

Summer Festival of Bridge

Wednesday 14 - Sunday 25 January 2026

Daily Bulletin



Saturday 17th January 2026

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Bulletin 3

The National Women's Teams and National Seniors' Teams qualifying rounds are over, with four teams advancing in each field. In the Women's, the semi-final match-ups are Thompson v Mott and Smyth v Tobin. The Seniors' will see Kozakos play against Smolanko while Ewart will face Depasquale.

In the Fixed Income Solutions One Day IMP Swiss Pairs, Leon Meier and Jessie Pelenato from New Zealand took the lead after Match 4 and never looked back.

The Novice and Rookie All-Rounders concluded on Friday. Photos of the winners and runners-up are on pages 5 and 6.



In This Edition (clickable links)

Today's Program	2
Results	4
Australian Youth Championships Results	7
Meet Lachlan Kennedy from TBIB	9
Please Be Considerate	11
Venue Maps	12
Lunch + Kiosk	12
National Women's Teams – Round 9	17
Fixed Income Solutions Pairs – Round 3	20
Fixed Income Solutions Pairs – Rounds 4 + 5	21
National Seniors' Teams – Round 9	25
Barbara's Daily Column: A Leading Question	29
Australia's Bridge Day Out	31
Kate's Way #3	32
Share Your Stories	33

Leon Meier and Jessie Pelenato, winners of the Fixed Income Solutions One Day IMP Swiss Pairs

Today's Program

Saturday 17th January

National Women's Teams Semi-Finals

At The Canberra Common

9.00am – 6.30pm, 4 x 16-board rounds

National Seniors' Teams Semi-Finals

At The Canberra Common

9.00am – 6.30pm, 4 x 16-board rounds

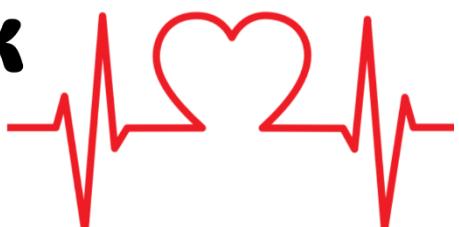
TBIB IMP Swiss Pairs

(Open, U750, U500, U300, U100)

9.45am – 5.30pm, 6 x 9-board rounds

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 jump to 4♥ in your partnership? Is it natural or a splinter? Why?

1♠ - 4♥

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



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TBIB ABF Members' travel insurance is available online at www.abfinsurance.com.au.

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Results

National Women's Teams

- 1st Thompson (Jenny Thompson – Hannah O'Donnell, Linda King – Avril Zets)
- 2nd Smyth (Felicity Smyth – Sheila Bird, Therese Demarco – Sue Lusk)
- 3rd Tobin (Judith Tobin – Karen Creet, Helene Pitt – Ruth Tobin)
- 4th Mott (Judy Mott – Marcia Scudder, Nazife Bashar – Kinga Moses)

National Seniors' Teams

- 1st Kozakos (George Kozakos – Hugh Grosvenor, Maurits van der Vlugt – David Beauchamp, Terry Brown – Ian Thomson)
- 2nd Ewart (Neil Ewart – Ian Robinson, Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer, Andy Braithwaite – Arjuna de Livera)
- 3rd Smolanko (George Smolanko – Attilio de Luca, Axel Johannsson – Kate McCallum)
- 4th Depasquale (Chris Depasquale – Michael Courtney, Peter Gill – David Hudson)

Fixed Income Solutions One Day IMP Swiss Pairs

- 1st Jessie Pelenato – Leon Meier
- 2nd Anthony Burke – Phil Gue
- 3rd Ella Jacob – Jane Beeby
- 4th Bas Bolt – Ros Roworth
- 5th Adam Robinson – Jacques Cherbuin

National Rookie All-Rounder Teams

- 1st Wallace (Sue Wallace – Gill Homan, Sue West – Lisa Towning)
- 2nd Redman (Elizabeth Redman – Vicki Hildebrand, Robert Longair – Sharon Woodward)
- 3rd Katekar (Leonie Katekar – Ingrid Klein, Bobbie Gosper – Kathy Manning)
- 4th Saul (Jen Saul – Adrienne Morey, Fran Schiller – Xiaomei Wallace)
- 5th Christian (Sally Christian – Cherryl Kolbe, Gervaise Gaunt – Cheryl Plant)

National Novice All-Rounder Teams

- 1st Foard (Glenn Foard – David Melzer, Jeremy Lin – Alexandra Mills)
- 2nd Edwards (Robyn Edwards – Penelope Shilling, Gita Kurnow – Denyse Freedman)
- 3rd Bissett (Jennifer Bissett – Neil McMaster, Kenneth Baker – Heather Spencer)
- 4th Bradley (Lisa Bradley – Susanne Samarcq, Murray Campbell – John Reis)
- 5th Fitzpatrick (John Fitzpatrick – Karlee Guest, Ajita Shah – Minu Shah)

National Rookie All-Rounder Overall

- 1st Lisa Towning – Sue West

National Novice All-Rounder Overall

- 1st David Melzer – Glenn Foard



Jeremy Lin, Alexandra Mills, David Melzer and Glenn Foard
Novice Teams Winners



David Melzer and Glenn Foard
Novice IMP Swiss Pairs Winners



David Melzer and Glenn Foard
Novice All-Rounder Winners



Alexandra Mills and Jeremy Lin
Novice All-Rounder Runners-Up



Robyn Edwards, Penelope Shilling, Gita Kurnow and Denyse Freedman
Novice Teams Runners-Up



