

Bulletin 2

Sunday October 18th

2026 Spring Nationals – Day 2

We have our Semi-Finalists in the Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams. Congratulations to the **JACOB, van der VLUGT, WATKINS**, and **YOSHKA** Teams. Good luck to all in the Semi-Final. There is a full list of results late in the Bulletin.

We also have the winners in the other events.

The winners of the Over 300 MP Teams is the **STEFFENSEN Team** (James Wallis – Kevin Steffensen – Will Jenner-O'Shea – Vanessa Brown). The Runners-up were the **BILSKI Team** (George Bilski – Nicky Strasser – Peter Strasser – Andrew Braithwaite – Ron Speiser – Liz Adams).

There was an Under 750 MP category section, won by the **CUMMING Team** (David Cumming – Mike Morrissey – Alex Berdyshevski – Glen Chick). The Runners-up were the **DRAKE Team** (Peta Drake – Cheryl Henke – Jacky Gruszka – Julie Hamilton).

And Congratulations to the Restricted Teams winners the **MCBISISU Team** (Jennifer Bissett – Neil McMaster – Andy Sunter – Anna Siganto). Second place were the **GREEN Team** (Michael Green – Lynne Talmont – Steve Marton – Jeremy Trahair).

The Mixed Teams Semi-Final and the Pairs events start on Monday at 10:30am.

Mini Monday starts at 9am.

If anyone has any interesting hands or stories to share, email me at wjosh@hotmail.com or send a text 0415 181 901.



Bulletin Editor
Will Jenner-O'Shea

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Mixed Teams – Final Placings

Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams

<i>Place</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1	Jacob	112.49	Q
2	van der Vlugt	104.43	Q
3	Watkins	99.87	Q
4	Yoshka	97.67	Q
5	Beauchamp	96.95	
6	Brahma	93.23	
7	Mundell	92.34	
8	Gumblaze	91.21	
9	Ashton	86.43	
10	Moore	86.37	
11	Sylvester	86.33	
12	Wood	85.27	
13	McLeish	84.48	
14	Clifford	79.29	
15	Zhang	77.85	
16	Reynolds	77.73	
17	Andrew	71.86	
18	Giura	71.67	
19	The Handbags	71.63	
20	Hutchins	71.16	
21	Cao	68.45	
22	Zhao	68.15	
23	Stewart	64.48	
24	Williams	57.59	
25	Irvine	47.89	
26	Koh	36.17	

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Over 300 Teams – Final Placings

Over 300MPs Teams

<i>Place</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	Steffensen	118.54
2	Bilski	112.87
3	Hardiman	95.86
4	Weaver	91.69
5	Cumming	90.26
6	Pang	80.92
7	Drake	77.49
8	Davis	76.00
9	Carter R	75.67
10	D'Ambrosio	73.37
11	Parekh	71.76
12	Mietzke	67.94
13	Meyers	65.71
14	Filmer-Ramsay	63.24
15	Carter M	60.47
16	Hydleman	58.21



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Restricted Teams – Final Placings

Restricted Teams

<i>Place</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	McBiSiSu	108.35
2	Green	99.76
3	Kelly	89.72
4	Neal	82.93
5	Aubrey	68.80
6	Travers	37.78



The Green Team actually defeated the McBiSiSu Team twice in the event. Once in the Round-Robin, and again in the Swiss finish. The McBiSiSu team managed more wins, and finished 8.5 VPs ahead after 8 rounds.

Congratulations to the placegetters!

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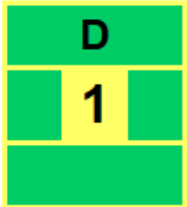
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Sneakey Peakey

Liam Milne

Andrew Peake has a reputation as a dangerous declarer – full of trickery and surprises. Let's watch him in action in a dicey game near the end of the qualifying rounds.

