

Winners from the Summer Festival

Photos by Lauren Travis, captions on page 27





FEBRUARY 2026

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Cover photos by Lauren Travis: winners from the Summer Festival and Youth Week. Captions on page 27.

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**IMPROVE
YOUR
DEFENCE**
with
Ron Klinger
Solution on page 21

1. Teams, dealer North, North-South vulnerable.

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

N	E
W	S

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

1. Takeout.

West leads the ♦7: king - five - ten. Declarer plays the ♠7: five - six - queen. What would you play as West at trick three?



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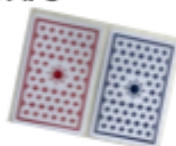
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David Fryda

Executive Director

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There's been a lot happening in Australian bridge – at the table and away from it – and this month I want to give you a fast-moving tour of some of the highlights and key developments. From the Summer Festival of Bridge and youth successes to changes in how we select our international teams and recognise outstanding contributors, there's plenty of good news and important progress to share. Let's get straight into it.

Summer Festival of Bridge and Youth Week

Our recent Summer Festival of Bridge and Youth Week in Canberra once again demonstrated the strength, depth and spirit of the Australian bridge community. My sincere thanks go to Laura and her entire organising team for delivering two very successful events. Major festivals only look effortless from the outside – in reality they depend on a great deal of planning, flexibility and hard work behind the scenes, and the results this year showed just how well that effort paid off.

Congratulations to all event winners and place-getters across the festival. I would like to make special mention of the three pairs who qualified for the Under-26 Australian Team (Paddy Taylor - Bertie Morgan, Heath Watkins - Kate Macdonald, Adrian Le - Fletcher Davey) a terrific achievement and a strong sign for the future of our international program. In addition Jess Brake and Shane Harrison, whose performance in taking out both the TBIB Open Pairs and the Mixed Matchpoint Pairs was an outstanding display of consistency and class.

The festival also gave us the opportunity to recognise exceptional long-term service to our game. It was a pleasure to present Allison Stralow with a lifetime award of free entry to the South West Pacific Teams in recognition of her many years of contribution and leadership as ABF President. Allison will be stepping down in April, and it was

fitting to acknowledge her impact in front of the national bridge community.

Finally, thank you to players for their patience and understanding during the few days where air-conditioning issues affected comfort at the venue. The venue staff worked hard to resolve the problems as quickly as possible, and your cooperative approach was appreciated.

Changes to Playoff Qualifying Points and International Performance

During the Summer Festival I ran an information session outlining the changes already underway – and those being considered – to how we approach international performance and team selection. These follow the work of the International Performance Task Force and are aimed at building a more coherent, partnership-focused

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



This certificate is proudly presented to

Allison Stralow

In recognition of outstanding service to the Australian bridge community as
Councillor, Board Member, Secretary and President.

Through her dedication, leadership and commitment, Allison has made a lasting
contribution to the Australian Bridge Federation and to the game of bridge in
Australia.

LIFETIME RECOGNITION

In appreciation of this service, Allison is awarded complimentary entry for life to
the South West Pacific Teams event — or its successor — at the ABF Summer
Festival of Bridge.

Australian Bridge Federation Board

2026

and better supported pathway from national competition through to international representation. One key element already confirmed is the shift toward partnership-based Playoff Qualifying Points and pairs-based qualification in the 2026 Playoffs, with further structural and support initiatives to follow in stages.

Importantly, this program is not just about improving results at the elite end – it is also about bringing the whole bridge community with us. International success should be something every Australian player feels connected to and proud of. The vision we are working toward is clear: by 2030 the Australian bridge community will have a coherent system to foster high-level bridge, including all aspects from national events, training, team selection, preparation and participation at international events – and we want to see more Australian teams achieving strong results at major international events more often.

Growing the popularity of bridge in Australia

At the end of last year we launched the Give the Gift of Bridge this Christmas campaign, encouraging players to think about bridge lessons, supervised sessions, beginner courses and bridge-related items as practical and meaningful gifts. The goal was simple: make it easier for every member of our community to play a small but active role in introducing new people to the game. National campaigns help with visibility, but real growth happens locally – through personal invitations, club initiatives and one-to-one encouragement.

Bridge doesn't grow by accident. It grows because players talk about it, invite friends, bring along family members, and support their clubs in running welcoming beginner and refresher programs. If you enjoy the game – and you're reading this, so you almost certainly do – please

treat this as a standing invitation to be an ambassador for bridge. Mention it, recommend it, invite someone, support a learner. If each of us brings just one new person into the game, the impact across the country is enormous.

Remembering Bondi and standing with our community

The horrific events at Bondi late last year touched many communities across Australia – including our own. We lost one of our bridge family, Marika Pogany, and others in our community were directly or indirectly affected. Her loss has been deeply felt, and we again extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends and playing partners.

During the Summer Festival of Bridge we paused play on the National Day of Mourning to acknowledge the victims and reflect together. It was a simple but important moment of respect and solidarity. Bridge is more than a game – it is a community – and in difficult times community matters. The ABF stands alongside the Jewish community and all those impacted by these events. We reject hatred and violence, and we reaffirm the values of respect, inclusion and humanity that underpin our game and our gatherings around the table.

Closing thoughts

Australian bridge is strongest when its community is informed, engaged and generous with its time and spirit. Whether you are competing, volunteering, mentoring, learning, or simply turning up each week to play, you are part of what keeps the game healthy and moving forward. Thank you for the role you play – and for continuing to support, promote and strengthen bridge across Australia. I also welcome feedback, questions and ideas from players at any level – please feel free to contact me using the email address shown in the banner at the top of this page.



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Sat 21 – Sun 22

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Saturday evening dinner

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Entries Co-ordinator

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Hugh Grosvenor hugh.grosvenor@gmail.com 0447 044 141

ABF Mixed Pairs and Seniors' Playoffs

Direct entry to the above ABF Playoffs will be offered to several contending pairs in the Australian Mixed Swiss Pairs and the Roger Penny Seniors' Swiss Pairs. See details on [ABF playoffs website](#)



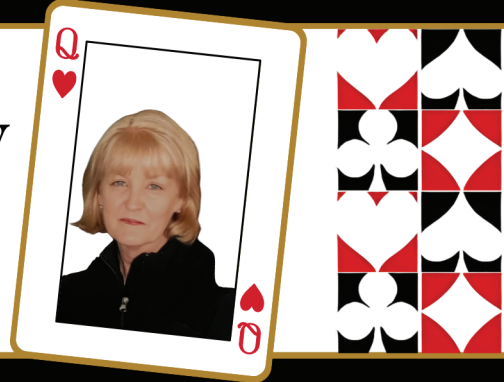


Allison Stralow

President

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Following a special General Meeting the ABF Council recently voted in favour of changes to the ABF Constitution, which reduced the number of Councillors from two to one per state and territory. NSW continues to hold an extra vote on council by virtue of their number of registered players. This resolution was also approved by the majority of States and Territories. I thank the previous councillors for all their work, Rob Ward, Bridge NSW, Caprice Davey, South Australia, Eileen Boocock Northern Territory, Stephen Fischer BFACT, and Hugh Grosvenor, Tasmania. From 14-25 January, Canberra again hosted the Summer Festival of Bridge, which this year saw approximately 900 bridge players compete in one or more of the events.

The major Open event, the South West Pacific Teams, was contested by 100 teams over four days in the second week. At the end of twelve qualifying matches, the top eight teams went into battle to determine which two teams would make it into the final. Congratulations to the winning team: Dalley (Kieran Dyke, Ashley Bach, Tony Nunn and Paul Dalley) defeated Meier (Leon Meier, Geo Tislevoll, Michael Smart, Peter Gill and David Hudson).

Congratulations to the winners of all the events with special mention to Jessica Brake and Shane Harrison who won both the TBIB Open Swiss Pairs and the Mixed Matchpoint Pairs. A full list of winners can be found in this newsletter

An event as large as the Summer Festival does not just happen, it takes months of preparation. Hats off to the Tournament Organiser, Laura Ginnan for her tireless work before, during and after the event.

Also to the directors, scorers, floor manager, caddies and volunteers who worked long hours behind the scenes and to Lauren Travis, the Bulletin Editor.

Thank you to all the players who took the time to thank me for my term as President of the Australian Bridge Federation following the lovely recognition I received from the Board.

My term is due to complete at the end of April, until then I remain available to all of you if you have feedback or issues you would like to raise.

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SCAN ME



TBIB Open Swiss Pairs

Lauren Travis

from the Summer Festival bulletins

What better place to start the TBIB Open Swiss Pairs than at Table 1 with Liam Milne - Andy Hung facing Marianne Bookallil - Stephen Fischer? Liam and Andy defended Board 1 nicely to defeat 3♥:

Board 1, dealer North, neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fischer	Milne	Bookallil	Hung
Pass	1♠	2♥	dbl
2♠	Pass	3♥	All Pass

With his side holding about half the points, Andy Hung found the only winning lead: a trump, which went to the two, jack and ace. Marianne got to work setting up dummy's ruff, playing a diamond to the ace and another diamond, won by Liam, who continued trumps: ♥Q-K-8-3. A low diamond was ruffed in dummy but Marianne lacked an entry to her hand to

draw the last trump. She cashed the ♠A then played a small spade which Liam won. He exited with the ♠9, giving Andy a trump promotion along with the two top clubs to beat the contract by one trick.

A Precision auction on Board 3 landed Andy in the hot seat, having to make game with a distinct lack of high-card points:

Board 3, dealer South, East-West vulnerable.

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

		♠ A 10 8 4 2	
		♥ 10	
		♦ Q 10 7 2	
		♣ K 10 5	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fischer	Milne	Bookallil	Hung
pass	4♠	all pass	1♠

Andy's 1♠ opening looks aggressive, but as dealer at favourable vulnerability and playing limited openings, it's fairly normal. Liam took advantage of the limited nature of Andy's hand, jumping straight to game.

Like Board 1, a trump lead is the only key to killing this contract, but Stephen didn't find it, leading a third/low ♥2. Marianne won her jack then attempted to cash the ♥A which was ruffed. Andy had a bit of work to do – he needed to ruff three diamonds in dummy and also required the ♠K to be onside in order to make. He played ♦10 to Marianne's jack, and she led another diamond making dummy ruff. Andy trumped a heart to his hand then a diamond to dummy then cashed ♣A and ♣K. He played ♦Q, ruffed by Stephen and overruffed by dummy, then ♥K, ruffed by Marianne and overruffed by dummy. Down to ♠A10 and a club, he exited the club, forcing whichever opponent won the trick to take the spade finesse for him and gaining six well-deservedimps.

