

61<sup>ST</sup> International  
**2023 GOLD COAST  
BRIDGE CONGRESS**  
**BULLETIN 6**

**YOUR DAILY  
BULLETIN**

Electronic only and  
a link sent daily

Wednesday 22 February

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

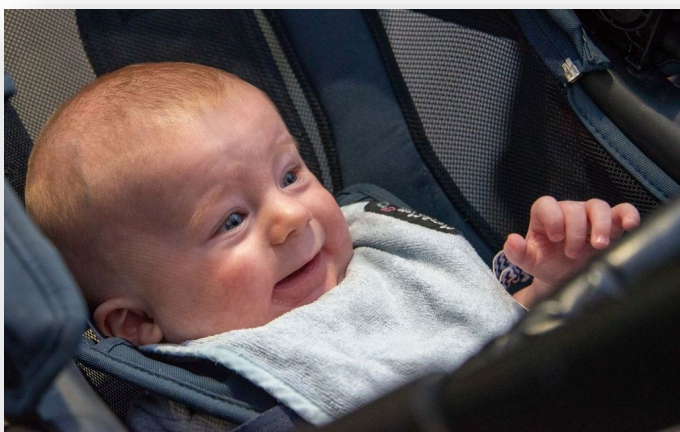
**Names please**

Ed: We would dearly love to feature all and sundry in the bulletin, but this is just not possible. However, if you make sure the photographer collects your name and what you featured in, there is a higher chance of you being featured. Enjoy the parade of Mad Hatters in today's bulletin!

**Top class photography**

Anne Russell has been working tirelessly to bring you quality photos. In fact, behind the scenes workers are to be applauded for their attention to anything you, the public face of bridge, need.

Who can resist a baby photo, here the handsome George, son of Susan Humphrey - Liam Milne.



**Addition to bio**

I failed to mention that Daniela von Arnim, visiting on the World Bridge Tour is 16th World Bridge Series mixed teams champion:

**Gold:** FERM: Christina Lund Madsen (Denmark), Daniela von Arnim (Germany), Simon de Wijs (The Netherlands), Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver (Switzerland), Barbara Ferm (USA).

**Tables at  
Wednesday  
evening  
4419  
2757 in 2022**



Winners Intermediate A 2023, Annie Pilcher - Camilla Boyd

**Collect your prizes**

Don't forget to collect your prizes for the Mad Hatters Parade from the Administration office. There were many fantastic entries, and we appreciate the effort participants put into their creations.

Time now to start planning for 2024: Sports!



## GC Teams Qualifying 4

by Barry Rigal

## Have you discussed...?

I sat down to watch the (not-so) latest of germ warfare as wielded by New Zealanders Tom Jacob and Brian Mace. They were resurrecting a partnership from 20+ years ago and their system (Bondage) had a distinct flavour of Little Major. The minor openings showed the linked major, 1♥ showed clubs (though maybe only three) 1♠ was 8-11 with spades and 1NT was strong or a diamond single-suiter.

By contrast, Phil Markey and Andrew Spooner's relatively natural but random openers were normal indeed. And few people have used the words 'Markey' and 'normal' in the same sentence before.

As if to disprove the theory that the New Zealanders would be in your face on every auction...

**Board 15** ♠ AK64

*Dealer S* ♥ 543

*Vul N-S* ♦ A72

♣ KT9

♠ T

♥ KQJ62

♦ KQ985

♣ A6

♠ J85

♥ AT987

♦ J64

♣ 82

♠ Q9732

♥

♦ T3

♣ QJ7543

Mace apparently had no opening bid for the South cards, and his partnership got blown out of the water after an initial pass. Markey, West opened 1♥ and Jacob did not double, knowing his partner didn't have spades unless he had a bust. Spooner raised to game and NS were done. -450 was not much of a result with 4♠ making five the other

way. In the other room they found their way to the spade game, making 11 tricks for 650 and a massive 15 IMP swing.

On the next deal it was Jacob's turn to go quietly again. With a 5-3-1-4 14-count he overcalled 1♠ over 1♦ and heard a negative double to his left and 2♦ to his right, he chose discretion and passed out 2♦, conceding 110 when his side had play for the three-level (at least) in either hearts or clubs.

It wasn't all one-way traffic on the underbidding, though.

**Board 17** ♠ J432

*Dealer N* ♥ 652

*Vul None* ♦ 74

♣ K765

♠ KQ86

♥ AQ4

♦ AQJ95

♣ 9

♠ 975

♥ KJT3

♦ K63

♣ 842

♠ AT

♥ 987

♦ T82

♣ AQJT3

*Markey Jacob Spooner Mace*

*West North East South*

pass pass 1♥(1) dbl

pass 2♥ Pass 3♦

all pass

(1)Clubs, 11+

Spooner's pass of 3♦ looks super-saturated (OK, very wet if you prefer) but had he raised to 4♦ I assume Markey would have bid 4♥ -- definitely the best game today. The Editors were discussing whether the 2♥ call should show values (or even five hearts/four good ones) because one could pass 1♥x. Worth discussing! With 4♥ bid and made at the other table that was 7 IMPs in the other direction.

The underbidding continued – though this time there was so much blame to throw around that you can apportion it however you want and there will still be plenty left over?

Is the auction

1♣ (pass) 1♥ showing spades: 2♥ (Michaels)

Pass

3♣: 3♦ – Pass ??

forcing?