Maxwell Ashurst and Josh Schwartz
Novice IMP Swiss Pairs Runners-Up



Leonie Katekar and Ingrid Klein
Rookie IMP Swiss Pairs Winners



Lisa Towning and Sue West
Rookie IMP Swiss Pairs Runners-Up



Lisa Towning and Sue West
Rookie All-Rounder Winners



Robert Longair, Elizabeth Redman, Vicki Hildebrand, Sharon Woodward
Rookie Teams Runners-Up



Sue Wallace,
Gill Homan,
Sue West,
Lisa Towning

Rookie Teams Winners

Australian Youth Championships Results

Australian Youth Pairs

1 st	Damon Flicker – Alan Stoneham	62.18%
2 nd	George Bartley – Leon Meier	59.82%
3 rd	Taydon Gold – Jade Wilkinson	57.27%
4 th	Bertie Morgan – Paddy Taylor	52.36%
5 th	Ada Sun – Alex Wu	51.45%

Australian Youth Teams

1 st	Ross (Zac Ross – Remco Spencer, Bertie Morgan – Paddy Taylor)	234.83 VP
2 nd	Watkins (Heath Watkins – Kate Macdonald, George Bartley – Leon Meier)	212.69 VP
3 rd	Goss (Alex Goss – Sam Goss, Fletcher Davey – Adrian Le)	205.36 VP
4 th	Fraser-Hoskin (Grace Wang – Marcus Dudley, Aadhi Hariharan – Matt Sieredzinski)	189.73 VP
5 th	Klugman (Noah Klugman – David Zheng, Taydon Gold – Jade Wilkinson)	186.55 VP

Cliff Wake Challenge

1 st	Cliff Wake All-Stars (Christy Geromboux – Sebastian Yuen, Ella Jacob – Nick Jacob)
2 nd	Cliff Wake Challengers (Zac Ross – Remco Spencer, Bertie Morgan – Paddy Taylor)

Australia v New Zealand Test Match

1 st	New Zealand
2 nd	Australia

Australian Junior Team Selection Phase 1

1 st	Bertie Morgan – Paddy Taylor	225.46 VP
2 nd	Fletcher Davey – Adrian Le	224.21 VP
3 rd	Diya Shah – Dev Shah	222.13 VP
4 th	Kate Macdonald – Heath Watkins	195.53 VP
5 th	Taydon Gold – Jade Wilkinson	193.43 VP



Congratulations to Paddy Taylor and Bertie Morgan, the first 2026 Australian representatives to be selected!

The pairs placed 2nd – 5th at the end of Phase 1 will battle it out over the weekend for the other two places in the Australian Under 26 team.

Good luck to all the pairs competing in Phase 2 of the Australian Junior Team Selection.



UPDATE

ARE YOU AND YOUR CLUB USING MY ABF?

Over 32,000 players now appear in My ABF and over 150 clubs are using it to manage their activities.

Come along to hear an update from Julian Foster on the latest developments and the future Masterpoint Centre integration.

During 2026 the Masterpoint Centre will be joining My ABF. That means there will be changes that will impact all clubs and all players. There will obviously be lots of communication during the year – but this is your chance to get an early indication of what will be happening.

**Sunday 18th January
8.30am – 9.15am**

Location: Main playing area, Rex Hotel

- Latest My ABF developments
- Masterpoint Centre Integration
- Questions

If you can't attend in person more information can be found here:
<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/>

Meet Lachlan Kennedy from TBIB

There's a new face at the TBIB desk! Lachlan Kennedy has recently stepped into the role of ABF Liaison for TBIB, taking over from Steve Weil. As Business Manager at TBIB, Lachlan brings more than 30 years' experience in financial services, including consulting and insurance broking.

Lachlan is enthusiastic about his new role – particularly the opportunity to meet bridge players face to face rather than staying behind a desk. In fact, he's so keen to immerse himself in the bridge community that he'll be starting bridge lessons in February at the Northern Suburbs Bridge Club in Brisbane.

TBIB's travel insurance policies for ABF members, their families and friends continue to offer excellent value, with both annual multi-trip and single-trip cover available. If your annual policy expires in March, renewals are now available online, or you can contact TBIB over the phone for assistance.

Lachlan will be at the TBIB desk in the Rex Lobby today and Sunday alongside Sean Bemrose. They're running a fun 'Name This City' lucky draw over the weekend, so be sure to enter. Please drop by to say hello and welcome Lachlan – you'll be seeing a lot more of him at bridge tournaments around the country.



