

# 2024 Summer Festival of Bridge, January 9-21

What's on at The Rex?

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Evening drinks are available at the Howling Moon rooftop bar on the 6th floor. This can be quite busy on Friday and Saturday evenings, so book a table to avoid disappointment. This can be done at Reception.



German youth visitor Magnus Kuhn can be seen here retrieving the youth silverware from the Executive Secretary's car. Braving the inclement weather, he hauled the loot back to Fenner Hall, so that it could be redistributed.

## Scene 1, Take 1

Bridge journalists often start with the overworn phrase "first hand out of the slots", but I think the title above is a better way to describe Board 1, Session 1 from two of the first events of the SFOB, the Seniors Teams and the National Life and Non Life Master Teams.

The Women's field had a different set of boards to contend with, so I cannot say what would have happened on the deal I chose to focus on in Session 1.



Lunch: There are pre-order forms at the cafeteria on the Ground Floor

1 Wednesday, January 10



Board 1, Session 1, National Senior Teams

North deals, nil vulnerable

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

♠ Q 7  
♥ A Q J 7 4 2  
♦ 10 3  
♣ Q J 4

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

♠ K 9 6 5 3  
♥ ---  
♦ A 8 7  
♣ A K 9 8 5

The deal starts with the spotlight on North, holding:

♠A10842, ♥K109, ♦5, ♣10632

This is a routine 2♠ bid for many: the young and fearless and those playing Aspro Twos. But bruised and battered disillusionists(?), in the Senior and Life and Non Life Master Teams did not even consider an opening bid on the hand. However, I have great admiration for George Smolanko, who opened a five-card weak 2♠ with alacrity.

I was told by one of the learned experts present that in some parts of our great land, 2♠ is a Donkey Two, showing specifically spades and clubs. My Google couldn't confirm the fact.

When the spotlight hits East after a pass by North, he studies his hand (♠J, ♥8653, ♦KQJ9642, ♣7) and tries to remember the Burgess Theory drilled into him by an aggressive partner.

"You have a 7-4-1-1 hand, your bid's 5♦!" rings in his ear.

Stubbornly, East resists the urge to bid 5♦ and temporises with 4♦.

This would be the editor's choice, giving South a difficult decision with ♠K9653, ♥---, ♦A87, ♣AK985. (I did ask Stephen Burgess what his bid would be: of course, it was 5♦.)

Over 4♦, Andrew Mill's bid with the East hand, Ron Klinger bid 4♠, and Bruce Neill thought for a few seconds before passing.

Going back to East's decision: be prepared for a bad result if you open the hand 3♦. Now it's easy for South to bid 4♣, Non-Leaping Michaels. Pass by West and 4♦ by North, asking for South's major will see North reevaluate his hand, and the slam will be reached.

This was an OK evaluation in a vacuum, but we're assuming that our old but experienced field is on our wavelength.

3♦ was not to be punished for its underpreemptiveness (!) Look at this sad auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	3♦	4♣
pass	4♥ <sup>1</sup>	pass	4♠
pass	5♦ <sup>2</sup>	pass	5♠
all pass			

1. Pass or correct
2. Cuebid agreeing spades

Here, NS were an experienced partnership, and the auction started well for them. 4♣ showed clubs and a major, and now North had the perfect hand to enquire with 4♦. When South continues with 4♠, North has an easy road to slam.

The pass or correct 4♥ bid, however, meant that South was worried about useless values there, and it was only North who knew about the double fit once 4♠ was bid.

Here's the auction where Smolanko opened 2♠:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Smolanko		de Luca
	2♠	3♦	5♦
pass	5♠	pass	6♠
all pass			

Attilio de Luca meant to apply Exclusion Key Card in hearts, not diamonds as shown, but no matter, I believe it was Smolanko's 2♠ opening that was always going to get NS to slam.





