



62nd International

# Gold Coast Bridge Congress

18 - 24 February 2024

*Exercise your brain - play Bridge*

**YOUR DAILY  
BULLETIN**

Wednesday 21 February

Stephen Lester and Barry Rigal

## BULLETIN 4

### 2024 Bobby Richman Open Pairs winners Ella Jacob - Phil Markey



**Celebrity Speaker Wednesday Paul Marston**

**Wednesday 21st  
9.00am – 9.45am**

**Paul Marston**

**Competitive bidding  
(when both sides  
have 18 – 22 HCP)**



**Session tables  
as at Tuesday  
evening - 3214  
(2023 - 3017)**

**This time it's serious****by Barry Rigal**

With the finals of the pairs reduced from three sessions to two, it was all to play for in the second stanza, and there were three pairs who were very close indeed. In pole position were Alex Smirnov and Andy Hung but Philip Markey and Ella Jacobs were a point behind, with Liz Adams and Shane Harrison just three behind them. Ten tables in play, top on a board was 18 MP.

Despite bidding a slam off the ace and king of trumps, Markey and Jacobs started over the first 10 deals with a 65% game, enough to open up daylight over the other contenders at that point.

The first deal I watched from this set featured a subtle point of defensive carding.

<b>Board 10</b>	♠K8653		
Dealer East	♥K62		
Vul:All	♦A5		
	♣Q65		
♠QJ942		♠7	
♥Q43		♥A10975	
♦1074		♦KQJ32	
♣83		♣AJ	
	♠A10		
	♥J8		
	♦986		
	♣K109742		

As South you see the following auction:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♥	pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	all pass

You lead the spade ace and a promisingly feeble dummy appears. Your side plays upside down carding and partner follows with the ♠8, declarer with the ♠7. What should you shift to?

At the table South reasoned (sensibly in my opinion): Partner knows I either don't have a second spade or if I do that I shouldn't lead it and he knows I know that. Given that a spade continuation makes no sense the ♠8 must be suit preference.

South duly shifted to the ♦9. If North had ducked this the defence would have been easy still. When



**VISIT HELEN AND PAUL AT OUR STALL**

### MESSAGE TO NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE CLUBS

There are many players here from New Zealand. Please take back samples of our playing cards for your club, just ask Helen at the stall.

A good number of New Zealand clubs already buy their supply from us. In 2021, four clubs from the Wellington area pooled together in order to save on freight, the biggest problem in sending anything overseas.

We have a large range of products, I can't think of any item a bridge club might need that we don't supply.

**Paul 0408 888 085 Helen 0418 144 534**  
**plavings@gmail.com**  
**www.bridgegear.com.au OR**  
**giftware at 6nt.com.au**

he won it and played the ♠K declarer ruffed with the ♥10 and played ♥A and another heart, and claimed 10 tricks when the jack appeared.

Had North followed with a more neutral heart spot South might well have found the club play, I think.

You hold the following hand of power and quality. Playing 2/1:

♠ A Q 10 5 4  
 ♥ A K  
 ♦ A K 10 5 4  
 ♣ 10

David Beauchamp showed untypical restraint in not opening 2♣. His 1♠ opener got a 1NT response and he jumped to 3♦, game-forcing. Over his partner's 3♥ he simply bid 4♥ and that ended the auction.

Alas, this was the full story:

<b>Board 10</b>	♠AQ1054		♠963
Dealer North	♥AK		♥1082
Vul:nil	♦AK1032		♦Q5
	♣10		♣QJ952
♠J872		♠963	
♥76		♥1082	
♦J864		♦Q5	
♣K86		♣QJ952	
	♠K		
	♥QJ9543		
	♦97		
	♣A743		

7♥ is well over 70% but just getting to 6♥ would beat average. Was Andre Korenhof supposed to take another call over 4♥? I don't think so – but facing a 4♣ cuebid, Blackwood aces and grand slam might well have been the outcome.