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



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mugs at your club! Free delivery for 10+ mugs**



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

NEW IN 2027

BRISBANE GOLD CONGRESS 2027

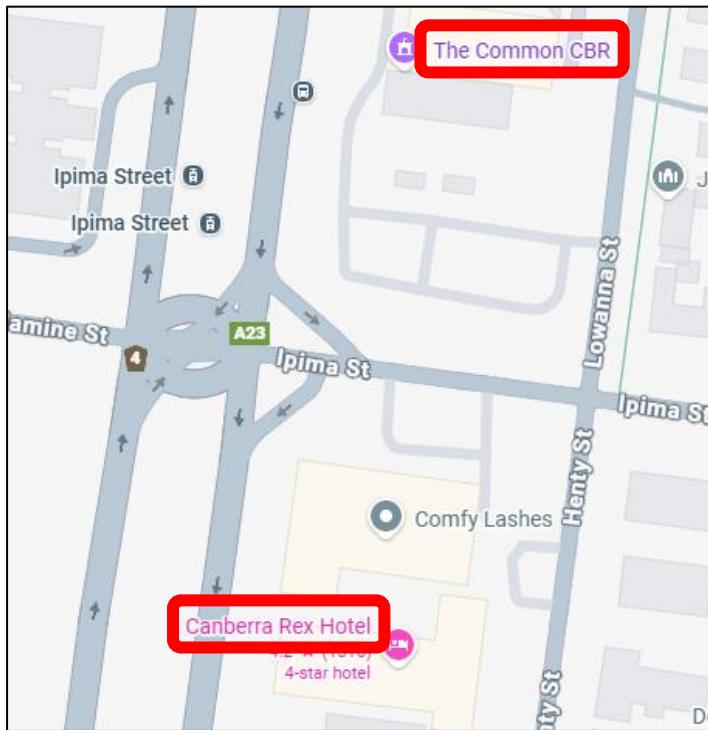


30 JANUARY — 6 FEBRUARY

VOCO BRISBANE CITY CENTRE

ENTRIES OPEN 1ST JULY

Venue Maps



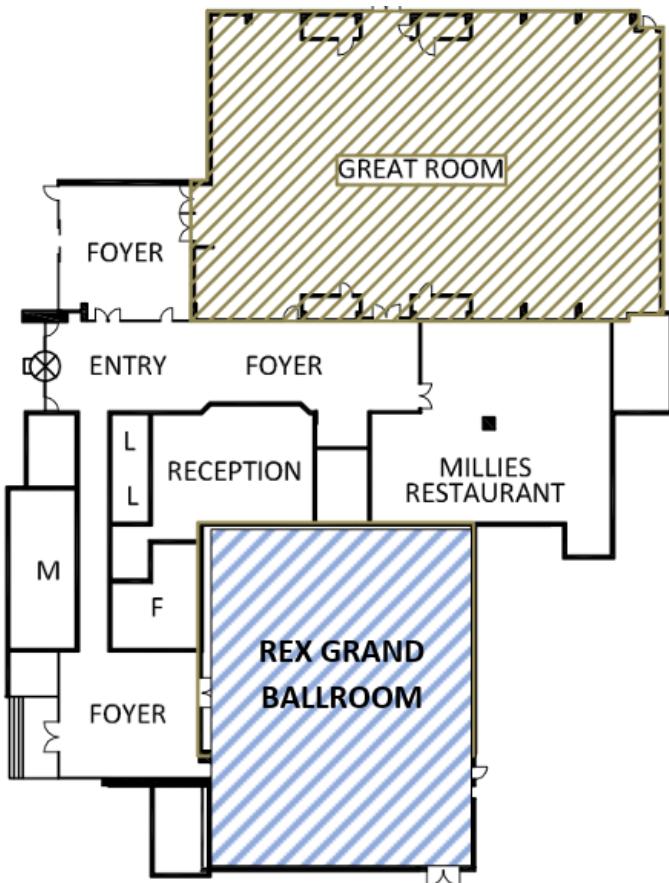
Within the Canberra Rex Hotel, most games will be played in the Great Room (straight ahead and to the left as you enter the building) or the Ballroom (to the right as you enter the building).

Female toilets are located in the hallway leading towards the Ballroom and at the rear of the Great Room. Male toilets are located in the hallway leading to the Ballroom.

The bars and restaurants are a quick lift ride to levels 5 and 6. Be sure to head there after you play to discuss the day's hands and enjoy the view.

This map shows the two venues for this year. The pin marks the Canberra Rex Hotel, where most events will be held. To the north, just across Ipima Street, is the Canberra Common which will host the finals series of the National Women's Teams and National Seniors' Teams, as well as the U300 MP and U750 MP All-Rounders.

Canberra Rex Hotel Floor Plan

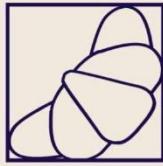


Lunch + Kiosk

Food and beverage is available for purchase onsite. Bridge patrons (not staying at the Rex) are kindly requested not to bring food or beverages purchased elsewhere into the hotel for consumption on the premises as it contravenes Rex Hotel policy.

The kiosk will be staffed from 8:30am to 4pm for snacks and light refreshments. Lunch can be purchased from the kiosk at lunch (see kiosk menu below) or pre-ordered at the kiosk in the morning (see pre-order menu below). The Swan & King restaurant lunch menu is also available below and bookings are recommended.

The Howling Moon rooftop bar will be open each day after play. Head to level 6 to look out over Canberra as you discuss the day's hands over a drink.