Liz Adams started Match 3 with a bang:



Board 21, dealer North, NS vulnerable.

	<p>♠ 8 7 6 ♥ 10 8 6 ♦ 8 6 2 ♣ Q J 8 5</p>		
<p>♠ 9 2 ♥ 4 3 ♦ K J 10 ♣ K 10 9 7 4 2</p>		<p>♠ A Q J ♥ Q J 9 2 ♦ Q 7 4 3 ♣ A 3</p>	
	<p>♠ K 10 5 4 3 ♥ A K 7 5 ♦ A 9 5 ♣ 6</p>		
WEST Jacob	NORTH Gue	EAST Adams	SOUTH Tomlin
3NT	pass all pass	1NT	2♣ majors

After Tomlin showed both majors over Liz’s 15-17 1NT opening, Nick Jacob didn’t care: he bid 3NT. Josh led ♠4 which was won with Liz’s queen. She played ♣A and a club to the king, getting the bad news when Josh discarded the ♠5. Having to switch gears, she moved on to hearts: three-eight-queen-king. Josh switched to a passive diamond, won in dummy with the king, but Liz played the hand perfectly: ♦J around to the ace, with Josh exiting a diamond back to dummy. Now Liz called for a heart, putting in the nine, and Josh won the ace. He played a heart back to Liz’s jack, and she cashed ♦Q before exiting her last heart and forcing Josh to lead into her ♠AJ. Well planned and well executed!

My first ever squeeze was against my mum for an overtrick in 3NT. In Round 8, Natalie Newman had the opportunity to do the same – squeeze and end-play her dad for an overtrick on Board 15 – and I think she would have had bragging rights for life:

Board 15, dealer South, North-South vulnerable.

	<p>♠ A K Q J ♥ K 7 2 ♦ 10 9 7 6 ♣ 5 4</p>		
<p>♠ 9 2 ♥ A J 10 3 ♦ K 5 ♣ Q 9 8 7 2</p>		<p>♠ 10 8 6 5 4 ♥ Q ♦ A Q 4 ♣ A K J 10</p>	
	<p>♠ 7 3 ♥ 9 8 6 5 4 ♦ J 8 3 2 ♣ 6 3</p>		
WEST N Newman	NORTH P Newman	EAST B Thompson	SOUTH M Thomson
1♣ 1NT	dbl pass	1♠ 3NT	pass all pass

Instead of cashing out his four tricks, Peter led a diamond. Natalie won it in her hand then ran five rounds of clubs, forcing Peter and Matthew to discard three times each. Matthew pitched a spade, a heart and a diamond, and Peter threw away a low heart then the ♠J and ♠Q, drawing an inquisitive look from his daughter. Natalie cashed dummy’s diamond honours coming to this position:

	<p>♠ A K ♥ K 7 ♦ 10 ♣ —</p>	
<p>♠ 9 ♥ A J 10 3 ♦ — ♣ —</p>		<p>♠ 10 8 6 5 ♥ Q ♦ — ♣ —</p>
	Immaterial	

A spade exit now lets Peter cash three tricks but then he has to lead a heart, giving Natalie the last two tricks. Alas, she doesn’t have enough experience to see the position, so she played a heart to the ace. Next time!

In Round 9, Mike Doecke and Will Jenner-O’Shea set the perfect trap at the start of their match against Jessica Brake and Shane Harrison. On Boards 21 and 22 they made it clear they didn’t really know their system (“Yesterday we agreed to play Standard at unfavourable, but we don’t know what sort of Standard”), bid game and went off multiple tricks. When they bid a third game on Board 23, Harrison had worked out what was up. Sadly for him, that one made.

The chaos continued on board 25:

Board 25, dealer North, East-West vulnerable.

	<p>♠ K J 8 2 ♥ 6 3 ♦ K J 10 ♣ A 7 6 2</p>		
<p>♠ 7 6 3 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ A 9 8 7 3 2 ♣ 4</p>		<p>♠ Q 9 4 ♥ K Q 7 5 ♦ — ♣ K Q J 8 5 3</p>	
	<p>♠ A 10 5 ♥ A J 9 4 ♦ Q 6 5 4 ♣ 10 9</p>		
WEST Brake	NORTH Jenner-O’Shea	EAST Harrison	SOUTH Doecke
pass 3♦ all pass	1♦ * 2♠ dbl	2♣ dbl 3♥	dbl rdbl dbl

Will's 1♦ opening could be short, as he and Mike play a strong club system (unless they're unfavourable, as of yesterday). Shane's appetite for competing was insatiable but I suspect he had some regrets when Jess bid his void at the three-level.

This contract looked to be an absolute disaster, but Shane's prospects improved immediately when Mike led ♠A then ♠10 to Will's king. Will found the best defence of a trump switch, Shane playing low and Mike winning his jack. Mike continued a third round of spades which Shane won and began setting up his clubs, playing the jack to Will's ace. Will continued trumps: ♥6 - seven - four - eight. Shane didn't really want to be in dummy, but he ruffed a diamond then started running clubs through Mike. When Mike refused to ruff in, Shane was able to pitch all of dummy's diamonds and only go one off! I think he's used his get-out-of-jail-free card for the week, though.

You can't expect anything but more insanity, forgotten system agreements and copious undertricks from this table as they played Board 20 next (out of order).

Board 20, dealer West, both sides vulnerable.

♠ K J 10 7 4
♥ 2
♦ A 6
♣ A 10 8 7 6

♠ 8 6
♥ A K Q J 4
♦ J 9 3 2
♣ K 2

♠ A 9 5 3
♥ 10 8
♦ K Q 10
♣ J 5 4 3

♠ Q 2
♥ 9 7 6 5 3
♦ 8 7 5 4
♣ Q 9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brake	Jenner-O'Shea	Harrison	Doecke
1♥	3♣*	dbl	3♦
all pass			

3♣ was alerted and explained as "About a year ago we agreed to play this as both minors, non-forcing," not prompting a huge amount of faith in the partnership agreement. Mike and Will had bid to one of Jess and Shane's last making contracts, but neither of them could really double.

Jess' ♥A lead was both obvious and costly, blocking the suit. When it held, she switched to a low diamond, won in dummy, and Mike called for a small spade. Shane was awake and won the ace, drew dummy's last trump then played his ♥10. Jess overtook to cash two more hearts. To take the contract down five, she had to give Shane a heart ruff with his ♦Q then score her last two diamonds. In reality, it was hard to read

the situation since the whole hand had been crazy, and she played a spade which allowed Mike to draw the trumps and get out for four off, undoubled!

They started their last board with no time left on the clock (putting it generously) and the lunch break already underway:

Board 26, dealer East, both sides vulnerable.

♠ K Q 8 6
♥ 10 8 6 3 2
♦ K 10 7
♣ K

♠ A 4 3
♥ A K Q 5
♦ A Q
♣ J 7 4 2

♠ 10 9 7 5
♥ 7
♦ J 5 4 2
♣ A 8 6 5

♠ J 2
♥ J 9 4
♦ 9 8 6 3
♣ Q 10 9 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brake	Jenner-O'Shea	Harrison	Doecke
2NT	pass	pass	pass
3♥	pass	3NT	all pass



Will led ♥6 to the seven, Mike's jack and Jess' ace. She played ♦Q out of hand, with Will winning and continuing a low heart to the nine and king, dummy pitching a diamond. Jess cashed ♦A then played a low club, ducking when the king appeared. Will played a third round of hearts which Jess won. She crossed to dummy's ♣A, cashed ♦J and played a club out which Mike won with the queen. He cashed his ♦9 then played a low spade to the ace. Jess cashed ♣J and Will had to come down to either ♠K or ♥8. Jess had discarded something on the ♦J but, being the lunch break, she had effectively starved Will into not watching her play. Of course, this ridiculous match ended with a successful memory squeeze and Jess and Shane scored +600 for a full 12-imp gain.

Going into the final round, Brake and Harrison were leading, and played against Mike Ware and Matt McManus who were lying second.

Board 12, dealer West, North-South vulnerable.

♠ K 9 ♥ A K 10 6 5 2 ♦ J 4 ♣ Q 9 8			
♠ A Q 10 4 2 ♥ 9 8 7 ♦ 9 8 2 ♣ A 3		♠ J 8 7 6 3 ♥ Q ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ K 7 6 4	
♠ 5 ♥ J 4 3 ♦ A K 10 7 5 ♣ J 10 5 2			
WEST McManus	NORTH Harrison	EAST Ware	SOUTH Brake
1♥ ¹	2♥	4♠	dbl
all pass			
1. Spades.			

Matt and Mike play transfer openings, so 1♥ showed spades. Mike jumped to 4♠, and with 4NT an unrealistic contract, Jess and Shane did best to double and defend.

Naturally, Jess led ♦A and Shane encouraged with his doubleton. She continued ♦K and another diamond, giving him a ruff, and he played two rounds of hearts with the second one being ruffed. With Shane having ruffed already, Mike was on a guess for the ♠K. He played for Shane to have been normal and not having encouraged Jess to give him a ruff with a natural trump trick, so got it wrong and went two off like he always should have been.

Jess played 3NT really nicely, with many options available to her and little information on which line was best:

Board 16, dealer West, East-West vulnerable.

♠ 3 ♥ A K 8 3 2 ♦ A K ♣ K 10 8 6 5			
♠ A 8 7 6 5 4 ♥ J 10 ♦ Q 5 4 2 ♣ 3		♠ Q 10 ♥ Q 9 7 5 ♦ 10 9 3 ♣ Q J 7 2	
♠ K J 9 2 ♥ 6 4 ♦ J 8 7 6 ♣ A 9 4			
WEST McManus	NORTH Harrison	EAST Ware	SOUTH Brake
2♦ multi	dbl	2♥ P/C	dbl
2♠	3♥	pass	3NT
all pass			

Matt led ♦2 which was won in dummy. Jess picked the clubs correctly, leading a low one to the nine at trick two. She cashed ♣A and ♣K then conceded the fourth club to Mike, pitching a low spade, with Matt shelling three spades. Mike continued diamonds, knocking out dummy's ace. Jess cashed dummy's final club, Mike and Jess both throwing a heart and Matt pitching another spade, coming down to:

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

Before the previous trick, I'd hoped she would cash ♥AK then play a spade to the jack, endplaying Matt. However, due to Mike's heart discard, she had an easier line: spade to the jack and ace, Matt cashed ♦Q and then played a heart to dummy, and Jess used Mike's third heart as a stepping stone to her ♠K.

