



THE QBA BULLETIN

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2

From the President



Richard Ward

It was nearly 30 years ago, in 1996, that five-times President of the Australian Bridge Federation, John Brockwell, got together with the President of the Mackay Bridge Club, Eric Parsons, to come up with a proposal aimed at making gold masterpoints more accessible to North Queensland players. And so was born the Barrier Reef Congress which has gone from strength to strength initially alternating around Cairns, Townsville and Mackay with Yeppoon joining those clubs in 2017. The quality of organisation has always been outstanding and the consistently high number of entries has reflected this. This year it was Mackay's turn again and they put on a great event under the guidance of Di Morgan and the Mackay Bridge Club committee.

Specifically:

- The 500 Pavilion venue at the showgrounds was spacious with functional air-conditioning and

good lighting. To overcome an issue of chairs that were too hard for many, club members brought in a stack of pillows.

- The club had recently purchased 50 new tables which were larger than the usual card table, sturdy and easily stackable for storage when not in use.
- Side tables, bridgemates, data projector and printer were provided by the QBA and transported to Mackay by Kim and Ray Ellaway whose car was packed to overflowing.
- Jan Peach was the Chief Director, Peter Busch the Chief Scorer and Geoff Taylor the Assistant Director. They, together with the caddies, all did a fabulous job.
- The Recorder had very few calls regarding discourteous behaviour by players and those who erred were quick to offer gracious apologies. All in all, the whole congress had a welcoming and friendly atmosphere throughout the four days.
- Catering for lunches was available with reasonable prices and good quality offerings. The presentation lunch was efficiently managed by bringing individually packed meals to each team's table. If anything, these were too generous. Tea, coffee, water and home-made biscuits were

available throughout, free-of-charge.

- The previous convenor, Janet Hansen, who was always available to assist Di Morgan, commented that, in 2021, many hours were spent by her, sorting out entries with incomplete information with numerous emails sent between her and the players trying to obtain the correct details. Also in 2021, some players paid the incorrect entry fees and this also greatly increased her workload. In 2024, with **MYABF** working to perfection, there were none of these issues. Thanks to Pele Rankin and Kim Ellaway who were always available with their **MYABF** expertise.
- The congress was supported by a number of sponsors: Mackay Regional Council, TBIB, Paul Lavings, North Marine, SH Tait & Co., Officeworks, Daly Bay and Mackay Tourism. The BRC was opened again by the Mayor of Mackay, Greg Williamson, at which he applauded the Mackay BC for running the event and bringing so many visitors to their city, boosting travel, accommodation and restaurant numbers.

A comment was made by one of the visiting winners at the Presentation Lunch regarding the unfortunate calendar clash between this event and the Autumn Nationals in Adelaide. These are avoided whenever possible but, in some years, are simply inescapable. Whether or not either event suffers in terms of entry levels is debatable given that they are nearly 2000 kilometres apart. In 2023, when the Cairns Barrier Reef Congress did not clash with the Autumn Nationals, there was no obvious change in the number of entries to either event.

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Results in all categories are published elsewhere but, in the Open Pairs there was quite a tussle at the top with Sydney-siders Sue Ingham – Michael Courtney victorious from former Queenslanders Lyn and Malcolm Carter and Mike Doecke – Simon Hinge [SA/Vic] then youth players Alex Goss – Jeremy Reid [Vic/Tas].

In the teams, WHITAKER (Fred Whitaker [Qld] – Ashley Bach [NZ] – Paula Boughey [NZ] – Duncan Badley [NZ]) were never really troubled to take out the John Brockwell Teams Trophy from youth team REID (Jeremy Reid [Tas] – Alex Goss [Vic] – Lauren Morgan [Qld] – Jasmine Skeate [Qld]).



1st Open Pairs: Michael Courtney, Richard Ward (QBA President) and Sue Ingham



2nd Open Pairs: Lyn Carter (ACT), Richard Ward (QBA President), and Malcolm Carter (ACT)

There are a number of well-known aphorisms which encourage players to bid as high as you dare and as quickly as possible with distributional hands eg “6-4 bid one more” and “5-5 come alive”. However, that is not to say that such bids are risk free. If there was a prize for the hand

The sum of all technical knowledge cannot make a master bridge player.

with the most exciting scores this one would have won.

Dir E	♠ 85
Vul Both	♥ 42
	♦ 854
	♣ KJ10975
♠ AK10	♠ J97
♥ 1098753	♥ —
♦ KQ2	♦ A1073
♣ 6	♣ AQ8432
	♠ Q6432
	♥ AKQJ6
	♦ J96
	♣ —

East opens 1♣ and the South hand looks attractive for some adventurous bidding. Some would use a Michaels cue bid, 2♣, to show both majors. Others would take it more slowly, hoping to bid both suits, starting with 1♠ and then 2♥ later. At one table the bidding went:

W	N	E	S
X	P	1C	2C
X	All pass	2D	2H

West should have led the ♥10 and,

later, the ♥9 holding South to just four top hearts. But the defence lost its way and a very relieved South made a miraculous 7 tricks for –200. Others were not so fortunate, the worst being some Queenslanders who shall remain nameless bidding all the way to 5♥, doubled and –1700! Other tables scored 1400, 1100 and five 800s. Fifteen clever pairs made 9 tricks in 3NT by West, 3 of them doubled – perhaps making 3 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds and 1 club.

See you all next year in Yeppoon – 2-5 May 2025.



1st Novice Pairs: Debbie Carroll (QCBC), Jacinta Lee (QCBC)



1st Open Teams: Ashley Bach (NZ), Allison Stralow (ABF President), Fred Whitaker (Maryborough), Paula Boughey (NZ), Duncan Badley (NZ)



2nd Open Teams: Jasmine Skeate (Qld Youth), Lauren Morgan (Qld Youth), Allison Stralow (ABF President), Alex Goss (Vic), Jeremy Reid (Tas). Lauren and Jasmine are both members of the Under 26 Womens Team representing Australia in Poland.



Best Novice Pair (both under 50 MPs): Jill Brabon (Bowen), Bev Lowcock (Bowen) and sponsor (Les Rodgers from Daly Bay)



3rd Novice Pairs: Linda Priday (Proserpine), sponsor (Les Rodgers from Daly Bay), Joy Brunette (Mackay)



4th Novice Pairs: Sandra Morris (Mackay), sponsor (Les Rodgers from Daly Bay) and Annie Lynch (Mackay)



3rd Restricted Pairs: Richard Ward (QBA President) Mary Cruickshank (Mackay), Ian Cruickshank (Mackay)



Best placed restricted Pairs (BRC zone): Lorna Shuttlewood (Mackay), Richard Ward (QBA President), and Susan Wright (Mackay)



4th Open Teams: Tere Wotherspoon (QCBC), Allison Stralow (ABF President), Ziggy Konig (QCBC) - absent Ralph Parker and Larry Moses.



1st Novice Teams: Mary Cruickshank (Mackay), Jan Van Riel (VBA), Allison Stralow (ABF President), Sally Foster (VBA) and Ian Cruickshank (Mackay)



3rd Restricted Teams: David Ting, Ming Ting, Allison Stralow (ABF President), Maria Setiyawan and Jan Harris - all from Mackay



2nd Restricted Teams: Kathleen Clifford (QCBC), Rex Meadowcroft (Northern Suburbs), Allison Stralow (ABF President), Jacqui Dudurovic (Northern Suburbs) and Althea Crowley (Northern Suburbs)

Manager's Desk



**Kim
Ellaway**

THE 2024 Gold Coast Congress is over and it was a very successful event. Events like these cannot run without the volunteers/clubs and players who make it work behind the scenes, so thank you everybody who helped in one way or another. 2024 was Ray's and my last year of being onsite managers but will still be the main contact for the event prior to the starting of it, Changes to the 2025 event appear elsewhere in this bulletin.

The selection events for the ANC Teams has concluded and congratulations to all who were successful. It was fabulous to see trialling pairs from Cairns and Mackay in the Seniors, and Mackay in the Women's. Good Luck to all teams travelling to Orange.

The Barrier Reef event was absolutely fabulous and one of my favourites. I was once again fortunate to have my good friends Jane Rasmussen, (ABF Secretary) and Allison Stralow (ABF President) as team mates, and then Allison and I played in the pairs. It seemed the trend with the hands is that 4/4 fits were to be avoided, and 3NT was much easier if bid.

When I return to play in the North and Far North events, its like coming home as I learnt to play in Mount Isa and played most of my bridge against the people playing in the Barrier Reef so to my delight we got to play against good friends Allan and Fran Brown from Mackay and Ellie Sheffield and Betty Andison from Bowen in the second last match of the event. We had a kibitzer who was very entertained throughout.

On the following hand there are no flies on any of the four players, but Ellie sitting South certainly had no worries with the bidding. ■

Dlr W	♠ 3		
Vul Both	♥ 1075		
	♦ AQJ9732		
	♣ A6		
♠ A5		♠ QJ1098742	
♥ 962		♥ 3	
♦ K106		♦ 5	
♣ 98742		♣ Q105	
	♠ K6		
	♥ AKQJ84		
	♦ 84		
	♣ KJ3		

W	N	E	S
P	1D	3S	4NT
P	5H	P	5NT
P	6C	P	6H
All pass			

Betty (North) opened 1D, I bid 3S (perhaps 4 would have been better) and without any flinching, Ellie bid 4NT – ace ask, 5NT – king ask and settled in 6H which she played well. However at the other table they had the same bidding but settled in 5H. Only 12 of the 44 tables in the Open bid it, so well done Ellie. The match was a moral victory to us as we won by 1 IMP.

Well done and congratulations to Di Morgan – Tournament Organiser of the event.