In retrospect the deal that might have decided the event was this one:

<b>Board 19</b>	♠983		♠KJ742
Dealer South	♥A107653		♥2
Vul:EW	♦Q64		♦J1052
	♣6		♣AQ3
♠AQ6		♠KJ742	
♥KQ		♥2	
♦A873		♦J1052	
♣KJ85		♣AQ3	
	♠105		
	♥J984		
	♦K9		
	♣109742		

In Planet Sanity the auction saw most Norths bid hearts, but E/W could outgun them in spades and make a painless 650. Where Alex Smirnov was West he got to open 1♦ and Ella Jacob of course preempted to 4♥!

I'd be tempted to bid 4♠ as East now, but Andy Hung doubled for takeout and now Smirnov was truly awkwardly placed. He guessed to pass, but +300 was worth only 1MP for his side.

Since the final margin for Jacob - Markey over Smirnov - Hung was 19 MPs, an average here for the second-placed pair would have made things very interesting!

### Teams Qualifying round one

#### Team 3 vs 108

For round one I watched last year's losing finalists, Tom Jacob and Brian Mace taking on Sally Murray-White and Geoff Whiting. Honours were largely equal at their table, on what I thought was a generally well-played set.

<b>Board 2</b>	♠J72		♠AKQ543
Dealer East	♥K4		♥J9863
Vul:NS	♦AJ52		♦K
	♣9762		♣A
♠86		♠AKQ543	
♥A75		♥J9863	
♦1074		♦K	
♣Q10843		♣A	
	♠109		
	♥Q102		
	♦Q9863		
	♣KJ5		

No swing was generally recorded here, though a few Easts rebid 2♥ over a 1NT response and played there. The rest of the room played game.

With hearts 3-2 you could do what you liked and make 10 tricks, but the correct technical line in 4♠ is not obvious. After a club lead to your ace you draw trumps in three rounds; how should you play hearts?

The answer is that if opening leader has a small singleton heart you are doomed. You can cater to all of the other singletons (assuming you have good table presence) by leading the ♥J from hand. If your LHO plays small, go up with the ace. And if LHO has ducked the ♥J holding ♥KQ104 he **deserves** to beat you. Find an easier game.



Tom Jacob did extremely well on our next exhibit.

<b>Board 5</b>	♠AK85				
Dealer East	♥QJ5				
Vul:NS	♦AJ3				
	♣1074				
♠942		♠106			
♥A108632	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♥974
N					
W E					
S					
♦76		♦K852			
♣98		♣KQJ2			
	♠QJ73				
	♥K				
	♦Q1094				
	♣A653				

Three quarters of the field reached 4♠ – and who can blame them? Where it was declared by North after a strong notrump the club king was led almost every time. Win or duck?

The mathematics here is really complex (4-1 spades and very favourable lies in diamonds complicate the issue) but in simple terms if the diamond finesse is wrong and the heart ace on your right you want to duck the lead if it is from four and win it if it is from five. Most other situations break even, I believe – but I'm prepared to be put right!

Jacob ducked the lead, while his counterpart in the other room did not, and that was 12 IMPs to Ware.

Brian Mace was calling for coffee after the next deal, where he had missed an easy play for his game, and needed an elegant recovery.

<b>Board 12</b>	♠J10876				
Dealer West	♥K753				
Vul:NS	♦A5				
	♣92				
♠A3		♠KQ952			
♥9	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♥J10864
N					
W E					
S					
♦K107632		♦---			
♣J1074		♣653			
	♠4				
	♥AQ2				
	♦QJ984				
	♣AKQ8				

Mace was South and balanced over a weak 2♦

on his left with 2NT, raised via 5-card Stayman to 3NT. Sally Murray-White led a top club (much better today than a small one). Mace won in hand and advanced ♦Q, West again doing well to duck. Too late Mace realized that he should have run the ♦9 at trick two and been cold thereafter.