While we might hear stories of wives shooting their husbands at the bridge table more often than we hear of successes, Jess and Shane break that pattern. They won this match by 15 imps and secured their place at the top of the field, outscoring second place by 8 VPs. They backed this up one week later with a win in the Mixed Pairs.

Congratulations Shane and Jess!

Stephen Burgess

1956 - 2026

Stephen Robert Stanley Burgess was born in Kaitangata, a small mining town in the South of the South Island of New Zealand. He learned bridge at 15 and from this unlikely beginning, he went on to become one of the greatest players from this part of the world, with a world-wide reputation.

After a stint in Dunedin, he came to Christchurch where he soon made his mark, winning the New Zealand Pairs in 1980 and The New Zealand Teams in 1981.

He then moved to Sydney where he would establish himself at the top of Australian bridge, dominating the national events in the 1980s and much of the 90s, winning seven Open Teams Playoffs, and a host of other national events.

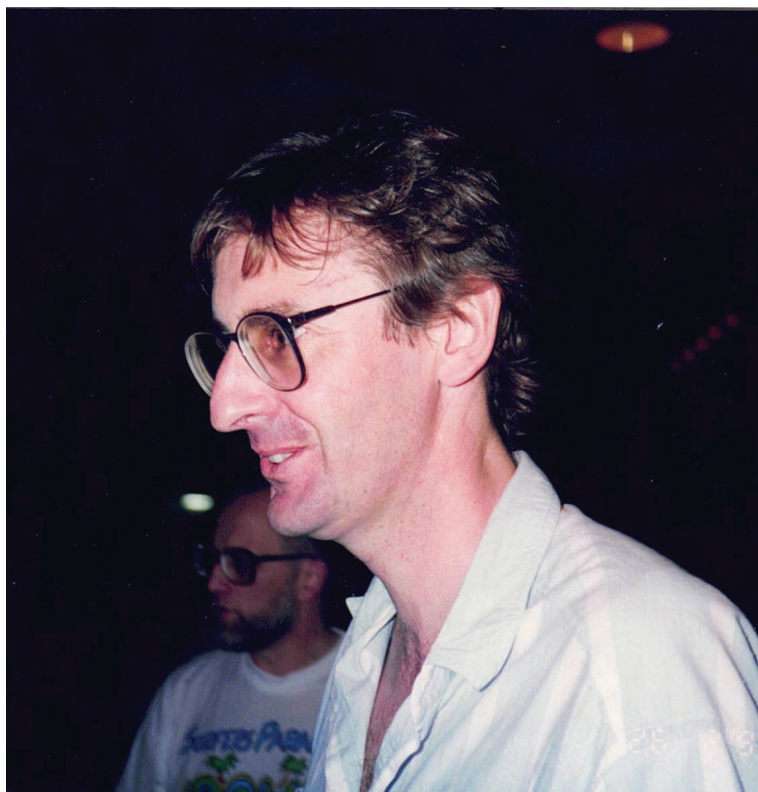
On the international front, he came third in the World Pairs in 1986, and he twice won the Cavendish Teams in New York. He came third in the Cavendish Pairs, and he won the imp pairs at the US Nationals. He also reached the semi-final of the Bermuda Bowl in 1989.

On a personal note, I came to Australia a few months ahead of Stephen, and we formed a partnership when he arrived. The partnership would last about ten years, so I saw firsthand what a great natural talent he had for the game. No one was better than Stephen.

He also had a good mind for system. This made him an ideal collaborator on the Forcing Pass / MOSCITO project, which was central to our game. However, this brought us into frequent brushes with the authorities, who were keen to stamp us out. Stephen tells this amusing story:

"We entered our system card for the 1986 World Pairs in Miami from Australia. When lining up for seat placement, we had a tap on the shoulder from Edgar Kaplan. He advised us that we could not play relay on the first two rounds of auction. Paul says we are stuffed. I say no. Let's play the step by responder as, what did you have for breakfast, and the step by opener as bacon and eggs, then we commence relay – plus two. Our opponents say never heard of it, what's it called? The Kaplan Two Step."

Stephen was fiercely opposed to the way top pairs routinely telegraph their holdings in defence. In the early 2000s, we made one final attempt to make an



impression in the US nationals, which had become a de facto world championship of bridge. We were playing MOSCITO where a one diamond opening shows hearts, and a one heart opening shows spades.

However, the system committee told us we could not use this method. We knew two people on the committee, both top players. We met with one of them to try and sort it out. Stephen said what if we tell our opponents to treat a one diamond opening as if it were a one heart opening. Committee Man (let's call him CM) replied, what if goes one diamond, pass, pass?

Alas, there was nothing to be done. As Julius Caesar might have said, the die was cast.

That was mighty annoying, but Stephen had the last laugh. By a stroke of good luck, he found CM sitting on his left when he started the national pairs event the next day. The first deal was roughly this:

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

Stephen opened 2♠ and everyone passed.

CM led the king of diamonds and Stephen played low in dummy. At this point South took a full 15 seconds before playing.

Stephen to CM: "What's that?"

CM: wan smile.

Stephen: "Do you think he's got a singleton diamond?"

CM: wan smile.

Stephen: "Do you think he's got an honour in clubs and hearts?"

CM: wan smile.

Stephen was never guilty of this common form of illegal communication himself. He only ever played count, so in his partnerships there was never anything to think about in these situations.

Around 2015, Stephen moved to senior's bridge where he continued to enjoy great success, usually in partnership with Gaby Lorentz.

He was very generous of nature, and he loved to be the host. In the mid-90s he made a lot of money trading options. US backgammon expert and financial market trader, Stephen Kessler, tells the story:

"I knew options traders in the US were training bridge players, so I decided to give it a try. Takes a bit of moxie, especially at first. Stephen seemed rather fearless, so I got him a badge and turned him loose into the Bank Bill pit of the Sydney Futures Exchange, just as one of the weekly Treasury reports hit the news. The first few minutes after that were sheer pandemonium, thunderous cacophony. He loved it... so much so that he chose that pit to trade instead of my choice for him. I had planned to have him execute my trading strategy, but of course he could not be reined in. He had some good success before ultimately falling for a manipulation by Treasury that blew his odds into the stratosphere.

"You may remember that before he blew out, he was living it up in one of those mezzanine apartments overlooking New South Head Road just east of Double Bay... shouting French champagne for strangers at his extravagant parties, living like there would be no tomorrows."

US expert, Bob Jones, who writes the Goren column, was a friend and sometimes partner. He presents a good summary:

"Stephen possessed immense personal charisma along with great talents and abilities. There were times in his life when his star shined as brightly as anyone's. He had his demons, and they prevented him from becoming all that he might have been. His

big heart and his generous nature made him a beloved figure among most who knew him."

Stephen might have had his ups and downs, and he surely did, but he was always a steadfast friend. He would routinely visit us on his many trips to Double Bay, and he maintained a close friendship with many people, including a few who he had met here at the bridge table.

Stephen passed away on 3 January 2026, in Canberra Hospital after complications from a chicken bone accident on 15 November.

Dearly loved father of Chris, Emma, Becky, Rhys and Janas and their families, and partner Denise.

Paul Marston

Stephen's national titles in Australia

Australian Open Team Playoff:
1983, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1997, 2000

Australian Seniors Team Playoff:
2016, 2020, 2023 and 2024

National Open Teams:
1983, 1984, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1998, 2003

Spring National Open Teams:
1988, 1989, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1997

Gold Coast Open Teams:
1984, 1988, 1990

Gold Coast Pairs:
1983, 1984, 1986

Victor Champion Cup:
1985, 2009

Autumn National Open Teams:
1995, 1996, 2007

Bobby Evans Senior Teams:
2015, 2018, 2022

Interstate Teams:
1985

Australian Open Pairs:
1983



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Len Dixon 1921 - 2025

When Len Dixon passed away on the morning of 17 December, he was ten days short of his 104th birthday. It is unsurprising therefore that Len was a pioneer in both his chosen profession (information technology) and his chosen recreation (bridge).

Len Dixon was born around the corner from Brick Lane in London's East End. Soon after completing his secondary education, he entered what was to become known as the IT industry, then in its infancy. His early training in the field was under the wings of IBM. By 1955 he was Chief Programmer for the London County Council.

The Council had an active bridge club. Members included England international Derek Rimington (who was a member of Len's staff) and acclaimed bridge columnist Albert Dormer. The Council's club competed in the London Business Houses pennant competition. This was one of England's premier bridge competitions and attracted some of the best players in the land. The pennant was played in several divisions. Len Dixon was a regular in the second division.

In the early 1960s, the Australian Public Service began recruiting specialists in computing. Positions were advertised throughout the British Commonwealth. Len and his wife Ruth (pictured above at their 1947 wedding in London) saw advertisements in a London newspaper and decided that it would be interesting to "see Australia". Len applied for two positions, and was offered both. He chose a job as systems analyst in the Department of Defence, because that department made a slightly better offer that included the opportunity to complete tertiary education – a degree in mathematics.

Len and Ruth arrived in Canberra in 1962, but 12 months were to elapse before they played duplicate bridge. They found a weekly game in a rather gloomy upstairs room of the Burns Club, located at the time in Canberra Avenue. They met Maureen and Val Ackerman, Wallace Caplehorn, Olive Lott, Julian Makowski, Kay Poplawski and Lew and Shirley Thomson. Almost immediately, Wallace Caplehorn organised ACT's participation in the Australian National Open Championship (ANC 1963) in Adelaide. The ACT team was Len and Ruth Dixon, Val Ackerman, Wallace Caplehorn, A Garrett and Julian Makowski.

This was just the beginning of a long representative career. Following ANC 1963, Len was on the next five ACT Open Teams at ANCs and on seven occasions subsequently, twice as non-playing captain. Much later, he was a member of ten ACT Seniors Teams at Interstate Championships, eight times as a player and twice as non-playing captain. He was never to win an Interstate Open Teams, but was second in Hobart in 1980.

