

Bulletin 3
Friday October 24th

2025 Spring Nationals

The Milne Team Wins the Open Teams



Congratulations to the Milne team. **Dave Wiltshire, James Coutts, Jess Brake, Shane Harrison, Liam Milne and Susan Humphries.**

Dave Wiltshire has won this event three years in a row with five different partners and ten different teammates.



Runners Up: **Sartaj Hans, Jamie Thompson, Ben Thompson, (Absent Andy Hung),** with Convenor Shannon.

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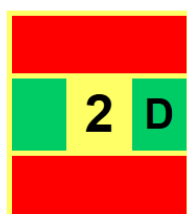
Open Teams Final Report

The Hung team started with a 7.5 IMP carry forward for being the higher ranked team.

The Milne team won a big swing and gained the lead on the second board of the match .

Board 2 ♠ KQ872
Dealer E ♥ K974
Vul N-S ♦ K
 ♣ T85

♠ J5
 ♥ Q
 ♦ Q8643
 ♣ J9762



♠ AT3
 ♥ AT8532
 ♦ T
 ♣ AK4

♠ 964
 ♥ J6
 ♦ AJ9752
 ♣ Q3

W	N	E	S
<i>Ben</i>	<i>Liam</i>	<i>Jamie</i>	<i>James</i>
--	--	3♦	3♥
5♦	5♥	P	6♥

James chose a 3♥ overcall, which Liam raised over the 5♦ bid. With six Hearts, a singleton Diamond, and a little bit of hope, James raised to 6♥ which easily makes on reasonable breaks in Hearts and Spades.



James Coutts

W	N	E	S
<i>Jess</i>	<i>Andy</i>	<i>Susan</i>	<i>Sartaj</i>
--	--	3♦	X
5♦	X	//	

Sartaj chose to Double the 3♦ opening, and Andy chose to Double the 5♦ raise. This ended the bidding and 5♦ was only three down for -500 and 14 IMPs.



Sartaj Hans

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Open Teams Final Report

The Hung Team won a slam swing on this hand from the second set, where the East's showed their hand differently, resulting in different contracts.

Board 27

Dealer S

Vul None

♠ T6

♥ 3

♦ KT83

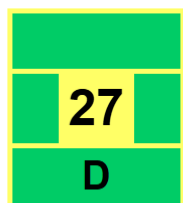
♣ AQJ532

♠ 32

♥ AKQ94

♦ A95

♣ T96



♠ AKQJ875

♥ JT65

♦ 7

♣ 8

♠ 94

♥ 872

♦ QJ642

♣ K74

W	N	E	S
Ben	Liam	Jamie	James
1♥	2♣	2NT*	3♣
P	P	3♠*	P
4♦	P	4NT*	P
5♦	P	6♥	//

Jamie bid 2NT as a good Heart raise, and then showed his Spade cue on the next round, and when his partner co-operated, he was off to the races. He asked for Keycards, found 3, and bid Ben to 6♥ making easily.

W	N	E	S
Dave	Andy	Shane	Sartaj
1♥	2♣	2♠	3♣
P	4♣	4♥	//

Shane bid his incredible Spade suit first, but when the auction was at 4♣ on his second bid, and he bid to 4♥, neither East nor West knew to go higher.

Andy Hung made a great competitive 4♣ bid.



Dave and Shane sat out during the third set.

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Open Teams Final Report

This hand had quite a few differences, the bidding, the lead and the play. The result was 12 IMPS to Milne when Jess Brake made 4♠ and Ben Thompson was down by one.

Board 12 ♠ A76

Dealer W ♥ T643

Vul N-S ♦ KT3

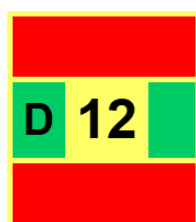
♣ T32

♠ JT983

♥ J75

♦ J654

♣ K



♠ KQ2

♥ A9

♦ AQ72

♣ QJ85

♠ 54

♥ KQ82

♦ 98

♣ A9764

W	N	E	S
Jess	Andy	Susan	Sartaj
2♠*	P	4♠	//



Jess Brake opened a "modern style" Weak two in Spades, and Andy led a low Diamond from North, which Jess ran

around to her hand. She lost a Club and Spade, and suffered a Diamond ruff, but pitched her Hearts and made 10 tricks.