He recovered by leading a low spade from hand, which Murray-White won to play a second diamond. East had pitched a spade then a club on the diamonds. Mace led a top spade from dummy, and Whiting won to shift to a heart. Mace won the ♥A in hand and cashed the clubs then ♥Q to strip West of her major suit cards, and threw her in with a club to lead a diamond into his tenace. After a similar start declarer missed the endplay on the defence, so WARE had another 12 IMPs, to win the match 48-10.

## Teams Qualifying 2

### Milne versus Hung

I was watching Sartaj Hans and Andy Hung for HUNG take on Liam Milne and James Coutts for MILNE. (In the other room the former saw Gosney - Smirnov play Mill - Nick Jacob for the latter).

<b>Board 15</b>	♠J97				
Dealer South	♥432				
Vul:NS	♦K8				
	♣AJ1043				
♠Q54		♠AK1062			
♥K987	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♥A
N					
W E					
S					
♦1096		♦QJ743			
♣Q87		♣K9			
	♠83				
	♥QJ1065				
	♦A52				
	♣652				

The first board out in the set saw a delicate 4♠ that could be beaten on a somewhat unlikely ruff, or a 4-1 trump break offside. Finding the ruff would be almost impossible unless a defender could open a lead-directing club in third seat, but not easy even after that. Hans did not have that available since he was playing a strong club and his opponents bid undisturbed to game, making 420 on a passive lead.

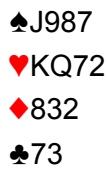


In the other room they settled for a partscore, so Milne broke out of the gate with 6 IMPs.

The next six deals saw nothing more than undertricks scored, and Milne still led 7-3 when the first real swing came along.

**Board 22** ♠AKQ102  
 Dealer East ♥AJ1084  
 Vul:EW ♦6  
 ♣J4

♠653 ♠4  
 ♥93 ♥65  
 ♦KQ9 ♦AJ10754  
 ♣AKQ95 ♣10862



West	North	East	South
Milne	Hans	Coutts	Hung
		pass	pass
1NT	2♣	2NT <sup>1</sup>	4♦
5♣	5♦	Pass	5♥

all pass  
 1. Diamonds

Coutts did spectacularly well to get clubs into play here. Had he just shown diamonds N/S might well have bought the hand at the four-level. Also, let's give Milne credit for going to the five-level. The fact that each five-level contract would have gone one down didn't seem all that significant. But in the other room E/W went to the well once too often and paid the penalty:

West	North	East	South
Smirnov	Mill	Gosney	Jacob
		2♦	Pass
2NT	3♦	3♠	4♦
5♦	5♥	Pass	Pass
6♣	dbl	6♦	dbl

all pass



The defenders collected a painless 500 here so Milne had 11 IMPs.

**Board 23** ♠9  
 Dealer South ♥K52  
 Vul:All ♦AQ1098  
 ♣K983

♠J6 ♠AK10753  
 ♥AQ10873 ♥64  
 ♦J ♦6532  
 ♣Q764 ♣5

♠Q842  
 ♥J9  
 ♦K74  
 ♣AJ102



On the next deal a light opener from Hung saw his side reach a close game where they played partscore in the other room after passing the 11-count in first seat. The 3NT contract Hung found himself in as South, on the ♠J lead depended on potentially both a diamond and club guess, but the fall of the ♦J obviated one guess, and a revealing auction meant that Hung was able to guess the play in the other suit to bring his game home. That closed the match to 18-14, but MILNE edged out the match with two more big swings.

**Board 25** ♠1075  
 Dealer North ♥1076  
 Vul:EW ♦A865  
 ♣J103

♠Q3 ♠A64  
 ♥QJ982 ♥A53  
 ♦KQ942 ♦7  
 ♣2 ♣KQ9754

♠KJ982  
 ♥K4  
 ♦J103  
 ♣A86



Put yourself in the North seat and cover up the West and South cards to see how you would have done here.

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♥	All pass

Your spade lead goes to partner's king. Back comes the ♦J, covered by declarer's ♦Q. You win the ♦A and...?

