

Bulletin 5

Wednesday 14th January

Session Times

Today

Butler 9am-6:30pm

Consolation 10:30am-6:30pm

Dinner Out & Games/Trivia & Hopscotch

Session Times

Tomorrow

Butler 9am-6:30pm

Consolation 10:30am-6:30pm

Crazy Pairs Bridge After Dinner



Congratulations to team Ross (Zac Ross – Remco Spencer, Paddy Taylor – Bertie Morgan) winning the Youth Teams. And team Watkins (Heath Watkins – Kate Macdonald, Leon Meier – George Bartley), runners up.

See later in the Bulletin for results of how the winning team went in the Cliff Wake Challenge.

Final standings of the Youth Teams:

Youth Teams – Final Results				
Rank	Team	Imps	VPs	W-D-L
1	Ross	319	234.83	13-0-2
2	Watkins	222	212.69	11-0-4
3	Goss	173	205.36	11-1-3
4	Fraser-Hoskin	153	189.73	10-1-4
5	Klugman	138	186.55	9-2-4
6	Meyer	115	182.60	9-2-4
7	Minogue	97	174.27	7-2-6
8	Wu	73	165.32	7-2-6
9	Newman	85	159.74	7-1-7
10	Ashurst	30	158.84	8-1-6
11	Brake	14	138.18	7-1-7
12	Lin	-55	124.50	5-1-9
13	Millar	-178	98.80	4-0-11
14	Brayshaw	-250	86.44	3-0-12
15	White	-477	37.99	1-0-14
16	Wilsmore	-459	35.16	1-0-14

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

Australian Youth Bridge Championships



The successful pairs qualifying to Stage 1 of the Australian Junior Selection:

*REMCO SPENCER / ZAC ROSS
*HEATH WATKINS / KATE MACDONALD
*SAMUEL GOSS / ALEX GOSS
*ADA SUN / ALEX WU
*PADDY TAYLOR / BERTIE MORGAN
*TAYDON GOLD / JADE WILKINSON
*DIYA SHAH / DEV SHAH
*ADRIAN LE / FLETCHER DAVEY
*DAVID ZHENG / NOAH KLUGMAN
*JESSICA HE / BYRON FRENCH

Opening Lead Quiz

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

West:

♠ AKT9
♥ T9
♦ Q963
♣ T42

Auction (N/S vul):

South	West	North	East
2S	Pass	Pass	Pass

Answer later in the Bulletin

Cliff Wake Challenge

History recap for people unaware of this event:

The name Cliff Wake was first seen at the last congress ever held in Tumut (a country town in NSW). This was so long ago that entries were submitted by hand! Griff Ware (ex-youth player and long-time convenor of Youth week) sent in a badly scrawled physical entry form, which was interpreted as the name "Cliff Wake".

The Cliff Wake Playoff was first envisaged during the 2008 Youth Teams, in which there was a tie between the leading teams at the end of the event and the regulations called for a four-board playoff. This was extremely exciting and it became clear that we ought to have a tied event every year! The inaugural Cliff Wake Playoff occurred in 2011. The winners of the Youth Teams compete in a 4-board playoff against a team of all star players. The winners get their names engraved (misspelled) on the trophy, in “Cliff Wake” style.

The scoring of this event is Board-a-match (effectively 2-table Matchpoints). You get 2 points if you beat the other table on the board, 1 point each for a draw and no points for a loss.



Cliff Wake Challenge 2026 – Table 1

This year the teams are:

Cliff Wake Challengers (winners of Youth Teams): Zac Ross – Remco Spencer, Paddy Taylor – Bertie Morgan

Cliff Wake All Stars: Ella Jacob – Nick Jacob, Sebastian Yuen – Christy Geromboux

The line ups of the two tables were:

Table 1

	Berty	
Sebastian		Christy
	Paddy	

Table 2

	Ella	
Zac		Remco
	Nick	

Here's what happened, starting with table 1:

Board 1	♠ AJT9
Nil Vul	♥ A93
Dlr: North	♦ J9
	♣ T763
♠ Q753	♠ 6
♥ J	♥ KQ82
♦ AKT86	♦ Q742
♣ J52	♣ A984
	♠ K842
	♥ T7654
	♦ 53
	♣ KQ

South	West	North	East
—	—	Pass	1C*
Pass	1 NT*	All Pass	

1C showed clubs or a weak notrump. Playing transfer responses to 1C, 1S would show a normal 1NT response and 1NT shows a stronger, invitational hand.

North led the SJ. Not realising this was an interior sequence lead, South chose to play low, not wanting to squander two honours on

the same trick. The result of this was that declarer scored the SQ and proceeded to cash 8 tricks for +120.

Table 2 did not receive as friendly a defence and only managed to score +90.