The River City Gold Mixed Pairs entries were full before the end of May. Well done to Janet Lovell - Tournament Organiser of this event. ■

Regardless of what sadistic impulses we may harbour, winning bridge means helping partner avoid mistakes.

T B I B

We all know TBIB through the ABF Travel Insurance policies they provide, but it is also interesting to learn of the many other ways TBIB can assist. These include:

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Ethical Dilemmas



Matthew
McManus

Ethical Dilemmas

(Part 2) – The “Cone of Silence”

Suppose you hold this good hand:

♠ KQ7
♥ A104
♦ KJ6
♣ AKJ5

21 points. It fits perfectly into your 2NT opening range of 20-22, so you open 2NT. Partner responds 3C, which you have agreed to play as simple Stayman. You bid 3D. Partner bids 3NT, and that’s the final contract. No problems.

In the 1960s show “Get Smart”, there was a contraption called the “Cone of Silence”, which was lowered over the table to enable Max and The Chief to have a conversation in private. In an ideal world, every bridge table would have its own Cone of Silence to prevent a player hearing any conversation between their partner and the opponents during the hand. Of course, just like the “real” Cone of Silence, it doesn’t work and you hear everything that partner says. The Laws act to place restrictions on what you can do when you hear your partner say something or give an explanation that doesn’t match your hand. You must pretend that you didn’t hear it, and that’s often very difficult.

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Let’s return to the hand at the start. This time, however, there is a material difference. You open 2NT.

Partner alerts this and when asked says, “less than an opening hand with at least five-five in the minors”. Why would partner do this? Maybe they have forgotten the system, maybe they thought that the two of you had discussed it and decide to change the way you played it, maybe they have been playing weak minors with all their other partners and just had a brain explosion, or maybe – unlikely as it may be – they are right and it is you who has forgotten the system.

Whatever the reason, in last month’s article I tried to impress that there is nothing you can say at the moment. The very earliest that you can point out the problem to the opponents is at the end of the auction if you become declarer or dummy, and not until the end of play if you are a defender.

So, just like before, partner has bid 3C. What should you do now? The temptation of course is to just bid 3NT so that you can wake partner up to the error of their ways. However, this would not be legal. Remember the Cone of Silence. You must pretend that you didn’t hear partner’s explanation. You must do what you would have if partner had said, “20-22”. That is, bid 3D. Given that partner is under a misapprehension as to what you have for 2NT, they may think that you just have longer diamonds than clubs and pass 3D. This could be a disaster for your side if you have a game on. But the Laws prevent you from doing anything about it, because you are not entitled to take advantage of the information you got from partner’s alert and explanation.

If you do take an action, which is based on hearing partner’s explanation, then the Director may make a ruling to adjust the score. When this happens, the score is taken back to what would have happened if you had bid as you would have normally had that Cone of Silence been in place. ■

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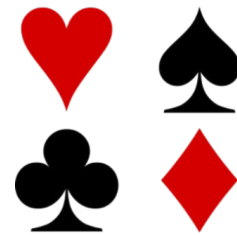
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IBPA Column Service



Tim Bourke

Dir S	♠ QJ106	♠ 83
Vul Both	♥ Q7	♥ A532
	♦ K82	♦ J965
	♣ A653	♣ Q94
♠ A952		
♥ 84		
♦ Q1074		
♣ K72		
	♠ K74	
	♥ KJ1096	
	♦ A3	
	♣ J108	

W	N	E	S
P	1S	P	1H
P	3NT	All pass	1NT

North pushed on to the notrump game because he placed greater weight than the face value of his majorsuit holdings: the ten of spades and the queen in partner's suit were positives. West led the four of diamonds. The original declarer placed the diamonds as 4-4. As a result, he would usually have time to knock out both the major-suit aces. Alas, declarer played a low diamond from dummy at trick one and the contract could no longer be made! Whether or not he held up the ace of diamonds on the first round, declarer had lost the only certain entry to his hearts.

Declarer won the first diamond and played on hearts, East winning the second round. The diamond suit was cleared and declarer led dummy's queen of spades, which was allowed to win. He then tried a spade to the king, hoping to reach his heart winners. West produced the spade ace and cashed two diamonds before exiting with a spade to dummy's jack. After taking one more spade trick, declarer had to play away from the ace of clubs

and lost two club tricks for down two. The error came at trick one: declarer should have won the first trick with dummy's king of diamonds to preserve a sure entry to hand and the heart suit when established. East will take his ace of hearts on the second round of the suit and play a diamond to declarer's ace. After running the hearts, declarer plays on spades. West will take his the ace of spades and cash two diamond winners but declarer will have nine tricks.

If West has the ace of hearts, the danger comes when he ducks the first heart and wins the second heart then shifts to a low club. Declarer's best bet is to rise with the ace of clubs and play on spades (relying on clubs being either 3-3 or 4-2 with a doubleton honour)

Dir S	♠ K92	♠ 653
Vul Both	♥ 5	♥ J9
	♦ KJ742	♦ Q1065
	♣ AQ63	♣ 10742
♠ QJ107		
♥ 107643		
♦ 9		
♣ J98		
	♠ A84	
	♥ AKQ82	
	♦ A83	
	♣ K5	

W	N	E	S
P	3S	P	2NT ¹
P	6NT	All pass	3NT

¹ 21-22

This deal came up in a team game. Both North players enquired about South's minor suits with 3♣ before bidding the slam in notrump. (Perhaps a better call would be 5NT, asking South to bid a three-card minor suit.) Anyway, the queen of spades was led at both tables, which was taken in hand with the ace of spades by both declarers.

At the first table, declarer continued with ace and another diamond. When West discarded a club, declarer called for dummy's king of diamonds, and then played his three top hearts. When East threw a spade on the third heart declarer found he could no longer make his contract.

At the second table, declarer did not

cash the ace of diamonds at trick two. Instead he led the three of diamonds toward dummy. When West followed with the nine of diamonds, declarer took the trick with dummy's king. Next he led a low diamond from dummy and covered East's six of diamonds with his eight, which won the trick. After cashing the ace of diamonds, declarer cashed the king and ace of clubs before conceding a diamond trick to East, who exited with a heart. Declarer took his three top hearts, throwing a club and a spade from dummy, before claiming, since dummy was now high.

This declarer always planned to take the king and ace of diamonds on the first two rounds of the suit. This would automatically give him at least four trick diamond tricks if West held the queen and the suit was not 5-0. Also, as was demonstrated, he could succeed in doing so if West held a singleton queen, ten or nine of diamonds.

Dir N	♠ A42	♠ Q1086
Vul Both	♥ 932	♥ 74
	♦ A	♦ 976
	♣ A109874	♣ QJ53
♠ J95		
♥ QJ106		
♦ KJ54		
♣ 62		
	♠ K73	
	♥ AK85	
	♦ Q10832	
	♣ K	

W	N	E	S
P	1C	P	1D
All pass	2C	P	3NT

West led the queen of hearts. Declarer took this with his king and, without any discernible thought, cashed the king of clubs. Next, he crossed to dummy with a spade to the ace to play ace and another club. When East turned up with queen-jack fourth of clubs the contract could no longer be made.

"That was unlucky," moaned South. "I make the contract if clubs are 3-3 or there is a short club honour."

"Luck had nothing to do with the matter," North observed. "All you had to do was overtake the king of

clubs with dummy's ace and play the ten of clubs. If West has queen-jack third or fourth of clubs and five hearts to the queen-jack-ten then the eight and nine of hearts will combine to provide a second stopper in the suit."

"When East has both the missing club honours, as here, the defenders can take at most two tricks in whichever red suit they attack. On a heart return after the second club, you rise with the ace of hearts, cross to dummy in spades and drive out the outstanding club honour.

As the hearts will be at worst 4=2, you will have nine tricks: four tricks in the major suits, the ace of diamonds and four clubs. On a diamond return after East wins the second round of clubs, your queen-ten in the suit will limit the defenders to at most two tricks in the suit, should East lead a second diamond after he regains the lead in clubs."

Dir N	♠ AKQJ2		
Vul Both	♥ 109		
	♦ AJ93		
	♣ 103		
♠ 1093		♠ 8754	
♥ QJ87		♥ K52	
♦ Q85		♦ 10742	
♣ Q42		♣ 98	
		♠ 6	
		♥ A643	
		♦ K6	
		♣ AKJ765	

W	N	E	S
P	1S	P	2C
P	2D	P	3C
P	5C	P	6C
All pass			

This inelegant auction is taken from actual play. West led the queen of hearts to declarer's ace. Declarer now considered his options. One was to cash the ace of trumps and cross to dummy with a spade to take the trump finesse. All would be well if the suit was 3-2 and the queen was onside: however that is considerably worse than an even-money chance.

Declarer then saw that he could better his odds by combining two chances: he began by cashing the ace and king of trumps. This would win immediately if the queen of trumps fell on either the first or second round of the suit.

However, when both defenders followed with low trumps, declarer started running dummy's spades. As West had three spades and the queen of trumps, declarer was able to dispose of his heart losers on the spade winners before West ruffed in. Declarer ruffed the heart exit and claimed his contract.

What are the odds? Playing on trumps alone wins when the queen is onside and the suit is 3-2. Also, it wins when there is a singleton queen of trumps (thanks to dummy's ten). Finally, declarer can win when East has four trumps to the queen and at least three spades. Overall, it's just short of an even-money proposition.

