Bulletin 9
Sunday October 25th
2026 Spring Nationals – Day 9 (of 9)

The 2026 Spring Nationals concluded today with the **TBIB Open Teams** event finishing with the **DALLEY** team defeating the **KOZAKOS** team over 56-Boards. There are some pictures and deals later in the Bulletin. We didn't get a team picture, but here are two of the champions, Tony Nunn & Sophie Ashton with the trophy.



TBIB Open Teams winners – the DALLEY Team. Tony Nunn, Sophie Ashton. Paul Dalley & Ashley Bach (absent)

The Weekend Pairs events all ended this afternoon as well.
The **Dick Cummings Open Pairs** was won by **Jamie & Ben Thomson** who finished more than 20 VPs ahead of **Stephen Fischer & Sebastian Yuen**.

The **Spring Nationals Intermediate Pairs** was won by **Simon Moore & Tony Franklin** who were leading most of the day, but dropped to second in the penultimate round, and had a draw in the last round, but they managed to grab onto the top spot by less than 2 VPs from **Lucy D'Ambrosio & Frank Broos.** Down to the wire!

The **Ted Chadwick Restricted & Novice Pairs** had two categories played in the one field. The Restricted was won by **Michael Green & David Rieser** a few VPs ahead of **Brian Craig & Paul Hunter**. The Novice event was won by **Debbie Cambridge & Jennifer Allison**, a few VPs ahead of **Andrew Laurich & Leonie Antill**.
Congratulations to all the winners and placegetters.

What a huge week of fun, slams, bidding mishaps, forgotten conventions and too many opening lead guesses.
Save the dates October 16-24, 2027

TBIB Open Teams – Final

The last two teams standing from the Open Teams played their Final today.

Dalley defeated **Kozakos** by 149 to 94.5 IMPs.

Team	C/F	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Total
KOZAKOS	1.5	29	15	18	31	94.5
DALLEY	0	31	31	37	50	149

KOZAKOS
George Kozakos – Hugh Grosvenor – Joachim Haffer – Fraser Rew

DALLEY
Paul Dalley – Tony Nunn – Ashley Bach – Sophie Ashton







The winning team concentrating hard in their Final.

We didn't get a full team photo, since a few members had to leave immediately after play.

TBIB Open Teams – Final

Here is some of the action from the Open Final.

Everyone is Vulnerable. Your partner passes, and your opponent opens 1♣ in front of you. This is your hand. Your call?

♠ JT5
♥ AK
♦ KJ742
♣ K42

Tony	Hugh	Paul	George
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	--	P	1♣
1NT	//		

Tony Nunn overcalled 1NT. That is where the bidding stopped.
Tony went down by three, Vulnerable.

Sounds bad, right?

Fraser	Ashley	Jo	Sophie
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	--	P	1♣
1♦	X	2♦	4♥

At the other table, Fraser tried a 1♦ overcall. This allowed North to Double to show 4+ Hearts, and approximately responding points.
Over the 2♦ raise, Sophie Ashton jumped to 4♥ and made it for an 8 IMP gain.

Board 10
Dealer E
Vul Both

	♠ K74 ♥ T7653 ♦ QT98 ♣ 8	
♠ JT5 ♥ AK ♦ KJ742 ♣ K42	10 D	♠ 9862 ♥ 94 ♦ A65 ♣ JT95
	♠ AQ3 ♥ QJ82 ♦ 3 ♣ AQ763	

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TBIB Open Teams – Final

There were a couple of system swings in the second set.

Board 17
Dealer N
Vul None

	♠ J42 ♥ T5432 ♦ KQ7 ♣ KJ	
♠ Q85 ♥ KQJ ♦ A9 ♣ T8653	D 17	♠ T976 ♥ A7 ♦ 842 ♣ 9742
	♠ AK3 ♥ 986 ♦ JT653 ♣ AQ	

Tony	Hugh	Paul	George
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	P	P	1NT
P	3♣*	P	3♦*
P	3♠	P	3NT
//.			

North-South opened 1NT, looked for a Major fit, and played 3NT.

Fraser	Ashley	Jo	Sophie
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	--	2♠*	P
3♣*	//		

2♠ showed 4+♠ & 4+♣ and a weak(!) hand. South didn't overcall, and North-South were robbed of a light but makeable game.
8 IMPs to Kozakos.

Board 26
Dealer E
Vul Both

	♠ AQ7 ♥ Q8632 ♦ J65 ♣ K6	
♠ 985 ♥ 75 ♦ AT432 ♣ T75	26 D	♠ KJT ♥ KJ9 ♦ KQ7 ♣ AQJ2
	♠ 6432 ♥ AT4 ♦ 98 ♣ 9843	

Tony	Hugh	Paul	George
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	--	2NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

Paul showed a strong balanced hand and played in 3NT. Making.

Fraser	Ashley	Jo	Sophie
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	--	1♣	P
1NT*	P	P	P

The 1♣ opening was a maximum. The 1NT Response showed 0-7 points. They stopped in 1NT. Making 10 tricks.
10 IMPs to Dalley.

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TBIB Open Teams – Final

Tony Nunn reported a very nice defensive play to help his partner from the third set.