Score Check

Team	Scores	Total
Cliff Wake Challengers	0	0
Cliff Wake All Stars	2	2

Board 2	♠ AQ9
N/S Vul	♥ T63
Dlr: East	♦ 83
	♣ KT973
♠ K	
♥ AKQ87	
♦ AJT5	
♣ 654	
	♠ JT75432
	♥ 942
	♦ K
	♣ QJ
	♠ 86
	♥ J5
	♦ Q97642
	♣ A82

Table 1:

South	West	North	East
—	—	—	3S
Pass	4S	All Pass	

East's 3S bid was explained as "could easily have only 6 cards" for the favourable 3-level pre-empt. Despite this, West decided bidding the vulnerable game was still worthwhile.

The defence started with the HJ. Declarer cashed the HA and played the SK to the SA. North returned a heart, looking to give partner a ruff, but to no avail. After winning the HK and DK, declarer knocked out the SQ. North returned another heart, again looking to give partner a ruff (which would have been on the cards if East had only 6 trumps). When South couldn't ruff, declarer was able to discard one club loser on the DA to make the contract. +620.

Table 2 also failed to cash out, but as East-West didn't bid game they only scored +170.

Score Check

Team	Scores	Total
Cliff Wake Challengers	0 0	0
Cliff Wake All Stars	2 2	4

Board 3	♠ A87
E/W Vul	♥ QJ8643
Dlr: South	♦ JT3
	♣ J
♠ K64	♠ Q
♥ 97	♥ AKT2
♦ 642	♦ K875
♣ KQ874	♣ AT65
	♠ JT9532
	♥ 5
	♦ AQ9
	♣ 932

Table 1:

South	West	North	East
2S	Pass	3S	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West had a difficult decision of what to do over partner's high level takeout double. Eventually Christy made the right call of 3NT.

North led the S7, allowing the SQ to score the first trick. But with South having two diamond entries and declarer being entitled to one spade trick anyway, this didn't hurt the defence.

If declarer were able to see through the backs of the cards she would have been able to lead hearts towards dummy twice to establish a ninth trick. As it was, she chose the better percentage play of simply leading towards the DK, hoping for DA onside. When this did not eventuate she cashed out for one down and -100.

The other table saw more aggressive bidding:

Table 1:

South	West	North	East
3S	Pass	4S	Dble
All Pass			

The defence started with a heart to the HQ and HA, followed by a diamond. To beat the

contract the defenders needed to lead trumps earlier.

Declarer win the DQ and played on clubs at every opportunity, ruffing two clubs in dummy to make this contract for +590.

Score Check

Team	Scores	Total
Cliff Wake Challengers	0 0 0	0
Cliff Wake All Stars	2 2 2	6

The game was already won, but the players didn't know it yet.

Board 4	♠ Q86
All Vul	♥ K8
Dlr: West	♦ 986542
	♣ 83
♠ 9754	♠ AJT
♥ A65	♥ J974
♦ QT7	♦ K
♣ AJ4	♣ Q7652
	♠ K32
	♥ QT32
	♦ AJ3
	♣ KT9

Table 1:

South	West	North	East
—	1C*	Pass	1NT*
All Pass			

The H2 lead went to the HK and the H8 return caught the 9, T and A. The spade finesse lost, South cashed the HQ and then switched to the C9. This lead gives away a club trick if declarer can read the layout, but declarer was not greedy and won the CJ. Another spade finesse (this time winning) was followed by CA and another club. When South returned a spade, declarer was soon claiming 8 tricks for +120.

The bidding at the other table was far more competitive:

Table 2:

South	West	North	East
—	Pass	Pass	1C*
Pass	1S	Pass	Pass
Dble	Redble	2D	2S
Pass	Pass	3D	All Pass

East decided to pass partner's 1S response, as they are a passed hand (so missing game is not a risk). But the bigger risk at this form of scoring is that it allowed the opponents to compete for the partscore. And compete they did, all the way up to 3D.

The defence started with the SA. Despite the fact that partner has shown some cards in this suit, it is still a risky holding to lead from. And today's deal showed why, with this lead setting up an extra trick for declarer.

Declarer won the spade continuation with the SK and then led a heart to the HK and a heart to the HT, knocking out the HA. The defence persisted with spades to Ella's SQ and she now led a trump to the DK and DA.

Dummy played the HT and H3 and West chose to ruff in with a trump winner, as Ella discarded her last club loser. This allowed the contract to make for +110.

Score Check

Team	Scores	Total
Cliff Wake Challengers	0 0 0 0	0
Cliff Wake All Stars	2 2 2 2	8

Congratulations to the Cliff Wake All Stars Team of Ella Jacob – Nick Jacob, Sebastian Yuen – Christy Geromboux.



