



**CANBERRA
ANC 2026**



4th to 16th July 2026
Bulletin No 5: 13 July 2026

A great dinner to finish the interstate...



and a great future



The Australian National Championship 2026

Open:	Champions:	New South Wales
	Runners Up:	Australian Capital Territory
Women:	Champions:	Western Australia
	Runners Up:	New South Wales
Seniors:	Champions:	South Australia
	Runners Up:	Australian Capital Territory
Youth	Champions:	New South Wales
	Runners Up:	Australian Capital Territory

Today's Bulletin

The main purpose has been to wind up the week with results and photos. Readers who would like any of the photos in the Bulletin in higher resolution can contact me at historian@abf.com.au.

The play and bidding during the week and in Friday's finals has no doubt provided a lot of material for bridge journalists and professionals – and we can look forward to a lot of interesting expert commentary in *Australian Bridge* and our local bridge websites.

The ANC Congress is a very broad church involving the both high level professionals and people trying out competitive team scoring events for the first time. If you are in the latter category, we hope it has been a positive experience and encouraged you to keep on. Regardless of age, any new participant is the future of bridge and we need you.

Apart from results and photos, we have another hand from the youth field by Adrian Le, a piece on the 1966 Canberra ANC, some statistics from John Brockwell on players with the most wins in interstate and butler events, and an article by way of introduction to the Butler from Matt Mullamphy.

Interstate Finals Results

Open

Team	C/Fwd	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	Total
NSW	15.56	47	13	14	19	17	125.56
ACT	0	17	9	16	14	18	74

Women's

Team	C/Fwd	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	Total
WA	4.66	31	30	16	3	21	105.66
NSW	0	19	15	25	16	19	94

Seniors

Team	C/Fwd	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	Total
ACT	0.38	20	22	16	10	4	72.38
SA	0	35	41	21	23	23	143

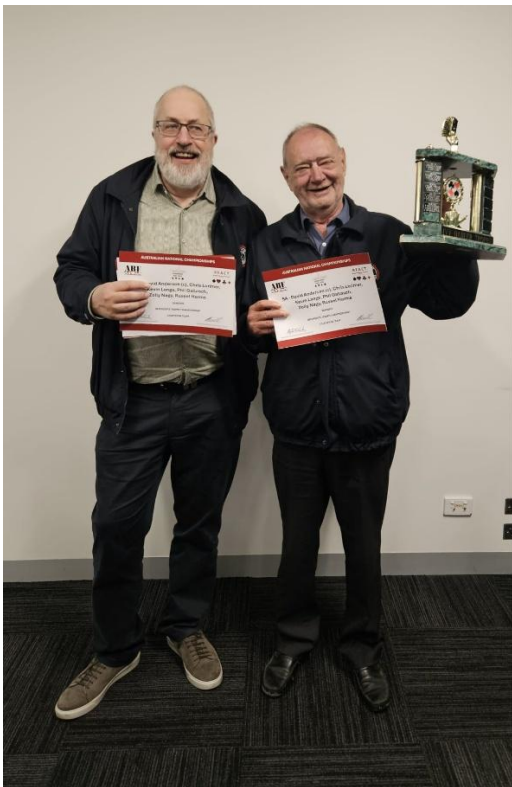
Youth

Team	C/Fwd	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	Total
NSW	16.21	27	26	37	30	16	152.21
ACT	0	18	15	14	4	22	73

Best Winning Team Photo Award

There is no reason for the spirit of competition to die just because the event is finished; so the editor has made a unilateral decision to introduce this award. The inaugural winners are the Western Australian Women's Team (top right next page) with possibly the best ever team photo, in keeping with the high quality of their performance throughout the event. The NSW Youth Team (bottom right next page) were worthy runners up. In a less competitive field this could have been their moment, but time is on their side.

Photo Gallery





Multiple ANC Winners

John Brockwell has compiled a list of all all players in winning ANC teams. Below is a selection from that list showing the winners of four or more as updated for this ANC.

Open

27 wins	Seres, Tim
14 wins	Cummings, Dick
10 wins	Howard, Denis
9 wins	Schaufelberger, Bill; Smilde, Roelof
8 wins	Smolanko, George
7 wins	Markey, Phil
6 wins	Champion, Victor; Evans, Don,
5 wins	Beauchamp, David; Borin, Jim; Croft, Nicolas; De Livera, Arjuna Goldberg, Al; Lavings, Paul; Makai, John; Nunn, Tony Richman, Bobby; Walsh, Alan; Williams, Bob; Williams, Justin; Buchen, Peter;
4 wins	Anderson, David; Braham, Vivian; Browne, Seamus; Croft, Nicolas; Gumby, Pauline; Haffer, Joe; Lazer, Warren; Lusk, David; McCance, Ian; Oddie, Hal; Sloman, Hubert; Wallace, Wilfred; Neill, Bruce