Board 1 ♠ 83
Dealer N ♥ 532
Vul None ♦ AT9764
♣ 87

♠ K65		♠ AQJT74
♥ Q9876		♥ KJ
♦ 82		♦ Q3
♣ AJT		♣ 942
♠ 92		
♥ AT4		
♦ KJ5		
♣ KQ653		

It may seem difficult to make 4♠ with four seemingly unavoidable losers, and yet ten declarers did. Two of those received trump leads – game over – but the other eight got a minor suit lead.

After the auction: (P) 1♠ (2♣) 3♣* (P) 4♠ //, Peake received the ♣K lead. He won the Ace and played Spade to the Ace, Spade Queen overtaken by the King (preserving the ♠4).

Next came an odd-looking play – a diamond to the queen! Why?

If declarer plays on Hearts, the defence will wake up and see that they must cash enough tricks in the minors. If declarer plays Diamonds, it creates the illusion the Declarer is trying to establish that suit instead.

North ducked and South took the ♦Q with the King. South cashed ♣Q and exited with a Club to the dummy, and Peake continued with the illusion by playing a Heart to the JACK (not the King – too revealing).

Completely taken in by the early Diamond play and not wanting to 'dangerously' exit in that suit, South played a Heart.

Peake could win in hand and cross to dummy with the Four to the Six to run the Heart suit: +420.

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The Queen of Trumps

Will Jenner-O'Shea

It is well known amongst more experienced slam bidders, that if you have a ten-card fit, or more trumps that you might have had, you shouldn't worry about the Queen of trumps.

Here is an example from Match 4

Board 25

Dealer N
Vul E-W

♠ 74
♥ KQJT7
♦ AK986
♣ 7

♠ JT6

♥ 86543

♦ Q4

♣ KQ5

♠ D
♥ 25
♦ 7
♣ 96432

♠ KQ5

♥ A

♦ JT532

♣ AJT8

If East shows five+ Diamonds (later in the auction) and West shows a fit and a good hand, then East might go looking for slam. If East asks (using Minorwood, or Kickback), West should show 2 Keycards, *and the Queen of the trumps*, even though they don't have the Queen. A few pairs found 6♦ here. Well done.

One of Australia's top Mixed Pairs Dave Wiltshire and Sophie Ashton, both had a chance to use this technique on the following board.

Board 16

Dealer W
Vul E-W

♠ K53

♥ Q

♦ J42

♣ T65432

♠ J

♥ JT8765

♦ AKT8

♣ Q8

♠ D
♥ 16
♦ 763
♣ AKJ97

♠ Q984

♥ K

♦ 763

♣ AKJ97

♠ AT762

♥ A9432

♦ Q95

♣ -

W	Dave	E	Sophie
P	1♥	X	4♣*
P	4♦*	P	4NT
P	5♣	P	5♦
P	5♥	//	

The 4♣ bid was a void in Clubs with four+ Hearts, and 4♦ was a hand still interested in slam. 4NT asked for Keycards with 5♦ showing 1.

Continued...

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The Queen of Trumps

Hand repeated:

Board 16

Dealer W

Vul E-W

♠ J

♥ JT8765

♦ AKT8

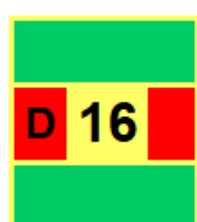
♣ Q8

♠ K53

♥ Q

♦ J42

♣ T65432



♠ Q984

♥ K

♦ 763

♣ AKJ97

♠ AT762

♥ A9432

♦ Q95

♣ -

North had shown five+ Hearts, so if South is interested in slam, they shouldn't need to ask for the Queen of trumps. They know there is a 10-card fit.

However, South has shown four+ Hearts, so when they ask for the Queen of trumps, North should consider showing it.

When the trumps split 1-1, and the King and Queen crash into each other, 13 tricks were made.

Neither North nor South held the Queen of Hearts, but both should have said that they did!

On this hand, only one pair in the Mixed Teams managed to get to 6♥, though a few went looking and stopped in 5♥ (perhaps worried about the Queen?)

