

61ST International
**2023 GOLD COAST
BRIDGE CONGRESS**
BULLETIN 5



**YOUR DAILY
BULLETIN**

Electronic only and
a link sent daily

Tuesday 21 February

[Stephen Lester](#) and [Barry Rigal](#)



Tables at
Tuesday evening
3017
1872 in 2022

New President of the World Bridge Federation,
Jan Kamras honours us by opening the Gold
Coast Teams, a World Bridge Tour event

Teams Qualifying Round 1

Those who can do...

...And those who can't write about it. My task today was to play matches one and two and not leave too many IMPs on the table. Drawn as team 37 I hoped for an easy draw in the first round. So I wasn't thrilled to see Jan Cormack and Pam Nisbet heading our way.

The match boiled down to three slam decisions, each table covering themselves with limited glory, it must be said.

Board 3

♠ 3

Dealer S

♥ J4

Vul E-W

♦ AKQ9852

♣ KT8

♠ Q86

♠ AJT754

♥ Q9652

♥ AK873

♦ --

♦ --

♣ 76543

♣ A2

♠ K92

♥ T

♦ JT7643

♣ QJ9

<i>Nisbet</i>	<i>Stern</i>	<i>Cormack</i>	<i>Rigal</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			pass
pass	1♦	2♦	3♥
4♥	5♦	5♥	all pass

I couldn't open 2♦ and wouldn't open three, but when my partner opened the suit it seemed best to splinter and help partner with his competitive decision – the bridge equivalent of casting pearls before swine.

Cormack walked the dog to 5♥ and was allowed to play there – and found herself in the par contract. David Stern optimistically led a top diamond and that allowed declarer to come to a 12th trick. Our teammates bid on to 7♥ over 7♦ -- no play on a club lead even if the spade finesse had worked.

Board 4

♠ KQ86

Dealer W

♥ 63

Vul Both

♦ K97653

♣ 7

♠ AT4

♠ 532

♥ KQJT97

♥ A84

♦ QJ

♦ T

♣ 43

♣ AKQ865

♠ J97

♥ 52

♦ A842

♣ JT92

<i>Nisbet</i>	<i>Stern</i>	<i>Cormack</i>	<i>Rigal</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♥	pass	2♣	pass
2♥	pass	3♥	pass
3♠	pass	6♥	all pass

Cormack's insouciant jump to slam was based on the 2♥ call promising six hearts. One feels Blackwood might have been more discreet – but no matter, the slam was an excellent one.

Now let's turn the spotlight to the opening lead; surely a top spade is right? If dummy has the singleton diamond you expect, then so long as partner has a slow club or trump trick you have set up the setting trick for your side.

An immediate club lead will never get more and might well get less. However, this would be a far harder decision if your spades were e.g. KJ?

On the club lead found at the table, declarer's best line surely is to win and draw two rounds of trumps with high hearts from hand. When they split you ruff out the clubs, if they do not you need the clubs to break.

Fortunately for our side we were able to record +100 and a 13 IMP swing when slam went down while they played game in the other room.

Cormack and Nisbet had the perfect system for this deal.

Board 7 ♠ 864
 Dealer S ♥ 952
 Vul Both ♦ T4
 ♣ JT863

♠ AJ9	♠ KT5
♥ A43	♥ KT7
♦ Q72	♦ AKJ983
♣ AQ94	♣ K

♠ Q732
 ♥ QJ86
 ♦ 65
 ♣ 752

<i>Nisbet</i>	<i>Stern</i>	<i>Cormack</i>	<i>Rigal</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1NT	pass	4♦	pass
4♠	pass	5♣	pass
6♦	pass	7NT	all pass

4♦ was Key Card for diamonds! (If I were EW I'd take that off the card immediately since the chance you'd need it again in your lifetime is 0.00%...but no matter. I'm just a sore loser).

5♣ asked for the trump queen, 6♦ said yes, with no kings, and 7NT was based on the hope that partner had a major suit jack or the club queen. Do you feel lucky, punk? Cormack did. That was worth a major swing when they played the small slam in the other room – about 11% of the field found 7NT. Hmmm.



Solution to Deep Finesse Problem 4

♠ A 10 7 5		♠ K J 9 6 3				
♥ Q 5 3		♥ 4				
♦ K 5 4 3		♦ J 9				
♣ 4 3		♣ A K Q 10 7				
♠ 4	<table border="1" style="background-color: green; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	
N						
W						
E						
S						
♥ K 8 2						
♦ 8 7 6 2						
♣ 9 8 6 5 2						
♠ Q 8 2						
♥ A J 10 9 7 6						
♦ A Q 10						
♣ J						

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	-	2	4	2	1
S	-	2	4	1	1
E	3	-	-	-	-
W	3	-	-	-	-

South plays 4♥, and must lose a spade, a heart and a club. But on ♠4 lead there is also a ruff. How does South cope?

Win ♠A perforce, cash ♥A, play ♦A-Q, and overtake ♦10 with ♦K and play the fourth diamond pitching a club, the "Scissors Coup". Later you can cross to ♥Q, to play up to your ♠Q.



Teams Qualifying Round 2

This time it's serious...

