

Bulletin 2

Sunday 11th January

Session Times

Today

Pairs Final/Consolation 10:00am-6:30pm
Scavenger Hunt After dinner

Session Times

Tomorrow

Youth Teams 10:00am-6:30pm
Emma's Bridge After dinner



Congratulations to the winners of the Pairs Qualifying: Leon Meier – George Bartley (North/South) and Jessie Pelenato – Emma Fitzgerald (East/West).

Pairs Qualifying Scores

North / South		
Rank	Name	Score
1	LEON MEIER - GEORGE BARTLEY	67.68%
2	AADHI HARIHARAN - MATTHEW SIEREDZINSKI	61.89%
3	ALEX GOSS - SAMUEL GOSS	57.75%
4	NOAH KLUGMAN - DAVID ZHENG	57.06%
5	DARREN BRAKE - ELLIE MOLLOY	54.43%
6	JEREMY LIN - ALEXANDRA MILLS	53.75%
7	HEATH WATKINS - KATE MACDONALD	52.36%
8	DEV SHAH - DIYA SHAH	51.76%
9	ADRIAN LE - FLETCHER DAVEY	51.07%
10	TAMATI GREIG - ALEX MEYER	50.82%
11	GEORGE ZIHAO WANG - ANTHONY MILLS	50.04%
12	BYRON FRENCH - JESSICA HE	45.92%
13	SAMUEL MCCALLUM WHITE - NATALEE WHITE	43.70%
14	CAMPBELL MILLAR - NICOLA LACHENICHT	40.08%
15	ASHLEY MATHESON - ALEXANDER WILKINSON	30.81%
16	MICHAEL NEHME - REYA SHAH	30.69%
East / West		
Rank	Name	Total
1	JESSIE PELENATO - EMMA FITZGERALD	58.54%
2	ALEX WU - ADA SUN	58.50%
3	BERTIE MORGAN - PADDY TAYLOR	58.31%
4	DAMON FLICKER - ALAN STONEHAM	53.88%
5	LIAM MINOGUE - ZARA CHOWDHURY	52.63%
6	JADE WILKINSON - TAYDON GOLD	51.28%
7	RICKY CARTHEW - JASSY CARTHEW	50.41%
8	GRACE WANG - MARCUS DUDLEY	49.71%
9	ZAC ROSS - REMCO SPENCER	49.69%
10	HAMISH NEWMAN - NATALIE NEWMAN	49.42%
11	LEIGH MATHESON - JACK CURTIS	48.90%
12	SEBASTIAN REDIN - JACKSON HODGE	48.49%
13	LIZZY BRAYSHAW - WILLIAM BOYCE CAM	46.14%
14	OLIVER BRAYSHAW - ELIJAH GUEST	44.09%
15	MAXWELL ASHURST - ALEXIS WILSMORE	43.32%
16	LIANA WILSMORE - ANNABELLE LOUYS	36.90%

Australian Youth Bridge Championships



How many bridge hands are there?

The number of bridge hands can be mathematically calculated precisely by dividing the total permutations of a deck (52!) by the permutations of the four hands (13!), giving: $52!/(13!)^4$. Written in scientific notation, this is an astronomical 5.3×10^{28} .

To put this number into context, we could take one trillion people (more than have ever lived) and ask them to deal a trillion bridge deals a trillion times per second for a trillion years. After that's done, if you properly shuffle one deck of cards and deal out a bridge hand you only have a 40% chance that it will match one of the many deals that have already been dealt out.

It is for this reason that we can safely say that when you play a bridge hand it is effectively guaranteed that you have never seen it before.



Opening Lead Quiz

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

West:

♦ J754

♥ T4

♦ 9432

♣ AQ2

Auction (N/S vul):

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Answer later in the Bulletin

High Five!

A few people scored a high five on the first round of a suit on the following board:

E/W Vul ♠ AQT75

Dlr South ♥ A32

♦ T8

♣ AQ9

♠ K984

♥ J64

♦ J4

♣ K543

N
W
E
S

♠ 3

♥ 98

♦ AQ9752

♣ J876

♠ J62

♥ KQT75

♦ K63

♣ T2

4 of the 16 West players led the S4. All declarer needs to do is play low from both hands to win the trick.

