

Summer Festival of Bridge

Wednesday 14 - Sunday 25 January 2026

Daily Bulletin



Monday 19th January 2026

Editor: Lauren Travis — notbulletin@gmail.com / 0402 614 301

Bulletin 5



In a close and exciting National Seniors' Teams Final, Depasquale triumphed over Kozakos. Runners-up George Kozakos, David Beauchamp and Maurits van der Vlugt are pictured with winners Peter Gill, Michael Courtney, David Hudson and Chris Depasquale.

Read more about the National Seniors' Teams Final on page 20.

Today's Program

Monday 19th January

South West Pacific Teams

9.45am – 6.30pm, 3 x 20-board rounds

National U750 All-Rounder Matchpoint Pairs

At the Canberra Common

9.00am – 9.30am Celebrity Speaker Talk (optional)

10.00am – 5.00pm Competitive Game

5.00pm – 6.00pm Practice Hands (optional)

National Restricted All-Rounder Matchpoint Pairs

At the Canberra Common

9.00am – 9.30am Celebrity Speaker Talk (optional)

10.00am – 5.00pm Competitive Game

5.00pm – 6.00pm Practice Hands (optional)

Left in 4NT

Match 5, Board 16 of the TBIB Open Swiss Pairs.

Board 16 ♠ AK6

Dealer W ♥ J2

Vul EW ♦ QJ96

♣ A532

♠ J109854 ♠ Q732

♥ AK4 ♥ 109865

♦ A8 ♦ 32

♣ J8 ♣ 107

♠ --

♥ Q73

♦ K10754

♣ KQ964

The auction begins 1♠ by West, X by North, 3♠ by East. South decided to bid 4NT to give their partner choice of which 5-minor contract to play.

All pass.

South was furious. 4NT made. As it happens, 4NT is the last making spot, with two hearts and a diamond to lose.

Today's Celebrity Speaker

Andy Hung

Defending With or Without Signals

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!

9:00-9:30am at Canberra Accommodation Centre

Free for Restricted All-Rounder and U750 All-Rounder players

\$5 for all other attendees



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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 pasttimes 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.



BREAKING
GROUND.
HEALING
HEARTS.

DONATE TODAY
hri.org.au/donate



Results

National Women's Teams Finals

TOBIN (Judith Tobin – Karen Creet, Helene Pitt – Ruth Tobin) 162 defeated THOMPSON (Jenny Thompson – Hannah O'Donnell, Linda King – Avril Zets) 122.1

National Seniors' Teams Finals

DEPASQUALE (Chris Depasquale – Michael Courtney, Peter Gill – David Hudson) 130 defeated KOZAKOS (George Kozakos – Hugh Grosvenor, Maurits van der Vlugt – David Beauchamp, Terry Brown – Ian Thomson) 122.1

TBIB Open IMP Swiss Pairs

1 st	Jessica Brake – Shane Harrison	157.02 VP
2 nd	Tim Pan – Lysandra Zheng	149.64 VP
3 rd	David Wiltshire – Sophie Ashton	147.15 VP
4 th	Andrew Struik – Noel Bugeia	145.27 VP
5 th	Leon Meier – GeO Tislevoll	143.15 VP

TBIB U750 IMP Swiss Pairs

1 st	Peter Lyons – Daria Williams	143.91 VP
2 nd	Sharyn Dilosa – Roderic Roark	132.85 VP
3 rd	Sandy Carter – Nerida Gillies	129.70 VP

TBIB U500 IMP Swiss Pairs

1 st	Tamati Greig – Marcus Dudley	131.65 VP
2 nd	Jan Bennett – Derek Bartosh	129.22 VP
3 rd	Dan Danton – Warren Smith	128.52 VP

TBIB U300 IMP Swiss Pairs

1 st	Nicola Meares – Sharon Michael	146.88 VP
2 nd	Johnson Wong – Catherine Ng	145.44 VP
3 rd	Divyesh Shah – Rina Shah	138.67 VP

TBIB U100 IMP Swiss Pairs

1 st	Andrew Refshauge – Michael Choueifate	132.11 VP
2 nd	Gillian Hibbard – Jennie Cover	123.06 VP
3 rd	Paula Corbett – Don Clark	119.49 VP

Australian Junior Team Selection Phase 2B

1 st	Fletcher Davey – Adrian Le
2 nd	Diya Shah – Dev Shah



Sharyn Dilosa – Roderic Roark
TBIB Under 750 Swiss Pairs Runners-Up with Lachlan Kennedy



Tamati Greig – Marcus Dudley
TBIB Under 500 Swiss Pairs Winners with Lachlan Kennedy



Jan Bennett – Derek Bartosh
TBIB Under 500 Swiss Pairs Runners-Up with Lachlan Kennedy



Nicola Meares – Sharon Michael
TBIB Under 300 Swiss Pairs Winners with Lachlan Kennedy



Johnson Wong – Catherine Ng
TBIB Under 300 Swiss Pairs Runners-Up with Lachlan Kennedy



Andrew Refshauge – Michael Choueifate
TBIB Under 100 Swiss Pairs Winners with Lachlan Kennedy



