

Summer Festival of Bridge

Wednesday 14 - Sunday 25 January 2026

Daily Bulletin



Friday 16th January 2026

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Bulletin 2

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The Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs concluded yesterday, with William Zhang and Tom Kiss taking out the title.

Congratulations to Ingrid Klein and Leonie Katekar for their triumph in the National Rookie IMP Swiss Pairs, and to David Melzer and Glenn Foard for their second win in two days, this time in the National Novice IMP Swiss Pairs.

Good luck to all in the Fixed Income Solutions One Day IMP Swiss Pairs, National Rookie and Novice Swiss Teams, and the final qualifying rounds of the National Women's Teams and National Seniors' Teams.



William Zhang and Tom Kiss

Today's Program

Friday 16th January

National Women's Teams Qualifying

9.45am – 3.30pm, 3 x 14-board rounds

National Seniors' Teams Qualifying

9.45am – 6.30pm, 3 x 20-board rounds

National Rookie (U20 MP) All-Rounder Swiss Teams

9.00am – 9.30am *Celebrity Speaker Talk (optional)*, 10.00am – 5.00pm *Competitive Game*, 5.00pm – 6.00pm *Practice Hands (optional)*

National Novice (U100 MP) All-Rounder Swiss Teams

9.00am – 9.30am *Celebrity Speaker Talk (optional)*, 10.00am – 5.00pm *Competitive Game*, 5.00pm – 6.00pm *Practice Hands (optional)*

Fixed Income Solutions One Day IMP Swiss Pairs

9.45am – 5.30pm, 6 x 8-board rounds

Today's Celebrity Speaker

Laura Ginnan - Opening Leads

The opening lead is the defence's first strike and often sets the course of the entire hand. This hands-on session puts cards in your hands, exploring how a well-chosen opening lead can build tricks, apply pressure, and put declarer on the back foot. Discussion will include choosing the right suit, leading with purpose, and using the auction to make that crucial first move count.



9:00-9:30am at the Rex Hotel. Free for Rookie All-Rounder and Novice All-Rounder players. \$5 for all others.



Will Jenner-O'Shea's Celebrity Speaker talk was popular and informative



Nick Jacob and Damon Flicker

RED DAY

TUESDAY 20 JANUARY

Wear **RED** to support
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The Heart Research Institute (HRI) partners with ABF

Much like a game of bridge, strong hearts and sharp minds are built through connection, strategy and care over time. That's why we're delighted to welcome HRI to this year's Festival. Their scientists are dedicated to understanding and preventing cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death globally, so more Australians can enjoy long, active lives filled with the people and pastimes that they love.

Joining us from 19 - 21 January, HRI will be running a suite of activities that will be sure to keep your hearts happy and your cards in play. HRI will also be providing prizes to the Junior and Senior team champions.

You can get involved by:

- Wearing **RED** on Tuesday 20 January.
- Having a heart health check. HRI will be providing complimentary ECG and blood pressure checks. These 5 minute checks could save your life.
- Attending the complimentary lunch time health information session moderated by ABF member Professor Mathew Vadas.
- Chatting with the HRI team to learn about making a tax-deductible donation or gift that supports their groundbreaking research.



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GROUND.
HEALING
HEARTS.

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Results

Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

1 st	Tom Kiss – William Zhang	110.17 VP
2 nd	Nick Jacob – Damon Flicker	105.81 VP
3 rd	Liz Hurley – Stephen Hurley	104.44 VP
4 th	Simon Rose – Barry Rawicki	102.71 VP
5 th	Jenna Gibbons – Julian Foster	100.45 VP

National Rookie All-Rounder IMP Swiss Pairs

1 st	Ingrid Klein – Leonie Katekar	97.83 VP
2 nd	Lisa Towing – Sue West	94.45 VP
3 rd	Vicki Hildebrand – Elizabeth Redman	89.79 VP
4 th	Sharon Woodward – Robert Longair	80.21 VP
5 th	Sue Wallace – Gill Homan	64.34 VP

National Novice All-Rounder IMP Swiss Pairs

1 st	David Melzer – Glenn Foard	95.44 VP
2 nd	Josh Schwartz – Maxwell Ashurst	91.77 VP
3 rd	Gillian Hibbard – Jenni Cover	89.45 VP
4 th	Jeremy Lin – Alexandra Mills	86.40 VP
5 th	Paul Freeman – Neville Hind	85.42 VP

System Health Check

Just like a heart health check on your cardiovascular system is important, a bridge system check can also identify problems before it's too late.



What is the meaning of this responsive double in your partnership? Is it takeout or penalty? Why?

(1♣) X (1♥) X

This system health check is sponsored by the Heart Research Institute. Please support those who support bridge by wearing RED on Tuesday 20th January.