Unable to stand any more of the withering sarcasm, David Stern retreated to the substitute's bench and Robert Grynberg stepped up to the plate.

The first deal out of the box indicated that we were in for a rocky ride:

Board 15	♠ A983		
<i>Dealer S</i>	♥ 32		
<i>Vul N-S</i>	♦ KQ54		
	♣ J76		
♠ Q64		♠ 5	
♥ J6		♥ AQT94	
♦ JT8763		♦ 92	
♣ K4		♣ AQT92	
	♠ KJT72		
	♥ K875		
	♦ A		
	♣ 853		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Rigal</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Grynberg</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
			1♠
pass	2NT ¹	dbl	4♠
5♦	dbl	5♥	dbl
all pass			

1. Heart raise

As Robert said for his failure to make a Michaels cuebid over 2NT "I was unwilling to commit to the four-level" to which was my response was "but you were willing to commit to the five-level?" which was after all the effect of doubling.

The defenders allowed him out for down 300 – still a great result in theory, but in the other room where 4♠ was declared on the lead of ♥J it wasn't so easy for the defenders.

I think a shift to ♣Q at trick two might be right – it would certainly work today!! A more mundane se-

quence of plays let declarer pitch two clubs on the diamonds and come home with +620, for 8 IMPs to the good guys.

Eva Samuel found herself in an awkward contract a couple of deals later. What would you recommend as the best line?

Board 22	♠ AJT832		
<i>Dealer E</i>	♥ 8		
<i>Vul E-W</i>	♦ A86		
	♣ AT6		
♠ 7654		♠ KQ	
♥ Q92		♥ J7654	
♦ 5		♦ K74	
♣ KQ932		♣ 874	
	♠ 9		
	♥ AKT3		
	♦ QJT932		
	♣ J5		

<i>Rigal</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Grynberg</i>	<i>Samuel</i>
		Pass	1♦
pass	1♠	pass	2♦
Pass	4♠	all pass	

If you played 6♦ on a top club lead you would probably go down, but at double dummy you can come home because of the fluke lie of the spades. In practice, in 4♠ on a club lead your entries to dummy are terrible. Maybe win the lead and play back a club? If you do, West will win and shift to a diamond and you are dead.

The alternative, of winning the club, crossing to a heart and taking the diamond finesse leads to a diamond ruff against you sooner or later.

But the winning line again seems rather double dummy. using the heart entry to take a spade finesse lets the defenders win and play a second club then a diamond...You are surely never going to go up ace and try to drop the missing spade honour?

Getting to 3NT would be beyond most of us here but it does have the relative merit of 9+ top tricks I suppose...

Teammates' +140 in 3♠ was at least a plus score...

Board 27	♠ K87	♠ T
<i>Dealer S</i>	♥ KQ3	♥ AJ97654
<i>Vul None</i>	♦ AQ97	♦ 52
	♣ JT8	♣ 763
♠ J432		
♥ T		
♦ T8643		
♣ 952		
	♠ AQ965	
	♥ 82	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ AKQ4	

Finding the right strain was critical here. Our opponents set spades with the initial response, used Blackwood and settled for 6♠, down trivially on the heart ruff, but also needing spades to break even if that weren't the case. How many pairs out of 136 bid to 6NT? Place your bets Ladies and Gentlemen...

A solid 22 did so, possibly helped by a heart call at some tables? But you can see precisely why North knows to do this - there can be no ruff coming in the short hand, so why play spades as opposed to notrump?

On a standard auction such as 1♠ -2♦; 3♣ - 3♠; 4♦, North can use Key Card and settle in what they know to be the right strain.



A great turnout for Andy Hung's lecture

Results SMS - Help Wanted



For those of you who enjoy receiving your results and the next draw by SMS, we have a favour to ask.

The MyABF team have created a mobile app for Apple and Android that will let you receive the messages through the app rather than SMS. Why?

You may well ask.

Sending over SMS costs about 10c per message, but with the app there is no charge. If we can confirm that the app works okay then we can save money to use for other things.

If you would like to help us with this trial, please go to the Apple App Store on your iPhone or the Google Play store on your Android device and search for "myabf" to install the app. You will need to allow it to send you notifications when asked (obviously).

Some of you have already found this and have been using it and for that we thank you.




Any feedback greatly appreciated.

2023 Bridge Companions Programme

Hello and a huge welcome back to our 2023 Bridge Companions programme

We look forward to meeting you all – having a little fun – and visiting spots along our famous Gold Coast. Below, please find the organised activities for the week.