Insufficient Bid

During the morning session we managed to have the following hilarious auction on the following hand:

N/S Vul ♠ 85

Dlr South ♥ AQ5

♦ Q53

♣ AJT54

♠ JT6

♥ 842

♦ A7642

♣ 83

N
W
E
S

♠ A9

♥ KJ976

♦ J98

♣ Q62

♠ KQ7432

♥ T3

♦ KT

♣ K97

West North East South

— — — 2S

Pass 1C 1H 1S

2H 2S All Pass

After South's opening 2S and West's Pass, North "opened" 1C, not seeing that there was a bid before the pass. East decided to accept the insufficient bid (an

option you're allowed to do) and the auction proceeded. This allowed East/West to bid and raise their heart suit with 1H and then 2H. But bizarrely it also allowed South to bid and raise his own spade with 2S and then 1S... whatever that means.

Playing in 2S, I won the heart lead and led spades towards my hand twice. When I eventually guessed correctly which way to finesse clubs, I had exactly 8 tricks and the contract.

Then the afternoon session had a similar auction on this board:

Nil Vul

♠ 65

Dlr East

♥ AK52

♦ AT84

♣ T54

♠ 872

♥ QT4

♦ KJ2

♣ Q963

♠ KJT94

♥ 96

♦ 765

♣ KJ8

♠ AQ3

♥ J873

♦ Q93

♣ A72

West North East South

— — 2S Pass

Pass 1D 1S

All Pass

This time East managed to raise his aggressive 2S opening to 1S. Possibly he realised it wasn't worth 2S to start with.

The play in 3NT was exciting. West led a spade, which was ducked around to my SQ. Needing some luck, I tried the top 2 hearts, but the HQ didn't fall. Still needing some luck I led a diamond to the 9 and West's DJ. West returned another spade, which was ducked all round.

These cards remained:

♦ 2	♦ —
♥ Q	♥ 52
♦ K2	♦ AT8
♣ Q963	♣ T54
	
	♦ A
	♥ J8
	♦ Q3
	♣ A72

The defence needs to play on clubs to beat the contract. But now is their last chance. When West made the natural continuation of a spade, I was home. Picked up the diamonds with a finesse and knocked out the top heart. With West out of spades I won the cA and HJ to make exactly 9 tricks on the hand.

No beer card

Just a reminder that beer cards need to be scored on the last trick of the hand, not on the first round of diamonds. Also if you are declarer it doesn't count if diamonds are trumps. I got both of those details wrong on this deal:

Nil Vul	♦ AQJ2
Dlr South	♥ 954
	♦ 97
	♣ AKQ9
♦ K863	♦ T54
♥ AQ6	♥ JT873
♦ 4	♦ KQJ2
♣ J7653	♣ 8
	♦ 97
Lead: C5	♥ K2
	♦ AT8653
	♣ T42

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2D
Pass	2S	Pass	3D
All Pass			

I won the opening club lead in dummy and called for a low diamond. When East followed low, so did I and it won the trick! From there 9 tricks were easy.

To beat this contract East needs to score 3 trump tricks. But how do you score them is declarer is prepared to run the D7? The answer is you need to play one of your high diamonds and score the D2 as a club ruff, using heart entries to get to partner's hand.

First (reported) beer card

Aadhi Hariharan found himself the recipient of a beer card during last night's Goulash event. Here was the board:

N/S Vul	♦ AQ74
Dealer West	♥ AJT9852
	♦ —
	♣ K2
♦ J986532	♦ —
♥ 76	♥ K43
♦ AT93	♦ Q54
♣ —	♣ QJT8765
	♦ KT
	♥ Q
	♦ KJ8762
	♣ A943

West North East South
1C* 1H 1S* 3 NT
All Pass

West's 1C opening showed a void in clubs. East's 1S responses, similarly showed a void. With partner making a normal overcall in hearts, Aadhi decided to bid everyone's favourite contract, despite the fact that it often doesn't do well in Goulash.

West led the D10, which went to the DQ and DK. The HQ was ducked all round. Declarer continued with a club to the CK, HA and another heart to the HK. East returned a diamond to the DJ and DA, after which West returned the D9. Have you been watching the diamond pips? Yes the D7 is now high. But Aadhi had too many winners. Showing off, he overtook the SK with the SA and cashed three heart winners before returning to the CA to cash the beer card.

Opening Leads Quiz

by Leigh Matheson

In today's opening lead problem South becomes declarer in 1NT.

West:

♠ J754

♥ T4

♦ 9432

♣ AQ2

Auction (N/S vul):

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

What does a computer simulation show for leading against 1NT?