**BREAKING GROUND.
HEALING HEARTS.**

Celebrity Speaker Series

Week 1

Rex Hotel – 9.00-9.30am

Free for National Rookies All-Rounder and National Novice All-Rounder players, \$5 for all other attendees

Wednesday 14th January

Damon Flicker

What Will You Do?



Thursday 15th January

Will Jenner-O'Shea

Competitive Bidding



Friday 16th January

Laura Ginnan

Opening Leads



In this practical, hands-on session, Damon puts you in the hot seat and presents real situations where you choose your actions. Compare your decisions with others at the table and see whether you would make the same choices as Damon – and why.

A fresh new approach to When to Compete, and When to Defend. Which contracts should you aim to PLAY and when should you push the opponents out of their contract. Discussion about which cards are better for playing and better for defending.

The opening lead is the defence's first strike and often sets the course of the entire hand. This hands-on session puts cards in your hands, exploring how a well-chosen opening lead can build tricks, apply pressure, and put declarer on the back foot. Discussion will include choosing the right suit, leading with purpose, and using the auction to make that crucial first move count.

Week 2

Canberra Accommodation Centre – 9.00-9.30am

Free for National Restricted All-Rounder and National U750 All-Rounder players, \$5 for all other attendees

Monday 19th January

Andy Hung

Defending With or Without Signals



Tuesday 20th January

Will Jenner-O'Shea

Tournament Tools



Wednesday 21st January

Laura Ginnan

Decision Dynamics



Defence can be straightforward when your partner provides a helpful signal, but there are times when partner had no opportunity to give a signal and you must rely on your own judgment. How do the top players still manage to find the winning defence? Join Andy as he shares some of the hidden secrets to improve your defence!

Conventions and Bids you need to be prepared for in Competitions. Defence to 1NT (Strong AND Weak). Defence to Weak Twos. Defence to Multi Twos. How to Handle Strange and Undiscussed situations.

Every hand presents a series of choices that shape the final result. In this hands-on session, Laura guides you through different situations, exploring the options at each turn and putting you in the position to decide what you would do.

Results

National Women's Teams (after 8 of 11 rounds)

1 st	Tobin	110.61 VP
2 nd	Smyth	108.32 VP
3 rd	Thompson	106.69 VP
4 th	Mott	100.77 VP
5 th	Neumann	100.25 VP
6 th	Collett	81.35 VP

National Seniors' Teams (after 6 of 9 rounds)

1 st	Kozakos	99.64 VP
2 nd	Depasquale	80.60 VP
3 rd	Smolanko	79.39 VP
4 th	Ewart	78.58 VP
5 th	Buchen	76.94 VP
6 th	Frazer	70.40 VP

Meet Declan Cassidy from Fixed Income Solutions

Fixed Income Solutions is once again supporting the Summer Festival, with Declan Cassidy on site until Saturday afternoon. This marks their third year at the Festival and their 30th bridge event as sponsors, reflecting a long-standing commitment to the bridge community.

Fixed Income Solutions has supported everything from local club sessions to major gold point events, with a focus on helping bridge grow and contributing wherever they can.

As a specialist fixed income business, Fixed Income Solutions focuses on term deposits and corporate bonds – options that appeal to many bridge players seeking stability, reliable income, and capital preservation. Their involvement in bridge began through long-time bridge-playing clients who recognised a natural overlap between the bridge demographic and fixed income investing.

Declan is always happy to chat about what Fixed Income Solutions does, answer questions, or discuss ways they may be able to support clubs and events. Please feel free to say hello while he's here, or reach out to Fixed Income Solutions if you think your club could benefit.



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Get in touch to learn more.

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National Women's Teams – Round 5

When Smyth took on Mott, their teams were sitting 1st and 3rd respectively, both with good records from day one of the National Women's Teams. In his Celebrity Speaker talk on Thursday morning, Will Jenner-O'Shea spoke about competitive bidding, telling the group that most auctions they'll experience will be competitive. These ladies certainly lived up to that!

What would you do on board 1? You hold ♠862 ♥J65 ♦KQJ9764 and partner opens 1NT (15-17). I think I would jump straight to 3NT – there's no point in telling the opponents about your diamonds when you don't want to play at the 5-level, and there's a huge upside if partner has the ♦A or 3 or more of them.

Judy Mott thought she'd found a great compromise between my optimistic bid and a more conservative approach – she bid 2NT, a transfer to diamonds, expecting her partner to superaccept with any honour. Unfortunately, she and Marcia Scudder were on different pages and Marcia showed a non-superaccept with her ♦A10 doubleton (which I can't blame her for). Thus they played in a diamond partscore, luckily duplicated at the other table.

Judy did well on board 5 in a very iffy contract.

