

# From the President



#### THE 2025 GCC WILL BE THE LAST

A 60+ years old institution will be coming to an end in 2025. The Queensland Bridge Association Management Committee has announced that the 2025 Gold Coast International Congress will be the last following recent notice from the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre that the venue is fully booked throughout 2026 except for one week during the last week of the January school holidays. That week is unsuitable for a number of reasons which include the cost of accommodation which peaks at this time.

In negotiations over the past few years, the QBA had requested forward dates 18 months ahead but were never successful in obtaining these. The GCCEC was aware that, apart from school holidays, the QBA in consultation with the Australian Bridge Federation, had been prepared to shift the GCC to any other time of the year which would suit the GCCEC but no alternative dates were forthcoming. The GCCEC is managed by Star Entertainment on behalf of the Queensland Government. Appeals to a number of government departments, ministers and politicians for their intervention resulted in a formal letter stating that 'the government is not involved in the day-to-day operations or commercial decisions regarding the Centre'.

The GCC is the largest in the southern hemisphere and it is estimated that it brings in over \$8 million of business to the Gold Coast for the week it is running. Research has shown that there are no other venues at the Gold Coast able to accommodate an event of this size and calibre apart from the Carrara Indoor Sports Centre which, apart from having the necessary floor space, is unpopular because of its distance from Broadbeach, accommodation and restaurants.

This decision has not been made lightly. After thoroughly exploring all possible alternatives over the past 18 months, the QBA understands that it will bring with it a wave of disappointment to thousands of loyal players in Australia and around the world. We truly appreciate everyone's support during this challenging time.

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# QBA Festival of Bridge - Teams



The 2024 QBA Festival of Bridge took place from Saturday 12 October to Monday 14 October at QCBC. It was great to see a full room of 48 teams with players from across the state. That such a large event went so smoothly was to the great credit of directors Julie Jeffries and Alan Gibson, and the organisers Toni Bardon and Kim and Ray Ellaway.

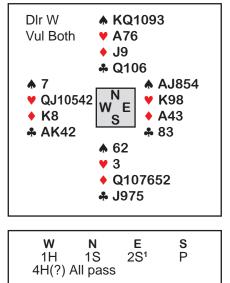
Congratulations to the teams who made the semi-finals: STRONG (Terry Strong, Jill Magee, Martin Qin, Charlie Lu), GEARING (Michael Gearing, Pele Rankin, Jack Luke-Paredi, Kate MacDonald), GISSING (Joyanne Gissing, Greg Lee, Ben Leung, Lauren Morgan) and BUGLER (Pat Bugler, Tim Runting, Nik Moore, Larry Moses). STRONG narrowly prevailed over GEARING 52-47 in the final, with BUGLER taking 3rd place in the playoff.



Directors: Julie Jeffries and Alan Gibson

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I found the slam bidding immensely frustrating – mostly missing what was makeable but also getting into what I should have stayed away from. This hand kicked off the fun.

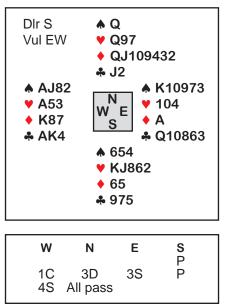


<sup>1</sup>3-card invite or better raise in hearts

Given the 5-loser nature of the West hand and the singleton spade under the opposition spade bidder, I should have done more, possibly with a 4 splinter. I was uneasy about committing us to the 5-level when partner (Tony Treloar) might only be an invite hand. In any event, Tony subsequently felt he wouldn't have got too excited given the amount of stuff he had in spades. Unfortunately for us, the hands matched very nicely, with all the requisite pointy stuff and very good heart texture. Curiously, no one in the room found 6.

Note that the somewhat unlikely

defence of the  $\blacktriangleleft$ A and another does not defeat the slam. West can play the  $\bigstar$ A K, ruff a club, the  $\bigstar$ A, ruff a spade and then run all the hearts. South is squeezed in diamonds and clubs and must concede trick 12.



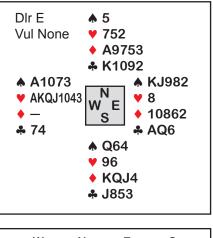
I wanted to do more with the West hand, but given the favourable vulnerability pre-empt (non-vul vs vul) and South's silence, I had visions of AQXXXX over me and South leading a singleton with the first 3 tricks proceeding ♦Q, ♦A and ruff. I could have tried 5♠ which in our system would have shown a control problem in the opposition suit and Tony with the singleton +A would have had an easy 6♠ bid. To add insult to injury, the opposition EW at the home table managed to bid the grand slam against our teammates. 7/48 pairs managed to get to a slam.