Women

12 wins	Thwaites, Marjorie
11 wins	Eaton, Ruth; McMahon, Mary
8 wins	Bourke, Margaret; Johanson, M; Sargeant, Ivy
7 wins	Fead, S; Kaplan, Rena; Moses, Kinga
6 wins	Beale, Felicity; Fuller, Leone; Lipscomb, Winsome; Kilvington, Lidia; Smart, Diana; Stern, Gerda
5 wins	Folkard, Berri; Hoffman, Julia; Kaye, M; Rankin, Pele Tucker, Greer

4 wins Bird, Sheila; Clark (Creet), Karen; Cummings, Val; Ernst, Ethel;
Glander (Draper), Inez; Howard, T; Johnston, Kath
McCance, Dorothy; Miles, Cecile; Millar, Margaret; Stern, Linda
Tully, Therese

Seniors

8 wins Hughes, Mike
6 wins Buchen, Peter
5 wins Gumby, Pauline; Lazer, Warren
4 wins Hoffman, David; Januszke, Roger; Neill, Bruce
Ridgway, Gary

Youth

4 wins Grosvenor, Hugh; Howard (Mill), Justin; Lasocki, Arian
McMahon, John; Smith, Matt



Kangaroos in Weston Park: Photograph: Graeme Taylor

Slamming It

By Adrian Le

Match 13: Board 25

BOARD 25									
BD: 25		♠ T853				Dir: N			
		♥ 82				Vul: EW			
		♦ KT6							
		♣ 9743							
♠				♠ K62					
♥ Q65				♥ AKT3					
♦ AQ98742				♦ J5					
♣ AKT				♣ J852					
		♠ AQJ974							
		♥ J974							
		♦ 3							
		♣ Q6							
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT			
N					2			3	
S					2			15	12
E	5	6	4		3			10	
W	3	6	4		1				

We were playing in the Youth sitting E-W. The bidding went 1C by East followed by 4S from South on their six card suit. I bid 6D as West after imagining what kind of hands partner might have and I have useful values. North led the ♠3 from fourths. It took me so long to think about where everything might be because it didn't seem that North could have four cards. I thought North had Txx and had considered the ten an honour.

But I combined my chances in clubs and hearts and made the contract. My line of

play was heart to the Ace, small diamond to the queen, losing to the king. When they returned another spade, I decided to play low to keep the ♠K in dummy for chances of a squeeze in clubs and spades.

So I ruffed the spade return and played small to the ♦J then played the ♣J. As the opponents covered I could claim. If they didn't cover the ♣J I was going to cash the ♣K, then run four rounds of trumps pitching clubs from dummy and likely take a heart hook depending on their discards.

So we were in 6D making for +1370. While our other pair, Nat and Ida, sacked in 6Sx for -800. So our team was relieved to see our slam sacrifice work.

Interstate Pairs

Overall

Place	Pair Names	VPs
1	Zac Ross – Paddy Taylor	105.02
2	James Evans – Pamela Evans	97.97
3	Tania Lloyd – Hugh Grosvenor	97.27
4	Peter Gill – Martin Bloom	94.44
5	David Beckett - Neil Ewart	92.42

Women

Place	Pair Names	VPs
1	Linda Babiszewski – Wendy Hooper	81.58
2	Pamela Lidl – Fiona Hickey	81.02
3	Pam Crichton – Julia Hoffman	80.40
4	Bertha Dembo – Franci Halmos	76.12
5	Gwyneira Brahma – Deana Wilson	70.76

Seniors

Place	Pair Names	VPs
1	Peter Gill – Martin Bloom	94.44
2	Pim Birss – Dave Munro	86.91
3	Thilak Ranasinghe – Gordon McRobert	85.98
4	Axel Johansson – Kate McCallum	80.47
5	Paul Hooykas – Pele Rankin	73.46

Youth

Place	Pair Names	VPs
1	Zac Ross – Paddy Taylor	105.02
2	Samuel Goss – Matthew Sieredzinski	77.70
3	Alexandra Mills – Remco Spenser	77.32
4	Sean Elliott / Lizzy Brayshaw	39.75
5	Dean Mainstone – Alec Vanyai	37.29

Photo Gallery: Interstate Pairs



Australian Country Pairs Championship

Place	Pair Names	Total
1	Winston Guymer – Paul Smith	752
2	John McMahon – Charles McMahon	748
3	Lesley Bradshaw – Sue Hapek	724
4	Chris Lamb – Serita Mudford	722
5	Eileen Boocock – Philip Hassall	711

Introduction to Imp Scoring

Place	Pair Names	Total
1	George Palavestra – Lisa Ralphs	43
2	Lyndall Kennedy – Kate Latimer	16
3	Penelope Shilling – Susie Thearle	5



