

Summer Festival of Bridge

Wednesday 14 - Sunday 25 January 2026

Daily Bulletin



Sunday 25th January 2026 (evening)

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

Bulletin 12



*Congratulations to the DALLEY team,
Paul Dalley, Tony Nunn, Kieran Dyke and Ash Bach,
on their victory in the 2026 National Open Teams.*

This is Paul's first NOT win, Kieran's second, Tony's third and Ash's fourth.

Results

National Open Teams Final

DALLEY (Paul Dalley – Tony Nunn, Ash Bach – Kieran Dyke) 142.1 defeated MEIER (Leon Meier – GeO Tislevoll, Peter Gill – David Hudson – Michael Smart) 101

Mixed Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

1 st	Jess Brake – Shane Harrison	118.78 VP
2 nd	Geeske Joel – Liam Milne	118.42 VP
3 rd	Christy Geromboux – Sebastian Yuen	115.93 VP
4 th	Hugh Grosvenor – Tania Lloyd	110.82 VP
5 th	Alex Goss – Pamela Nisbet	106.04 VP



Congratulations to Shane Harrison and Jess Brake, Mixed Matchpoint Swiss Pairs winners



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National Open Teams Winners (1973-2025)

(not contested in 2021)

John Brockwell

8 wins

Peter Gill

7 wins

Stephen Burgess, Tim Seres

6 wins

Michael Cornell, Paul Marston

5 wins

Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung, John Lester

4 wins

Andy Braithwaite, Ishmael Del'Monte, Gabi Lorentz, Zolly Nagy, Andrew Reiner, Bobby Richman, Roelof Smilde, Matthew Thomson, Giovanni Watulingas

3 wins

Sophie Ashton, Ashley Bach, Norberto Bocchi, Marek Borewicz, Giorgio Duboin, Nabil Edgtton, Frankie Karwur, Ron Klinger, Paul Lavings, Tony Leibowitz, Bruce Neill, Peter Newman, Andrew Peake, Denny Sacul, George Smolanko, Alan Walsh, Michael Whibley, Lionel Wright

2 wins

David Beauchamp, Alejandro Bianchedi, Dennis Bilde, Richard Brightling, Matt Brown, Terry Brown, Seamus Browne, Dick Cummings, Murray Green, Pauline Gumby, Helen Horwitz, Mike Hughes, Warren Lazer, Agustin Madala, Neil Mathieson, Matthew McManus, David Middleton, Liam Milne, Tony Nunn, Ervin Otvosi, Santje Panelewen, John Roberts, Ian Robinson, Alan Taylor, Mike Ware, Mel Watson, Paul Wyer

1 win

Taufik Asbi, Egon Auerbach, Michael Bakara, Cezary Balicki, George Bilski, Martin Bloom, Kathy Boardman, Jim Borin, Tim Bourke, Boye Brogeland, Renee Cooper, Michael Courtney, James Coutts, Dwayne Crombie, Arjuna de Livera, Kieran Dyke, Adam Edgtton, Gary Eggins, Espen Erichsen, Gido Ferraro, Robert Fruewirth, Peter Fordham, Julius George, Brian Glubok, Paul Gosney, Ted Griffin, Nye Griffiths, Robert Grynberg, Phil Gue, Gunnar Hallberg, Shane Harrison, Max Hitter, Peter Hollands, Denis Howard, Chris Hughes, Kevin Hume, Bill Jacobs, Richard Jedrychowski, Geeske Joel, Bob Jones, Avi Kanetkar, Pablo Lambardi, Henky Lasut, Jeff Lathbury, Maria Lavazza, John Lowe, Eddie Manoppo, Andrew Markovics, Malcolm Mayer, Barbara McDonald, Howard Melbourne, Olek Mink, John Newman, Barry Noble, Bert Polii, Jacek Pszczola, Carole Rothfield, Jessel Rothfield, Paolo Russo, Jerzy Russyan, Paula Schroor, Wally Scott, Antonio Sementa, Margot Shieff, David Smith, Sue Hobley, Maurie Stampf, Jeremi Stepinski, David Stern, Linda Stern, Marek Szymanowski, Frank Theeman, Ben Thompson, Ian Thomson, J Tontey, Alan Turner, Nathan van Jole, Robbie van Riel, Alfredo Versace, Freddie Waluyan, Dennis Zines, Adam Zmudzinski

National Open Teams Final – Stanzas 1 + 2

Stanza 1 of the final was a fairly flat set for the most part, with big swings on two boards.