Here's to a fun week, Sue, and Lana

Location	Dates	Event	Meeting	Depart	Costs
	<p>Wednesday 22nd David Fleay Wildlife Park https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/david-fleay/</p>	<p>David Fleay Wildlife Park is a wildlife park with a difference! You can stroll through natural habitats and visit a nocturnal house to see some of Australia's most iconic wildlife. You will meet crocodiles, koalas, emus, brologas, dingoes, dunnarts, bilbies, and kangaroos, as well as platypus</p>	<p>Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach</p>	<p>10:45am - 4:30pm.</p>	<p>\$15 bus, Adult \$26.15 Senior \$17.20</p>
	<p>Thursday 23rd Burleigh Heads National Park. Walking trails. Map below https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/162/512/burleigh-head-webmap.pdf The Paddock bakery for tea/lunch https://www.paddockbakery.com/</p>	<p>Burleigh Heads National Park offers perfect views of the Gold Coast City skyline, access to remote beaches and creeks, native rainforest, and several unique viewpoints. Please see map for different trails Paddock Bakery Delicious food, with great atmosphere, set in an old weatherboard home with a leafy garden. Renowned for their award-winning breakfasts, lunches, and delicious treats such as the crème brulee donut.</p>	<p>Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach</p>	<p>10.45am – 4:30pm Approx.</p>	<p>\$15 bus Lunches at own expense.</p>
	<p>Friday 24th Champagne and Nibbles</p>	<p>All welcome to champagne and nibbles where you will receive a 10% discount on certain items. Enter a free draw to win a pair of shoes, to be drawn that morning</p>	<p>Meeting at In-Her Shoes Oasis Shopping Centre, 8.15am</p>		<p>No cost</p>



Fri 24th
Aquaduck
<https://www.aquaduck.com.au/gold-coast-river-cruise/>

Aquaduck experience begins in the heart of Surfers Paradise on Cavill Avenue. From Surfers Paradise beach towards the glamour and beauty of Main Beach. Along the way, the Pacific Ocean, Southport Yacht Club, Marina Mirage, Palazzo Versace. That's where the Aqua duck gets to show its true colours splashing into the water for a scenic cruise of the spectacular river and Broadwater. The key sights from the water, wildlife and all the activity of surrounds

Ground Floor
 Air on
 Broadbeach

Bus leaves at 11:30am for a tour start time of 12:15pm

\$10 for bus
 Lunch at own expense \$36.55 (RPP \$43)



Other Options Harbour Town

Visits are also available to Harbour Town, one of Australia's largest outlet shopping centres with over 240 stores, as well as providing alfresco dining.
Harbour Town have their own shuttle buses to and from the Convention Centre at 9.15am & 10.30am, returning 2pm & 5pm.
 VIP invitations to Harbour Town are available at the get together at apartment 3005, Air on Broadbeach.



SkyPoint Observation Deck
<https://www.skypoint.com.au/>

SkyPoint Observation Deck offers panoramic views of the Gold Coast, 230m above sea level, located atop the iconic Q1 building in Surfers Paradise. SkyPoint's unique vantage point lets you take in the entire city from the 77 floor.

\$29 pp one time entry

Any expressions of interest or pre-bookings would be very welcome.	Contacts:	gcchospitality@qldbridge.com.au	Bridge Companions
	Sue (m) 0424 830158		Bridge Companions
	Lana (m) 0481187578		Golf Only
	Ian (m) 0417194347	ian83@me.com	

Silicon versus carbon: is bridge next?

Ke Jie, the world's undisputed best Go player, just lost 3-0 in his match against AlphaGo, the revolutionary new AI from Google's now world-famous Deep Mind team. What could this mean for bridge players? We try to draw a line from the past to the future...

The past: Deep Blue versus Garry Kasparov, 1997



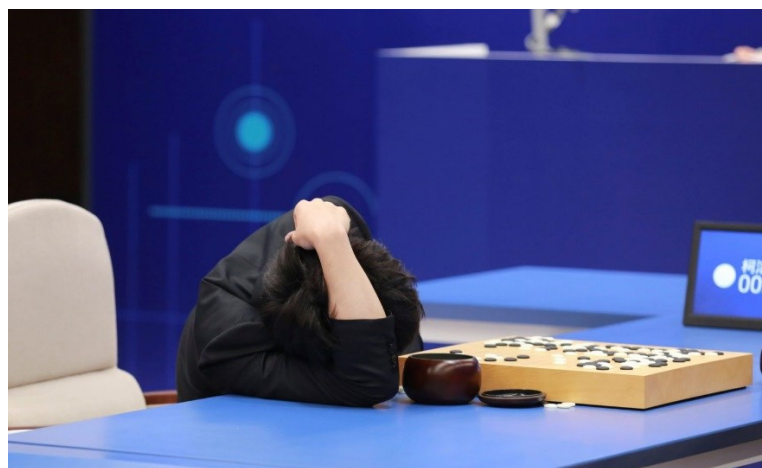
May 11, 1997. Kasparov resigns the sixth game and loses the match.

People started thinking about chess computers very early on – Alan Turing, the father of computing, wrote a paper about the idea in 1953 – but it was a while before the computers started playing well. This resulted in some unfortunate predictions. The philosopher Hubert Dreyfus published a book in 1972 called *What Computers Can't Do*, where he argued that grandmaster-level chess was an example of a task that was impossible for a computer, even in principle. Dreyfus's reasoning wasn't as silly as it seems now. He looked at what human chess players did, and said that it wasn't a matter of following rules, but of using judgement and understanding: since computer programs can only follow rules and had no judgement or understanding, they can't play high level chess.