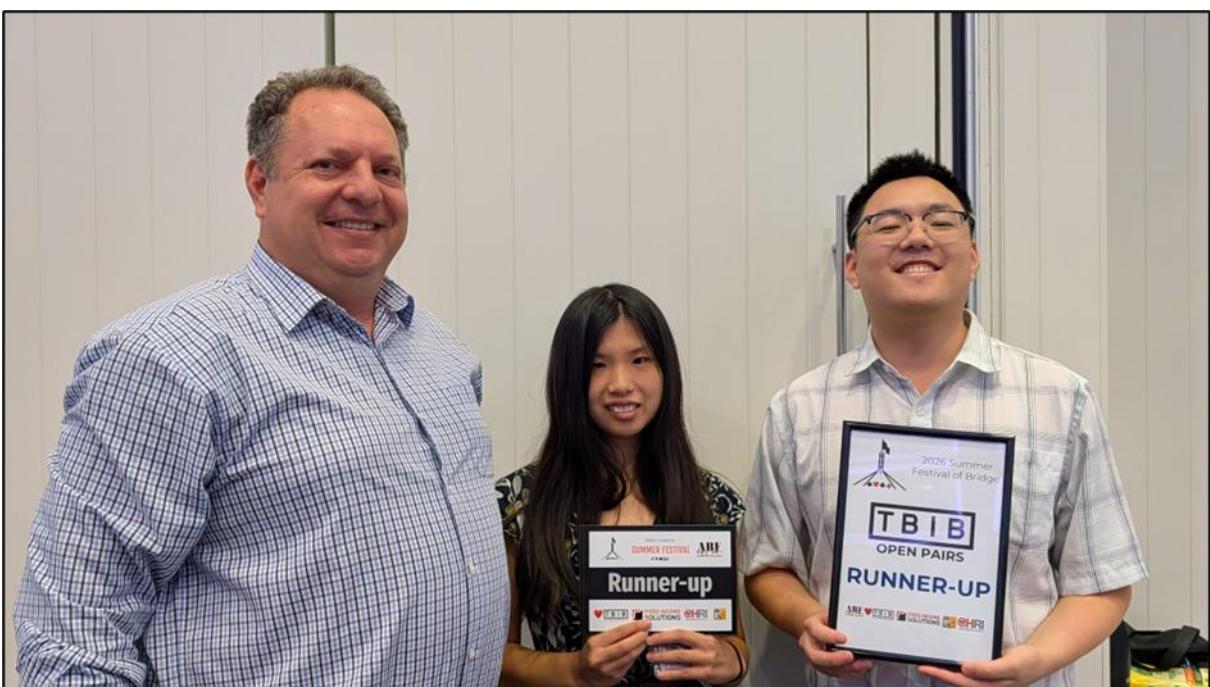
Gillian Hibbard – Jennie Cover

TBIB Under 100 Swiss Pairs Runners-Up with Lachlan Kennedy



Peter Lyons – Daria Williams

TBIB Under 750 Swiss Pairs Winners with Lachlan Kennedy



Lysandra Zheng
and Tim Pan,
TBIB Open Pairs
Runners-Up with
Sean Bemrose



Adrian Le and
Fletcher Davey,
2026 Australian
Under 26 Team



Gold Coast 2026

Gold Point

Online Congress

Two days of ABF gold point events conducted by the Queensland Bridge Association under licence to the ABF.



RealBridge

Saturday 7th February: TBIB Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

Sunday 8th February: TBIB Cross-Imp Swiss Pairs

Both Days:  Start 9 am AEST (Queensland Time)

 Offer Open and Under 500* events

 Entry Fee 40 MYABF Credits per player

* Both players to have been under 500 masterpoints as at 30/9/2025

* Requires an entry of 30 pairs to be certain to play as a separate event

Generous Prizes in MYABF
Credits thanks to TBIB



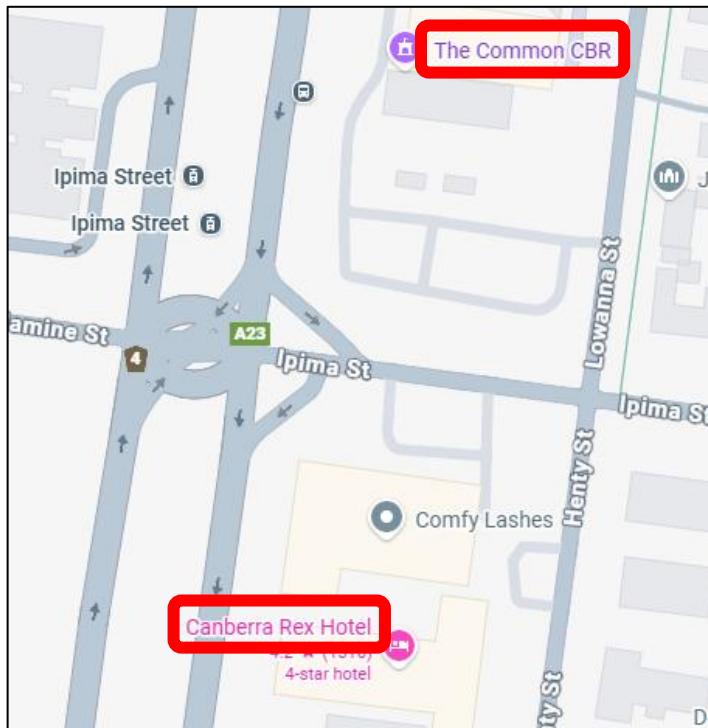
Chief Director: Chris Snook

ABF ENDORSED
INSURANCE BROKER

Tournament Organiser: Kim Ellaway 0412 064 903

manager@qldbridge.com.au

Venue Maps



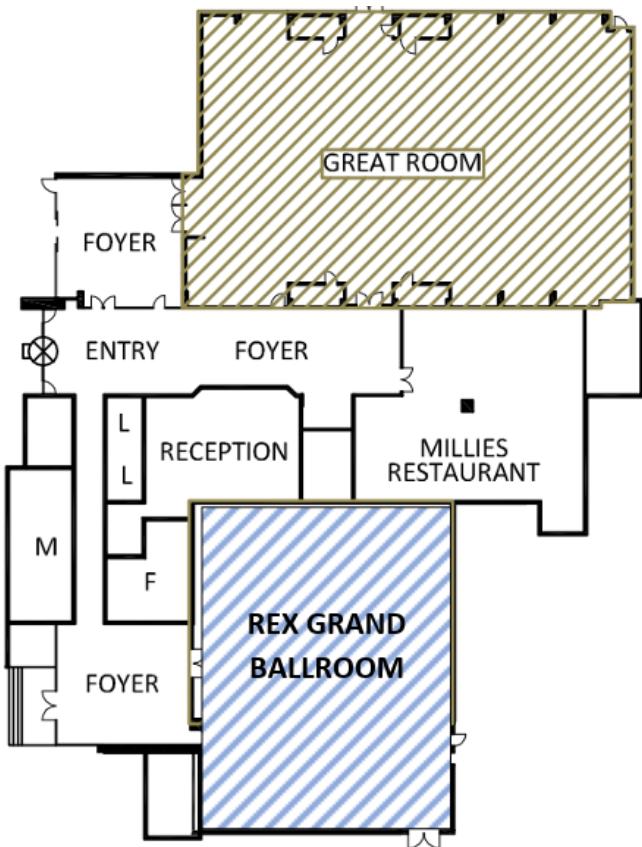
Within the Canberra Rex Hotel, most games will be played in the Great Room (straight ahead and to the left as you enter the building) or the Ballroom (to the right as you enter the building).

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.

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



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

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.

