

# 2024 Summer Festival of Bridge, January 9-21

Coming up tomorrow: ABDA members are welcomed to the ABDA meeting after play in the breakout room

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Declan Cassidy congratulates Marlene Watts - Michael Prescott for their win in the Fixed Income Solutions One Day Swiss Pairs

## Lead problem for the average player

### Leading when declarer or dummy has a two-suiter

The opening leader is in a broadly similar position when he is on lead, whether it is declarer or dummy who has explicitly shown a two-suiter. The natural inclination is to lead trumps, but quite often if there is no indication that declarer needs to trump anything, cashing winners or setting up winners might be a better idea. The hands in this set of leads raise these questions in different fashions. (Answer next page):

South holds:

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

West	North	East	South
	pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	all pass		

## Anecdotes

It's easier to get material in anecdotal form than hand details consisting of good or bad plays. Today I have two:

Giselle Mundell, playing with Andrew Peake in the TBIB Swiss Pairs told me a true story about the joys of learning bridge.

A good friend, we'll call her Jane, was keen to learn bridge. She enrolled in a course of lessons at a Sydney club. After a few lessons, following the club's methods of teaching, the students



were up to bidding and playing under their own steam. Jane has always been a little emotional: one could say she wears her heart on her sleeve.

Jane made a bid, and was anguished to hear from the teacher "You can't bid like that, can't you see you're vulnerable?"

"How did you know?" cried Jane, erupting in tears as she ran from the table.

## No sweets

My own anecdote comes from the time I used to play Christmas carols on Helen Snashall's white baby grand. This was for her annual Christmas Bridge Party, featuring a collection of ladies of a certain age. There was bridge after the cards, and I stayed on to give assistance with the bidding. One lady, blonde and elegant, kept saying that she didn't have a sweet. On getting to her table, I looked at her hand: 13 balanced HCP with five spades to the nine.

“What’s wrong?” I asked. “I can’t open 1♠, my sweet isn’t good enough.” It was then I realised she was talking about her poor suit.

### The joys of online bridge

Tony Leibowitz and gorgeous wife Louise sometimes play on *Real Bridge* together. Louise plays upstairs, with Tony at his laptop downstairs. Louise is not keen on some of Tony’s facial expressions when they play face-to-face, but she has come up with a good strategy for their online sessions. She positions a Post It note right over Tony’s face on the screen. This way, neither the screen nor the atmosphere in the house is damaged.



### ANSWER to Lead Problem:

Lead a low heart. On this auction the lead of a top diamond is very dangerous—and is quite likely to sacrifice one of your natural tricks in the suit.

My instincts are to try to set up heart winners for your side before they go on dummy’s clubs. A low trump (not nearly as safe as it might seem) is my second choice. There is NO indication the opponents either have a spade fit or that declarer needs or wants to ruff diamonds in his hand.

Did you know there is an ABDA meeting



Can you decipher the meaning of the matching caps above? They read PAPI TOTO 70

## OK, some bridge

### Playing with fire

<b>BD: 8</b>	♠ AT65	<b>Dir: W</b>
	♥ Q84	<b>Vul: None</b>
	♦ KJ	
	♣ A832	
♠ Q98		♠ J432
♥ J632		♥ AK95
♦ Q3		♦ T64
♣ QJ94		♣ T6
	♠ K7	
	♥ T7	
	♦ A98752	
	♣ K75	

West	North	East	South
	<i>Cooper</i>		<i>Free</i>
Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	pass	2♠ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	3♣	pass	3NT
1.	11-14		
2.	2. Range probe		

It reinforces my confidence when I see players do much what I would do myself. I never played a strong notrump in my youth, having grown up in New Zealand where the weak notrump was more or less mandatory.

Here Jon Free treated his hand as a balanced invite, and applied a range probe which led to the inevitable 3NT.

There was nothing to the play on a low heart lead to the jack and queen. A club to dummy and a successful diamond finesse allowed 11 tricks without so much as a blink of the eye.

At the other table, after a 1♣ opening and a 1NT rebid over 1♦, South signed off in 2♦. East played with fire by making a takeout double, but NS subsided in 3♣, making nine tricks.

8 IMPs to FREE for finding the unbeatable game.

*Question:* would you convert 3♣ to 3♦ with the North hand?