However, he twice tasted ANC success. In 1970, he was Australian Open Individual Champion, and in 2001 he was a member of the winning ACT Seniors Team. His performance in the final of the 2001 event, against Victoria, was especially noteworthy. Len, then in his 80th year, played in two of the six 10-board stanzas. During those 20 boards, ACT picked up 72 imps; the final margin of victory was 27 imps.

In 1968 David Sobell, one of Len's favourite partners, felt that the Canberra Times could do better with a local bridge correspondent than with a syndicated column. He wrote to the editor with his suggestion and put forward Len's name. The editor agreed, subject to his satisfaction with some sample columns. He approved the samples, and Len's first bridge column was published on Thursday 17 October 1968.

The column appeared at least once each week in the Canberra Times and/or the Sunday Times until mid-2023 when the newspapers discontinued their leisure sections. Len's 55 years as a bridge correspondent must surely be a record unsurpassed anywhere in the world. Ever a tireless propagandist, Len kept his fellow reporters well informed of newsworthy events, ensuring that bridge coverage appeared well beyond Len's own columns.

Newspapers were not the only outlet for Len Dixon's literary talent. In early days, he was a frequent editor of the daily bulletin for Canberra's Summer Festival of Bridge. This was a thankless task that brought the editor little joy. Len once recalled, with equal pride and horror, a particular festival at which he alone was responsible for typing up the copy, editing each issue and organising printing and distribution. Yet most years he continued in the role. That was because he was Len Dixon!

Len's eldest daughter Sara passed away in 1975, his wife Ruth in 1984, and now Len himself in 2025. We extend our deep sympathies to Len's daughters, Jo and Felicity, grandchildren Sam, Lily, Ruby, Gracie and Stella, and his great granddaughter Mia. They, better than any of us, know that Len was a great man.

John Brockwell



A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

Finally, I got to play! Here are some of the more interesting hands.

Partner has passed, RHO opens 1♦ and you hold:

♠ K J 9 6 4 2 ♥ Q 6 ♦ — ♣ Q J 4 3 2

What would you bid?

We were not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, so I decided to preempt as high as I was willing to go. My decision, given the vulnerability, was to call 3♠.

That left North a little 'fixed':

♠ A Q 7
♥ J 10 4 3
♦ 7 5 3 2
♣ A 8

♠ K J 9 6 4 2
♥ Q 6
♦ —
♣ Q J 4 3 2

♠ 10 5 3
♥ A K 5 2
♦ J 10 9 4
♣ 9 7

♠ 8
♥ 9 8 7
♦ A K Q 8 6
♣ K 10 6 5

At the table, North chose to pass, a dubious action unless planning to penalty pass if South reopens with a double. The other options are to make a negative double, although that may mean you miss 3NT whenever South has not got four hearts (the power of a 3♠ overcall) or to bid 3NT, a mild overbid. Anything could be right!

What happened? South did not reopen with a double, though they should with that distribution, since North may be sitting there with a penalty double of

3♠. South passed, and I 'got away with murder'. 3♠ can fail by one trick – South leads a trump through when on lead with the ♣K, and North draws all three trumps, leaving declarer with two spade losers and three club losers – but I was allowed to make.

You are playing in 3NT, East:

♠ 8 5 3
♥ J 10 3
♦ 8 4
♣ K Q 9 6 3

♠ K Q 7
♥ A Q 7 6
♦ A K J 2
♣ A 4

South leads the ♠4 - three - ten - queen. This hand looks easy. Have you stopped to develop a plan?

Having won the first trick, you should start on the clubs. You cash the ♣A, then cross to the queen to cash the king. North follows to the third round and South discards a random heart. The one thing you should NOT do now is to lead a club. That will give the lead to North, but North is your 'danger' hand – being able to lead a spade through your K-x, leaving South with several spade winners.

Your best play now that clubs have not broken is to lead the ♥J, finessing. When South wins the king, your spades are protected. Furthermore, the ♥10 is another entry to dummy for you to try the diamond finesse, which wins. This will ensure 10 tricks, rather than risking going down.

How would you bid the next hand?

♠ A K 10 6 4 ♥ K ♦ A K 9 8 6 3 2 ♣ —

I don't think many Souths bid this hand optimally. The opening bid of 1♦ is totally fine. West overcalls 1♥ and partner passes. East raises to 2♥ or 3♥. Your best rebid now, ensuring no accidents (i.e. playing in

a partscore when you should be in game with only three losers), is 4♠. This should indicate five spades and, therefore, 6+ diamonds. Partner, North, will then choose between the two suits. On this occasion, North held ♠Q-9-5-3 and ♦J-10, so you will rest in 4♠.

At our table, South sucked me in, rebidding 3♦, and then 5♦ when partner rebid 3♥ – perfectly reasonable with four-card support. I now doubled, not envisaging a 5-7 hand shape, and bearing in mind that declarer had offered to play at the three-level. My double wasn't a success!

You are playing in 3NT as West:

♠ A 8 4	♠ K 7
♥ A K	♥ 9 8 6 4 2
♦ A 10 8 6	♦ Q J 3 2
♣ K 8 5 3	♣ A 9
WEST	EAST
1♦	1♥
2NT ¹	3NT ²

1. 18-19 HCP.
2. Those hearts only look like a four-card suit!

North leads the ♣6.

You simply have to work out how you plan to develop your extra tricks. They can come from hearts or diamonds.

You have two entries to dummy, so if hearts break 3-3, you can cash the ace and king, cross to dummy and lose your heart, then return to dummy to cash your two heart winners. This line relies on hearts breaking 3-3 (or a doubleton with two honours), with 3-3 breaks being about 35.5%. The alternative line is to take the diamond finesse, creating two (or three) extra diamond winners. This is clearly superior.

Choosing to work on diamonds means that you should win the opening lead in dummy, preparatory to starting work on diamonds. You lead the ♦Q, finessing, and North discards! Look at your diamond spot cards; you now have four diamond tricks, as long as you keep finessing. Now you lead the ♦J and South covers, so you win the ace. You still have the ♦10-8 over South's ♦9-7-5, so you can return to dummy's ♠K to finesse diamonds again.

Not only that, but North had to find a lot of discards and, being 6-5 in the blacks, ends up being squeezed, giving you an extra black trick (in our case, she discarded two clubs, leading to our side scoring three club tricks). Just ensuring ten tricks would have been an equal top, but eleven tricks was an outright top.

This was probably our most interesting hand:

♠ 7	♠ 10 3
♥ A Q 9 6	♥ J 10 4
♦ 9 5 2	♦ A K Q J 8
♣ A 9 6 4 3	♣ Q J 5
WEST	EAST
1♥ ¹	1♦
2♦ ²	1NT
	pass

1. Not strong enough to bid 2♣ then reverse into 2♥.
2. Not happy with 1NT with a singleton spade opposite three spades at most (no 1♠ rebid). Therefore, I chose to rebid 2♦, even though it may have been a 4-3 fit.

2♦ was a clearly superior contract to 1NT, but the play is the most interesting thing. South found a trump lead...

There are several play options, none of which involve removing trumps. If you draw trumps, you will lose two spades. This means that you need to work on your outside suit(s) before drawing trumps. Option 1 is to lead a spade, allowing you to ruff a spade loser. Option 2 is to take the heart finesse. This line is very tempting, given the solidity of the heart pips. However, the heart suit provides only one discard, so you will still need the club finesse. Option 3 involves clubs. You could take the club finesse, and the five-card suit will provide you with two discards.

The best line is to play on clubs at trick two. Lead the ♣Q and try the finesse. North wins the ♣K. Diamonds happen to be 4-1 (South has the length) so there is no diamond return. You are now able to work on the spade ruff, with the clubs taking care of the heart losers, thus making eleven tricks!

On my final offering, it is only the club suit that is relevant:

<div> <div>N</div> <div>W</div> <div>E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	You ♣ K 10 7 6 4
	Dummy ♣ A 5

Declarer (North) leads the ♣Q and it's your turn to play. Should you cover the honour with your honour? The answer is 'no'. The rationale behind covering honours is that you are trying to promote a trick for your side.

Despite being unable to see declarer's Q-J, you should duck because dummy only has two clubs. The next club will remove the ace and now you will still hold the K-10 over declarer's jack. If you have covered the queen, declarer's Q-J-9-8 will become three tricks rather than two tricks!

Keep thinking, slow down, and don't make reflex plays.



Australian Bridge Directors' Association
in conjunction with Bridge Victoria

Interactive Workshop for Directors

3 Breen Drive, Brighton East VIC

21 & 22 February 2026

Program

Saturday Morning – 9:30am

Common Calls for the Director – role play demonstrations
Bridgemates – friend and sometimes foe?

Afternoon – 1:15pm

Mis-bids, Mis-explanations, Failure to Alert – with work groups
Collecting Information and Ascertaining Facts
Q & A Panel Discussion (1)

ABDA AGM

Sunday Morning – 9:00am

Common Misconceptions in Law and Ethics

Stream A

Unauthorised Information – with work groups
Adjusted Scores – Philosophy and Approach

Stream B

Issues relevant to the New Director
How to efficiently run a session of Duplicate

Afternoon – 12:45pm

Judgement Rulings – with work groups
Multi-session Events – Design and Execution
Q & A Panel Discussion (2)

Presenters

Jonathan Free (WA)
Laura Ginnan (VIC)
Laurie Kelso (VIC)
John McIlrath (NSW)
Geoff Schaller (VIC)
Sebastian Yuen (ACT)

Enrolments via MyABF

\$80 for both days (Non-Members \$100) - includes lunch each day
\$50 for one day (Non-Members \$70) - includes lunch

The ABDA will provide a limited number of subsidies to attendees from each of the States. Directors wishing to apply for a sponsored place should email the ABDA Treasurer, Dave Havyatt, at david@havyatt.com.au before 31 December 2025.

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com



YOUR ACTION AFTER OPPONENTS BID 1NT-2♠

What would you call on the following hands, neither side vulnerable? West's 1NT opening is 15-17, and East's 2♠ response is a transfer, showing 6+ clubs.

