

Summer Festival of Bridge

Wednesday 14 - Sunday 25 January 2026

Daily Bulletin



Sunday 25th January 2026

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

Bulletin 11

♠ QJ8732
♥ KJ53
♦
♣ A104

♠ AK9
♥ AQ102
♦ AKJ542
♣

Looking at these East-West hands, what contract would you like to play in? It looks like 7♥, 7♠ and 7NT are all cold, but of course, anything can happen.

Read about stanza 4 of the National Open Teams Semi-Finals to find out how the final four teams fared on this, their penultimate board.

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Today's Program

Sunday 25th January

National Open Teams Final

9.00am – 7.30pm, 4 x 16-board rounds

Mixed Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

9.45am – 1.15pm, 2 x 14-board rounds

Results

National Open Teams Quarter-Finals

DALLEY (Paul Dalley – Tony Nunn, Ash Bach – Kieran Dyke) 182.1 defeated VAN DER VLUGT (Maurits van der Vlugt – Fraser Rew, Matt Mullamphy – Andrew Spooner, Terry Brown – Ian Thomson) 58

MEIER (Leon Meier – GeO Tislevoll, Peter Gill – David Hudson – Michael Smart) 186 defeated DEPASQUALE (Chris Depasquale – Michael Courtney, Giselle Mundell – Andrew Peake) 125.1

Mixed Matchpoint Swiss Pairs (after 7 of 9 rounds)

1 st	Geeske Joel – Liam Milne	95.90 VP
=2 nd	Alex Goss – Pamela Nisbet	92.93 VP
=2 nd	Christy Geromboux – Sebastian Yuen	92.93 VP
4 th	Jess Brake – Shane Harrison	90.14 VP
5 th	Paula McLeish – David McLeish	89.33 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 3NT bid in your partnership?
Is it choice of games, a balanced raise or something else?**

Why?

1♥ – 3NT

This system health check is sponsored by the Heart Research Institute. Please support those who support bridge by making a donation if you are able to.



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Thu 19th – Fri 20th

Australian Mixed Swiss Pairs

TFoB Restricted Swiss Pairs

Roger Penny Seniors' Swiss Pairs

Sat 21st – Sun 22nd

Australian Open Swiss Pairs

Novice Swiss Pairs (Sat)

Rookie Swiss Pairs (Sun)

Saturday evening dinner \$50

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Tournament Organiser
Entries Coordinator

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Hugh Grosvenor hugh.grosvenor@gmail.com 0447 044 141

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 Open Teams Semi-Final Stanza 1

In Dalley vs van der Vlugt, Paul Dalley and Terry Brown took very different views of their hands on board 7:

Board 7 ♠ 432
Dealer S ♥ 1095
Vul All ♦ J75
 ♣ A973

♠ AK6 ♠ Q10987
♥ AQJ73 ♥ K62
♦ A9 ♦ 4
♣ Q42 ♣ KJ105

♠ J5
♥ 84
♦ KQ108632
♣ 86

	West	North	East	South
Nunn		van der Vlugt	Dalley	Rew
				3♦
X	Pass	4♠	Pass	
4NT *	Pass	5♦ *	Pass	
5♥ *	Pass	6♣ *	Pass	
6♠	All Pass			



Tony Nunn

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With little space to manoeuvre after the 3♦ opening, Paul jumped straight to game and Tony Nunn clearly had a good enough hand to keycard and bid slam when Paul had a suitable hand. With no club shortages lurking in the defenders' hands and trumps breaking nicely, 6♠ was an easy make.

West	North	East	South
Thomson	Dyke	Brown	Bach
		3♦	
X	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Terry settled for 3♠ after the same start to the auction and when Ian Thomson showed a power double by bidding 4♥ he left it there. This contract also made 12 tricks, but the deal contributed to Dalley's early lead with a 13 IMP slam swing their way.

Michael Smart's line in 3NT on board 6 swung 12 IMPs in his team's favour when the contract didn't make at the other table:

Board 6	♠ A9764
Dealer E	♥ K62
Vul EW	♦ K9
	♣ J98
♠ K1082	♠ 3
♥ Q1084	♥ A73
♦ Q	♦ AJ864
♣ AQ74	♣ K1052
	♣ QJ5
	♥ J95
	♦ 107532
	♣ 63

West	North	East	South
Smart	Depasquale	Gill	Courtney
		1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	X	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Chris Depasquale led a low spade to his partner's Jack, ducked, Michael Courtney continued ♠5 – K – A – ♥3, and a third spade went to Michael's Queen. Out of spades, Courtney switched to a diamond to the Queen, King and Ace.