Board 14
Dealer E
Vul None

	♠ 872 ♥ AJ87 ♦ A96 ♣ Q75	
♠ Q96 ♥ T9 ♦ QJ ♣ AKJ643	14 D	♠ K ♥ 6532 ♦ KT732 ♣ T98
	♠ AJT543 ♥ KQ4 ♦ 854 ♣ 2	

Tony	Hugh	Paul	George
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	--	P	1♠
1NT	X	2♣*	2♠
P	P	X	P
3♣	P	P	3♠
P	P	P	

East passed, and South opened 1♠.
Tony decided to call the West hand 15-17 points, and balanced.
North Doubled for Penalties, Paul bid 2♣ (Stayman), and South competed to 2♠.
After two Passes, Paul Doubled 2♠ for Takeout, and Tony now showed his Clubs (typically a five-card suit).
North-South competed to 3♠.
Trick one was the Ace of Clubs lead, Five, Ten (three cards in Clubs), Two.
Tony knew there were no more Club tricks, but Paul didn't.
Tony switched to the Queen of Diamonds, won in Dummy.
Declarer played a Spade to their Ace (catching the King) and another Spade which Tony won with the Queen.
Tony led the Jack of Diamonds to East's King, who then played the winning Ten of Diamonds.
Tony threw away his King of Clubs!
Now East knew not to try a Club, and instead led the last Diamond for Tony to overtrump South to defeat 3♠.
Great defence.
2 IMPs to Kozakos, when 4♠ was down by 2 at the other table.

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TBIB Open Teams – Final

There was a wild hand in the last set that had a high-level auction with quite different outcomes.

Board 22
Dealer E
Vul E-W

	♠ 82 ♥ K6 ♦ Q9 ♣ AQJ9432	
♠ QJ543 ♥ Q95 ♦ 854 ♣ 85	22 D	♠ 7 ♥ AJT87432 ♦ KT ♣ T6
	♠ AKT96 ♥ - ♦ AJ7632 ♣ K7	

George	Ashley	Hugh	Sophie
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	--	4♥	4♠
P	P	P	

Tony	Jo	Paul	Fraser
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	--	4♥	4♠
P	5♣	P	6♣
P	P	P	

Both Easts opened 4♥. Both South's overcalled 4♠.
Ashley passed and 4♠ was down one with a poor Spade split.
Jo bid 5♣, got raised to 6♣ and made 12. 14 IMPs to Kozakos.

Near the end of the last set there was a hand where Paul Dalley showed good judgement.

Board 27
Dealer S
Vul None

	♠ KQT8 ♥ T652 ♦ 972 ♣ T6	
♠ A932 ♥ J3 ♦ 8 ♣ KQ9852	27 D	♠ 764 ♥ 7 ♦ AKT653 ♣ AJ3
	♠ J5 ♥ AKQ984 ♦ QJ4 ♣ 74	

Tony	Jo	Paul	Fraser
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	--	--	1♥
2♣	2♥	3♥*	P
4♣	P	4NT	P
5♠*	P	6♣	P
P	P		

North-South bid and raised Hearts and partner made a two-level overcall (usually reasonably good). Paul reasoned that he had a singleton in the opponent's suit, a six-card side suit headed by the Ace and King, and a good trump fit. He pushed on to the Club slam.
The other table has higher opposition bidding, but settled in 5♣. 11 IMPs to Dalley.

Dick Cummings Open Pairs

Dick Cummings Open Pairs

Rank	Names	Total
1	Ben Thompson – Jamie Thompson	176.52
2	Stephen Fischer – Sebastian Yuen	156.00
3	Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer	150.54
4	Pele Rankin – Jodi Tutty	148.96
5	James Coutts – Shane Harrison	147.29
6	Geeske Joel – Liam Milne	147.23
7	Andrew Peake – Giselle Mundell	145.80
8	James Wallis – Kevin Steffensen	142.48
9	Geo Tislevoll – Jack James	142.01
10	Wei Zhang – William Zhang	139.04
11	Julianne Rocks – David Smee	137.61
12	Witold Chylewski – Wieslaw Przewozniak	136.64
13	Simon Zhang – Yumin Li	135.67
14	David Fryda – Colin Clifford	132.29
15	Kelsey Chen – Sherlock Shao	132.02
16	David Hudson – Peter Gill	130.55
17	Ruitian Lang – Jacques Cherbuin	130.06
18	David Beauchamp – Jessica Brake	129.02
19	Bas Bolt – Ros Roworth	128.90
20	Gwyneira Brahma – Deana Wilson	128.40
21	Elliott Kaplan – Nigel Rosendorff	128.34
22	Sandra Milner – Robyn Noach	127.86
23	Dave Munro – Alan Cransberg	127.69
24	Hui Li – Patrick Jiang	127.29
25	Adrian Le – Matthew Sieredzinski	127.03
26	Peter Cox – Paul Lavings	127.02
27	Steve Geddes – Will Jenner-O'Shea	126.04
28	Michael Prescott – Jeanette Cao	124.95
29	Kimberley Zhao – Pamela Nisbet	124.37
30	Adrian Lohmann – Karin Le Roux	124.18
31	Rakesh Kumar – Jake Andrew	121.26
32	Liz Adams – David Wiltshire	120.67
33	David Farmer – Catherine Whiddon	120.26
34	Noel Bugeia – Janelle Conroy	120.10