In fact, Dreyfus turned out to be wrong about chess requiring judgement and understanding. People play chess that way, because our brains are wired much better for judgement and understanding than for deep calculation, but as computer hardware got faster it turned out deep calculation was also a per-

fectly good way to play chess. The programmers found that every time the machine's hardware speed doubled, the program's Elo rating went up about 50 points. So for a while, they concentrated on building hardware that could calculate moves as quickly as possible. The culmination of this line of work was Deep Blue, the machine which won the famous match against Garry Kasparov in 1997. Some people said Deep Blue played "just by brute force", which wasn't really fair. The programmers put in some clever ideas. The "evaluation function" (the program's rough estimation of position quality in a position with no immediate tactics) was learned from looking at tens of thousands of master games. Also, when the machine was following its opening book, it thought about how good the players were whose moves it was copying, and was allowed to vary from them if it thought it had calculated a better line. But in the end, Deep Blue was the machine that first beat the World Chess Champion because it could calculate more quickly than any of the others, so "brute force" wasn't totally unreasonable either.

AlphaGo versus Lee Sedol and Ke Jie, 2016-2017



May 25, 2017. Ke Jie visibly shaken after losing the challenge match to AlphaGo.

Strategy game players hated to feel that they were inferior to computers, so they quickly switched over to explaining that chess was the wrong test. It just happened to be the case that chess was simple enough that it could be done by doing a large search. But other games, like Go, wouldn't crack that easily. Things happen much

more slowly in Go, there are far more possible moves at each turn, and the Dreyfus arguments about judgement and understanding got wheeled out again in a slightly different form. Here, Dreyfus seemed to have been right, at least up to a point: you couldn't play Go just by calculating, there was too much to calculate.

But in fact, Dreyfus was wrong, and in a much more interesting and fundamental way than had first appeared. As neural net programming made progress and the Deep Learning revolution started in the early years of the 21st century, it turned out that computers *could* in fact develop judgement and understanding. They didn't need to have their rules painstakingly programmed by human beings: a deep learning neural net in effect develops its own set of rules, by looking at data. The AlphaGo program learned to play by watching master games, then by playing more games against itself and learning from them. Deep Blue had only learned to optimize an evaluation function which had been constructed by people, but AlphaGo went much further. It learned both the "evaluation function", this time more or less on its own, and also the "move generation function", the rules it uses to choose the next move. So AlphaGo thinks in quite a human-like way. It looks at the position, and using its accumulated experience (you might as well call it "judgement") it immediately sees that one of a small number of moves is likely to be the right one. It calculates out a small number of continuations, and at the end of each one it uses its evaluation function (more "judgement") to estimate how well it will be doing if it reaches that position. Then based on those carefully focussed calculations, it makes its choice.

The hard part is putting in the "judgement", which comes from the deep learning. The Deep Mind team, who are world leaders in neural net technology, were able to solve this extremely difficult problem and advance computer Go from weak master level to World Champion level. Last year, AlphaGo beat Lee Sedol, one of the world's three top players, by a decisive 4-1 score. It has

just beaten Ke Jie, the undisputed top player, by a clean sweep.

?? versus ??, 20??

Well: is bridge next? We can of course take the Dreyfus line and say that bridge is different because, unlike chess and Go, it requires *rea*/human judgement and understanding. But given what's happened so far, this seems optimistic. From the point of view of the AI engineer, the thing that makes Bridge hard is that each player has only partial information, so the search space includes all the possible distributions of the unknown cards. That means a lot more to think about. But as we saw with Go, a very large search space doesn't mean that machines can't do it.

There have been a couple of false starts. GIB, which every bridge player knows, was supposed to become the world's best bridge player a little after the Deep Blue breakthrough. GIB can basically do double-dummy analysis perfectly. It handles partial information by generating a hundred or so layouts that fit what it already knows, doing double-dummy on all of them, and then picking the choice which works in the largest number of layouts. It does bidding by using rules that tell it what the allowed bids are in a given situation, generating layouts that fit the bidding, then again making the choice that works in most layouts.

As GIB's inventor Matthew Ginsberg discovered, this doesn't give you more than a strong amateur player. But if you applied deep learning methods and the same kind of hardware as AlphaGo uses (it runs on a network containing hundreds of processors), I think you would see a huge increase in strength. There are plenty of online hand records to train the neural nets. The "move generation function" would be one net, which looks at the current situation and gives you the plausible candidates for next bid or play. The "evaluation function" would be another net, which looks at a layout and estimates how likely each contract is with single-dummy play – basing everything on artificial double-dummy play is one of the reasons why GIB's judgement has never been that great. If you have enough

processors to use, you wouldn't just be limited to creating a hundred layouts to model what you don't know. You could create more layouts to model the other player's uncertainties too, and in effect think about what they are thinking.

Of course, this sketch is simplistic. Building a world-class bridge AI would probably be a big software project that required dozens of person-years of expert effort. But all the pieces now seem to be there. It took 54 years to get from Turing's initial paper on computer chess to Deep Blue, and it took another 20 years to get from Deep Blue to AlphaGo. My guess is that it will take significantly less than 20 years to get to the point where a deep learning system will beat the best human bridge players. It's mainly a question of finding someone who has a strong enough desire to make it happen and enough money to pay for the work. Well: it isn't hard to think of a person who's very rich, has access to hundreds of highly talented AI experts, and likes bridge. I'm starting to wonder why this hasn't already happened.



