

# Welcome to the 2024 Summer Festival of Bridge, January 9-21

Pre bulletin

[sleksix@gmail.com](mailto:sleksix@gmail.com)

## Welcome to the 2024 Summer Festival of Bridge

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we meet on today, the Ngunnawal people, and pay my respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.

I hope to host an enjoyable event for all of you. An important part of providing a smoothly operating tournament is for everyone to

respect their partners, opponents, and our staff. I welcome all players and thank our main sponsors Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers (TBIB), Fixed Income Solutions and The Bridge Shop.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have assisted, in particular Jane Rasmussen, ABF Executive Secretary, Laurie Kelso and his team of directors, Peter Busch and Chris Carolan, scorers, Bruce Crossman for testing electronic equipment, Traian Chira, BBO services, Stephen Lester, Bulletin Editor, the Canberra Bridge Club for their assistance with a variety of things and Jodi Tutty for organising many of our Novice entries.

Start time for events is 9.45 am, except for the knockout stages of the NOT, the Women's and Seniors Playoffs which commence at 9.00am.

The Daily Bulletin is your greatest source of information. It will only be available online. Editor Stephen Lester will be more than pleased to receive contributions by clicking on the link at the top of each bulletin. At the time of writing, there



are no Covid-19 restrictions in place in the ACT. I expect all players will ensure they do not put other participants at risk, and if they are ill, will test prior to entering the playing area. Masks are recommended but not mandatory.

Happy Bridging,

**Ian Thomson, SFOB Tournament  
Organiser**

## From the editor's desk

### 2024 Youth Week

As the pre-bulletin goes to print, the evergreen Australian Youth Week is being finalised.

The event has fielded an amazing number of bridge stars over the years, the sheer volume of them reinforcing Canberra bridge historian John Brockwell's catchphrase "Bridge - a game for life."

This year, the Australian Youth Pairs was won by Ella Jacob - Joshua Tomlin.

50 years ago, the event was won by youngsters Paul Lavings - Andrew Markovics.

## The Boathouse Celebration

### Wednesday 17 January at 6.45pm

This glamorous event is designed to showcase the glory that is fine dining in Canberra. Entries are via *myABF*, \$125.00 pp, and the menu can be found on the next page.

Hurry, though, cut off time for bookings is 8pm Tuesday evening.

# Summer Festival of Bridge



## THE BOAT HOUSE

Wednesday 17th Jan  
6:45pm

### Arrival

canapes & a glass of bubbles

### Crown roasted chicken

fermented cabbage, shitake, eel

### Ginger glazed pork belly

grapefruit, parsnip, endive

### Slow cooked lamb rump

carrot & carraway, cabbage, native tomatoes

### Valrhona dulce opera cake

salted caramel, prune, malt

# 2024 Summer Festival of Bridge, January 9-21

**Tomorrow's events: National Life and Non Life Master Teams, National Seniors Teams, National Women's Teams**

## Executive Director Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2024 Summer Festival of Bridge (SFOB), my first as Executive Director of the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF).

I have wonderful memories of this event, having attended for the first time in 1983. Back then it was my first national bridge event and I will always remember the thrill of walking in to the playing area and seeing the sea of bridge tables in front of me!

Over 40 years later, as the ABF's Executive Director, one of my many objectives is to ensure the SFOB is as enjoyable for you in 2024 as it was for me in 1983. The program these days has a much broader range of events, offering players at all levels the opportunity to compete successfully.

The Canberra Rex Hotel offers us all a comfortable playing environment in which to play; it is situated close to a broad range of accommodation and eateries, a far cry from the handful of decent options in my early years.

Our Tournament Organiser Ian Thomson and his team have worked hard to ensure all preparations are complete. It is up to all of us to ensure we have a great time by being polite and respectful. Also, this year Ian is introducing a fine dining experience at one of Canberra's best restaurants, the Boat House restaurant. If you haven't already, please consider forming a table or coming in a small group.

Once again we have generous sponsorship from TBIB Insurance Brokers, Sean, Steve and the team offer a great service to all bridge players, not only with their travel insurance policy but they also offer a broad range of other insurances.



This year we are fortunate to have two new key sponsors. Fixed Income Solutions, who provide a broad range of financial advisory services, are sponsoring the One Day Swiss Pairs on Friday.

Many of you know my teammate Nick Fahrer, long-term proprietor of the Bridge Shop, who is sponsoring the Novice Pairs on Friday.