This was what happened on board 18:

<b>Board 18</b>	♠ A4	
<i>Dealer E</i>	♥ JT543	
<i>Vul N-S</i>	♦ 4	
	♣ AQ542	
♠ KQT93		♠ 5
♥ AQ		♥ K872
♦ AKJ952		♦ Q83
♣ --		♣ KJ963
	♠ J8762	
	♥ 96	
	♦ T76	
	♣ T87	

Forcing, encouraging, or signoff? Spooner didn't know and might well have passed even if it were forcing, since he had opened in first seat favourable with a 1-4-3-5 horrible aceless 10-count.

When he passed, his partner muttered something to the effect that he thought it was forcing. Fair enough, but would you expect 6♦ to be a spread facing: ♠KQ109x, ♥AQ, ♦AKJxxx? A lesser man than Markey might have bid 6♦ at his second turn – especially if 3♦ might be passable.

Of course 6♦ is far from cold after a trump lead. Half the field bid slam, two thirds of them received an untesting defence, in total one third of the pairs in 6♦ didn't bring home the slam.

In the other room 6♦ was easy on the lead of the ♠A. but as you can see if you get a heart lead and win the ace, you might then lead the ♠K from hand. Now a trump shift gives declarer an unenviable guess. You win in hand and play ♠Q and ruff a spade. When the 5-2 break comes to light you can play for hearts to break 4-3 or squeeze North in hearts and clubs by ruffing clubs to hand and running trumps.

By contrast, Finn Kolesnik in another match received a heart lead against 6♦ and put up dummy's king to lead a spade to the 10. From here on in there was no defence. He could win a trump return and simply ruff two spades in dummy. Nicely done! If you assume the defenders will never duck the ♠A when you lead the singleton from dummy this is a very effective line.

Ware and Thomson then bid two slams, one cold and making for a 13 IMP pick-up, one on a failing finesse for 13 out. Spooner struck a blow for his side (while sickening your reporter) by overcalling 2♥ over 1♠ at unfavourable vulnerability on a 2-5-4-2 ten-count including the J10875 of hearts. That got him to 4♥ whereas they played partscore in the other room, making when neither hearts nor diamonds divided unfavourably.

And finally, for all you fans of light openers, Spooner was faced with a 2♥ opener (majors 0-8) at favourable. This time he knew to pass with his balanced 3-3-3-4 19-count since while the



range for the call was 0-8 literally any hand with 4-4 in the majors would open here.

This was the full story:

<b>Board 28</b>	♠ 832	
<i>Dealer W</i>	♥ A76	
<i>Vul N-S</i>	♦ 543	
	♣ KQJ7	
♠ Q964		♠ AKT
♥ Q9432		♥ J85
♦ Q962		♦ AKT
♣ ..		♣ A865
	♠ J75	
	♥ KT	
	♦ J87	
	♣ T9432	

When partner turned up with a 4-5-0-4 six count the fact that 5♥ was on the trump guess probably won't leave either player anything less than 100% convinced of the efficacy of their methods...but the unbiased spectator may have other opinions.



Barry Rigal has been playing in STERN

## Gold Coast

### Round 5 Teams Qualifier

<b>Board 1</b>	♠ JT76432	
<i>Dealer N</i>	♥ Q8	
<i>Vul None</i>	♦ T	
	♣ Q85	
♠ Q9		♠ K85
♥ A9632		♥ K
♦ KQJ		♦ A9875432
♣ 974		♣ J
	♠ A	
	♥ JT754	
	♦ 6	
	♣ AKT632	

At our table I'm not sure I can criticize our opponents' decision no matter how unsuccessful it was. David Stern (throwing caution to the winds) risked a 2♦ multi. Bloom overcalled 3♦ and Bilski bid 3NT. After a spade lead and a low club shift the defence collected +150.

Our teammates reached 5♦ on a top club lead and that meant 11 tricks could no longer be prevented. Only two table in the open section defeated 5♦. I believe. Alan Watson and Bernard Waters were one, Marshal Lewis and Ed Levy the other NS pair. Each South had bid clubs and got co-operation. Each led the ♠A and underled in clubs for the spade ruff. Bravo!



Visitor Marshall Lewis at left

**Board 5** ♠ Q654  
 Dealer N ♥ A983  
 Vul N-S ♦ 752  
 ♣ 96

♠ JT8  
 ♥ Q76  
 ♦ AK94  
 ♣ AJ4

♠ K97  
 ♥ JT4  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ KT8752

♠ A32  
 ♥ K52  
 ♦ QJT83  
 ♣ Q3

**Board 11** ♠ A84  
 Dealer S ♥ 7  
 Vul None ♦ A7643  
 ♣ QJT7

♠ 9763  
 ♥ 832  
 ♦ QJ  
 ♣ K642

♠ QJ5  
 ♥ KJ4  
 ♦ KT982  
 ♣ 95

♠ KT2  
 ♥ AQT965  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ A83

At our table the final contract was 1NT by West; after a diamond lead declarer played safe by running the ♣J on the second round and emerged with +90.

Robert Grynberg played 3NT when East invited game after a 1NT overcall, by transferring to clubs and hearing 2NT as an acceptance of clubs. The opening diamond lead ran to the 10 and king.

Declarer now played the ♣A and the ♣J to the king. When the queen fell, he passed the heart jack to North. A diamond continuation left him comfortable for nine tricks. And there is of course no defence as the cards lie. But I think North should shift to a spade at trick five -- switch the spade jack from West to South to see why. Indeed, one could make a case for shifting to the ♠Q perhaps?

I often find myself out in left field, so I'm not going to defend my choice of action here, other than to raise a question for general consideration.

As South you open 1♥ and hear a natural 1NT response. You bid 2♥ and hear 2NT. What now?

My view is that if hearts play for one loser you will surely make 4♥, if for two losers, much depends on whether the opponents can get diamonds or spades going in time. My guess is yes. So, one should bid 4♥ here not 3NT.