What might happen to the bridge world, if a world-class bridge AI emerges? Looking at what's happened in chess, it probably would be more good than bad. Since everyone who can afford a basic laptop now has access to a world-class chess player, chess has taken off in many countries where the game was hardly played before. All grandmaster chess tournaments are now broadcast online with reliable real-time computer commentary, so amateurs can follow what's going on. And, a development that might interest bridge players, chess AIs are good at unmasking cheats. Since the machines know what the right move is in

most positions, they can spot when someone is playing too well and give statistically significant evidence that something funny is going on. The US chess master and computer expert Ken Regan has been a pioneer in this field.

In fact, when you think more about it, a strong AI might be exactly what bridge needs...

More about neural nets and deep learning



We were going to say that neural nets and deep learning are a highly technical subject that's impossible to explain in a few sentences. Luckily we have Randall Munroe's xkcd strip. He's pretty much nailed it.

Neural nets have been around for a long time. An early success, back in the 90s, was Neurogammon, a neural net backgammon program that became a world-class player. But other things didn't immediately work so well, and neural nets went out of fashion for a while, except in the field of image analysis. About fifteen years ago, people found solutions to some technical problems that had been holding up progress, and then things really took off. Google played a large part in making this happen, and they now use neural nets with deep learning for most of their core business. In particular, it's given them very strong performance in machine translation (Google Translate), speech recognition (voice search) and image recognition (Google inverse image search). AI-

phaGo shows that they're still just starting to exploit this new technology. Another recent success is lip reading. A few years ago, most AI experts were saying that the famous scene from *2001* would be science-fiction for the foreseeable future. It turned out they were too pessimistic.



2023 61st

The Numbers Game - obvious trends

	Pairs					Teams			
	Open	Seniors	Intermediate	Swiss Pairs	Total	Open	Seniors	Under 1500	Total
			Intermediate					Intermediate	
			Restricted	Restricted					
Novice	Novice								
2006	324	98	156		578	244	56	86	386
2007	297	91	180		568	243	45	103	391
2008	332	104	162		598	274	48	96	418
2009	284	106	180		570	246	46	96	388
2010	314	102	204		620	214	44	138	396
2011	304	98	292		694	240	46	150	436
2012	264	94	282		640	220	46	138	404
2013	194	88	308	242	832	200	52	174	426
2014	198	70	312	296	876	196	46	184	426
2015	198	52	328	320	898	208	36	192	436
2016	184	52	350	350	936	206	34	216	456
2017	186	48	326	470	1030	214	40	228	482
2018	190	56	352	448	1046	226	36	202	464
2019	201	35	378	406	1020	212	20	234	466
2020	228	0	396	408	1032	236	0	232	468
2022	108	0	192	162	462	70	0	138	208
2023	194	0	268	310	772	144	0	192	336

Problem 5by **Ron Klinger****What do you do?***South deals, nil vulnerable**North*

♠ Q 5
 ♥ J 10 8 4
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ K Q 6 5 4

West

♠ K 9 8 7 4
 ♥ K
 ♦ A 9 7
 ♣ J 8 7 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1NT (1)
2♠	3♠	pass	3NT
all pass			

(1) 15-17

West leads ♠4: queen – three – two. Declarer plays dummy's ♥J: six – two – king. How would you continue as West?

*Solution overleaf***Want to improve your bridge results?**

Then visit:

The Real Deal Workout*with Ron Klinger*

5 Bridge Questions (bidding, leads, declarer play, defence) and their solutions per week. By subscription. For details, please go to the www.ronklingerbridge.com website..

Talent recognised

Visiting German women's star Daniela van Arnim certainly impressed two country Victorian lads Arthur Robbins - Gary Ridgway.

They played Daniela in Round 6 of the Monday Butler Swiss Pairs. Daniela is playing here with Geeske Joel, currently a New Zealand resident.

The pair were third NS in the event.

**Board 21***Dealer N**Vul N-S*

♠ K75

♥ K9

♦ JT643

♣ KT4

♠ 962

♥ J752

♦ 8

♣ AQJ83

♠ 4

♥ AQT863

♦ KQ52

♣ 97



♠ AQJT83

♥ 4

♦ A97

♣ 652

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Ridgway</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>Robbins</i>	<i>Joel</i>
	pass	1♥	1♠
1NT	2♥	dbl	3♣
pass	4♠	all pass	

The two women brushed aside their opponents. Von Arnim started with a 2♥ cuebid, and when Robbins doubled to show an extra heart, Joel's hand looked better. She bid a 3♣ help suit trial, and von Arnim was happy to oblige, jumping to the spade game.

Daniella has won two Venice Cups, 1995 and 2001, and players worldwide still remember her famous partnership with Sabine Auken.

Geeske, while German born, has lived in Toronto and California, and as well as bridge loves Leonbergers, a big brown German dog breed.