WEST 1NT ¹⁵⁻¹⁷	NORTH pass	EAST 2♠ ^{clubs}	SOUTH ?
1. ♠ K 7 6 5 3	♥ K 10	♦ A K 6 4	♣ 5 4
2. ♠ A K Q 6 5	♥ 5 4	♦ 8 6 5 4	♣ 5 3
3. ♠ K 7 5 3 2	♥ A 8 4	♦ K J 2	♣ 6 2
4. ♠ K Q 10 9 8 3	♥ A 8 2	♦ A 6 5	♣ 5
5. ♠ 6 2	♥ K 3 2	♦ A Q J 10 7 2	♣ 3 2
6. ♠ K Q 7	♥ K J 8 6 4 3	♦ 2	♣ 7 6 4
7. ♠ A Q 7	♥ K 10 6 4	♦ K 10 4 2	♣ A 10
8. ♠ K Q 4 3	♥ K 10 4 2	♦ K Q J 6	♣ 2
9. ♠ A K 7 6 2	♥ A K 10 6 5 4	♦ —	♣ 5 3
10. ♠ 8 6	♥ K Q 10 4 3	♦ A Q J 8 7	♣ 2

SOLUTIONS

1. Double. You don't have much of a spade suit, but you are calling to compete rather than indicate a lead. Yes, your double is best used to show 5+ spades.

When this deal came up partner held only 6 HCP, but ♠QJxx and an outside void and 4♠ was cold for ten tricks. There is some risk in bidding but it is winning strategy in the long run.

2. Double. Only 9 HCP but you want to be in the auction and partner is now free to compete at the three-level. Better to show your suit while you have the chance.

3. Pass. A balanced 11-count with a broken suit is not quite enough to encourage partner into the auction at the 3-level. Don't forget there is a 15-17 balanced hand sitting over you.

4. 3♠. Always bid as high as you can at your first opportunity, to deprive opponents of space and describe your assets. You have a chunky hand full of controls, and you need very little opposite to make nine tricks in spades. To double instead of bidding 3♠ is an error that should cause some self-examination.

5. 3♦. Only 10 HCP but good enough to compete with 3♦. The secret is in your powerful diamond suit, which will provide at least five tricks and make it very difficult for opponents to double you for penalties.

6. Pass. Too dangerous to bid 3♥ with your broken suit. If the bidding comes back to you with opponents passing out 3♣, you can consider balancing with 3♥.

We were taught in our infancy to look right and left before crossing the road. It is the same in bridge, if you are contemplating a 3♥ balance look to your left and right first to see how safe it is.

7. Pass. Wow, you have 16 HCP, but don't get too excited. Perhaps instead of 9 HCP each you have 16 HCP and partner has 2 HCP. Also, the doubleton club is not as promising as a singleton, or a tripleton when partner could well have a singleton.

If the bidding comes back to you and opponents have passed out 3♣ you could consider balancing with a double but with such a balanced hand I would pass and hope to defeat 3♣.

8. Pass. You can't double because that would show a five-card spade suit. You must wait and later double 3♣ for takeout, showing club shortage.

If opponents finish in 3NT you have poor chances in defence since they most likely have six club tricks and three aces.

9. 3♣. Clearly a Michaels Cue Bid showing at least 5-5 in the majors. You have a powerful hand, so you are worth a takeout double later if opponents outbid you to 4♣.

When this deal came up partner held a doubleton spade and ♥Qxx so 4♥ easily makes ten tricks. Partner could equally be short in the majors in which case you want to defend 4♣.

10. 2NT. Logic is the glue which holds winning partnerships together. From Question 7, you are not going to bid 2NT with a strong balanced hand, so what should 2NT be? The direct cue of 3♣ is 5-5 in the majors. What is remaining?

Yes, 2NT must logically show 5-5 with diamonds and a major. How else can you show this hand. Full marks if you worked out the meaning of 2NT in the heat of battle.

2025 McCutcheon Results

OVERALL

1 Pauline Gumbby	504.01
2 Warren Lazer	499.88
3 Axel Johannsson	398.34
4 Kate McCallum	395.96
5 Tony Nunn	369.03
6 Philip Markey	367.98
7 Arjuna De Livera	360.88
8 Liam Milne	348.51
9 James Coutts	347.22
10 George Kozakos	343.64

SILVER GRAND & OVER

1 Pauline Gumbby	504.01
2 Warren Lazer	499.88
3 Tony Nunn	369.03
4 Philip Markey	367.98
5 Arjuna De Livera	360.88
6 Liam Milne	348.51
7 James Coutts	347.22
8 George Kozakos	343.64
9 Andy Hung	333.37
10 Neil Ewart	332.68

GRAND MASTER

1 Axel Johannsson	398.34
2 Kate McCallum	395.96
3 Gwyneira Brahma	304.19
4 Maurits van der Vlugt	275.56
5 Lori Smith	250.58
6 Hans Van Weeren	246.75
7 Rachel Langdon	244.94
8 Jessica Brake	244.02
9 Ella Jacob	234.97
10 Nikolas Moore	233.39

GOLD LIFE MASTER

1 Mardi Grosvenor	309.76
2 Leo Saoud	160.45
3 Vinod Nasta	157.53
4 Eugene Pereira	157.09
5 Janelle Conroy	152.72
6 Tomer Libman	147.20
7 Don Cameron	145.00
8 Neil Williams	138.09
9 Usher Zeng	134.74
10 Lyn Tracey	127.22

SILVER LIFE MASTER

1 Arlene Dalley	339.99
2 Dianne Dwyer	239.25
3 Frank Hardiman	164.65
4 Jake Andrew	152.72
5 John Grosvenor	146.83
6 Cassandra Mitchell	141.20
7 Lavy Libman	134.37
8 Lisa Yoffa	131.50
9 Phil Bapty	127.42
10 Richard Spelman	126.75

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

1 Patrick Jiang	124.76
2 Raelene Clark	121.49
3 Sandy Carter	113.88
4 Tomoko Nakamatsu	112.72
5 Clare Filmer Ramsay	111.72
6 Felicity Wivell	100.01
7 Barry Dalsto	95.88
8 Debbie Gibbards	94.17
9 Heidi Colenbrander	93.60
10 Alan Race	86.38

LIFE MASTER

1 Kate Macdonald	199.25
2 Sachiko Cathcart	192.58
3 Simon Tissera	162.06
4 Lilly Jia	154.68
5 Raman Jegatheesan	145.78
6 Joann Theriault	128.83
7 Lynda Young	118.73
8 Philip Young	113.97
9 Marieta Borthwick	112.22
10 Seb Wright	111.73

SILVER NATIONAL

1 Peter Schmidt	79.11
2 Maria Christensen	77.60
3 Sandy Spencer	75.16
4 Florence Gibbons	74.98
5 Joan Mladen	74.40
6 Elizabeth van Vugt	72.55
7 Julie Scott	72.09
8 Sue Shadbolt	60.76
9 Chris Brady	58.22
10 Judy Zeller	57.63

BRONZE NATIONAL

1 Alex Goss	177.03
2 Mike Morrissey	146.91
3 Peter Lyons	118.12
4 Jeremy Reid	114.68
5 Eamonn McCabe	111.72
6 Alice Handley	107.82
7 David Cumming	107.07
8 Eugene McClorey	101.71
9 Caprice Davey	100.65
10 David Johnson	98.49

NATIONAL MASTER

1 Glen Chick	201.00
2 Lauren Morgan	161.29
3 Tammy Hubbard	121.97
4 Hannah O'Donnell	120.01
5 Kevin Gu	114.91
6 Libby Heyward	112.78
7 Steven Kemp	109.00
8 Jasmine Skeate	100.40
9 Tina Hesketh	99.83
10 Chris Hamam	95.92

BRONZE STATE

1 Paul Ruan	201.40
2 Lucy D'Ambrosio	159.93
3 Anne Davey	118.93
4 Matthew Sieredzinski	114.83
5 David Hancock	93.50
6 Tien Chey	81.89
7 Erik Moller	79.37
8 Mark Harnack	77.50
9 Penny Cory	75.03
10 Yiwei Qi	71.81

STATE MASTER

1 Heath Watkins	196.53
2 Duncan Lai	104.78
3 Sharon Michael	101.54
4 Liam Minogue	98.66
5 Margaret Cusack	96.69
6 Andrea Dayman	92.17
7 Zara Chowdhury	88.76
8 Oleg Glushchenko	78.85
9 Elena Rohtchina	78.85
10 Erica McCoull	76.75

BRONZE REGIONAL

1 Meera Kudva	63.10
2 Elly Papasavas	59.39
3 Mary Williams	57.07
4 Jackie Hendrix	52.49
5 Michael Sput	52.04
6 Elza Schilling	50.81
7 Alex Zarnowski	40.76
8 Graham Gavin	39.47
9 Peter Hodsman	38.73
10 Spencer Lam	35.17

REGIONAL MASTER

1 Zhan Wan	100.13
2 Paul Birkby	69.27
3 Debra Birkby	68.55
4 Joan Lenehan	65.07
5 Hiranthi Samarasingha	54.77
6 Nalin Samarasingha	54.02
7 Dianne Holst	50.78
8 Louise Lewis	50.01
9 Scott Grout	49.99
10 Mary Hives	48.47

SILVER LOCAL

1 Craig Beconsall	126.37
2 Jacques Cherbuin	94.73
3 Rebecca Mackiggan	81.74
4 Adrian Le	79.69
5 Brian Clark	59.98
6 Lisa Evans	53.64
7 Jade Wilkinson	52.78
8 Kevin O'Loghlin	52.09
9 Maxwell Ashurst	50.12
10 Michael Green	47.43

BRONZE LOCAL

1 Jennifer Bissett	87.35
2 Samuel Goss	82.34
3 Blair McKenzie	66.36
4 Nicola Meares	54.72
5 Tim Jackson	54.18
6 Rob Branson	51.51
7 Julie Rollinson	45.54
8 Peter Grinlaubs	44.09
9 Amy Holman	42.92
10 Jill Johnson	41.26

LOCAL MASTER

1 Michael Zhu	96.97
2 Rebecca Dorman	54.43
3 Michael Jackson	50.17
4 Nicholas Yule	49.62
5 Jenny Clarke	41.80
6 Mike Dayman	41.79
7 Kenneth Baker	41.60
8 Kit Duncan	40.08
9 Jo Wright	39.40
10 Trish Wright	38.08

CLUB MASTER

1 Declan Gould	87.69
2 Noah Klugman	73.27
3 Andy Sunter	61.27
4 Neil McMaster	55.99
5 Remco Spencer	47.66
6 Jane Tang	46.46
7 Maria Mills	39.97
8 Paula Corbett	35.03
9 Andrew Burbeck	34.30
10 Irena Kielzynski	33.66

GRADUATE MASTER

1 David Zheng	65.16
2 Aaron Poon	55.76
3 Sam Angove	45.51
4 Ada Sun	40.63
5 Aaron Oskay	24.87
6 Neil Lawrence	24.30
7 Leonie Katekar	20.73
8 Roger Snaith	19.81
9 Yuko Colthurst	19.29
10 Tony Green	19.24

NIL MASTER

1 Cheng Huang	38.38
2 Arthur Ter Hofstede	34.83
3 Elsabrou Mahmoud	32.54
4 Hamish Newman	30.89
5 Sue Sherrell	29.94
6 Julia Jo	29.64
7 Anthony Mills	28.52
8 Joseph Cheng	28.28
9 Robert Cumming	27.67
10 Alexandra Mills	26.77

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2



SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND

1. Teams, dealer North, North-South vulnerable.

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

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

1. Takeout.

West leads the ♦7: king - five - ten. Declarer plays the ♠7: five - six - queen. What would you play as West at trick three?