Whether that is right or wrong in theory, in practice 4♥ was easy. Of course you win West's diamond lead and play a heart to the queen not ten. After all the suit is a guess if it is 3-3, and if it is 4-2 with a doubleton honour onside all plays work. If there is a doubleton honour offside the only holding you can pick up is Jx. But you must lead to the queen not 10.

3NT on the ♦2 lead would have been hugely frustrating for the defence (the ♦10 lead left the suit blocked).

But after the ♦2 lead declarer wins the third diamond and takes the club finesse. West ducks, wins the second and shifts to a spade. Declarer wins in dummy, unblocks clubs and crosses to the ♠A to cash the fourth club, triple-squeezing East!



Julia Caldwell and David Reid, 1st 0-50 MPs Tuesday

## GC Teams Qualifying 6

## Blood all over the carpet

With the match-score in the 14-board set the score was 70-55 so maybe the bridge wasn't perfect...I'm not going to worry about the penalties of 800 and 1400 – but there were also quite a few deals with a lot of play.

<b>Board 15</b>	♠ AT	
<i>Dealer S</i>	♥ A732	
<i>Vul N-S</i>	♦ Q72	
	♣ AQ75	
♠ J85		♠ K964
♥ QT84		♥ J6
♦ 843		♦ A95
♣ T43		♣ KJ96
	♠ Q732	
	♥ K95	
	♦ KJT6	
	♣ 82	

You play 3NT after a Stayman auction. A club lead round to your queen seems like a decent start.

You drive out the diamond ace (East holding up till the third round) and win the third club. What now?

Levy decided to play for a 3-3 heart break, hoping for pressure in the ending. When he ducked a heart, West won and played back a spade and declarer now had to guess whether to run this or play for the heart break. Today neither of these would have worked.

I think it might have been better to win the heart king and cash the master diamond, pitching the club from hand. Then you can play ace and another heart. If the suit breaks you can claim, and if West has four hearts and the ♠K he will take his heart winners and be endplayed. That too would have failed. An alternative is to cash the ace then king of hearts before playing the diamond. If you form the opinion that the cards lie as they do, you can come to the ♠A and exit in clubs, taking the ♠Q at the death.

## GC Teams Qualifying 6

## Back from the brink...

When I sat down in mid-match to watch Ashton take on Evans, it was half-way through the match and Evans led 21-4. Things were just about to get better for them:

<b>Board 9</b>	♠ A9542	
<i>Dealer N</i>	♥ J9	
<i>Vul E-W</i>	♦ T42	
	♣ AQ8	
♠ T7		♠ K63
♥ KT654		♥ AQ872
♦ KJ853		♦ AQ76
♣ T		♣ J
	♠ QJ8	
	♥ 3	
	♦ 9	
	♣ K9765432	

<i>Patterson</i>	<i>v d Vlugt</i>	<i>Bugler</i>	<i>Hans</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♠	2♥	3♣
4♥	5♣	dbl	all pass

This is the sort of deal where fit jumps facing an overcall are hugely valuable. Had West been able to bid 4♦, EW would have known to bid on to 5♥, and that might also have helped in the defence to a higher contract. Whether or not you like the 5♣ call by North (hint: gag me with a spoon) it at least allowed his side to win the auction.

Against 5♣x the defenders led hearts and Hans eventually drew trumps and lost the spade finesse. As to whether this was a good or bad result, the only real indication is the datum (390 to EW. In the other room NS played 4♠x on a club lead. After that start declarer could win in dummy and pass ♠Q. The defenders could win and punch dummy, but declarer could ruff high, and the fall of ♠10 meant North had 10 tricks. If the defenders (for example) lead and continue a red suit eight

tricks appear to be the limit. 12 more IMPs to Evans put them up 33-4.

Going into the last three deals Evans still led by 28 – but devotees of classical music will remember Mozart’s classical joke – where the last three notes go horribly wrong. Alas for Evans it was hard to see the funny side of these three deals.

<b>Board 12</b>	♠ AJ32
<i>Dealer W</i>	♥ KQ4
<i>Vul N-S</i>	♦ K75
	♣ T64
♠ T8764	♠ --
♥ AJT53	♥ 9876
♦ 6	♦ J98432
♣ J2	♣ AK7
	♠ KQ95
	♥ 2
	♦ AQT
	♣ Q9853

<i>Patterson</i>	<i>v d Vlugt</i>	<i>Bugler</i>	<i>Hans</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2♦ <sup>1</sup>	all pass		

(1) Weak both majors

East decided on the path of least resistance here, which given that his side had very good play for 4♥, wasn’t wise.

After a club lead from North, declarer guessed to duck, and Hans won his queen and played spades. The defenders got their hearts and led spades each time, in the end scoring three plain tricks and four trump tricks for down two.

Whether 2♦ made or not hardly mattered though. In the other room the contract was 4♠x by South on the lead of the ♥A. Declarer misguessed clubs and ran into a force, and ended up with six tricks. Ashton had 14 IMPs and were back in the game at 33-19.

<b>Board 13</b>	♠ 5	
<i>Dealer N</i>	♥ AKJT85	
<i>Vul Both</i>	♦ 7	
	♣ J9752	
♠ KQJT9		♠ A74
♥ 763		♥ 42
♦ KT5		♦ J842
♣ Q4		♣ A863
	♠ 8632	
	♥ Q9	
	♦ AQ963	
	♣ KT	

Van der Vlugt opened 4♥ and played there. The defenders led a top spade and shifted to diamonds. Declarer drew trumps and led a club to the king and a second club, claiming ten tricks. In the other room EW bought the hand after a lower preempt by North in 3♠. The defenders tried three rounds of hearts, ruffed with the ace, and now with the defenders’ communications cut West can draw trumps and lead the ♦K. Eventually the defenders have to allow one of declarer’s minor-suit losers to get away. It was 33-32 now and one deal to go.