Board 5 ♠ Q742

Dealer N ♥ AJ

Vul NS ♦ 10963

♣ A76

♠ 1095

♥ KQ8

♦ J42

♣ Q842

♠ J83

♥ 104

♦ AKQ85

♣ K93

♠ AK6

♥ 976532

♦ 7

♣ J105

West	North	East	South
Mott	Demarco	Scudder	Lusk
	Pass	1♦	1♥
1NT	X	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass



Judy Mott

Rookie Matchpoint Pairs Winners and Runners-Up



Lisa Towing and Sue West



Jen Saul and Adrienne Morey

In Will's talk, he also stated that 2NT is not a good contract because you have to make exactly 8 tricks to succeed. Marcia Scudder was apparently undeterred by the need for pinpoint precision.

Therese Demarco led ♥A to the 4, 9 and 8, followed by another heart to Judy's King. Able to count seven tricks, Judy needed to establish an eighth and recognised that she was better off doing so before North-South had time to communicate with their discards or were able to tell that the contract was about to make. She immediately played a club towards the King, and when Therese Demarco didn't fly with the Ace, 2NT was home.

How often does Rubensohl come up? If you were at this table, it was twice in two boards!



Sue Lusk

Board 12	♠ Q65		
Dealer W	♥ K4		
Vul NS	♦ AK1082		
	♣ A54		
♠ A1094		♠ 3	
♥ 82		♥ QJ975	
♦ J		♦ Q7654	
♣ J108632		♣ Q7	
	♠ KJ872		
	♥ A1063		
	♦ 93		
	♣ K9		
West	North	East	South
Mott	Demarco	Scudder	Lusk
Pass	1NT	2♦ *	3♣ *
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Marcia's 2♦ showed diamonds and a major, and was very aggressive opposite a passed partner (maybe she knows about Kate McCallum's rule). Sue, holding both majors, was a little stuck for a bid but opted for 3♣, a transfer to 3♦, which asked about Therese's diamond stopper and kept the door open to find a major fit. Therese obviously had the world's best diamond stopper so happily bid 3NT, which made 11 tricks.

Board 13	♠ AKJ93		
Dealer N	♥ 2		
Vul All	♦ 853		
	♣ KJ73		
♠ 7		♠ Q42	
♥ QJ87		♥ AK965	
♦ AJ942		♦ Q10	
♣ Q102		♣ A95	
	♠ 10865		
	♥ 1043		
	♦ K76		
	♣ 864		

After Therese opened 1♠ as North and Marcia overcalled 1NT, Sue competed to 2♠ and Judy had the opportunity to transfer her partner to 3NT. I don't think I've ever seen so much Rubensohl action in my life!

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Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs – Round 6

The opportunity arose to kibitz Tom Kiss and William Zhang, the eventual winners of the Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs, playing against Nick Jacob and Damon Flicker, who were the runners up. This match went a long way to deciding the event, with Tom and William winning 60% to 40%.

William found an unconventional but effective way of showing this strong two-suiter:

Board 16 ♠ A
 Dealer W ♥ AQ10962
 Vul EW ♦ KQ1064
 ♣ A

♠ Q876	♠ KJ543
♥ K3	♥ 7
♦ J8	♦ A53
♣ KQ952	♣ 10843

♠ 1092
 ♥ J854
 ♦ 972
 ♣ J76

West	North	East	South
Jacob	Zhang	Flicker	Kiss
1♣	1♥!	1♠	Pass
2♠	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			



William Zhang

I would hazard a guess that most Norths would have overcalled an Unusual 2NT or made a power double, but not William. He must have trusted with his singleton spade that the auction would continue, and when he made a powerful 4♦ bid on the second round it was impossible to stop below game.



Always a good sport, Damon Flicker (*pictured left*) has graciously given his permission for me to recount his errors for your entertainment. He found a killer start to the defence on board 25 but failed to really twist the knife.

Board 25 ♠ Q974
 Dealer N ♥ AJ76
 Vul EW ♦ 84
 ♣ AK8

♠ K2	♠ AJ85
♥ 2	♥ 9853
♦ Q752	♦ A10963
♣ J97643	♣ --

♠ 1063
♥ KQ104
♦ KJ
♣ Q1052

West	North	East	South
Jacob	Zhang	Flicker	Kiss
	1♣	Pass	1♦ (hearts)
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Damon was immediately keen to get Nick on lead to give him club ruffs, but wisely decided he should look at dummy before going all in. He led ♦A, and looking at dummy, the spade switch was clear. He played ♠A and another spade to Nick's King. Nick cooperatively switched to the ♣7, giving Damon a ruff, and intending his card as suit preference for spades and hoping to get a ruff of his own. His plan was foiled when Damon switched to a trump – not the most recommended course of action when you're looking for ruffs. Two defensive tricks evaporated into thin air as Damon realised his mistake, but he was a good sport and said, "There's always more to learn."

Only one pair bid and made 6♦ on board 27 – Nick's wife Ella Jacob and her partner Jane Beeby.

