Bulletin 1 Sunday October 19th

2025 Spring Nationals

Day 2 is over, and it has been exciting so far.

The Open Teams Championship is down to 4 **No Loss** undefeated teams, who play two more rounds of Knockout to determine which team gets the priceless "beach day" on Tuesday. Good luck to Hung, Gumby, Dalley and McCallum.

There are 16 teams in the **One Loss** division, and by the end of Monday there will be 6 teams qualifying for the Quarterfinal.

The **Plate** has started with some teams in a Round Robin Pool, and others in a Knockout moving towards the Round of 16.

The **Shield Swiss Teams** begins on Monday as well.

The **Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies Intermediate Teams** finished on Sunday evening, and the undefeated winners were the **Poynten Team** (Michael Young - Mary Poynten - Tony White - Martin Clear). They are pictured right with convenor Shannon.





The Fixed Income Solutions Novice Teams winners were the Sunter Team (Melissa Iverach - John Fitzpatrick - Andy Sunter - Anne-Marie Kelly (absent)).

They are pictured here with Shannon

The **Fixed Income Solutions Restricted Teams** winners were the **Payne Team** (Cia Benecke – Kim Dalling – Merle Payne – Anthony Smuts) but ran off before they had their pictures taken.



The Open Teams Championship

No Loss

Hung v Gumby Dalley v McCallum

One Loss

Wilkinson v Askew Milne v Geddes Foster v Squeeze My Hand Kozakos v Clifford Mill v Assaee Brightling v Cox Jacob v Mundell Travis v Immigrated



The Plate

There are 16 teams playing in a Group Stage Round Robin.

The top team in each joins the Plate Round of 16. Unsuccessful teams join the Shield.

Group J: Bloom- Tobin- Rennie- Bugeia

Group K: Scudder- Milward- Rocks- Cusack

Group L: Leibo- Cendrawasih- Cameron- Edginton

Group M: Watkins- 3NT W/O Stopper- Cransberg- Bartoli

There are 12 Teams playing in the Knockout Qualifying A

Watts v Elich

Coats v Demarco

Bolt v Hughes

Bodycote v Sharp

Hoffman v 6NT Making

Dowling v Krochmalik

The Winners play one more Knockout to join the Plate Round of 16. Unsuccessful teams join the Shield.







Intermediate, Restricted and Novice Teams

The Intermediate, Restricted and Novice Teams played in one field in an eightround Swiss and the winners overall were the Poynten team, who were undefeated, and more than 20 VPs ahead going into the last match.

There are 2-session Under-300 and Over-300 Matchpoint Pairs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, as well as the new Mini-Monday for players new to Congresses.

Intermediate, Restricted and Novice Teams Final Results

Place	Name		Total
1	<u>POYNTEN</u>	M Young, M Poynten, T White, M Clear	125.7
2	<u>HARDIMAN</u>	A Grace, D Marshall, J Cummings, F Hardiman	99.12
3	SHTEYMAN	K Brien, M Carter, F Shteyman, S Feeney	92.54
4	<u>SCHMIDT</u>	P Schmidt, J Rivers, S Carter, N Gillies	92.43
5	DRAKE	K Irvine, J Morgan, G Mckenzie, P Drake	90.68
6	CUMMING	I Jamieson, M Morrissey, G Chick, D Cumming	90.15
7	DAVEY	A Handley, C Davey, T Hesketh, T Georgeson	89.28
7	<u>MCNEE</u>	R La Marra, G Mcnee, S Cutsforth, R Mcnee	89.12
9	<u>MEYERS</u>	M Lokan, C Lokan, K Meyers, F Fawcett	88.43
10	RIPLEY	D Cohen, M Box, M Ripley, K Hubbell	85.12
11	<u>ROGERS</u>	M Regan, R Rogers, P Caust, A Bustany	82.33
12	MALES	D Burton, P Lyons, D Williams, W Males	79.26
13	<u>SUNTER</u>	A Kelly, A Sunter, M Iverach, J Fitzpatrick	75.86
14	<u>HARDING</u>	K Balkin, R Harding, A Olszewski, P Crew	73.01
15	<u>NELAN</u>	B Nelan, P Cloke, C Hanley, C Mietzke	71.24
16	<u>PAYNE</u>	C Benecke, K Dalling, M Payne, A Smuts	69.76
17	<u>DAVIS</u>	L Kanetkar, G Davis, L Tonkin, J Biscoe	69.09
18	BONIC	S Rose, R Fingret, C Bonic, L Onstein	67.56
19	CATHCART	T Berry, S Cathcart, J Paterson, M Paterson	62.38
20	<u>LAKOTA</u>	D Brazier, M Lakota, M Green, S Marton	59.42
21	<u>CLOUSTON</u>	C Gregory, B Clouston, C Webb, C Szenczy	57.31
22	<u>PAREKH</u>	M Doyle, M Parekh, S Schon, P Stebbing	50.21