Time to look at the full hand. Hans returned a diamond, and declarer won cheaply in hand, unblocked spades, ruffed a diamond to dummy, pitched his club on ♠A, and played ♥A and another trump, claiming 10 tricks when the king popped.

Obviously Hans had to play a club before declarer's loser went away, but I'm not sure if that was so easy at the table. In the other room Smirnov did not give the defenders a chance to go wrong on the ♠10 lead. He flew with the ♠A to play a diamond and now there was no way for the defence to go wrong.

<b>Board 28</b>	♠K9		♠J10643
Dealer West	♥A764		♥K1093
Vul: NS	♦Q98		♦A53
	♣AJ65		♣K
♠Q85			
♥Q			
♦J642			
♣Q9872			
	♠A72		
	♥J852		
	♦K107		
	♣1043		

In one room Milne as West heard his partner show the majors over a 14-16 notrump and played 2♠. Hans found the diamond lead to set up two tricks for his side and now Milne had to play carefully to avoid defensive trump promotions to escape for down one. (But as the cards lie he was safe enough).

Not great, maybe: but in the other room Gosney as East heard Mill open a nebulous club. How strongly do you feel about the action here? I'm prepared to believe a double is reasonable, but as things developed it backfired terribly.

Jacob responded 1♥, raised to 2♥ and when this came back to Smirnov you can see why he felt like acting. Double would have got him to 2♠; his choice of 2NT for the minors saw Mill double, and now Jacob doubled the runout to 3♦. The

defenders got their spade ruff and two trump tricks to go with four plain winners and that was +500 and a 40-14 win for MILNE.

### Grateful for the tip

by Stephen Lester

I'm grateful to Justin Mill for reminding me about one of the standard agreements used by expert players over a splinter.

The agreement is to double the splinter bid to ask for (or suggest) a lead of the higher of the two other suits against a high-level contract.

Justin used the double of a sequence which started 1♥ (pass) 3♠ (dbl) to good effect when he was able to double 3♠ to ask for a diamond lead (he held a void in diamonds and ♣A). When he doubled 3♠ he could also double 6♥ for a diamond lead, scoring +100 instead of +50 for a 100% score in the open pairs.

Tip for players: this means that the opponents need to be on the ball, asking whether there are any agreements in place about such doubles.

That would scuttle the effect of the bid!





## Matchpoint play

At matchpoint duplicate, your goal is to outscore the other pairs who hold your cards. By how much you outscore them doesn't matter; just ten points is enough. If you play at 3NT, making four for +630, and your competitors take nine tricks for +600, or maybe some are at 4♠ for +620, you get a top.

Part of matchpoint technique is assessing your contract. If it appears to be "normal" – one every pair in the game will reach – then, strangely enough, whether you make what you bid is not the issue. What matters is how many tricks you win. So, you may take calculated risks for an overtrick. (It's different at IMP scoring. The goal there is to make your contract.)

You are declarer at this 3NT. The opening lead is the ♠Q. Is the contract normal? How would you play at IMPs? How would you play at matchpoints?

*South deals, NS vulnerable*

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

♠ A 4  
♥ Q J 10 5  
♦ K Q J  
♣ K J 6 5

West	North	East	South
	1NT	pass	3NT

all pass

You have two spade tricks and four clubs, and you can lose to the ♥A to set up three more. At IMPs

you would attack the hearts to guarantee your contract.

If you forced out the ♦A instead, you might make an overtrick. If the missing diamonds broke 3-2, you would have four diamonds, two spades and four clubs. But if the diamonds happened to break 4-1, you would have only eight tricks and the defenders could establish the spades and win at least five.

The contract is quite normal, and the diamonds will break evenly more than two-thirds of the time, so at matchpoints, you should try for the overtrick. Best is to win the first spade in dummy and lead a diamond. If you sneak by with a diamond trick, you can assure an overtrick by shifting to hearts.

How would you play 4♠ here?