Board 27	♠ QJ96	
Dealer S	♥ Q10	
Vul Nil	♦ 73	
	♣ KQ854	
♠ K10		♠ A
♥ AK87653		♥ 4
♦ J102		♦ AQ9864
♣ A		♣ J10962
	♠ 875432	
	♥ J92	
	♦ K5	
	♣ 73	

West	North	East	South
Jacob	Zhang	Flicker	Kiss
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣ *	Pass	5♦	All Pass

It seemed that Damon instantly regretted his 2/1 GF, as he spent the rest of the auction trying to convince Nick that his hand was rubbish. While it may not be full strength in terms of HCP, this hand has huge playing strength opposite a fit in either minor and is only a 5-loser hand. I would have rebid 3♣ over 2♥, but once Nick had shown 3-card diamond support and first or second round control in clubs I think I would have been unstoppable.

Congratulations to both pairs from this match on their final result.

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National Seniors' Teams – Round 5

On Thursday morning David Beauchamp indirectly asked me to watch him. In the afternoon I obliged and his team won by 53 IMPs. If anyone else would like this service, please let me know and I'll see what I can do.

As I found my seat, David Hoffman said that they'd have to do something remarkable to help me out in writing this article. Beauchamp wasted a prime opportunity for bulletin glory:

Board 7 ♠ K10742

Dealer S ♥ --

Vul All ♦ Q92

♣ AKJ76

♠ A8

♥ 1097

♦ A84

♣ 109542

♠ QJ63

♥ AKQ8

♦ K1073

♣ Q

♠ 95

♥ J65432

♦ J65

♣ 83

West	North	East	South
Hoffman	Beauchamp	Brightling	van der Vlugt

Pass 1♠ 1NT Pass

2♣ * X 2♦ Pass

2NT Pass 3NT All Pass



Maurits van der Vlugt obediently led a club to Beauchamp's Ace. Upon seeing dummy, Beauchamp's hopes of a grand time cashing out clubs disappeared and he had to come up with plan B. Eventually, he switched to a low diamond which Richard Brightling won with the King before playing a spade to the Ace and another one back to the Queen, with Beauchamp ducking. He then cashed three rounds of hearts, Beauchamp pitching two clubs and a spade, before crossing to the ♦A. This was the position with Beauchamp still to play to the diamond:

♠ K10

♥ --

♦ Q9

♣ KJ

♠ --

♥ --

♦ 8

♣ 10954

♠ J6

♥ 8

♦ 107

♣ --

♠ --

♥ J65

♦ J

♣ 3

He squirmed a bit, then commented that this is not the best time to have the bulletin editor sitting behind you, before playing it safe with the ♦9, defeating the contract by one trick rather than two if he'd gone for the flashy play.

I've thought about board 12 quite a bit and I'm still not sure what I'd do with the East cards. He held ♠7 ♥3 ♦109543 ♣J109762 and heard his partner open a strong 2NT. If you have minor suit Stayman available that might be a good choice as long as partner shows you a minor. If they bid 3NT it's a disaster. Leaving them in 2NT doesn't seem right either. The results suggest no consensus – several tables in each of 2NT, 3NT, 5♣ and 5♦ among other results.

On board 16, David Beauchamp appeared to have been taking bidding lessons from Phil Markey. At favourable vulnerability, his right hand opponent opened 1♥ and he overcalled 1♠ with ♠QJ874 ♠9 ♦43 ♣J6542. His partner had a huge hand and was understandably disappointed when the final contract of 4♠x didn't make, although it came close.

In contrast to his partner, Maurits took grabbed his moment of glory with both hands on board 19.

Board 19 ♠ AJ
Dealer S ♥ 43
Vul EW ♦ AQ10862
 ♣ K96

♠ K943	♠ 10872
♥ 75	♥ KQ962
♦ J943	♦ 4
♣ 1083	♣ AJ4

♠ Q65
♥ AJ108
♦ K7
♣ Q752

West	North	East	South
Hoffman	Beauchamp	Brightling	van der Vlugt
			1♣
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
Pass	2♥ *	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



Maurits van der Vlugt

The defence began with a heart to the Queen, ducked, followed by a low heart to Maurits' Jack. If diamonds break, there are easily 9+ tricks, but if they split badly then communication may be difficult and the defence might be able to attack clubs. Maurits found a safety play at trick 3: a low diamond to the 10, catering for a 4-1 split onside. If the finesse lost and the defence switched to clubs, Maurits could still take one spade, two hearts, five diamonds and one club to make his contract. If the finesse worked and diamonds split, he was home. If the finesse worked and diamonds didn't split, he looked like a genius and ended up in the bulletin. The definition of a win-win situation. Thanks for the content, Maurits!

Please support our sponsors



Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs – Round 8

After Damon's agreeable approach to being featured in the bulletin in match 6, I returned to watch a Table 2 showdown between Damon – Nick and Chris Mulley – Keiran Crowe-Mai in the final round of the Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs.