<b>Board 14</b>	♠ AQ982	
<i>Dealer E</i>	♥ --	
<i>Vul None</i>	♦ AQ98	
	♣ T752	
♠ 764		♠
♥ T962		♥ AKJ85
♦ J63		♦ KT742
♣ 943		♣ AK6
	♠ KJT53	
	♥ Q743	
	♦ 5	
	♣ QJ8	

<i>Patterson</i>	<i>v d Vlugt</i>	<i>Bugler</i>	<i>Hans</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♥	1♠
3♥	4♥	4♠	Pass
5♥	5♠	dbl	all pass

Both tables declared 5♠x on a heart lead. If trumps are not 3-0, you can make 11 tricks easily enough when clubs are friendly.

When you find the bad break you have to use a spade and a club entry to hand to ruff two more hearts. The ♦A will be your entry to the fourth club. You can take three tricks in the minors, three heart ruffs and five spades.

If you draw the trumps prematurely, that is your third ruff gone. I think the best order after ruffing the heart is to test trumps with the ace, then play a club. If East ducks you win, ruff a heart and play a second club. East can cash the second club and play a third heart but you can ruff and draw the trumps then go to the ♦A to take your pitch. When Hans brought home his game and the contract was down one in the other room Ashton had won the match 45-33.



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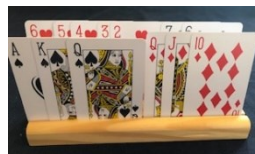
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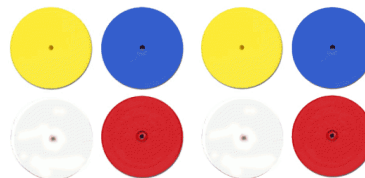
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**This pencil drawing of one of the intermediate players is by Lauren, one of our caddies.**



## 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>Thursday 23rd  <b>Burleigh Heads National Park.</b>                      Walking trails. Map below  <a href="https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/162/512/burleigh-head-webmap.pdf">https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/162/512/burleigh-head-webmap.pdf</a>                      The Paddock bakery for tea/lunch <a href="https://www.paddockbakery.com/">https://www.paddockbakery.com/</a></p>	<p><b>Burleigh Heads National Park</b> 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</p> <p><b>Paddock Bakery</b>                      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>	Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach	10.45am – 4:30pm Approx.	\$15 bus Lunches at own expense.
 <b>inherSHOES</b>	<p>Friday 24th  <b>Champagne and Nibbles</b></p>	<p>All welcome to <b>champagne and nibbles</b> 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>	Meeting at In-Her Shoes Oasis Shopping Centre, 8.15am		No cost
	<p>Fri 24th  <b>Aquaduck</b>  <a href="https://www.aquaduck.com.au/gold-coast-river-cruise/">https://www.aquaduck.com.au/gold-coast-river-cruise/</a></p>	<p><b>Aquaduck</b> 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</p>	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)
	<p>Other Options Harbour Town</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Harbour Town</b> have their own shuttle buses to and from the Convention Centre at 9.15am &amp; 10.30am, returning 2pm &amp; 5pm.                      VIP invitations to Harbour Town are available at the get together at apartment 3005, Air on Broadbeach.</p>			



<p>SkyPoint Observation Deck  <a href="https://www.skypoint.com.au/">https://www.skypoint.com.au/</a></p>	<p>SkyPoint <b>Observation Deck</b> 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.</p>			<p>\$29 pp one time entry</p>
<p>Any expressions of interest or pre-bookings would be very welcome.</p>	<p>Contacts:</p>	<p><a href="mailto:gcchospitality@qldbridge.com.au">gcchospitality@qldbridge.com.au</a></p>	<p>Bridge Companions</p>	
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## A good rule for penalty doubles

This article was anonymous, online.

Thanks to Barbara Travis former President of SABF for suggesting the article, which appeared in the March 2022 SABF Newsletter

The best bridge lesson I ever had was from Tony Glynne who said, "You're dummy a quarter of the time. You're declarer a quarter of the time. That means you're defending **half** the time. If you're not doubling, you're not getting enough matchpoints to win." Therefore, my partner and I decided to double for penalty much more often.

My only rule is: "You can't play this game scared." So don't be scared to double. However, many of our doubles went bad and I always had a problem determining when to double and when to keep bidding. A couple of years ago, I read a book by US champion Mel Colchamiro, which provided me with a wonderful guide for doubling.

Here's Mel's Rule of 9:

1. Take the level of the contract.
2. Add the number of cards you hold in the opponents' trump suit.
3. Add the number of honours you hold in the trump suit.
4. If it comes to 9 (or more), double.

It works most of the time, if you defend carefully. Try it. You'll like it.

*Editor: Here is more information, from Mel's website.*

He starts by stating that "Under the right circumstances, the partner of a takeout doubler can pass --- but only if he has sufficient length and strength in the opponents' suit that he thinks the contract can be beaten".

Mel's Rule of 9 is a simple guideline for making that decision:

1. Number of cards in the opponent's suit, plus
2. Number of honour cards in the opponent's suit (including the 10), plus
3. Level of contract If 9 or more, pass.  
If 8 or less, bid something.

This rule is not used to make a unilateral penalty double –

e.g.      1♣      pass      1♠      pass  
            4♠      pass      pass      dbl

If you double here, please **do not use** Mel's Rule of 9 to make a penalty double.