The successful bidders were Liam Milne and Geeske Joel.

W	Liam	E	Geeske
P	1♥	X	2NT*
P	4♥	P	4♠
P	4NT	P	5NT*
P	6♥	//	

The 2NT bid was showing 4+ Hearts, and was at least invitational. 4♥ accepted the invite, and 4♠ was a control bid looking for slam. When North asked, South showed 2 Keycards with a void somewhere! North bid 6♥ and was rewarded with 11 IMPs.

In the other events, two more pairs bid slam, and a few East-Wests tried 5♣ which was doubled and down by -1100 or so.

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Knocking Out Aces in the Right Order

Will Jenner-O'Shea

There was an instructive hand from Match 5 today.

The key theme is which suit do you establish as the Declarer first.

Board 11

Dealer S

Vul None

♠ 72

♥ J862

♦ QT874

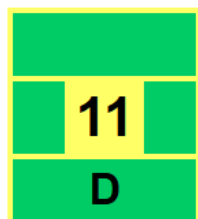
♣ A3

♠ KQ5

♥ K954

♦ J9

♣ Q762



♠ AJ863

♥ QT3

♦ 632

♣ T4

♠ T94

♥ A7

♦ AK5

♣ KJ985

The auction at my table was quite revealing, and helped me to play the hand the right way around.

Vanessa	N	Will	S
--	--	--	P
1♣	1♦	2♦*	2♠
P	P	3NT	//

My 2♦ bid showed a Club fit and 11+ points.

I received a Diamond lead from South, which was known to be North's 5+ card suit.

I won the first trick, and have 4 top tricks in the red suits, and the ability to establish four Clubs. I need to also get a Spade trick.

This might involve losing the lead twice: once to the Ace of Clubs and once to the Ace of Spades.

The key is, that if the Defenders lead Diamonds at trick one, and again with one Ace, and again with their other Ace, they might have enough tricks to defeat 3NT.

You need to hope that the Aces are split between the opponent's hands, or that South has both (and shorter Diamonds) and also attack the correct suit first.

You should assume that South has the Ace of Spades, and North is more likely to have the Ace of Clubs. Play a Club, and knock out North's Ace.

Hold up the Diamond once (either trick one, or now).

Then lead a Spade. South will win the Ace, but has no Diamonds to lead back.

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The Wildest Hand on Sunday

Will Jenner-O'Shea

This board from match 6 was the wildest hand from Sunday.

Board 21 ♠ AT876

Dealer N ♥ JT86532

Vul N-S ♦ 2

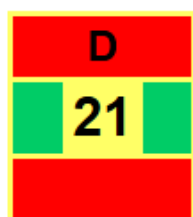
♣ -

♠ Q53

♥ -

♦ AQJ5

♣ K87543



♠ KJ9

♥ K74

♦ K7

♣ AQJT2

♠ 42

♥ AQ9

♦ T98643

♣ 96

New Zealand's Jenna Gibbons held the North cards, and had an opening bid to show "Both Majors, less than an opening hand".

Jenna opened 2♣* (both Majors) and East overcalled 2NT and was raised to 3NT.

Jenna felt like she had more to say, so now bid 4♥, was Doubled, and easily made 10 tricks and +790.

This scored up nicely with teammates 3NT making by East-West. Plus 15 IMPs.

Well done Jenna and Team Jacob who won the Qualifying comfortably.

This board was beyond surreal at my table.

Our North elected to open the bidding with 1♠! I guess they didn't want to open 1♥ and reverse into Spades later.

I was East and overcalled 1NT (15-18), and my partner Vanessa jumped to 4♥ as West.

On a seemingly unrelated note, if we open 2NT, we use a fantastic system which we call Four-Way South African Texas Transfers, where 4♣ and 4♦ show Hearts and Spades, and 4♥ shows Clubs, and 4♠ shows Diamonds. Great system.

It seems that Vanessa forgot that we don't do this over a 1NT bid, so she intended 4♥ as a Transfer to Clubs.