Michael Smart cashed four rounds of clubs, ending in hand, with South pitching two diamonds and North throwing ♦9. He cashed ♠10, dummy and Courtney both shedding a low heart, and then played ♥Q – K – A – 9.

In the three card ending, he could exit dummy's remaining heart to South, forcing him to lead into the ♦J8 for the last two tricks.



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National Open Teams Semi-Final Stanza 2

Dalley gained a vulnerable game swing on board 29 when Ash Bach and Kieran Dyke bid an aggressive 3NT, with a weak jump overcall helping to propel them there:

Board 29	♠ KQ6
Dealer N	♥ J
Vul All	♦ AJ9
	♣ J107532
♠ A9843	♠ J5
♥ A6	♥ K98752
♦ K643	♦ 1085
♣ 98	♣ K4
	♠ 1072
	♥ Q1043
	♦ Q72
	♣ AQ6

West	North	East	South
Mullamphy	Bach	Spooner	Dyke
	1♣	2♥	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



Kieran Dyke

Ash's reopening double is completely normal and Kieran could have passed for +500 but, not having promised anything yet in the auction, chose to bid the vulnerable game instead.

Matt Mullamphy led a spade, won in dummy with the Queen, then ♣J was led and covered, and ♦Q also led and covered. When Andrew Spooner discarded ♣J on the third club, Kieran established a second spade winner to make 10.

At the other table, Paul Dalley bid more slowly and managed to keep the opponents out of game:

West	North	East	South
Nunn	van der Vlugt	Dalley	Rew
	1♣	1♥	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
X	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Since Fraser Rew got his hand off his chest with his 1NT bid, he wasn't inclined to bid again and Paul had to go two off but was undoubled.

Depasquale won this stanza against Meier, with interesting judgment from Chris Depasquale netting them a game swing:

Board 27	♠ A43
Dealer S	♥ AK8
Vul Nil	♦ 6
	♣ KQ10762
♠ 752	♠ 986
♥ 1094	♥ Q76
♦ QJ103	♦ A9842
♣ AJ3	♣ 54
	♠ KQJ10
	♥ J532
	♦ K75
	♣ 98



West	North	East	South	Michael Courtney
Hudson	Depasquale	Gill	Courtney	
			Pass	
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	
Pass	3♦ *	Pass	4♠	
All Pass				

Most people wouldn't respond 1♠ with a 4-4 in the majors nor think to splinter with 3-card support after their partner's response but both actions worked beautifully here.

David Hudson led a trump which Michael Courtney won in hand to lead a club toward dummy. David flew Ace, played ♦Q to Peter Gill's Ace, and Peter switched to a heart to dummy's Ace. With trumps and clubs both breaking, Michael was able to claim 11 tricks.

At the other table, GeO Tislevoll and Leon Meier had a more standard auction to 3NT, which was impossible to make on ♦Q lead which was strongly suggested by the bidding:

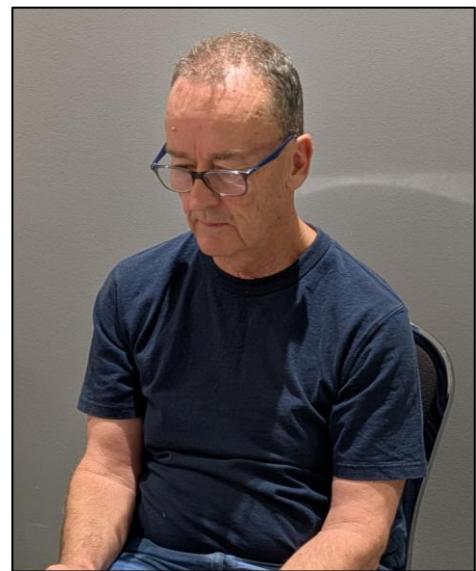
West	North	East	South
Mundell	Tislevoll	Peake	Meier
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦ (hearts)
Pass	1♥ (3 hearts)	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

+450 and +50 resulted in an 11 IMP swing to Depasquale.

