

# Bulletin 1

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Session Times

**Pairs Qualifying** **1pm-7:30pm approx.**  
**Goulash** **After dinner**

## Today

## Session Times

**Pairs Final/Consolation** **10:30am-6:30pm**  
**Scavenger Hunt** **After dinner**

## Tomorrow



## Tournament Organiser Welcome

Welcome everyone to the start of another exciting year of bridge! Unfortunately, we've organised the best event at the beginning so it's all downhill from here. It's wonderful to see so many new players joining us — make sure to introduce yourself to everyone. To those returning, it's lovely to have you back; your continued passion, performance and persistence makes this event shine. This week is an opportunity for everyone to have fun, try new things, and make lasting friendships. Whether you're here to compete or just to enjoy yourself, we hope you feel right at home. Let's begin the week together with doubles, not troubles, and I'll catch you at the tables!



◆ *Jeremy*



Some of the things that are the same as last year:

- ◆ Same great location: Canberra Accommodation Centre, 210 Northbourne Ave, Braddon
- ◆ Same great food provided
- ◆ Same Laura
- ◆ Same Daryl, Tournament Director
- ◆ Daily Bulletins
- ◆ Cash prizes for player contributions to bulletins! (more details on next page)
- ◆ Bridge shirts (with new design!)
- ◆ Australia vs New Zealand Test Match to be held as one of the consolation events on Thursday
- ◆ Players not contesting Australian Junior Team selection to compete in Summer Festival of Bridge (Open Pairs or Under 100 MPs Teams) on Friday

Some differences from last year:

- ◆ Welcome Jeremy Reid, stepping up to take on convenor role.
- ◆ Several first-timers and nine Kiwis!



## Opening Lead Quiz

What do you lead from this West hand given this auction?

West:

◆ J7  
◆ K93  
◆ Q75  
◆ J9875

Auction (N/S vul):

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 D	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Answer later in the Bulletin.

## We want your bridge hands

Youth week is a great opportunity to play bridge and talk about bridge with other young people. If you think your story is good enough to tell your friend, chances are many other people would enjoy hearing about it too. And we would like to help you tell your story.

If you have a bridge story you would like to tell, please let Leigh know. If your story involves a bridge hand, be sure to note what happened on the hand, including the auction and the play (names of partner/opponents optional). If needed, Leigh is happy to help transform your interesting bridge hand into an interesting article. What's more, Paul Brayshaw is generously donating cash prizes! (see flyers on next pages)

A bridge hand could be interesting because:

- ♦ Something awesome happened.
- ♦ It was a good learning experience.
- ♦ You found the hand particularly interesting for some reason.
- ♦ You scored a beer card\*

\*A "beer card" occurs when you win the last trick with the seven of diamonds. If playing this "game within the game", your partner owes you a beer. There are a few provisos for it to count, starting with that you need to get a positive score on the hand (either make your contract if you are the declarer, or defeat declarer's contract if you are a defender). For declarer-related hands, it cannot be in a diamond contract, or a no trump contract where the diamond suit is the main source of tricks (i.e. a 8+ card diamond fit). Any contract is acceptable for a defensive beer card.

The following article is the winning one from last year, submitted by Tomer Libman.

## ◀◀ A Classic Rewind ◀◀ 2025

### A doubled beer

Playing in the Pairs Final, Tomer Libman found himself in an unmakeable contract... doubled. Problem? Not on this occasion.

Both Vul	♠ 8		
Dlr: South	♥ AJT2		
	♦ 87653		
	♣ AT4		
♦ K6532		♠ Q	
♥ K4		♥ Q8765	
♦ KQJ94		♦ A2	
♣ 5		♣ KJ972	
	♦ AJT974		
2♠X	♥ 93		
Lead: ♣5	♦ T		
	♣ Q863		
South	West	North	East
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West, seeking a club ruff, started with the ♣5. Tomer ducked in dummy and when East won the ♣K, followed suit with the ♣6, making it look like West had a doubleton club.