However, the line adopted by the declarer above wins automatically when the queen of trumps falls in one or two rounds. When the trumps are 3-2, declarer succeeds whenever he can cash three spades. Overall, this offers a little less than two chances in three of bringing home twelve tricks.■

25 Years Ago



Barry Kempthorne

Barrier Reef Congress, Townsville 1999

The 4th annual Barrier Reef Congress was held at the Townsville Plaza Hotel over the Queen's Birthday weekend. It proved to be an excellent venue, located in the heart of the city next to the Flinders Mall with ample space for a pleasing entry of 53 tables in both pairs and teams. The weather was idyllic, 27-28° C with not a cloud in the sky.

♠ AQ4	♠ K
♥ AKQ1076	♥ J54
♦ K2	♦ A9865
♣ K3	♣ A652

Board 17 of Session 1 of the Swiss Pairs should have been easy for everyone. East opened 1♦ and raised West's 2♥ to 3♥ (stronger than 4♥). Blackwood revealed East held two aces and a king so the grand slam should be bid. West players needed to avoid the twin traps of bidding only six or bidding 7♥. Of course 7NT is the only contract in pairs. Mind you, until dummy tables the ♥J you can't claim.

In Session 2 of the Pairs, Fred and Jennifer Whitaker grabbed first place with one round to go. The minor placings were decided by the very last hand played at our table, Board 29.

		♠ AK	
		♥ J985	
		♦ 1083	
		♣ 6542	
♠ QJ109652			♠ 8743
♥ Q74			♥ 1063
♦ K5			♦ QJ76
♣ J			♣ 103
		♠ —	
		♥ AK2	
		♦ A942	
		♣ AKQ987	

Tom and Terry Strong reached 6♣ despite West's pre-emptive overcall. West led the ♠J and Terry cashed the ace and king, discarding diamonds. He drew trumps and played the diamond ace....

Don't tell me you were asleep at the switch (like me) and followed low! It's no fun having to lead from the ♥Q or concede a ruff and discard. All the clues were there to find the unblock of the ♦K.

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This board was worth 99/104 to Tom and Terry and enabled them to take third. Our teammates, Dawn Cullen and Margaret Drake were second, while we finished fourth.

It is quite rare to have avoidance plays available in three suits, but that was the case on Board 26 of Session 2 of the Swiss Teams.

♠ A10873		♠ 6
♥ 85		♥ Q107
♦ 653		♦ KJ108
♣ QJ3		♣ A9876
♠ KJ2	♠ N	
♥ AJ2	W	
♦ A972	E	
♣ K104	S	
		♠ Q954
		♥ K9643
		♦ Q4
		♣ 52

West was declarer in 3NT and the opening lead of a low spade went to the queen and king. West crossed to the ♦K and led the jack, covered perforce with the queen. All the diamonds were cashed finishing in dummy to lead the ♥10, which held. This was followed by a low club to the 10 and jack. North could do nothing but cash the ♠A to hold declarer to eleven tricks for +660. Simple enough, but worth 13 IMPs when declarer at the other table adopted a different line.

Our teammates played in the correct game on Board 7 of Session 3.

♠ 954		♠ AKQ87
♥ AQ42		♥ 103
♦ 10542		♦ AQ3
♣ 86		♣ Q42
♠ J3	♠ N	
♥ 75	W	
♦ KJ98	E	
♣ AJ975	S	
		♠ 1062
		♥ KJ986
		♦ 76
		♣ K103

At our table East opened a strong 1♣ in 4th seat and I overcalled 1♥. West's 2♣ showed a positive and Agnes raised preemptively to 3♥. East bid 3♠ and West tried 4♦, with East's 5♣ ending the auction. We took two top hearts and the contract depended on the trump suit. West quite reasonably placed me with doubleton king and that was +100. Dawn and Margaret's natural methods reached the superior 4♠, which needed only the simple club finesse for eleven tricks; +650 and 13 IMPs to us. One of the advantages of playing a strong club is that there is a better chance to find a game contract if one is available - take Board 2 of Session 4.

♠ 9652		♠ Q8
♥ 8		♥ J973
♦ AJ862		♦ 975
♣ 542		♣ AQ107
♠ A43	♠ N	
♥ A104	W	
♦ 1043	E	
♣ J986	S	
		♠ KJ107
		♥ KQ652
		♦ KQ
		♣ K3

At our table South opened a Precision 1C and rebid 1H over the negative. Our treatment is that this is forcing and it was systemic for North to show her 4 spades without promising extra values. The end result was a slightly optimistic 45 which made for +620 on the favourable position in the black suits. At the other table, playing standard, South languished in 1H for +110 and 11 IMPs to us.

In the penultimate round we defeated the eventual winners 24-6 to grab a handy 4 VP lead. It was not to be, as we had reserved our worst bridge for the final round, which we lost 11-19 to C Critchley - L Jenkins and T and T Strong (our nemesis again!). Congratulations to the winning Mackay team of Berna Gibbs - Barbara Parsons and Jim Barry - Lyn Murray. ■

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- appearing on the entry form; or
- announced before the start of the event.

Players and officials are asked not to attend these events if they are infectious, or if they are supposed to be isolating or quarantining. Those who come to play and, feeling unwell, self-diagnose that they may be infectious, should inform the director and leave the venue.



ENTER NOW



Arana Pairs and Teams



Nikolas Moore

ON June 1-2, I partnered Rachel Langdon in the Arana Pairs and Teams. We managed to finish second in the Pairs despite being in the bottom half of the field at the halfway mark. Congratulations to winners Ewa Kowalczyk and Connie Schoutrop. In the teams we combined with Richard Fox and Andrew Woollons and, despite a big win in the last round, gained only one place to finish 6th. The event was won by Paul Gosney, Jack Luke-Paredi, Jasmine Skeate and Kate MacDonald.

Dir E	♠ K62
Vul EW	♥ 10
	♦ J85432
	♣ 1075
♠ 95	♠ A10843
♥ AK872	♥ QJ954
♦ 7	♦ Q
♣ AQ864	♣ 32
	♠ QJ7
	♥ 63
	♦ AK1096
	♣ KJ9

W	N	E	S
2H	2NT	P	1NT
P	5D	All pass	P

We lost 7.5 IMPs on this board from round 4 of the Pairs. South upgraded his hand to a strong (15-17) 1NT with a good 5-card suit. As West, my overall shows hearts and a minor. After the ♥Q lead, partner did well to switch to a club and get a third-round ruff in the suit for three off, but +150 was a poor score as we can make 11 tricks in hearts.

After this hand, we agreed that we need to take some sort of action if the opponents bid over our freely-bid game, as even if they make it is not as bad as missing out on a

large penalty as is the case here. I should have doubled 5♦ for 500 as there is no guarantee that 5♥ will make; it needs at the very least the club finesse and we are not to know that the opponents have an 11-card fit.

Dir E	♠ A
Vul NS	♥ A9
	♦ KQJ87643
	♣ 53
♠ 72	♠ Q109853
♥ J5	♥ KQ1072
♦ 52	♦ 10
♣ KQJ8762	♣ 4
	♠ KJ64
	♥ 8643
	♦ A9
	♣ A109

W	N	E	S
3C	3D	P	1C
P	6D	All pass	3NT

On this competitive auction from round 5, 4♦ might not be Minorwood asking for key cards so I jumped to slam hoping that partner's spade stopper was the king rather than the queen and therefore would provide me with a club or heart discard. Also my hand has a solid 8-card suit and only four losers opposite an opening hand. Partner's 12 HCPs included all of the right cards and the hand has 12 top tricks scoring 1390 and 11.7 IMPs in.

Dir N	♠ AK632
Vul EW	♥ —
	♦ 93
	♣ QJ8632
♠ J74	♠ 85
♥ KQJ62	♥ A10853
♦ Q104	♦ AKJ85
♣ K10	♣ 4
	♠ Q109
	♥ 974
	♦ 762
	♣ A975

W	N	E	S
4H	2S	3H	3S
5H	4S	P	P
	All pass		

In the next round we had a chance to apply our lesson from round 4.

North's opening showed spades and a minor. With a 10-card heart fit, lots of points and being weak in the opponents' suit I chose to bid over 4♠ instead of doubling. Rachel made this for +650 and 9.4 IMPs in because, after a spade lead to the king, North expected Rachel to have only one spade on the bidding, and switched to a diamond at trick 2 allowing dummy's spades to be pitched on the diamonds. Although NS have only 16 HCPs and the ♠K is offside, the double fit in the black suits meant that 4♠ was making their way.

Dir S	♠ AK
Vul None	♥ A842
	♦ QJ2
	♣ AK53
♠ 10742	♠ QJ986
♥ K63	♥ —
♦ A964	♦ K83
♣ 72	♣ QJ1094
	♠ 53
	♥ QJ10975
	♦ 1075
	♣ 86

W	N	E	S
P	2NT	3S	2H
4S	5H	P	P
X	All pass		

This hand from the second round of the Teams is another good advertisement for aggressive bidding. Rachel did well to bid at the 3-level on a shapely 9-count otherwise the opponents will play in 4♥ making and most did. I was happy to bid game with good support and we can take at least eight tricks in spades. North bid on with a huge hand and huge fit, and I doubled as it looked like I had two tricks and led a spade. The ace of trumps was unexpectedly over my king, but luckily declarer had no immediate entry to his hand to finesse it. He tried getting there by trumping the third club, which I overruffed for +100 and 11 IMPs in.

The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in it.

