paul Lavings - Helen Lavings	158.88
2 Peter Gill - Tony Leibowitz	157.19
3 Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby	153.70
4 Stephen Williams - Ella Jacob	150.57
5 Andrew Peake - Giselle Mundell	147.21
6 Stephen Fischer - George Kozakos	146.76
7 Maurits van der Vlugt - Dagmar Neumann	145.09
8 Helen Milward - Gary Barwick	141.55
9 Leigh Foran - Theo Mangos	141.27
10 Paul Weaver - Terry Bodycote	136.99
11 Peter Clarke - Hans Van Weeren	136.94
12 Ian Price - Bruce Tier	136.47
13 Lydia Gibbs - Kevin Murray	134.34
14 Kevin Steffensen - Carolyn Miller	133.85
15 Denis Kristanda - Manda Labuschagne	133.42
16 Sue Lusk - Bruce Neill	133.13
17 Anne Grayden - Julie Sadler	132.58
18 Bas Bolt - Rob Hurst	130.69

INTERMEDIATE SWISS PAIRS

1 Ado Hardy - Derek Tyms	170.08
2 Sandy Carter - Nerida Gillies	137.20
3 Glenda Mcnee - Roger Mcnee	136.25
4 Atul Hajela - Chris Tough	136.23
5 Deanna Stuart - John Stuart	136.11
6 Christine Hanley - Craig Mietzke	134.64
7 Brian Glover - Jim Stroud	133.51
8 Barbara Williams - Megan Grant	132.30
9 Ellen Borda - Jane Biscoe	131.92
10 Renate La Marra - Stuart Cutsforth	131.46

RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS

1 Michael Jackson - Claire Bonic	149.78
2 Gayle Calvert - Steve English	148.71
3 Kathy Duke - Shannon Queree	140.53
4 Helen Gillam - Micki Summers	139.06
5 Elaine Hume - Peter Hume	135.59
6 Allan Adcroft - Julie Ellis	134.05
7 Maggie Havyatt - Dave Havyatt	133.67
8 Lidy Seysener - Susan Jensen	133.11
9 Margaret Corby - Margaret Barker	131.94
10 Lucy D'ambrosio - Jodie Summerhill	131.36

NOVICE SWISS PAIRS

1 Denise Reid - Judy King	158.70
2 David Kenny - Kathleen Kenny	147.19
3 David Rieser - Michael Green	144.46
4 Annette Udall - Eugene Marais	143.73
5 Kent Dwyer - Richard Jones	139.60
6 Julie Rollinson - Ngaire Meehan	138.56
7 Andy Sunter - Melissa Iverach	132.54
8 Mary Williams - Maria Stoppini	131.82
9 Jill Johnson - Jenny Clarke	128.21
10 Elaine Harris - Maryanne Loveridge	125.75

OPEN TEAMS

- 1 Sue Lusk, Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer
- 2 Vanessa Brown, Sandra Richman, Will Jenner-O'Shea, Andrew Richman
- 3 Janeen Solomon, Alison Dawson, Kevin Steffensen, Carolyn Miller
- 4 Mick McAuliffe, Helena Dawson, David Weston, Wing Roberts
- 5 Craig Beconsall, Elaine Pretorius, Steve Geddes, Anita Delorenzo

INTERMEDIATE TEAMS

- 1 Atul Hajela, Deanna Stuart, John Stuart, Chris Tough
- 2 Jenny Barnes, Kerry Rymer, Kit Meyers, Fiona Fawcett
- 3 Jens Skovgaard, Elaine Mcrae, Pam Bradford, Murray Paterson

RESTRICTED TEAMS

- 1 Kathy Duke, Melissa Ardern, Conny Szency, Shannon Queree
- 2 Allan Adcroft, Julie Ellis, Joan Lenehan, Robyn Rogers
- 3 Peter McClymont, David Watkins, Margaret Corby, Margaret Barker

NOVICE TEAMS

- 1 Peter Dayhew, Miriam Dayhew, Jen Woodhouse, Greg Brackenreg
- 2 Jill Johnson, Jenny Clarke, Neil McMaster, Jennifer Bissett
- 3 David & Kathleen Kenny, Belinda Moss, Jenny Bell

TBIB Western 60+ Pairs

1 Tom Lemann - Ron Cooper	127.84
2 Richard Grenside - Sue Grenside	118.62
3 Kaiping Chen - Fiske Warren	117.21
4 Trevor Fuller - Val Bilotft	112.21
5 Andrew Swider - Tad Bieganski	111.20
6 Cassie Morin - Dave Munro	110.57
7 Raman Jegatheesan - Phil Bapty	107.47
8 James Steer - Stella Steer	105.15
9 Gerald Merven - Florence Maltby	104.08
10 Geoff Holman - David Matthews	102.32

River City Gold Mixed Pairs

1 Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby	163.17
2 Therese Tully - Richard Ward	155.37
3 Joyce O'Brien - Ross Murtagh	152.38
4 Terry Strong - Jill Magee	151.69
5 Jenny Thompson - David Fryda	151.55
6 Frank Hymus - Krystyna Homik	150.89
7 Laurie Kelso - Kim Frazer	150.27
8 Joan Butts - Peter Buchen	147.04
9 Bill Powell - Marjorie Askew	146.73
10 Zac Ross - Kate Macdonald	146.56

Barrier Reef Congress

RESTRICTED PAIRS

1 Jan Van Riel - Vivienne Dacey	111.43
2 Sue Sharp - Andrew Sharp	105.94
3 Sa Smith - Paul Smith	102.27
4 Mike Morrissey - David Cumming	95.16
5 Nina Doyle - Ian Leach	93.14
6 Robyn Wells - Helen Baran	90.29
7 Annie Kloren - Bricet Kloren	88.42
8 Jeff Borg - Olivia Jackson	84.51
9 Louise Taylor-Smith - Linda Lee	83.69
10 Angela Blomfield - Kathi Vince	81.63

