

2022 Australian National Championships



Strong field battle it out in Open Butler

eBulletin 8

Saturday 9 July

For bulletin contributions email editor at sleksix@gmail.com

What's coming up tomorrow:

Sunday, 10 July

TBIB Open and Restricted Butler

10.00am



SA Women's Team: runners up in the interstate: Ingrid Cooke, Felicity Smyth, Alison Fallon, Sue Lusk, Pam Morgan-King, David Parrott, npc, Therese Demarco

Fortune favours the brave

Avril Zets, NSW Women's Team, earned 13 IMPs for NSW when she bid aggressively to slam on the following deal from the Women's Final.

Board 10, East deals, all vulnerable

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



West	North	East	South
Zets		Dawson	
1♦	pass	1♣	pass
2♦	pass	1NT	pass
3♣	pass	2♥	pass
4♦	pass	3♦	pass
6♦	all pass	4♠	pass

Without being able to check with Avril and Helena, I believe Avril's 2♦ was game force Checkback. Dawson started bidding out her shape with 2♥, gave preference to diamonds, and finally cuebid ♠A.



Avril Zets



With this information, Zets jumped to the diamond slam, and with clubs behaving, she was able to come to 12 tricks for +1370 and 13 IMPs.

Her play was to win the spade lead with the king, play a club to the queen, cashing the ace when the queen won. A diamond to hand and a club, ruffed with $\heartsuit 7$ and overruffed with $\heartsuit J$. Avril could win the heart return and ruff a fourth club with $\heartsuit Q$, and now a heart ruff to hand allowed her to draw the last trump and claim.

Aggressive bidding, but it sure paid dividends!

A hard-earned IMP

Set 5, Open Interstate Final

Board 17, North deals, nil vulnerable

\spadesuit A K 7 6 \heartsuit A 9 7 3 \diamondsuit -- \clubsuit K J 7 6 5	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		\spadesuit J 4 3 \heartsuit 10 \diamondsuit K 10 3 2 \clubsuit 10 9 8 4 3	\spadesuit 10 9 8 5 \heartsuit Q 8 2 \diamondsuit A Q 9 7 5 4 \clubsuit --
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Milne	Mill	Ashton	Coutts
	1 \clubsuit	pass	1 \spadesuit
2 \heartsuit	4 \heartsuit	pass	4 \spadesuit
pass	5 \spadesuit	all pass	

At one table, Tony Nunn was declarer in 4 \spadesuit after North, Paul Dalley splintered in diamonds (Tony had bid 1 \heartsuit , showing spades at his first turn). This was not so uncomfortably high as at James' table.

West, Ben Thompson, with no good lead, started with a heart to the 10 and queen.

At trick two, Nunn played a second heart to the ace, ruffed.

After this unpromising start, East, Robert Fruewirth switched to a low spade, and Tony was able to play on crossruff lines to make 10 tricks.

Liam Milne, on lead with less information about the diamond suit, started with a low diamond, on which

James Coutts shed a low heart from dummy. Sophie Ashton played $\heartsuit K$ and Coutts won his ace. He threw another heart on $\heartsuit Q$ before ruffing a diamond in dummy. Club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff and two rounds of spades led to this position, with the lead in dummy:



James Coutts

\spadesuit -- \heartsuit A 9 \diamondsuit -- \clubsuit K J 7	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		\spadesuit J \heartsuit 10 \diamondsuit -- \clubsuit 9 8 4	\spadesuit -- \heartsuit Q 8 2 \diamondsuit 9 7 \clubsuit --
	N											
W		E										
	S											

James played $\clubsuit 7$, discarding a heart from hand. With both minor suits set up, Liam was end-played, forced to lead away from $\heartsuit K$. Sophie could take her trump trick whenever she liked.

A tough way to earn an IMP.



At the Victory Dinner: Victoria Thompson and Xavier Fruewirth, Vic Youth

Listen to Burgess

Seniors Interstate Final

Board 8, West deals, nil vulnerable

<p>♠ 10 9 3 ♥ A Q 5 3 ♦ Q 10 8 6 ♣ 9 3</p>	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ 4 ♥ K J 4 ♦ 5 ♣ A K Q J 10 7 4 2</p>	<p>♠ A K Q J 6 5 ♥ 9 8 2 ♦ A J 3 ♣ 5</p>
		<p>♠ 8 7 2 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ K 9 7 4 2 ♣ 8 6</p>	

West	North	East	South
Cullen	Buchen	Waters	Kanetkar
pass	1♠	5♣	all pass

Bernie Waters listened.

West	North	East	South
Lavings	D Hoffman	Krochmalik	Mullamphy
Pass	1♠	3♠	pass
4♣	4♠	all pass	

Robert Krochmalik didn't listen.

This deal worked out poorly for East in the Seniors Interstate Final. There had been an earlier deal where the winning bid had been opening game in a minor. Eight and nine-card suits should be trumps, certainly in top bridge theorist Stephen Burgess' opinion, and here West has just the right cards to make 11 tricks look like a doddle.

Despite David Hoffman being one down in 4♠, it was 9 IMPs to ACT Seniors.

In the other matches these were the sequences:

Open Interstate Final:

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Fruewirth	Dalley	Thompson
pass	1♠	2♣	pass
pass	dbl	3♣	all pass

West	North	East	South
Mill	Milne	Coutts	Ashton
pass	1♠	5♣	all pass

Paul Dalley did not listen.

His *softly softly catchee monkey* approach just did not describe his hand.