*South deals, all vulnerable*

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

♠ A K J 9 5 3  
♥ A 5 2  
♦ 6 3  
♣ K 5

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Opening lead: ♣Q

East takes the ♣A and shifts to the ♥Q. You win with the king, draw trumps and lead a diamond: deuce, ten, queen. East leads a second heart to your ace. When you lead another diamond, West follows low.

At IMPs, you would take the ♦A and settle for ten tricks and your contract. But the contract is normal, and more often than not, a second diamond finesse with the jack will win, giving you a heart discard on the ♦A and an overtrick. Even though you are risking your contract, it is right to finesse again.




Assessing a contract as “normal” may not be so obvious, and some contracts will clearly be “abnormal.” For instance, if you play at a doubled contract, you might go all out to make it since going down even one trick might saddle you with a “bottom.”

**The best game**

by Barry Rigal

Liam Milne showed me a nice play by his partner James Coutts in the B Finals

**Board 4** ♠6  
 Dealer West ♥KQ532  
 Vul:All ♦9843  
 ♣865

♠Q8		♠K752
♥A74		♥1086
♦KQ10		♦A765
♣AK742		♣103
		♠AJ10943
		♥J9
		♦J2
		♣QJ9

West	North	East	South
Milne		Coutts	
1♣	pass	1♥	1♠
dbl	pass	1NT	pass
3NT	all pass		

Coutts reached 3NT on the lead of ♠10, promising an interior sequence. He won the ♠Q and ducked a club to South, who exited with the ♥J.

Coutts ducked this and won the next heart, then took the ♦KQ, dropping the jack, and ran clubs.

In the three-card ending North had to keep two diamonds to prevent declarer overtaking ♦10, so had to come down to just one top heart.

This is an example of a stepping-stone squeeze: James Coutts cashed the ♦10 then exited with a heart, and North had to lead to declarer’s ♦A at trick 13.




James

**Shooting the moon**

By Barry Rigal

Jane Dawson and Matt Smith didn’t set the world on fire in the C final but Matt gave me this deal to show that even a blind pig can find an acorn...

Board 14, Bobby Richman qualifying 2  
 East deals, nil vulnerable

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

East’s 3♦ opener saw Jane double for takeout, and when West bid 3NT, Matt doubled with some confidence. Reading this as responsive, Jane removed to 4♦ and Matt played 4♥x on spade 10 lead.



Matt and Jane

Matt let this run, and somewhat to his surprise ♠Q scored at trick one. He unblocked clubs and led a diamond to West’s queen. East pondered overtaking but decided not to, and West’s trump shift was won in dummy. Now came a trump to hand for a club ruff, diamond ruff, then a second club ruff, to produce this ending with the lead in dummy:

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

He now ruffed a diamond to hand, as West pitched a spade (leaving the defender with the master trump) then led a club. West won and had a trump to cash, but then had to return a spade

into the tenace. Contract made!

While there may have been other ways to make, this was surely the most elegant.



## 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](#) 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.

## Results Message Service

To obtain messages with your scores and next round seating .....

1. Go to Apple Store or Google Store your phone
2. Search for and download the MyABF app
3. Login (you will require your MyABF password)

Results will be sent to your app as soon as each round/session is scored.

	<p><b>Thursday 22nd</b></p> <p><b>Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre</b></p> <p><a href="https://gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/visit/margaret-olley-art-centre">https://gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/visit/margaret-olley-art-centre</a></p> <p>Lunch</p>  <p>Apex Dining Menu Spring 23_09.docx (2)</p>	<p><b>The Margaret Olley Art Centre (MOAC)</b> is the third and final stage of the Tweed Regional Gallery.</p> <p>MOAC celebrates the career, life and legacy of its namesake, <a href="#">Margaret Olley</a> – Australia's most celebrated painter of still life and interiors. Central to MOAC is the recreation of areas of Olley's famous home studio, principally the Hat Factory and the Yellow Room.</p> <p>Lunch at the Apex dining tearoom</p>	<p>Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach</p>	<p>10:30am – 4:30pm latest</p>	<p>Lunch and tea costs to be incurred by self</p> <p>\$30 bus</p>
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(that's an understatement) which is called... One requirement for that system might be YOUTH. (Ella is 29, Phil is 59).