East switched to the ♠Q and Tomer played trumps from the top. The defence played two rounds of diamonds, forcing Tomer to ruff and he played all of his trumps. East held on to hearts, which allowed Tomer to cash all his clubs, carefully preserving the ♦7 in dummy:

♠ —		
♥ AJ		
♦ 7		
♣ —		
♠ —		♠ —
♥ K4		♥ Q87
♦ J		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ —	
	♥ 93	
	♦ —	
	♣ 8	

On the ♣8, West also held onto hearts. So Tomer made 10 tricks, finishing with +1070, but more importantly the beer card.

# Youth Week 2026

## BEST-PLAYED HAND

A \$360 cash prize for the best-played hand of the tournament, as judged by Paul Brayshaw.

**Journalist's share: \$240**

**Player's share: \$120**



### WHO?

**Player:** Aged 25 or under.

**Journalist:** Aged 30 or under.

### WHAT?

Any hand from Youth Week 2026! \*

\*See T&C for eligible events.

### WHEN?

**Submission deadline:** Thu 15/1/26, 11pm.

**Prizes awarded:** Fri 16/1/26



See Terms & Conditions.

# Youth Week 2026

## BEST BEER CARD!

A **\$120 cash prize** to the **player** in the best submission, as judged by Paul Brayshaw, where that player won the last trick with the ♦7\*.

\* The hand must fall within the unofficial definition of a successfully-achieved beer-card, as described in the 2026 daily bulletins.



### WHO?

Anyone aged 30 or under.

### WHAT?

Any hand from Youth Week 2026!

### WHEN?

**Submission deadline:** Thu 15/1/26, 11pm.  
**Prizes awarded:** Fri 16/1/26



See Terms & Conditions.

## Interview with Jade & Taydon

I managed to catch up with Jade Wilkinson and Taydon Gold at the State Youth Championship last month. Back from their trip to Salsomaggiore, Italy, earlier in the year where they represented Australia in the U21 team.

*Where are you from?*

Jade: Canberra

Taydon: Melbourne

*What do you do for study/work/other?*

J: I just finished year 11.

T: I just finished year 10.

*What are your favourite subjects?*

J: Mathematics and physics.

T: Sport.

*How long have you been playing bridge?*

Both: Since 2018.

*What's your favourite thing about bridge?*

J: The numbers and the calculations, it's interesting. Finding the best possible play and everything.

T: I like bidding.

J: That's not good... it explains a lot actually.

*Rock/Paper/Scissors, I'm going paper.*

J/T: ??? (they look confused but still play)

...

I show paper.

Amazingly, both Jade and Taydon show rock and then change it to scissors.

*Why'd you do that?*

T: My reaction speed wasn't fast enough.

J: Apparently, I don't know how to play rock paper scissors.

*Do you have a favourite bridge hand or type of play?*

J: I had one hand in Italy where we doubled their 3NT and took it down. I just remember that hand. Probably shouldn't have taken it down. And we had 4H on, so it probably wasn't that good.

T: My favourite sort of play is when I'm not supposed to make a game that I make.

*Any significant achievements in your life?*

J: I'm still alive

Taydon claps... slowly.

T: I play footy.



**Jade Wilkinson and Taydon Gold**



## Puzzle Corner

Can you work out the following puzzles (solutions tomorrow):

**ARREST  
PLACED**

**GNIOG  
UR PROMISE**

**TOWTHROWEL**

**1, 3, 5, 7, 9  
WHELMING**

## Answer to Opening Lead Quiz

Recent advancements in computer simulation technology have given rise to a small revolution in the field of opening leads. Whilst some experts remain critical, there is no denying that it provides key insights that challenge conventional wisdom and being aware of these will improve your game.

Throughout this weeks' bulletins we'll look at a few opening lead hands.

Today's problem comes from the following deal, which came up in the final of the E-bridge cup in Nov 2025:

N/S Vul      ♠ KT3  
 Dlr: West    ♦ AJT8  
                ♦ AKT2  
                ♣ A4

♠ J7              ♠ AQ962  
 ♥ K93            ♥ 765  
 ♦ Q75            ♦ 984  
 ♣ J9875          ♣ 63  
  
 ♠ 854  
 3 NT            ♥ Q42  
 Lead: ♠J        ♦ J63  
                ♣ KQT2

At the table, West led the only card that beats the contract – the SJ!