The kiosk will be staffed from 8:30am to 4pm for snacks and light refreshments. Lunch can be purchased from the kiosk at lunch or pre-ordered at the kiosk in the morning (highly recommended). The Swan & King restaurant is on level 5. Pre-orders/bookings are recommended for the restaurant.

The Howling Moon bar on level 6 is open each day after play concludes.

TBIB Open Swiss Pairs – Round 7

Tim Pan and Lysandra Zheng reached the top of the standings on Saturday and remained there until they met the eventual winners in match 10. In match 7 they faced Jamie Thompson and Matthew Vadas, winning by 19 IMPs.

On board 2, they were not put off by the opponents' bidding and got to 4♦, very tricky to beat when played by North:

Board 2	♠ AKQ75
Dealer E	♥ AK8
Vul NS	♦ QJ2
	♣ 82
♠ J84	♠ 1063
♥ J6542	♥ Q97
♦ 9653	♦ A10
♣ 10	♣ AQ654
	♠ 92
	♥ 103
	♦ K874
	♣ KJ973

West	North	East	South
Thompson	Zheng	Vadas	Pan
		1♣	Pass
1♦ (hearts)	X	1♥ *	2♦
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	



Lysandra Zheng

Matthew's 1♥ showed a weak NT with three hearts, so Jamie applied the law of total tricks and competed to the two-level. With Lysandra holding the heart stoppers and Tim the clubs, it wasn't easy to find the slightly better 3NT.

Double dummy, we can see that ♣A lead will defeat 4♠: East can give partner a ruff at trick 2, get a diamond back to their Ace, and play another club which West ruffs high, forcing a promotion for partner. However, Matthew made the more normal lead of ♥7 and, when everything worked nicely, Lysandra couldn't help but make 11 tricks.

Tim and Lysandra used Jamie's overcall over their strong club to their advantage on this deal:

Board 7 ♠ J9853
 Dealer S ♥ A10543
 Vul All ♦ 6
 ♣ 85
 ♠ AK7 ♠ Q42
 ♥ KJ762 ♥ Q9
 ♦ 84 ♦ 10972
 ♣ J97 ♣ 10642

♠ 106
 ♥ 8
 ♦ AKQJ53
 ♣ AKQ3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Thompson	Zheng	Vadas	Pan
			1♣ (15+)
1♥	Pass	Pass	2♥ *
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Lysandra's pass over 1♥ denied a positive hand, so when Tim bid 2♥ forcing, she was willing to show her heart stopper with 2NT which was raised to game by Tim with nine tricks in his own hand. 10 top tricks made for an easy play hand.

On board 8 they had a quintessential strong club auction to stop at the perfect level:

Board 8 ♠ Q93
 Dealer N ♥ AK1085
 Vul EW ♦ K
 ♣ 7652
 ♠ 7654 ♠ J102
 ♥ 432 ♥ Q76
 ♦ AQ642 ♦ 73
 ♣ Q ♣ AK983

♠ AK8
 ♥ J9
 ♦ J10985
 ♣ J104

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Thompson	Zheng	Vadas	Pan
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
X	Pass	2♣	2♦
All Pass			



Tim Pan

Knowing partner was limited to about 13 HCP, Tim was happy to settle in 1♥ originally but then competed to 2♦. Jamie probably thought he'd hit the jackpot but 2♦ was unbeatable!

TBIB Open Swiss Pairs – Round 8

Natalie Newman likes to bid. When she and Ben Thompson drew Natalie's dad Peter and his partner Matthew Thomson in round 8 of the TBIB Open Swiss Pairs, I had to watch. There were plenty of quips traded throughout the nine boards, as is to be expected.

I noted Natalie's penchant for competing right from the start:

Board 10	♠ K875
Dealer E	♥ J8
Vul All	♦ AQ9
	♣ QJ85
♠ 92	♠ A1063
♥ Q6432	♥ 95
♦ K4	♦ J10532
♣ AK96	♣ 43
	♠ QJ4
	♥ AK107
	♦ 876
	♣ 1072

West	North	East	South
N Newman	P Newman	B Thompson	M Thomson
		Pass	Pass
1♥	X	1♠	1NT
X	Pass	2♥	All Pass

It looked like Natalie was in big trouble in 2♥ until Peter didn't lead a trump, instead playing ♣Q. Natalie cashed two rounds of clubs then ruffed a low one in the dummy, before playing a low spade toward her hand. Matthew won with



Natalie Newman
and Peter
Newman in the
Newman-
Thom(p)son
showdown

the Jack and switched to ♦8–4–Q–2, and Peter cashed ♦A. He then played ♣J, trumped in dummy, and Matthew declined to overruff, instead throwing his last diamond. Natalie cashed dummy's ♠A and ruffed a spade in her hand. Holding only trumps, she exited a low one which was won with Peter's 8, but her Q64 sat over Matthew's AK10, so she was destined to win another trick and only go one off.

On board 13, Natalie considered bidding again but wisely chose not to this time:

Board 13	♠ K10982
Dealer N	♥ AJ73
Vul All	♦ J32
	♣ 3
♠ QJ53	♠ A7
♥ 1092	♥ KQ865
♦ Q984	♦ K75
♣ J5	♣ K92
	♠ 64
	♥ 4
	♦ A106
	♣ AQ108764

West	North	East	South
N Newman	P Newman	B Thompson	M Thomson
	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♣ *	All Pass	



Natalie Newman

2026 VICTORIAN
FESTIVAL
 OF BRIDGE

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

KING'S BIRTHDAY PERIOD
 JUNE 3rd - 8th, 2026

AMORA HOTEL
 RIVERWALK
 RICHMOND (VIC)



BOOK IN TODAY USING YOUR MyABF ACCOUNT

EVENTS

u20MP & u100MP Pairs
 (NEW)
 Wednesday 2.30-5.30pm

Main Pairs Events
 Thursday-Friday
 10.30am-6.00pm
 Restricted (u300MP)
 Mixed
 Open

Victor Champion Cup Teams
 Saturday - Monday
 10.00am start each day.
 5.30pm finish on
 Saturday and Sunday &
 1.30pm on Monday

Social/other
 Dining with the Stars
 (Wednesday 6.00pm)
 Trivia night (Saturday)
 Celebrity speakers
 (Thursday and Friday
 9.30am)

Richmond location
 Great dining options!
 Fun for all skill levels
 Stay and play onsite
\$5 airport bus
 From airport departing
 3.00pm Wednesday,
 to airport arriving MEL
 by 3.15pm Monday




Tournament
 Organiser
 Laura Ginnan
 vfbob@abf.com.au

2♣ showed both majors but Matthew knew what to do. Only a youth player would want to bid 2♦ on their four-card suit in the balancing seat on this auction, but you have to be a sensible youth player to pass. Ben led ♣2 and when Peter inserted the Queen from dummy he was always making. Two rounds of trumps were drawn then when a spade was played to the Jack and King, ducked by Ben, Peter made nine tricks and won 5 IMPs.