I would like to personally thank these sponsors and ask that you all support those that support us when the opportunity arises.

In my role as Executive Director, I am not only focused on ensuring the SFOB is a great event, I am also keen to ensure bridge playing across Australia is as popular as possible. Your ideas and help are crucial to our mission. If you're passionate about fostering the love of bridge, I invite you to connect with me during the event or drop me an email with your thoughts and suggestions.

I would also like to recognise the great work done by Bulletin Editor Stephen Lester. Stephen does an incredible job of producing an entertaining and informative read for us. I look forward to reading the bulletin each day and I hope you will too.

In closing, I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2024 Summer Festival of Bridge. As we gather for another running of this marquee event, I look forward to sharing stories, creating new memories, and, most importantly, enjoying the game we all love. Best of luck to each of you, and I eagerly anticipate the pleasure of meeting as many of you as possible.

**David Fryda**  
Executive Director, ABF

## Vale David Lusk

30 December, 1946 – 07 July, 2023

*Ed: Many thanks to Barbara Travis for allowing me to use some parts of the article she wrote for the South Australian Bridge Federation Newsletter.*

It is with an enormous sense of sadness that I write about David Lusk, who passed away in mid-2023. David was a part of the South Australian and national bridge scene for as long as any of the current crop of bridge players can remember. Aside from his bridge successes, David's contribution to bridge was immense, both at the local and national level.

He was a member of the ABF Council and was the National Youth Coordinator from 1999 - 2005. David and Sue – his wife and international player – resurrected the ABF Newsletter in 1994 from an irregular one-page document, and were co-editors until 2006.

*Ed: David regularly started the Newsletter with an opinion, which was always interesting and thought-provoking.*

*I remember agreeing to take on the role of editor, with a start date to follow the 2006 ANOT, that year in Adelaide. David and Sue welcomed me into their home so I could do a 'soft takeover' of the Newsletter. Not only did they look after me splendidly, but David versed me on the finer points of newsletter production, and offered me ongoing support for as long as I needed it.*

David was always going to excel at bridge, being part of the Lusk bridge stable – mother Margaret Lusk (later Choate) and father Pax were scions of South Australian bridge - their names adorning many of the honour boards at the Unley club, and there is an event named after Pax Lusk.

At state level, David was on the SABA Committee

for several years and served a three-year term as President (when SABA was both state body and a club). Subsequently, he became the club teacher, from 1987 to 2014, teaching and mentoring so many of the current group of players. He was also heavily invested in youth bridge in SA, running regular sessions to encourage and mentor many of our younger players - Justin Williams, Nic Croft, Andrew Peake (now in Sydney), Kieran Dyke (now in England), to name just a few.

He was a state level director, continuing as a club director after he retired from the teaching position.

In addition to all that, he was bridge journalist for the Sunday Mail from 1991 until recently. For his dedication and contribution to our game, he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2015, one of a handful of bridge players to receive such acknowledgement.



David and Sue's wedding day

He was no slouch at the game either. He represented SA in the Interstate Open Teams 17 times as a player, twice as non-playing captain; his first representative year was 1969, and his first of four wins came in 1971 (his last win was in 2018, Hobart where SA defeated a strong NSW squad).

The Interstate Seniors Teams was another of his regular stints; nine

representative efforts and two wins.

He played internationally a few times on secondary seniors teams in Macau, Hong Kong and China.

Locally, he won our State Teams Championships five times spanning 1972 to 2018. He loved being involved in top level bridge, winning the State Pairs four times, twice with Sue, and the Open Pairs three times. National titles include the VCC in 1990 and 2006, the GNOT in 1994 (and several 2nd placings), plus several Seniors titles – the Gold Coast Seniors Teams in 2007 and 2008, the

National Seniors Teams in 2006 and 2009, the ANOT Seniors Pairs in 2013. *Ed: Going right back, David also won the 1973 Youth Teams.*

David played bridge to the end, competing in the State Teams Championships the night before his

death. He was a much loved friend to so many, and has been much missed in our bridge scene.

He continued giving even after death by being accepted into the University of Adelaide Body Donation Program.

David, on receiving the accolade of the OAM:

“I think there are a lot of people that have done more and are more deserving of an award like this” he says. “I had lots of support from so many people along the way. I would love to somehow break the award into tiny pieces and share it with all those who have helped and supported me.”

*David Lusk*



### **David Lusk OAM**

David Lusk received a Medal (OAM) in the General Division of the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours list for his services to the community and to the game of bridge.