* * * * *

The deal comes from the Round of 16 in the 2024 Soloway Knockout Teams:

Board 52, dealer North, North-South vulnerable.

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

West needs to find an entry with East in order to receive a diamond ruff. Where can that entry be?

After the ♦7, won by the ♦K, and the ♠7, run to the ♠Q, Michael Whibley (West) switched to the ♥5!: two - king - six. Nabil Edgtton (East) returned a diamond. West ruffed and the ♠A gave East-West +200.

At the other table, Sartaj Hans (South) opened 1♠ in third seat and competed with 4♦ later:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	pass	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♥	4♦
4♥	dbl	all pass	

Andy Hung (North) led ♥2!: eight - six - three. Declarer played the ♣5: seven - jack - queen. North returned the ♥4: king - ♠6 - ♥5. West continued with the ♣6: ♠8 - ♣K - ♣A. North persevered with the ♥7, won by the ♥J. Declarer finessed the ♠Q, but could not avoid losing a third club trick and a diamond. That was one down, North-South +100 and 7 imps to HANS, who won the match by 144-132.

You can find more of Ron Klinger Bridge in The Sydney Morning Herald on Saturdays and The Sun-Herald on Sundays.

The Real Deal Workout with Ron Klinger

Now available at:
www.ronklingerbridge.com

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AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wednesday 29th April to Sunday 3rd May 2026

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

WHAT'S NEW:

- **New format: Teams (Wed, Thurs) then Pairs (Fri, Sat, Sun)**
- **New event: Australian Blue Ribbon Pairs (matchpoints)**
Masterpoints awarded for all scores of 46+%
- **New daily starting time: 10am**
- **PQPs awarded for Open Teams and ABRP Open Pairs**

Chief Director: Laurie Kelso

Organiser: Barbara Travis
Email: anot@sabf.asn.au

Early Bird Discount ends on 31st March 2026



WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with Will Jenner-O'Shea

OPENING LEADS

In a recent Workshop I discussed Opening Leads. Probably the area that most players are the least confident is knowing what to lead at trick one. There are some obvious situations where the lead is quite easy. If your partner has bid a suit, lead that. It is likely to be partner's best suit, and even if it doesn't defeat the contract, you will keep your partner happy. If the opponent's have bid a suit, typically avoid leading that suit, although I would sometimes choose to lead a singleton or a strong three+ card sequence, even if that suit had been bid. If you have a suit headed by the ace-king-queen, ace-king-jack, or king-queen-jack that is usually a great lead. After most players have exhausted those options, they are sometimes in the dark.

Often you try leading a low card, hoping to establish some tricks in that suit. Sometimes you have no good suit, but must lead something anyway. Occasionally, your best lead is a singleton or doubleton against a trump suit contract.

A lot of players know many of the rules and guidelines about opening leads, but don't always know why those rules exist, or what information they can gain from partner's lead. If you are the defender not on lead, and your partner plays a card, you need to interpret what partner is trying to do. If your partner leads an honour, they are usually leading from touching honours, and denying the card above. If partner leads the ♥Q, they should have the jack, but not the king. They might have the ♥A if it is a no-trump contract, where the queen is the correct lead from AQJ+ (called an interior sequence). Partner probably won't be leading 'away from an ace' if it is a trump contract, but many people do, and trick you if you read too much into an opponent's through process. If your partner leads a low card, it is often from a goodish suit, but not a suit headed by a sequence. Partner should lead their fourth-highest from a suit with an honour or more, but not a sequence. If you see a low card from your partner you should typically try to win, and typically lead it back. Sometimes you can work out which honour(s) your partner has, and can make an informed choice about what to do next.

If your partner leads a high card, it could be a fourth-highest from a suit such as ♠K987, but usually it represents a poor quality suit. Partner should lead second-highest from a suit with no honours. Leading the highest card against notrumps is an option as well, but this could look like a doubleton if you are defending a trump contract. People often know the acronym MUD, which stands for Middle-Up-Down, and suggests that from three small cards with no honours, it is correct to lead the middle card first, and play the highest card on the second round of the suit. If your partner chooses to lead a heart from ♥962, they should play the six first and the nine next. This is hard to read, but leading the two first looks like they have an honour, and playing the six or the nine first and the two second looks like they have played high-low from a doubleton. Six-then-nine gives you the best chance of interpreting the lead correctly.

The other question I always get asked is "which card is high, or low, when leading and signalling?", and the answer is, "it depends". If your partner leads the three of diamonds, it looks like a low card. If you win the king of diamonds and then play the ace, and partner follows with the two, then the three was 'higher' than the two. If you are defending a no-trump contract, this implies that partner lead their fourth-highest card, and started with a lower card, so had five card to begin with. If you are defending a suit contract, they likely have a doubleton and played high(!)-Low. The concept of 'high' and 'low' are relative to the cards that they were dealt. The clues are the cards that you can see in your own hand, dummy, and the card that declarer plays at trick one, which is usually their lowest card if they aren't trying to win the trick.

Will is doing Online Lessons on Thursdays at 9:30am AEDT or you can receive the recordings and notes to watch at any time. Check out willjenneroshea.com and click on Online Lessons for the dates, topics and back catalogue of previous lessons. There are four lessons that cover opening leads in a lot of detail.



MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

During the middle Sunday of the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra I gave a talk on MyABF developments and future plans. Later in the week we also held a separate function for key club users and state representatives to discuss MyABF, help support new clubs and users, and the future rollout of the Masterpoint Centre functions. Thank you to all those that made the effort to attend.

User tip – filtering the MyABF calendar

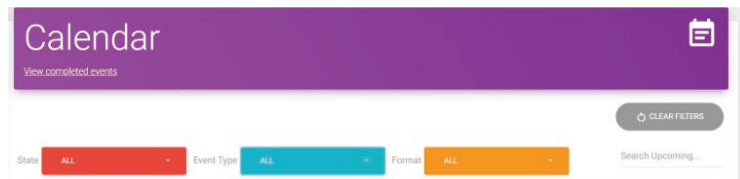
During Canberra I was surprised by a friend saying his “pet hate” about MyABF was how he couldn’t narrow down what the calendar displays. I was bemused because this has been available for well over two years now!

The MyABF calendar includes all sorts of events of all types, all levels and for all States. So it can certainly get very full if you list everything. But you don’t have to. You can filter by any or all of:

- State
- Event type (National, State, Club, Lesson, Other, etc)
- Format (Face to face or various online formats)
- Specific text in the event or organising body

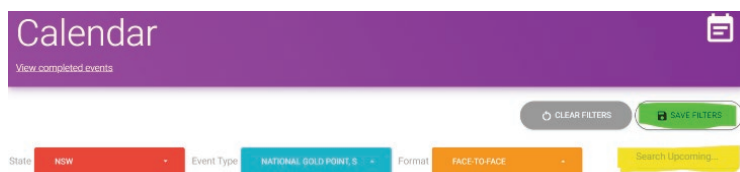
A future enhancement is going to expand this to target audiences as well – Open, Restricted, Novice, Mixed, Women, Senior, Youth, etc.

How do you do this? At the top of the calendar page:



Simply select any combination of what you want (a recent change means you can now include multiple selections in each area – previously you could only select one).

Once you’ve made a selection you will see a Save filters option appear (green highlight below):



Click that and these settings will now be applied next time you open the Calendar page. You can always change them at any time, you can clear them (temporarily), and delete them completely.



As well as (or instead of) the filter selections you can also add text to the Search Upcoming field (yellow highlight above) and the system will then only display events or organising bodies including that text. This is a good way of filtering down to just things from your own club if that’s all you want to see. The Save filter function will remember any text you’ve put here as well.

What’s coming up

As already mentioned, the major focus over the next year is going to be the integration of the Masterpoint Centre into MyABF. But that doesn’t mean we won’t be able to do anything else – we always have requests for improvements to various areas coming in. As usual there are 100 of these I would like to do and time/ developer resources only permit a few to be done! But we do continuously try to improve the product for everyone.

Technical upgrade

One of the reasons we can’t spend all our time on building all the enhancements that players and clubs request is because we also have to maintain the system behind the scenes. There was an example of this in early January when we took the system down briefly to do an upgrade.

You would most likely only have noticed this if you are an early riser though! We started at 5am and everything went well so the system was back up and running by 9am. This upgrade didn’t have any visible changes for users but was a part of preparations for the masterpoint centre integration and will make it easier for us to maintain the system in future.

Membership management – collect your club's annual renewals through MyABF

Over the Christmas period, several clubs with 31 December year ends used MyABF to manage their annual membership renewals. This year over \$212,000 was processed through MyABF (more than double the figure for 2024/25). This can massively streamline managing the collection of your annual membership renewals – particularly if a lot of your members are happy for the payment to be automatically put through MyABF on a nominated date. I know from my own past experience as treasurer of my bridge club what a painful experience it can be to keep track of memberships, who has paid, how they paid, chase who is still to pay, sort out people paying twice by accident, etc.