Geeske and Daniela

What do you do?**Solution to Question 5****Switch or continue?**

This deal comes from the round-robin 1 match between Australia and New Zealand at the 2011 Asia-Pacific Women's Teams:

South deals, nil vulnerable

<p>♠ Q 5 ♥ J 10 8 4 ♦ Q 5 ♣ K Q 6 5 4</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 3 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ K J 8 6 4 ♣ 9 3</p>	
<p>♠ K 9 8 7 4 ♥ K ♦ A 9 7 ♣ J 8 7 2</p>	<p>♠ A J 2 ♥ A Q 5 3 2 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ A 10</p>	

After the auction given, South was in 3NT, but we would all rather be in 4♥. West led ♠4 and dummy's ♠Q held. After ♥J to West's ♥K, West switched to ♦7: queen – king – two.

East might have wondered why South was ducking if South had ♦A. Had East continued diamonds, 3NT would be two down. Instead, East returned ♠10. South grabbed ♠A and took nine tricks for +400.

No doubt East thought West had led ♦7 from ♦A-7 to put East on lead for a spade return.

West could have saved the day. South's failure to tackle clubs was ominous. It looked as though South would have three clubs, two spades and four hearts, assuming an accurate count card in hearts from East. In that case only 4+ diamond tricks would beat 3NT. To prevent partner from error, play ♦A and a second diamond.



Sue Lusk - Viv Woods, 1st Weekend Swiss Pairs



IT'S GREAT TO BE TRAVELLING AGAIN!

Come and see us at the TBIB kiosk at the Gold Coast Congress from Monday 20th till Friday 24th February.

The ABF Annual Multi-Trip insurance policy for 2023 commences on 1st March 2023 so if you plan on taking an international trip or two this year or just travelling around Australia, talk to us about your travel insurance needs.

The TBIB Lucky Prize Wheel is back!!

Fill out the entry form on your table and drop it in to us at the TBIB kiosk and win!

The Colombo Connection



Visitors from Sri Lanka, Enaksha Perera, Lalith Ganlath, Rex Perera and Lucky Fernandez

I spoke to Enaksha, who was playing in the 1-500 Teams today. She has never played in Australia before, but partner Rex was on the Gold Coast for the 2018 Commonwealth Nations event.

The team has been treated with kindness during their visit. Rex confirmed there is a large bridge playing population in Colombo, the capital, where the team comes from. Despite two Pereras in the team, they are not related. Rex owns his own bridge club - Vajira Bridge Center - housed in his own home. Table money is voluntary and there is no membership fee.

This is only the second congress Enaksha has played in (the first was the HCL event in India). She is not used to written bidding, as bidding boxes are in use at the club.



Vajira Bridge Center



Robert Olander, Eliza Hemphill, Rick Webster, Lily Manlapig, Novice teams



BOOKS TO CLUBS

We stock teaching books for beginners from the following Australian bridge teachers:

Emma Barnes
Derrick Browne
Joan Butts
Ron Klinger
Paul Marston

Discount is 35% plus postage.

We also stock the full range of Audrey Grant books plus Eddie Kantar. We offer 30% plus postage for overseas authors.

Just phone or email and we will mail the same day.

Website: www.bridgegear.com

Contact Paul 0408 888 085

Email: paul@bridgegear.com



All Celebrity Speakers will now be located upstairs opposite Administration office.

Min \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge (free for Youth)

Wednesday 22nd 9.00am –
9.45am Paul Marston
Fit matters – do not hide your minors



I will do my best to convince you about one convention you should play, and one you should avoid.
Paul Marston has won more than 50 open national titles and his books have sold more than 500,000 copies.



Full house

WAKE UP AUSTRALIA! AND NEW ZEALAND!

Australia and New Zealand are the only two countries in the world that do NOT use bidding boxes.

Bidding pads are expensive. I spoke with a club recently that spends \$1000 a year on bidding pads. For the same \$1000 they could buy 20 sets of bidding boxes and have no more expense for at least 7 or 8 years.

Bidding pads cause waste and are less fun than bidding boxes. Plus no feebly written bids or full stops.

Our bidding boxes are a modern, streamlined design and no left handed bidding cards. Our 100% plastic bid cards are the same for RH and LH players.



To see a demo, click below:

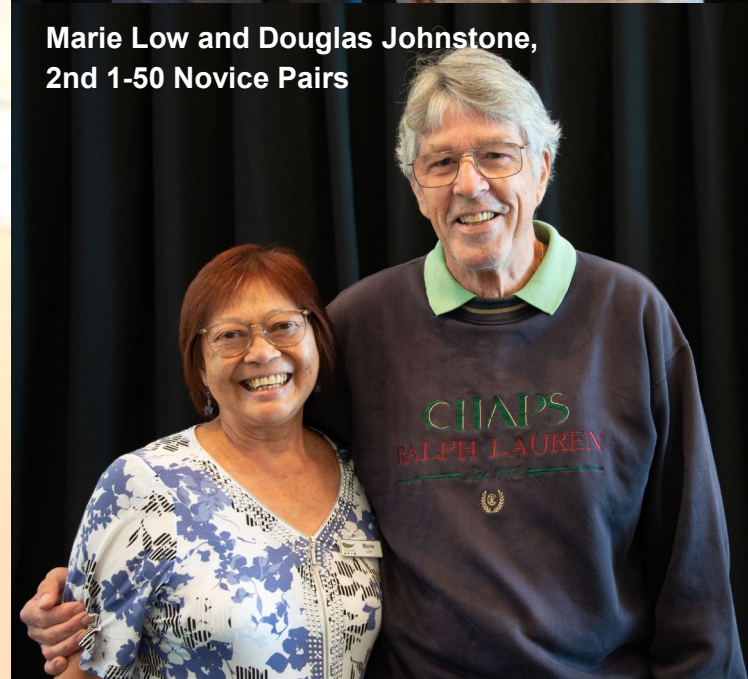
<https://youtu.be/BlwvbqC9Hm0s://youtu.be/BlwvbqC9Hm>