## National Senior Teams frequencies

FREQUENCIES FOR BOARD 1			
Contract	Result	Score	Freq
6♠X by NS	=	1210	1
6♠ by NS	=	980	1
5♣X by NS	+1	750	1
5♠X by NS	=	650	1
5♠ by NS	+1	480	6
4♠ by NS	+2	480	12
3♠ by NS	+2	200	1
4♦ by EW	-1	50	1

Board 1, Session 1, National Senior Teams

Session 2, National Senior Teams

Board 12, West deals, NS vulnerable

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1NT	pass	2♣
pass	2♥	pass	4♦ <sup>1</sup>
pass	4NT <sup>2</sup>	pass	5NT <sup>3</sup>
pass	6♥	all pass	

1. Diamond shortage, slam interest
2. RKCB
3. 2 + ♦ void

The Tournament Organiser and I are pretty adept at coming up with attractive and incisive auctions - but we are able to see the hand records!

Pairs without the gadgetry of Smolen and shortage asks might find slam difficult to reach here.

The field appear to have settled down a little, with a good proportion of pairs bidding slam in a major. Well done!

## National Senior Teams frequencies

FREQUENCIES FOR BOARD 12			
Contract	Result	Score	Freq
6♥ by NS	+1	1460	2
6♥ by NS	+1	1460	3
6♠ by NS	+1	1460	2
6♠ by NS	=	1430	1
6♥ by NS	=	1430	2
5♥ by NS	+2	710	1
4♥ by NS	+3	710	3
4♥ by NS	+2	680	2
4♠ by NS	+2	680	1
5 by NS	=	650	1
4♠ by NS	+1	650	1
4♠ by NS	=	620	1
3♥ by NS	+3	230	1
3♣ by NS	+1	130	1
6♠ by NS	-1	-100	1
4♠ by NS	-1	-100	1

We are pleased to be able to welcome  
**Andy Hung to speak on**  
"The Hidden Secrets to Bidding Better"

What gives the expert players the extra  
edge to outbid the average player?

It is all about knowing when to pass, and  
when to bid more (sometimes much  
more). Come along and Andy will share  
the secrets with you on how to bid better

Next Tuesday morning, 9am



## Vale Pablo Lambardi

1955 - 2023

David Stern broke the heartbreaking news via Facebook that Argentinian star Pablo Lambardi had passed away on Christmas Day.

Pablo was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in October, and after surgery it appeared the operation had been a success. He collapsed and passed away on Christmas Eve day, however.

Pablo, who was relishing being responsible for this year's World Championships in Argentina hosted David Stern and Barry Rigal to Buenos Aires,

*Barry Rigal: In 2023 David Stern and I came to Buenos Aires, where Pablo was our host for a fortnight and he could not have been more generous with his time.*

*He and I played together as often as we could on the Gold Coast. I can think of few nicer and more talented and modest players. Life will be poorer without him.*

*Ed: There are many heartfelt messages about Pablo, some of them on Bridge Winners.*



Jenny and Ben Thompson with Pablo in Marrakesh

The deal on the following page, written up by English commentator Marc Smith features Pablo in action during the South American Transnationals in April 2023.

“The BBO VuGraph match for the final round was MINITER against a team we have not yet seen, supported by all the home town fans, ARG-S. For the Argentines, defeat would likely lead to



## Auction by the ABF Foundation Bid to play with Professionals and Leading Players



### Red-Point Session on RealBridge

7pm (AEDT) Tuesday 5 March 2024

Auction closes 29 February 2024

All proceeds go towards the ABF Foundation  
Directed by Matt McManus  
Auction management Pauline Gumby

Follow [this link](https://abffoundation.org.au) or find this event on our website  
<https://abffoundation.org.au> to bid for a professional or leading player.

Contact us by email

✉ [proam@abffoundation.org.au](mailto:proam@abffoundation.org.au)



Place a bid to play a Red Point session on RealBridge with a professional or leading player in a Pro-Am Tournament. You must be registered and signed in to make a bid. This is a single session event. You will be given the name of your professional/expert as well as their email address to finalise your system prior to the event.

elimination, whilst MINITER could afford a moderate loss and still make it through to the knockouts.”