Vastly different auctions at each table on board 12 led to different declarers and lines of play in 4♠.

Board 12 ♠ K932
 Dealer W ♥ 3
 Vul NS ♦ AQ2
 ♣ A8732

♠ J1085	♠ A
♥ 76542	♥ KQJ
♦ 108	♦ KJ97543
♣ 64	♣ K10

♠ Q764
 ♥ A1098
 ♦ 6
 ♣ QJ95

West	North	East	South
Gill	Bach	Smart	Dyke
Pass	1♣ (2+)	1♦	X (hearts)
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	



Michael Smart

With North as declarer, Michael Smart was on lead and chose ♥K. Ash Bach won in dummy to ruff a heart in hand, then played a low spade toward dummy, Michael winning his singleton Ace. He switched to a low diamond to Ash's Queen, then Ash led ♣3 – K – Q – 6. Michael continued ♦K which Ash won before cashing ♠K, playing a club to the Jack, ruffing dummy's last heart and claiming 10 tricks, giving the defenders just one more spade.

Nunn	Tislevoll	Dalley	Meier
2♥	X	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Tony Nunn's trash weak 2♥ in first seat favourable worked a treat here. Paul Dalley got a lead-directing diamond bid in and when Leon Meier was declarer, the defence got off to a better start with a diamond lead through North, won with the Ace. Presumably Leon didn't predict the trumps breaking 4-1 the way they did, and not having been given a second diamond trick he struggled more than Ash did. After ruffing a diamond in his hand at trick 2, there was no way for the contract to be made.

Kieran Dyke opened a loaded 1NT on board 14 but he and Ash still got to 6♥:

Board 14 ♠ KQ54
 Dealer E ♥ AQJ986
 Vul Nil ♦ 2
 ♣ K10

♠ J109832
 ♥ 1073
 ♦ 753
 ♣ 7

♠ 7
 ♥ 54
 ♦ AJ1094
 ♣ Q9865

♠ A6
 ♥ K2
 ♦ KQ86
 ♣ AJ432

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Smart</i>	<i>Dyke</i>
		Pass	1NT (15-17)
Pass	4♣ *	Pass	4♦ *
Pass	4NT *	Pass	5♦ *
Pass	6♥	All Pass	



Ash Bach

Ash's 4♣ was a transfer to 4♥ and Kieran's 4♦ bid must have shown a good hand for hearts, so Ash keycarded then bid the small slam. Michael led ♦A and continued a diamond, and Ash claimed 12 tricks. Dalley gained 11 IMPs on this hand when the other table only made it to game.

Differing approaches to 1m openings led to a big swing on board 21 of the second stanza:

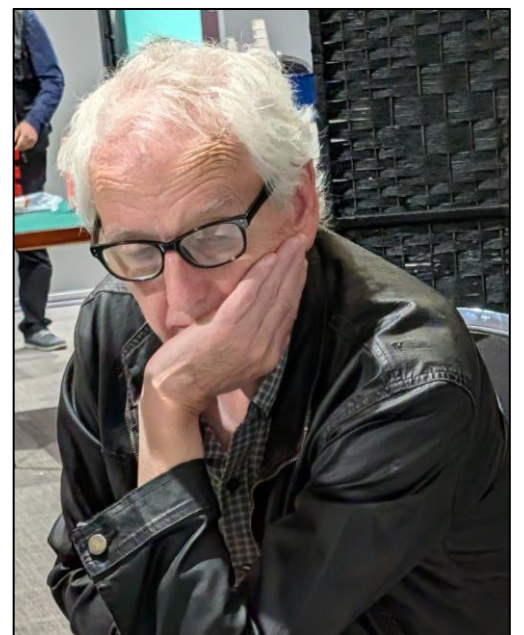
Board 21 ♠ AQ943
 Dealer N ♥ 9854
 Vul NS ♦ 3
 ♣ QJ3

♠ J75
 ♥ Q102
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ 87542

♠ 1062
 ♥ AKJ7
 ♦ 10976
 ♣ K9

♠ K8
 ♥ 63
 ♦ AQ8542
 ♣ A106

West	North	East	South
<i>Bach</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Hudson</i>
	Pass	1♣	2♦
All Pass			



GeO Tislevoll

Ash and Kieran open 1♣ with a balanced hand which allowed David Hudson to bid an intermediate 2♦ which made 10 tricks on a spade lead.