\$59.95 set of 4 with quantity discount for clubs down to **\$50** per set.

Choice of green, red, or royal blue.



Stella and Daria, still on a natural high



Marie Low and Douglas Johnstone, 2nd 1-50 Novice Pairs



**Te Aroha Bridge Club players. Te Aroha means "the love"
The rural town is in the Waikato region of New Zealand.**



The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Bridge Club celebrate being together. Thanks Penny Blankfield!



There are many great problems if you care to go over the hand records when you play, often via the deep finesse analysis box.

Deep Finesse Problem 5

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

	♠	♥	♦	NT
N	-	4	5	-
S	-	4	6	-
E	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-

To your surprise you see South can make 6♥. Try it on a spade lead.

Just a matter of timing you might say. Yes exactly.

Answer tomorrow in bulletin 6.

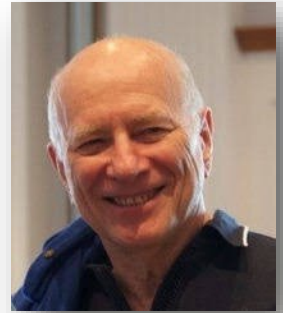
To go to Paul Lavings website with thousands of books not only on bridge, click [here](#).

For giftware with postage capped at \$9, click [here](#).

What would you do?

by Ron Klinger

An indiscretion



Question 5

West deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♠ (1)	pass	4♠	4NT (2)
pass	?		

(1). Weak two

(2). Freak two-suiter

What would you do as North with:

♠Q53, ♥9876, ♦AK76, ♣K8

Wish to come on a bridge cruise with Ron and Suzie Klinger in 2024?

Bridge class with Ron in the mornings and duplicate in the afternoons (except when in port).

Please contact Suzie via 0411 229 705 or suzie@ronklingerbridge.com for email.



Sebastian Langdon MacMillan



IN CLUB

ONLINE

PLAYING BRIDGE TOGETHER



What would you do? by Ron Klinger**Pessimist or optimist?****Solution to Question 5**

The deal arose in the final of the 2013 Gold Coast Teams:

West deals, NS vulnerable

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

North has a great hand as North might have had almost nothing. As South is prepared to play at the five-level opposite a possibly useless hand, North is far too good to settle just for game.

At one table, North bid 5NT! (two places to play), double by East, 6♣ by South, 6♦ North, 6♥ South, all pass.

Declarer made 12 tricks, +1430.

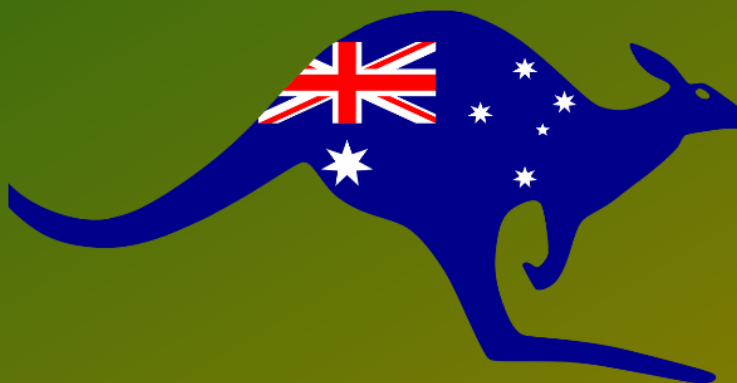
At the other table West opened 2♦ multi, East bid 2♥, pass or correct, then 3♣ by South, 3NT North, 4♥ South, 5♥ North, all pass, 13 IMPs away.