David Hudson, on his eleventh straight day of bridge, found the perfect line in 5♣ on board 31:

Board 31 ♠ J965
 Dealer S ♥ AQ
 Vul EW ♦ 1095
 ♣ K1075

♠ K ♠ A872
 ♥ K752 ♥ 96
 ♦ AKQ72 ♦ 84
 ♣ A32 ♣ QJ964
 ♠ Q1043
 ♥ J10843
 ♦ J63
 ♣ 8



David Hudson

West	North	East	South
Hudson	Depasquale	Gill	Courtney
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

♦5 was led to the 7, Queen and King. David cashed three top diamonds, throwing a heart from dummy. He played another diamond, pitching the other heart when Chris Depasquale ruffed in. Chris led a trump which was won in dummy with the Queen, then David led a low spade and trumped in his hand. He ruffed a heart in dummy and played a low club to his Ace. He then led the last diamond to discard dummy's spade loser and concede just one more trick to ♣K to make his contract.

This was a very even match at half time: Depasquale 68.1 vs Meier 67. The second half of both matches generated a lot more swings, mostly in one direction.



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National Open Teams Semi-Final Stanza 3

There was excitement at both tables on board 1 in the Dalley vs van der Vlugt match but funnily, no IMPs exchanged hands:

Board 1	♠ A62
Dealer N	♥ 653
Vul Nil	♦ 107642
	♣ 74
♠ J10954	♠ Q83
♥ K7	♥ A
♦ KQ83	♦ AJ95
♣ Q3	♣ A10962
	♠ K7
	♥ QJ109842
	♦ --
	♣ KJ85

West	North	East	South
Thomson	Bach	Brown	Dyke
	Pass	1♣ (2+)	4♥
X	Pass	4NT *	Pass
5♦	X	XX	All Pass



Terry Brown

With trumps 5-0, two top spades missing and a club loser, 5♦XX could only make 9 tricks for -600.

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Spooner	Dalley	Mullamphy
	Pass	1♣ (2+)	4♥
X	All Pass		

Paul Dalley chose to pass his partner's double, but the same layout that doomed 5♦XX at the other table helped Matt Mullamphy to make 4♥X for +590 and a flat board.

In Depasquale vs Meier, David Hudson was eventually rewarded for his patient defence on board 13:

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Board 13	♠ J86
Dealer N	♥ K109864
Vul All	♦ Q
	♣ 862
♠ AKQ73	♠ 952
♥ Q53	♥ A7
♦ J54	♦ 10983
♣ 74	♣ AKQ3
	♠ 104
	♥ J2
	♦ AK762
	♣ J1095

West	North	East	South
Mundell	Hudson	Peake	Gill
	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♥ (spades)	2♥	X	Pass
4♠	All Pass		



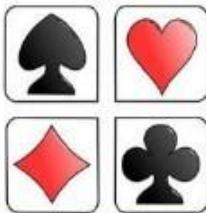
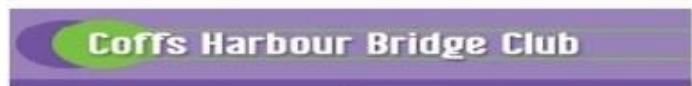
Giselle Mundell

David led ♦Q, winning trick 1, then switched to a passive club, won in dummy. Giselle Mundell had some work to do: she needed to draw trumps but not before setting up and taking a heart ruff (but she couldn't afford for Peter Gill to overruff). She played a spade to the Ace, heart to the Ace and another heart to the Queen and King. David could have given Peter a heart ruff now, but he must not have been confident of the layout of the major suits. He led another club, won with the King, and Giselle took a diamond discard on the third top club before drawing a second round of trumps and ruffing her last heart with ♣9.

Now she had to play a minor, which was a problem:

♠ J	
♥ 1098	
♦ --	
♣ --	
♠ Q73	♠ --
♥ --	♥ --
♦ J	♦ 1098
♣ --	♣ 3
♠ --	
♥ --	
♦ AK7	
♣ 10	

A trump promotion had been set up for David. Giselle led ♣3 and let Peter win the trick, discarding her last diamond. ♦A through was ruffed with the ♣7 and overruffed with the Jack for the setting trick.