I was admiring Matthew Sieredzinski's shirt, and asked if I could have a photo to share in the Daily Bulletin. Matthew is playing with dad Wojciech in the TBIB Swiss Pairs. No one would be surprised to learn they are playing Polish Club.

Matthew has been playing Youth Week, where his partner was Heath Watkins.



Daniel from Fixed Income Solutions presents silver medals to Paul Weaver (Terry Bodycote absent), 2nd in the Fixed Income Solutions Swiss Pairs

<b>BD: 16</b>	♠ AJ65	<b>Dir: W</b>
	♥ A8	<b>Vul: EW</b>
	♦ 654	
	♣ T652	
♠ K7		♠ QT2
♥ QJT92		♥ K43
♦ KJT		♦ A873
♣ K84		♣ J93
	♠ 9843	
	♥ 765	
	♦ Q92	
	♣ AQ7	

This pedestrian deal saw declarer, Attilio de Luca take advantage of the favourable lie in diamonds combined with the club layout to bring home 4♥, defeated in the other room, 12 IMPs to FREE.

I'm not sure I would have invited with 3♥ on the nine-loser East hand, but who can argue with success?.

### If you can't beat 'em, join em

**By Stephen Lester**

Nikki Riszko and Andrew Struik are a happy couple who live in an inner city suburb of Canberra.

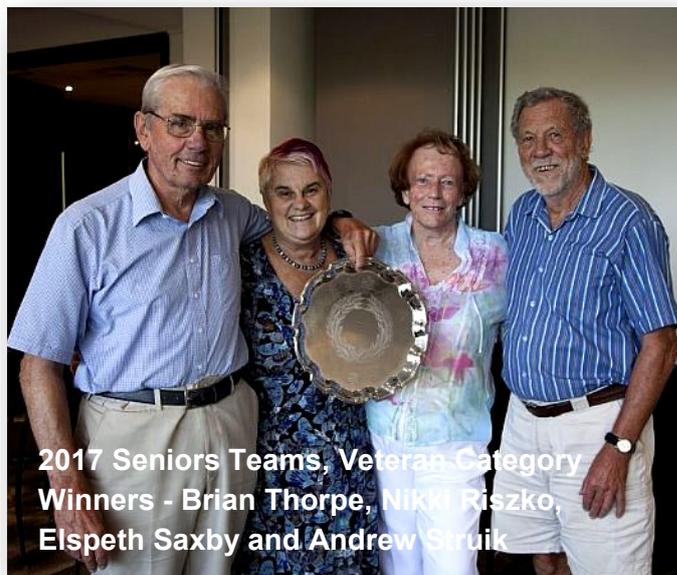
I have known Nikki for many years, and remember her child, now well grown up from days gone by. Nikki emailed me when I wrote the article about Paula and David McLeish, and their lovely life on their own bridge circuit. She was interested to know the name of the junior stylist who did Paula's hair 55 years ago. I had to admit that it was me, in one of my early career paths.

Nikki and Andrew, both 78, cycle to the venue from Ainslie every day. Later this year they are going on a cruise down the Danube with English bridge-playing friends for 15 days.

Also on the calendar for 2024 is a two week holiday with bridge, organised by a British company. This will take place in Spain between Barcelona and Valencia.

Both had previous partners, and now lead the good life in leafy Ainslie.

I want their life too!



2017 Seniors Teams, Veteran Category Winners - Brian Thorpe, Nikki Riszko, Elspeth Saxby and Andrew Struik

### For the attention of potential Australian international representatives

**by Ron Klinger**



At the World Championships, a round-robin is followed by quarter-finals, semi-final and a final. The results of Australian Teams at the world championships over the past 24 years have not been sparkling. In that period, no Women's Team has made the quarter-finals. No Mixed Team has either, although the Mixed is a more recent addition to the world events. The Open Team reached the quarter-finals once and the Seniors twice. None of those teams went any further. Most of the time our teams have not finished in the top 10.

Given that the world championships are run as a round-robin, perhaps our selection playoffs should follow a similar pattern. There is also a strong case for reducing the Open and Mixed Playoffs from eight teams to four teams. In the past 24 years, when the playoffs have been via long knock-out matches, the winners of the

Mixed were seeded 1 and 2 (only two occasions) on PQPs, while in the Open, only once in the past 24 years has a team outside the top four PQP contenders won the event.