I didn't get the memo, so I passed in 4♥.

North could not believe their luck! "I had seven Hearts" they exclaimed after the play.

We managed the rare score of -350 which was a fine sacrifice against 4♥ by North, but not great since we had other making contracts available to us.

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Lead High Or Low?

Nick Hughes

What do you lead from AKxxx against 3NT?

With no entry, lead low. If you reckon you have an entry, high is better.

Board 20
Dealer W
Vul Both

♠ JT95

♥ KT974

♦ 32

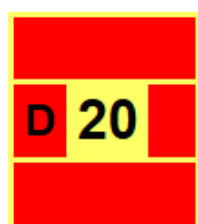
♣ T6

♠ Q842

♥ J6

♦ AKJ7

♣ 752



♠ A7

♥ AQ83

♦ Q954

♣ QJ9

♠ K63

♥ 52

♦ T86

♣ AK843

A high club lead will shoot 3NT/E. You play three rounds then sit back and wait with your ♠K.

Thanks to partner's Heart pips, declarer runs out of steam.

What happens if you lead a low club? Declarer might still go down. Normal enough is to take the heart finesse then lead towards the ♠Q. That would be fine if Clubs were 4-3. Not this time.

To make on a low Club lead, you need to think that Clubs are 5-2. Win ♣Q and take your six red suit tricks, which brings South down to black cards. Then exit with a Club to win trick 12 with dummy's ♠Q.

Four Mixed Easts managed that.

Board 24
Dealer W
Vul None

♠ T

♥ AQT3

♦ AQJ2

♣ A876

♠ KQ9642

♥ -

♦ 97

♣ K9543



♠ J7

♥ 98764

♦ K865

♣ T2

♠ A853

♥ KJ52

♦ T43

♣ QJ

Nicoleta Giura was the only declarer in the Mixed to make 6H here.

After (2S) – X – (nb) –

She overbid a bit with 4H. (3H is enough if you play Lebensohl) Blackwood followed.

Winning the spade lead she played a diamond to the jack at trick 2, a good start. East won the DK to return a helpful CT-J-K-A, not that it matters. HA revealed the bad news but then a highish cross-ruff worked, thanks to East having to follow all the way.

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Useful Conventions With Will – Two Over One

One big difference between Standard and Two-Over-One is the necessity of a wider ranging 1NT Response.

Instead of showing 6 – 10 points (or 6 – 9), it shows 6 – 11 or possibly 12 points.

This is a little bit tricky to deal with initially.

Some Two-Over-One players use the 1NT response to a Major opening as 100% forcing, and possibly even bid it sometimes with a fit for Opener's Major. I don't recommend this approach. I play that a 1NT response might be up to 12 points, but Opener can pass with a minimum, balanced hand.

If you do play that the 1NT response is forcing, Opener sometimes needs to rebid a three-card minor suit.

Don't even ask what Opener is supposed to do if they have a 4=5=2=2 shaped hand.

After 1♥ – 1NT, if pass was not allowed, and 2♠ would be a Reverse, I guess you bid 2♣. Or take up Flannery!

Example 2

♠ A752

♥ AJ92

♦ 753

♣ J9

♠ Q94

♥ KQT85

♦ QJ6

♣ Q7

♠ JT8

♥ 3

♦ KT94

♣ AKT83

♠ K63

♥ 764

♦ A82

♣ 6542

W	N	E	S
1♥	P	1NT*	P
P!	P	P	

*1NT is 6 – 11 (12) points. I recommend that you play it as non-forcing. This style is often called "Semi-Forcing".

Opener only passes the 1NT response with a minimum opening hand, and a balanced hand.

Opener would have rebid 2♦ if the 1NT bid was forcing. Yuck.

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Useful Conventions With Will – continued

There is a way for Responder to untangle whether they have a minimum 1NT Response, or a maximum, invitational hand.

With a minimum, they should simply Pass or give preference at the two-level to Opener's suits. This would look exactly the same in Standard.