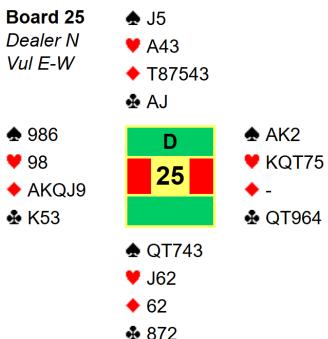




Discarding An Ace To Defeat A Contract

Martin Clear from the Intermediate winning team reported this excellent defence that his opponent's found against him.

Intermediate Teams Match Two:



Martin was East playing against Sandy Carter (North) and Nerida Gillies (South).

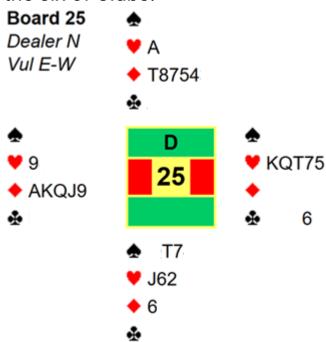
Martin bid to 3NT East on the following auction:

W	N	E	S
	Р	1♥	Р
2	Р	3♣	Р
3♠*	Р	3NT	//

South led the Fourth-Highest Spade to North's Jack and Martin's Ace. He tried to get to those juicy Diamonds in Dummy by playing a Club to the King, but North won the Ace and returned a Spade.

Martin ducked this one, won the next and played Clubs noting the Jack drop from North.

As he ran his Club winners, he arrived in this position, and he led the six of Clubs.



Sandy, North, could see the running Diamonds in Dummy, and worked out that she was about to be endplayed with her Ace of Hearts, so she discarded it!

That play would work so long as South had the King, Queen, or Jack of Hearts, and Nerida had just a good enough Heart to win the lead and two more Spades to defeat 3NT.

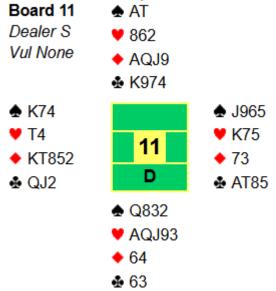
Great Discard Sandy!





Card Reading By Liam Milne

Liam played in 4H after opening 1NT and a Stayman auction.



East led the Seven of Diamonds at trick one (3rd and low), and West agonised a little before reluctantly playing the King. It was clear to Liam that West knew that the Diamonds were well placed for Declarer, so they were likely to hold all of the missing spot cards.

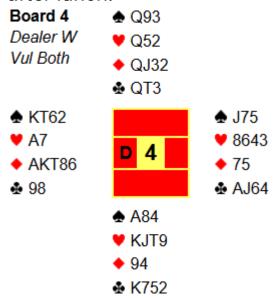
Liam finessed a Heart, and then played a Spade to his Ten, losing to the Jack. He won the Heart return and backed his read about the opening lead, so played a Diamond to the Nine!

When that won, he could use the Diamonds to discard his two Club losers and make 11 tricks.

Bidding game was worth 7 IMPs when the other table played 2H.

Inspired by Liam

After hearing Liam's great play during the lunch break, I was inspired to try some card reading after lunch.



I played in 1NT by West and North led the Two of Diamonds at trick one.

I played low from Dummy, South played their Nine, and I won the Ten It was likely that North had led from a four-card suit (the Two, fourthhighest) and that South had played their highest Diamond (the Nine).

