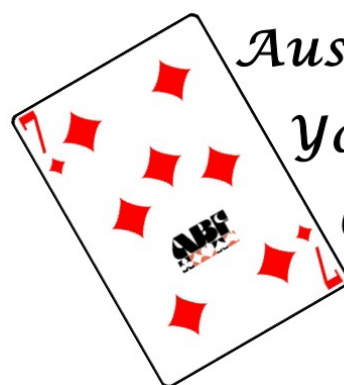


Bulletin 6

Thursday 15th January



Australian Youth Bridge Championships

Session Times Today

Butler 9am-6:30pm
Coaching 9:00am-9:30am @ Rex
Consolation 10:00am-6:30pm
Crazy Pairs Bridge After Dinner

Session Times Tomorrow

Butler 9am-6pm
Coaching 9:00am-9:30am @ Rex
Side Events @ Rex 9:45am-6pm



Not much separates our competitors after day 1 of 3 in the Butler (Stage 1) of the Australian Junior selection. Adrian Le – Fletcher Davey have taken a narrow lead:

Current Standings after Round 6 of 18

Rank	Pair	Imps	VPs	W-D-L
1	ADRIAN LE / FLETCHER DAVEY	75.75	82.60	4-1-1
2	PADDY TAYLOR / BERTIE MORGAN	51.50	75.94	4-1-1
3	DIYA SHAH / DEV SHAH	47.25	75.88	4-0-2
4	HEATH WATKINS / KATE MACDONALD	29.00	70.39	5-0-1
5	TAYDON GOLD / JADE WILKINSON	28.00	69.81	4-1-1
6	ADA SUN / ALEX WU	-17.50	53.92	2-1-3
7	SAMUEL GOSS / ALEX GOSS	-23.25	52.92	2-1-3
8	REMCO SPENCER / ZAC ROSS	-33.50	49.68	2-0-4
9	DAVID ZHENG / NOAH KLUGMAN	-75.50	35.07	0-1-5
10	JESSICA HE / BYRON FRENCH	-81.75	33.79	0-0-6

Trans-Tasman Challenge is on!

4 teams of Australian and New Zealand players will compete in the Trans-Tasman Challenge. The teams are:

Australia 1 (Team 1)	New Zealand 1 (Team 2)	Australia 2 (Team 3)	New Zealand 2 (Team 4)
Aadhi Hariharan	Ellie Molloy	Jassy Carthew	Alex Meyer
Alan Stoneham	Emma Fitzgerald	Matthew Sieredzinski	Grace Wang
Darren Brake	Leon Meier	Natalee White	Jessie Pelenato
Natalie Newman	Tamati Greig	Sebastian Redin	Marcus Dudley

Event format:

Double round robin of Aus vs NZ match ups, followed by a final between the highest ranking Australian team and the highest ranking New Zealand team.

(*note: format subject to timing of other youth week activities)

Opening Lead Quiz

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

West:

♠ T6
♥ Q9432
♦ KT9
♣ KT7

Auction (E/W vul):

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
2H	Pass	2S	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	Pass

Answer later in the Bulletin

By Heath Watkins

♠ KT4
♥ 98
♦ Q3
♣ T98762

Nil Vul			
West	North	East	South
2S*	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	



*2S is described as always
6 cards

♣ AJ

♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥

West could disrupt this plan by playing the SQ on the lead of the S2. But even if West finds this fine play, Heath's chosen line doesn't cost – you can always try leading towards the DQ as your second entry.

Nil Vul	♠ KT4
Dlr: West	♥ 98
	♦ Q3
	♣ T98762

♠ Q98765
♥ J7
♦ AT7
♣ K5
Lead: S9



♠ AJ2
 ♥ AQ43
 ♦ KJ52
 ♣ AJ

Today the DA was onside, so this creative idea went unrewarded.

By George Bartley

E/W Vul	♠ AJ5
Dlr: East	♥ Q5

♣ 94



♣ JT3

♣ AK76

Declarer then correctly finessed the ♥J, succeeded with the spade finesse, cashed the ♠A K, and collected four club tricks. However, the hand never quite came together: entries proved awkward, and declarer was unable to coordinate all suits effectively. Eventually, our heroes regained the lead with the ♠Q, cashed the ♥A, and concluded proceedings by playing the ♦7, dethroning dummy's ♦6—for a satisfyingly neat defensive beer. My partner was highly envious of me making the beer card.