Dick Cummings Open Pairs

Dick Cummings Open Pairs

Rank	Names	Total
35	Noah Klugman – Zongrun Li	118.04
36	Rhonda Khong – Paul Smith	117.69
37	Martin Bloom – George Bilski	116.81
38	Robert Krochmalik – Brian Bedkober	116.16
39	Peter Buchen – Bernard Waters	116.09
40	Don Cameron – Jan Randall	115.39
41	Wenjie Liu – Judy Zhu	115.31
42	Sachiko Cathcart – Hans Van Weeren	115.02
43	Bal Krishan – Subhash Gupta	113.29
44	George Fleischer – Mathew Vadas	113.22
45	Paul Weaver – Terry Bodycote	112.58
46	Garry Viner – Tony White	112.34
47	Amy Holman – Henry Mcmahon	110.83
48	Frank Hardiman – Andrew Grace	110.45
49	Natalie Newman – Alan Stoneham	110.21
50	Helen Lowry – Linda Aubusson	109.70
51	Lucia Mendonca – Margaret Phippen	109.36
52	Nerida Gillies – Sandy Carter	109.05
53	Hamid Sadigh – Siamak Parsanejad	107.67
54	Damon Flicker – James Palmer	104.38
55	Tony Howes – Roslyn Howes	101.91
56	Alison Dawson – Janeen Solomon	100.96
57	Keith Walker – Barbara Abraham	100.63
58	Chris Hamam – David Zheng	96.61
59	Leo Goorevich – Gary Lane	95.84
60	Maryanne Hingerty – Rick Lu	95.59
61	Alex Hewat – George Stockham	95.36
62	Jane Beeby – Philip Beeby	95.29
63	Margaret Pussell – Karen Irvine	92.40
64	Alexander Cook – Robin Ho	91.51
65	Stuart Schon – John Gurewitz	88.61
66	Louise Lewis – Vic Pietraszkiewicz	86.91
67	Frances Garrick – Janet Rowlatt	85.85
68	Tessa Rohald – Louise Leibowitz	83.36

Dick Cummings Open Pairs



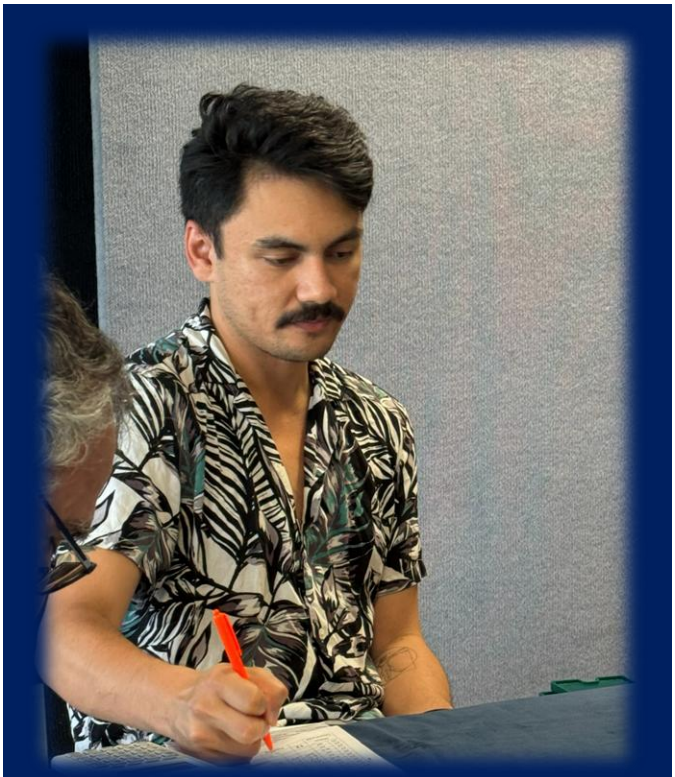
Dick Cummings Pairs Winners. Presented by Nat Newman. Ben Thompson & Jamie Thompson



Dick Cummings Pairs Runners Up. Presented by Nat Newman. Sebastian Yuen (w/ Mischa) & Stephen Fischer



Natalie Newman presented the awards for the Dick Cummings Pairs. She is Dick Cummings' granddaughter.



Pairs winner, and birthday boy, Jamie Thompson

Keep Counting Their Points

Will Jenner-O'Shea

A recurring theme of play hands is to count. Count trumps, count tricks, count losers, count the shapes. Also, count the points.

I played this hand in Round 7 of the Pairs.

Board 7
Dealer S
Vul Both

	♠ 86 ♥ 7432 ♦ T8542 ♣ 93	
♠ K543 ♥ Q9865 ♦ K9 ♣ K5	7 D	♠ AT97 ♥ AJT ♦ J7 ♣ AJ64
	♠ QJ2 ♥ K ♦ AQ63 ♣ QT872	

W	N	E	S
--	--	--	1♣
1♥	P	2♣*	X
2♦*	P	4♥	//

Our 2♣ response was a Cue Raise. The 2♦ bid showed a moderate overcall with around 11-13 points, not our usual rubbish.

I found myself in game with 11 opposite 15 points. We have 26 points, they have 14 high-card points.

With South opening, they probably have all of the points, and North has somewhere between 0 and at absolute most 3 points.

I received the Eight of Spades lead and already figured South would have the Queen and Jack of Spades. I won the King of Spades and led a low Heart from West to the Ace, no finesse, and was very lucky to catch the King.

Note the rest of our Hearts are excellent quality.

I could have drawn all of the trumps now, but with the lead in Dummy, I decided to play a Diamond towards my King. South played their Ace (I knew they had it).

Once I regained the lead, I drew the rest of North's trumps, and was able to establish the Spades and make 11 tricks and 89%.

It is extremely rare to find a singleton King, but the Heart finesse was almost certainly going to lose, so don't take it.