Channelling Liam, I led the Six of Diamonds back at trick two. North carefully, looked this at decided to play low, hoping for something that never transpired. I win the Seven of Diamonds to else's pleasure and everyone disappointment North's and managed to lose no Diamond tricks.

Useful Conventions With Will - Giorgio Part 1 of 4

If our team overcalls at the one-level, and there is no bid in between, we can use a **Weak Jump Raise** to compete, or a **Cue Raise** to invite game.

Here is an example auction:

W N E S (1♦) 1♥ (P) 2♦

South is showing an invitational or batter hand, with a Heart fit.

If North has a great overcall, say 13 or 14+ points, then they can bid to game in Hearts.

If they have less than that, they can sign off on $2 \checkmark$.

Depending on how weak North might overcall 1♥, South might still not know what to do next.

If North signs off in 2♥, they might have as few as 7 or 8 points, or up to 12 if they have an uninspiring hand.

Should South bid again if they have 11 points, 13, 15?

Getting to the three-level and going off by one when you could win the bidding at the two-level is a real shame and should be avoided.

There is a great convention that can help to solve this problem, and it was suggested to me in an article written by Italian star **Giorgio Duboin**, and so I call it **Giorgio**. In Response to a 1♥ or 1♠ overcall, the Responder to the overcall uses 2♣ as an artificial enquiry about the overcall, usually it is a Cue Raise, through can be used to show other strong hands (Part 2, next Bulletin). Over a 2♣ Giorgio Enquiry, the overcaller has a few options:

They can bid **2-of-their-suit** to shows that it is a **very minimum** overcall (typically 7 – 10 points). Advancer is warned to stay low.

The Overcaller can **bid** 2◆* as an artificial bid showing around 11 – 13 points. Not accepting the invite, but a sound overcall. The Advancer can still bid 2♠ and stop there, or maybe bid higher.

If the Overcaller has around 14+ points, they can accept the invite and bid to game, possibly bidding something else along the way.

One advantage of using Giorgio Responses to an Overcall is that you can overcall 1 or 1 nore aggressively, knowing that your team can usually invite and stop at the two-level. Overcalling a suit at the one-level is usually a low risk and high reward situation!





Grand Bidding in the Qualifying

Slam Bidding is worth a lot of IMPs, but one area that a lot of people find tricky is slam bidding in minors. Much of the early auction is devoted to looking for Majors, and then no-Trumps, that many people miss the chance to find a great contract in Clubs or Diamonds.

Here was Board 7, from Match 3 of the Qualifying.

tne Qualityin	g.	
Board 7	♠ QT93	
Dealer S	♥ J75	
Vul Both	♦ J74	
	♣ Q93	
♠ A		♣ J842
¥ 32	-	♥ AK98
◆ KT862	7	♦ AQ9
♣ AJT87	D	♣ K4
	♠ K765	
	♥ QT64	
	♦ 53	
	♣ 652	

One successful pair was Sophie Ashton and Maurits van der Vlugt, both freshly back from the World Bridge events in Denmark. They had the following auction:

W	N	E	S
Maurits		Sophie	Р
1♦	Р	1♥	Р
2♣	Р	2♠*	Р
3♣	Р	3♦	Р
3♠	X	Р	Р
XX	Р	4♣	Р
4	Р	4NT	Р
5 ♦	Ρ	7 ♦	//

The $1 \blacklozenge$, $1 \blacktriangledown$ and $2 \clubsuit$ bids were just natural and most people started the same way. 24 was Fourth-suit Game forcing, and **3** Diamonds as trumps. The 3♠ bid was a Control, and North found an interesting lead-directing Double. Sophie was able to pass which allowed Maurits to Re-Double to show that it was a first round Control (Ace or void). Sophie was unstoppable now and asked for Keycards and found partner with 3. She hoped he had the Jack of Diamonds or the Queen of Clubs as well, but this hand was enough. With trumps and Clubs behaving they had 13 tricks and 17 IMPs.

Editor's note: My auction was basically the same, but with no lead directing Double. The key on the hand is pushing past 3NT into Diamonds at IMPs.