My first ever squeeze was against my mum for an overtrick in 3NT. Natalie had the opportunity to do the same – squeeze and endplay her dad for an overtrick on board 15 – and I think she would have had bragging rights for life:

Board 15	♠ AKQJ
Dealer S	♥ K72
Vul NS	♦ 10976
	♣ 54
♠ 92	♠ 108654
♥ AJ103	♥ Q
♦ K5	♦ AQ4
♣ Q9872	♣ AKJ10
	♠ 73
	♥ 98654
	♦ J832
	♣ 63

West	North	East	South
N Newman	P Newman	B Thompson	M Thomson
			Pass
1♣ *	X	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

* I told you she likes to bid

Instead of cashing out his four tricks, Peter led a diamond. Natalie won it in her hand then ran five rounds of clubs, forcing Peter and Matthew to discard three times each. Matthew pitched a spade, a heart and diamond, and Peter threw away a low heart then the ♠J and ♠Q, drawing an inquisitive look from his daughter. Natalie cashed dummy's diamond honours coming to this position:

Board 15	♠ AK
Dealer S	♥ K7
Vul NS	♦ 10
	♣ --
♠ 9	♠ 10865
♥ AJ103	♥ Q
♦ --	♦ --
♣ --	♣ --

A spade exit now lets Peter cash three tricks but then he has to lead a heart, giving Natalie the last two tricks. Alas, she doesn't have enough experience to see the position, so she played a heart to the Ace. Next time!



SUPPORT YOUTH BRIDGE

**Buy a mug to support youth
teams to attend the 2026
World Championship**

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Available in the Rex lobby or on MyABF

**Email Laura at not@abf.com.au if you would like to sell
mugs at your club! Free delivery for 10+ mugs**



TBIB Open Swiss Pairs – Round 9

Mike Doecke and Will Jenner-O’Shea set the perfect trap at the start of this match. On boards 21 and 22 they made it clear they didn’t really know their system (“Yesterday we agreed to play Standard at unfavourable but we don’t know what sort of Standard”), bid game and went off multiple tricks. When they bid a third game on board 23, Shane Harrison had worked out what was up. Sadly for him and Jess Brake, that one made.

The chaos continued on board 25:

Board 25	♠ KJ82		
Dealer N	♥ 63		
Vul EW	♦ KJ10		
	♣ A762		
♠ 763		♠ Q94	
♥ 1082		♥ KQ75	
♦ A98732		♦ --	
♣ 4		♣ KQJ853	
	♠ A105		
	♥ AJ94		
	♦ Q654		
	♣ 109		
West	North	East	South
Brake	Jenner-O’Shea	Harrison	Doecke
	1♦ *	2♣	X
Pass	2♠	X	XX
3♦	X	3♥	X
All Pass			



Shane Harrison

Will’s 1♦ opening could be short as he and Mike play a strong club system (unless they’re unfavourable, as of yesterday). Shane’s appetite for competing was insatiable but I suspect he had some regrets when Jess bid his void at the 3-level.

This contract looked to be an absolute disaster but Shane’s prospects improved immediately when Mike led ♠A then ♠10 to Will’s King. Will found the best defence of a trump switch, Shane playing low and Mike winning his Jack. Mike continued a third round of spades which Shane won and began setting up his clubs, playing the Jack to Will’s Ace. Will continued trumps: ♥6 – 7 – 4 – 8. Shane didn’t really want to be in dummy, but he ruffed a diamond then started running clubs through Mike. When Mike refused to ruff in, Shane was able to pitch all of dummy’s diamonds and only go one off! I think he’s used his get out of jail free card for the week, though.

You can’t expect anything but more insanity, forgotten system agreements and copious undertricks from this table as they played board 20 next (out of order).

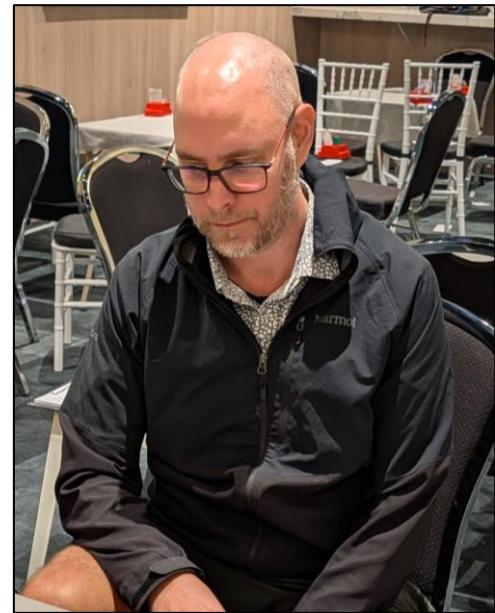
Board 20 ♠ KJ1074
 Dealer W ♥ 2
 Vul All ♦ A6
 ♣ A10876

♠ 86 ♠ A953
 ♥ AKQJ4 ♥ 108
 ♦ J932 ♦ KQ10
 ♣ K2 ♣ J543

♠ Q2
 ♥ 97653
 ♦ 8754
 ♣ Q9

West	North	East	South
Brake	Jenner-O'Shea	Harrison	Doecke
1♥	3♣ *	X	3♦

All Pass



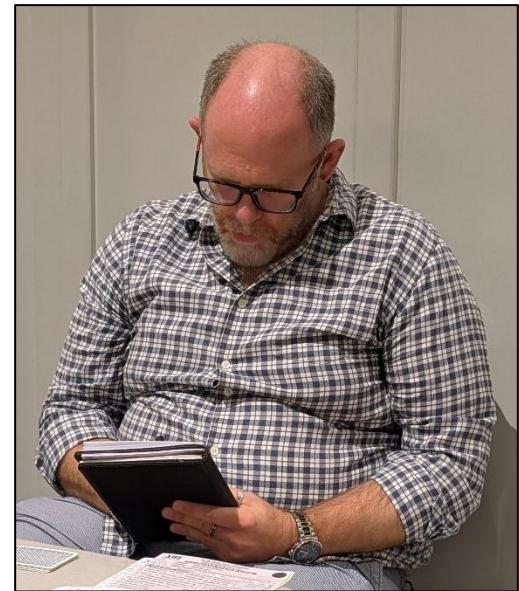
Mike Doecke

3♣ was alerted and explained as “about a year ago we agreed to play this as both minors, non forcing”, not prompting a huge amount of faith in the partnership agreement. Mike and Will had bid to one of Jess and Shane’s last making contracts but neither of them could really double.