Leon's Squeeze

Leon took a tactical masterclass on squeezes playing 2NT in the individual:

Leon


♠ AK8		♠ 952
♥ T976		♥ 82
♦ AK86		♦ Q952
♣ JT		♣ A876

South	West	North	East
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2C	Dble	2H	2NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	


In his doomed contract, the defence began with the HA and he wistfully and enviously looked out the window. If by divine intervention, the J fell by the Ace's hand, as his LHO continued with the HKQ. Leon wisely removed a spade, and the defence continued aloft with yet another heart, as he pitched a club. He carefully ran the Jack of clubs, which South won and played the K of clubs on which their partner pitched a diamond as Leon won the Ace.

He thought it prudent to win some tricks so he cashed the AK of diamonds which South played the T then showed out. Hence he knows that North has a 2641 shape, and that South is guarding both clubs and spades. Hence he was able to claim on a squeeze on South in the black suits, as he can now continue diamonds to force south to pitch cards from either clubs or spades!!

Editor's note: see below for the full deal and end position


N/S Vul	♠ QT	
Dlr: East	♥ AKQ543	
	♦ J743	
	♣ 2	
♠ AK8		♠ 952
♥ T976		♥ 82
♦ AK86		♦ Q952
♣ JT		♣ A876
	♠ J7643	
	♥ J	
	♦ T	
	♣ KQ9543	

On the last diamond South is forced to find a discard, establishing a winner for declarer.

♠ AK8	♠ QT	
♥ —	♥ 54	
♦ 8	♦ —	
♣ —	♣ —	
		♠ 95
		♥ —
		♦ 9
		♣ 8
	♠ J76	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ 9	

Aadhi scores another beer card

By Aadhi Hariharan

Both Vul	♠ 743	
Dlr: West	♥ AK83	
	♦ KT	
	♣ AQ75	
♠ J9852		♠ AQT6
♥ Q62		♥ J9
♦ 8		♦ Q9643
♣ 9864		♣ JT
	♠ K	
	♥ T754	
	♦ AJ752	
	♣ K32	

South	West	North	East
—	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3C	Pass	3D	Pass
3S	Pass	4H	Pass
4NT	Pass	5D	Pass
6H	Pass	Pass	Pass
*16-17			

East led the CJ, which went to the CQ. The HK was cashed, East following with the HJ! The HA came next, making it look like East held HQJ9. Two clubs were cashed next, East pitching a diamond. The DK was cashed followed by running the DT, West electing to discard his last club. I then cashed my now good C7, discarding the SK from dummy, which West ruffed this time.

The defence continued with a spade, which dummy ruffed. The DJ was now ruffed (preserving the beer), followed by a heart to dummy's H10. Dummy's DA was cashed followed by the now good beer card!

Interview with Ada and Alex (but mostly Ada)

"Where are you from?"

Both: Brisbane

"What's your favourite subject at school?"

Ada: Alex likes maths and science.

Alex: Ada does swimming and track.

"How long have you been playing bridge?"

Ada: I started 2 years ago. My dad introduced me.

Alex: I started 6 years ago. My dad told me that bridge was better than chess.



Alex Wu and Ada Sun

"What is your favourite thing about bridge?"

Alex: MATHS!!!

Ada: I like just making people feel confused. No offence guys, I genuinely do. It makes me happy. It makes me feel like I did the right thing.

"Tell me an interesting story about each other."

Ada: Alex is every day in his spare time looking at one of 4 things: Flight radar, Apple Maps, Google Earth or weather. Every day he comes up to me and tells me the weather for 4 different countries. He also has memorised about 20 plane paths every day. And he knows all the suburbs of Bridge. I'll drive around and take a photo and send him this photo of a random road and he knows which road it is. He's also very good at Geometry Dash.

Alex:...

Ada: Tell them about the time you came to my swimming carnival and watched me swim. Or can you not even remember that?

Alex: No.

Ada (reading my next question before I've asked it): we've played together for 2 years.

Alex: At the ANC in Brisbane in June, people came up to me every morning and asked for a chocolate bar from the vending machine. Every single morning. And she (Ada) asked me for carrot cake every day as well.

Ada: We had \$2 to spend, but he just wanted the salted peanuts. Who buys salted peanuts from a vending machine?

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

Ada: We can talk about the board we played yesterday.

Alex: East opened 1H and West bid 3NT. I was North with 19 points. I was really confused. I asked what 3NT meant. I said I was confused. And declarer said oh I know why you're confused and then he proceeded to finesse me for everything.

Ada: I also super accepted with 14HCP. Our system card says occasional psyches. And we do.

Ada (again reading my script): Anything more to add?

Alex: I think we played better than we expected to. We just did better every single day.

Ada: I have so many interesting stories about you and you don't have a single one about me? You don't care about me?

Me: "This one time, Ada thought a bridge event started at 8am."