By re-introducing PQPs for the Women/Seniors and reducing the Open/ Mixed playoff contenders to four, the ABF would be reducing costs (in subsidies) and increasing revenue. Women/Seniors players would need to compete in ABF events throughout the year. Open / Mixed players would need to compete more often to score sufficient PQPs in order to qualify for the playoffs.

One might also consider running the playoffs as a round-robin (Matt Mullamphy's suggestion), followed by a final, instead of the long knockout matches where some teams play for only two days.

This would also eliminate the need for teams to choose their opponents and give players more practice against other top players.

There are various structures possible. Open / Mixed Playoffs: if eight teams: 7 x 40-board matches and an 80-board final; if six teams, 5 x 48 matches, 120-board final; four teams only: 3 x

80-board matches, 120-board final. Women / Seniors Playoffs (if for three days only): two days round-robin, 3 x 40-board matches; 60-board final. For the finals, carry-forward a part of the round-robin match result between the finalists.

An additional incentive is possible to entice players to play in more ABF PQP events. Provide a reward for the teams with the most PQPs in the playoffs. For the round-robin: whether 8, 6 or 4 teams: #1 on PQPs: 8 IMPs start per match; #2, 4 IMPs per match; #3, 2 IMPs per match, #4 or beyond 0 IMPs.

Maybe the above approach would not be favoured by the relevant players. There is an easy way to find out. Perhaps the ABF Tournament Committee could gauge the views of the relevant players (those who have competed in the playoffs over the past 10 years) via a questionnaire setting out the options and asking whether the players are satisfied with the current playoff structure or would prefer a different approach. That should also include whether contenders for international representation are satisfied with non-contending teams competing in the qualifying events for the playoff finals.

Seniors Teams Playoffs Semi			IMPs						
NS	EW		Lead	Tricks	NS	EW	NS	EW	
1 FREE	2 MORGAN-KING	5♦ S	AH	12	620		16	-16	
2 MORGAN-KING	1 FREE	5♦ W	3D	12		680	-16	16	
3 LORENTZ	4 EWART	6♠ E	KC	12		1430	-13	13	
4 EWART	3 LORENTZ	5♥ W	KD	12		680	13	-13	

Study these two board results - do you believe it could be the same board?

Women's Teams Playoffs Semi			IMPs						
NS	EW		Lead	Tricks	NS	EW	NS	EW	
1 JACOB	2 COATS	5♠ E	AC	12	680		0	0	
2 COATS	1 JACOB	5♠ W	3D	12	680		0	0	
3 LUSK	4 WILSON	5♠ E	AC	13	710		-1	1	
4 WILSON	3 LUSK	4♥ W	3D	12	680		1	-1	

BOARD 23		
<b>Bd: 23</b>	♠ JT5 ♥ 4 ♦ K543 ♣ J8652	<b>Dir: S</b> <b>Vul: All</b>
♠ KQ973 ♥ AKQT95 ♦ J6 ♣		♠ A842 ♥ J873 ♦ 7 ♣ T974
	♠ 6 ♥ 62 ♦ AQT982 ♣ AKQ3	

Indeed it is. In both fields, the par should be 7 ♣ doubled, +500 EW.

Yet none of the women attempted slam with the EW cards, with NS selling out at the five-level in a major.

In the Senior field, however, there were two double digit swings, with FREE achieving a double game swing when the FREE NS bullied EW out of their contract. The auction started with a strong club by the South hand, and despite West's strong bidding, at East's final turn, he declined to bid over 5♦ in the passout seat.



## Praise is accepted gratefully

Quick feedback - I've spoken to a lot of novice players in the last few days and they were all really impressed with the running of the events. Kudos to the directors who patiently explained so many things to the newbies, including how a team event works.

Personally, I am so impressed that the SFOB caters for bridge players of all skill levels from rank beginners to Australian representatives - a truly inclusive event.

Bricet Kloren

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## Free seminar

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**The ABF Foundation is hosting a Free bridge seminar at 8.45 am on Sunday 14th January in the breakout room on the ground floor.**

**Come along and listen to expert bridge player, Sartaj Hans discuss some of the trickier hands from Saturday's play in the SFOB.**

**You will love Sartaj's humour and presentation style.**

**Sartaj has represented Australia internationally many times. Last year he was a semi-finalist in the USA's Spingold and he has numerous Australian titles to his name.**



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