W	N	E	S
Ben	Liam	Jamie	James
P	P	1♦	P
1♠	P	2NT	P
3♣*	P	3♠	P
4♠	//		

Ben passed (!) and they had a constructive auction to the same 4♠ contract. On this auction, Liam chose to lead a Heart instead, which established a Heart trick right away for the defence. Ben setup his Clubs, losing the Ace along the way, and discarded a Heart on the Clubs. He lost the Ace of trumps, but when he played a Diamond, he had to lose one. Although the King is onside, the Nine and Ten are annoyingly the setting trick.



Susan Humphries

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Open Teams Final Report

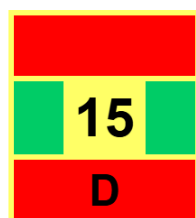
This was the first board of the fourth quarter and had a huge penalty and reasonable swing to get things rolling.

Board 15

Dealer S
Vul N-S

♠ KJ763
♥ AQ83
♦ KQ32
♣ -

♠ QT984
♥ J
♦ A98
♣ A943



♠ A
♥ K7642
♦ 765
♣ KQJ7

♠ 52
♥ T95
♦ JT4
♣ T8652

Andy and Sartaj bid to 6♥ by South, with West overcalling 1♠, and no further competition. North showed a Club void along the way, and with the Ace of Clubs able to be trumped when Clubs were played, they managed to make 13 tricks and +1430 to the Hung team.

At the other table, South opened 1♥, West overcalled 1♠ and North bid a 4♣ splinter. Jamie, East, Doubled to show some Clubs. Later, West competed in Clubs, but North-South still managed to bid to 6♥. Jamie took a view that 6♥ would likely make, and tried 7♣ which was Doubled.

Liam led the King of Diamonds at trick one, which looks like a poor start to the defence, but when he later won the Queen of Diamonds, James played the Seven and then Six of Diamonds as a suit preference for Spades, so Liam was able to play a Spade to James, win a Heart back, and play the King of Spades allowing James to discard his Diamond, so the maximum penalty was achieved and -1700 for the Hung team, and a loss of 7 IMPs



Jamie Thompson tried a seven-level sacrifice, but was one trick too much .

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Open Teams Final Report

This hand had quite a swing in it, and contains a few instructional points.

Board 20

Dealer W

Vul Both

♠ AKT3

♥ 9

♦ QJ73

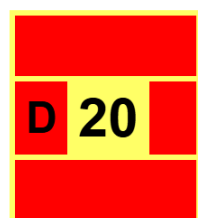
♣ AJ53

♠ 98

♥ AK652

♦ A82

♣ 872



♠ Q7654

♥ T

♦ KT95

♣ T94

♠ J2

♥ QJ8743

♦ 64

♣ KQ6

The auction at one table was

W

N

E

S

Dave

Andy

Shane

Sartaj

1♥

X

1♠

1NT

P

3NT

//

3NT was down by one trick.



Ben Thompson

At the other table, there was less bidding but more action.

W

N

E

S

Ben

Liam

Jamie

James

1♥

X

P!

P!!

P!!!

Jamie didn't respond with his minimum hand, James passed the double of 1♥ and left it for penalties, and Ben didn't run from 1♥ Doubled. The play started with Liam leading the Nine of Hearts, which helped James know that his suit was great. Declarer played a Spade, and Liam won, while James gave even count with the Two.

Liam knew that Declarer had the Ace and King of Hearts, and one more high card. Not knowing whether it was the King of Clubs or

Ace of Diamonds, Liam found a play likely to cater for both. He led a low Diamond. Declarer was likely to play him for Ace anyway, and this wouldn't establish too many tricks in Diamonds before James would be able to trump a Diamond.





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Mixed Teams Qualifying

Here are the scores after the 8 rounds of 14 boards.

The top 4 Qualify for the Semi-Final Tomorrow, and the winners of that play off in a 56-board final on Sunday.

The Top Qualifying Team – **Morgan** (Lauren Morgan, Liam Milne, Sophie Ashton, James Coutts) – contains some players from the Open Teams Final, and they dropped into the Mixed Teams after 4 rounds, and managed to win three matches and top the field.

They chose **Mundell** (Andrew Peake, Joan Butts, Giselle Mundell, Peter Buchen) as their Semi-Final opponent.