Jess’ ♥A lead was both obvious and costly, blocking the suit. When it held, she switched to a low diamond, won in dummy, and Mike called for a small spade. Shane was awake and won the Ace, drew dummy’s last trump then played his ♥10. Jess overtook to cash two more hearts. To take the contract down five, she had to give Shane a heart ruff with his ♦Q then score her last two diamonds. In reality, it was hard to read the situation since the whole hand had been crazy, and she played a spade which allowed Mike to draw the trumps and get out for four off, undoubled!

They started their last board with no time left on the clock (putting it generously) and the lunch break already underway.

Board 26 ♠ KQ86
 Dealer E ♥ 108632
 Vul All ♦ K107
 ♣ K
 ♠ A43 ♠ 10975
 ♥ AKQ5 ♥ 7
 ♦ AQ ♦ J542
 ♣ J742 ♣ A865
 ♠ J2
 ♥ J94
 ♦ 9863
 ♣ Q1093



Will Jenner-O'Shea

West	North	East	South
Brake	Jenner-O'Shea	Harrison	Doecke
		Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣ *	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Will led ♥6 to the 7, Mike's Jack and Jess' Ace. She played ♦Q out of hand, with Will winning and continuing a low heart to the 9 and King, dummy pitching a diamond. Jess cashed ♦A then played a low club, ducking when the King appeared. Will played a third round of hearts which Jess won. She crossed to dummy's ♣A, cashed ♦J and played a club out which Mike won with the Queen. He cashed his ♦9 then played a low spade to the Ace. Jess cashed ♣J and Will had to come down to either ♣K or ♥8. Jess had discarded something on ♦J but, being the lunch break, she had effectively starved Will into not watching her play. Of course, this ridiculous match ended with a successful memory squeeze and Jess and Shane scored up +600 for a full 12 IMP gain.

TBIB Open Swiss Pairs – Round 11

Jess Brake and Shane Harrison, sitting first, played against Mike Ware and Matt McManus, lying second, in the final match of the TBIB Open Swiss Pairs.

Board 12	♠ K9
Dealer W	♥ AK10652
Vul NS	♦ J4
	♣ Q98
♠ AQ1042	♠ J8763
♥ 987	♥ Q
♦ 982	♦ Q63
♣ A3	♣ K764
	♠ 5
	♥ J43
	♦ AK1075
	♣ J1052

West	North	East	South
McManus	Harrison	Ware	Brake
1♥ *	2♥	4♠	X
All Pass			

Matt and Mike play transfer openings, so 1♥ showed spades. Mike jumped to 4♠ and with 4NT an unrealistic contract, Jess and Shane did best to double and defend. Naturally, Jess led ♦A and Shane encouraged with his doubleton. She continued ♦K and another diamond, giving him a ruff, and he played two rounds of hearts with the second one being ruffed. With Shane having ruffed already, Mike was on a guess for the ♣K. He played for Shane to have been normal and not having encouraged Jess to give him a ruff with a natural trump trick, so got it wrong and went two off like he always should have been.

Jess played 3NT really nicely, with many options available to her and little information on which line was best:

Board 16 ♠ 3
 Dealer W ♥ AK832
 Vul EW ♦ AK
 ♣ K10865
 ♠ A87654 ♠ Q10
 ♥ J10 ♥ Q975
 ♦ Q542 ♦ 1093
 ♣ 3 ♣ QJ72

♠ KJ92

♥ 64

♦ J876

♣ A94

West	North	East	South
McManus	Harrison	Ware	Brake
2♦ *	X	2♥ *	X
2♠	3♥	Pass	3NT

All Pass



Jess Brake

Matt led ♦2 which was won in dummy. Jess picked the clubs correctly, leading a low one to the 9 at trick 2. She cashed ♣A and ♣K then conceded the fourth club to Mike, pitching a low spade, with Matt shelling three spades. Mike continued diamonds, knocking out dummy's Ace. Jess cashed dummy's final club, Mike and Jess both throwing a heart and Matt pitching another spade, coming down to:

♠ 3
 ♥ AK832
 ♦ --
 ♣ --
 ♠ A8 ♠ Q10
 ♥ J10 ♥ Q97
 ♦ Q5 ♦ 9
 ♣ -- ♣ --
 ♠ KJ9
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J8
 ♣ --

Before the previous trick, I'd hoped she would cash ♥AK then play a spade to the Jack, endplaying Matt. However, due to Mike's heart discard, she had an easier line: spade to the Jack and Ace, Matt cashed ♦Q and then played a heart to dummy, and Jess used Mike's third heart as a stepping stone to her ♣K.

While we might hear stories of wives shooting their husbands at the bridge table more often than we hear of successes, Jess and Shane break that pattern. They won this match by 15 IMPs and secured their place at the top of the field, outscoring second place by 8 VPs.

Congratulations Shane and Jess!



Sean Bemrose from TBIB with Shane Harrison and Jess Brake,
winners of the TBIB Open IMP Swiss Pairs

Celebrity Speaker Series

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.

National Seniors' Teams Final

Hugh Grosvenor got his team off to a good start on board 2 of the first stanza, playing 3NT beautifully to win 10 IMPs:

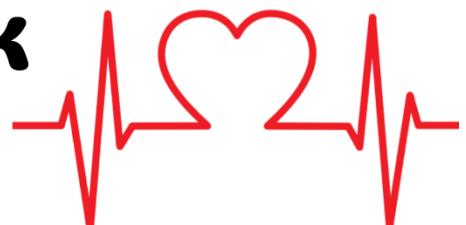
Board 2	♠ 1072		
Dealer E	♥ AJ103		
Vul NS	♦ 8		
	♣ 98732		
♠ AKQ5	♠ 98		
♥ K76	♥ 982		
♦ QJ102	♦ A765		
♣ J6	♣ KQ104		
	♠ J643		
	♥ Q54		
	♦ K943		
	♣ A5		
West	North	East	South
Grosvenor	Depasquale	Kozakos	Courtney
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



Hugh Grosvenor

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 2♥ bid in your partnership?
Is it natural, a transfer or something else? Does your system change when the opponents double your 1NT?**

1NT (X) 2♥

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.**

On the surface, it looks like Hugh had to lose three hearts, a diamond and a club, so obviously this is a squeeze hand. Chris Depasquale led $\heartsuit J$. Hugh won and established the clubs, knocking out Michael Courtney's Ace with his Jack. Michael continued hearts with the Queen then a low one to his partner, who cashed the fourth heart on which East, South and West all discarded low diamonds. A diamond switch came, won by dummy's Ace, then Hugh rattled off dummy's clubs, forcing Michael to pitch twice. He was forced to keep $\diamond K$ so had to throw a spade, promoting Hugh's $\spadesuit 5$ as the ninth trick.

