

Bulletin 4

Tuesday 13th January

Session Times

	Today
Youth Teams	10:00am-6:30pm
Cliff Wake Bridge	6:30pm-7pm
Speedball Bridge	After dinner
Session Times	Tomorrow
Butler	9am-6:30pm
Consolation	10:00am-6:30pm
Dinner Out & Games/Trivia & Hopscotch	



After 8 rounds (of 15) of the Youth Teams, here are the current standings:

Teams – current standings

Rank	Team	Imps	VPs	W-D-L
1	Watkins	186	131.06	7-0-1
2	Ross	176	124.42	7-0-1
3	Goss	111	116.66	7-0-1
4	Fraser-Hoskin	119	110.70	6-0-2
5	Meyer	95	104.85	5-1-2
6	Wu	80	97.66	4-1-3
7	Minogue	57	96.41	4-1-3
8	Klugman	50	93.41	4-2-2
9	Newman	63	85.37	4-0-4
10	Brake	57	85.31	4-0-4
11	Ashurst	-11	79.88	4-1-3
12	Lin	-90	51.17	2-0-6
13	Millar	-113	47.89	2-0-6
14	Brayshaw	-195	32.29	1-0-7
15	White	-296	12.39	0-0-8
16	Wilsmore	-289	7.53	0-0-8

Note to all: At the conclusion of play today we will all walk to Rex for the Cliff Wake challenge. The buddy system applies: Everyone will be responsible for their buddy until they return.

Opening Lead Quiz

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

West:

♦ QT3
♥ T65
♦ A93
♣ QJ52

Auction (E/W vul):

South	West	North	East
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Answer later in the Bulletin



"Emma's Bridge" Results

North/South

Rank	Pair	Score
1	PAUL BRAYSHAW - NICOLA LACHENICHT	63.71%
2	JADE WILKINSON - DIYA SHAH	58.07%
3	DAVID ZHENG - ALAN STONEHAM	55.95%
4	ALEX GOSS - DEV SHAH	53.12%
5	HEATH WATKINS - SAMUEL GOSS	47.44%
6	ALEX MEYER - SEBASTIAN REDIN	46.35%
7	MATTHEW SIEREDZINSKI - MARCUS DUDLEY	45.49%
8	RICKY CARTHEW - JACKSON HODGE	43.58%
9	ALEXANDER WILKINSON - ASHLEY MATHESON	36.85%

East/West

1	ZAC ROSS - TAMATI GREIG	64.97%
2	ELLIE MOLLOY - GRACE WANG	59.20%
3	EMMA FITZGERALD - LEON MEIER	58.85%
4	ELIJAH GUEST - LEIGH MATHESON	50.30%
5	NATALEE WHITE - LIZZY BRAYSHAW	49.48%
6	SAMUEL MCCALLUM WHITE - MICHAEL NEHME	49.31%
7	FLETCHER DAVEY - PADDY TAYLOR	41.75%
8	ANTHONY MILLS - JASSY CARTHEW	39.79%
9	DAMON FLICKER - AADHI HARIHARAN	36.89%

Alert: the weather is predicted to get very hot today. Please stay hydrated!



A defensive false card

Marcus Dudley found a nice play to use declarer's entry to hand before he wanted to use it on the following deal:

E/W Vul ♠ T52
Dlr: South ♥ AKT72
 ♦ AK2
 ♣ KQ

♦ A63
♥ Q864
♦ 9654
♣ 63



♠ Q4
♥ 953
♦ QJT73
♣ T95

Marcus
♠ KJ987
♥ J
♦ 8
♣ AJ8742

South West North East
2D Pass 2H 3S
Pass Pass 4D All Pass

South was clearly inspired by the advice of Sartaj Hans: When the vulnerability is favourable, be the joker! In this context, 2D is not the poor bid that it would be at other vulnerabilities.

West cashed the SA and continued with a spade to the SK, dropping declarer's SQ. Leading a third spade is futile when South has a normal 6 card diamond suit.

But Marcus was also listening to Sartaj's talk. Realising that declarer could easily have a 5 card trump suit (despite missing the top 2 cards that are visible in dummy), Marcus cashed the CA and continued with a third round of spades, making it look like he had 6 spades (completing the picture he started painting in the auction).

Declarer high ruffed, which didn't cost a trick on this layout, but it could have if declarer's diamond suit was less robust. Declarer drew trumps, ending in hand, but now after cashing the HA, he had no (spade ruff) entry back to hand to finesse hearts.

Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed that declarer could cash the DA, DK and HA before completing the operation of drawing trumps. This is true. But if you consistently make life difficult for your opponents they will slip up every now and then.