With a good hand (10-12 points), Responder should bid 2NT next (if they get another bid).

Occasionally you will get left in 1NT, but with only 10 – 12 points, and no fit for Opener's first suit, game is not that likely anyway.

There is also a cute auction after Opener starts with 1♥, and then bids a minor suit.

Responder can bid Spades, the suit that they denied with their first bid, to show a great hand for the minor. This is sometimes called "the impossible Spade".

On Example 2 on the previous page, if West did bid 2♦, East could bid 2♠ Impossible Spade, showing a maximum 1NT with a Diamond fit.*

Example 3

♠ AKT86

♥ K87

♦ 6

♣ AJ92

♠ J753

♥ QT2

♦ A853

♣ 53

♠ Q42

♥ A53

♦ J42

♣ T874

♠ 9

♥ J964

♦ KQT97

♣ KQ6

W	N	E	S
--	1♠	P	1NT*
P	2♣	P	2NT*
P	3NT	P	P
P			

*1NT: 6 – 12 points

*2NT: 11-12 points

Opener bids 1♠ and Responder bids 1NT Semi-Forcing. Opener rebids 2♣, and Responder bids 2NT to confirm ~11-12 points. Opener raises to game.



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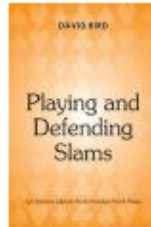


RECENT BRIDGE BOOKS

"Reading bridge books is the best way to improve your game"

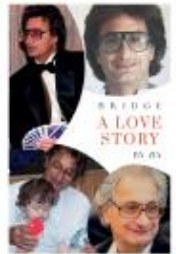
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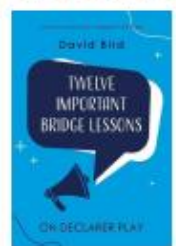


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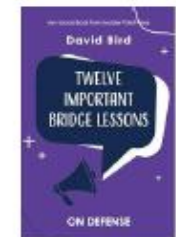


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Amazing Offer for Aussie Juniors

Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies: has an awesome offer for Aussie Youth players. Paul is generously offering 3–5 FREE bridge books to Aussie youth bridge players – and he's even covering the postage!

Whether it's bidding, defence, declarer play or conventions that need a little work, there's a book (or five!) to help you along.

With Youth Week just around the corner and now is the time to start warming up!

All you need to do is tell Paul what you'd like to improve.

If you're an Aussie youth bridge player born on or after 1/1/1995 and would like to take up this offer, please head to:

<https://form.jotform.com/262657097679881>

A huge thank you to Paul for supporting the next generation of Australian bridge players!





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Pairs Datums from the Mixed Teams

Mixed Teams Datums (Top 20)

		<i>Modified</i>
<i>Place</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Datum</i>
1	Jenna GIBBONS – Julian FOSTER	110.00
2	Heath WATKINS – Kate MACDONALD	105.80
3	Jessica BRAKE – Shane HARRISON	96.70
4	Maurits VAN DER VLUGT – Dagmar NEUMANN	94.90
5	Kate MCCALLUM – Axel JOHANNSSON	88.40
6	Paul LAVINGS – Helen LAVINGS	80.10
7	Liz SYLVESTER – Peter GILL	76.10
8	Peter REYNOLDS – Jane REYNOLDS	74.70
9	Ella JACOB – Andrew SPOONER	70.60
10	Gwyneira BRAHMA – Dave MUNRO	70.60
11	Giselle MUNDELL – Andrew PEAKE	57.10
12	Cathryn HERDEN – Matthew THOMSON	56.10
13	Sophie ASHTON – David WILTSHIRE	44.80
14	Catherine ZHANG – Cevat EMUL	43.90
15	Jodi TUTTY – George KOZAKOS	38.90
16	Colin CLIFFORD – Avril ZETS	36.70
17	Therese DEMARCO – George SMOLANKO	35.80
18	Pauline GUMBY – Warren LAZER	33.90
19	Viv WOOD – Gerry DALY	32.20
20	Zachary YAN – Lysandra ZHENG	25.70

There are full datums on the [results page](#).