Ella Jacob's team (Zachary Yan, Lysandra Zheng, Ella Jacob, Andrew Spooner) will take on the **Lazer** team (Axel Johannsson, Kate McCallum, Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby).

Good luck to all the players over the next two days!

You can watch the Vugraph coverage of the Semi-Final and Final on Real Bridge.

Gumby Lazer Mixed Team Final Scores – Top Ten

Place	Name	Win	Draw	Loss	Total
1	<u>MORGAN</u>	3	0	1	102
2	<u>JACOB E</u>	4	2	2	99.4
3	<u>MUNDELL</u>	6	0	2	98.8
4	<u>LAZER</u>	4	0	4	95.4
5	<u>DALLEY</u>	5	1	2	94.2
6	<u>KOZAKOS</u>	6	0	2	93.6
7	<u>REYNOLDS</u>	4	0	4	91.9
8	<u>BLOOM</u>	2	0	2	87.2
9	<u>VAN DER VLUGT</u>	1	0	3	85.6
10	<u>JACOB N</u>	4	1	3	78.8

Useful Conventions With Will – Giorgio Part 3 of 4

In Part 2 of our Giorgio series, we discussed using Giorgio on strong balanced hands.

You can also use Giorgio with very strong unbalanced hands. before we get to that, here are two example auctions that don't have a Giorgio bid in them, but need some discussion.

W	N	E	S
(1♣)	1♥	(P)	<u>1♠</u>

W	N	E	S
(1♣)	1♥	(P)	<u>2♦</u>

Here is a question that many partnerships won't have discussed, is a change of suit by responder to an overcall forcing, or not?

Is South's 1♠ change of suit forcing? What if they had bid 2♦, not a jump, but a two-level change of suit, forcing or not?

Some people play that a change of suit is nearly forcing, which works fine until the Advancer picks up an outrageously strong hand and is too nervous to bid 2♦ and play there.

I recommend that a **new suit at the one- and three-level is forcing** by the responder to an overcall, but that a **new suit at the two-level is not forcing** (whether it was a two-over-one or a two-over-two response).

You might have guessed it, but our good friend **Giorgio** can help us out once again.

You can use the **2♣* Giorgio Enquiry** with a very very strong unbalanced hand. If they have around 17 or 18+ points they can start with 2♣.

The overcaller will nearly always have a terrible overcall and bid 2♥ (repeating their suit shows 7 – 10 points). If the Responder now bids a new suit, I recommend that it is 100% forcing, and denies a fit for the overcall.

Responder should be conservative with a misfitting hand, but sometimes, rarely, they will want to go looking for a game in their own suit.

You and your partner should have an agreement about whether a change of suit is forcing after your team has made an overcall.

It is a remarkably common, yet undiscussed situation.

Using the Giorgio 2♣ Enquiry you can play changes of suit as constructive, but non-forcing and use the 2♣ and bid on with a Game Forcing hand of your own.

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Thursday-Friday Open Pairs

The Two-Day Butler Pairs finished today, and Congratulations to the winners of the Open, **John and Charles McMahon**.



Open Butler Pairs Final Scores

Rank	Names	Total
1	<u>John MCMAHON – Charles MCMAHON</u>	116
2	<u>Paul WEAVER – Terry BODYCOTE</u>	110
3	<u>Richard MCAULIFFE – Leigh MATHESON</u>	104
4	<u>Anthony BURKE – Phil GUE</u>	101
5	<u>Mathew VADAS – Tony LEIBOWITZ</u>	96.7
6	<u>Carolyn MILLER – Paul LAVINGS</u>	96.5
7	<u>Rakesh KUMAR – Jake ANDREW</u>	96
8	<u>Marlene WATTS – Michael PRESCOTT</u>	92.9
9	<u>Janeen SOLOMON – Alison DAWSON</u>	92
10	<u>Kevin STEFFENSEN – James WALLIS</u>	88.5



Charles and John, with convenor Shannon in the middle. Matching hats, matching shirts, matching smiles.

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Thursday-Friday Intermediate Pairs

There was a separate Intermediate Pairs, congratulations to **Roy Bentley** and **Harish Patney**.