Special guest

Fresh from his win in the Soloway Teams, Sartaj Hans gave two interactive talks. One about getting into the right headspace to play bridge and another talk about how you should think about vulnerability at the bridge table.



Thanks Sartaj for a very incisive and engaging lesson. I've already seen youth players putting your advice into practice.

Limping In

The Youth Teams featured one of the longest auctions we've seen in a while:



Good thing the table is wide enough!

A note to everyone intending to contest the Australian Junior Team selection:

Australian Junior Team selection: To be eligible to play in the Butler, you will need to fill in an eligibility criteria form, and declare yourself eligible and intending to represent Australia if successful, in accordance with the ABF regulations:

https://www.myabf.com.au/media/congress-downloads/2025/12/13/2026_Australian_Youth_Championships_Supplementary_Regulations.pdf

Interview with Matthew Sieredzinski

"Where are you from?"

M: Melbourne. I lived in Thailand for 7 years from about 2012-2019.

"What do you do for study/work?"

M: I graduated and am doing an internship in IT. It's mostly programming.

"How long have you been playing bridge?"

M: I probably started like back in 2015-2016, or maybe earlier. 2019 is when I started playing with my dad and I joined the youth field in 2023.

"What is your favourite thing about bridge?"

M: Mainly the solving aspect. Trying to figure out what to do. And like the funny situations with the auctions that come up.

"Scissors, Paper, Rock."

Both: "scissors, paper, rock"

*I show rock

*Matthew shows scissors

"Why did you go scissors?"

M: I didn't have a reason, I just showed a random one. It's late. Apparently you're meant to do scissors against a male, as guys tend to do rock more often.

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

Mostly like a weird moment. Back in 2024 youth week teams playing with Heath against Damo and Mitch. Heath passed and in my mind, I had committed to bidding 2H no matter what... and then East opens 1S. I have 1098xx solid hearts and think, ok 3H then. I had a 5-5 shape. I like forgot that Michaels cue bid exists or something. I had like a 3 count. The auction continues:

Me	Damo	Heath	Mitch
		Pass	1S
3H	3S	Pass	4C
Pass	4D	Pass	4NT
Pass	5D	Dble	Redouble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Heath doubled 5D, lead directing. Mitch redoubled showing the ace. Damo said it was "undiscussed, but I think it's blood".



Matthew Sieredzinski

Anyway this went 3 down for +1000.

At the other table they made the Michaels Cue bid and ended up in 5CX going for 2000. So we scored 22 Imps on the board. We won the match by less than this margin.

"Any significant achievements in your life?"
I was on the 2024 Youth ANC Team. Victoria came second but my partner and I came first on datums. Heath and I also won the Butler last year and qualified to the Australian Youth Team. They're the two things I'm most proud of.

"What was it like?"

M: Playing in the Worlds in Salso was great. I got to meet some people from other countries. There were some hands that I wasn't proud of, but other hands that I was really happy with. So not a total loss. I also got chatting to some of the people on the Thai team and they were really surprised that I could speak their language.

Puzzle Corner

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

1. Bucket
2. Bucket
3. Bucket
4. Bucket
5. Bucket
6. Bucket
7. Bucket
8. Bucket

ESTIMATE ME



BLOOD WATER

Answers to yesterday's puzzles:

- Wrapping paper
- Lemonade
- Odds and ends
- Rock bottom

Opening Lead Quiz

by Leigh Matheson

Today's lead problem hand comes from this board from round 5 of the Teams event.

E/W Vul ♠ KJ92
Dlr: South ♥ 83
 ♦ QT7
 ♣ AK63
♠ QT3 ♠ 8654
♥ T65 ♥ KQ4
♦ A93 ♦ J864
♣ QJ52 ♣ 97



♠ A7 ♠ 8654
♥ AJ972 ♥ KQ4
♦ K52 ♦ J864
♣ T84 ♣ 97

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

West has an unenviable decision with no suit looking particularly appealing. If we want an active lead, best is a spade, hoping to find partner with a 5 card suit headed by something useful. If we want to lead passively, a diamond is least likely to cost a trick.

At the table I led the D3. Let's see what the simulation results have to say about this:

Lead card	% defeat	Ave tricks	Score
D3	24.56%	3.37	10
C2	22.48%	3.30	8
H5	18.34%	3.17	4
S3	14.56%	3.01	0

As is often the case, the simulation shows that it's quite bad to lead either declarer or dummy's bid suit. When considering between the minors, our diamond holding is far less likely to give away a trick. The actual deal is an excellent example, showing one layout where leading the suit gives the declarer all the tricks. If declarer had no help there would be an inescapable club loser.

Scavenger Hunt Photos



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.