Ada: I called my mum and told her it starts at 8 and I need to be up at 7. You shouldn't tell me anything important after 8pm. 8pm is my bedtime. Also this "8am" event we're talking about is today's bridge. We just qualified for the Butler.

Alex: We just got back from the Gold Coast teams and came 3rd last. I wasn't so confident coming into this event.

Ada: Alex is a level 10 pianist. He just won the Qld piano contest. Also got a prize multiple times in the Qld maths competition.

Alex: Ada plays flute. She does way too many things.

Ada: Is that like a compliment???

Alex: Ada plays like chess, table tennis for 4 years, javelin and swam for 9 years now. She got top 3 in Australia for swimming.

Ada: I went to China in September for swimming training. It sucked. I died. I was like swimming for 7 hours a day. I sleep at noon and stuff. I haven't been swimming much recently. My biggest fear is drowning. That's why I don't do ocean swimming or triathlons. Do you do any sports Alex?

Alex: ...

Ada: No, I didn't think so. He's very humble. And he likes making weird sounds at weird times.

...

Natalee enters the room: Your voice is echoing all the way down the hall. And your voice (Ada) is the only one I can hear too.

Ada: At the airport, I was there at 2pm. Alex and his dad arrived at 11am. And he checked in his bags before I left the house. For a domestic flight.

Alex: The Jetstar check-in was messed up.

Ada: Will this interview be in the bulletin tomorrow?

Me: "Yes it will."

Ada: We're going to be famous!!!

Eclectic Individual Results


Place	Result	%	Name
1	238.9	59.72%	MARCUS DUDLEY
2	236.6	59.15%	AADHI HARIHARAN
2	236.5	59.13%	ALAN STONEHAM
4	232.8	58.21%	ALEX MEYER
4	232.7	58.18%	LEON MEIER
6	232.0	58.01%	EMMA FITZGERALD
7	229.6	57.39%	RICKY CARTHEW
8	226.8	56.70%	ELLIE MOLLOY
9	222.5	55.63%	JESSIE PELENATO
10	217.6	54.39%	ANTHONY MILLS
11	214.8	53.70%	AARON KENDAL
12	213.2	53.30%	JACKSON HODGE
13	208.8	52.21%	MATTHEW SIEREDZINSKI
13	208.4	52.11%	NATALIE NEWMAN
15	203.6	50.89%	DARREN BRAKE
16	197.2	49.31%	ALEXIS WILSMORE
17	192.0	47.99%	ELIJAH GUEST
18	191.0	47.74%	ALEXANDER WILKINSON
19	185.5	46.38%	NATALEE WHITE
20	182.2	45.56%	CAMPBELL MILLAR
21	179.6	44.89%	SEBASTIAN REDIN
22	178.4	44.59%	JASSY CARTHEW
22	178.0	44.49%	TAMATI GREIG
24	175.8	43.95%	REYA SHAH
24	175.7	43.92%	NICOLA LACHENICHT
26	173.7	43.43%	GWENYTH MEADOWS
27	171.4	42.86%	WILLIAM BOYCE CAM
28	167.3	41.82%	LIZZY BRAYSHAW
28	167.0	41.74%	OLIVER BRAYSHAW
30	161.3	40.33%	SAMUEL MCCALLUM WHITE
31	160.8	40.20%	HAMISH NEWMAN



2026 Eclectic Individual in action


Speedball! ~~beer~~ coke card

Ashley Matheson managed to score his first defensive beer card during the speedball!

E/W Vul	♠ J95		
Dlr: South	♥ K84		
	♦ AT64		
	♣ K75		
♠ A76		♠ QT84	
♥ AJ6		♥ 9532	
♦ 8		♦ K95	
♣ AQT832		♣ 96	
			
	Ashley		
Lead: H4	♠ K32		
	♥ QT7		
	♦ QJ732		
	♣ J4		


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

The opening heart lead collected the HQ and HA, whereupon declarer played a spade to the S10 and SK. Ashley saw a better source of tricks than hearts and switched to the DQ, ducked to dummy's DK. Declarer then cashed 3 rounds of spades, North pitching a diamond and Ashley letting go a club. Declarer took a losing club finesse and I cashed the HK and DA. These cards remained:

♠ —		♠ —	
♥ 8		♥ 95	
♦ T		♦ 9	
♣ 75		♣ 9	
♠ —		♠ —	
♥ —		♥ —	
♦ —		♦ —	
♣ AT83		♣ —	
			
	Ashley		
	♠ —		
	♥ T		
	♦ J73		
	♣ —		


When I returned the DT, Ashley overtook with the DJ! What's more he cashed his HT and D3 before finishing with the D7, taking the contract 3 down for +300 and a 100% board. At eight years old, I let Ashley cash it in as a coke card instead of waiting a decade.