Michael Courtney found a great defence on board 13, to no avail:

Board 13	$\spadesuit 532$		
Dealer N	$\heartsuit 53$		
Vul All	$\diamond AKQJ63$		
	$\clubsuit 104$		
$\spadesuit A9864$	$\spadesuit KJ7$		
$\heartsuit K2$	$\heartsuit QJ6$		
$\diamond 42$	$\diamond 1097$		
$\clubsuit Q985$	$\clubsuit AKJ3$		
	$\spadesuit Q10$		
	$\heartsuit A109874$		
	$\diamond 85$		
	$\clubsuit 762$		
West	North	East	South
Grosvenor	Depasquale	Kozakos	Courtney
	3 \diamond	Pass	4 \diamond
Pass	Pass	X	Pass
4 \spadesuit	All Pass		

Chris led $\diamond A$ and $\diamond K$, then a heart to Michael's Ace and Hugh's King. Michael played another heart but Chris was unable to ruff so dummy's Jack won. Hugh called for dummy's $\spadesuit K$, under which Michael threw the card he was known to have – $\spadesuit Q$. In a battle of wits between two top experts, Hugh unflinchingly played $\spadesuit J$ next, not rewarding Michael by finessing the ten.

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In the third stanza, Michael's boldness paid off:

Board 3	♠ 10987
Dealer S	♥ KJ8
Vul EW	♦ 75
	♣ J1043
♠ 5	♠ J642
♥ A754	♥ Q932
♦ K1063	♦ J984
♣ AK65	♣ Q
	♣ AKQ3
	♥ 106
	♦ AQ2
	♣ 9872

West	North	East	South
Depasquale	Thomson	Courtney	Brown
			1NT
Pass	Pass	2♣ *	Pass
4♥	X	All Pass	

Michael's 2♣ bid, showing the majors, is probably not to most people's taste but it worked amazingly on this hand. 4♥x was unbeatable. Ian Thomson led a diamond to the Ace, and Terry Brown played two top spades, Chris trumping the second. He played a club to the Queen, ruffed another spade, and cashed another club pitching dummy's last spade before playing trumps. The Ace was cashed then another trump played, Ian winning his King and playing a trump forcing dummy to ruff. Chris drew the last trump then finessed ♦Q and finished with the minor Kings for 10 tricks.

Chris Depasquale showed off his technique on board 31 of stanza four, flattening the board when David Beauchamp also made 4♠ at the other table:

Board 31	♠ 9
Dealer S	♥ J743
Vul NS	♦ KJ7
	♣ J9532
♠ 10732	♠ AQ65
♥ A105	♥ --
♦ 1065	♦ AQ942
♣ AKQ	♣ 10864
	♠ KJ84
	♥ KQ9862
	♦ 83
	♣ 7



Chris Depasquale

West	North	East	South
Depasquale	Grosvenor	Courtney	Kozakos
			1♥
Pass	3♥	X	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Hugh led a heart which was ruffed in dummy. A low club was won with the Ace and Chris played a spade to dummy's Queen and George Kozakos' King. George tried ♥K which dummy ruffed, then ♠A was cashed. Chris called for another club toward his hand, on which George pitched ♦8, somewhat giving away the diamond position. After winning ♠K, Chris played ♦10 and ran it, and when that held he was home, just losing three spade tricks. Had he gone off, Kozakos would have won the match.

Congratulations and well played to team Depasquale – Chris Depasquale, Michael Courtney, Peter Gill and David Hudson.

National Women's Teams Final

In the Women's Final, on board 5 of the first stanza, Avril Zets outplayed the other declarers in 3NT:

Board 5	♠ J10832
Dealer N	♥ 4
Vul NS	♦ KQJ8
	♣ J53
♠ KQ6	♠ A74
♥ AJ109	♥ Q753
♦ A7	♦ 942
♣ Q1087	♣ K94
	♣ 95
	♥ K862
	♦ 10653
	♣ A62

West	North	East	South
Zets	J Tobin	King	Creet
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass



Avril Zets

Judith Tobin led ♦Q, ducked, and another diamond to the Ace. Needing diamonds to be 4-4 (or 6-2 without the ♠A), Avril wanted to be in dummy to finesse hearts, so chose not to try to sneak a club through, instead crossing to ♠A. ♥Q followed, ducked all around, and another heart was played to the ten. When they broke 4-1, Avril needed to establish another entry to dummy. Rather than relying on ♠A onside, she advanced ♠Q from her hand, wisely ducked by Karen Creet. Avril picked the hand perfectly, finessing the Jack on the next round of clubs, and when diamonds broke 4-4 she made her nine tricks.

On board 11, both tables made slam tries but only one got there:

Board 11	♠ Q1083
Dealer S	♥ QJ5
Vul Nil	♦ Q
	♣ QJ954
♠ 542	♠ AKJ7
♥ A1086	♥ K732
♦ AJ984	♦ K62
♣ K	♣ A2
	♠ 96
	♥ 94
	♦ 10753
	♣ 108763

West	North	East	South
Zets	J Tobin	King	Creet
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT *	Pass
3♥ *	Pass	4♠ *	Pass
5♦ *	Pass	6♥	All Pass

After 1♥ was raised to 2, 2NT was a game-forcing enquiry and Avril showed four hearts. Linda King wasted no time keycarding, and when she found two without the queen she jumped to slam.