KIOSK MENU

SFOB 2026

Sandwich of the Day | \$12

2 available each day

Egg Salad

Smoked Ham, Swiss Cheese & Tomato

Tuna Mayo

Chicken, Lettuce, Tomato

Smoked Salmon & Dill Cream Cheese

Rueben

Wrap of the Day | \$15

2 available per day

Chicken Salad

Falafel, Hummus & Roasted Capsicum

Roast Pork w Apple Slaw

Honey Mustard Chicken

Pesto, Bocconcini, Cherry Tomato

Selection of sweet baked items | \$8

Pastries, cookies, muffins

Snack Box | \$14

1 sweet item, 1 savory item, 1 piece of whole fruit



PRE-ORDER MENU

SFOB 2026

Fish & Chips | \$21

Bacon & Egg Roll | \$17

Beef Burger with Fries | \$24

Potato Wedges with Sour Cream & Sweet Chilli | \$12

Club Sandwich with Fries | \$25

Caesar Salad | \$20

Thai Beef Salad | \$22

Toasties (assorted flavors) | \$15



RESTAURANT MENU

SFOB 2026

Roast of the Day | \$28

Served with steam vegetables, mashed potatoes & gravy

Soup of the Day | \$16

Served with a bread roll

Caesar Salad | \$20

Thai Beef Salad | \$22

Pasta of the Day | \$20

RED DAY

TUESDAY 20 JANUARY

Wear **RED** to support
groundbreaking
cardiovascular research



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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National Women's Teams – Round 9

Friday always looked like a challenging day for the Neumann team – all their matches were against eventual semi-finalists. In their match against the Tobin team, Dagmar Neumann and Jodi Tutty took on Helene Pitt and Ruth Tobin.

Jodi Tutty and Dagmar Neumann recovered from a difficult start to the defence on this deal.

Board 6 ♠ Q75
Dealer E ♥ Q52
Vul EW ♦ 543
 ♣ AQ63

♠ J106432 ♠ AK9
♥ 1084 ♥ KJ93
♦ 7 ♦ AJ92
♣ J82 ♣ K5

♠ 8
♥ A76
♦ KQ1086
♣ 10974

West	North	East	South
Pitt	Neumann	Tobin	Tutty
		1♦	Pass
Pass	X	1NT	All Pass



Jodi Tutty

Jodi led ♦K, with partner discouraging and declarer ducking. She knew to switch to get more diamonds through but had to decide between hearts and clubs. Perhaps expecting Dagmar to have more points and cards in the majors for her double, Jodi unfortunately switched to a heart to the Queen and Ace. Ruth Tobin went after spades straight away, cashing the Ace and King then playing another spade, hoping to establish a heart entry to dummy. However, Dagmar and Jodi were switched on. Dagmar continued diamonds through Ruth's holding, with Jodi's 10 winning the trick. Jodi now knew to play clubs; Dagmar won her ace and played her last diamond to declarer's Ace, but with Jodi holding the ♥A the contract was doomed.



It was a full house for Laura Ginnan's talk on Opening Leads on Friday morning. Boards were provided to give a hands-on experience and help the rookies and novices put it all together.

It's always satisfying making 2M after opening 1NT and being transferred to your doubleton. Here Dagmar found a cute line to maximise dummy's poor trump suit.

Board 9	♠ AK65		
Dealer N	♥ A5		
Vul EW	♦ 10654		
	♣ AQ4		
♠ J964	♠ Q102		
♥ J9	♥ KQ83		
♦ KQ8	♦ AJ97		
♣ K1053	♣ 87		
	♠ 83		
	♥ 107642		
	♦ 32		
	♣ J962		
West	North	East	South
Pitt	Neumann	Tobin	Tutty
	1NT	Pass	2♦ *
Pass	2♥	All Pass	



Dagmar Neumann

Ruth Tobin led the ♣8 which ran around to the Queen. Keen to start ruffing in dummy, Dagmar played a low diamond from her hand to the 7, 2 and 8. Helene Pitt switched to the ♥9, her partner winning the Queen and continuing a club to the 9, 10 and Ace. Dagmar played another diamond which Helene won with the Queen. The only way to beat the contract at this point was to cash the ♣K then give Ruth a heart ruff with another trump trick to come, but Helene played another trump hoping her partner could get in again and continue drawing trumps. Dagmar won, ruffed a diamond, crossed to the ♠A, ruffed another diamond, came back to the ♣K and played another spade, ruffing with dummy's last trump for her eighth trick.

Dagmar and Jodi were in uncharted territory on this auction but landed on their feet:

Board 13	♠ 2
Dealer N	♥ 974
Vul All	♦ AQJ62
	♣ AQ73
♠ QJ6	♠ 9873
♥ KJ852	♥ A63
♦ K7	♦ 10985
♣ J95	♣ 104
	♠ AK1054
	♥ Q10
	♦ 43
	♣ K862

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HEALING HEARTS.**

West	North	East	South
Pitt	Neumann	Tobin	Tutty
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥ *
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Up to the 3♥ bid, everything was easy to understand. I think Jodi was trying to find a way to 3NT if it was right – which it could well have been with her hand – but the bid was undiscussed (other than the fact she wouldn't have 5 spades and 5 hearts). Dagmar's 4♥ was practical, leaving it up to partner to clarify what was going on, and she knew what to do when Jodi bid 5♣.

With the ♦K onside and diamonds breaking well enough, as well as the ♠QJ coming down in three rounds, all roads led to Rome in 5♣.

With a small win in this match, the Tobin team solidified their position in the top 4 and made it that bit harder for Neumann to climb their way back up the standings.



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Fixed Income Solutions Pairs – Round 3

In match 3 of the Fixed Income Solutions Pairs, Phil Gue and Tony Burke faced James Coutts and Christopher Leach at table 1.