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Pairs Datums from the other Teams

Over 300MPs Teams Datums (Top 12)

		<i>Modified</i>
<i>Place</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Datum</i>
1	James WALLIS – Kevin STEFFENSEN	147.40
2	Alex BERDYSHEVSKI – Glen CHICK	90.60
3	Max GILBERT – Kathy GILBERT	79.90
4	George BILSKI – Nicky STRASSER	79.60
5	Janeen SOLOMON – Alison DAWSON	66.90
6	Will JENNER-O'SHEA – Vanessa BROWN	60.10
7	Andrew BRAITHWAITE – Liz ADAMS	54.90
8	John RUSSELL – Judith PARSONS	53.20
9	Steve ENGLISH – Helen GILLAM	52.50
10	Peta DRAKE – Jacky GRUSZKA	51.90
11	Peter STRASSER – Andrew BRAITHWAITE	46.00
12	Rosa PANG – Irene GUO	29.00

Restricted Teams Datums (Top 8)

		<i>Modified</i>
<i>Place</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Datum</i>
1	Andy SUNTER – Anna SIGANTO	112.00
2	John FITZPATRICK – Jeri LEVINSKY	74.10
3	Jennifer BISSETT – Neil MCMASTER	53.40
4	Steve MARTON – Jeremy TRAHAIR	34.60
5	Owen AUBREY – Vittorio DELLA LIBERA	8.60
6	Michael GREEN – Lynne TALMONT	7.80
7	Bronwyn NEAL – Simon HUNTER	0.90
8	Susan JENSEN – Cia BENECKE	-0.10

There are full datums on the [results page](#).

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Photo Page



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Lucy D'Ambrosio, Jimmy Wallis, Kevin Steffensen from behind, and Michael Jackson

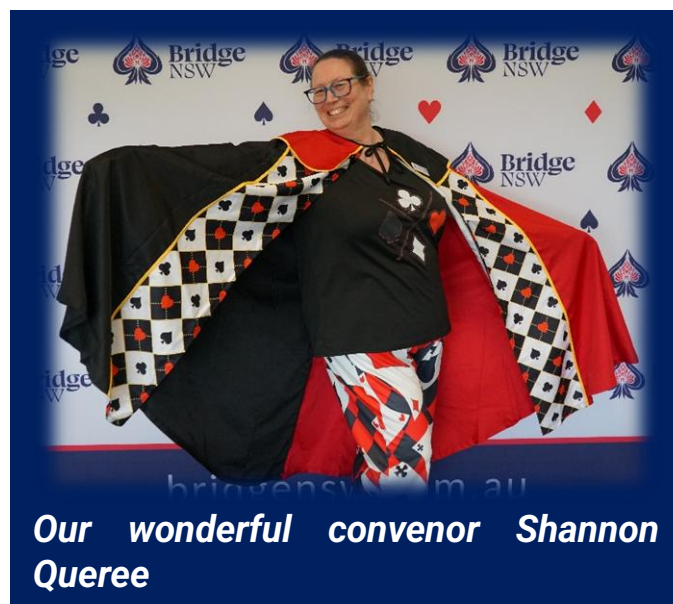
Jimmy Wallis reported an auction that he hasn't seen before in 40+ years of bridge.

The auction started on his left with 1♣, Pass, Pass to him.

He Doubled for takeout.

Opener "ran" to 1♦, which ended the auction.

1♦ was a seven-card fit with all of the honours and made 9 tricks. Playing in 1♣ would have been a lot worse for Declarer.



Shannon announced some more winners for today:

Word Search Winner – Ella Jacob

Fixed Income Solutions **\$50 Bridge Credit**

Lucky Door Winners 18 Oct. 26

Jade Wilkinson

Ron Speiser



Jade Wilkinson (\$50 richer)



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