### What about points?

If you satisfy Mel's Rule of 9, there are three basic situations:

1. Besides being strong in their trump suit, you have solid outside points. The opponents are in big trouble!
2. Your hand is weak, not counting your strength in their trump suit, but it turns out partner has lots of points for the takeout double. You'll be ok.
3. Your hand is weak, not counting your strength in their trump suit, but partner is relatively weak and may have stretched to make

the takeout double. In this situation, you may be in trouble no matter what you do! If you pass, they may well make their contract; but if you bid, they may double you and you will be the one going down a million. Sometimes it is just best to pass and they may go down.

### Exceptions to the Rule of 9:

There are four exceptions to Mel's Rule of 9.

1. The Rule of 9 is **not** used to make unilateral penalty doubles.

**Example:** 1♥      pass      2♥      pass  
            4♥      pass      pass      dbl



This applies when you have two cards and two honours in the opponents' suit, or when you have three cards and three honours in the suit.

These are dangerous holdings: (a) KQ or KJ or QJ (b) QJ10 or KQJ

Your defensive prospects are overvalued, so treat them as if they were: (a) one honour and two cards (b) two honours and three cards

Example: 3♦ dbl pass ?

With ♠64, ♥QJ10, ♦854, ♣K8763 Rule of 9 says: three cards + three honours + three-level = 9, so pass

Exception says: three cards + two honours + three-level = 8, so bid 4♣.

**3. If you calculate Mel's Rule of 9 and come up one short (8), it is sometimes right to pass if you have at least two unexpected outside tricks.**

Example: 1♥ 2♦ pass pass  
dbl pass ?

With ♠AK, ♥5, ♦987642, ♣9863

Rule of 9 says:

6 cards + 0 honours + two-level = 8

Exception says: Pass, because you are one short and have two sure tricks ('surprise tricks'). (Also, you have 'nowhere to go'.)

4. The final exception occurs when the opponents open a game bid of four or higher. At this level, it is often correct to pass partner's double even if you don't satisfy Mel's Rule of 9.

Example: 4♥ dbl pass ?

Hand 1, ♠843, ♥532, ♦A742, ♣764

Hand 2, ♠7, ♥864, ♦AQ7643, ♣K63

On Hand 1, you should pass, even though your Rule of 9 count is only 7. The higher the level of the opponents' contract (and therefore your removal), the less important it is for you to be loaded in their suit to pass. To bid 5♦ you should have

solid prospects of making your contract. Your best chance for a plus score is to take four tricks in defence. Being able to make 11 tricks in diamonds is a very long shot.

On Hand 2, you have the same Rule of 9 count of 7, but you have a good chance of making 5♦, so bid it.

### Final Thought

The odds at IMPs (Teams or Butler Pairs scoring) are different! When the Rule of 9 decisions are close, it is always safer to pass partner's takeout double when the double does not 'put' the opponents in game.

(a). That is why it is ok to go for the penalty when thinking about letting them play in 1NTx, 2♣x or 2♦x

(b). But if the contract is 2♥x or higher you are at great risk! You have doubled them into game.

(c). And, when playing IMPs, you only want to remove partner's double of a game bid if you have good prospects of making your contract. Otherwise, take your chances on defence.



**Colchamiro, or Cappuccino if you're from Tassie**

Andrew Richman related this tale of woe to illustrate the theory in the previous article.”

Board 12, West deals, NS vulnerable

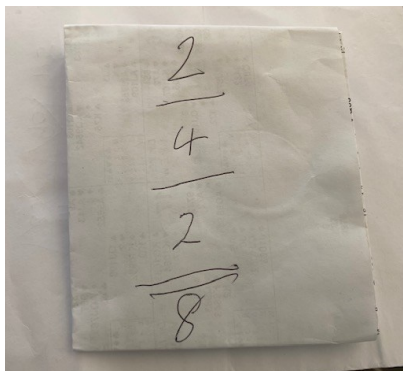
♠ A 10 6 5 2		
♥ 10		
♦ 9 4		
♣ A J 8 6 5		
♠ 9		♠ K Q 7 3
♥ A Q 5 4 3		♥ 9 7
♦ 10 7 6 3		♦ K Q 8 5
♣ 9 4 3		♣ K Q 7
	♠ J 8 4	
	♥ K J 8 6 2	
	♦ A J 2	
	♣ 10 2	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
pass	pass	1NT	pass
2♦ <sup>1</sup>	2♠	pass	pass
dbl	all pass		

all pass

1. Transfer

Andrew was clutching a piece of paper which read:



This sum of course echo Mel's Rule of 9:

1. Take the level of the contract.
2. Add the number of cards you hold in the opponents' trump suit.
3. Add the number of honours you hold in the trump suit.
4. If it comes to 9 (or more), double.

Guess whose score was the first one on the next page? And whose blame is it for the disaster, West's or East's?

The deal comes from the 2023 Canberra in Bloom Val & John Brockwell Mixed Teams.

Contract	Result	Score	Frequency
2 ♠ X by NS	+1	870	1
5 ♦ X by EW	-3	500	1
2 ♠ by NS	+1	140	1
2 ♥ by EW	-2	100	1
3NT by EW	-2	100	1
2 ♥ by EW	-1	50	1
3 ♠ by NS	-1	-100	2
2 ♠ by NS	-1	-100	1
3 ♠ by NS	-2	-200	1
2 ♠ by NS	-3	-300	1
2 ♠ X by NS	-2	-500	1



Frankston bridge group at dinner - with their system cards, of course!