There was some discussion of the benefits of Flannery at the table before Keiran unleashed the bid on board 16:

Board 16 ♠ AQJ2
 Dealer W ♥ A10942
 Vul EW ♦ QJ63
 ♣ --

♠ 9654	♠ K10
♥ 65	♥ K873
♦ A942	♦ K875
♣ K52	♣ 1073

♠ 873
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ 10
 ♣ AQJ9864

West	North	East	South
Jacob	Crowe-Mai	Flicker	Mulley
Pass	2♦ *	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

The 2♦ opening certainly helped NS stay out of trouble – I'd probably have a hard time stopping below game with the South hand if partner opened 1♥. As it was, Chris settled for 2♥ and Nick unknowingly led into Chris' secret weapon, a perfectly reasonable choice with the information he had. Chris was able to play a bit of a cross-ruff line to make 9 tricks for 82% on the board.

Novice Matchpoint Pairs Winners and Runners-Up



David Melzer and Glenn Foard



Sally Macallan and Brenda Templeton

I once played a hand where someone put down a 26-count as dummy, but this is up there with the best dummies I've seen:

Board 25 ♠ --
 Dealer N ♥ K64
 Vul EW ♦ K98752
 ♣ 10983

♠ AKJ42	♠ Q87653
♥ A32	♥ 7
♦ Q3	♦ J104
♣ AQJ	♣ K64

♠ 109
 ♥ QJ10985
 ♦ A6
 ♣ 752

West	North	East	South
Jacob	Crowe-Mai	Flicker	Mulley
	3♦	Pass	3♥
3NT	4♥	4♠	All Pass



Nick Jacob

Keiran and Chris' aggressive bidding forced Nick into a choice at the game level, and he went for 3NT with a half-stopper in diamonds. Damon was happy to back in with 4♠ on his six-card suit, but would have breathed a sigh of relief seeing his partner's trumps on the table! The play was trivial for 11 tricks.

This deal demonstrated why you should just take the money when the opponents bid to the 5-level:

Board 28 ♠ A9632
 Dealer W ♥ 876
 Vul NS ♦ A876
 ♣ 5

♠ 104	♠ 8
♥ Q1042	♥ AJ
♦ J	♦ Q10953
♣ AJ9643	♣ Q10872

♠ KQJ75
 ♥ K953
 ♦ K42
 ♣ K

West	North	East	South
Jacob	Crowe-Mai	Flicker	Mulley
3♣	Pass	5♣	X
All Pass			

Nick's opening was slightly unconventional, but anything goes at first seat favourable. Damon upped the ante right away, jumping to 5♣, and when Chris doubled Keiran would have been happy with his two aces. Keiran cashed ♠A then switched to a heart, and when the finesse failed the contract was doomed. Keiran and Chris scored 75% for +100 on the board, with lots of pairs failing in 4♠ or 5♠ and some not doubling 5♣. A good reminder that the 5-level belongs to the opponents.



AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wednesday 29th April to Sunday 3rd May 2026

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

WHAT'S NEW:

- **New format: Teams (Wed, Thurs) then Pairs (Fri, Sat, Sun)**
- **New event: Australian Blue Ribbon Pairs (matchpoints)**
Masterpoints awarded for all scores of 46+%
- **New daily starting time: 10am**
- **PQPs awarded for Open Teams and ABRP Open Pairs**
- **\$20,000 in prize money**
- **Under Life Master events capped at 400 masterpoints,**
Under Grand Master events capped at 1,100 masterpoints

Chief Director: Laurie Kelso

Organiser: Barbara Travis
Email: anot@sabf.asn.au

Early Bird Discount ends on 31st March 2026



Teams Tips

For those who are playing the National Rookie Swiss Teams or National Novice Swiss Teams first up, or are entered in the or National U750 MP Teams or National Restricted Teams later on, here are some tips to maximise your success at teams:

- ♠ Look for the safest contract (rather than the highest scoring contract/game) – you can explore for minor suit slams then stop in 5-minor, especially if 3NT is risky
- ♠ Make contracts first, then look for overtricks – minimise risk taking
- ♠ Defeat contracts first – giving away overtricks isn't fatal if there's a chance to beat a contract, especially a game
- ♠ Consider sacrifices against VULNERABLE games
- ♠ Take a sure penalty rather than bidding on to a risky contract/game
- ♠ Bid VULNERABLE games if you think they are a 40+% chance to make
- ♠ Score up with your team-mates first, THEN discuss hands after you have scored

Please Be Considerate

- ♥ Value your partner/s
- ♥ Be polite to other competitors and tournament officials
- ♥ Greet your opponents as they arrive at the table
- ♥ Introduce yourself to people you don't know
- ♥ Be on time
- ♥ Thank your opponents at the end of the round/match
- ♥ Explain your system clearly and simply, if asked
- ♥ Acknowledge good play by your opponents
- ♥ Don't discuss hands until the break
- ♥ Be understanding of newer players
- ♥ Respect our directors
- ♥ Report poor behaviour to the Recorder

Share Your Stories

I am always happy to receive stories to publish in the bulletin. Whether you or your partner (or an opponent) found a great bid or play, or you'd just like to share a funny story from the table, feel free to send it through to notbulletin@gmail.com. To submit a hand in detail, you can also [use our online form](#) to ensure you provide all relevant information. Alternatively, feel free to approach me in or around the playing area and tell your story in person.