Redcliffe

Dir W	♠ K9
Vul None	♥ AK75
	♦ Q1085
	♣ J97
♠ QJ10432	♠ A75
♥ 4	♥ 108632
♦ A7632	♦ J
♣ Q	♣ A1052
	♠ 86
	♥ QJ9
	♦ K94
	♣ K8643

W	N	E	S
1S	X	2C	P
2D	P	3S	P
4S	All pass		

Yet another example of the power of shape. I only have nine points including a useless singleton queen, but was happy to open with six losers and accepted partner's 3-card limit raise after she similarly bid positively due to distribution. With the cards sitting well for us, 4♠ is unbeatable, scoring 450 and 7 IMPs in. Conversely, the cards are sitting badly for the opponents and their only makeable part score is 1♣. ■



Di McCall, Quentin Crestanelli and Sue Kennard (Redcliffe BC President)

The Redcliffe Bridge Club held its annual President's Trophy and fundraising day on the 19th of April where we raised funds to support the "Give a Child a Chance" program which identifies families in need by liaising with schools and the local St. Vincent De

Paul community support centres. Ninety-six players or 24 tables competed in the tournament, and it was a very successful day. The President was able to present an amount of \$6,000 at the end of the day which was raised from members of the club.

Sunnybank Novice Pairs



1st: Karen Gosney, Jim Evans (QBA Vice-President) and Suzy Brownlow



2nd: Peter Neil and Linda Neil



3rd: Aaron Zijun and George Zihao Wang

63RD INTERNATIONAL Gold Coast Bridge Congress Saturday 1 - 8 February 2025

**VENUE: Gold Coast Convention Centre,
Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia**

QBA MANAGER: Kim Ellaway

manager@qldbridge.com.au

+61 412 064 903 qldbridge.com.au/gcc



Theme: *Silly Shoes and Kinky Boots*



ABF River City Gold Point Mixed Pairs



1st: Kim Frazer - Laurie Kelso



2nd Plate: Mohan Trada and Denise Hartwig



3rd: David Beauchamp and Sophie Ashton (absent) with Allison Stralow



Qld winners Lilly Jia and John Morris (absent) with Richard Ward, QBA President



2nd: Paul Gosney and Laura Ginnan



5th: Anita Curtis and David Hudson



Consolation: Peter Lang and Sherrell Cardinal



D Section: Stephen Bennett and Louise Bennett



Dream Team



1st Plate: Jasmine Skeate and Jack Luke-Paredi (absent) with Allison Stralow (ABF President)



ANC



2025



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 BRISBANE

6th – 17th July 2025

EVENTS

Interstate Teams Monday 7th-Friday 11th
 Interstate Swiss Pairs Friday 11th
 Open Butler Pairs Saturday 12th →
 Mixed Butler Pairs Monday 14th →
 Swiss Pairs Monday 14th-Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th-Thursday 17th

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Brisbane Technology Park
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Entries AND Accommodation options will be on website from August 2024

GOLD POINTS

2024 ANC - Orange, NSW



THE 84th Australian National Championships were finally held in Orange, NSW after being postponed twice during the pandemic. The tournament organisers, Rob Ward, Murray Paterson and Anne Tonna from the Orange Bridge Club put on an outstanding event at the Orange Ex Services Club which proved to be ideal for bridge with separate Open and Closed rooms plus ample space for all teams to score up. Matthew McManus was the Chief Director doing his usual excellent job. One of his announcements to the assembled multitudes was a classic: "I don't suppose there is any point in announcing this, but the lost hearing aids have been found".

Best performing Queensland teams were the Women's and the Youth (see below). Featured in the top 10 datums were Pele Rankin - Greer Tucker, Toni Bardon - Yolanda Floris, Kim Morrison - Tony Hutton, Paddy Taylor - Zac Ross and Seb and Tom Langdon Macmillan. South Australia made the finals in all four categories and won the Youth (220-152), but it was New South Wales who had a blinder winning the Open (164-81), Women's (162-159 phew!) and Seniors (209-109).

Youth

The 2024 Youth ANC was a test of depth, with states having some of their players away in Poland for the World Youth Transnational Championships. Queensland had four players on national duty but still fielded a very competitive 4-handed team. Zac Ross and Paddy Taylor

began their week with a 2nd place in the Welcome pairs and hit the ground running in Round 1 of the qualifying, having no trouble finding their way to 7NT on the following deal.

Dir E	♠ K85		
Vul EW	♥ 53		
	♦ —		
	♣ AKQJ6542		
♠ J1097		♠ Q632	
♥ 9874		♥ KJ2	
♦ Q973		♦ 10854	
♣ 7		♣ 93	
	♠ A4		
	♥ AQ106		
	♦ AKJ62		
	♣ 108		

After Zac reversed in hearts and Paddy set clubs, the lay down grand North-South was reached. This won 2 IMPs against 7♣ at the other table, which was bid in a much more "youthy" manner, best left unpublished.

The highlight of the qualifying rounds was a good win against the eventual winners, South Australia. Board 11 put contrasting opening styles under the spotlight.

Dir S	♠ AJ42		
Vul None	♥ A74		
	♦ KQ84		
	♣ —		
♠ 53		♠ K1087	
♥ 10		♥ 96532	
♦ AJ76		♦ 103	
♣ A96543		♣ J7	
	♠ Q96		
	♥ KQJ8		
	♦ 952		
	♣ K82		

Seb Langdon Macmillan holding the South cards, began with an initial pass. His brother Tom soon found himself in 3NT, making 9 tricks on the ♦10 lead.

In the other room South chose



Zac Ross, Tom Langdon Macmillan, Paddy Taylor, Michael Gearing (npc), and Seb Langdon Macmillan

to open and faced a nasty trick 1 decision on Paddy's ♣5 lead against his 3NT. On the actual layout, putting up the ♣Q gives declarer the tempo to set up diamond and spade tricks. However, he not unreasonably played the ♣10, and let Zac's jack hold. Zac's club return let Paddy clear the suit with the ace and ♣3, showing the diamond entry. When the spade finesse lost, it was three down and a swing of 11 IMPs completed a hot run of 50 IMPs in 6 boards, with the final score reading 68-33.

Playing 4-handed was always going to be a challenge, and, while all of our players handled the fatigue extremely well, there were a few slip-ups in the final rounds.

Dlr E	♠ Q1087		
Vul Both	♥ Q8654		
	♦ A2		
	♣ 54		
♠ AJ64		♠ 92	
♥ K3		♥ 92	
♦ QJ8		♦ K9764	
♣ 10763		♣ AKQ9	
	♠ K53		
	♥ AJ107		
	♦ 1053		
	♣ J82		

Defending 3NT by West, our Rueful Rabbit led the ♥5 to South's ace. Winning the ♥J return, West started by running clubs. RR, perhaps wondering why his captain hadn't delivered some promised snacks, set about finding discards. No problems on the third club, but on the fourth round, South fatefully pitched a diamond. With sugar levels at an all time low, RR looked up and saw his partner "leading" a diamond so he hopped up with the ace to cash his suit. Needless to say, this was not a success. While RR's guardian angel seemed to have deserted him, evidence suggests it was loitering at the other table where the defence did not persist with hearts, ending in a flat board!

That hand might be my favourite for the week, not because of the result but because it shone a light on the maturity of our players. This mishap could easily engender some less-than-gracious feedback, but, throughout the whole event everyone

in our team showed a wonderful mix of competitiveness at the table and an ability to react to mistakes with patience, learning, and a little laughter. We finished the qualifying rounds with Paddy-Zac and Seb-Tom finishing 3rd and 4th in the datums respectively. While this stellar effort wasn't quite enough to reach the final, I was very proud of their efforts and attitude. They were a fantastic group to captain, and it was a thoroughly enjoyable week for all of us.

■ Michael Gearing (npc)

Women

The QLD Women's team at the ANC in Orange this year comprised Pele Rankin, Greer Tucker, Toni Bardon, Yolanda Floris, Liz Zeller and Alison Dawson.

We had high hopes of doing well and started promisingly running second for most of the first two days.

Dlr N	♠ AJ83		
Vul None	♥ Q10		
	♦ 875		
	♣ AJ62		
♠ 9765		♠ KQ104	
♥ A65		♥ K84	
♦ AQ42		♦ K	
♣ K8		♣ 109743	
	♠ 2		
	♥ J9732		
	♦ J10963		
	♣ Q5		

W	N	E	S
Liz		Alison	
X	1C	P	P
3S	All pass	2S	P

Liz Zeller played this interesting hand against Tasmania. South led the ♦J. To make 10 tricks once the bad break in trumps is revealed, it becomes necessary to ruff winning clubs in dummy to be able to lead spades through north Liz was the only declarer in the Women's field to do this.

Greer Tucker and Pele Rankin reached this laydown grand slam with a most efficient 2-over-1 bidding sequence.

Dlr E	♠ K85		
Vul EW	♥ 53		
	♦ —		
	♣ AKQJ6542		
♠ J1097		♠ Q632	
♥ 9874		♥ KJ2	
♦ Q973		♦ 10854	
♣ 7		♣ 93	
	♠ A4		
	♥ AQ106		
	♦ AKJ62		
	♣ 108		

	W	N	E	S
		Greer		Pele
				1D
	P	2C	P	2H
	P	3C	P	4C
	P	4NT	P	5NT
	P	6S	P	7C
	All pass			

- ¹ Game force
- ² 5+ diamonds, 4+ hearts 16+ HCP
- ³ 6+ clubs
- ⁴ Minorwood
- ⁵ 2 key cards + the ♣Q
- ⁶ Specific king ask
- ⁷ The ♠K.

Queensland's Kevin Steffensen-Carolyn Miller bid the grand in the



Yolanda Floris, Greer Tucker, Liz Zeller, Pele Rankin, Alison Dawson and Toni Bardon

Seniors and Paddy Taylor- Zac Ross did the same in the Youth.
How would you bid this one?