**Question 6**  
**What do you do?**  
**by Ron Klinger**

*West deals, nil vulnerable*



*North*

- ♠ K Q J 4
- ♥ Q 10 7 3
- ♦ Q
- ♣ K Q J 4

*East*

- ♠ A 6 3 2
- ♥ 6
- ♦ K 9 5 2
- ♣ 10 7 6 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3♦	dbl	5♦	6♥

all pass

West starts with ♦A. Which card should East play?

*Solution overleaf*



Highly Recommended Colourful Characters Max Holewa, Diane Holewa, Kay Webber and Denise O'Regan

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](mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com) for email.

**First Hat Tricks: Tim Rigter, Charlotte Glass, Tyrel Glass, Rochelle van Heuven**



**What do you do?**  
**Solution to Question 6**  
**Make it clear**

*West deals, nil vulnerable*

	♠ K Q J 4		
	♥ Q 10 7 3		
	♦ Q		
	♣ K Q J 4		
♠ 9 8 5		♠ A 6 3 2	
♥ ---		♥ 6	
♦ A J 10 8 6 4 3		♦ K 9 5 2	
♣ 9 8 5		♣ 10 7 6 3	
	♠ 10 7		
	♥ A K J 9 8 5 4 2		
	♦ 7		
	♣ A 2		
West	North	East	South
3♦	dbl	5♦	6♥

all pass

West starts with ♦A. Which card should East play?

South's jump to 6♥ was eminently reasonable, but plain unlucky. The trouble is that the North hand is too good. Replace North's six points in spades with four points, ♠A, and 6♥ is laydown. South could reasonably expect North to have one ace among the points for the takeout double.

East needs to signal for West to switch to a spade. Without a spade at trick 2, South will make 6♥. The clearest way to send the message is for East to follow with ♦K. When partner leads an ace and dummy turns up with a singleton in the suit led, a suit-preference signal by third hand is sensible.

Highly Commended Red Thinking Caps,  
 Peter Wilson, Juliet Britten-Jones,  
 Ruth Hemmerling, Kate Hartley



**Solution to Deep Finesse Problem 5**

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

	♠	♥	♦	♣	NT
N	-	4	5	-	4
S	-	4	6	-	4
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.

Win ♠J (♠K), ♣A, club ruff, ♠A, club ruff, spade ruff, club ruff, spade ruff. Yes, you must ruff the good ♠K, the illusion is to cash ♠K. Now diamond finesse, ♦A, and a third diamond endplays West with only ♥K-J remaining.





## Bridge collectors take note

Collectors are born. In my backyard years I collected bottle tops, cigarette cards, and any and every set of cards from Weet-Bix or potato chip packs that were on offer. When I started playing bridge, I automatically collected bridge books. I've given away two large collections when I had to suddenly leave town, and now have one of the largest collections in the world.

The difference is that this collection is for sale, piece by piece on the internet ([www.bridgegear.com](http://www.bridgegear.com)). And I am well qualified to give advice on second hand bridge books; as a young bridge player, and even up to the present, I constantly read bridge books, so I have read many of them.

By 1996 the internet was building up steam. Thousands of items that had been hiding in attics and cellars for up to 100 years were flooding eBay. Previously rare books and memorabilia suddenly became common.

I was there. I agreed with a fellow bridge player in both the USA and UK that items I purchased on eBay be sent to them and mailed on to me in bulk to save postage.

I bought and I bought and I bought. My favourite era was art deco, the roaring twenties. A zany 10 years of brilliant colour, full of life.

By checking out bridge and whist items on eBay on a daily basis I quickly discovered that bridge was much different in its early days. The game



was not played at clubs, but in people's homes. In fact there were almost no clubs. And nearly everybody played bridge. It was frequently front page news. Bridge was indeed bigger than baseball.

Because nearly everybody played, many were very poor players. Maybe they played because their husband or wife or boyfriend or girlfriend played, or because it was the 'in' thing to do, but they played. The most common form of gathering

was four tables, playing a Howell movement, or an individual, or teams, or maybe just plain old rubber bridge.

Let me quickly tell you about trump indicators. They were devices made from wood, plastic, metal, or

even cardboard or paper that sat on the table to remind players what was trumps. Remember nearly everyone played bridge, so the weaker players needed to be constantly reminded what the trump suit was. There was keen competition between hostesses for the fanciest trump indicators, tablecloths and sets of four table numbers.

Collectors on eBay loved trump indicators, and they would often fetch over US\$1000, after a fierce bidding war. The boom on eBay ran parallel to the tech boom on the stock market and was just as out of control.

An Englishman named Ray Seldis led the charge. He was unstoppable. His house was filled with TIs, and he loved every one of them to death. One seller's auction was going slowly, so he added the words "Ray, where are you?" Ray joined the fray, and the TI sold to him for US\$900.

The problem for collectors was that the variety of TIs was endless. Many were mass produced in



factories and sold in department stores, but many more were home-made.



I was happier to pursue the more affordable (but less fashionable), equally interesting, sets of table numbers 1-4. Now over 10 years later I have over 1200 winning auctions to my name (which on eBay is pwll).



Whenever I travel, I put time aside to check out the antique and second hand book shops. New Zealand can be fruitful. In 2000 I was there to play in their Nationals,

and I put a day aside for fossicking.

I walked along a very long highway in Auckland dotted with antique shops. I went into one shop and antiques and memorabilia were littered everywhere. "Crikey," I thought, "This guy is messier than me". I asked the standard question, "Do you have anything with suit symbols on it, spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs?"

Silently he led me to the back of the shop and put his hand into a pile of goodies overflowing from a large table and pulled out a silver-plated trump indicator with a kiwi on top. Oh My Gosh. He wanted \$50NZ. On my return to Australia I sold the kiwi TI to Ray for £250 (\$600A), sight unseen.