West	North	East	South
Meier	Nunn	Tislevoll	Dalley
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	X	All Pass	

When GeO Tislevoll opened 1♦ as per his system, Paul had to pass. Leon responded 1NT and Tony entered with a takeout double with his maximum passed hand, which Paul was happy to pass out. Tony led a low spade to Paul's King and the defence cashed the first five spade tricks, East pitching two diamonds and South doing the same. Tony needed Paul to have either all the diamond honours or ♠A, and seeing all the diamond discards from dummy and Paul, ♠A was marked. He switched to ♠Q – K – A, then Paul cashed ♣10 and ♦A before playing the third club to Tony's Jack. When the dust settled, 1NTX had gone down three and Dalley had gained 9 IMPs.

The auction on board 22 surely puzzled Tony:

Board 22 ♠ J9852
 Dealer E ♥ 32
 Vul EW ♦ 3
 ♣ AKJ52

♠ KQ1073	♠ A
♥ Q107	♥ AJ9854
♦ Q4	♦ 9752
♣ 1094	♣ 73

♠ 64
♥ K6
♦ AKJ1086
♣ Q86

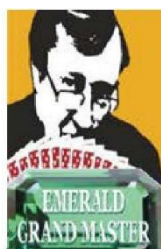
West	North	East	South
Meier	Nunn	Tislevoll	Dalley
		1♥	1NT
X	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



Paul Dalley

Vugraph operator Will Jenner-O'Shea commented that Tony's 9 HCP must be close to a record for HCP held after this start to the auction! GeO and Paul had both upgraded their hands slightly, but within reason.

Leon led ♥7 to the Ace and GeO switched to ♦7. Paul took the failing finesse but with the spades unable to be untangled, his contract was safe, and when Leon continued a heart rather than a spade, Paul claimed the rest of the tricks.



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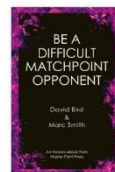
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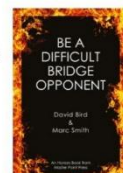
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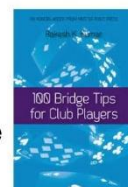
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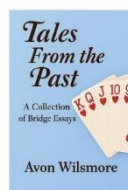
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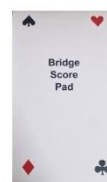
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National Open Teams Final – Stanzas 3 + 4

With the deficit at 48 IMPs halfway through the final, Peter Gill made an aggressive 1NT opening on board 13 of the third stanza which helped his side to a vulnerable slam:

Board 13 ♠ KQ
 Dealer N ♥ J107543
 Vul All ♦ 103
 ♣ J82

♠ A3	♠ J865
♥ KQ2	♥ A9
♦ K9	♦ A7652
♣ A96543	♣ KQ

♠ 109742
♥ 86
♦ QJ84
♣ 107

West	North	East	South
Hudson	Nunn	Gill	Dalley
	Pass	1NT (15-17)	Pass
3♣ *	Pass	3♦ *	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦ *	Pass
4NT *	Pass	5♦ *	Pass
5♥ *	Pass	5NT *	Pass
6NT	All Pass		



Peter Gill

David Hudson first asked for a five-card major, then showed his clubs and a slam try over Peter's denial. Peter cooperated, cueing diamonds, and David keycarded, asked for the ♣Q, and bid 6NT having found almost all of Peter's points.

With clubs 3-2, 6NT was unbeatable and 12 tricks were claimed early on.

Meier earned 13 IMPs when the other table played in 3NT:

West	North	East	South
Bach	Tislevoll	Dyke	Meier
	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Tony Nunn played a beautiful dummy reversal to protect against a bad trump break on board 15:

Board 15 ♠ AKJ4
 Dealer S ♥ AK9
 Vul NS ♦ 6
 ♣ 87532

♠ 1086	♠ 752
♥ 1075	♥ QJ62
♦ Q943	♦ KJ52
♣ J109	♣ 64

♠ Q93
 ♥ 843
 ♦ A1087
 ♣ AKQ

West	North	East	South
Hudson	Nunn	Gill	Dalley
			1NT (15-17)
Pass	2♣ *	Pass	2♦ *
Pass	2NT *	Pass	3♣ *
Pass	3♠ *	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT *	Pass	5♦ *
Pass	6♣	All Pass	



Tony Nunn

Tony bid Stayman then his 2NT showed clubs and forced Paul Dalley to bid 3♣. He bid 3♠ showing four spades and five clubs, Paul set clubs, and Tony keycarded and bid slam.