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National Open Teams Semi-Final Stanza 4

Board 31 (pictured on page 1) generated action at all four tables.

Board 31 ♠ 10654

Dealer S ♥ 74

Vul NS ♦ Q97

♣ 7632

♠ QJ8732 ♠ AK9

♥ KJ53 ♥ AQ102

♦ -- ♦ AKJ542

♣ A104 ♣ --

♠ --

♥ 986

♦ 10863

♣ KQJ985



Maurits van der Vlugt

West	North	East	South
Rew	Bach	van der Vlugt	Dyke
			Pass
1♠	Pass	4NT *	Pass
5♣ *	Pass	5♦ *	Pass
5♥ *	Pass	7♠	All Pass

Fraser Rew and Maurits van der Vlugt got to their best spot very efficiently. Maurits simply keycarded over Fraser's opening bid, asked for the Queen, and bid grand.

Paul Dalley and Tony Nunn took it a bit slower and found out about the double fit:

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Thomson	Dalley	Spooner
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	5♣ *	Pass
5♥ *	Pass	7♥	X
Pass	Pass	XX	All Pass

Upon discovering the heart fit, Paul exclusion keycarded then jumped to 7. When Andrew Spooner doubled, Paul's XX might have been asking partner to correct to 7♠ with the Queen or 7NT with ♣A, but who knows. Ian Thomson took it as a traditional Lightner double and led dummy's first bid suit, so 7♥XX made for 2240. The double and redouble gained Dalley 12 IMPs in a match that was already decided with only a board to go.

In the other match, Leon Meier and GeO Tislevoll also got to 7♥:

West	North	East	South
Meier	Peake	Tislevoll	Mundell
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	Pass	7♥	All Pass

After GeO's 2♠ bid, it looked like Leon and GeO might get to 7♠ but they went for the 4-4 fit instead. Giselle Mundell didn't double and when Andrew Peake led a trump, Leon could claim at trick 1.

Michael Courtney and Chris Depasquale had the exact same auction as Paul and Tony:

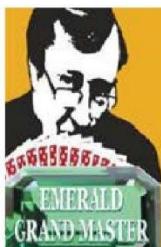
West	North	East	South
Depasquale	Hudson	Courtney	Gill
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	5♣ *	Pass
5♥ *	Pass	7♥	X
Pass	Pass	XX	All Pass

Apparently, after bidding 7♥, Michael went out for a smoke break – before the auction was over! He had to be recalled to the table by the director, redoubled perhaps looking for a swing since his team was down, or possibly asking Chris to bid 7♠ or 7NT, but it got passed out.

David Hudson was the only North player to find the killing lead of a spade – Peter Gill ruffed and declarer claimed the rest of the tricks. A 17 IMP swing to the Meier team was the icing on the cake in a convincing semi-final win.

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Barbara's Daily Column: Helping Partner Out

Barbara Travis

People often ask me for advice about how to be more successful with high-level sacrifice decisions. It's not an easy topic, however many times you or partner can be more helpful in solving these situations.

Here's a hand which came up when I was playing with my daughter, Lauren. Sitting South, she held:

♠ 6
♥ K Q 9 8 7
♦ 7
♣ A J 8 7 3 2

The auction (North-South Vul):

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Double	2♦ (1)	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
Double	5♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

(1) This showed a good raise to 2♥ or better. (Bidding 2♥ immediately shows a weaker raise, which can be important for opener's later decision-making.)

Here is the full hand:

♠ K 3
♥ J 6 4 2
♦ 10 8 3
♣ K Q 5 4

♠ Q 10 8 7 4 3
♥ 10 5 3
♦ J 6 2
♣ 9

♠ 6
♥ K Q 9 8 7
♦ 7
♣ A J 8 7 3 2

Once East-West had bid to 4♠, Lauren had no intention of defending. However, rather than bidding 5♥, she bid 5♣ to show a distributional hand without defence (in the knowledge I had a decent hand). She wanted to deflect me from doubling a high-level contract, and she also wanted me to think about a sacrifice or the best lead.

Sitting North, it was obvious to me that Lauren held some 6-5 shape. Therefore, not only did we have a double-fit, but so did East-West (despite diamonds never being bid). I was happy to play in 5♣ X or 5♥ X, but I would have chosen to defend 5♣ (undoubled).