Spring Nationals Open Teams Pool Results

The one-day Round Robin was played on Saturday, with the teams seeded into 8 pools of 6 teams each. The top two qualifiers moved into the Knockout stage with **No Losses** even though actually only five teams achieved no losses. Congratulations on qualifying with a clean sheet to Hung, Kozakos, Gumby, Dalley, and Milne. All other qualifiers lost one or two matches, except for the remarkable Cox team who scraped into the top two with only two wins and three losses.

All other starters join the Knockout event with **One Loss**. Here are the Pool finishing positions.

Pool A

Place	Name	Total
1	<u>HUNG</u>	87.28
2	KROCHMALIK	70.91
3	BLOOM	45.48
4	COATS	39.6
5	CENDRAWASIH	30.21
6	BARTOLI	26.52

Pool B

Place	Name	Total
1	<u>TRAVIS</u>	79.05
2	MILL	76.02
3	CLIFFORD	56.23
4	<u>HOFFMAN</u>	39.63
5	WATTS	38.86
6	SHARP	10.21



Hung v "Immigrated"



Travis v McCallum





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Pool C

Place	Name	Total
1	KOZAKOS	82.2
2	<u>FOSTER</u>	63
3	<u>ASKEW</u>	55.3
4	<u>LEIBO</u>	50.23
5	<u>CRANSBERG</u>	35.51
6	ROCKS	13.76

Pool D

Place	Name	Total
1	GUMBY	77.65
2	COX	60.03
3	<u>HUGHES</u>	58.67
4	BODYCOTE	43.23
5	<u>RENNIE</u>	33.1
6	EDGINTON	27.32



Gumby v Mundell



Mill v Wilkinson



McCallum v Travis

Pool E

Place	Name	Total
1	DALLEY	85.85
2	MUNDELL	76.82
3	<u>DEMARCO</u>	52.56
4	MILWARD	30.98
5	3NT W/O STOPPER	28.03
6	BUGEIA	25.76

Pool F

Place	Name	Total
1	<u>JACOB</u>	72.83
2	<u>BRIGHTLING</u>	67.85
3	SQUEEZE MY HAND	59.74
4	DOWLING	54.31
5	<u>ASSAEE</u>	35.41
6	CUSACK	9.86

Pool G

Place	Name	Total
1	MCCALLUM	83.3
2	WILKINSON	60.65
3	GEDDES	51.84
4	BOLT	41.56
5	TOBIN	40.97
6	ELICH	21.68

Pool H

Place	Name	Total
1	MILNE	76.94
2	<u>IMMIGRATED</u>	62.89
3	WATKINS	57.69
4	SCUDDER	50.71
5	<u>6NT MAKING</u>	37.83
6	CAMERON	13.94





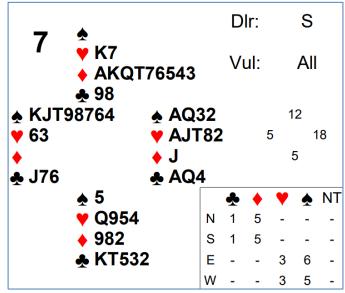
The Law Of Total Tricks

The Law of Total Tricks is a guideline that says:

"The total amount if tricks in a hand is approximately equal to the total number of trumps each teams holds". If North-South have an 8 card Heart fit and East-West have a 9 card Spade fit, then there are 17 total tricks available. If East-West can make 10 tricks in Spades, North-South are likely to make 7 tricks in their Hearts.

If both teams have 8 cards fits, it suggests bidding to the two-level, and perhaps one team should try competing to the three-level. If both teams have 9 card fits, then the bidding probably belongs at the three-level.

The Law of Total tricks is reasonably accurate at the two- and three-levels, but often falls apart with more extreme shapes. Martin Clear reported this deal from the Intermediate teams, Match 2:



North-South have TWELVE Diamonds, almost unheard of. East-West have TWELVE Spades!

The law of Total Tricks suggests that this will be a wild hand, and so it was.

North-South bid up to 5♦, in some cases Doubled and making.

East-West competed to 5♠, pushing some North-South's to 6♠ (sometimes Doubled).

North-South make 11 tricks, losing 2 Aces.

East can make 12 tricks in Spades, with the Club suit protected from the opening lead, but West will go down on a Club lead.







Convenor Shannon in one of her fabulous outfits!



A very full, but light and spacious room



Bridge NSW's Michael Green Welcomes us all to the Spring Nationals



Trophies



Intermediate Teams Second place, the Hardiman team.