[Here is a copy of the biographical notes for David Rodd Lusk:](#)

For service to the community, and to the game of bridge

**South Australian Bridge Association:**

Teacher, 1987-2014.

President, Management Committee, 1982 - 1984

General Committee Member, 1975-1980

South Australian Youth Coordinator, 1990-2005

**Australian Bridge Federation:**

SA Representative, Australian Bridge Federation Council, 1985-1987

National Youth Coordinator, 1999-2005

Co-editor, ABF Newsletter, 1994-2006

**Other:**

Bridge Columnist, Adelaide Sunday Mail newspaper since 1991.



David on receiving the Order of Australia Medal



The Lusks with daughter Jennifer

## Gentle teaching skills

*Ed: When David handed over the ABF Newsletter in 2006, I was pleased he let me retain one of the popular features of his reign, "Coaching Cathy at Contract", a short but illustrative column for the improving player. It evolved into teaching Glenda and Miss Play over time, but here is a column from 2015, with a long-suffering David coaching Glenda and Miss Play.*

## Protecting your honours

March 26 2015; Source: ABF Newsletter

### (Mis)play #1

<p>♠ K 6 5 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ A 9 5 3 ♣ A K 2</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <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> </div>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ A 2 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ Q 10 8 7 ♣ 10 9 6 3</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										
<p>♠ Q J 10 9 7 3 ♥ 6 ♦ J 6 2 ♣ Q 5 4</p>											
	<p>♠ 8 4 ♥ K 10 9 8 7 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ J 8 7</p>										

West opened a weak 2♠ and Glenda bid 2NT. I just bid 4♥ over that and West led ♠Q. Naturally, I put the king on that and East won. Now I couldn't make the contract.

Apparently I can get ♠K as a trick if I don't play it. That is a bit weird but should I have known?

### (Mis)play #2

<p>♠ 10 8 4 ♥ J 10 9 2 ♦ 9 6 2 ♣ Q 4 3</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <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> </div>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ A 9 3 2 ♥ K 8 7 ♦ 10 8 7 ♣ K 9 2</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	<p>♠ K Q J 5 ♥ A 3 ♦ Q J 5 4 ♣ 8 7 6</p>										

We reached 3NT by South, and West led ♥J. I played my queen and East put on the king. (Unlucky?)

After that I had to lose one club, a spade and three hearts. I guess I would have done better if I hadn't



*David was a welcome member of multistate teams, here with Peter Chan (SA), Richard Brightling, David Hoffman (ACT) in a seniors team*

played ♥Q at trick one.

What guiding principle exists here?

*Dear Miss Play,*

There is a guiding principle that may help here. The more cards you have with an honour card, the better protection it has. So, in Misplay #1, you need ♠K as a trick. You are in no hurry for it, as you have lots to guard the other suits.

Unless West is being particularly clever, he or she doesn't have the ace. With the weak two opening to guide you, the spade suit looks to be an open book. So not only does a full view of the hand tell you that the ace will fall of its own accord, you could have worked that out at the time.

If you play low twice on the spades, your king will become a 10th trick. If West has been smart enough to lead from ♠AQJ10xx, then good luck to them.

The same principle applies to your second example. Had you held ♥Qx in dummy and ♥Axxx in hand, then the queen will lose all her protection after one trick. So, in that case, just play it and hope for the best.

In this case, the queen is protected by all the small cards that go with it. It looks unlikely that you desperately need ♥Q as a trick, but you do need it to make three or more tricks as difficult as possible for the opponents. Play low, take the ace and hope that the spot cards can protect the queen for long enough. As the cards lie, West is never on lead again to put that ♥Q under further pressure, so any sensible line of play will see you home .

## The vital last board

2019 ITC Final, Set 5, Board 24,

West deals, nil vulnerable

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Lusk</i>	<i>Buchen</i>	<i>de Luca</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
1 ♥	pass	pass	dbl
rdbl	pass	pass	pass
1 ♠	all pass		

The last exhibit was the exciting last board in the 2019 Open Interstate match between NSW and South Australia. David Lusk's fate in 1♠ would seal either a win or a loss with the score standing at 93 (NSW) 92.8 (SA).

Before I continue, how many of you have noted the strange auction? More on that to come.

Peter Buchen started well with a diamond lead. Matthew Thomson couldn't quite read the pips, so inserted ♦Q, won by Lusk's ace.