My only chance to preempt against young players, (this time Finn Kolesnik and Adam Kaplan, right) at a higher level than normal came on Board 13 in final 2.

Playing a strong no trump on Board 13 with all vulnerable, Adam opened 1NT 15 – 17.

I figured I had the best suit possible, and this was my chance, so I bid 4♥. This got passed out, and thanks to Stephen's dummy, I made ten tricks for 100%. Most others made the more sensible bid of 3♥.

I'd be interested in any teacher's contribution on their view of modern preempting and what to teach their classes? And how to cope with preempts against you?



I mean the two, three and higher levels. I still believe it's better for regular players to be very conscious of vulnerability and suit quality, but do we loosen the requirements a bit?

One of Stephen Burgess's mantras which is only one of the things he's become famous for, is... open **any** 7-4 hand at game level. Doesn't matter which suits you have, just go for it. I am loving trying this out!



Lakshmi Sundersan & Fraser Rew Bobby Richman First Open C Grade



# UPDATE

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**    **Location: Upstairs opposite administration**  
**1.30–2.15pm**

Julian Foster (ABF) will give a short presentation about My ABF, some tips and tricks and what's planned next.

- Tips & tricks
  - your dashboard
  - using bridge credits
- Coming next
  - enhancements to Club Admin (membership & communications)
  - masterpoints

### **Club Panel Discussion**

We will follow with a short panel discussion with officials from clubs who have implemented My ABF to share their experiences. This includes use of the system for congresses, club events and club duplicates.

The panel includes:

- Jacqui Dudurovic (Northern Suburbs Bridge Club, Brisbane – now a member of the My ABF Steering committee)
- Siobhan Davies (Caloundra Contract Bridge Club)
- Paul Brake (Gold Coast Bridge Club)

If you can't attend in person more information can be found here:

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/>



## Tidbits from the IBPA Bulletin

by Barry Rigal

### Extracting your pound of flesh

Board 3, Bobby Richman Pairs final

South deals, EW vulnerable

<p>♠ K J 9 ♥ A K 4 3 2 ♦ 10 8 6 ♣ A Q</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">             N W E S           </div>	<p>♠ A 10 8 4 ♥ 9 5 ♦ A Q 4 ♣ K J 10 9</p>	<p>♠ Q 6 3 2 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ K 9 ♣ 5 4 3 2</p>
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Bach</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	

			pass
pass	1♥	dbl	2♥
pass	4♥	all pass	

Michael Whibley and Ashley Bach extracted their pound of flesh from Kim Morrison. Kim had overreached to play 4♥ from the North seat. Whibley led a trump, the ♥9 to the ♥8 and king. Declarer tried ♠K; Whibley won and pressed on with trumps, and now declarer ducked in dummy and won the king, then led a diamond up in this position:

<p>♠ 7 ♥ J ♦ J 7 5 3 2 ♣ 8 7 6</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">             N W E S           </div>	<p>♠ 10 8 4 ♥ --- ♦ A Q 4 ♣ K J 10 9</p>	<p>♠ Q 6 3 ♥ 10 ♦ K 9 ♣ 5 4 3 2</p>
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Normal defence sees East win the diamond ace and exit in diamonds, and declarer wins the king, crosses to the spade jack, ruffs a diamond, and can now exit in hearts.

Whatever suit West returns, declarer can arrange to run his trumps and squeeze East in the black suits to make his game. But Whibley crossed him up by inserting the ♦Q on the first round of the suit!

When Morrison took the king and played a second diamond Bach hopped up with the jack and drew the last trump, then exited in diamonds. When declarer misguessed the ending he was two down, and the defenders had 25/26 MPs.



## 2024 Vilnius Cup

The Vilnius Cup is scheduled to take place from September 27 to 29, 2024 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The event will be held at the Vilnius Park Plaza Hotel.