*West deals, all vulnerable*

	♠ 4		
	♥ A J 5 4		
	♦ 9 5 4		
	♣ 8 7 6 5 3		
♠ Q 9 8 6		♠ 10 3 2	
♥ Q 10 7 6 3		♥ K 9 8 2	
♦ 10 6 3		♦ K Q J 8 7	
♣ J		♣ A	
	♠ A K J 7 5		
	♥ ---		
	♦ A 2		
	♣ K Q 10 9 4 2		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Miniter</i>	<i>Macri</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
pass	pass	1♦	1♠
dbl	pass	2♥	3♣
3♥	5♣	pass	6♣
all pass			

“We met Argentina’s best-known player, Pablo Lambardi (right) earlier in this tournament. I would guess that many players would start with a double on this monster South hand but, confident that someone at the table would provide him with a second bid, Lambardi settled for a simple 1♠ overcall.

Gillian Miniter joined in with a negative double and John Hurd showed his heart support. Now Lambardi introduced his second suit. Miniter bid a third heart and Mauricio Macro jumped to game in clubs. Lambardi accurately judged to raise himself to slam and there matters rested.

Dummy’s ♥A took care of declarer’s diamond loser, so there was just the ace of trumps to be lost. N/S +1370.”

*Ed. I have a number of Pablo hands, which I will be sharing both in the SFOB Bulletin, and next month in the Gold Coast Bulletin. Many of them have been sent to me by co-editor at the GCC, Barry Rigal.*



### I want their life

Does this sound good to you?

Since last year’s Summer Festival, sociable and dynamic couple Paula and David McLeish have jetted around the world – a little bridge here, days in the sun there – even some time in Paula’s homeland New Zealand. If they’re not travelling, home is a compact apartment overlooking Chevron Island, Surfers Paradise. Amazing water views and a blaze of lights, with a tinny for catching their own fish for dinner downstairs.

The pair are Italophiles, and in 2023 they spent six months in Italy and the Algarve, Portugal. They stayed in a converted fisherman’s cottage in the Algarve – obviously a favourite spot, as last year was the fifth time there.

Paula is part of a strong women’s team, made up of her and Pele Rankin, captain Sue Lusk and Viv Wood and talented young pair Susan Humphries – Jessica Brake.

David is dedicated chief disruptor. There was a time (Orlando and Wroclaw) when David was team coach, but this year while the National Women’s Teams is on, he is content to do a spot of kibitzing, and he has offered his services as a caddy to the organisers.

After the Summer Festival it’s back to Surfers Paradise, then Bali in April (and July), before returning to Portugal en route to the World



Championships in Buenos Aires as part of their own 2024 World Bridge Tour.

To add background to my friendship with the McLeishes, Paula is sister to my first international partner Malcolm Mayer – we played for New Zealand at the Far East in Penang.

Paula was also my client when I was a junior hair stylist in a busy Auckland hairdressing salon. I inherited her (one time only) from her ebullient mother Shirley, who I miss to this day.

Being a little more than a year older than Paula, she often reveals that she thought I was years older than her – I was 18 when we met, so staid and boring to a 16 year old who was reluctant to have an “old” hairstyle. This was of course in the days of petals in combination with clouds of hairspray to keep the petals crisp.



I didn't meet David until much later, but he was my teammate in Seoul 2005, where we played for New Zealand, finishing in fourth place. David has been chef extraordinaire at many a fine dinner at the pair's home in Surfers Paradise, and he also has a fine nose for wine.



Julie, Ruitian, Denise and Simon

### Pleasant match

I watched Julie Mansfield - Denise Barnes in Round 3 of the Life and Non Life Master Teams take on Ruitian Lang - Simon Grant.

Serious but friendly. The men are from Canberra, and while Julie used to be a Canberran, she now lives in Sydney and plays at Grand Slam Double Bay, Trumps and North Shore Bridge Club.

Great to see such friendly rivalry!



LUSK, Susan Humphries, Viv Wood, Sue Lusk, Paula McLeish, Pele Rankin and Jessica Brake

## JUST - IN TIME

by Matt Mullamphy

Justin Mill is a young professional player from Melbourne. Aside from being one of Australia's most gifted players, Justin is a genuinely nice person, and a credit to his upbringing.