Ashley also produced this defence during the same session:

Nil Vul	♠ Q52		
Dlr: West	♥ KJ542		
	♦ A72		
	♣ 87		
♠ KJ4		♠ AT963	
♥ 76		♥ AQT8	
♦ KQ93		♦ 8	
♣ QJ52		♣ AT3	
			
	Ashley		
Lead: D4	♠ 87		
	♥ 93		
	♦ JT654		
	♣ K964		

South	West	North	East
—	1D	1H	1S
Pass	2S	Pass	4S
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The opening lead went to the DK and DA. The heart switch was taken by declarer's HQ, who then cashed SA and finessed the SJ, losing to the SQ. The HK knocked out the HA and then declarer ruffed a heart in dummy. These cards were left:

Nil Vul	♠ 5		
Dlr: West	♥ J54		
	♦ 72		
	♣ 87		
♠ —		♠ T96	
♥ —		♥ T	
♦ Q93		♦ —	
♣ QJ52		♣ AT3	
			
	Ashley		
Lead: D4	♠ —		
	♥ —		
	♦ JT6		
	♣ K964		

In dummy for the last time, declarer led the CQ for a finesse. If Ashley wins this trick, it would be the last trick for the defence, as the HT goes on the DQ. So Ashley let the CQ hold! Declarer followed up with another club finesse. This time Ashley took the CK and returned a club for me to ruff. For good measure I was then on lead to cash the HJ and take the contract 2 down.

Speedball!

Opening Lead Quiz

by Leigh Matheson

Today's hand is from the Butler phase of the Australian Junior Team Selection, Match 3:

E/W Vul	♠ Q52	
Dlr: North	♥ AK76	
	♦ 4	
	♣ AQJ82	
♠ T6		♠ A84
♥ Q9432		♥ T5
♦ KT9		♦ AQ87
♣ KT7		♣ 9643
	♠ KJ973	
	♥ J8	
	♦ J6532	
	♣ 5	

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
2H	Pass	2S	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	Pass

West has an awkward bunch of suits holdings to potentially lead from. Let's see what a simulation of 5000 hands would suggest offers the best prospects.

Lead card	% defeat	Ave tricks	Score
S6	8.18%	1.67	8
DK	6.92%	1.80	8
DT	6.64%	1.79	10
H3	6.54%	1.64	9
C7	4.70%	1.51	5

One important thing to note is that these simulation results are based on double dummy data. If partner has SQxx leading a trump will solve declarer's guess. But playing double dummy, the computer never had a guess to start with. So the simulation will favour a trump lead slightly more than we should at the table. As such, I've lowered the score for a trump lead.

The best lead is a diamond. Double dummy, the DK will work best – with opener showing 5+ clubs, 4 hearts and 3 spades, dummy is known to have at most a singleton diamond. So leading the DK allows us to hold the lead and lead through dummy's strong hand next.

At the table, partner may find a DK lead hard to read. If you and your partner have an understanding that opening leads can be unusual like this, go ahead... if you can work it out. Otherwise, you do best to lead the DT.

Finally, leading a club into a strong dummy with 5+ cards in the suit is not ideal.

If you think about the full layout of the hand, you are more likely to find the right reasons to lead (or avoid leading) certain suits.

Puzzle Corner

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

G
N
I
T DA WN
T
E
G

HAIR_____

jink jink jink

D
S R
K I
N
HOUSE

Answers to yesterday's puzzles:

- Iran
- Metaphor
- Try to understand
- Behind in my work

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 – 10:00am) Consolation (10:00am – 6:30pm)		Dinner out & Games / Trivia
Thursday 15th	Butler Stage 1 (9am – 6:30pm) Coaching (9:30am – 10:00am) Consolation (10:00am – 6:30pm)		Crazy Pairs
Friday 16th	Butler Stage 1 (9am – 6:30pm) Coaching (9:30am – 10:00am) 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)

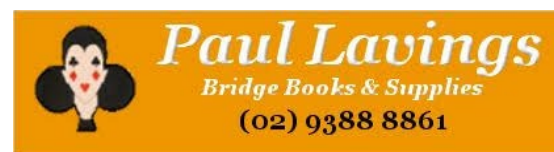
(Note: if an event time changes there will be an announcement and update of future bulletin programs)

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.



Paul Lavings has once again made a donation, gifting all youth players a bridge book. To show your appreciation of Paul's generosity, buy your bridge books from Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies.



www.bridgegear.com.au

Support those who support youth bridge.

2026 Butler Day 1 in progress