Lightning Strikes Thrice

Will Jenner-O'Shea

In the last match of the Pairs today, Jack James and GeO Tislevoll bid 6♥ three times in a row!*

Board 23
Dealer S
Vul Both

	♠ Q ♥ K98653 ♦ AQ76 ♣ A7	
♠ K84 ♥ Q7 ♦ 8542 ♣ J542	23 D	♠ AT9753 ♥ 4 ♦ JT ♣ Q963
	♠ J62 ♥ AJT2 ♦ K93 ♣ KT8	

W	N	E	S
--	--	--	1♣
P	1♦*	1♠	2♥
P	4NT*	P	5♣
P	6♥	//	

*1♦ was a Transfer to Hearts, 4+♥

Board 24
Dealer W
Vul None

	♠ J9 ♥ AKJ862 ♦ T9 ♣ K87	
♠ KT73 ♥ 53 ♦ J862 ♣ QT2	D 24	♠ Q86542 ♥ Q7 ♦ A5 ♣ 964
	♠ A ♥ T94 ♦ KQ743 ♣ AJ53	

W	N	E	S
P	1♥	(1♠)	2♠*
(3♠)	4♥	P	4NT*
P	5♥	P	6♥

Board 25
Dealer N
Vul E-W

	♠ - ♥ AJ542 ♦ AT86 ♣ AKQ9	
♠ QT953 ♥ 63 ♦ J32 ♣ T52	D 25	♠ K72 ♥ KQ9 ♦ Q754 ♣ J64
	♠ AJ864 ♥ T87 ♦ K9 ♣ 873	

W	N	E	S
--	1♥	P	2♥
P	6♥		

**Alas, only the first one made.*

Spring Nationals Intermediate Pairs

Spring Nationals Intermediate Pairs

Rank	Names	Total
1	Tony Franklin – Simon Moore	158.21
2	Lucy D'Ambrosio – Frank Broos	156.41
3	Stephen Dennis – Peter Cloke	148.92
4	John Russell – Judith Parsons	138.42
5	Tammy Hubbard – Bill Wilmott	137.30
6	Richard Carter – Peter Wong	137.21
7	Vibeke Faurby – Annegrete Kolding	134.47
8	John Cummings – David Marshall	134.15
9	Mary Carter – Kathryn Brien	133.35
10	Zhan Wan – Shijun Tian	132.89
11	Felicity Wivell – Anne Fyfe	127.39
12	Meera Kudva – David Hancock	125.44
13	Helena Canaris – Elizabeth Neil	122.45
14	Steven Kemp – Glen Chick	121.73
15	Yulia Koh – Miriam O'Brien	120.74
16	Jane Biscoe – Peta Drake	120.47
17	Jean Hydleman – Ralph Edwards	119.58
18	Peter Schmidt – John Rivers	118.19
19	Mukesh Parekh – Paul Stebbing	117.87
20	Raymond Harding – Anna Olszewski	116.89
21	David Cumming – Mike Morrissey	115.28
22	John Simmonds – Trish Berry	112.75
23	Craig Mietzke – Christine Hanley	111.95
24	Greta Davis – Libby Tonkin	111.82
25	Maeve Doyle – Neville Hind	111.43
26	David Burton – Janet Crocker	109.83
27	Kelly Barber – Leslie Treasure	106.55
28	Vicky Cahill – Teresa Wilson	100.79
29	Liz Jacka – Agnes Levine	90.95
30	Robyn Rogers – Tien Chey	88.83
31	Sue Eastman – Margaret Regan	81.62
32	Glenda Parmenter – Barbara O'Shea	76.12

Spring Nationals Intermediate Pairs



Intermediate Pairs Winners Simon Moore, with Michael Green (BridgeNSW), and Tony Franklin



Second in the Intermediate Pairs. Frank Broos & Lucy D'Ambrosio, with Michael Green (BridgeNSW)



Intermediate Pairs players from Saturday. Judy Parsons, Zhan Wan, John Russell, Shijun Tian



Players in the Weekend Pairs events.

Bulletin 9
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Ted Chadwick Restricted & Novice Pairs

Ted Chadwick Restricted & Novice Pairs

Rank	Names	Total
1	Michael Green – David Rieser	157.73
2	Brian Craig – Paul Hunter	154.18
3	Ramarathin Krishnamachari – Tim Jackson	135.25
4	Paul Birkby – Debra Birkby	131.51
5	Orsolina Aroney – Jim O'Donnell	127.76
6	Anne-Marie Kelly – John Fitzpatrick	127.25
7	Neil Mcmaster – Jennifer Bissett	124.54
8	Nicola Meares – Craig Becconsall	121.33
9	Debbie Cambridge – Jennifer Allison	119.48
10	Helen Gillam – Micki Summers	116.27
11	Denise Reid – Judy King	115.23
12	Andrew Laurich – Leonie Antill	113.12
13	Andrew Marshall – Fred Foster	103.92
14	Kyna Foo – Stephanie Price	103.74
15	Gordon Travers – Holly Li-Johnston	97.29
16	Thomas Karsai – Terry Simmons	93.31
17	Norii Migita – Hiroe Sano	91.89
18	Richard Thode – Maryanne Loveridge	71.38

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Ted Chadwick Restricted & Novice Pairs



Restricted Pairs winners, presented by Shannon. Michael Green (player!) and David Rieser



Debbie Cambridge being presented with the shield by Michael Green (BridgeNSW) and Jennifer Allison. Winners of the Novice Pairs



2nd in the Restricted Pairs. Paul Hunter & Brian Craig (absent) with Michael Green (BridgeNSW)



Second in the Novice Pairs. Andrew Laurich & Leonie Antill, with Michael Green (BridgeNSW)