Arboretum Cork Plantation: Photograph: Werner Padarin

Open Butler: Stage One: N-S

Place	Pair Names	Total
1	Jodi Tutty – George Kozakos	175
2	Jessica Brake – Shane Harrison	136
3	Axel Johansson – Kate McCallum	108
4	Paddy Taylor – Bertie Morgan	87
5	Tony Nunn – Paul Dalley	82

Open Butler: Stage One:E-W

Place	Pair Names	Total
1	Tania Lloyd – Hugh Grosvenor	173
2	David Appleton – Philip Markey	168
3	Dee Harley – Stephen Weisz	124
4	Liam Milne – Sophie Ashton	112
5	Stephen Williams – Ella Jacob	112

Restricted Butler

Place	Pair Names	VPs
1	Paul Birkby – Debra Birkby	105.95
2	Chris Lamb – Serita Mudford	101.2
3	Maxwell Ashurst – Jennifer Carter	100.8
4	Kim Lee – Ted Robson	100.45
5	Andy Sunter – David Paul	92.99

The Butler: The Ultimate Ironman Event

By Matt Mullamphy

3 D	N undefined	W	N	E	S
	♠ QJ984 ♥ K872 ♦ 976 ♣ 10	1♦	1♠	2♥	3♣
W undefined		P	3♣	3NT	4♣
		X	P	P	P
♠ 73 ♥ 6 ♦ AQJ83 ♣ K8764		E undefined			
		♠ AK10 ♥ AQJ54 ♦ 1052 ♣ 92			
	S undefined				
	♠ 652 ♥ 1093 ♦ K4 ♣ AQJ53				
		4♣x N		NS: 0 EW: 0	

The Ironman event The Butler Pairs has always been one of my favourite events. It is the ultimate Ironman contest of bridge, testing concentration, stamina and partnership understanding over a long day of play. It also brings back many fond memories for me, including winning the Australian Butler Pairs in Hobart in 2010 with Ron Klinger.

This hand from that event where we were E-W was certainly memorable. While our opponents did us a few favours with some rather exuberant bidding and a slip up at trick 1, we still had work to do. Accurate defence, good signalling and complete trust in your partner were essential. Trading on vulnerability is not always such a great idea. When things go wrong, doubled undertricks can mount up very quickly!

I had finally seen enough when South bid 4♣, and Ron led the ♦2, playing third-and-fifth leads. As we don't play MUD, East wasn't promising the diamond 10. North rose with the ♦K, which actually helped our defence by creating an entry to Ron's ♦10 (this became a costly error).

I won the ♦A and switched to my singleton heart. Ron thoughtfully won the ♥Q (not the jack - denying interest in clubs), cashed the ♥A, and on which I discarded the ♦Q to show possession of the ♦J. Ron then exited with the ♥J, a suit-preference signal making it clear that it was safe for me to underlead my diamond jack.

I ruffed the ♥J with the ♠3 and put Ron back in with the ♦10, allowing me to score a second heart ruff with the ♠7 beating dummy's 6. Declarer was helpless to prevent it.

Ron still had three natural trump tricks waiting, and the final result was a spectacular +1400.

The link for the card by card play is at: [BBO Handviewer](#)



Across the lake during Enlighten:
Photograph: Yvonne Kilgour

The 1966 ANC

At the end of August, it will be 60 years since the ACT hosted its first ANC. We have at least one participant in the current event who was involved in 1966. David Hoffman, the NPC of the ACT Seniors team, was not an ACT representative but came third in the Individual, which was then part of the ANC, and also played in the Pairs with Andrew Struik, another current Canberra Bridge Club member.

There were six events – the Open and Women’s teams; an Open and Women’s Pairs; an Individual (where one rotated partners through the field); and the Victor Champion Cup (at that time a consolation event for the teams that did not make the final). The Open and Women’s teams consisted of 40 board matches with a 60 board final.

In many ways it was a Congress that was not significantly different from its predecessors. While things had loosened a little, it was still a world of more formal social relations and dress – it was formally opened by the Italian ambassador and there was the inevitable cocktail party at the start. It is not mentioned in reports between it was taken as natural but these were not non-smoking events.

David Hoffman also remembers the betting, particularly in the Individual. The 1960s were on the cusp of moving from a world where it was very rare for bridge to be played except for money and side bets in tournaments to one of pure competition. In Individual events unrestrained betting created potential incentives for manipulation as somebody with no prospect of success themselves might not be quite as focussed when partnering somebody on whom they had not bet to win.

It was a Congress of several firsts. In terms of interstate representation, it was the largest ANC ever held as Tasmania sent representatives for the first time in five years. It was also the first to use a ‘Bridge-o-rama’ – a predecessor of the Vugraph, thought to have come from Roelof Smilde.