Peter could hold 6♣ to 12 tricks by leading a club, but he led ♥Q. Tony played a diamond to the Ace, trumped a diamond, club to the Queen, trumped a diamond, club to the King, and trumped the last diamond. He crossed back to dummy with a spade then drew the last trump and claimed all the tricks.

In stanza 4, with the match almost sealed, Paul found a double that got Tony off to the right lead against 3NT:

Board 23 ♠ Q109
 Dealer S ♥ Q3
 Vul All ♦ AKQ42
 ♣ A108

♠ 7643	♠ AKJ2
♥ 92	♥ AJ854
♦ 75	♦ 63
♣ K9732	♣ 64

♠ 85
 ♥ K1076
 ♦ J1098
 ♣ QJ5

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Tislevoll	Dalley	Meier
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	1NT
Pass	3NT	X	All Pass

Paul's double said 'don't lead my suit' so, given GeO Tislevoll had opened 1♦, Tony had a choice between spades and clubs. With five clubs to the King, he was slightly concerned that Paul might have AQJxx and declarer had long running diamonds, ♠A and another trick, but he eventually led ♠7. With ♠Q109 in dummy, this established five tricks for the defence for +200.

The same auction occurred at the other table but Peter Gill didn't double 3NT so David Hudson led a heart and 3NT made.

Congratulations to the Dalley team – Paul Dalley, Tony Nunn, Ash Bach and Kieran Dyke – on winning both the SWPT and the NOT, a real feat given they played four-handed. Well done to the runners-up Leon Meier, GeO Tislevoll, Peter Gill, David Hudson and Michael Smart, especially Leon who played 16 straight days of bridge and Peter and David who survived 12 days in a row.



National Open Teams runners-up, Peter Gill, Leon Meier, David Hudson, GeO Tislevoll and Michael Smart (not pictured). They qualified for the NOT by just 0.07 VP then defeated the 2nd and 4th qualifiers to make the final.

Stories from the Summer Festival

Thank you to everyone who provided articles and hands over the last 12 days. I really appreciated every contribution as there's only so much bridge one person can watch. There were so many that I didn't have time to write up until now, so please enjoy a few stories reported to me by players during the Summer Festival.

On Tuesday, Paula McLeish asked if I'd heard about the board where her team played in 2♥X at both tables. This doesn't sound that unusual, except she meant that her teammates played 2♥X making an overtrick and she and her partner played in 2♥X one off. Very impressive!

I wrote about one of Giselle Mundell's slam successes (making 6♥ off two cashing Aces) but she told me about another in match 6 of the SWPT:

Board 12 ♠ AK53
 Dealer W ♥ Q5
 Vul NS ♦ 9872
 ♣ J106

♠ 10642	♠ Q98
♥ 983	♥ AKJ642
♦ QJ53	♦ AK104
♣ AQ	♣ --

♠ J7
 ♥ 107
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K9875432

West	North	East	South
Mundell	--	Peake	--
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠ (GF)	Pass
3♠	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	X	All Pass	

Yet again, Giselle and Andrew bid a slam that most people wouldn't want to be in. But South had to diagnose what North's double meant. Holding 8 unbid clubs, they eventually decided it must be asking for a club ruff, so they led a low club. Andrew Peake called for the Queen and pitched a spade, then cashed ♣A pitching another spade, and when trumps broke 2-2 he made 12 tricks, losing just one spade!

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An anonymous expert dobbed their partner in for a lapse in concentration that let 4♠ through in match 9:

Board 2	♠ 10732	
Dealer S	♥ KJ987	
Vul All	♦ 8	
	♣ QJ2	
♠ KQ864		♠ J9
♥ --		♥ A1063
♦ AJ962		♦ K105
♣ K96		♣ A1043
	♠ A5	
	♥ Q542	
	♦ Q743	
	♣ 875	

The auction wasn't provided but I was told it was clear from the bidding that declarer had short hearts. North led ♥J – A – 2 (encouraging) – ♣6. Wanting to set up diamonds, declarer played a diamond to the King and one back to the Ace, ruffed by North. They led another heart, ruffed by declarer, who now began to draw trumps. They led a spade to the Jack which South – who now had a complete count – ducked, planning to win the second spade, cash ♦Q and give their partner another diamond ruff. Unfortunately, when they cashed ♦Q their partner was snoozing and ruffed, so declarer took the rest of the tricks.