Winners from the 2026 Spring Nationals

Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams
Heath Watkins – Kate Macdonald – Zachary Yan – Lysandra Zheng

Swiss Teams 300+ MP
Steffensen: Jimmy Wallis – Kevin Steffensen – Will Jenner-O'Shea – Vanessa Brown

Swiss Teams 300+ MP (Under 750 MP)
Cumming: David Cumming – Mike Morrissey – Alex Berdyshevski – Glen Chick

Restricted and Novice Teams
MCBISISU Jennifer Bissett – Neil McMaster – Andy Sunter – Anna Siganto

Swiss Matchpoint Pairs 300+ MP
Tony White & Barry Dalsto

Mini Monday Red Point event
NS: Kari Braun & Maree Gunn
EW: Rochelle Cohen & Gina Cohen

Swiss Matchpoint Pairs – Restricted
Shane Grogan - Tim Jackson

Gerda Stern Mixed Pairs
Pauline Gumby & Warren Lazer

Race day Swiss IMP Pairs
Jimmy Wallis & Kevin Steffensen

Wednesday Matchpoint Pairs
Kamalesh Gupta - Michael Machado

Wednesday Matchpoint Pairs – Restricted
Merle Payne - Cia Benecke

TBIB Open Teams Championship
Dalley: Paul Dalley - Tony Nunn - Ashley Bach - Sophie Ashton

TBIB Open Teams Plate
Tislevoll: Geo Tislevoll - Jack James - David Hudson - Peter Gill

TBIB Open Teams Championship (Seniors' Category)
Stern: David Stern - Robert Grynberg - Robert Krochmalik - Brian Bedkober - Tony Leibowitz - Jenny Thompson

TBIB Open Teams Championship (Women's Category)
Dawson: Helena Dawson - Avril Zets - Marcia Scudder - Judy Mott

Butler Pairs under 1500 MP
Freddie Zulfiqar - Barry Dalsto

Butler Pairs - Intermediate
Steven Kemp - Glen Chick

Avi Kanetkar Butler Swiss Pairs – Restricted
Edward Czarnocki - Brian Craig

Avi Kanetkar Butler Swiss Pairs – Novice
Ron Chen - Jeff Chen

Dick Cummings Open Pairs
Ben Thompson - Jamie Thompson

Spring Nats – Intermediate Swiss Pairs
Tony Franklin - Simon Moore

Ted Chadwick Restricted Swiss Pairs
Michael Green - David Rieser

Novice Swiss Pairs
Debbie Cambridge - Jennifer Allison

Convenor's Corner

I'm sitting here in my little cubby with 22 minutes left on the clock. Any moment now, people will start finishing, and we'll all be waiting to see whether the top contenders hold their ground or get dramatically toppled in the final boards.



Convenor Shannon announcing the start of play for the last time.

I hope everyone has enjoyed themselves — even if the card gods were feeling mischievous. Thank you for all the positive feedback this week. If I were the blushing sort, I'd have been red-faced all week.

We're about to enter the 3P's phase: Presentation, Pack Up, and P*** Off.

After a full week, I'm looking forward to seeing my family again (but don't tell them) — and then I'm straight into my own little bridge tour: Tomaree, Mudgee, and Bendigo. If you're playing any of those, I may bump into you across the table.

Stay safe, travel well, and keep an eye out for the official feedback link coming your way in the next day or two.

To all our lucky winners of bridge credits – these will mysteriously appear in your MyABF sometime this week.

Convenor's Corner

A huge thank you to "the boys" — Matthew McManus, John McIlrath, Ronnie Ng, Alan Bustany, Jeff Carberry, and our trainees Kevin Hughes and David Havyatt. Your work this week has been phenomenal, and SN26 simply doesn't run without you.
And an extra-special mention to Ian Lisle — dealer to the stars and to SN26. Not only did he deal all the boards, he had to deal two sessions a second time thanks to some hand records making an early escape. Absolute champion effort.



So. Many. Outfits!

Thank You to Our Sponsors
We are deeply grateful for the support of our sponsors: TBIB, Fixed Income Solutions, Paul Lavings, Joan Butts, and Lalita Kanetkar. Your contributions help make Spring Nationals the event our community loves.



Some of "the boys". David Havyatt, Alan Bustany, Matt McManus, Ronnie Ng

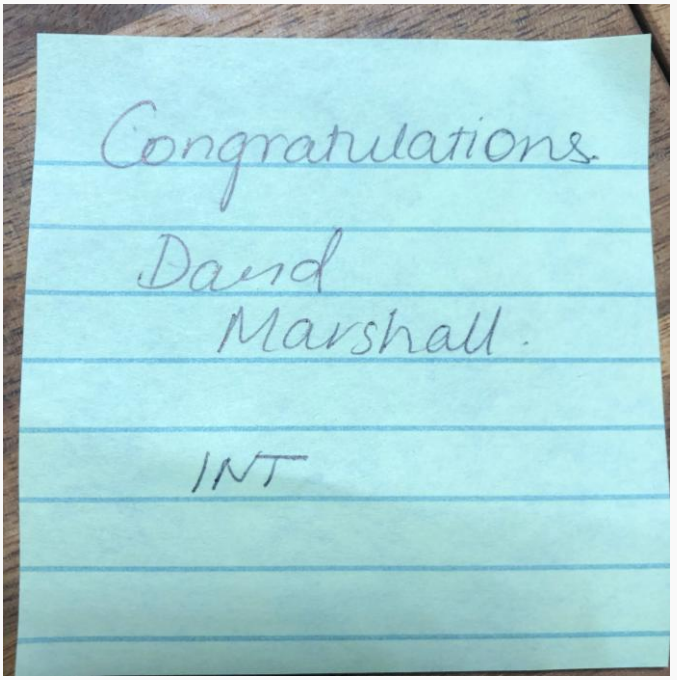
Convenor's Corner

Fixed Income Solutions
$50 Bridge Credit
Lucky Door Winners
25 Oct. 26
Alan Cransberg
Karen Irvine