Intermediate Butler Pairs Final Scores

Rank	Names	Total
1	<u>Roy BENTLEY – Harish PATNEY</u>	116
2	<u>John CUMMINGS – Frank HARDIMAN</u>	115
3	<u>Shirley BETTMAN – Ludo ONSTEIN</u>	96.3
4	<u>Maeve DOYLE – Stuart SCHON</u>	93.4
5	<u>Esther LEE – Peter ROBINSON</u>	89
6	<u>Kelly BARBER – Leslie TREASURE</u>	87.2
7	<u>Gail MCKENZIE – Peta DRAKE</u>	85.2
8	<u>Felix SHTEYMAN – Susan FEENEY</u>	84.4
9	<u>Glenda MCNEE – Roger MCNEE</u>	81.8
10	<u>Sandy CARTER – Nerida GILLIES</u>	80.9



Runners up **John and Frank** getting their prizes from Shannon.

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Thursday-Friday Avi Kanetkar Restricted and Novice Pairs

There was a combined Avi Kanetkar Restricted and Novice Butler Pairs. The overall winners, and best Novice Pair were Tim Jackson and Shane Grogan.

The best Restricted Pair came second overall and were Oleg Glushchenko and Elena Rochtchina.

Novice and Restricted Butler Pairs Final Scores

Rank	Names	Total
1	<u>Tim JACKSON – Shane GROGAN</u>	107
2	<u>Oleg GLUSHCHENKO – Elena ROCHTCHINA</u>	102
3	<u>Louise COWAN – Susan BEZETTE</u>	101
4	<u>John FITZPATRICK – Orsolina ARONEY</u>	91.4
5	<u>Mark LYONS – Sue LYONS</u>	90.3
6	<u>Mark BLOXHAM – Owen AUBREY</u>	90.1
7	<u>Andy SUNTER – Melissa IVERACH</u>	90
8	<u>Caroline NICHOLS – Carolynne MUCHARSKY</u>	89.7
9	<u>Joseph CHENG – Zhan WAN</u>	89
10	<u>Michael JACKSON – Claire BONIC</u>	85.9

These two events were sponsored by Lalita Kanetker, on behalf of her late husband, Avi, who passed away earlier this year.

“Avinash Kanetkar, fondly remembered as simply “Avi” to all who knew him, passed away suddenly on the evening of 8th of March 2025. He was a true giant of the game of bridge, not only in Australia where he reached legendary status, but also internationally. He has won more than fifty national titles and represented Australia in both the Open and Seniors categories. He will be greatly missed by his family, the Indian community, the bridge fraternity and those who were fortunate to have made his friendship.”



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Winners of the Restricted Pairs were **Elena Rochtchina** and **Oleg Glushchenko**.

They are being presented their prizes from the Convenor, Shannon far left and Lalita Kanetkar far right.



Winners of the Novice Pairs were **Tim Jackson** and **Shane Grogan**.



The Winners of both categories played against each other in the final round. Tim and Shane won the final match by 10 IMPs and 13 VPS to 7.



Sue and Mark Lyons were second in the Novice Pairs.

Bad Breaks Not Enough To Stop Maurits

This hand cropped up in round 6 of the Mixed Teams Qualifying, and the Butler Pairs.

Board 25

Dealer N

Vul E-W

♠ -		
♥ AJT9		
♦ KJT3		
♣ AK853		
♠ K9754		♠ QJT3
♥ 87432		♥ -
♦ Q8		♦ 7652
♣ J		♣ QT642
♠ A862		
♥ KQ65		
♦ A94		
♣ 97		

Maurits Van Der Vlught was one of only three declarers in all of the events to bid and make 6♥

North opens 1♣ and South responds 1♥ and becomes the Declarer in 6♥.

If West finds a trump lead from their five-card trump suit, they can cut down the ability to ruff everything, but Maurits received the Jack of Clubs lead.

Maurits won the Ace of Clubs in Dummy, and immediately played the King back.

West trumped this, but they had a natural trump trick anyway, and this allowed Maurits to regain trump control.

West now played a Heart back, but Declarer was able to win the lead in Dummy and ruff two Clubs with his King and Queen of trumps.

He needed to finesse the Diamonds towards Dummy to use as entries to ruff Clubs, but with the Queen onside, he was able to win four Heart tricks in Dummy, four Diamonds eventually, the Ace of Spades, the Ace of Clubs and two high Club ruffs in his hand for 12 tricks.