Come and meet Lachlan Kennedy from TBIB over the weekend during the TBIB Swiss Pairs.

What Would You Bid?

2nd seat, unfavourable vulnerability, you hold: ♠ A

♥ 43

♦ AKJ98753

♣ A5

Alan Watson's RHO passed so Alan chose to open 1♦, then heard 1♠ on his left, pass from partner, and 2♠ on his right. Alan considered the merits of 3NT and 5♦. He bid 3NT as he deemed it more likely to make, especially on a spade lead, and he could always bid 5♦ over the opponents' 4♠. Indeed, 3NT made when the opponents led spades, although they have 5 cashing hearts. They might have considered leading an ace to find out more before committing.

Barbara's Daily Column: How Would You Play?

Barbara Travis

♠ 4 3 2

♥ Q 7 3 2

♦ 6 5

♣ A K 6 5

♠ A 6 5

♥ A K 4

♦ A Q 4 3

♣ Q 3 2

You are in 3NT. West leads the ♠ K which you should duck (East discouraging), followed by the ♠ Q which you also duck, all following to both rounds of spades. The ♠ J comes next, all follow, and you win the Ace. You now know that spades are dividing 4-3, with West more likely to hold the length.

You have eight top tricks. Options for your additional trick include:

(a) Hearts breaking 3-3

(b) Clubs breaking 3-3

(c) The diamond finesse, hoping East holds the ♦ King

This hand is about working your way through your options. You firstly start by testing the hearts or clubs – let's work with clubs first – but, no matter what, you plan to 'finish' the suit in dummy. You cash three rounds of clubs, ending in dummy. On the third round, East shows out. Now you try the hearts. On the second round, West shows out. You can still lead to the ♥ Q in dummy, with West discarding two diamonds on the hearts.

So, now you are down to "Plan C" – or are you? Have you been counting? West started with 4 spades, 4 clubs and 1 heart. So now you know West had a 4-1-4-4 (unless East has the fourth spade, which seems unlikely).

You have already lost two tricks. If you take the diamond finesse and it fails, you will lose another three tricks – the ♦ K, the thirteenth spade and the winning club. Have you found the winning line yet?

You are in dummy, so you can exit to West with the club. West will be able to cash his club and spade winners (two tricks), but will then have to lead a diamond back to your ♦A-Q, effectively giving you the finesse, rather than having you take the finesse.

You have reached this position:

	♠ --	
	♥ 7	
	♦ 6 5	
	♣ 5	
♠ 10		irrelevant
♥ --		
♦ K x (or x x)		
♣ J		
	♠ --	
	♥ --	
	♦ A Q 4 3	
	♣ --	

The club exit puts West on lead. With West on lead, your contract is assured. You discard two small diamonds on the black suit winners, then West gives you the diamond finesse. It doesn't matter who holds the ♦K, but you are no longer dependent on the finesse.

On this hand, it is a matter of counting. Once you work out West's hand shape, you can find this play. Train yourself to count – admittedly, that is easier said than done, but you **MUST** practise doing so if you want to improve your card play.

Elimination plays are not as frequent in No Trumps contracts as with trump contracts but are just as effective. You are finding a way to avoid a finesse, ensuring your contract. However, to execute an elimination play (or strip and endplay, you have to be able to count out the shape of the hand.

Here's another example. This was my daughter Lauren's first endplay, in 2009 when she was 16!

	♠ Q J 8 7 5	
	♥ Q 8 7 5	
	♦ K 6	
	♣ Q 10	
♠ K 9 3		♠ A 10 4
♥ 10 4 3 2		♥ A K J
♦ 4 3		♦ Q J 8 5
♣ A K 7 6		♣ 5 3 2
	♠ 6 2	
	♥ 9 6	
	♦ A 10 9 7 2	
	♣ J 9 8 4	

Lauren declared 3NT from the East seat. The ♦7 was led by South, taken with North's ♦K. A diamond was continued and South allowed Lauren's ♦Q to hold the trick. (South – wrongly – was hoping that this would keep communications open for when North won a trick later.) A club was led to dummy's ♣K, and a successful finesse of the ♥J followed. Lauren cashed the two top hearts, on the second of which South discarded a spade. Lauren continued a spade to dummy's ♠K, and cashed the ♣A. Now a spade to the ♠A saw South discard a diamond and bring about this ending:

	♠ Q J 8	
	♥ Q	
	♦ --	
	♣ --	
♠ 9		♠ 10
♥ 10		♥ --
♦ --		♦ J 8
♣ 7 6		♣ 5
	♠ --	
	♥ --	
	♦ A 10	
	♣ J 9	

Lauren exited with a club and South had to concede the last trick to declarer's ♦J, and Lauren had brought off her first-ever endplay.