James was blessed by the bridge gods in the wonderful contract of 2NT on board 19:

Board 19 ♠ 9876
Dealer E ♥ K
Vul NS ♦ A32
 ♣ KQ643

♠ KQJ4 ♠ A3
♥ 10732 ♥ Q4
♦ KJ75 ♦ Q10986
♣ 10 ♣ A952

♠ 1052
♥ AJ9865
♦ 4
♣ J87

West	North	East	South
Coutts	Gue	Leach	Burke
		1♦	Pass
1♥	X	2♣	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

Phil Gue led his 4th highest club, dummy following low, and Tony Burke played a sensible but very unlucky ♣7. After that, James' contract was safe. He quickly established the diamonds and took four spades, four diamonds and two clubs for +180.

Christopher Leach was understandably unstoppable on the following deal:

Board 21 ♠ QJ
Dealer N ♥ AKQ4
Vul NS ♦ 762
 ♣ J863

♠ 942 ♠ A8763
♥ 1032 ♥ 5
♦ 1053 ♦ AKQJ98
♣ A1092 ♣ K

♠ K105
♥ J9876
♦ 4
♣ Q754

West	North	East	South
Coutts	Gue	Leach	Burke
	1♣	1♦	X (hearts)
1NT	2♥	2♠	3♥
Pass	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Christopher's hand looked great, especially after James' 1NT. Unfortunately for him, James' heart stopper was imaginary and the defence took the first 5 tricks. 5♦ can't make on a heart lead either, with two spade losers to go with the heart. 4♣ is the place to be but only 8 out of 48 NS pairs bid and made it.

The result of this match was an unexciting draw with both pairs dropping positions after being leapfrogged by others who had wins.

Fixed Income Solutions Pairs – Rounds 4 + 5

After being David Beauchamp's good luck charm on Thursday, I unintentionally helped out Jessie Pelenato and Leon Meier in matches 4 and 5 of the Fixed Income Solutions One Day IMP Swiss Pairs.

In match 4, against young pair Jassy and Ricky Carthew, they witnessed some Ricky magic.

Board 4	♠ K97
Dealer W	♥ Q5
Vul All	♦ A94
	♣ K9876
♠ QJ43	♠ 862
♥ 1092	♥ 86
♦ KQ75	♦ J8632
♣ A4	♣ Q102
	♠ A105
	♥ AKJ743
	♦ 10
	♣ J53

West	North	East	South
Meier	J Carthew	Pelenato	R Carthew
1♦	2♣	2♦	2♥
All Pass			



Ricky Carthew

With everyone having bid, I can sympathise with Jassy not realising her partner had quite such a good hand. Regardless, Ricky would have been disappointed to be left at the 2-level, but he made the most of it. He won Leon's ♦K lead with dummy's Ace and drew trumps in three rounds. Eschewing clubs, he confidently played a low spade from hand, Leon following low, and inserted the 9. He made the same 11 tricks as everyone else, but with some extra Ricky flair.

After a convincing win against Jassy and Ricky, Jessie and Leon had moved up to first place and drew Bas Bolt and Ros Roworth.

Jessie's facial expression betrayed the quality of her bid on board 12, but the opponents didn't notice:

Board 12	♠ AJ
Dealer W	♥ J4
Vul NS	♦ AQJ542
	♣ K64
	♠ KQ8743
	♣ 52
	♥ A952
	♥ Q8763
	♦ 93
	♦ --
	♣ 9
	♣ AQ10873

♠ 1096

♥ K10

♦ K108765

♣ J52

West	North	East	South
Bolt	Meier	Roworth	Pelenato
2♦ *	3♦	4♥	5♦
All Pass			



Jessie Pelenato

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.

2♦ showed both majors and Leon definitely had his bid. Ros' hand is huge and definitely worth a jump to 4♥, but then we come to Jessie. Vulnerable against not, with a balanced hand and half her points in the opponents' suit... she couldn't help but show her massive diamond fit. With neither of the opponents holding a convincing amount of defence in their own hand, she got away with it undoubled. Leon had to go down 3, but -300 was a favourable score compared to 4♥ making 11. Let's not talk about if they'd been doubled.

1NT is a difficult contract to defend effectively at the best of times, but when you hold a 17-count it gets that much harder. Despite this, Jessie and Leon defended accurately on board 14:

Board 14	♠ K93		
Dealer E	♥ 875		
Vul Nil	♦ Q762		
	♣ Q85		
♠ J852	♠ 1076		
♥ 93	♥ A1064		
♦ 985	♦ A104		
♣ 9762	♣ AK4		
	♠ AQ4		
	♥ KQJ2		
	♦ KJ3		
	♣ J103		
West	North	East	South
Bolt	Meier	Roworth	Pelenato
		1NT	All Pass



Leon Meier

I like Jessie's pass of 1NT. Even though she has 17 points, she doesn't have a source of tricks and doubling will broadcast the placement of her points to declarer – or potentially let them run to a better spot. It would have worked out really well on this hand, though.

Looking at the South hand in isolation, it's hard to believe that a heart lead is actually the worst start for the defence. Jessie led the ♥K, ducked, then switched to ♣J, which also won. She continued clubs with Ros winning and cashing a third round. Ros then exited ♥6 which Jessie accurately won with her Jack. She played the ♦3 to Leon's Queen, ducked, Leon continued diamonds with Jessie winning, and a third round of diamonds was played to Ros' Ace. Ros cashed ♥A and played a spade out of hand.