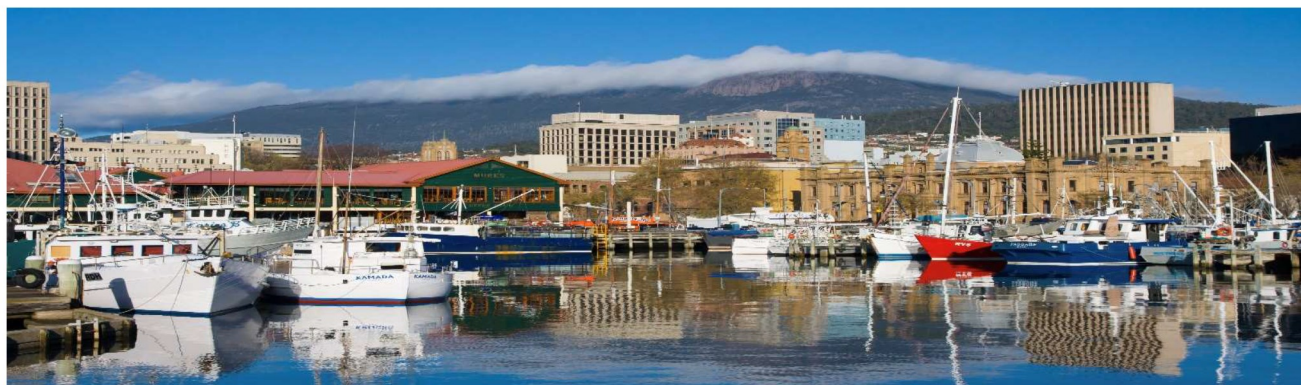
Gerald Schaaf, Staff

Welcome to StepBridge Australia

- ABF Affiliated Club.
- For new players joining StepBridge, we offer 250 free participation points (game credits).
- Play bridge with real people online. No robots allowed!
- Feel at home in a friendly and controlled environment.
- Play daily duplicate bridge sessions.
We offer Novice, Restricted & Open sessions.
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- Organise club sessions exclusively for members of your own local bridge club.
- We welcome new players and invite you to join us.
Go to the Registration button to sign up.
- Available for Windows, Mac OS X, iPad, Android and every modern browser.



TASMANIAN FESTIVAL of BRIDGE



MyState Bank Arena, Glenorchy

Thu 23rd - Sun 26th March 2023

Thursday/Friday

TFoB Restricted Swiss Pairs
 Australian Mixed Swiss Pairs – PQP event
 Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs

Saturday/Sunday

TBIB Australian Swiss Pairs – PQP event

Sunday

TFoB Rookie Swiss Pairs for players with < 25 MPs

NEW

Saturday Evening Dinner

Bookings by 20th March essential

NEW

Entries now open on myabf.com.au

or for entries and other enquiries contact

Entries Co-ordinator: hugh.grosvenor@gmail.com 0447 044 141

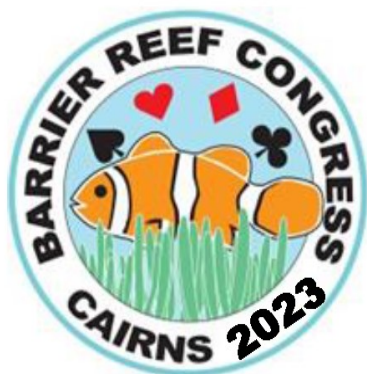
or Event Organiser

Katherine Marsden kmarsden26@gmail.com 0418 135 618



Tasmanian Bridge Association
www.tasbridge.com.au





27th Barrier Reef Congress

Cairns Colonial Club

April 28 – May 1, 2023

Chief Director: Jan Peach

An ABF Gold Point Event

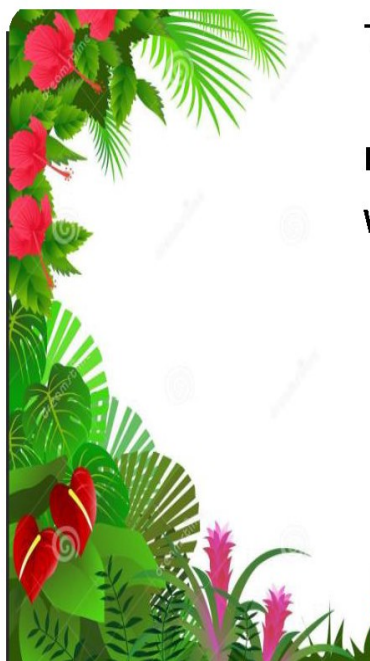
Swiss Teams (Open and Barrier Reef 300)
Butler Swiss Pairs (Open, Restricted and Novice)

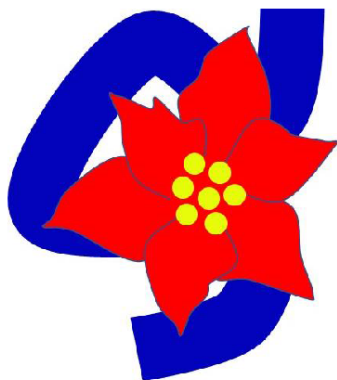
Tournament Organisers: William van Bakel 0414 430 145

Joan Campbell 0467 669 239

E-Mail: brc@cairnsbridgeclub.org.au

Web: www.qldbridge.com/brc





RIVER CITY GOLD MIXED PAIRS 2023

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 27th & Sunday 28th May

9.30 am start both days

All ENTRIES and PAYMENTS on



\$150 per entry

Chief Director: Alan Gibson

Tournament Organiser: Janet Lovell

E: tbccompetitions@gmail.com T: 0409 387 527

The event is subject to the current health requirements and guidelines
as issued by Queensland Health, ABF, QBA and the Toowong Bridge Club.

- 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

LUNCH INCLUDED
(Please advise beforehand if gluten free)