Lauren had never counted out a hand before. She knew North's hand shape (5 spades, 4 hearts, so 2 diamonds and 2 clubs), and then had to re-work counting out South's hand shape. (Don't worry – that took her quite some time!)

Additional comments:

South ducked his partner's diamond return at trick 2, hoping his partner would regain the lead and be able to lead another diamond to his winning suit. This was a good play in isolation, however, given that Lauren played the ♦5 at trick 1, the return of the ♦6 revealed either a doubleton or four diamonds in North's hand. After all, one is supposed to return the top card of an original 3-card holding, and the ♦6 was now the lowest remaining diamond, indicating either two or four. Therefore, South should have won trick 2, which would have prevented the endplay (South would have held the ♦10-9 in the end-position).

When South had to discard on the third heart, he discarded a spade, which gave Lauren a full count of the hand. It seemed like that was an error, because it did allow Lauren to work out the hand shapes, however if he had discarded a club the club suit would have provided the ninth winner.

Don't worry – it took a lot more years for her to manage another endplay! The point is that you have to be able to count, and then you'll realise that much of your play is about counting, in defence as well. I notice that many of my defensive errors occur when I fail to count – whether it is declarer's hand shape or HCP.

Barbara Travis wrote a weekly column for subscribers in 2021. She has kindly offered for them to be reprinted in these bulletins. For more information, see Barbara's website www.bridgeatbeaumont.com.



Australian Bridge Directors' Association
in conjunction with Bridge Victoria

Interactive Workshop for Directors

3 Breen Drive, Brighton East VIC

21 & 22 February 2026

Program

Saturday Morning – 9:30am

Common Calls for the Director – role play demonstrations
Bridgemates – friend and sometimes foe?

Saturday Afternoon – 1:15pm

Mis-bids, Mis-explanations, Failure to Alert – with work groups
Collecting Information and Ascertaining Facts
Q & A Panel Discussion (1)

Saturday Evening – 5:00pm

ABDA AGM

Sunday Morning – 9:00am

Common Misconceptions in Law and Ethics

Stream A

Unauthorised Information – with work groups
Adjusted Scores – Philosophy and Approach

Stream B

Issues relevant to the New Director
How to efficiently run a session of Duplicate

Sunday Afternoon – 12:45pm

Judgement Rulings – with work groups
Multi-session Events – Design and Execution
Q & A Panel Discussion (2)

Presenters

Jonathan Free (WA)
Laura Ginnan (VIC)

Laurie Kelso (VIC)
John McIlrath (NSW)

Geoff Schaller (VIC)
Sebastian Yuen (ACT)

Enrolments via MyABF

\$80 for both days (Non-Members \$100) - includes lunch each day
\$50 for one day (Non-Members \$70) - includes lunch

Australia's Bridge Day Out

Lauren Travis

Bridge Australia Foundation's inaugural Bridge Day Out was held in September 2025. Over 40 clubs across Australia participated in the day, with funds raised to support a nationwide Bridge in Schools program. An additional feature of the day was a Zoom session hosted by Pete Hollands, with guest analysis from Sophie Ashton, Mike Doecke, Renee Cooper and Liam Milne. The hands written up in this series are from the [highlights video on YouTube](#).

The question asked on this hand was "How can we reach game when the opponents quickly compete to 3♠?"

Board 3 ♠ J632
Dealer S ♥ A9843
EW Vul ♦ 4
 ♣ 832

♠ AK9	♠ Q
♥ Q6	♥ KJ102
♦ Q10732	♦ J865
♣ AQJ	♣ K1095

♠ 108754
♥ 75
♦ AK9
♣ 764

The auction in question was:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
2NT	3♠	All Pass	

Clearly, EW will reach 3NT without any interference: 1♦-1♥-2NT-3NT will get them there easily. Pete Hollands stated that the onus was on East to act over 3♠. West had already described their hand accurately, with 2NT showing 18-19 HCP and a balanced hand with spades stopped. East is the member of the partnership who can be confident of having enough points for game. Their options include 3NT (relying on partner's spade stopper being quite good), a takeout double, or 5♦ although this option is not optimal at matchpoint scoring.