South said nothing. North didn't even realise their mistake until after the match. In the end, this huge error barely cost as their teammates were in 6♦ making so they gained 13 IMPs as opposed to 15 if they'd got it right!

Board 17 of match 10 provided Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin, sitting East, with a laugh as he made the most of his meagre trump holding defending 5♦:

Board 17	♠ AQ87		
Dealer N	♥ KQ85		
Vul Nil	♦ 932		
	♣ J10		
♠ K10954		♠ J632	
♥ 92		♥ AJ104	
♦ 65		♦ A107	
♣ A964		♣ K2	
	♠ --		
	♥ 763		
	♦ KQJ84		
	♣ Q8753		
West	North	East	South
	1♦	X	5♦
All Pass			

In match 11, Jodi Tutty's opponent trapped her with a very cheeky raise of their partner's preempt:

Dealer W ♥ AJ4

Vul Nil ♦ J3

♣ K98

8 10975

♥ 92 ♥ 8763

◆ AQ10975 ◆ --

♣ Q764 ♣ AJ1053

♠ AJ2

♥ KQ105

◆ K8642

♣ 2

West North East South

D McLeish *Neumann* *Green* *Tutty*

3♦ X 4♦ (!) 4♥

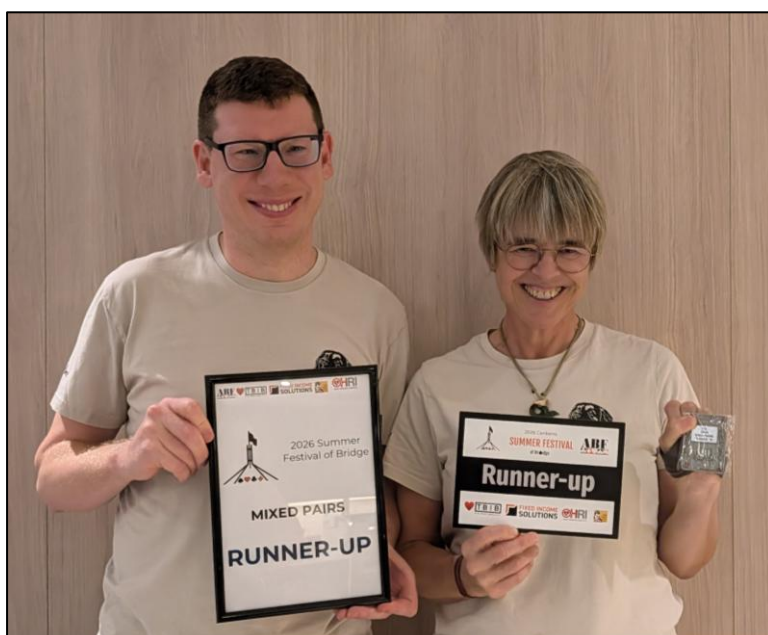
All Pass

There were still more hands that I haven't written up (some because I didn't ask for enough detail, others because they were entertaining but contained massive bridge sins, etc) but the Festival is over so this will have to do.

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone who I kibitzed, chatted with, photographed and wrote about throughout the fortnight!

- Lauren

*Liam Milne and Geeske Joel,
Mixed Matchpoint Pairs runners-up*





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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](#).

The final hand in this series was not played during Australia's Bridge Day out – it featured at the 2025 World Bridge Teams Championship in Denmark. Liam Milne is the hero of the story, and of course, told the story himself on the stream. This deal occurred during the Bermuda Bowl match between the Australian Open Team and the New Zealand Open Team.