NOVICE PAIRS

1 Veronica Cullen - Alanna Waugh	100.73
2 Valda Corbett - Tania Rayfield	98.17
3 Jewel Schmidt - Annette Howe	94.99
4 Ruth Morris - Luthile Arlett	94.47
5 Noel Saunders - Ted Cullinan	90.83
6 Christine Jensen - Sandra Lawrence	89.84
7 Martin Pearce - Janice Lafferty	89.18
8 Sheila Black - Geoffrey Suess	87.10
9 Barbara Bainbridge - Christine Hasted	85.77
10 Annette Lee - Stephen Lee	82.46

OPEN PAIRS

1 Kim Ellaway - Allison Stralow	110.11
2 Tere Wotherspoon - Siegfried Konig	108.29
3 Fred Whitaker - Rachael Goffin	107.82
4 Sandra Richman - Andrew Richman	104.90
5 Therese Tully - Richard Ward	103.11

OPEN TEAMS

1 Jasmine Skeate, Kate Macdonald, Nick Jacob, Paul Gosney	112.99
2 Sue Ingham, Matt Smith, Terry Brown, Ian Thomson	110.14
3 Leigh Foran, Theo Mangos, Cathryn Herden, Matthew Thomson	108.42
4 John & Ivy Luck, Ken Dawson, Adrienne Kelly	106.23
5 Patrick Bugler, Therese Tully, Toni Bardon, Richard Ward	104.85

UNDER-300 TEAMS

1 Paul Ruan, John Rivers, Sameer Pandya, Lilly Jia	121.11
2 Mike Morrissey, Sa Smith, Paul Smith, David Cumming	110
3 Mary Cruickshank, Jan van Riel, Ian Cruickshank, Vivienne Dacey	109.76

Autumn Nationals

TBIB OPEN BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

1 Justin Mill - Matthew McManus	114.31
2 David Wiltshire - Sophie Ashton	108.49
3 Joachim Haffer - Philip Markey	100.73
4 Justin Williams - David Beauchamp	99.31
5 Sartaj Hans - Andy Hung	98.78
6 Paul Weaver - Terry Bodycote	96.30
7 Jack Luke-Paredi - Jamie Simpson	96.01
8 David Appleton - George Kozakos	95.84

TBIB MIXED BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

1 Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby	110.27
2 Sue Lusk - Bruce Neill	98.89
3 Andrew Peake - Giselle Mundell	95.32
4 Arjuna De Livera - Lori Smith	93.31
5 Trevor Fuller - Leone Fuller	91.24
6 Andrew Spooner - Jodi Tutty	90.18
7 Stephen Fischer - Therese Demarco	84.22
8 Maurits van der Vlugt - Dagmar Neumann	83.34

TBIB OPEN TEAMS

Dalley (Arlene Dalley, Ashley Bach, Paul Dalley, Mike Doecke, Andrew Spooner) 123 def Jacob (Hugh Grosvenor, George Smolanko, Ella Jacob, Justin Williams) 36

STEPBRIDGE UNDER-GM SWISS PAIRS

1 Jim Burke - Colin Twelftree	110.45
2 Helen Fleet - Deb Bennett	106.62
3 Eileen Boocock - Philip Hassall	97.78
4 Mary Tough - Bev Crossman	97.36
5 Tina Hesketh - Tony Georgeson	97.16
6 Bigi Cameron - Emma Russell	91.72
7 Steve Quinlivan - Elaine Kenny	90.02
8 Sonya Palfreyman - Shayne Palfreyman	89.88
9 Sue Martin - Sue Falkingham	86.26

STEPBRIDGE UNDER-LM SWISS PAIRS

1 Kevin Gu - Gayle Bagg	112.74
2 Edwina Grant - Sim Cavill	101.06
3 Judy Stafford - Suzanne King	100.7
4 Stewart Kingsborough - Graham Stucley	98.94
5 Megg Kelham - Bob Thiele	98.64
6 Chris Kervin - Mary Anne Loveridge	98.3
7 Gonz Uyttenhove - Cynthia Brinkman	96.37
8 Chris Mroczek - Carolyn Mroczek	95.20
9 Jeremy Randell - Jillian Tyler	95.14
10 Colleen Stone - Yulia Koh	93.23

DAVID LUSK ROOKIE SWISS PAIRS

1 Andrea Bissett - Jennifer Bissett	80.12
2 Janine Lusher - Mandy Tomney	79.75
3 Richard Sellers - Robin Evans	78.46
4 Margaret Jelbart - Trevor Anderson	77.74
5 Deb Hicks - Sharon Harris	77.64
6 Denise Connor - Lynne Tomati	74.12
7 Pierre Urlings - Anita Conroy	73.17
8 Paula Botten - Caroline Pearson-Wright	67.97
9 Antony Kimber - Susan Roberts	64.27
10 Louise Harkness - Diane Veness	61.98

STEPBRIDGE UNDER-GM SWISS TEAMS

1 Alice Handley, Caprice Davey, Tina Hesketh, Tony Georgeson	
2 Tamati Greig, Eugene Pereira, Moira Smith, Jinny Fuss	
3 Ray Dohnt, Helen Gray, Catherine Ellice-Flint, Anthony Gibbs	

STEPBRIDGE UNDER-LM SWISS TEAMS

1 Frances Leadbeter, Pauline Mcentee, Julie Randall, Jean Matthews	
2 Anne Morgan, William Morgan, Peter Wilson, Kate Hartley	
3 Kevin Gu, Gayle Bagg, Ruth Hemmerling, Penny Bowen	



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS BRISBANE 2025

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 and 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