The other table took a more conservative approach:

West	North	East	South
Pitt	O'Donnell	Tobin	Thompson
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT *	Pass
3♥ *	Pass	3♠ *	Pass
4♣ *	Pass	4♦ *	Pass
5♦ *	Pass	5♥	All Pass

In this auction, 2NT was alerted as a general enquiry and Helene Pitt's 3♥ was a minimum hand with four hearts. Ruth Tobin elected to begin a cuebidding sequence with 3♠ but when her partner bid 5♦ she was no longer able to keycard and instead signed off in 5♥.

With the singleton ♦Q exposing the break, the slam only required trumps to break and so 12 tricks were made easily at both tables.

Helene managed a difficult contract well, with a little help from the opponents, on board 20 of the second stanza:



Linda King

Board 20 ♠ Q2
 Dealer W ♥ QJ53
 Vul All ♦ QJ9732
 ♣ A

♠ 4 ♠ KJ876
 ♥ A109872 ♥ K
 ♦ 65 ♦ A1084
 ♣ 7643 ♣ Q105
 ♠ A10953
 ♥ 64
 ♦ K
 ♣ KJ982

West	North	East	South
Zets	R Tobin	King	Pitt
2♦ *	X	2♥	4♠

All Pass

Avril's 2♦ showed a weak 2 in a major and Linda's 2♥ was pass or correct. Avril cashed ♥A on lead, and seeing partner's King fall, gave her a heart ruff at trick 2. Linda switched to a low diamond and Helene's singleton King won. Helene played a club to dummy's Ace then ♦Q, ruffing when it was covered with the Ace. She cashed ♣K then ruffed a club in dummy, played ♠Q which held, then led ♥Q which Linda ruffed with the eight and Helene overruffed with the nine. Now it was simply a matter of letting Linda ruff a club winner and claiming the rest of the tricks.



Helene Pitt



National Women's Teams Winners – Ruth Tobin, Helene Pitt, Judith Tobin and Karen Creet (not pictured)

Legends of Australian Bridge: Bobby Richman

Peter Gill

Bobby Richman passed away in 2013. He was probably the wittiest and most entertaining character of all Australia's great players as well as our first Emerald Grand Master with over 10,000 masterpoints.

Growing up in Ohio, one day his mum told young Bobby that her friend Mrs Meckstroth's son Jeff was just starting to play bridge, so she thought Bobby and Jeff could become bridge partners. "As if I'd take my mother's advice on whom to play bridge with," Bobby told me, so he politely declined, Jeff Meckstroth soon found Eric Rodwell and they went on to become the greatest partnership in the history of bridge. A missed opportunity.

Bobby moved to Melbourne University where he and Di Smart, playing Animal Acol, were soon beating Australia's best in the 1972 ANC. Animal Acol shares some adventurous traits with Phil Markey's bidding system Outback Acol which is currently going gangbusters.

After I played for Australia with him in 2008, Bobby told me that nine times during the World Championships, he refrained from making a bid that he'd normally make, in order to ensure that I didn't have a heart attack. I asked how we would have fared if he'd made those wild bids. Five times we'd probably have done better, four times probably worse, so we break about even, he replied. It's typical Bobby that he took into account his partner's idiosyncrasies. One reason for my success in the last decade is that to some extent, I've adopted some of Bobby's bidding style.

In 2004-2005, Martin Bloom and I teamed up with Bobby Richman and George Gaspar in the spring SNOT and autumn ANOT, winning both events. In the SNOT Grand Final, we were being massacred at our table. My screenmate on the last board of the first quarter on my side of the screen licked his lips at me, as if to say – it's all over. Our teammates had done well so we were down only 2 to 52 imps at quarter time.

Eight boards later, it felt like we were down another 40 imps at our table. Later I asked Martin Bloom how he felt to be down about 90 imps after 24 boards of the 64 board Grand Final. Martin replied that his only other Grand Final of a major event had been a Gold Coast Teams, where he conceded at half time, down over 100 imps to Ishmael Del'monte's team. Martin was absolutely determined that such a concession to Ishmael was not going to happen twice.

At the lunch break after a massive comeback, we trailed by only 14 imps. I looked over at our superstar opponents who looked devastated, while we were delighted. Seeded eleven, we were 14 imps behind, but we were the happy ones.

On one hand, Bobby picked up ♠J9xxxx ♥xx ♦x ♣Jxxx. As dealer at favourable vulnerability, Bobby opened 3♠. The 23-count on his left bid 3NT, passed out by the 14 count on his right. Martin and I had an unopposed auction to 7♥, plus 2210. At the time I was astounded by Bobby's brave well-timed bid. And I was still in the dark until a decade later when Sartaj Hans taught me about the special circumstances of being dealer at favourable vulnerability.



Going into the 64th and last board, Bobby thought the match was fairly close. In third seat, vulnerable against not, Bobby picked up ♠AQ1082 ♥AQ973 ♦A ♣82. His partner George Gaspar passed, and RHO opened 3♥. Bobby passed 3♥ in normal tempo without the slightest hesitation. George reopened with Double which by a passed hand shows short hearts and (7) 8-10 (11) points. George had a 4-1-4-4 eight count, plus 1100, compared to 4♠ making five at the other table, 10 imps to the good guys and victory by 21 imps for the Gaspar team. Zia Mahmood calls this idea “Penalty Before Purity” - a good recent example is in the Bidding Forum section of a recent issue of Australian Bridge magazine.

The smooth tempo of Bobby’s Pass of 3♥ was very important, because if there had have been a telltale hesitation before Bobby passes, the Laws of Bridge would prevent his partner from any unclear reopening over 3♥, due to the unauthorised information George would have, that any hesitation in Bobby’s seat would have implied a good hand.

In 2008 Bobby and Sara Tishler qualified for the Final of the Butler but Bobby had a heart attack overnight so they had to pull out, and word spread that the great professional bridge player Bobby Richman had a heart attack.

Bobby’s next three events were the 2008 GNOT, SNOT and Spring Nationals Senior Teams. In all three, the opponents conceded the Grand Final to Bobby over 100 imps behind. Bobby had 13 different teammates in those three wins, very soon after the Butler. I asked Bobby if there’s a reason why he’s playing the best bridge of his life. “Of course there is,” Bobby told me. “Everyone knew I’d had a heart attack, so I thought nobody would hire me any more, thinking I’m over the hill. So I willed myself to concentrate super hard and play better than ever.” And he did. Bobby was like that.



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Barbara's Daily Column: Thinking Through the Play (Safe and Danger Hands)

Barbara Travis

♠ A 10 9
♥ Q 7 6 2
♦ K Q 10 9 5
♣ A

♠ Q J 8 6
♥ A K 4
♦ 8 6 3
♣ K 9 4

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Partner led the ♣Q, won by dummy's Ace.