Mike Doecke and Pete discussed the possibility of South opening 2♠ which *would* pre-empt EW a round earlier in the bidding. Mike explained that at favourable vulnerability it's an excellent strategy to get in the opponents' way and noted that he has observed extremely aggressive pre-empting becoming the norm in high-level bridge tournaments. On this hand, if South opened 2♠, West might overcall 2NT and North should bid 4♠, effectively shutting EW out of the auction other than doubling (in a similar way to yesterday's hand).

The 2026 Bridge Day Out will be held on 28 July. Please see the [Bridge Australia Foundation](#) website for more details closer to the date.

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WELCOME SWISS PAIRS		AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY CLUB TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP		AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP		
ROOKIE PAIRS	NOVICE PAIRS	THREE DAY TEAMS			GRADED PAIRS	INTERSTATE PAIRS CH'SHIP
		SWISS PAIRS I	SWISS PAIRS II	SWISS PAIRS III		PRESENTATION DINNER
Sat 11 July	Sun 12 July	Mon 13 July	Tue 14 July	Wed 15 July	Thu 16 July	
OPEN BUTLER STAGE 1		OPEN BUTLER STAGE 2		OPEN BUTLER STAGE 3		
RESTRICTED BUTLER		MIXED BUTLER STAGE 1		MIXED BUTLER STAGE 2		
INTRO TO IMP SCORING	MATCHPOINT PAIRS	SWISS PAIRS A		SWISS PAIRS B		PRESENTATION DRINKS



Kate's Way #2

Kate McCallum

Originally published in [Bridging NSW](#) by Bridge NSW, September 2025

"Respect every opponent, but fear none." - Coach John Wooden. "Respect without fear may come from being prepared and keeping all things in proper perspective."

Bridge players are all intelligent people. Even a "bad" or new player does the right thing a fair amount of the time - and it will always be something intelligent in some way. So, always assume your opponents have done the right thing. Prepare well, assuming all opponents will be tough, and play against all with confidence and respect, whether it's Zia or Mrs. Guggenheim.

Having no fear is key. Everyone loses and everyone makes mistakes. We're not special.

"The toughest opponent of all is the one inside your head." - Joe Henderson

Here are some practical application tips:

- If declarer is not drawing trumps, assume he has a reason. Maybe you should be playing trumps.
- If declarer is not playing on dummy's long suit in 3NT, he has a reason. It's likely that the suit is running. Start looking for tricks elsewhere in a hurry.
- If declarer is drawing trumps, it's probably not best for the defence to do so.

Now, let's take a look at this hand:

♠ Kx
♥ Axx
♦ Kxxx
♣ xxxx

You hear your RHO open 1♥, you pass and LHO raises to 2♥. Partner passes and RHO bids 4♥ which ends the auction. You lead a small trump and congratulate yourself on your good lead when you see this dummy.

♠ QJxx
♥ xxxx
♦ Jxxx
♣ x

It looks like you've found the right lead. But, the declarer wins in hand and plays another top trump. You win and your partner pitches a small diamond. Now what?

Do you win and play another heart to get the trumps out of the dummy? It looks tempting. Or do you shift? And to what? Maybe you might ask yourself, "Why is declarer leading trumps?" Is he stupid? It surely doesn't look like the right line of play, does it? And the answer is...

♠ Axxxx	
♥ x	
♦ Axxx	
♣ xxx	
♠ QJxx	♠ xx
♥ xxxx	♥ KQJxx
♦ Jxxx	♦ Q
♣ J	♣ AKQTx
♠ Kx	
♥ Axx	
♦ Kxxx	
♣ xxxx	

If you continue trumps at T3, declarer will win and cash five rounds of clubs, pitching all of dummy's spades and make an unmakeable contract with 4 heart tricks, 5 clubs, and a ruff in dummy. If you had treated his play with respect at T2, and assumed he knew what he was doing, you would have realised that the declarer didn't need to ruff clubs in dummy, and that they had a source of tricks in their hand – and you would have found a shift.

Don't forget to see Declan from FIS in the Rex lobby on Friday or Saturday.



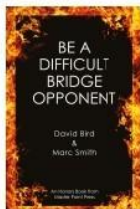
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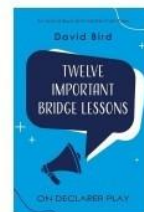
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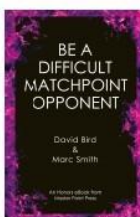
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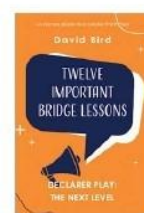
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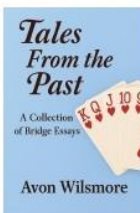
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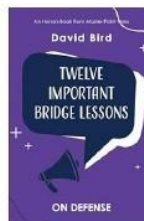
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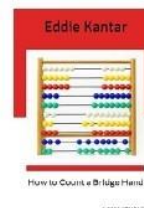
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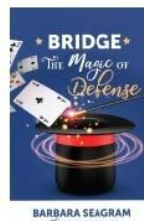
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