At trick 2, Lusk played a low club, which helped the defence. Buchen ducked and Thomson was in with ♣9. He continued a club. Lusk rose and played another club to Buchen's ♣K. He clarified the diamond situation, switching to ♦10, covered with the jack, king and ruffed.

Lusk at last tried one of the majors, leading towards dummy's ♥1098. Buchen erred by failing to rise ♥Q, and Thomson, in with ♥A, was not in a position to force again in diamonds. He tried ♥2, but Lusk rose king and played another heart to Buchen's queen.

Buchen played another diamond, but now Lusk had one diamond trick, one club, one heart two diamond ruffs, and two top trump tricks with ♠AJ opposite ♠Qxx.

*Bridge Solver* confirmed that 1♠ is not a viable contract, although with spades behaving, 2♥ is a make.

1♠ +80 was 1 IMP to SA, when the NSW South played 3♦ one down for -50, making SA victors by 93.8 to 93 IMPs.

What was incredible was the enigmatic auction. David had actually achieved a major coup when the NSW defenders had chosen to defend 1♥ redoubled (which would have been +260).

However, when his LHO pushed the bidding tray through the screen and Thomson passed, David missed the fact that the bidding was over, and added a superfluous 1♠ to the auction.

I was watching on BBO, and couldn't understand why the BBO operator allowed play to be stopped for so long. In the fullness of time, it was revealed that after due deliberation, the auction could continue despite the extra bid, as North could gratefully accept it.

Was this a problem with bridge behind screens? I don't remember a similar situation in the face-to-face world of bidding.



Contact us by email

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

### Auction by the ABF Foundation

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 Gumbly

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

You must be registered and signed in to make a bid.  
This is a single session event.



# 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



## 2023 WINNERS

### *National Open Teams*

**ASHTON** Sophie Ashton – Peter Gill – Andy Hung – Sartaj Hans – Nabil Edgton – Michael Whibley

### *South West Pacific Teams*

**ZIGGY** Rodrigo Garcia Da Rosa – Justin Mill – Siegfried Konig – Liam Milne – James Coutts

### *Women's Playoff*

**DAWSON** Helena Dawson – Wei Zhang – Nazife Bashar – Kinga Moses – Catherine Zhang – Avril Zets

### *Seniors' Playoff*

**LORENTZ** Gabi Lorentz – Stephen Burgess – Paul Lavings – Avinash Kanetkar – David Beauchamp – Robert Krochmalik

### *National Women's Teams*

**MCCALLUM** Renee Cooper – Kate Mccallum – Jovi Smederevac – Sally Brock

### *National Senior Teams*

**BUCHEN** Michael Courtney – George Smolanko – Andrew Braithwaite – Terry Brown – Arjuna De Livera – Peter Buchen

### *TBIB Open Swiss Pairs*

Ben Thompson – Renee Cooper

### *Mixed Swiss Pairs*

Hugh Grosvenor – Tania Lloyd

### *One Day Novice Teams*

**BARFIELD** Martha Griffiths – Hilary Merritt – Judy Barfield – Sophia Lawrance

### *Chris Diment MP Swiss Pairs*

Marlene Watts – Michael Prescott

### *National Life Master Teams*

**DALZIELL** Trevor Berenger – Ian Dalziell – Terry Heming – John Donovan

### *Novice MP Swiss Pairs*

Brenda Watts – Leonie Jones

### *Penline Swiss Pairs*

Jovi Smederevac – Sascha Wernle

### *Under 500 and 750 Swiss Pairs*

Joanne Bakas – Tassi Georgiadis

### *Novice Swiss Pairs*

Margaret Havyatt – Dave Havyatt

### *Under 750/300 Teams – Open*

**STEWART** Jim Stewart – David Owen – John Rogers – Margaret Rogers

### *Under 750/300 Teams – Under 300*

**POYNTEN** Mary Poynten – Robyn Rogers – Maeve Doyle – Fiona Fawcett

### *Neura Swiss Pairs*

Keith Mitchell – Lesley Gunson

### *Pack-up Pairs*

Hugh Grosvenor – Tania Lloyd

## People



**Damon Flicker, Melbourne at left and Leon Meier, Auckland, right, playing in Youth Week, but booked for other events when that finishes.**



**Sadly, we have lost good friends in 2023, including Argentinian visitor Pablo Lambardi**



**Jovi Smederevac and Sascha Wernle, visitors in 2023 from Austria**



**ASHTON, 2023 NOT winners**