Dir N ♠ Q86
Vul None ♥ 8
♦ 8752
♣ Q10543

♠ 107 ♠ AKJ93
♥ 9652 ♥ AKQ4
♦ Q64 ♦ AJ10
♣ AK76 ♣ 8

N	E
W	S

♠ 542
♥ J1073
♦ K93
♣ J92

Toni Bardon and Yolanda Floris started with 2♣:2NT ending in 6NT without finding the unlucky heart fit. When the diamond finesse lost at trick one Yolanda simply relied on the spade finesse to bring home five spades, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs - 12 tricks. At the other table SA was down one in 6♥.

■ Alison Dawson

The Seniors began well with wins against SA and NT putting them in 2nd place going into the 3rd disastrous match against NSW [Buchen-Neill, Gumby-Lazer]. It was less encouraging from that point onwards although there was a small win against the same NSW team in the 2nd Round Robin which was pleasing. The final placing of 5th out of eight teams was a fair reflection of this team's performance.

Here is an example from a Qld vs SA Seniors match of how not to play sound teams bridge.

Dir S ♠ 9863
Vul Both ♥ AJ962
♦ 982
♣ 6

♠ KJ ♠ Q754
♥ 3 ♥ Q75
♦ 54 ♦ Q107
♣ AQ1075432 ♣ K98

N	E
W	S

♠ A102
♥ K1084
♦ AKJ63
♣ J

W	N	E	S
Therese		Richard	
3C	P	3NT	1C
All pass			X

We had agreed to play (1♣ – short or Precision) – 3♣ as an intermediate hand with good clubs and so 3NT was not as silly as it sounds. However, when this was doubled, the sensible thing to do was to retreat to clubs which probably would not be doubled. South started with the ♦K and then, with no clue as to where partner might have an entry, tried a low spade. This converted a score of +2000 to SA to -750. Qld won this match against the SA finalists (52-21) but SA got their revenge in the second Round Robin (45-32). This hand from a match vs WA features Kevin Steffensen (West) and Carolyn Miller (East).

Dir W ♠ Q105
Vul NS ♥ KQ1043
♦ 107
♣ Q65

♠ 873 ♠ AK64
♥ 6 ♥ AJ972
♦ Q96542 ♦ A83
♣ AJ10 ♣ 8

N	E
W	S

♠ J92
♥ 85
♦ KJ
♣ K97432

W	N	E	S
P	P	1H	P
1NT	P	2D	P
2S	P	5D	All pass

1NT was a 1-round force; 2♦ showed 3+ diamonds; 2♠ having already denied spades was a limit raise in diamonds with Carolyn realising that the singleton heart and extra diamonds made the hand worth much more than its 7 points. The play was routine, although some pairs in other fields found ways to go down.

This hand comes from a successful first match vs finalists SA.

Dir E ♠ K85
Vul EW ♥ 53
♦ –
♣ AKQJ6542

♠ J1097 ♠ Q632
♥ 9874 ♥ KJ2
♦ Q973 ♦ 10854
♣ 7 ♣ 93

N	E
W	S

♠ A4
♥ AQ106
♦ AKJ62
♣ 108

W	N	E	S
	Steffensen	P	Miller
P	2C	P	1D
P	3C	P	2H
P	4C	P	3NT
P	7C	All pass	4H

2♥ was a reverse, showing 16+ HCP; 4♣ was Minorwood asking for key cards in clubs; 4♥ showed 0 or 3. No other Senior pairs bid this. Two Women's and Youth pairs found the grand slam but in the Open, more than half the field were in 7♣ or 7NT.



Neville Francis (npc), Richard Ward, Therese Tully, Carolyn Miller, Kevin Steffensen, Agnes Kempthorne and Barry Kempthorne

Agnes and Barry sat NS in this board against Tasmania.

Dir S	♠ A6		
Vul Both	♥ 753		
	♦ AK76		
	♣ J542		
♠ QJ942		♠ 10873	
♥ 864		♥ KJ2	
♦ QJ1085		♦ 932	
♣ —		♣ AK7	
	♠ K5		
	♥ AQ109		
	♦ 4		
	♣ Q109863		

Using Precision, the South hand qualified for a 2♣ opening, showing a limited hand with at least five clubs, which might also contain a 4-card major. Over the opening, West tried to muddy the waters with a 2♦ overcall. North chose to raise to 3♣, over which East raised his partner to 3♦. South's 6-4 shape suggested bidding on to 4♣. Now North opted to try for a vulnerable game with 5♣. East felt he could defeat this contract and duly doubled.

West's opening lead of the ♦Q was won in dummy and a low club went to the ♣7 and ♣8, West showing void. East won the ♣Q with the ♣K and persisted with a diamond, South pitching the ♥10. Declarer needed simply to preserve sufficient entries in dummy to take the double finesse in hearts. Eleven tricks made for +750. At the other table, the final contract was a modest 3♣. The Tasmanian South also made eleven tricks for +150, but that was a gain of 12 IMPs to Queensland.

■ Richard Ward

Open

Dir N	♠ K86542		
Vul NS	♥ 96		
	♦ 65		
	♣ A104		
♠ AQJ1093		♠ 7	
♥ J84		♥ K103	
♦ J3		♦ AKQ84	
♣ J6		♣ 9832	
	♠ —		
	♥ AQ752		
	♦ 10972		
	♣ KQ75		

W	N	E	S
	Solomon		Hoenic
	2D	X	2H
4S	All pass		

W	N	E	S
Fox		Newbery	
	2S	X	All pass

The advantage of the multi-2♦ opening was on display on this hand where the NSW West, seduced by East's premature double, was convinced that North's weak-2 opening was in hearts. North knew that the wheels had fallen off and was content to let them play there.

In the other room, the bidding was more conventional so QLD picked up a handy 12 IMPs with +150 and +500.

On this hand (next column) from the QLD v ACT match, East's failure to show spades after the 1♥ overcall proved costly: QLD +140 at both tables.

Double part-score swings on seemingly 'nothing' hands such as this can bring in plenty of handy IMPs.

Dir W	♠ K4		
Vul None	♥ J8653		
	♦ AJ9		
	♣ KQ7		
♠ AQ96		♠ J873	
♥ AK9		♥ 107	
♦ 1052		♦ KQ73	
♣ J53		♣ 1094	
	♠ 1052		
	♥ Q42		
	♦ 864		
	♣ A862		

W	N	E	S
	Solomon		Hoenic
1C	1H	P	2H
All pass			

W	N	E	S
Hutton		Morrison	
1C	1H	X	2H
2S	All pass		

Dir E	♠ K9432		
Vul Both	♥ 53		
	♦ 32		
	♣ KQ75		
♠ 105		♠ AQJ8	
♥ Q842		♥ A1097	
♦ 87		♦ QJ1095	
♣ A9862		♣ —	
	♠ 76		
	♥ KJ6		
	♦ AK64		
	♣ J1043		

Against WA Tony Hutton and Kim Morrison bid this hand nicely to the marginal 4♥ contract which made exactly 10 tricks.

At the other table, the WA North trotted out the 'sandwich NT' showing a weakish hand with at least 5-4 in the unbid suits. This got South overly excited and convinced him to sacrifice in 5♣, despite his promising defensive values defending a heart contract. That was +620 and +1100 to QLD.

■ Janeen Solomon

It's not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.



Kim Morrison, Janeen Solomon, Christine Newbery, Tony Hutton, Maha Hoenic, Richard Fox and Neville Francis (npc)

 QBA Butler Pairs - Northern Suburbs


*A 1st: Tony Treloar
and Peter Evans*



*A 3rd: Lyn Martin
and Jim Martin*



*B 2nd: Greg Gosney
and Margaret Plunkett*



*A 2nd: Richard Ward
and Therese Tully*



*B 1st: Joyanne Gissing
and Greg Lee*



*C 1st: Oliver Goodman
and Kathleen Clifford*

 Teams of Three - Sunnybank


*C 1st: Richard Fox,
Mary Langler and Ray Langler -
Diane Arthur (absent)*



*B 1st: Debbie Stokes,
Trish Alldridge, Peter Grinlaus
and Terry Strong*



*A 1st: Charles Page,
Tony Keen, Tracy Armour
and Janet Smith*

Directors' Corner



Chris
Snook

I'M buried in marking now – 44 papers from 22 candidates for the QBA Club Director exams which is great for the clubs involved. These papers are an integral part of the QBA Director Accreditation process, but also are a good barometer of aspiring directors' understanding of laws and movements. Next exams are Club Director on 9th November and Congress Director on 16th November.

Here is something that arose from my marking escapades and discussion with inquisitive players:

Hesitations (and creating other unauthorised information)

Hesitations are only briefly mentioned in the laws, so we will start with the Oxford/Cambridge definition of “*the act of pausing before you do or say something, often because you are uncertain or nervous about it*”. This is a harsh way to start discussion, so let's also look at bridge Law 73.A.2 which says that “*calls and plays shall be made without emphasis, mannerism or inflection, and without intentional haste or hesitation*”. 73.D.1 continues by talking about tempo: “*It is desirable for players to maintain steady tempo and unvarying manner. Players should be particularly careful when variations may work to the benefit of their side. ...*”.

This doesn't sound like a problem, the laws tell us to try and maintain the same tempo but is implicitly acknowledging we are not robots, and some variation may occur (my words, not the laws).

Authorized Information

Law 16.A tells us what **authorized Information** is (legal calls and plays of the current board; authorized information from a withdrawn action; information the player possessed before he took his hand from the board). Law 16.B talks

about **extraneous information** from partner (including remarks, questions, replies to questions, unexpected alerts or failure to alert, unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism). All these actions generate what is called **unauthorized information**. This is a two-stage process.