At this point, declarer had shown up with 15 points so could not hold ♠K for her 1NT opening. Jessie either didn't count the hand or wanted her partner to win the 13th trick with the ♦7 so she won her Queen. When she cashed ♥Q, Leon played safely and pitched his ♦7 so the defence took the last two tricks with the ♠A and ♠K. Leon, I think that means you owe Jessie a beer.

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ABF Mixed Pairs and Seniors' Teams Playoffs

Direct entry to the above ABF Playoffs will be offered to several contending pairs in the Australian Mixed Swiss Pairs and the Roger Penny Seniors' Swiss Pairs. See details on [ABF playoffs website](#)



National Seniors' Teams – Round 9

The final round of the National Seniors' Teams qualifying offered an engaging match: 4th-placed Buchen vs 5th-placed Depasquale, with a place in the semi-finals on the line.

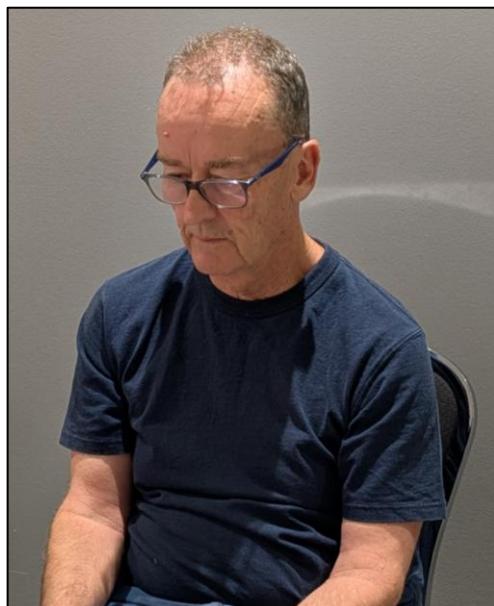
Bernie Waters talked Peter Gill and David Hudson out of the right game with a cheeky overcall:

Board 8	♠ 84
Dealer W	♥ AKQ6
Vul Nil	♦ K432
	♣ 973
♠ K7	♠ AQ6
♥ J4	♥ 953
♦ A876	♦ QJ10
♣ KJ1082	♣ AQ64
	♠ J109532
	♥ 10872
	♦ 95
	♣ 5

West	North	East	South
Gill	Waters	Hudson	Buchen
1♣	1♥	2♥ *	3♥
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

I'm sure Peter Gill was slightly disappointed to see three hearts in dummy and realise Bernie had overcalled on a 4-card suit. 3NT is untouchable but 5♣ relies on the diamond finesse working, so wasn't successful this time around.

Peter Gill and David Hudson got their revenge on the next board with a smooth auction to a lovely grand slam.



David Hudson

Board 9	♠ QJ4
Dealer N	♥ K8653
Vul EW	♦ 92
	♣ 942
♠ AK632	♠ 7
♥ J	♥ A92
♦ K63	♦ AQ75
♣ KQ83	♣ AJ1065
	♠ 10985
	♥ Q1074
	♦ J1084
	♣ 7



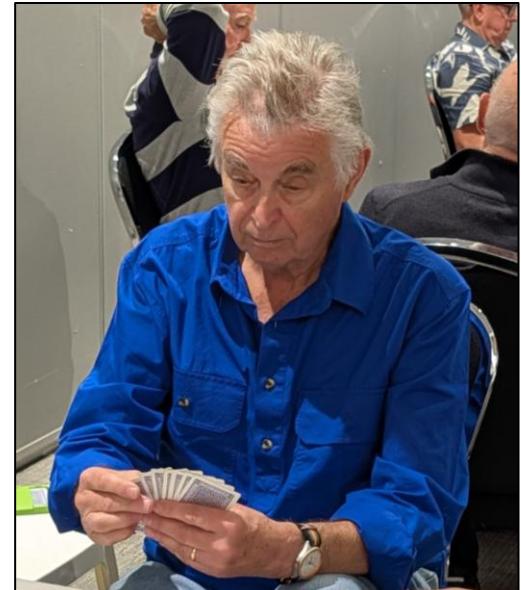
Bernie Waters

West	North	East	South
Gill	Waters	Hudson	Buchen
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥ * (spades)	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦ *	Pass
4NT *	Pass	5♦ *	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

Peter Buchen led ♦J which David won in hand with the Ace. He cashed ♥A, ruffed a heart, crossed to his ♣J to ruff another heart, then drew trumps and claimed. They gained 13 IMPs when the other table stopped in 6♣ – only three pairs in the whole Seniors' field bid and made grand.

Peter Buchen set up a cute endplay at trick 2 to make a dreaded 4-minor contract:

Board 10	♠ QJ743
Dealer E	♥ AKJ
Vul All	♦ 107
	♣ 1093
♠ 98	♠ AK10652
♥ 7632	♥ 1095
♦ KQ852	♦ AJ
♣ K5	♣ 82
♠ --	
♥ Q84	
♦ 9643	
♣ AQJ764	



Peter Buchen

West	North	East	South
Gill	Waters	Hudson	Buchen
		1♠	2♣
X	3♣	3♠	4♣
All Pass			

After ruffing the spade opening lead, Peter Buchen immediately played a diamond out of hand, which David Hudson won with his Jack. He didn't know it yet, but that early play was fatal to the defence.

David switched to a trump to prevent dummy ruffing diamonds, Buchen finessing and Gill winning and returning a club. Buchen proceeded to cash three rounds of hearts and then play a diamond to David's Ace.