Very well played, with just a little bit of good luck to counterbalance the terrible luck of the 5-0 trump break.

The datum in the Mixed Teams was just 100 points with three Declarers making slam, one making a game, and 12 failing in a variety of contracts.

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Gail holding court at the SN

I was strolling about this morning when I noticed something odd: a gathering of bridge players deep in conversation... and no invite for yours truly. A party, perhaps? A secret summit? A spontaneous post-mortem?

What do bridge players talk about when they think no one's listening? The missed slam on Board 7? The ethics of hesitations? Or—knowing Sachiko's a keen golfer—maybe the new airport at Mona Vale and whether it'll affect her backswing.



This morning's mystery gathering wasn't about missed slams, golf, or the grandkids' latest exploits. No, the real star of

the conversation? One of the cutest pooches you've ever seen.



Most events have had wine available as prizes. Shannon has taken great delight in choosing wines based on their names. Here are some:

Adventure Series, Smooth Operator, Four Sisters (Womens team), Match Made, Noble Fellows, Table Talk, Forever Young (Seniors team)

The Remarkables (Championship Teams), The Hero

The runners up received: Miles from nowhere or Next in line

Trainee Directors: The Future Is Calling

We shouldn't underestimate the role and importance of the trainee director. Let's face it—our current directors won't be around forever. Some will escape to tropical islands, some will retire with dignity, and some will simply vanish after one too many insufficient bids. We need fresh recruits before the rulebooks start gathering dust.

So... who will fill the gap?

There aren't many opportunities for trainee directors—but here at the Spring Nationals, we go big. Not one. Not two. But **three** brave souls stepping up to the table.

They're real-live directors—just with less mileage on the directing odometer. They study, they smile until their muscles freeze, and they make calls that may not be popular. Why do they do it? For the glory, of course. And because someone has to.

This year, we're working them hard and expecting a high standard. They're studying, smiling, and stepping up. If you see them in action, give them a nod—or better yet, a thank you. They're the ones making sure the game runs smoothly, even when the bids don't.

Let's meet the trio taking on the challenge:

Kelly Barber – Peninsula

A life master looking to become a directing master.

"I'd like to continue learning and directing at club level, where my passion lies, and aspire to run tournaments at local and country level—with guidance toward national directing when ready. I'm excited to direct at the Spring Nationals, test my readiness, and learn from experienced directors."



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Bricet Kloren – ACT

Came down from Canberra looking to trade her bronze star for a director's vest.

"I consider it important to contribute to the bridge community from which I continue to benefit so much. My directing journey began at the 2023 Canberra in Bloom, after a chat about meaningful ways to give back. I hope, in time, to be considered a reliable, knowledgeable, and professional member of a national directing team."



Dave Havyatt – Illawarra

Not restricted to one aspect of bridge

"My main interest in increasing my accreditation is to play a greater role in director development across NSW. I'm Secretary of the Bridge NSW Directing Committee, Treasurer of the ABDA, and part of the Executive. My ambition? A national approach to director accreditation through cooperation and agreement between the States."



NEW LOOK FOR THE AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 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),

and

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

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: 10am**
- **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 OPEN TEAMS

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 1st May

PAIRS EVENTS

DAVID LUSK ROOKIE PAIRS (Under 35 MPs)

Friday 1st May (only)
6 x 8 board matches

ONE DAY RESTRICTED BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

Novice (Under 100 MPs), Under Life Master, Under Grand Master
Friday 1st May (only)
6 x 8 board matches

AUSTRALIAN BLUE RIBBON OPEN PAIRS

Friday 1st (Qualifying), Saturday 2nd (Semi Final) and
Sunday 3rd 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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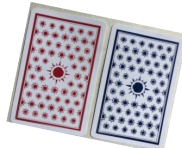
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Di Marler, South Australia

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30 - 59 **\$7.50 each**
60+ **\$7.25 each**



NEW BOOKS

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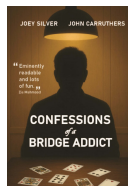
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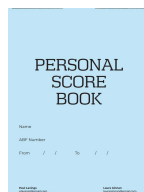
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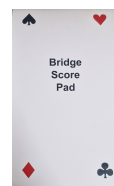
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