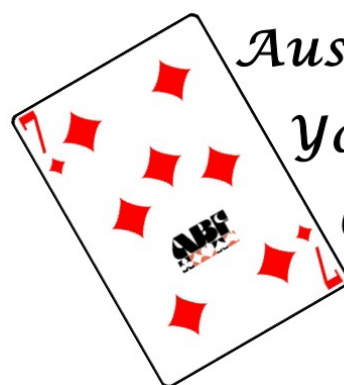


Bulletin 3

Monday 12th January



Australian Youth Bridge Championships

Session Times Today

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

Session Times Tomorrow

Youth Teams 10:00am-6:30pm
Cliff Wake Bridge After dinner
Speedball Bridge After dinner



Congratulations to [Damon Flicker](#) – [Alan Stoneham](#), winning the Youth Pairs Final, and [Leon Meier](#) – [George Bartley](#) who came second.

Congratulations to [Zac Ross](#) – [Remco Spencer](#), winning the Youth Pairs Consolation, and [Dev Shah](#) – [Diya Shah](#) who came second.

Pairs Final Scores

Rank	Name	Score
1	DAMON FLICKER - ALAN STONEHAM	390.5
2	LEON MEIER - GEORGE BARTLEY	389.9
3	JADE WILKINSON - TAYDON GOLD	361.2
4	BERTIE MORGAN - PADDY TAYLOR	340.5
5	ALEX WU - ADA SUN	335.6
6	AADHI HARIHARAN - MATTHEW SIEREDZINSKI	328.7
7	NOAH KLUGMAN - DAVID ZHENG	322.4
8	JEREMY LIN - ALEXANDRA MILLS	302.4
9	LIAM MINOGUE - ZARA CHOWDHURY	290.4
10	ALEX GOSS - SAMUEL GOSS	289.0
11	DARREN BRAKE - ELLIE MOLLOY	288.0
12	JESSIE PELENATO - EMMA FITZGERALD	278.7

Pairs Consolation Scores

Rank	Name	Score
1	ZAC ROSS - REMCO SPENCER	690.7
2	DEV SHAH - DIYA SHAH	638.2
3	HEATH WATKINS - KATE MACDONALD	630.9
4	TAMATI GREIG - ALEX MEYER	628.8
5	LEIGH MATHESON - JACK CURTIS	588.1
6	SEBASTIAN REDIN - JACKSON HODGE	568.0
7	ADRIAN LE - FLETCHER DAVEY	547.9
8	RICKY CARTHEW - JASSY CARTHEW	530.2
9	GRACE WANG - MARCUS DUDLEY	528.3
10	BYRON FRENCH - JESSICA HE	528.1
11	MAXWELL ASHURST - ALEXIS WILSMORE	524.6
12	LIZZY BRAYSHAW - WILLIAM BOYCE CAM	518.8
13	HAMISH NEWMAN - NATALIE NEWMAN	513.3
14	GEORGE ZIHAO WANG - ANTHONY MILLS	471.6
15	OLIVER BRAYSHAW - ELIJAH GUEST	461.1
16	MICHAEL NEHME - REYA SHAH	447.4
17	CAMPBELL MILLAR - NICOLA LACHENICHT	442.8
18	SAMUEL MCCALLUM WHITE - NATALEE WHITE (108)	390.9
19	ASHLEY MATHESON - ALEXANDER WILKINSON	317.0
20	LIANA WILSMORE - ANNABELLE LOUYS	293.3

Opening Lead Quiz

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

West:

♠ Q532

♥ Q2

♦ J3

♣ A7652

Auction (N/S vul):

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	

Answer later in the Bulletin



Damon Flicker – Alan Stoneham,
winners of the Pairs Final



George Bartley – Leon Meier, runners
up in the Pairs Final



Zac Ross – Remco Spencer,
winners of the Pairs Consolation



Dev Shah – Diya Shah, runners
up in the Pairs Consolation

Stepping Stones

by Leigh Matheson

At just ten years old, Jack Curtis pulled off a neat Stepping Stone endplay. This was even more impressive to see when you consider that he only started playing bridge four months ago.

N/S Vul	♠ KJ64	
Dlr: South	♥ 97	
	♦ 63	
	♣ JT972	
♠ Q5		♠ T9873
♥ KJ42		♥ AT8
♦ J98		♦ KT72
♣ K864		♣ 3
	♠ A2	
	♥ Q653	
	♦ AQ54	
	♣ AQ5	

South	West	North	East
1D	Pass	1S	Pass
2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the C4, and our young hero won the first trick in hand with a high five! (who could resist that?) After giving dummy a real high five, Jack played the SK, CA, SA and CQ, losing to West's CK, East discarding a heart and a diamond. The defence proceeded with a heart to the HA, and then the HT went to the HQ and HK. Not wanting to set up declarer's H6, West switched to a diamond. Jack won the DQ and DA, leaving:

♠ —	♠ J6	
♥ J4	♥ —	
♦ 9	♦ —	
♣ 8	♣ T9	
	♠ T98	
	♥ —	
	♦ K	
	♣ —	
	♠ —	
	♥ 65	
	♦ 54	
	♣ —	

With only losers in hand, Jack exited with a diamond, discarding a spade from dummy. East had to win concede the last 3 tricks and the contract to a dummy that was now high.