Holding only spades at this point, David was forced to provide a spade trick to declarer no matter what he did, allowing Buchen to dispose of his diamond loser to make ten tricks.

I felt for Bernie on board 11 as he was endplayed at trick 1 and every subsequent opportunity:

Board 11	♠ J853
Dealer S	♥ KJ8
Vul Nil	♦ 852
	♣ KQ7
♠ AQ	♠ 972
♥ AQ9	♥ 5432
♦ AJ973	♦ K4
♣ AJ2	♣ 10653
	♠ K1064
	♥ 1076
	♦ Q106
	♣ 984

West	North	East	South
Gill	Waters	Hudson	Buchen
			Pass
2♣ *	Pass	2♦ *	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣ *	Pass
3NT *	All Pass		



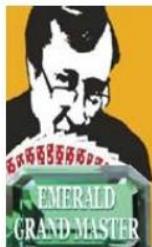
Peter Gill

Bernie made a passive lead of ♦5, unintentionally picking up the diamond suit for declarer as it went 4 – Queen – Ace. Although it would have felt bad, it wasn't anything Peter couldn't do, and at least it didn't give away a trick in a major. Peter Gill played a diamond to dummy's king then had to decide which major suit finesse to take. He chose hearts, playing one to the Queen and Bernie's King, and Bernie returned a safe diamond. Peter now cashed ♥A and put Bernie back on lead with his third heart. He was in the unenviable position of leading a black suit into the strong hand and opted for a spade: low – King – Ace. Peter cashed his diamonds, Bernie having to throw his spades to hang onto ♣KQx, then played ♠Q and came down to:

♠ --	♠ 9
♥ --	♥ --
♦ --	♦ --
♣ KQ7	
♠ --	
♥ --	
♦ --	
♣ AJ2	♣ 106

He appeared to seriously consider throwing Bernie in to get yet another trick but couldn't guarantee the position so in the end he cashed ♣A settling for making his contract.

A 16 IMP win for Depasquale secured their berth in the semi-finals and eliminated the Buchen team.



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Barbara's Daily Column: A Leading Question

Barbara Travis

The auction has gone:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	3NT

All Pass

North-South are playing a strong club system, so 1♦ showed 11-15 HCP, but was a fairly nebulous bid. South's 3NT just says he wants to play there.

You, West, are on lead with:

♠ 7 3
♥ A Q 10 3
♦ A 7
♣ A 10 6 5 4

What would you lead and, more importantly, why?

You could lead clubs, hoping that the club suit behaves, given that you have two outside entries. For this to be successful, you need the clubs to break 3-3 or 3-2. However, it is usually correct to lead a major on these auctions. It is quite likely that South has clubs; this particular South could have made an inverted raise to 2♦ with long diamonds. Furthermore, with 14 HCP in your own hand, you know partner hasn't much to help you, so it's important to try to secure your five defensive tricks using your hand.

I believe that a heart lead is the correct choice on the auction. Your next decision is what heart to lead. Since you can't expect as much as an entry from partner's hand, you just need to find the right card at trick 1.

At the table, West found the heart lead, but led the ♥3. After the hand, she realised she should have led the ♥A to have a look at dummy, hoping that would help with the continuation. Here's the hand:

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

On the lead of the ♥3, Sartaj Hans rose with the ♥J, in case it held the trick. He crossed to hand with the ♠K to lead a diamond towards dummy's honours. Once West held the ♦A (though he needed West to hold all the entries, i.e. both minor aces), his contract was safe. He ended with 10 tricks for +430.

Look at what happens on the ♥A lead. On seeing the ♥J in dummy, and receiving an encouraging card from partner (after all, no switch suits the East hand), West can continue with the ♥Q, smothering dummy's Jack, and leading to defeat. 3 heart tricks and 2 aces see the contract fail.

One of the benefits of playing a teams match is that a 'bad' board is not necessarily a bad board until you score up. At the other table, North played in 3NT after an uninformative sequence:

1NT (10-12 HCP) – 3NT, which West doubled.

Many people play that a double of 3NT, when no suits have been bid/shown, asks for a spade lead. Fewer have the agreement that the double asks for a heart lead (and without a double you try a spade lead). This particular pair's agreement was that the double just asked partner to lead a major, usually his shortest major. In this instance, his partner had a nasty guess, picking to lead a spade. The outcome of a spade lead was 3NT making, for 550. So, despite the lead, the outcome was a 3 IMP gain.

To finish, let's look at leads from the holding A-Q-10-x/x. Sometimes it is right to lead the Ace (usually when you have outside entries), sometimes it is correct to lead the Queen, and if partner may have the King you would want to lead low.

If you think dummy holds the King:

Dummy
K x x

You

A Q 10 x x

You should lead the Queen. You are allowing for the situation where declarer holds either J-x or J-x-x. If you lead low, declarer's Jack will win, then dummy's King takes a second trick.

However, if you have led the Queen at trick 1, removing dummy's King, assuming your partner has an entry, when they get the lead they can return the suit, finessing declarer's Jack.

If you think that declarer holds the King:

Dummy
(J or x) x

You

A Q 10 x x

Declarer
K x x

You should lead the Ace, as in the discussion hand. Of course, if declarer has a doubleton King, and dummy J-x-x, you will be wrong. However, it gives you the fallback of doubleton Jack in dummy.