One major problem committed collectors have is their spouse. That's why bachelors and spinsters make better collectors. Every time a new shipment of items arrived in a large mail bag my wife complained bitterly. So I have basically stopped collecting. The market has dried up anyway. All those attics and basements have been cleaned out.

My company, Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies, now runs the only stall at any and all

major bridge congresses in Australia. We cover the NOT, Surfers, The Spring Nationals, the ANC.

Anyone wishing to visit my shop/office in Figtree is welcome, even just to browse. My details are below, but please phone first:

PAUL LAVINGS BRIDGEGEAR

15a Outlook Drive

Figtree NSW 2525

( 0408 888 085)

Email: [paul@bridgegear.com](mailto:paul@bridgegear.com)

Visit our website: [www.bridgegear.com](http://www.bridgegear.com)



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 6**

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

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

South plays 4♠ on a ♠5 lead.

What must declarer do at trick two? If the lead is ♥Q what must declarer do?

Answer tomorrow in bulletin 7.

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 1***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](mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com) for email.



3rd: Balloon Man, Wayne Burrows



Celebrity Speaker today, Paul Marston

**ABF**   
**FOUNDATION**  
 Supporting the future of bridge

**What would you do?** by Ron Klinger**Pessimist or optimist?****Solution to Question 2**

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	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 5 3 2					
♦ 10					
♣ 10 7 2					
♠ ---					
♥ A Q J 10 4					
♦ Q 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.

It is true that ♥K could have been offside and that 6♥ might have failed, but on the bidding East was more likely to have ♥K. Pessimists are unlucky, optimists are lucky. For both, ♥K should be with East.



2nd Mad Hatters Tea Party, Magdeline Wong, Ilo Hellaby, Sue Kennard, Jo Neary



***The Chris Diment Memorial Congress***  
***Illawarra Bridge Association, Wollongong***  
**At Port Kembla Golf Club,**  
**30 Golf Place, Primbee, NSW 2002**  
***17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023***

Saturday Pairs, Sunday Teams



Director: Jeff Carberry

Convenor: Marie Pickering

Information: [pickering\\_marie@hotmail.com.au](mailto:pickering_marie@hotmail.com.au) or 0422375712

Online entry: [www.nswba.com.au/tourn/calendar.asp](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/calendar.asp)

Registration: **9.30 am** Saturday, **9am** Sunday

Entry fee: \$50 per player (pairs), \$50 per player (teams).

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA, with all players being subject to the NSWBA's Congress Disciplinary Regulations. The ABF has approved the issue of red masterpoints at level B4.

Please pay in advance by direct debit to:

**IBA BSB 814282 Acc# 31204318. Please include your ABF number in the payment reference.**

Lunch provided both days. Please make sure you bring your system card. Yellow systems and brown sticker conventions are not permitted. If for any reason the event becomes an on-line event, we will let you know.

## Prize money

Open Pairs: 1st \$240, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$120, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$60

Restricted, Novice and Youth pairs prizes will be awarded once numbers are known

Teams: 1<sup>st</sup> \$600, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$400, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$200

Restricted, Novice and Youth team prizes will be awarded once numbers are known

***Only one prize per pair/team per event***

## Getting there

Port Kembla Golf Club Wollongong is located 90 minutes south of Sydney and 15 minutes south of Wollongong.

Coming from the North, approach Wollongong via the M1 down Mt Ousley. (Watch out for the speed camera at the bottom.) Continue on the M1 until you come to the Northcliff Drive exit. Turn left and continue on Northcliff for approximately 6 km. Use the right 2 lanes to turn right onto King St/B65. Continue to follow B65 for 2.9 km, turn left into Golf Place. Port Kembla Golf club is on your right.

If you are coming from the south and unsure how to get there, please contact me on 0422375712.

## Wollongong

As a main regional centre in NSW, and home of the scenic Sea Cliff Bridge, there are many accommodation options around the city centre, which is a comfortable 15-minute drive to the venue. These range from B&Bs to motels and apartments.

Likewise, there is a generous assortment of dining options including clubs, restaurants, and some fine dining options.

Golf Place Inn, at 24 Golf Place, Primbee, is next door to the venue. Contact # (02) 42032609

Lakeside Inn, 140-146 Windang Road, Windang, is 1.2km from the venue. Contact # (02) 42032609 also.





# **Ballina Bridge Club Swiss Pairs Congress April 22 & 23, 2023**



**Play starts: Saturday 10am, Sunday 9.30am**

***Cash prizes in masterpoint divisions***

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA  
**Red Masterpoints at B4 Level**

Cross Imps Scoring  
Green, Blue & Red Systems only

**Cost: \$80 per Player, \$160 per Pair**

**Entries via NSWBA website**  
(+ check brochure uploaded there for more information)

***Entries close 6pm Saturday April 15***

**Tournament Director**  
Mark Miller

**Event Organiser**  
Marjorie Askew  
0459 023 907  
e: marjorie.askew@gmail.com

**Billets Coordinator**  
Liz Jeffery  
0414 492 110  
e: liznhow@gmail.com

All players are subject to the NSWBA's Congress Disciplinary Regulations.

**Ballina Bridge Club**  
13, North Creek Road, Ballina  
email: [bbclub@internode.on.net](mailto:bbclub@internode.on.net) Tel: 02 6681 5533  
Website: <https://ballinabridge.org.au>





## Join **ANDY HUNG's** **NOOSA BRIDGE HOLIDAY!**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 **BOOKED OUT**

**We are running repeat week Mon 15<sup>th</sup> – Sat 20<sup>th</sup> May – REGISTER NOW**



Andy Hung invites you to a relaxing getaway Bridge Holiday at the Ivory Palms Resort in Noosaville. There will be four fantastic lessons covering the dilemmas that we face on a regular basis at the bridge table! Other than bridge, there will be plenty of time to enjoy the warm temperatures and relax by the pool, go on a nature walk, or indulge in Noosa's great restaurants!