Does your club have a 31 March membership year? Quite a lot do. If so, you are the next major batch of clubs that could take advantage of this area.

If your club is interested, please contact MyABF support and we can provide you with more information – and put you in touch with people that can help.

But please do so at least two weeks before 31 March.

The Membership management functionality is powerful but, like any powerful tool, it can be dangerous in the wrong hands!

It definitely needs a bit of set up in advance – the system can't magically do all your renewals for you without this being done!

Stripe fees reduction

Finally, as mentioned in my last newsletter article, the reduced charge to recoup Stripe transaction fees has now come into effect. For the club settlements recently paid at 31 January the fee was 1.85%, instead of the previous 2%. While, at face value, this might seem a small reduction, it adds up significantly across a large number of transactions.

Hopefully, as usage volumes grow even further, we will be able to obtain further improvements to the fees and then also pass those onto clubs. Why not take a look at what your club can do? The administrative savings for a club are enormous, as well as increased convenience for players.

Bridge feature in Dare Magazine

Anita Spurling

Jan van Riel from Bridge Victoria was contacted by the editors of Dare Magazine, as they wanted to speak with two people who were passionate about their hobbies, and two games in particular: Bridge and Mahjong. I was nominated for the bridge section, as I am passionate about the game, even though my enthusiasm is unfortunately not matched by outstanding results!

Bridge is always about learning, and we all embrace that. In a world where people can feel disconnected, bridge is a way that people of all ages can develop lifelong friendships whilst increasing cognitive abilities.

www.seniors.com.au/dare-magazine

EMPLOYEES / HEALTH & FITNESS



Game plan

Strategic games like bridge and mahjong are more than just fun, they're helping older Australians keep their minds sharp and reduce the risk of cognitive decline.

words by ANITA SPURLING
photos by JESSICA BLOOM and JAMES BROWN

When you're 77, it's easy to feel like your mind is slowing down. But Anita Spurling, 77, knows better. She's been playing bridge for over 40 years, and it's kept her mind sharp. "I've learned so much from this game," she says. "It's not just about the cards, it's about the people you play with. It's a social game, and that's what makes it so special."

Anita Spurling, 77, describes bridge as the "ultimate mind sport". She says, "I've learned so much from this game, and it's not just about the cards, it's about the people you play with. It's a social game, and that's what makes it so special."

60 studies found that bridge enhances cognitive function in older people, while 2022 research involving more than 11,000 older Chinese people found those who played mahjong or cards regularly had a significantly lower risk of dementia.

For Canberra's Judy Forno, 77, there's been a noticeable improvement in her ability to focus and make decisions since taking up mahjong 14 years ago. The game has also boosted her self-confidence.

"We don't keep score in either group I play in, but if you're playing to win – which everyone is, to a degree – you have to be aware of what you're doing all the time, so it makes you concentrate," she says. "It certainly gets the brain working and gives you mental stimulation."

Cognitive health and dementia expert Professor Karin Anstey from the University of NSW confirms that games like bridge and mahjong are uniquely placed to keep our brains active as we age. How often you play doesn't matter. What counts is the difficulty level.

"Once a game becomes easy it's probably not challenging you much cognitively," she says. "Playing challenging games is one way to keep your brain active, especially where the games involve problem solving and memory."

KEEPING CONNECTED
Another reason games like bridge and mahjong are so good for brain health is that they're played in groups, forcing you to interact with other people. Since social connection has been shown to lower the risk of dementia, that's a big boost.

Professor Anstey says there isn't much research comparing games like bridge and mahjong to digital games, but the social elements of the former may give them an edge. "Playing challenging games in a group provides both cognitive challenge and social interaction, so can play a key role in a brain-healthy lifestyle."

That social interaction is a big part of the appeal for Anita, who learned bridge through online tutorials during the 2021 lockdowns. After retiring, Anita noticed how much her world shrank without

regular interactions with colleagues, but her beloved card game has bridged (pun intended) the gap.

"Sometimes you can hear the peals of laughter around a bridge table; people are just laughing their heads off, having fun," says Anita, who now plays three times a week. "I've made some really valuable long-term friendships that I would not have otherwise met through bridge. These people are so important in my life."

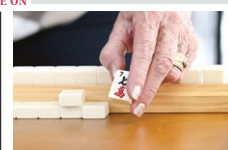
Judy agrees. She plays mahjong twice a week – once with friends, and once at the Canberra Seniors Centre, where she enjoys interacting with people from all walks of life. "There's a real mix of people that play," Judy says. "We stop in the middle and have morning tea, so there's some communal chat. It's taught me tolerance and patience with people as well, through dealing with different personalities and different skill sets."

Be prepared for unexpected medical expenses with Senior Health Insurance. Call 1800 956 612 or go to seniors.com.au

GAME ON



BRIDGE
Played using a standard card deck, with four people in two partnerships, working together to bid and win "tricks" (cards) from the other pair. Anita says having a basic understanding of cards can help you pick up the game faster. Australian Bridge Federation clubs operate beginner courses that run for four to six weeks. Visit abf.com.au



MAHJONG
Originating in China in the 19th century, mahjong is a tile-based game that has several variations from different parts of the world. Judy says it's similar to playing 500 or rummy but using tiles that you pick up and discard to make particular hands. You can learn online, at your local seniors club or through a mahjong club. Visit mahjongclubs.org

Summer Festival results

NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

Semi-Final

Dalley 182 def Van Der Vlugt (Maurits Van Der Vlugt, Fraser Rew, Terry Brown, Andrew Spooner, Matt Mullamphy, Ian Thomson) 58
Meier 186 def Depasquale (Chris Depasquale, Michael Courtney, Andrew Peake, Giselle Mundell) 125

Final

Dalley (Kieran Dyke, Ashley Bach, Tony Nunn, Paul Dalley) 142 def Meier (Leon Meier, Geo Tislevoll, Michael Smart, Peter Gill, David Hudson) 101

NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAMS

Semi-Final

Thompson 166.1 def Mott (Marcia Scudder, Nazife Bashar, Kinga Moses, Judy Mott) 105
Tobin 108 def Smyth (Felicity Smyth, Therese Demarco, Sheila Bird, Sue Lusk) 94.1

Final

Tobin (Ruth Tobin, Helene Pitt, Judith Tobin, Karen Creet) 162 def Thompson (Hannah O'Donnell, Linda King, Avril Zets, Jenny Thompson) 122.1

NATIONAL SENIORS' TEAMS

Semi-Final

Kozakos 134.1 def Smolanko (Kate McCallum, Axel Johannsson, George Smolanko, Attilio de Luca) 123
DePasquale 195 def Ewart (Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna de Livera, Ian Robinson, Neil Ewart, Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby) 106.1

Final

Depasquale (Chris Depasquale, Michael Courtney, Peter Gill, David Hudson) 130 Kozakos (Maurits Van Der Vlugt, Hugh Grosvenor, Terry Brown, David Beauchamp, Ian Thomson, George Kozakos) 122.1

TBIB OPEN SWISS PAIRS

1 Jessica Brake - Shane Harrison	157.02
2 Tim Pan - Lysandra Zheng	149.64
3 David Wiltshire - Sophie Ashton	147.15
4 Andrew Struik - Noel Bugeia	145.27
5 Leon Meier - Geo Tislevoll	143.15
6 Michael Ware - Matthew McManus	142.51
7 Paula Gregory - Michael Johnstone	140.82
8 Tom Kiss - William Zhang	139.09
9 Alex Smirnov - Vivienne Goldberg	138.98
10 Tony Nunn - Paul Dalley	138.54
11 Robert Fruewirth - Tony Leibowitz	137.75
12 David Gue - Josh Tomlin	136.59
13 Mike Doecke - Will Jenner-O'Shea	136.10
14 Aadhi Hariharan - Alex Goss	135.42
15 Ashley Bach - Kieran Dyke	134.58
16 Kevin Steffensen - Carolyn Miller	132.66
17 Paul Hooykaas - Pele Rankin	132.29
18 Fraser Rew - Joachim Haffer	131.18
19 Daniela von Arnim - Geeske Joel	130.93
20 Andrew Spooner - Philip Markey	129.93

FIS ONE DAY SWISS PAIRS

1 Jessie Pelenato - Leon Meier	92.81
2 Anthony Burke - Phil Gue	83.04
3 Ella Jacob - Jane Beeby	81.82
4 Bas Bolt - Ros Roworth	80.91
5 Adam Robinson - Jacques Cherbuin	80.37

6 Louise Leibowitz - Tony Leibowitz	80.22
7 Christopher Leach - James Coutts	79.16
8 Simon Rose - Barry Rawicki	78.40
9 Vanessa Brown - Will Jenner-O'Shea	77.09
10 Jenna Gibbons - Julian Foster	76.11

CHRIS DIMENT MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

1 Tom Kiss - William Zhang	110.17
2 Nick Jacob - Damon Flicker	105.81
3 Liz Hurley - Stephen Hurley	104.44
4 Simon Rose - Barry Rawicki	102.71
5 Jenna Gibbons - Julian Foster	100.45
6 Eric Lippey - Kerry Boytell	100.37
7 Adam Robinson - Jacques Cherbuin	99.20
8 Jenny Hoff - Margaret Yuill	98.45
9 Steve Geddes - Will Jenner-O'Shea	97.02
10 Matt Sun - Martin Wu	96.84

TBIB U750/U500 SWISS PAIRS

1 Peter Lyons - Daria Williams	143.91
2 Sharyn Dilosa - Roderic Roark	132.85
3 Tamati Greig - Marcus Dudley	131.65
4 Sandy Carter - Nerida Gillies	129.70
5 Jan Bennett - Derek Bartosh	129.22
6 Dan Danton - Warren Smith	128.52
7 Felix Shteyman - David Craig	123.81
8 Mukesh Parekh - Paul Stebbing	120.72
9 Steven Kemp - David Cumming	120.59
10 Maeve Doyle - Stuart Schon	120.55

TBIB U300/U100 SWISS PAIRS

1 Nicola Meares - Sharon Michael	146.88
2 Johnson Wong - Catherine Ng	145.44
3 Divyesh Shah - Rina Shah	138.67
4 Prakash Muttuvellu - Craig Curry	137.97
5 Andrew Refshaug - Michael Choueifate	132.11
6 Lucy D'Ambrosio - Jodie Summerhill	128.97
7 Margaret Cusack - Rhonda Khong	126.98
8 Paul Birkby - Debra Birkby	125.66
9 Gillian Hibbard - Jenni Cover	123.06
10 Melissa Ardern - Conny Szenczy	120.73