If you're a bridge enthusiast, mark your calendar for this exciting tournament!

For details go to

[Vilnius Cup - 2024 - BridgeScanner](#)





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## ABF Foundation donates \$2400 to Under 26 Women's Bridge Team

On Monday evening I had the pleasure of handing a cheque for \$2400 to the Under 26 Women's team which will contest the World Transnational Championships in Wroclaw, Poland later this year.

From my time as an athlete, I know how hard it is to fund training and competitions to pursue your dream of representing your country so I am especially pleased that the ABF Foundation is able to assist these talented and wonderful young women in their quest to become stars of the future.

When the Foundation was established, our goal was to support the development of bridge to ensure the continuity of the game we all love. I can think of no better way to fulfil that goal than by providing financial assistance to a group of aspiring young players.

If you would like to help the ABF Foundation support this and other development activities, you can make a donation directly to the Foundation or bid for one of our fantastic expert players in our annual Pro-Am tournament which will be held on March 5 on *RealBridge*. Visit our website at [abffoundation.org.au](http://abffoundation.org.au) for more information.



Jasmine Skeate and Kate Macdonald receiving the cheque from Kim Frazer



### Tomorrow . . .

The famous words of Margaret Mitchell, uttered so wistfully by Scarlett O'Hara: "Tomorrow is another day" often ring in my ears after a poor day at the office.

Friend Barbara Backshall, once a member of my club in Victoria and now a proud member of Yamba Bridge Club hoped for better things today.

She and partner Anne Kelly seemed to have had nothing but good boards, but stayed stubbornly at the bottom of the field in Section F of the Bobby Richman Open Pairs on Monday.

There had been a glitch in the scoring, so on Tuesday when they arrived at the venue they were thrilled to find they had soared to second place, and were given a handsome prize, honour and glory which made up for the disappointment of the day before.







# **Ballina Bridge Club Swiss Pairs Congress April 27 & 28, 2024**



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All players are subject to the NSWBA’s Congress Disciplinary Regulations.

**Ballina Bridge Club**  
Website: <https://ballinabridge.org.au>





Chris Scott & Denise Donald 1st Under 500  
Monday Butler Swiss Pairs



Steve Colling & Mary Colling 2nd Under 500  
Monday Butler Swiss Pairs



Sonja Ramsund & Kate Gargan 3rd Under 500  
Monday Butler Swiss Pairs



Derek Evennett & Judy McLeod 1st Open Monday  
Butler Swiss Pairs



Hamid Sadigh & Siamak Parsanejad 2nd Open  
Monday Butler Swiss Pairs



Viv Wood and Sue Lusk, best women's pair in the  
Bobby Richman Open Pairs





Andy Hung, Celebrity Speaker today

### Farewell Ray Ellaway

How could Ray not have a paragraph on his own? He has worked the event as long as I have, which is 28 plus years. He has done and is still doing nearly every job that needs doing at the GCC. When he was struck down with a brain tumour some years ago, we had to find replacements and the 10 people that we found are still assisting in different capacities as Ray is in remission, if you can call it that. Ray and I are a team and preparing for the 2025 event will start two weeks after this one finishes. We are not leaving the event, we will both be very heavily involved BUT not on-site. The long days do not do our health any good nor does the physical aspect of it all. He and I won't be playing in 2025 however we will be there in 2026.



Have you listened to [Sorry, Partner](https://sorrypartner.com/episodes)? Sorry, Partner is a FUN podcast about bridge, produced right here in Australia. You can find [Sorry, Partner](https://sorrypartner.com/episodes) at <https://sorrypartner.com/episodes> or wherever you get your podcasts. Previous episodes feature many local and international guests. Fun for all levels.







The number of years service to the Gold Coast Congress shared by the five people above is over 125 years. From left to right Sarah Jane Reid, Kim Ellaway and Ray, Pam Cridland and Gerald Schaaf



Celebrity Speaker Will Jenner-O'Shea's interactive session



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