Such decisions are also affected by the entry situation – i.e. whether you have all the entries, or whether you can expect an entry or two from partner, permitting them to return the suit through declarer's King.

The deciding factor on the given hand was partner's known lack of entries, making the Ace the superior choice of lead.

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.

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](#).

In my opinion, responding to takeout doubles is one of the most misunderstood areas of bidding, and this hand demonstrated why it can be so tricky.

Board 13	♠ J983
Dealer N	♥ Q93
All Vul	♦ J74
	♣ A92
♠ A5	♠ 762
♥ 8652	♥ A104
♦ 95	♦ AKQ1032
♣ 107643	♣ Q
	♠ KQ104
	♥ KJ7
	♦ 86
	♣ KJ85

What would you bid as North after:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Double
Pass	?		

Mike Doecke, Renee Cooper and Pete Hollands all think 1♠ is the correct bid, showing up to about 9 HCP (although it could be as few as 0). With a fifth spade and 8 points, 2♠ would be a better choice, but here there is no guarantee of a fit. After that, the analysts were again in agreement that East should bid 2♦ and South should support to 2♣. If West had bid over 1♦ (X), then East might be tempted to jump to 3♦, but expecting less than 6 HCP opposite, 2♦ is enough. Mike explained that South's raise is based on logic and a bit of hope – unlike North, they know about the 8-card fit, and 2♣ should make if North has a middling to good hand for their bid (about 5-9 HCP). He counted South's 13 points and gave East about 14-16, leaving 11-13 between North and West, so in all likelihood North has a decent

enough hand. Pete and Mike also discussed whether South should raise to 2♠ if East doesn't bid – they concluded it's borderline, as bidding will keep the opponents out of the auction but runs the risk of getting too high.

These experts' auction didn't end at 2♠ though – they all think West should get back into the auction with 3♦! Pete pointed out that their initial pass limited their hand to a maximum of about 5 HCP, so they actually have a maximum now. And with a likely spade lead that can be won with their Ace, their doubleton comes into play and gives the hand a bit of extra trick-taking power. Mike said without that doubleton spade, he'd be passing, but the ruffing potential in this hand is enough to get him to compete. There was a consensus that 3♦ should be the final bid, as neither North nor South has the firepower to be bidding at the 3-level. Mike said succinctly: "The 2-level and 4-level are for us, and the 3-level and 5-level are for the opponents." (To be clear, being the first ones to compete to the 3- or 5-level is fine, but bidding 3-over-3 and 5-over-5 is not usually a winning action.)

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Double
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♦	All Pass		

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.

Kate's Way #3

Kate McCallum

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

BASIC PHILOSOPHY: GIVE OPPONENTS A PROBLEM WHENEVER WE CAN DO SO WITH RELATIVE SAFETY.

This principle is absolutely central to my bidding philosophy, and is based on the logic that even the best players in the world will not get every decision right.

We've created a style and system that presents the opponents with frequent problems at a low risk, knowing that they are certain to get some of them wrong. The theory is that, if they get it right we're back to normal; if they get it wrong, we gain.

Occasionally, we will create a small loss with this style, and even more occasionally (i.e., rarely) a large one. It's simply a numbers game, based on basic bridge math. It's not possible to play without the occasional accident, but it's proven that an aggressive style will show much more frequent gains than losses. Therefore, we skate close to the edge, and don't worry too much about it if we occasionally go over the cliff. It's the "cost of doing business."

"Toughness is made up of equal parts persistence and experience. You don't so much outrun your opponents as outlast them and outsmart them." – Joe Henderson

Here's a recent example of presenting opponents with a problem by skating near the edge... It comes from a tournament I played in Riga (Latvia) in August. In first seat none vul, my hand was: ♠x ♥xx ♦AJxxxx ♣JTxx. It's pretty normal to open a weak 2♦ with such a hand, but it won't give opponents nearly as much of a headache as 3♦, and I'm

fully committed to giving them a headache if I can. My hand is bad, and my suit is bad – it's risky, but with such shortness in the majors, I'd like to get in their way. So 3♦ it is.

The bidding was:

3♦ P P Dbl

P 3♥ All Pass

At the other table, my counterpart opened 2♦ and heard:

2♦ P P Dbl

P 2♥ P 3♥

P 4♥ All Pass

4♥ was an easy make so we won 6 IMPs for our -170. The entire deal was:

♠ QJTxx

♥ xxx

♦ KQ

♣ Axx

♠ xxx

♠ AKxx

♥ QJTx

♥ AKxx

♦ xx

♦ Axx

♣ KQ9x

♣ xx

♠ x

♥ xx

♦ AJxxxx

♣ JTxx

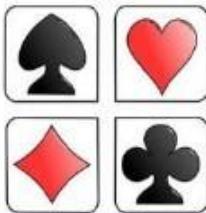
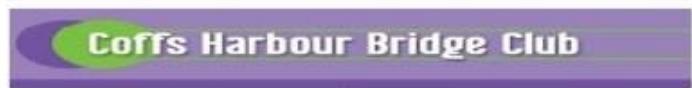
After a 2♦ opening, East has no problems whatsoever. He doubles and invites with a raise to 3♥, and West has just enough to raise to game. But after 3♦, East has a problem. Should he raise 3♥ to 4♥ and find his partner with a terrible hand, or should he pass 3♥ and risk missing a game - it's a guess. He guessed wrong and got a poor score.

I want to be the one who opened 3♦ and gave him the problem!

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.



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