TBIB $20 Paul Lavings
Miriam O'Brien
David Marshall

Convenor Mystery Prizes.
Again – They Know Why ;)
Andrew Marshall – Fred Foster
Sue Eastman – Margaret Regan
Julianne Rocks – David Smee
Norii Migita – Hiroe Sano
George Fleischer – Mathew Vadas
Tessa Rohald – Louise Leibowitz

David Marshall won a TBIB $20 Paul Lavings voucher, and I was asked to hand them out today. To keep myself organised, I stuck a little post-it on each one with the section the player was in — nothing fancy, just my usual shorthand.
A little while later, David came back looking very puzzled. He said, "I didn't play a 1NT hand"
It took me a moment… then it clicked. I hadn't written 1NT — I'd written INT for Intermediate.
Goes to show how deeply everyone is living and breathing bridge this week. Even my admin scribbles are being interpreted as bidding systems.



1NT or Intermediate?

Some Amusements from the Weekend

Will Jenner-O'Shea

Once the event was over, and people started unwinding I got to hear a few stories of adventure, and misadventure.

I'm pretty sure that some of these stories are because people are tired, and also because playing matchpoints makes you do some crazy things!

From Pairs Match 10:

Board 9
Dealer N
Vul E-W

	♠ K8752 ♥ Q ♦ Q8 ♣ T9752	
♠ AQJT96 ♥ K ♦ AJ62 ♣ A8	D 9	♠ 3 ♥ T98762 ♦ 954 ♣ J63
	♠ 4 ♥ AJ543 ♦ KT73 ♣ KQ4	

	Liam		*Geeske*
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	2♠	P	P
2NT*	P	3♦*	P
3♥	P	P	X
3♠	X	//	

The 2NT bid was "Natural", but a little bit creative in shape, and points.

The 3♦ bid was a Transfer to Hearts, which got Doubled for Penalties, and West tried their luck in 3♠ (Liam's suit!).

Liam was nearly ready to play in 2♠. Two rounds of bidding later, he got to defend 3♠ Doubled!

At my table, the bidding was

W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	P	2♦*	2♥
X	P	P!	2NT
X	//		

Where the 2♦ Opening was a "bad weak two in a Major"(!), South tried Hearts, and the Double was "Pass, or Correct".

North-South ended up in 2NT Doubled, and tried a Heart finesse at trick two.

Some Amusements from the Weekend

Will Jenner-O'Shea

Jess Brake relayed a couple of stories about playing with Dave Beauchamp.
First the bad news.

Board 26
Dealer E
Vul Both

	♠ J5 ♥ AK5 ♦ QJT9 ♣ 9653	
♠ K8 ♥ 82 ♦ K542 ♣ KQT82	26 D	♠ AT76432 ♥ 93 ♦ A7 ♣ A4
	♠ Q9 ♥ QJT764 ♦ 863 ♣ J7	

Jess		*Beauchy*	
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	--	1♠	P
1NT	P	2♠	P
3♠	P	3NT	//

The 1NT was Semi-Forcing, and the 3♠ bid was an invite.
The 3NT bid was trying for a good matchpoint score.
Despite having 14 top tricks. North led the ♥A, then ♥K and a Heart to South's six-card suit. Down 2.

There was some good news.

Board 18
Dealer E
Vul N-S

	♠ Q ♥ AQ95 ♦ T76 ♣ KJ832	
♠ 9 ♥ T ♦ AKJ9843 ♣ Q654	18 D	♠ AKT875 ♥ J42 ♦ Q2 ♣ A9
	♠ J6432 ♥ K8763 ♦ 5 ♣ T7	

Jess		*Beauchy*	
W	***N***	***E***	***S***
--	--	1NT*	P
2NT*	P	3♣*	P
3♥	P	3♠	P
4♦	P	4♠	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
6♦	//		

Dave Beauchamp tried opening the East cards with 1NT.
Jess Transferred to Diamonds, and then showed a Heart shortage.
A few Control bids, then Keycard followed.
They were the only Open pair to bid and make 6♦.

Useful Conventions With Will – Two Over One

Here are some of the Two-Over-One tips and tricks and summary details from this series of articles.

Two-Over-One is a system that is quite similar to Standard with two main auctions that differ.
If Opener opens with a suit, and Responder bids a new suit at the two-level (non-jump) then that shows (12)13+ points and is Game Forcing.
The Two-Over-One Game Forcing auctions that are different to Standard are:

(Opener)	***(Responder)***
1♥	2♣ or 2♦
1♠	2♣, 2♦, or 2♥
1♦	2♣

Although not everyone plays this auction as Game Forcing, I suggest that you may as well, it keeps everything consistent.

If Responder to a 1♥ opening has 10 or 11 points, they can no longer respond at the two-level. They must respond 1NT.
The One-No-Trump Response auction that are different to Standard are:

(Opener)	***(Responder)***
1♥	1NT 6 – 11 (12)
1♠	1NT 6 – 11 (12)

Whether you do or don't play 1♦ P 2♣ as Game forcing, it is not necessary to play 1NT as Wide Ranging.