Even if the spade finesse works, you still have only 8 tricks unless the ♠K comes down in 2 or 3 rounds. So, your plan should always involve working on diamonds. Which suit should you work on first?

You have to work through whether to finesse spades first or to work on diamonds. If you take the spade finesse and it fails, then you will go down whenever West holds the ♦A. On the other hand, if you cross to hand to lead a diamond towards dummy with East winning the Ace, you can duck one club, then win. If the second top diamond doesn't bring down the Jack, you can then try the spade finesse. If it fails, you hope that East is out of clubs. If the diamond to dummy wins, now you have the extra trick, so can take the spade finesse in safety, with the ♣K still intact.

At our table, declarer tried the spade finesse first. When it failed, the club return removed his stopper. He now had 3 spade tricks, 3 heart tricks and 2 club tricks, but partner could win any diamond lead and cash her clubs, for one off.

You should now be adept at the next hand:

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

East is playing in 3NT, and South leads the $\heartsuit Q$. This is the sort of hand that which is all too easy to misplay.

Since you are safe from any other suit, it is perfectly fine to duck trick 1. You win the heart continuation and have to find the best line of play. Most people would take the diamond finesse. However, do you have enough tricks if the diamond finesse fails? You will then have 2 heart, 4 diamond and 2 club winners: not enough. If the diamond finesse fails and South holds the ♠A, you will go down.

You must play spades first. No matter who has the ♠A, this ensures your contract, assuming South has the long hearts. If the ♠A is taken, you win a heart return, cross to your hand, then take the diamond finesse. If the finesse fails and hearts are 5-3, North has no hearts remaining. If the finesse fails and hearts are 4-4, you lose 2 hearts, 1 spade and 1 diamond. If the ♠A is ducked, you already have your ninth trick, so can revert to the diamond finesse.

However, if you take the diamond finesse first and it fails, then North returns the third heart. Now when South proves to have the ♠A, you go down.

On this hand, you need to check how many tricks you have should the finesse fail. By doing so, you should find the correct line. You want to take the finesse to the 'safe hand' WHEN it is safe, not earlier.

However, let's change the hand around:

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

Once again, East is in 3NT on the lead of ♥Q, ducked, but with East winning the second round of hearts. However, this time South is your danger hand later – so you actually need to remove his potential entry immediately. That entry is the finesse, rather than the ♠A. (If he has both ♠A and the ♦K, you will go down anyway.)

If you play on spades and North wins the ♠A, but then the diamond finesse fails, you will go down. On the other hand, if you take the diamond finesse and it fails, then when you play on spades, North either has no hearts remaining (they were 5-3) or the hearts break 4-4, leaving you with your 9 tricks again.

So, keep thinking about which hand is dangerous – and 'when'.

Double check your line of play in your head, checking the order in which you should work your options.

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.

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.



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](#).

Board 20	♠ QJ43
Dealer W	♥ 109
All Vul	♦ KJ6
	♣ KQ109
♠ AK965	♠ 108
♥ A852	♥ K763
♦ Q8	♦ 1097543
♣ 73	♣ 4
	♠ 72
	♥ QJ4
	♦ A2
	♣ AJ8652

Our North on this hand thought he'd found a clever bid, but his partner wasn't on the same page. How would you take North's 3♥ bid?

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♣
2♥	3♥ *	Double	Pass
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

His intention was to ask for a heart stopper for 3NT – he knew about a big club fit and the only reason he hadn't acted over 1♠ was because he had no suitable bid, despite holding 12 points. Had South understood what North was up to, they could have bid 3NT with their ♥QJx.

Pete Hollands said he liked the 3♥ bid, and pointed out that it should definitely show a spade stopper (easing any of South's fears) as North had skipped over 2♠, implying they had that suit under control. He also suggested that South could bid 3♣ over 3♥ if they were concerned about spades. This approach would get NS to a very good 3NT.

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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Kate's Way #5: HCPs are only a guideline

Kate McCallum

Originally published in *Bridging NSW* by Bridge NSW, December 2025

Virtually all hands should be upgraded or downgraded. Bidding is based on trick-taking potential. Upgrades are frequent, downgrades infrequent.

Optimism is winning bridge – the power of negative thinking is underwhelming – the scoring table favours aggressive bidding and various studies show clearly that bidders are winners.

If your 1NT range is 15-17, look carefully at your 14s. Should they be upgraded? Or should you downgrade some 15s?

Is ♠AJ43 ♥KJ2 ♦Q54 ♣A75 in your range? What about ♠AT9 ♥KQT97 ♦AQT ♣98?

Both are 15 HCPs, but I would not open 1NT on the first hand. It should be downgraded to less than 14 for the lack of spot cards, stray honours, and the 4x3 distribution.

The second hand could be upgraded to about 17.5 HCPs. A 5-card suit is a plus – it's an extra trick. A good suit is a huge plus – you're very likely to take 4 heart tricks. The spot cards are good and all the honours are working.

Should you make the same bid on both hands? Probably not!

A few days ago in a local club game, my partner held this hand:

♠ xx
♥ AQT
♦ KQJTx
♣ JTx

His right-hand opponent opened the bidding with 2♥. He overcalled 2NT(!) showing roughly 15-17. Is that madness? 2NT on a 13-count?

Not at all! He's an optimist and upgraded his hand for the very good 5-cd suit (+2) and the position of his heart honours, which were virtually certain to take two tricks and a favourite to take three. Three aces, if you will. He wasn't quite sure how to evaluate, but guessed that his hand was worth around 18! I don't disagree.

It's not about the points – it's about the tricks.

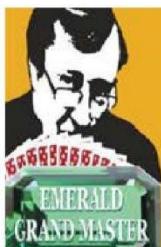
I raised to 3NT with:

♠Axx ♥xxx ♦Axx ♣xxxx

Because it's close and I believe in optimism too – and Aces should be upgraded.

Not surprisingly, we were the only table in 3NT. We made exactly nine tricks (five diamonds, three hearts and the spade Ace). Other tables overcalled 3♦ and played there, and one table passed. They saw only the "13 points" and missed the trick-taking power of the hand.

"The positive thinker sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible." — Winston Churchill



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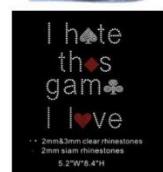
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