NEW LOOK FOR THE AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPION-SHIPS 2026: COME TO ADELAIDE

The 2026 Autumn National Championship will now include a two or three-day Matchpoint Pairs event, will qualifying, semi-final and final.

The Teams events will be held first, on Wednesday and Thursday 29th and 30th April, with the Open Teams final being held on Friday 1st May. The Open Teams finalist will each receive prize money; subject to sufficient entries, the first-placed team will win \$3,000 and second will earn \$1,500.

The other categories for the Teams events are:

Under Grand Master Teams (all non-Grand Masters, up to a maximum of 1,100 MPs per player), Under Life Master Teams (all non-Life Masters, up to a maximum of 400 MPs per player). The masterpoint limits apply at the 31st December 2025. Those two events have \$1,000 first-place prize money on offer.

Whilst the final of the Open Teams is being held, we will be offering two new events: the Australian Blue Ribbon Pairs – a matchpoint pairs event, with masterpoints being awarded for all scores of 46+% per session, with separate categories (only the Open starts on Friday 1st May),

a one-day Butler Swiss Pairs event for restricted players – Under Grand Master, Under Life Master (with the same limits as above), Novice (under 100 MPs per player) and Rookie (under 35 MPs per player).

The Australian Blue Ribbon (ABR) Pairs will have three categories:

Open – which is a three-day matchpoint pairs event – qualifying, semi-finals, final

Under Grand Master – a two-day event – qualifying and final

Under Life Master – a two-day event – qualifying and final

In the Open event, the Teams finalists will have automatic entry to the ABR Pairs, including carryforward. The semi-finals will be divided into two fields, A and B. Two pairs from the B semi-final will qualify for the final.

In all events, those who do not qualify for the final will have a Consolation field offered, with the format and prizes to be determined by the number of entries.

Subject to sufficient entries, there will be very attractive prize money available. The Open place-getters will earn themselves \$5,000 for first, \$2,000 for second, \$1,000 for third, with additional awards for the best Women's, Senior and SA pairs (not place-getters). The restricted events offer \$1,000 and \$500 for first and second place.

Come along and support this innovative event! You may find yourself in the money.

Barbara Travis
Tournament Organiser
email: anot@sabf.asn.au

and

phone: 0437 919 928



AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wednesday 29th April to Sunday 3rd May 2026

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

WHAT'S NEW:

- New format: Teams (Wed, Thurs) then Pairs (Fri, Sat, Sun)
- New event: Australian Blue Ribbon Pairs (matchpoints)
 Masterpoints awarded for all scores of 46+%
- New daily starting time: I 0am
- PQPs awarded for Open Teams and ABRP Open Pairs

Chief Director: Laurie Kelso

Organiser: Barbara Travis
Email: anot@sabf.asn.au

Early Bird Discount ends on 31st March 2026









2026 AUTUMN NATIONALS PROGRAM

TEAMS EVENTS

TBIB OPENTEAMS STEPBRIDGE UNDER LIFE MASTER TEAMS STEPBRIDGE UNDER GRAND MASTER TEAMS

Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30 April (attendance at both days compulsory) 8 x 14 board matches

TBIB OPEN TEAMS Final

Friday Ist May

PAIRS EVENTS

DAVID LUSK ROOKIE PAIRS (Under 35 MPs)

Friday Ist May (only) 6 x 8 board matches

ONE DAY RESTRICTED BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

Novice (Under 100 MPs), Under Life Master, Under Grand Master Friday Ist May (only) 6 x 8 board matches

AUSTRALIAN BLUE RIBBON OPEN PAIRS

Friday I^{st} (Qualifying), Saturday 2^{nd} (Semi Final) and Sunday 3^{rd} May (Final)

BLUE RIBBON UNDER LIFE MASTER PAIRS BLUE RIBBON UNDER GRAND MASTER PAIRS

Saturday 2nd (Qualifying) and Sunday 3rd May (Final)

To enter or for more information, see MyABF (from Nov 2025)

Organiser: Barbara Travis Email: anot@sabf.asn.au Phone: 0437 919 928



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BOOKS

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SUPPLIES

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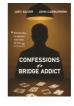
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