Lead card	% defeat	Ave tricks	Score
S4	7.18%	4.87	10
HT	6.90%	4.84	9
D4	5.52%	4.83	7
CA	2.88%	4.63	2

At matchpoint scoring there isn't much difference between opening leads on this hand... as long as you avoid the poor choice of a club. At Imp scoring, the spade and heart leads give the best chance of finding a source of tricks that can actually defeat the contract.

So how should we alter our opening lead strategy against 1NT compared to 3NT? Here are the simulation results for the same hand declarer's partner raised to 3NT:

Lead card	% defeat	Ave tricks	Score
D4	11.62%	3.03	10
S4	11.28%	3.04	9
HT	10.54%	2.94	7
CA	9.68%	2.88	2

Against 3NT a heart lead is too slow. Partner is a passed hand and cannot have a source of tricks there.

At matchpoints there is not much between a spade and a diamond, but if you want to get the best chance of beating the contract at Imp scoring, the passive diamond is best.

What can we conclude?

Against 1NT we should be a little more aggressive. With the opponents not bidding game there is more room for partner to have the hoped for cards that we need.

Puzzle Corner

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

VAD ERS

GGES
SGEG
GEKS
SEGG

NIBUMPGHT

BAD
WOLF

Answers to yesterday's puzzles:

- Placed under arrest
- Going back on your promise
- Throw in the towel
- Overwhelming odds

Goulash Results

Congratulations to the winners of the Goulash: Alexandra Mills – Jeremy Lin (North/South) and Damon Flicker – Natalie Newman (East/West).

Goulash 2026 (10-Jan-26)

North-South		East-West		
Place	%	Place	%	
1	ALEXANDRA MILLS - JEREMY LIN	64.77%	1 DAMON FLICKER - NATALIE NEWMAN	59.77%
2	MAXWELL ASHURST - DEV SHAH	61.82%	2 HEATH WATKINS - GEORGE BARTLEY	57.95%
3	BERTIE MORGAN - ALEX GOSS	59.77%	3 ALEX WU - MARTIN WU	55.45%
4	MATT SUN - ADA SUN	52.73%	4 GEORGE ZIHAO WANG - ANTHONY MILLS	52.50%
5	DARREN BRAKE - HAMISH NEWMAN	50.23%	5 MATTHEW SIEREDZINSKI - REMCO SPENCER	52.27%
6	TAYDON GOLD - JADE WILKINSON	49.55%	6 PAUL BRAYSHAW - LIAM MINOGUE	52.05%
7	JEREMY REID - ZARA CHOWDHURY	49.32%	7 SAMUEL GOSS - JASSY CARTHEW	50.23%
8	AADHI HARIHARAN - ALAN STONEHAM	48.64%	7 ZAC ROSS - FLETCHER DAVEY	47.95%
9	LIZZY BRAYSHAW - WILLIAM BOYCE CAM	43.86%	9 SAMUEL MCCALLUM WHITE - NATALEE WHITE	43.86%
10	JACKSON HODGE - RICKY CARTHEW	42.95%	10 SEBASTIAN REDIN - DAVID ZHENG	43.86%
11	LEIGH MATHESON - DARYL WHITFIELD	42.50%	11 OLIVER BRAYSHAW - ELIJAH GUEST	42.95%
12	NOAH KLUGMAN - DIYA SHAH	33.86%	12 GRACE WANG - MARCUS DUDLEY	41.14%



2026 Program

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Saturday 10th		Youth Pairs Qualifying (1pm – 7:30pm approx.)	Goulash Bridge
Sunday 11th	Youth Pairs Final (10:00am – 6:30pm approx.)		Scavenger Hunt
Monday 12th	Youth Teams Day 1/2 (10:00am – 6:30pm approx.)		Emma's Bridge
Tuesday 13th	Youth Teams Day 2/2 (10:00am – 6:30pm approx.)		Cliff Wake & Speedball Bridge
Wednesday 14th	Butler Stage 1 (9am – 6:30pm) Coaching (9:30am – 10:15am) Consolation (10:30am – 6:30pm)		Dinner out & Games / Trivia
Thursday 15th	Butler Stage 1 (9am – 6:30pm) Coaching (9:30am – 10:15am) Consolation (10:30am – 6:30pm)		Crazy Pairs
Friday 16th	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)
Saturday 17th	Butler Stage 2A (Times TBA) Side Event – SFOB Weekend Pairs		Butler Stage 2A (Times TBA)
Sunday 18th	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 17th. At the end of Saturday, the top pair will join the Australian Junior Team and the bottom pair will be eliminated. On Sunday 18th 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.