Some examples of UI are:

- **Remarks:** You underbid on board 14, and during the auction for board 15 you say, “oh no, not again”. Partner might be suspecting the auction is off-track – your illegal comment confirms it.
- **Questions, Replies to Questions:**
- **Unexpected alerts:** If partner alerts your natural call, you illegally have information that they have forgotten the system or that you have (or, I guess, they have just forgotten to alert).
- **Special emphasis:** The little x or big X with written bidding (big bold X almost always means “this is a penalty double” – and this is not allowed).
- Nods, frowns, upturned eyelashes (for those who can do it), gasps (eg when partner bids after your penalty double) etc.
- **Unmistakable hesitation:** When partner hesitates during the bidding or the play, potentially indicating to you that they had a choice to make (see that dictionary definition again).

A player (usually by accident or carelessness) generates the unauthorised information. There is not yet a problem, but players can help their partnerships by taking more care to avoid creating unauthorised information.

Using Unauthorized Information

Law 16.B.1 has a sting in the tail.

(a) *A player may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorized information if the other call or play is a logical alternative.*

(b) *A logical alternative is an action that a significant proportion of the class of players in question, using*

the methods of the partnership, would seriously consider, and some might select.

Law 16.B.3 continues “*When a player has substantial reason to believe that an opponent who had a logical alternative has chosen an action suggested by such information, he should summon the Director when play ends. The Director shall assign an **adjusted score** (see Law 12C1) if he considers that an infraction of law has resulted in an advantage for the offender.*

The potential recipient of the unauthorized information has obligations “to not choose a call or play demonstrably suggested ...” and if they do then the Director has a mechanism to determine whether the offenders have gained an advantage from the infraction and, if so, to award an adjusted score removing this advantage. Note that Law 12.C.1(a) prescribes an assigned adjusted score (Such a score replaces the score obtained in play. It is not an av+/av/av- !).

Let's look at a simple hesitation example.

As South you hold

♠	53			
♥	QJ6			
♦	QJ98543			
♣	9			
E	S	W	N	
1S	3D	4D	P	
4H	?			

EW are vulnerable and NS are not. East opens 1♠. You bid 3♦ (a weak jump overcall). West bids 4♦ showing a fit with opener, game values and some interest in slam. Your partner passes. East shows a control in hearts. You might be disciplined and pass, you might be a cowboy and bid – it is up to you and how you reconcile the consequences of your bidding to your partner later. On this day you take the gamble to muddy the water and call 5♦ – you are not doubled; the opponents guess wrong and miss their slam and get a poor score as a result. That's the rub of the green.

What happens if your partner took some noticeable extra time before their pass?

There has not been an infraction yet, but your side is on the tram. You, as South, are now in receipt of unauthorized information from your partners break in tempo (polite technical term for a hesitation). You may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by the unauthorized information.

Partners break in tempo suggests they had at least two choices and these seem to be passing or bidding themselves – they must have a hand with borderline values for bidding in this auction, and this information is unauthorized to you. You appear to have two actions that you can take: pass or bid 5D. The extra information from North is that bidding may be more profitable, thus, by law 73.C.1 you must “*carefully avoid taking advantage of it*”.

If you have two logical alternatives (pass or bid 5D) then you must not choose the 5D ... thus you should pass, the auction continues on its merry way and there is no problem. If you decide to bid anyway because “you were always going to” then we have a problem. The opponents will no doubt be unhappy, and the Director will be called at the end of the hand. If they are called earlier, they will establish the facts and get you to play the hand anyway. They cannot establish whether an

infraction occurred and whether there was damage until then anyway.

The Directors first job is to determine whether there was a break in tempo (BIT). Sometimes everyone agrees there was a BIT, sometimes one side says yes and the other no, one player may say there was a big hesitation, a player may say “look at my hand, I had to think” (incidentally this confirms the BIT). Director needs to weigh up the evidence carefully but there is rarely smoke without fire. Assuming there was a BIT then this is unauthorized information for the hesitators partner.

The Director will then determine whether there were logical alternatives for South, and in our case, there are two (Pass or 5D). In more complex situations the Director may have some work to do to find the logical alternatives. At club level consulting with other Directors or senior players may help. Beyond this you may have to conduct a poll/survey of players (typically of 5 players of the class of players involved. You explain the system to each poll participant and talk through the auction to the point where the problem occurs – you do not tell them the story of the infraction, just find out what they would consider and what they would select). Five is a good number because current practice is to treat more than one in five as a significant proportion.

Then from the list of logical alternatives, Director determines whether the UI suggests that bidding 5D is better than passing (which it is in our case) so adjusts the score to the likely result had South not taken the disputed action (ie they passed).

As an aside, some regulating authorities require a STOP CARD when a jump bid is made (forcing the player next in turn to wait about 10 seconds before bidding), to reduce the likelihood of a hesitation generating unauthorised information. In Australia you might see this online on BBO, RealBridge and StepBridge.

The Director has two major tasks in hesitation rulings, the first is to gather the information and make the ruling, and the second is to make sure the players at the table have understood the mechanism to get there. Sometimes you might have to spend time explaining to a player after the round. ■

D E A D

OCT 14 (noon)

Contributions to:
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Ashgrove 4060
Ph: 07 3366 1292

**Email: philipsquire@
tpg.com.au**

L I N E

RESULTS – APRIL-JUNE

APRIL

CAIRNS EASTER CONGRESS [Director – Julie Jeffries]: **PAIRS** 1 Sandy Long / William Van Bakel; 2 Tony Lusk / Peerapan Maslen; B Melissa Pressley / Jane Gryg; C Robyn Boase / Sonja De Rooy; **TEAMS** 1 Cobie & Simon van Kruistum / Gideon Azar / Josephina Burrie; 2 Helen Rial / Danny Bowden / Klarika Tortely / Joan Campbell; **BRISBANE BRIDGE CENTRE EASTER CONGRESS** [Director – Chris Snook]: **PAIRS** 1 Kate Macdonald / Paul Gosney; Lyn & Jim Martin; B 1 Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman; 2 Wendy Gibson / Chris Woolley; C 1 Alex & Martin Wu; 2 Margaret Giebels / Chris Williams; **TEAMS** 1 Richard Fox / Christine Newbery / Andrew Woollons / Nikolas Moore; 2 Agnes & Barry Kempthorne / Jan Peach / Richard Ward; B 1 Jenny McGowan / Vanessa Brewis / Ming Yang / Oliver Goodman; 2 Lauren Morgan / Jasmine & Laurie Skeate / Kate Macdonald; **DALBY CONGRESS** [Director – Chris Snook]: **PAIRS** 1 Jenni Buckley / Jim Wood; 2 Denise Hartwig / Gabrielle Elich; B Brian Wharton / Peter Schettler; **TEAMS** 1 Diane Wenham / Margaret Keating / John Erlandson / Rhondda Dean; 2 Jim Wood / Oliver Dashwood /

Joan Mladen / Julie Pigdon; **QUEENSLAND GRADED TEAMS** [Director – Jan Peach]: 1 Jack Luke-Paredi, Paul Gosney, Kate Macdonald, Ben Leung; 2 Kerry Wood / Charles Howard / Pamela and Jim Evans; B 1 Barbara Mackay / Barry Koster / Peter Lyons / Daria Williams; 2 Davis Zhang / Lilly Jia / Sameer Pandya / Winny Chan; C 1 Jacqui Dudurovic / Peter Fagan / Althea Crowley / Kerry Barridge; 2 Geoff Willson / Robin Bishop / John Wilson / Marge Henry; **TOWNSVILLE PAIRS** [Director – Jan Smith]: 1 Maria Chippendale / Bill Bishop; 2 Pat Leighton / Bill Redhead; B 1 Margaret Dousset / Joan Elliott; 2 Di Garside / Donna Fitch; C Greg Lawler / Bill Pickering; 2 Jana Zrno / Lynne Worley; **GYMPIE APRIL CONGRESS** [Director – Steve Murray]: **PAIRS** 1 Alison Dawson / Ken Dawson; 2 Patrick Bugler / Tim Runting; B 1 Jennifer Hollingworth / Carolann Verity; 2 Lynne Leyton / George Gibson; **TEAMS** 1 Ines Dawes / Di Jones / Brett Middelberg / Ann Mellings; 2 Dianne Musgrave / Sue Smith / Michael Huddart / Roberta Macnee; B 1 Janice & Edgar Beckett / Anna Irminger / Anna Jadach; 2 Sheryl Cullenward / Julie Scott / Rozanne Thomas / Elizabeth

Van Vugt; **WARWICK PAIRS** [Director – Chris Snook]: 1 Mavis Simpson / Noela Collins; 2 Meta Goodman / Therese Tully; B 1 Judy & Roy Reynolds; 2 Margot Tesch / Janine Cumming; **NORTHERN SUBURBS PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Martin Qin / Kuldip Bedi; 2 Andrew Woollons / Nikolas Moore; B 1 Ibrahim Diallo / Eugene Pereira; 2 Jasmine Skeate / Kate Macdonald; C 1 Vanessa Brewis / Jenny McGowan; 2 Peter Lyons / Warren Males.