It is this sort of descriptive bid, rather than South just bidding 5♥, that helps the North hand make the right final decision. Furthermore, if the vulnerability had been reversed, I would have been happy to save at the 6-level.

What happened at other tables? Most Norths doubled 5♣. (I suspect it was tougher for West to bid 5♣ with his doubleton club, because I had removed 5♣ X to 5♥.)

Here are some other examples for you to think about:

♠ 10 2

♥ Q J 2

♦ K J 10 5 2

♣ 10 6 5

♠ A K Q J 5

♥ 5

♦ Q 7

♣ K 9 7 4 2

♠ 9 8 6 4

♥ 10 7 3

♦ 8 3

♣ A Q 8 3

♠ 7 3

♥ A K 9 8 6 4

♦ A 9 6 4

♣ J

At one table:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
1♠	2♥	3♠ (weak)	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

At the other table, South made a descriptive bid en route to 4♥:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
1♠	2♥	3♠	4♦
4♠	5♦	All Pass	

Since South was always planning to bid 4♥ (even with his minimum), he stopped to show his second suit. Sometimes it will help North to double, sometimes it will help North to find the best lead. In this case, however, North knew to bid on to 5♦ or 5♥ - which proved to be a good save.

It's interesting that both Wests, with spades being so dominant, chose to over 1♠ rather than show 10 cards in their hand via a Michaels Cue Bid. For those who play Ghestem (specific two-suited bids) or, as in some cases, that 2♥

shows the higher two unbid suits, and 2NT shows the two extremes (in this case, spades and clubs), that would allow East to jump to 4♦ quickly, shutting out the sacrifice.

Then there's this hand:

At one table (East-West vulnerable):

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♥	2♥ (1)
4♦ (2)	5♦	5♥	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

(1) Cue raise for diamonds. (I play fit-showing jumps after intervention, so South could have bid 3♣, and now North is unstoppable – bidding 5-minor, and saving in 6-minor if pushed.)

(2) Splinter bid ($3\spadesuit$ would be the cue raise).

5️⃣ X made in comfort. for +850 to East-West.

At the other:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♥	2♥
4♦	5♣	5♥	6♦
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

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Meantime, with a known massive double fit in the minors, South was always going to bid to the 6-level – whether it was making or a save. This time the contract was failing, but -300 was cheap insurance (and sometimes the slam will even make!).

And finally, here's my confession...

This was the hand I held as North:

♠ A K Q 10 7 6 3
♥ K 7 4
♦ 2
♣ 3 2

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
2♠	4♠	5♦	5♥
6♣	All Pass		

What lead should you make?

It's pretty obvious really – partner didn't overcall 1♥, so his 5♥ bid was a lead-directing bid. Your best lead is the ♥K, to make things really clear for partner. Then you'll take 6♣ down 2 tricks.

I was not concentrating (last-board-itis is a common affliction), and led the ♠A. 6♣ made 13 tricks, and partner was furious with me to boot! He'd made this fantastic bid to guide my defence.

♠ A K Q 10 7 6 3
♥ K 7 4
♦ 2
♣ 3 2

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

Help your partner by making descriptive bids when it is possible that your side will be left with a high-level decision about whether to sacrifice or not, and what suit to 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.

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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 16 ♠ J10952
Dealer W ♥ K7
EW Vul ♦ 10954
 ♣ Q10

♠ KQ73 ♠ A84
♥ J1083 ♥ AQ96
♦ -- ♦ AKQ76
♣ AK874 ♣ J

 ♠ 6
 ♥ 542
 ♦ J832
 ♣ 96532

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	?

How should East approach their response to 1♣? I know lots of people who would bid 1♥, as they always prioritise showing their majors over their minors. Liam Milne disagrees with this approach on strong hands, as do I. He says there is no need to bid the major suit first on hands where you are going to force to game (or higher), and that you should bid your suits in the right order – longest suit first. The plan would be to bid diamonds at your first turn, then reverse into hearts next, showing at least 5-4 and enough values for game. On this deal, you strike gold – partner will rebid 1♥! This hand is good enough to just keycard right away, if you wish to, and end up in 6♥ once you discover you're missing one keycard.

This approach works with strong, game-going hands. When you think you're only going to make one bid (e.g. with 6-9 points) it is often better to show your major and try to find a fit there.

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.