Conventional wisdom says to lead 4<sup>th</sup> highest from your longest and strongest suit, which advises to start with the C7. But how often will this lead beat 3NT? Partner cannot have CAKQ (the opponents wouldn't have enough points to bid 3NT in that case). It may be the case that establishing another suit will work more often. How can we tell?

Note that no one deal can "prove" what the best lead is. We want to know if this was a typical deal, or did the opening leader just randomly hit a lucky lead.

Rather than guess the best answer based on a human's imperfect memory of similar hands played, we run a simulation of 5000 deals with the current South hand to give us an accurate analysis of how each lead will fare (in this exact situation) in the long run. Doing so gives the following results:

Lead card	% defeat	Ave tricks	Score
H3	22.80%	3.56	10
SJ	20.06%	3.47	8
C7	18.62%	3.37	6
D5	14.94%	3.28	3

At Imp scoring, we don't care much about overtricks, so looking at how often we will defeat the contract is the strongest indication of what card to lead.

At Matchpoint scoring, where overtricks matter, the average number of tricks taken will indicate the best card to lead.

On this deal both recommend the same card to lead (and they often are in sync like this). But the best lead a heart!

If you want to play "for points", I also give each lead a score out of 10.

What can we learn from these results? When leading against a freely bid 3NT, it often works better to:

- Lead passively.
- Lead a major suit.

Every time a defender leads a new suit that is not completely solid, they risk giving away a free trick. This deal is a good example: a club lead gives declarer a free finesse to score a 4<sup>th</sup> club trick that they weren't otherwise entitled to. Just as declarer typically leads low towards high cards, a defender might want to lead low towards partner's (hoped for) high cards, instead of leading away from their own high cards.

Secondly, and more importantly, with the opponents not bidding Majors, we can infer partner has length. When the opponents play in notrumps, they could have 8 or 9 cards in a minor suit, but will almost never have 8+ cards in either Major suit. So on average, the defenders have more Major suit cards than minor suit cards, so a Major suit is likely to be the defenders' best source of tricks.

Finally, when partner didn't bid 2H/2S, it's likely that they have at most 5 cards in both Majors. Our best chance of finding an 8-card fit with partner is in hearts, so that's our most likely source of tricks.

# 2026 Program

<b>Date</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Evening</b>
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>		Youth Pairs Qualifying (1pm – 7:30pm approx.)	Goulash Bridge
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Youth Pairs Final (10:30am – 6:30pm approx.)		Scavenger Hunt
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Youth Teams Day 1/2 (10:30am – 6:30pm approx.)		Emma's Bridge
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Youth Teams Day 2/2 (10:30am – 6:30pm approx.)		Cliff Wake & Speedball Bridge
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Butler Stage 1 (9am – 6:30pm) Coaching (9:30am – 10:15am) Consolation (10:30am – 6:30pm)		Dinner out & Games / Trivia
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Butler Stage 1 (9am – 6:30pm) Coaching (9:30am – 10:15am) Consolation (10:30am – 6:30pm)		Crazy Pairs
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Butler Stage 1 (9am – 6:30pm) Coaching (9:30am – 10:15am) Side Event – SFOB Open Pairs or U100MP Teams		BBQ / end of week presentations (6pm)
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Butler Stage 2A (Times TBA) Side Event – SFOB Weekend Pairs		Butler Stage 2A (Times TBA)
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Butler Stage 2B (Times TBA) Side Event – SFOB Weekend Pairs		Butler Stage 2B (Times TBA)

(Note: if an event time changes there will be an announcement and update of future bulletin programs)

Under-25 Junior Team Selection Format (unchanged from last year):

After 3 days of the Australian Junior Butler, the top pair will automatically qualify for the Australian Junior Team. The next 4 pairs will contest Stage 2A on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>. At the end of Saturday, the top pair will join the Australian Junior Team and the bottom pair will be eliminated. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> the final two remaining pairs will fight it out in Stage 2B for the final spot on the Australian Junior Team.

**A note to everyone intending to contest the Australian Junior Team selection:** To be eligible to play in the Butler, both you and your partner are required to play together as a partnership for both days of the Youth Teams event.