MAY

BARRIER REEF CONGRESS – MACKAY [Directors – Jan Peach, Peter Busch]: **PAIRS** 1 Sue Ingham / Michael Courtney; 2 Lyn & Malcolm Carter; **RESTRICTED** 1 Kate Gargan / Patricia Ottone; 2 Melissa Pressley / Jane Gryg; **NOVICE** 1 Debbie Carroll / Jacinta Lee; 2 Sandy Patterson / Geoff Cowan; **TEAMS** 1 Duncan Badley / Paula Boughey / Fred Whitaker / Ashley Bach; 2 Lauren Morgan / Alex Goss / Jasmine Skeate / Jeremy Reid; **UNDER 300** 1 Mary & Ian Cruikshank / Jan Van Riel / Sally Foster; 2 Rex Meadowcroft / Kathleen Clifford / Althea Crowley / Jacqui Dudurovic; **QUEENSLAND NOVICE PAIRS – SUNNYBANK** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: 1 Suzy Brownlow / Karen Gosney; 2 Linda & Peter Neil; B 1 Aaron Zijung Wang / George Zihao Wang; 2 Sheena De Jager Miles / Angela van Daal; C 1 Michele Little / Di Tierney; 2 Rowan Ward / Marcus Egan; **HERVEY BAY CONGRSS** [Director – Chris Snook]; **PAIRS** 1 Patricia Mann / Gordon Kellerman; 2 Lyn & Jim Martin; B 1 Connie Casar / Dianne Hillman; 2 Gillian Mason / Gary Sandlant; **TEAMS** 1 Lyn & Jim Martin / Peter Busch / Adrienne Kelly; 2 Don Cameron / Jan Randall / Karin Le Roux / Malcolm Allan; B 1 John Molloy / Pierre Martin / Astrid Korfgan / Sue Mittermair; **ANZAC DAY TEAMS** [Director – Jan Peach]: 1 Ivy & John Luck / Jenny Hay / Ralph Parker; 2 Martin Qin / Kuldip Bedi / Eugene Pereira / Martin Wu; B 1 Ross Shardlow / Peter Gruythuysen / Debbie & Gary Gibbards / 2 Paul Han / Davis Zang / Barry Koster / Barbara Mackay; C 1 Jenny Williams / Winny Chan / Rosemary Thomson / Monica Pritchard; 2 Paul Brake / Fiona Evans / Juliet Rogers / Lindell Day; **SURFERS PARADISE TEAMS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 George Bilski / Andy Braithwaite / Sandra & Andrew Richman; 2 Bill Powell / Marjorie Askew / Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison; B 1 Fiona Evans / Lindell Day / Darren Brake / Paul Brake; 2 Sew Yoon Yap-Giles / Peter Schmidt / Peter Lyons / Faye Ding; C 1 Roger Hesford / Deryl McConaghy / Carol Giuffrida / Ian Murphy; 2 Lois & John Rolls / Alan Toohey / Pauline Greig; **BBC PAIRS** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: 1 Jill Magee / Terry Strong; 2 Jasmine Skeate / Kate Macdonald; B 1 Raelene Clarke / Tony Treloar; 2 Bob Ren / Martin Wu; **GOONDIWINDI PAIRS** [Director – Jo Neary]: 1 Malcolm Saunders / Ian Price; 2 Alison Dawson / Elizabeth Zeller; B 1 Julie & Kevin Willcocks; 2 Laurie-Marie McRoberts / Kathy Duke; C 1 Yvonne & Trevor Mallory; 2 Leonard Schofield / George Sloss; **CALOUNDRA CONGRESS** [Director – Peter Busch]: **PAIRS** 1 Stephen Hughes / Andrew Dunlop; 2 Lyn & Jim Martin; B 1 Siobhan Davies / Ian Pitts; C 1 Kerry Rutter / Carmel Dwan; **TEAMS** 1 Ivy & John Luck / Maha Hoenig / Janeen Solomon; 2 Sue Ziegenfuss / Tim Runting / Kathy & Warren Males; B 1 Hazel Graham / Jay Kent / Rob Graham / Louise Taylor-Smith; 2 Upasana Shanti / Peter Zanki / Glenda Vincent / Cathy Clarke.

JUNE

Queensland Mixed Pairs Champions: John Morris / Lilly Jia; Queensland Novice Mixed Pairs Champions: Elizabeth & David Ward; **RIVER CITY GOLD MIXED PAIRS** [Directors Alan Gibson Chris Snook]: 1 Kim Frazer / Laurie Kelso; 2 Laura Ginnan / Paul Gosney; 3 Sophie Ashton / David Beauchamp; B 1 Jasmine Skeate / Jack Luke-Paredi; 2 Denise Hartwig / Mohan Trada; 3 Joyanne Gissing / Greg Lee; C 1 Sherrell Cardinal / Peter Lang; D Louise & Stephen Bennett; **ARANA CONGRESS** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: **PAIRS** 1 Ewa Kowalczyk / Connie Schoutrop; 2 Rachel Langdon / Nikolas Moore; B 1 Kim McDonald / Carla Webb; 2 Oliver Goodman / Kathleen Clifford; C 1 Robert Olander / Eliza Hemphill; 2 Jeff Borg / Olivia Jackson; **TEAMS** 1 Paul Gosney / Jack Luke-Paredi / Kate Macdonald / Jasmine Skeate; 2 Ian Afflick / Paul Collins / Lyn & Jim Martin; B 1 Kuldip Bedi / Martin Qin / Bob Ren / Martin Wu; 2 Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman / Davis Zhang / Paul Han; C 1 Carol Bellis / Cynthia Sharp / Carla Webb / Jennifer Vickers; 2 Charles Page / Kathleen Clifford / Vanessa Brewis / Jenny McGowan; Queensland Women's Pairs Champions: Carmel Martin / Abby Wanigaratne; Queensland Men's Pairs Champions: Tony Treloar / Peter Evans; **QUEENSLAND BUTLER PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson] 1 Tony Treloar / Peter Evans; 2 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; B 1 Joyanne Gissing / Greg Lee; 2 Margaret Plunkett / Greg Gosney; C 1 Kathleen Clifford / Oliver Goodman; 2 Peter Schmidt / John Rivers; **TOWNSVILLE TEAMS** [Director – Jan Smith]: 1 Betty Hobdell / Ian Patterson / Lesleigh Rooney / Robyn Nolan; 2 David North / Ken Winter / Leigh Owens / John Tredrea; B 1 Donna Fitch / Di Garside / Carol Blackman / Heather Colbert; C 1 Ann Smith / Andree Galeano / Jo Gillis / Sue Reilly; **CAIRNS NOVICE PAIRS** [Director – Rick Gryg]: 1 Jan & Mark Firth; 2 Deb Morison / Bridget Findley; B 1 Sonja de Rooy / Annemarie Stevenson; **TOOWOOMBA CONGRESS** [Director – Chris Snook]: Under 500 1 Jenny McGowan / Vanessa Brewis / Marge Henry / Sally Hall; 2 Mavis Simpson / Robert Fulcher / Joan Mladen / John Erlandson; **NOVICE** 1 Kerry Gibson / Andrew Mollison / Pauline Curin / Debra Coward; 2 Gretchen Graf / Judy Bodkin / Jenni Darlington / Marie Steger; **GOLD COAST CONGRESS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: **PAIRS** 1 Watson Zhou / Charlie Lu; 2 Kerry Wood / Charles Howard; B 1 Zenon Olszewski / George Topfner; C 1 Kevin Gosling / Angela van Daal; **TEAMS** 1 Sue & David Smith / Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison; 2 Eva & Tony Berger / Usher Zeng / Ann Liu; B 1 Paul Han / Davis Zhang / Richard Spelman / Lyn Tracey; C 1 Lesley Berry / Mary Simon / Jennifer Sawyer / Kevin Hamilton-Reen; **NOOSA PAIRS** [Director – Peter Busch]: 1 Michael Huddart / Maureen Jakes; 2 Adrienne Kelly / Geoff Olsen; B 1 Gayna Ryan / Julie Scott; 2 Maureen Wright / Diana Banks; C 1 Kerry Rutter / Julia Caldwell; 2 Meredith Bunn / Joan Reeve; **SUNSHINE COAST CONGRESS** [Director – Peter Busch]: **PAIRS** 1 Kate Macdonald / Ben Leung; 2 Neville Francis / Patrick Bugler; 3 Val Roland / Michael Stoneman; B 1 Kathy & Warren Males; 2 Upasana Shanti / Cathy Clarke; 3 Diane Sargent / Elizabeth Templeton; **TEAMS** 1 Carolyn Miller / Kevin Steffensen / Lyn & Jim Martin; 2 Alison Dawson / Greg Lee / Carmel Martin / Abby Wanigaratne; B 1 Carmel Dwan / Pepe Schwegler / Gary Petterson / Marjorie Mackinnon; 2 John Reiter / Keith Cohen / Jan Kinross / Jenny Hays.

MYABF Summary Report

from ABF Annual General Meeting

My ABF first launched in December 2020. As at 12 May 2024 there are:

- 22,884 users (12,047 registered, 10,837 unregistered)
- 941 congresses published (including Club, State and National events)
- 3,929 club sessions processed (\$865k value, \$663k paid with bridge credits)

As at 12 May the following usage by clubs has been identified:

- Total “organisations” in MYABF - 368
- Clubs active in MYABF - 122
- Clubs who have run a congress - 101
- Clubs actively using Club Sessions - 16

The Club Sessions functionality was made available nationally in April 2023 after a successful pilot program with two clubs (many thanks to the staff and members of the City of Melville Bridge Club in Perth and the **Northern Suburbs Bridge Club in Brisbane** for their support). This offers clubs the facility to accept payment for club sessions via bridge credits. It allows players to run a prepayment account with their bridge credits. Several clubs have taken this up and some are now running all their sessions through myABF. They upload a list of players at the session (sourced from the Bridgemates) and the system calculates the relevant table money due which can then be paid either with bridge credits or other means. This greatly streamlines club administration and is enormously convenient for members too (no need to pay individually with cash, card or voucher, no need to prepurchase vouchers and remember to bring them, etc).