MIXED MATCHPOINT PAIRS

1 Jessica Brake - Shane Harrison	118.78
2 Geeske Joel - Liam Milne	118.42
3 Christy Geromboux - Sebastian Yuen	115.93
4 Tania Lloyd - Hugh Grosvenor	110.82
5 Alex Goss - Pamela Nisbet	106.04
6 Paula McLeish - David McLeish	106.03
7 Marnie Leybourne - Trevor Fuller	105.80
8 Axel Johannsson - Kate McCallum	104.16
9 Pele Rankin - Stephen Fischer	103.83
10 Ann Liu - Usher Zeng	101.82

NATIONAL NOVICE AND ROOKIE MP PAIRS

1 David Melzer - Glenn Foad	126.04
2 Sally Macallan - Brenda Templeton	124.59
3 Paul Freeman - Neville Hind	120.41
4 Jeremy Lin - Alexandra Mills	114.51

5 Belinda Moss - Jenny Bell	112.03
6 Andy Sunter - John Fitzpatrick	111.05
7 Ajita Shah - Minu Shah	110.67
8 Jane Goldwater - Maree Williams	109.85
9 John Reis - Murray Campbell	109.72
10 Kenneth Baker - Heather Spencer	109.60

NATIONAL UNDER 100 IMP PAIRS

1 David Melzer - Glenn Foard	95.44
2 Josh Schwartz - Maxwell Ashurst	91.77
3 Gillian Hibbard - Jenni Cover	89.45
4 Jeremy Lin - Alexandra Mills	86.40
5 Paul Freeman - Neville Hind	85.42
6 Kenneth Baker - Heather Spencer	84.53
7 Neil McMaster - Jennifer Bissett	83.35
8 Ajita Shah - Minu Shah	82.53
9 Gita Curnow - Penelope Shilling	81.52
10 Jeff Newton - Tsachi Pilosof	79.75

NATIONAL UNDER 20 IMP PAIRS

1 Ingrid Klein - Leonie Katekar	97.83
2 Lisa Towing - Sue West	94.45
3 Vicki Hildebrand - Elizabeth Redman	89.79
4 Sharon Woodard - Robert Longair	80.21
5 Sue Wallace - Gill Homan	64.34
6 Cheryl Plant - Gervaise Gaunt	63.55
7 Sally Christian - Cherryl Kolbe	57.34
8 Fran Schiller - Xiaomei Wallace	53.75
9 Jen Saul - Adrienne Morey	51.72
10 Bobbie Gosper - Kathy Manning	47.02

NATIONAL NOVICE AND ROOKIE TEAMS

1 Glenn Foard, David Melzer, Jeremy Lin, Alexandra Mills
2 Gita Curnow, Robin Edwards, Denyse Freedman, Penelope Shilling
3 Jennifer Bissett, Neil McMaster, Kenneth Baker, Heather Spencer
4 Lisa Bradley, Suzanne Samarcq, Murray Campbell, John Reis
5 Sue Wallace, Gill Homan, Sue West, Lisa Towing
6 Elizabeth Redman, Vicki Hildebrand, Robert Longair, Sharon Woodard
7 Karlee Guest, Andy Sunter, John Fitzpatrick, Ajita Shah, Minu Shah
8 Maxwell Ashurst, Josh Schwartz, Michael French, Caitlyn McKenzie
9 Jenny Bell, Belinda Moss, Kate Ward, Joyanne Gough
10 Lyndall Kennedy, Kate Latimer, Philip Sellick, Leanne Sellick

NATIONAL UNDER 750 MATCHPOINT PAIRS

1 Sachiko Cathcart - Annegrette Kolding	122.41
2 Sue Cohen - Nicolette Bartoli	106.67
3 Caroline Marshall - Jane Brougham	105.39
3 Maeve Doyle - Stuart Schon	105.32
5 Deb Beale - Hayley Mitchell	102.95
6 Sam McKay - Kate Elliot	101.82
7 Caroline Wilson - Merrie Beasley	100.22
8 Judith Parsons - John Russell	99.78
9 Fiona Fawcett - Jenny Barnes	99.23
10 Kit Meyers - Kerry Rymer	97.16

NATIONAL UNDER 300 MATCHPOINT PAIRS

1 Michael Goh - Bruce Minchinton	64.81
2 Brenda Watts - David Clarkson	63.93
3 James Batchen - Jim Rothwell	59.29
4 Chris Lamb - Serita Mudford	55.49
5 Paul Birkby - Debra Birkby	54.39
6 Phil Clark - Michael Donnelly	54.30
7 Mick Collins - Sau-Yem Lo	53.43
8 Nicola Meares - Sharon Michael	52.77
9 George McLean - Tim Mather	51.11
10 Pamela Kyte - Ngaire Meehan	50.81

NATIONAL UNDER 750 IMP PAIRS

1 Fiona Fawcett - Jenny Barnes	80.56
2 Marie Pickering - Carolyn Githens	73.13
3 Carol Jeffs - Jennette Rosetta	71.21
4 Julie Mansfield - Margaret Mahony	70.30
5 Kit Meyers - Kerry Rymer	67.52
6 Deb Beale - Hayley Mitchell	67.20
7 Caroline Wilson - Merrie Beasley	63.40
8 Neville Hind - Patricia McDonald	62.98
9 Judith Parsons - John Russell	61.17
10 Mukesh Parekh - Paul Stebbing	58.85

NATIONAL UNDER 300 IMP PAIRS

1 Phil Clark - Michael Donnelly	83.25
2 Lucy D'Ambrosio - Shannon Queree	79.40
3 Divyesh Shah - Rina Shah	75.19
4 Nicola Meares - Sharon Michael	72.94
5 Paul Birkby - Debra Birkby	72.34
6 James Batchen - Jim Rothwell	72.06
7 Michael Goh - Bruce Minchinton	69.92
8 Miriam O'Brien - Yulia Koh	66.80
9 Chris Lamb - Serita Mudford	64.99
10 Yvonne Devlin - Barbara Matterson	64.68

NATIONAL UNDER 750/300 MP TEAMS

1 Liz Moss, Gwen Riordan, Ann Berry, Bev Furner
2 Nicola Meares, Sharon Michael, Lucy D'Ambrosio, Shannon Queree
3 Brenda Watts, David Clarkson, Phil Clark, Michael Donnelly
4 Yulia Koh, Miriam O'Brien, Divyesh Shah, Rina Shah
5 Sachiko Cathcart, Annegrette Kolding, Judith Parsons, John Russell
6 Barbara Carter, Lucy Kornfeld, Jim Rothwell, James Batchen
7 Sue Cohen, Nicolette Bartoli, Neville Hind, Frank Hardiman
8 Jenny Barnes, Kerry Rymer, Kit Meyers, Fiona Fawcett
9 Deb Beale, Kate Elliot, Sam McKay, Hayley Mitchell
10 Margaret Mahony, Carol McMurray, Julie Mansfield, Margaret Land

OVERALL ALL-ROUNDERS

U20: Lisa Towing - Sue West
U100: Glenn Foard - David Melzer
U300: Phil Clark - Michael Donnelly
U750: Sachiko Cathcart - Annegrete Kolding

Captions for front page photos by Lauren Travis

Row 1: Senior Teams finalists George Kozakos, David Beauchamp, Maurits van der Vlugt, Peter Gill, Michael Courtney, David Hudson, Chris Depasquale.

Row 2: Jenny Thompson with Andrew Reiner trophy recipients Bertie Morgan & George Bartley; Restricted Teams winners Shannon Queree, Nicola Meares, Sharon Michael, Lucy D'Ambrosio; Hills-Hurley Trophy recipients Kate Macdonald & Zac Ross; Open Teams winners Paul Dalley, Tony Nunn, Kieran Dyke, Ashley Bach.

Row 3: Women's Teams winners Ruth Tobin, Helene Pitt, Judith Tobin; Rookie Teams winners Sue Wallace, Gill Homan, Sue West, Lisa Towing; Under 750 Teams winners Liz Moss, Gwen Riordan, Ann Berry, Bev Furner; Chris Diment Pairs winners William Zhang & Tom Kiss.

Row 4: Under 300 Pairs winners Bruce Minchinton & Michael Goh; David Fryda with Restricted All-Round winners Phil Clark & Michael Donnelly; Novice Teams winners Jeremy Lin, Alexandra Mills, David Melzer, Glenn Foard; Youth Teams winners Remco Spencer, Zac Ross, convenor Jeremy Reid, Paddy Taylor, Bertie Morgan.

Row 5: Dual Helman-Klinger recipient Heath Watkins; Under 750 Swiss winners Peter Lyons & Daria Williams; Under 100 Swiss winners Andrew Refshauge & Michael Choueifate; Under 500 Swiss winners Tamati Greig & Marcus Dudley; Rookie Pairs winners Ingrid Klein & Leonie Katekar; FIS Pairs winners Leon Meier & Jessie Pelenato.

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ANC 2026 PROGRAM 4-16 July 2026

Sat 4 July	Sun 5 July	Mon 6 July	Tue 7 July	Wed 8 July	Thu 9 July	Fri 10 July
	INTERSTATE CAPTAINS MTG	INTERSTATE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP (Final rounds start on Thu evening)				
WELCOME SWISS PAIRS		AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY CLUB TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP			AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP	
ROOKIE PAIRS	NOVICE PAIRS	THREE DAY TEAMS			GRADED PAIRS	INTERSTATE PAIRS CH'SHIP
		SWISS PAIRS I	SWISS PAIRS II	SWISS PAIRS III		PRESENTATION DINNER

Sat 11 July	Sun 12 July	Mon 13 July	Tue 14 July	Wed 15 July	Thu 16 July
OPEN BUTLER STAGE 1		OPEN BUTLER STAGE 2		OPEN BUTLER STAGE 3	
RESTRICTED BUTLER		MIXED BUTLER STAGE 1		MIXED BUTLER STAGE 2	
INTRO TO IMP SCORING	MATCHPOINT PAIRS	SWISS PAIRS A		SWISS PAIRS B	
				PRESENTATION DRINKS	

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Cathy Nichols 0448-778863
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