Board 12 ♠ J
Dealer W ♥ K8632
NS Vul ♦ AQ1094
 ♣ 65

♠ Q107432 ♠ K98
♥ Q9 ♥ J10754
♦ K3 ♦ 8752
♣ 942 ♣ A

 ♠ A65
 ♥ A
 ♦ J6
 ♣ KQJ10873

West	North	East	South
Brown	Milne	Whibley	Coutts
3♠	4♦ *	Pass	4NT *
Pass	5♣ *	Pass	6♣

Matt Brown made an aggressive 3♠ opening as dealer at favourable vulnerability. The merits of this approach were discussed by Mike Doecke and Pete Hollands on board 3 in bulletin 2. Pete Hollands observed that only around one-third of the expert field opened 3♠, and Liam said that it's very aggressive with a bad suit and balanced hand, but at first-seat favourable it's worthwhile to get in the opponents' way.

Liam was forced to enter the auction at the 4-level: 4♦ was Non-Leaping Michaels, showing at least 5/5 in diamonds and hearts and a good hand (in theory), then James Coutts' 4NT showed an unspecified slam try, to be clarified at his next bid, and Liam's 5♣ showed a minimum-type hand, but James was undeterred on his way to 6♣.

Kim Frazer questioned Liam on the strength of his hand, given that 4♦ is essentially game forcing. Liam explained that he's discovered bidding with a 5-5 in a competitive auction is always right and points don't really matter, especially when you're vulnerable and the opponents aren't (with the caveat that your partner also needs to know that points don't count; otherwise, they might get carried away).

Michael Whibley led ♥10. Alarm bells immediately went off for Liam – it looked like Michael was trying to give Matt a ruff knowing he had some shortage in hearts, so hearts were probably breaking 5-2. Liam also suspected spades were 6-3 as Michael had thought about bidding over Liam's 4♦ so he was likely to have decent support.

Liam could draw trumps and rely on the diamond finesse, but how likely is that to work given Matt's pre-empt – the odds of him holding ♦K were surely less than 50%. Liam eschewed the finesse in favour of a much more stylish line. He played ♦J, not covered, to the Ace, ♠J to the Ace, ruffed a spade, cashed ♥K pitching dummy's second diamond, then led the ♦Q, ruffed in dummy, and saw the ♦K appear from West (whoops, turned out he could've just taken the finesse). Dummy's last spade was ruffed, then Liam had to play a red card and ruff high in dummy, certain that Matt only held spades and clubs.

This was the five-card ending:

	♠ --	
	♥ 863	
	♦ 94	
	♣ --	
♠ Q10		♠ --
♥ --		♥ J75
♦ --		♦ 8
♣ 942		♣ A
	♠ --	
	♥ --	
	♦ --	
	♣ KQJ83	

Liam had a complete count on the West hand: two hearts, two diamonds, six spades and therefore three clubs. He also knew about 7 HCP (♠Q, ♥Q, ♦K) so it was impossible for Matt to hold ♣A. If he led a top club from dummy at this point, there was an automatic trump promotion that would defeat the contract.

With confidence, Liam called for a low club from dummy to Michael's singleton Ace for a well-deserved and hard-earned +1370.

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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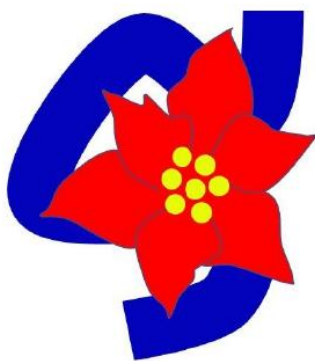
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**FIXED INCOME
SOLUTIONS**



RIVER CITY GOLD MIXED PAIRS 2026

Hosted by TOOWONG BRIDGE CLUB
22 Roy Street AUCHENFLOWER QLD 4066

Gold Masterpoints and ABF Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP)
Residentially qualified pairs also play for the Queensland Mixed Pairs Title
and the Queensland Novice Mixed Pairs Title

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th May

9.30 am start both days

All ENTRIES and PAYMENTS on



\$200 per entry

Chief Director: Chris Snook

Tournament Organiser: Janet Lovell

E: tbccompetitions@gmail.com

T: 0409 387 527

- ABF Regulations as modified by the Supplementary Regulations apply
- Green, Blue and Red systems and Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments
- Swiss Pairs - Matchpoints converted to VPs - 12 x 9 board matches
- Maximum of 102 entries

LUNCH INCLUDED

(Please advise if gluten free - any other dietary needs BYO)

To win the Queensland Novice Mixed Pairs Title,
both players must have been
Under 100 masterpoints as at 28th February 2026.
Please note there is no separate Novice event.
The Mixed Pairs is played as a single field.