(Opener)	***(Responder)***
1♦	1NT 6 – 10, as usual.
1♦	2NT 11 – 12 invitational.

Note that after a 1♥ or 1♠ Opening, a 2NT response is commonly played as a Jacoby Raise (4 trumps, 13+ points).

Useful Conventions With Will – Two Over One

If Opener opens a Major, and Responder has 13+ points, they can respond with a suit at the two-level, this sets up a Game Force. After a Two-Over-One response, neither player can stop bidding until game is reached (or the opponents are Doubled for Penalties if they wander into the bidding).

Two-Over-One Game Forcing only applies if there is a Pass in between. If the opponent overcalls or Doubles, then a two-level response is not game forcing, and shows 10+ points and is forcing, but not necessarily to game. Responder has the option of Redoubling, or Cue Bidding (immediately, or later), to show a strong hand.

Most people open all 12 HCP hands, and some 11 HCP hands.
I recommend that you usually need 13+ HCP to bid Two-Over-One.
You can have a good 12 HCP with good quality suits.
If you have 12 HCP and a singleton or void in partner's suit, you should consider not Game Forcing immediately. Perhaps respond 1NT.

Responder generally starts with their longest suit, even if it is not a Two-Over-One Response.
If Opener opens 1♥ and Responder has Five Diamonds and Four Spades and 13+ points, they should bid 2♦ (Game Force).

If Opener opens 1♥ and Responder has Five Spades and Four Diamonds, they should start with 1♠. This is only showing 6+ points, but is forcing for one round, and they can bid again later to show a good hand.

If Opener opens 1♥ and Responder has Four Spades and Four Clubs and 13+ points, it is often easier to start with 2♣ (Two-Over-One Game Force) and the Spade fit can be uncovered later. Responding 1♠ is not wrong, but 2♣ often simplifies the auction.
I recommend Responding 2♣ with four Spades and four Clubs and a game forcing hand.
I recommend Responding 1♠ if you have less than 13 points.

Useful Conventions With Will – Two Over One

There are two ways to approach the following situation.
Some people allow Responder to show preference at the two-level.
Others require the 2♥ bid below to promise 3 cards.

(Opener)	***(Responder)***
1♥	2♣ (4+♣, Game Forcing)
2♦	2♥

You and your partner need to discuss this.
I recommend that 2♥ can be only two cards (usually with an honour) since the bidding is so low. You can work out if you have a proper fit on the next round. The next bid by both players further describes their suits and shape.

If you compare this auction to the following auction, where you use the three-level to guarantee a fit (and look for slam).

(Opener)	***(Responder)***
1♥	2♣ (4+♣, Game Forcing)
2♦	3♥

The Jump to 3♥ confirms three trumps, sets Hearts as trumps, and is usually a slam try.

There is one more related auction, where Responder jumps to game on the second round.

(Opener)	***(Responder)***
1♥	2♣ (4+♣, Game Forcing)
2♦	4♥

Jumping straight to game shows no slam interest. Don't do it very often, since the Opener could have any number of points, but if Responder only has 12 or 13 points, and not many Aces and Kings, they probably aren't interested in slam. **Fast Arrival** is the weakest option.

There are some auctions in Two-Over-One where you arrive at the three-level and either player could still be anywhere from 12 – 20 points.

To reduce this problem, a good agreement is for either player to jump straight to game if they have a minimum hand. Partner is warned that the hand is not useful for exploring a slam.

Useful Conventions With Will – Two Over One

The Two-Way-2♣ Response to 1♥ or 1♠

Some people use a 2♣ Response to a Major opening as showing a Game Forcing hand, with either real Clubs, or possibly a balanced hand with maybe only 3+ Clubs.

If you use this method, then your 2♦ and 2♥ Reponses can promise good quality 5+ card suits.

Here is an example:

(Opener)	***(Responder)***
1♠	??

♠ Q5
♥ KQT4
♦ J432
♣ AQ7

Responder wants to Game Force, and find the best contract. Bidding 2♦ is an option, but they are not very good Diamonds.

Starting with 2♣ instead "Two-Way 2♣ Response – Balanced or Clubs" means that when you bid 2♦, it shows a good 5+ card suit.
In this example above, if the ♦2 was actually the ♠2, you would still have an awkward response. You would want to change suit from Spades, but a 2♥ Response should be 5+ cards.
Even if you and your partner haven't discussed it, consider Responding 2♣ on the example hand, and discuss it afterwards with your partner!

Some people use the 2♣ Response as Three-Way-2♣ where the bid shows a Game Forcing hand with Clubs, or a Balanced Game Force, or possibly an invitational hand with a fit for Opener's Major.

Opener rebids 2♦ to say "I would accept the invite" or 2-of-their-Major to say "I would not". *They can also bid another suit with a very shapely hand.*
Responder next bids 2-Major to show the invite, 2NT to show the balanced hand, or anything else to show Clubs.

The Two-Way-2♣ Response to 1♥ or 1♠

An example of the **Three-Way-2♣** response occurred on Wednesday in the Teams, match 4.

Board 5
Dealer N
Vul N-S

	♠ K6 ♥ J963 ♦ KT97 ♣ 532	
♠ J532 ♥ Q42 ♦ A43 ♣ AT9	D 5	♠ AQ94 ♥ AK875 ♦ QJ65 ♣ -
	♠ T87 ♥ T ♦ 82 ♣ KQJ8764	

I was West. Steve was East.