Well done Jack!

More Stepping Stones

by Leigh Matheson

Jack Curtis and I found a neat defence on the following deal, played against Alex & Sam Goss:

Nil Vul	♠ KJ8	
Dlr: East	♥ 942	
	♦ K973	
	♣ QJ9	
♠ AT5		♠ 9732
♥ T8		♥ KJ7653
♦ AQ42		♦ J6
♣ KT75		♣ 3
	♠ Q64	
3NT	♥ AQ	
Lead: ♥T	♦ T85	
	♣ A8642	

South	West	North	East
—	—	—	2H
Dble	Pass	3D	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

My HT to forced out declarer's HQ. Declarer chose to play a spade to the SJ and then ran the CQ, which I allowed to hold the trick. Declarer then continued with the C9 and ducked it to my CT. I continued with a heart, knocking out declarer's HA. Declarer then led a club to my CK, leaving:

	♠ K8	
	♥ 9	
	♦ K973	
	♣ —	
♠ AT		♠ 9
♥ —		♥ K765
♦ AQ42		♦ J6
♣ 7		♣ —
	♠ Q6	
	♥ —	
	♦ T85	
	♣ A8	

At this point I worked out I needed partner to have the DJ to beat this contract. So I led a low diamond. Declarer won the DK and played the SK, which I ducked (just in case declarer had the DJ after all). I was then able to win the SA, DA, DQ and then exit a diamond to use dummy as a stepping stone to partner's winning heart.

Interview with Seb Redin

"Should I do the photo now or at the end?"

S: Do the photo last. My smile makes me look like an axe murderer. Take the photo after I've been laughing.

"What's your full name?"

S: Sebastian Redin. I also have three middle names, but we won't mention them here because they will fill up a whole page in the bulletin.

"Where are you from?"

S: I'm from Adelaide, by way of France. I lived in France for the first eight years of my life and learnt English and French from birth.

"What do you do for work/study?"

S: I'm at Uni, studying to be a high school maths teacher for French and maths.

"How long have you been playing bridge?"

S: About three-ish years now.

"What is your favourite thing about bridge?"

S: Helping people learn new things. Especially beginners. I love teaching people and helping to elevate them to a better level. This side of bridge brings enjoyment for me.

"Scissors, Paper, Rock. I'm going paper."

Both: "scissors, paper, rock"

*I show paper

*Seb shows scissors

"Why did you go scissors?"

S: Because I enjoy winning as well. I'm very competitive. If I see an opportunity to win, I will take it.



*Seb Redin (after laughing)
at Youth Week 2026*

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

S: Probably the two-suited bridge hand that seemed ridiculously hopeless to bid. And it seemed impossible because I've got a Yarborough. But I want to bid because surely partner has support for one of my suits. So I pre-empt at the 4-level in spades because I've got 8 spades and 5 hearts. Third seat, unfavourable. Partner looks at me, thinking "what the?" Partner bids 4NT. I respond 5H, lying, saying that I have two aces. Partner has Aces in both of my void suits and KQ2 support for my spades. I've ended up in 6S and made by a miracle. Partner looked at me and said you're insane. Please don't bid like that again. You're going to give me a heart attack.


"So, did you stop it?"

S: Absolutely not. This partner in question is my grandmother.

Opening Lead Quiz

by Leigh Matheson

Today's lead problem hand comes from yesterday's Pairs Championship/Consolation final.

Both Vul	♠ T98		
Dlr: East	♥ J75		
	♦ AQ642		
	♣ 84		
♠ Q532		♠ 76	
♥ Q2		♥ T8643	
♦ J3		♦ 98	
♣ A7652		♣ KQ93	
	♠ AKJ4		
	♥ AK9		
	♦ KT75		
	♣ JT		

South	West	North	East
—	—	—	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Most pairs in both the championship and consolation had an auction similar to this. West has a choice between two traditional leads: Do we lead a 4th highest club from our longest suit, or do we prefer a Major suit?

Simulation results:

Lead card	% defeat	Ave tricks	Score
C5	7.60%	2.58	10
HQ	7.50%	2.58	9
S2	6.60%	2.55	5
DJ	6.26%	2.50	3

Given that there was no Stayman or Transfer sequence on the auction, partner is more likely to have length in the Majors. So it may seem that a spade lead is to be preferred. But with West holding only a 4 card suit, it is unlikely to beat the contract.

A club lead from our 5 card suit is better. If we hit partner with what we need in our suit, the contract could well go down. It also has the added benefit at Matchpoint scoring of not risking leading away from the unsupported SQ and giving declarer a free trick in the suit.

At the table my partner led the C5. I won the CQ and had the presence of mind not to blindly return my original 4th highest club – that would have blocked the suit! Realising this could be the layout, I continued with the CK, C9 and then the C3 to partner's C7. Partner then cashed the CA to beat the contract one trick.

When looking at all 4 hands this play seems simple. But it's a surprisingly easy trap to fall into and 9 of the 11 pairs who defended notrumps allowed the contract to make.

Puzzle Corner

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

EMINEM



13579 AZ



Answers to yesterday's puzzles:

- Space invaders
- Scrambled eggs
- Bump in the night
- Big bad wolf

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.