Take-up of this function has, to date, been slow although it is pleasing to report that Canberra Bridge Club recently moved all their events and sessions into myABF and are now the largest club (in terms of members) using the system. **It is notable that usage in Queensland has expanded the most** – primarily due to some on-the-ground support and drive from local champions (Jacqui Dudurovic and Siobhan Davies). We are looking to expand this sort of network nationwide.

These Queensland clubs are successfully on board with the myABF Club administration model: Caboolture, Caloundra, Gold Coast, Noosa, Northern Suburbs, Sunshine Coast Mt Tamborine, Toowong and Toowoomba with Arana and QCBC currently in the implementation phase.

Clarifying Stripe fees and the ABF's 2% charge

It is important that players and clubs understand the reason for the 2% withheld from settlement payments made to clubs. There seems to be a misconception that this is a service fee for the use of MYABF. It is not! It is the way the ABF covers the transaction fees we are charged by Stripe, the company that processes card payments. Just to clarify the process:

- Player puts money in (say \$100).
 - o Player gets credit for \$100 and isn't charged any fee.
 - o ABF gets paid by Stripe but doesn't receive \$100 because Stripe fees are deducted.
 - o ABF therefore bears all transaction costs on this money at this point.
- Player spends the credits on entries or sessions.
 - o The \$100 moves from the Player account to one or more Organisation accounts.
- Organisation(s) complete the event(s).
- ABF settles the funds to the Organisation(s). 2% is deducted. Which is designed to:
 - o Recoup the original Stripe fees the ABF paid at step 1.
 - o Place the Organisation broadly in the position they would have been had they taken payment through their own merchant facilities (which would also incur fees).

Julian Foster

MYABF Project Manager

Investing in the Future

David Fryda

How the ABF is revolutionising bridge club management and player experience

Our Mission

The Australian Bridge Federation's (ABF) mission for 2022-2025 is to guide and promote bridge across Australia, ensuring our community not only survives but thrives, even in the face of global challenges like COVID-19. To achieve this, we have focused on three key areas: growing the game of bridge in Australia, supporting our community and its diverse needs, and future-proofing our infrastructure to stay ahead of technological advancements while mitigating risks associated with obsolete technologies and single-person dependencies.

Central to this mission is the MYABF development project, which aims to revolutionise bridge club management and enhance the overall player experience through comprehensive, integrated technology solutions. As we move forward, it is essential to address the financial requirements needed to support this ambitious initiative while also covering the group's increasing operating costs and adjusting for inflation. This is why, at the ABF's annual general meeting (AGM) in May, the council voted in favour of some small but necessary rolling increases in our fees over the next three years to ensure the sustainability and continued growth of our beloved game.

ABF Financial History

Over many years, the ABF built a very healthy balance sheet and had sufficient cash reserves to cover the small operating deficits that became the norm for several years. The COVID years resulted in a couple of small surpluses for the ABF, but we have since returned to operating at a deficit again.

There is a broad range of reasons for these deficits, including the rising cost of operations in an inflationary environment. Staff and infrastructure costs have continued to increase, as have the costs of insurance, running the Masterpoint Centre, maintaining our websites and sending representative teams to world championships.

MYABF Investment Proposal

In addition, the ABF has been investing heavily in technology for the past five years. In 2018, the ABF Board resolved to invest over half a million dollars in MYABF, a technology platform designed to:

Support all Australian clubs and players by simplifying the administration of clubs and bridge events

Make systems more user-friendly, easy to use, and accessible for players, improving their experience

Reduce the many hours of effort needed by employees and volunteers to manage clubs, members, masterpoints, and scoring

Address critical issues in the bridge community's technology infrastructure, such as single-person dependencies, obsolete technologies, and a lack of strategic direction

Ensure systems function without interruption, meeting the high expectations of bridge players for reliable technology

Streamline membership management, payment processing, and event entries, significantly reducing administrative burdens and providing more accurate reporting

Provide an easy-to-use, all-in-one leading bridge technology solution for clubs and associations across Australia, enhancing the experience of bridge players at all levels

Deliver a single integrated platform running on reliable IT infrastructure (in the cloud), available to all affiliated bridge clubs and players throughout Australia

At the time MYABF was proposed it was thought it could be delivered within three years and that the ABF had sufficient cash reserves to fund the development without charging clubs or players.

However, like many technology projects, the time and cost were underestimated due to unexpected challenges such as COVID-19, significant increases in inflation, additional club needs, and changes in personnel.

Since its inception in 2019, though managed by a single project manager and just one or two developers supported by a group of volunteers on a steering committee, the project has successfully transformed bridge event management across Australia and become the envy of many clubs worldwide. Nearly all bridge events nationwide now use MYABF as the portal, providing players with the information they require and the ability to enter and pay their fees seamlessly. More recently, several bridge clubs have transitioned to using MYABF for their club management, allowing their members to pay their table fees through their MYABF account.

MYABF Current State

By the end of 2024, the total investment in MYABF will be approximately \$900,000. The impact on the ABF's cash reserves has been far greater than originally anticipated.

Operating MYABF, in addition to its development, is also contributing to the ABF's rising costs. For example, when we pass event money that we have collected on behalf of clubs back to them we attempt to recover the transaction costs that Stripe have charged us. Although we aim to "break even," we have in fact incurred more costs than we have recovered. These operating expenses and additional behind-the-scenes administrative costs are covered from the ABF's general funds.

MYABF Future

Whilst MYABF is already offering significant savings and benefits to clubs and is admired worldwide, we still have more work to do to complete the development of MYABF. There are three core elements still to be done:

Complete club membership module to enable clubs to retire existing systems

Integrate masterpoint centre (MPC) with MYABF as MPC software is running on outdated software that is no longer supported

Integrate a scoring program with MYABF to reduce errors and overheads

To complete this development and cover the costs of the ongoing operation and support of the software, as well as address the deficits the ABF is incurring from their general operations, we estimate we will need to raise an additional one million dollars over the next three years.

Funding Our Future

The ABF has two main sources of income: capitation fees, a charge paid by all clubs based on their number of members, and masterpoint fees, which vary based on the colour (green, red, and gold) and grade of competition. Clubs and event organisers need to cover the cost of masterpoints in the fees they charge players each time they play.

As one might anticipate, both capitation and masterpoint fees have gradually increased over the years in alignment with rising operating costs. Recognising the financial strains brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we halved the capitation fees for a year to alleviate some of the financial pressures experienced by our members during this challenging time. This was in addition to funnelling over one million dollars in table fees from online games back to the clubs between May 2020 and September 2021.

Some alternative methods of raising the required funds were considered, but they all would result in even more costs to administer, so it was agreed that raising the capitation and masterpoint fees would be the best approach. Rather than solely burdening competition players with these additional costs, the ABF Council agreed at its AGM that, since the benefits of the ABF's operations and MYABF will be enjoyed by all, and are essential for the sustainability and growth of our bridge community, it is appropriate that the increases be shared by everyone.

Impact On Players

As a result, we will be increasing the annual capitation fee and masterpoints fees by less than \$4 a year for the next three years. This reflects our commitment to keeping bridge as an affordable pastime whilst providing huge benefits to players across the country.

**Capitation Fee Increases for
2025, 2026, and 2027**

Year	Capitation Fee Increase	New Total
2025	\$3.30	\$23.30
2026	\$3.30	\$26.60
2027	\$3.30	\$29.90

Masterpoint Fee Increases for 2025

In April next year the cost of masterpoints will increase as follows:

Colour	Current	April 2025
Green	\$2.02	\$2.53
Club Red	\$1.62	\$2.03
Congress Red	\$2.14	\$2.68
State Red & Gold	\$1.39	\$1.74

To put these increases in context, the following table illustrates the impact on some example sessions:

Session Type	Increase	Or Cost Per Player
12-table duplicate	\$1.20	5 cents
Red point event run over four sessions	\$20	\$1.50
Gold point event run over four days	\$350	70 cents per day

In 2026 and 2027, masterpoint fees will increase by three percent per year in line with inflation.

These increases have been calculated to raise the one million dollars required to cover the ABF's costs in 2025, 2026, and 2027. The \$900,000 investment already made by the ABF in MYABF is not being recovered. We expect our cash reserves to remain at or near the level they will be at the end of 2024 throughout the next three years.

We expect the vast majority of Australian bridge players will accept that these increases have been well considered and scrutinised by the ABF's management, Board, finance committee, and councillors, and therefore are being made with players' best interests in mind. However, there are, without doubt, some players who feel the increases are not justified or that the benefits will not flow back to them. None of us like it when costs increase, but we all value the continued prosperity of our bridge community and the reduced workload for our hardworking volunteers, making it easier for everyone to enjoy both playing and managing the game. Even with these increases the ABF's charges remain low in comparison with other nationally supported bodies.

The small team involved in the running of MYABF will be supporting clubs across the country as they implement MYABF so the benefits can be enjoyed as soon as possible.

ABF Technology Fund

At the AGM in May, the Council also resolved to establish an ABF Technology Fund and to redirect some historical ABF payments to the states and territories into this fund. The fund's objective will be to reduce the impact of the costs to deliver and support the MYABF platform into the future. We will be seeking donations into this fund from players and sponsors, and at the 2025 AGM, the Council will consider, based on the success of the fund-raising, ways to pass the benefits back to players. This may come in the form of targeted relief to players with financial constraints or may even result in delays or reductions in the implementation of the planned increases in 2026 and 2027.

In Conclusion

Hopefully, this article helps you to understand why these increases are being implemented. If you have unanswered questions, we plan on distributing more information over the coming weeks to address them. Additionally, ABF management and Board members will be available at upcoming events for Q&A sessions, and if there is sufficient demand, we will run webinars to answer your questions.

In the meantime, I welcome comments and suggestions from members and I will try to respond within time constraints.