To accentuate this point, rarely has the same player won awards for their brilliance at the table and an international award for displaying great sportsmanship. Justin has done both.

At a precarious moment in the 2023 NOT quarter-final, Justin (ZIGGY team) found himself declaring 7♠ on the following cards:



D 9	N J Mill ♠ Q10965 ♥ A ♦ K42 ♣ A965	W N E S 1♠ 4♣ 4NT P 5♠ P 5NT P 6♦ P 6♥ P 7♠ P P
W Butts ♠ J73 ♥ 98 ♦ QJ10983 ♣ 32		E Courtney ♠ ♥ Q7643 ♦ 76 ♣ KQJ1084
	S Garcia Da ♠ AK842 ♥ KJ1052 ♦ A5 ♣ 7	
Other table: 6♠N+1 NS: ZIGGY 84 IMPs EW: BUTTS 80 IMPs		7♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0

If trumps are 2-1, declarer can easily make the contract via ♣A, ♦AK, ♥AK and eight trump tricks. Unfortunately, when declarer wins the opening ♠K lead in order to play a trump to dummy's ♠K, the 3-0 split creates problems, as declarer can no longer afford to draw three rounds of trumps immediately, as this will leave him a trick short on the layout above.

There was a further fly in the ointment. If declarer attempts to ruff three cards in dummy, one club would need to be ruffed with a **low** spade. Based on the likelihood that East's 4♣ bid was a seven-card suit (a six-card suit seemed unlikely after such a dramatic leap), West would be able to overruff dummy on the attempted club ruff.

Declarer decided to combine his lines of play by allowing for the possibility of setting up dummy's fifth heart. If that also proved fruitless, he had a further trick up his sleeve.

With West showing out on the third round of hearts, Justin showed the benefit of not drawing all outstanding trumps prematurely. Ruffing his third diamond in dummy (East showing out, confirming his shape to be 0-5-2-6) he arrived at the following position:



D 9	N J Mill ♠ Q10965 ♥ A ♦ K42 ♣ A965	W N E S 1♠ 4♣ 4NT P 5♠ P 5NT P 6♦ P 6♥ P 7♠ P P
W Butts ♠ J73 ♥ 98 ♦ QJ10983 ♣ 32	♠4	E Courtney ♠ ♥ Q7643 ♦ 76 ♣ KQJ1084
Other table: 6♠N+1 NS: ZIGGY 84 IMPs EW: BUTTS 80 IMPs	S Garcia Da ♠ AK842 ♥ KJ1052 ♦ A5 ♣ 7	7♠ N NS: 8 EW: 0

Justin led ♠4 to take the 'marked' finesse against West's ♠J, leading to the following four-card ending:

D 9	N North ♠ Q10965 ♥ A ♦ K42 ♣ A965	W N E S 1♠ 4♣ 4NT P 5♠ P 5NT P 6♦ P 6♥ P 7♠ P P
W West ♠ J73 ♥ 98 ♦ QJ10983 ♣ 32	♠Q	E East ♠ ♥ Q7643 ♦ 76 ♣ KQJ1084
	S South ♠ AK842 ♥ KJ1052 ♦ A5 ♣ 7	Select cards to play for all 4 players 7♠ N NS: 9 EW: 0

On ♠Q lead East was finished. If he discarded a club, declarer would play dummy's ♠8 (keeping the lead in declarer's hand) to ruff a club in dummy, setting up ♣9 as the 13th trick. Alternatively, if East discarded ♥7, declarer would overtake with dummy's ♠K to ruff a heart in hand, likewise, setting up dummy's ♥J to land the grand slam a different way.

This very rare ending is referred to as an entry shifting trump squeeze. Experts live for hands like this to prove their mettle.

This minefield was masterfully timed from trick 1. Brilliant stuff.