### The All-Inclusive Package:

- ♥ Five nights at the Ivory Palms Resort
- ♥ All bridge activities; professional seminars with a full set of notes, duplicate sessions, and hand analysis and discussion
- ♥ All meals including breakfast, afternoon tea, and dinners (except for one dinner where you are free!); from Monday lunch on arrival, to Saturday lunch (including wine and prize giving) prior to departure (*Your only expense will be the one dinner, drinks with dinner and personal items*)
- ♥ Farewell drinks with Friday lunch

**Pricing:** ♦ 1 bedroom: \$2199pp ♦ 2-bedroom: \$2099pp

*Non-bridge players welcome – cost is reduced by \$400*

### The Bridge:

- ♣ Professional bridge seminars with Andy
- ♣ Topic focus: Everything about Minor Suit Bidding
  - Diagnosing 3NT vs. 5minor, Inverted Minor Raises, Slam Bidding in a minor suit, and lots more
- ♣ Duplicate Bridge with Hand Analysis

### Contact, or for the full Brochure:

♦ **Andy Hung**  
 Email: [hung.andy.p@gmail.com](mailto:hung.andy.p@gmail.com)  
 Phone: 0425-101-094



## Bridge Holiday in **BUDAPEST** (Hungary) & **BRATISLAVA** (Slovakia)

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023** (11.5 Days 11 Nights)



Andy Hung's international bridge holidays have returned, and this time, it is in two new destinations of Budapest (capital of Hungary) and Bratislava (capital of Slovakia). Both cities are rich in the history and culture, and are easily accessible from anywhere in Europe.



This holiday starts in Budapest, and we will have our own private bus transfer to Bratislava. After our holiday, you can even extend it to Vienna which is only an hour away from Bratislava! There will be lots of tours on offer, and let's not forget about bridge!



### The All-Inclusive Package:

- ♥ 7 nights at a 4-star MGallery Hotel Nemzeti in the heart of Budapest, and 4 nights at 4-star Art Hotel William in the centre of Bratislava
- ♥ All breakfast and dinners (except for two dinner nights where you are free to make your own arrangements)
- ♥ All bridge activities; professional seminars with a full set of notes, duplicate sessions, and hand analysis and discussion
- ♥ Plentiful of tours (incl. an opera or ballet)
- ♥ Budapest to Bratislava transport (Not included: Airfare, hotel transfers)

**Pricing:** ♦ Single: \$4695 ♦ Double or T/S: \$4295 pp

*\*Non-bridge players welcome – cost is reduced by \$400*

### The Bridge:

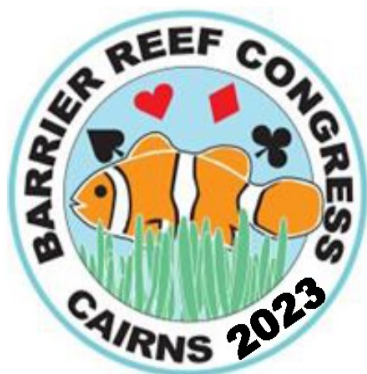
- ♣ Professional bridge seminars with Andy
- ♣ Topics include: Card Play Technique, Beating More Contracts on Defence, and Winning Competitive Bidding Battles! (All new topics)
- ♣ For all standards of player (everyone is welcome!)

### Any Enquiries:

♦ **Andy Hung**  
 Email: [hung.andy.p@gmail.com](mailto:hung.andy.p@gmail.com)  
 Phone: 0425-101-094

### Early Bird Special:

Book before 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
 to **receive \$200pp discount!**



# 27th Barrier Reef Congress

Cairns Colonial Club

April 28 – May 1, 2023

Chief Director: Jan Peach

*An ABF Gold Point Event*

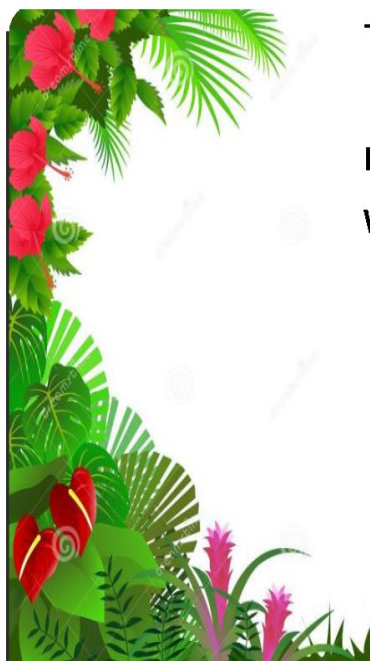
Swiss Teams (Open and Barrier Reef 300)  
Butler Swiss Pairs (Open, Restricted and Novice)

Tournament Organisers: William van Bakel 0414 430 145

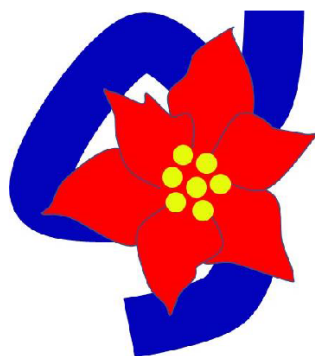
Joan Campbell 0467 669 239

E-Mail: [brc@cairnsbridgeclub.org.au](mailto:brc@cairnsbridgeclub.org.au)

Web: [www.qldbridge.com/brc](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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)