For reference, here is the other hand which follows the same theme, "listen to Burgess":

Open Interstate Final

Board 21, North deals, NS vulnerable

<p>♠ J 5 ♥ 9 ♦ A K J 10 9 7 6 5 2 ♣ Q</p>	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ Q 9 7 ♥ K 10 6 5 ♦ 4 ♣ 9 7 6 5 4</p>	<p>♠ 8 6 ♥ A Q 8 4 3 2 ♦ Q ♣ A K J 8</p>
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West	North	East	South
Coutts	Zhu	Mill	Zhang
pass	3NT	pass	4♣
4♥	4♦	pass	Pass
	♣ 10 3 2		

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Fruewirth	Dalley	Thompson
	5♦	all pass	

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Fruewirth	Dalley	Thompson
	5♦	all pass	

This time even more reason to start with the bid that describes your hand – 5♦, nine tricks with diamonds as trumps. Way too hard to judge when you start with a bid that shows seven solid tricks in a minor. Nowhere in the first auction did Zhu show any more than that.

There was mayhem in the Women's match. At one table North opened 5♦, which was passed out, making 11 tricks. At the other table, however, 5♦ whistled around to West, who balanced with 5♥, raised to six by East. North led ♦A and gave West a ruff and sluff at trick two.

+600 and +980 was worth 17 IMPs to SA.

Fortunately for the culprits, the BBO match didn't show the players' names, and I have decided not to follow up by finding who they are!

The Young and the Restless

I watched ABF President Allison Stralow and former ABF Legal Counsel Geoff Chettle in the first round of the Open Butler. For the purposes of this article, I'll call them the Restless.

They faced the Young, bridge expert Pete Hollands and Ella Jacob, a talented bridge player, teacher, mother and musician, who has been island-hopping for a number of years between Australia and New Zealand with husband, Kiwi Nick Jacob. At the moment, Ella and her gorgeous children live in Sydney.

First, a lead problem (answer tomorrow):

Board 18, East deals, NS vulnerable

♠ KJ10953, ♥ A8, ♥ 5, ♣ AQ63

West	North	East	South
E Jacob	Chettle	Hollands	Stralow
		1♥	1♠
2♦	pass	2♥	2♠
4♥	all pass		

What is your opening lead from the hand above, after the sequence given, and what is your reason for choosing it?

Let's move on to a triumph for Allison and Geoff.

Allison opened 3♠ and was doubled for takeout in the pass out seat, with the double being converted to penalty: nine tricks for +530, unfortunately one of the few pickups for The Restless.

Board 19, South deals, EW vulnerable

♠ J 2
♥ A 8 7 5 4
♥ 8 7
♣ A 8 7 4

♠ A 6 5 4
♥ J 9 3
♦ 10 5 2
♣ J 9 5



♠ —
♥ K Q 10 6
♦ A K J 4 3
♣ K Q 3 2

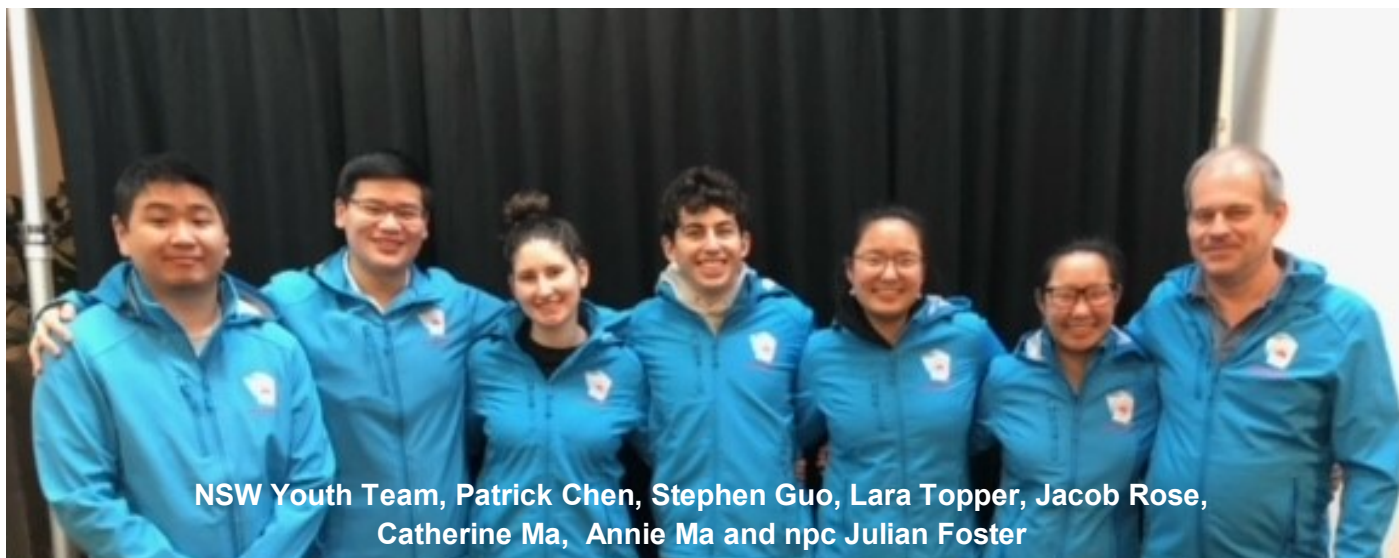
♠ K Q 10 9 8 7 3
♥ 2
♦ Q 9 6
♣ 10 6

Allison's fine spade pips meant the limit in defence was four tricks.

It is not obvious what Jacob should bid, but the winning bid was 3NT, a make when North cannot get partner in before declarer makes one spade, three hearts, two diamonds and three clubs. Easy!



Allison, Ella, Geoff and Pete



NSW Youth Team, Patrick Chen, Stephen Guo, Lara Topper, Jacob Rose, Catherine Ma, Annie Ma and npc Julian Foster