Caught in the Crossfire

by Alan Stoneham

Nil Vul ♠ J843

Dlr: East ♥ 9754

♦ J9

Alan ♣ 963

N
W E
S

Damo

♠ QT965

♥ J62

♦ QT3

♣ QJ

♠ K
♥ AQ3
♦ K864
♣ KT852

South West North East

— — — 2S

Dble Redble 3H Pass

4H Dble All Pass

North was just an innocent bystander caught in the crossfire of this hand. My partner in crime opened a pre-emptive 2♠ first seat favourable, a bit heavy on high cards but it's full of quacks. A routine takeout double was redoubled by me for values, and North ran to their best suit and got raised to four, perhaps in fear of missing a vulnerable game. I swiftly doubled, looking at a very likely four tricks in my hand. Partner led the queen of clubs to the king, ace and three. I hatched a plan to promote my hearts by making dummy ruff with high hearts. I played the ace of spades and then the seven to the eight, nine and dummy ruffed with the three of hearts. Declarer, stuck in dummy, tried a diamond to the jack, which was won by partner's queen. He returned the two of hearts to the queen, king and four. The only trump dummy had remaining was the ace, and so I returned the two of spades, which went to the four and five, and dummy pitched a club. High five! Then came the queen of spades, dummy and I pitching a club, and declarer's jack falling. Only now did partner cash the jack of clubs and exit a heart to dummy's ace. The eight of clubs was led from dummy, I pitched a diamond, declarer played the nine, and partner ruffed with the jack. The fifth spade hit the table, which I pitched a club on and declarer ruffed, and the last two tricks went to me in the form the ace of diamonds and the high ten of hearts. The aftermath: down seven vulnerable for +2000. This cheered our teammates up since they were in 4♣X-4 for -1100 after potentially defending 3♣XX, gaining 14 IMPs and winning the match 17-14.

Speedball Results

North/South

Rank	Pair	Score
1	TAYDON GOLD - NOAH KLUGMAN	58.96%
2	LEON MEIER - JESSIE PELENATO	58.21%
3	NATALIE NEWMAN - NICOLA LACHENICHT	57.04%
4	DAVID ZHENG - HAMISH NEWMAN	53.86%
5	LEIGH MATHESON - ASHLEY MATHESON	52.70%
6	OLIVER BRAYSHAW - ELIJAH GUEST	47.33%
7	ANTHONY MILLS - RICKY CARTHEW	46.23%
8	AADHI HARIHARAN - FLETCHER DAVEY	43.96%
9	ELLIE MOLLOY - SEBASTIAN REDIN	43.37%
10	LIZZY BRAYSHAW - ALEXIS WILSMORE	38.34%

East/West

1	HEATH WATKINS - ALEX GOSS	67.92%
2	MATTHEW SIEREDZINSKI - SAMUEL GOSS	64.04%
3	ZAC ROSS - DEV SHAH	61.68%
4	EMMA FITZGERALD - TAMATI GREIG	48.99%
5	JADE WILKINSON - NATALEE WHITE	48.38%
6	DAMON FLICKER - PADDY TAYLOR	46.16%
7	MARCUS DUDLEY - GRACE WANG	46.00%
8	DIYA SHAH - JASSY CARTHEW	42.52%
9	JACKSON HODGE - DARYL WHITFIELD	40.65%
10	SAMUEL MCCALLUM WHITE - MICHAEL NEHME	33.65%

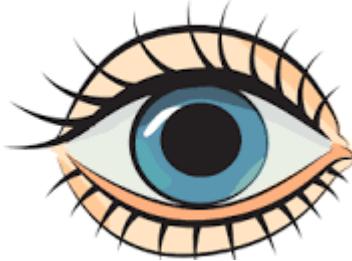
LT in the house!

Lauren Travis gave a very useful talk on the many aspects of how you can be more positive and the actions you can take to improve your bridge results.



Puzzle Corner

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



META
META
META
META

TRY STAND
2

MYBEHINDWORK

Answers to yesterday's puzzles:

- Bucket list
- Do not underestimate me
- Blood is thicker than water
- The bottom line

Opening Lead Quiz

by Leigh Matheson

Today's lead problem is board 15 from Match 11 of the Teams event.

E/W Vul

♦ 2

Dlr: South

♦ AK43

♦ KJT852

♣ QJ

♦ AKT9

♦ 86

♦ T9

♦ J8765

♦ Q963

♦ A4

♣ T42

♣ A765

♦ QJ7543

♦ Q2

♦ 7

♣ K983

East

South

West

North

2S

Pass

Pass

Pass

N
W
E
S

There is a common saying that “with trump length you should lead length”. On today's deal this advice suggests leading a diamond. What does the simulation have to say?

Lead card	% defeat	Ave tricks	Score
HT	70.66%	6.19	10
D3	67.24%	6.09	7
C2	67.16%	6.06	6
SA	62.18%	5.93	0

Given that we don't have a particularly long side suit, leading our “length” is unlikely to force declarer to trump in enough times to do anything useful.

More important than this is to lead a passive side suit and wait to score our trump tricks without jeopardising any side suit tricks we might have coming as well.

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.