For this, the final was moved from the Canberra Hotel (now the Hyatt) to the Playhouse theatre. The cards were played in a side room and the play relayed to the Bridge-o-rama operator in the main auditorium where an audience variously estimated at between 150 and 200 watched the play of the last 30 boards accompanied by Roelof Smilde's commentary.

It also saw the introduction of a new 7 point VP scale. Zero swing got you 3.5 each; 1-4 imps was 4-3; 5-11 was 5-2; 12-21 was 6-1; 22+ got the maximum 7. To modern eyes it looks unbelievably compressed but the previous scale only went up to six – and there were no extra VPs for wins beyond 11 imps.

It was also the first ANC where the finances were significantly devolved to the host State or Territory. Previously, the ABF had collected the fees but they were now allocated to the host along with a lot of the financial risk. It did not end particularly well for the ACT Bridge Association which incurred a deficit of £976.94 – close to \$17,000 in today's money.

It was almost the first ANC to use standard system cards. The system at that time was that players were only allowed to play one of the short list of systems approved by the ABF. Players were simply expected to inform opponents of any significant variations to that system. It was not felt to be working well and there had been a huge effort in the previous year, led by Queensland, to develop a standard card that everybody would bring to the table. However, the card produced could not get enough support. It was some time and a lot of persistence and innovative design before the bridge world found something most people could live with.

The ACT did not figure in the finals but it did finish on a high, winning the Victor Champion Cup. And while the financial side led to a lot of discussion about the desirability of doing it again, it was back in 1972 and regularly since.

Some of the information in this article has been taken from the excellent history of bridge in the ACT and surrounding regions by John Brockwell and David Hoffman – 'A Compulsive Pastime.' Halstead Press.



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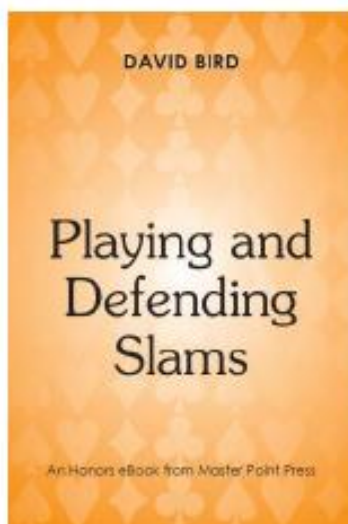
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Multiple Butler Placegetters

John Brockwell has compiled a list of all all Butler placegetters. Below is a selection from that list showing the placegetters in four or more as before the start of the 2026 event.

12 places	Borin, Jim; Klinger, Ron
10 places	Borin, Norma
9 places	Rosendorff, Nigel
8 places	Neill, Bruce
7 places	Courtney Michael; Gill, Peter
6 places	Cooper, Ron; Browne, Seamus; Cummings, Dick Gue, Phil; Hans, Sartaj; Lavings, Paul; Nunn, Tony
5 places	Bagchi, Khokan; Beauchamp, David; Brown, Terry Burgess, Stephen; Smilde, Roelof; Thomson, Matthew
4 places	Grosvenor, Hugh; Marston, Paul; Nagy, Zolly Richman, Bobby; Seres, Tim; Ware, Michael; Wyer, Paul



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2027 AUTUMN NATIONALS

WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL – SUNDAY 2ND MAY 2027

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

TBIB AUTUMN NATIONAL TEAMS AND THE AUSTRALIAN BLUE RIBBON PAIRS:

Wednesday 28th April
Thursday 29th April

Friday 30th April

and

Saturday 1st May

Sunday 2nd May

SWISSTEAMS:

Open, Under Grand, Under Life categories
(Open Teams Final: Friday 30th April)

ONE-DAY SWISS BUTLER PAIRS

Under Grand, Under Life, Novice, Rookie

BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: Open (Qual)

BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: Open (SF),

Under Grand and Life (Qual)

BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: All Finals

and consolations

PQPs in Open Teams and Blue Ribbon Pairs (Open)





Canberra in Bloom 2026

Bridge Federation of the ACT



Held in conjunction with Australia's largest floral festival, Floriade, Canberra in Bloom is a national, gold points congress for players of all abilities. Pairs and teams events are held in novice, restricted and open categories, with a rookies pairs event catering for players with less than 5 masterpoints.

- Restricted: Under 300 Masterpoints
- Novice: Under 100 Masterpoints
- Rookie: Under 5 Masterpoints
- Masterpoint cut off is 30 June 2026

Early bird prices for most events are available until 15 August.
Entries close 18 September (late entries may be accepted at Convenors' discretion)

Register through **myABF**

Date: 2nd to 5th October 2026

Location: Belconnen Labor Club

Organiser: Roger Brake

Email: rbrakebridge@gmail.com