W	N	E	S
--	--	1♥	P
2♣*	P	2♠*	P
3♠	P	4♣*	P
4♦*	P	6♠	//

The 2♣ bid was initially intended as an invite in Hearts.
Steve bid 2♠ to shows a good, shapely hand.
Finding a 4-4 Spade fit was great. Instead of inviting in Hearts, I now bid 3♠ (we are in a Game force, so this is **Slow Arrival**, showing possible slam interest).
Steve bid 4♣ and I bid 4♦ showing Controls.
Steve jumped to 6♠.
Note that the 4-4 fit is often better, since we had the 5-3 Heart fit as a side suit where it could be established and used for discarding things.

The Three-Way-2♣ bid is one convention that allows you to replace Bergen Raises if you want to play Invitational Jump Shifts (from an earlier article).

Some people also use a 2NT Jacoby Raise to show Invitational+ points, not always Game Forcing.
If you do that, then I recommend that Opener use a 3♣ Response to the 2NT Jacoby style raise to show "any minimum hand".

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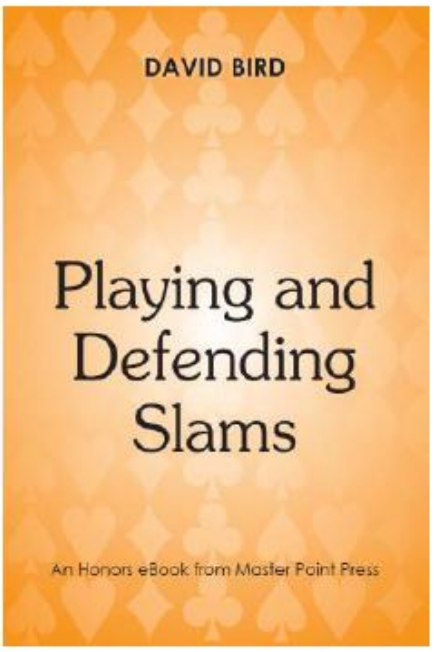
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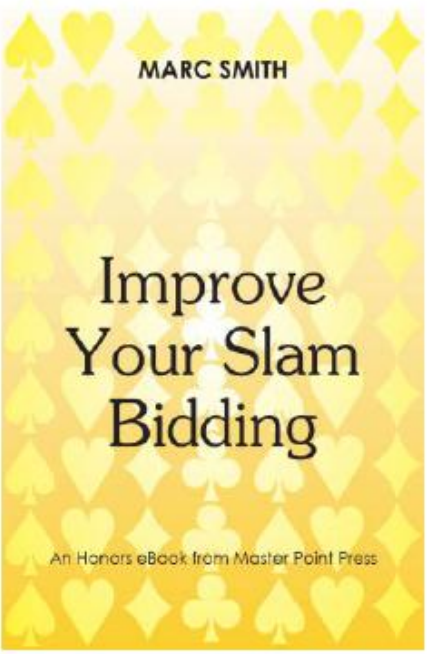


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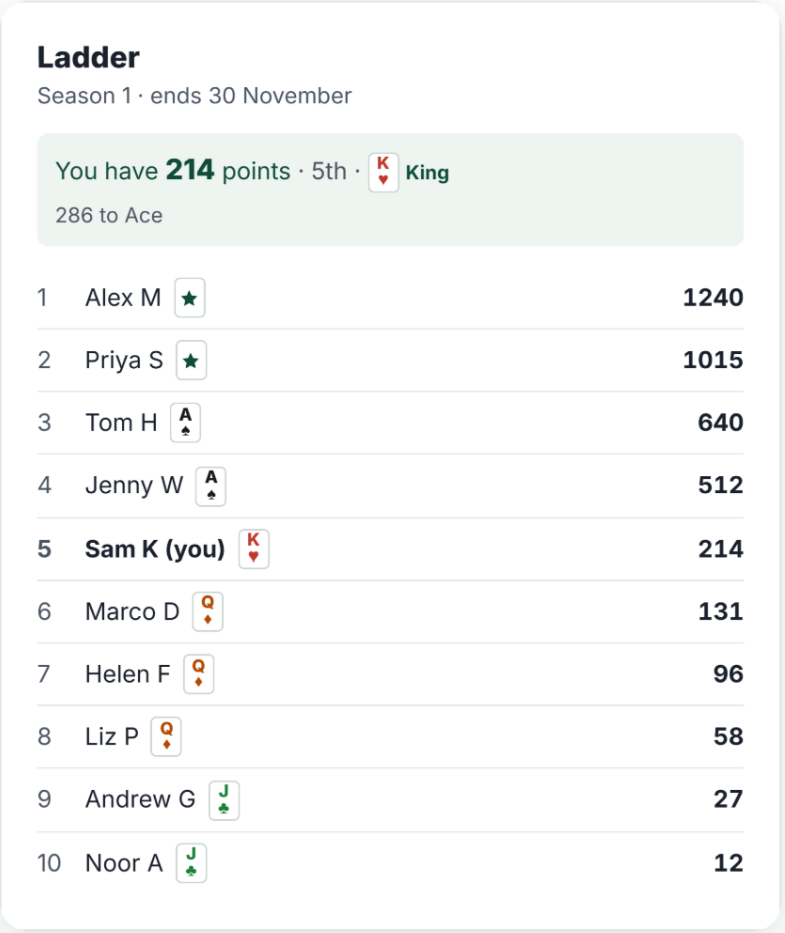
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