## National Life and Non Life Master Teams (January 2024)

Results after 3 of 7 matches

Place		Imps	VPs	WDL
1	<b>GEDDES (3)</b>	84	42.28	2-0-1
2	<b>HAMAM (5)</b>	57	40.23	2-0-1
3	<b>WRIGHT (6)</b>	19	34.34	2-0-1
4	<b>BARNES (2)</b>	26	33.90	1-1-1
5	<b>SHARP (4)</b>	12	33.28	2-0-1
6	<b>TAYLOR (7)</b>	-16	27.88	1-1-1
7	<b>TING (1)</b>	-32	23.55	1-0-2
8	<b>PRIEST (8)</b>	-150	4.54	0-0-3



Last year's Senior Teams winners, LORENTZ

### National Senior Teams Results after 3 of 9 matches

Place		Imps	VPs	WDL	Next Opp.
1	<b>EWART (2)</b>	81	47.22	3-0-0	17
2	<b>LACHMAN (17)</b>	88	46.36	3-0-0	2
3	<b>STERN (7)</b>	114	45.03	2-0-1	8
4	<b>VADAS (8)</b>	74	43.37	2-0-1	7
5	<b>MORGAN-KING (14)</b>	63	41.49	2-0-1	6
6	<b>HUTTON (6)</b>	41	39.51	2-1-0	14
7	<b>FREE (5)</b>	34	36.12	2-0-1	3
8	<b>KANETKAR (3)</b>	43	35.69	2-0-1	5
9	<b>LORENTZ (1)</b>	16	33.07	2-0-1	13
10	<b>BOCK (13)</b>	12	32.72	2-0-1	1
11	<b>QUAIL (10)</b>	14	32.60	1-1-1	11
12	<b>MUNRO (11)</b>	30	30.28	1-0-2	10
13	<b>HOFFMAN (4)</b>	-3	28.97	1-0-2	18
14	<b>FINIKIOTIS (18)</b>	-5	28.77	1-1-1	4
15	<b>LISLE (21)</b>	-32	25.96	2-0-1	12
16	<b>KELLY (23)</b>	-25	25.83	1-0-2	22
17	<b>STRASSER (12)</b>	-33	24.65	1-0-2	21
18	<b>BAYLISS (22)</b>	-49	22.50	1-0-2	23
19	<b>GLOVER (15)</b>	-58	21.58	1-0-2	9
20	<b>VAN VUCHT (9)</b>	-51	19.52	0-1-2	15
21	<b>ASKEW (16)</b>	-64	18.48	1-0-2	20
22	<b>MILLER (20)</b>	-75	15.24	0-1-2	16
23	<b>WILLIAMS (24)</b>	-102	13.35	0-1-2	19
24	<b>CALLANDER (19)</b>	-113	11.69	0-0-3	24

### National Women's Teams after 5 of 13 matches

Place		Imps	VPs	WDL
1	<b>TRAVIS (8)</b>	160	84.89	4-1-0
2	<b>FULLER (3)</b>	127	79.50	4-0-1
3	<b>JACOB (14)</b>	113	77.35	5-0-0
4	<b>LUSK (6)</b>	34	61.32	4-0-1
5	<b>ZELLER (11)</b>	24	53.95	2-0-3
6	<b>WILSON (5)</b>	-9	51.00	3-0-2
7	<b>CARMODY (9)</b>	-1	50.41	3-0-2
8	<b>CARTER (4)</b>	-8	47.75	2-1-2
9	<b>COATS (2)</b>	-3	47.44	1-2-2
10	<b>TOBIN (10)</b>	-34	42.60	2-0-3
11	<b>FOSTER (1)</b>	-67	32.71	1-0-4
12	<b>MUNTZ (13)</b>	-65	32.41	1-0-4
13	<b>CUTCLIFFE (12)</b>	-132	20.18	1-0-4
14	<b>MILWARD (7)</b>	-139	18.49	0-0-5





# Play like Legends Live like Locals

2024 Australian National Bridge  
Championships and Butler

Including the inaugural  
Central West Festival of Bridge

6<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
Orange NSW





62<sup>nd</sup> International  
**GOLD COAST**  
 BRIDGE CONGRESS  
 — 2024 —

February  
 Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> to  
 Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>

GOLD COAST CONVENTION  
 CENTRE, BROADBEACH

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