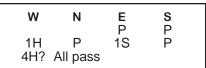


Teams winners: Charlie Lu, Martin Qin, Terry Strong and Jill Magee

DIr N	<b>▲</b> Q1087
Vul NS	<b>♥</b> 10432
	♦ J4
	<b>&amp;</b> 842
<b>▲</b> 4	▲ A652
<b>v</b> —	W E AQJ8
108753	S ♦ 4K92
🐥 AQJ10653	<b>♣</b> K
	▲ KJ93
	▲ KJ93 ▼ K9765
	♥ K9765
	<ul><li>♥ K9765</li><li>♦ Q6</li></ul>
	<ul> <li>♥ K9765</li> <li>♦ Q6</li> <li>♣ 97</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>♥ K9765</li> <li>♥ Q6</li> <li>♣ 97</li> <li>E S</li> </ul>
W N F 6C All p	<ul> <li>♥ K9765</li> <li>♥ Q6</li> <li>₱ 97</li> <li>■ E S</li> <li>■ 2NT P</li> </ul>

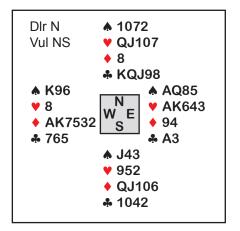
Most pairs found the slam on this one, mostly in diamonds I suspect after a 1 ◆ opening from East. I subsequently realised that we were playing 3 ★ minor suit Stayman and we could have had a vaguely scientific auction but obviously would have stayed out of the making grand slam given the missing ◆Q.



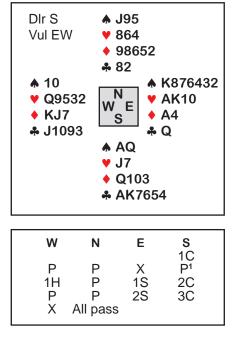


This one really wasn't forgivable. Having avoided a 4♥ opening, given that even a passed partner could have the right stuff for slam, I then squibbed the 4♦ splinter in response to a promising looking 1♠ response. After the splinter, Tony would have realised his passed hand couldn't be any better and we would have found the slam. Only 12/48 pairs got to the slam, I suspect mostly because of unfortunate 4♥ openings.

Having avoided a number of making slams, I now propelled this one to slam.

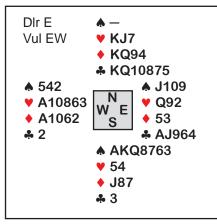


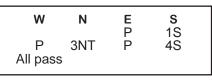
After Tony's 1♥ opening, I decided my hand was good enough for a 2♦ 2/1 response and naturally this was enough for Tony to propel things to 6♦ given we were only missing the ♦Q. The bad trump break sunk the hand – it did have chances on a 3-2 diamond break even with the ♣K lead if spades were 3-3 or (a better line of play) if a heart could be set up and a second club discarded before the master trump interrupted proceedings.



#### <sup>1</sup> Surely worth an immediate 24?

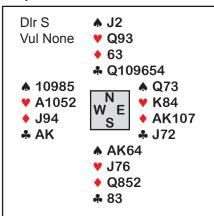
I decided four of a major might be shaky on this hand given my singleton in partner's suit and decided to take the money despite the fact we were vul against nonvul. Declarer lost two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs for -500. Unfortunately, both 4♥ and 4♠ are there but only a minority of the field found them.





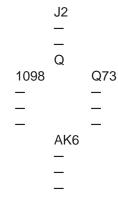
Partner took my  $\bigstar 2$  lead with the  $\bigstar A$  and returned  $\bigstar 6$ . Declarer successfully ruffed with an irritating  $\bigstar 8$ , drew trumps and led  $\bigstar 7$ . I should immediately rise with  $\bigstar A$  and lead a low heart to at least put declarer to the guess but foolishly ducked and a heart went away on the  $\bigstar Q$  and with it any chance to beat the contract.

This was a nicely played hand by Tony as East in 3NT.

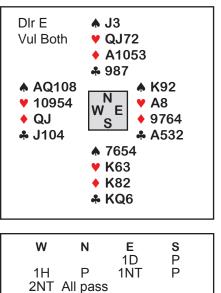


The  $\clubsuit$ 8 was led because of a rather aggressive 3 pre-empt over my 1 opening. Tony won with the  $\clubsuit$ A, came to his hand with the  $\P$ K and finessed the  $\P$ 10 to North's  $\P$ Q. A second club was won with  $\clubsuit$ K and Tony finessed the  $\blacklozenge$ J to South's  $\blacklozenge$ Q and South returned a diamond. Tony cashed three diamonds and two hearts for eight tricks and this picture.

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



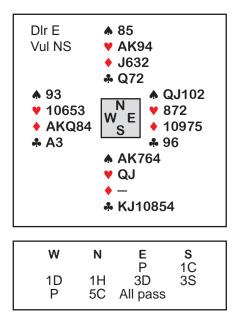
The  $\pm 10$  now caught the  $\pm J$  and South had to donate a spade trick for nine tricks.



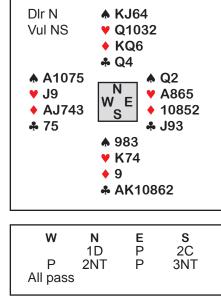
This hand excited some discussion as to whether the East hand constitutes an opening hand or not. I think it does (just), but a 4-3-3-3 hand with A. AK would not be. Half the field (and Tony) disagreed with this and we got a pick up when the hand was passed out at our table. The above bidding was at the home table. 2NT was probably a bit too pushy - West does have three 10s and EW are vulnerable at teams, but the West hand is still a 10-count opposite a 12-14 hand and the **•**QJ holding still looks potentially dubious even if partner has opened the suit. Accurate defence from our teammates saw 2NT down two for +200.

Some nice bidding from our teammates Janeen Solomon and Ian Afflick.

If you have the slightest touch of masochism, you'll love this game.



I think hands with one of a minor and five of a major should generally be opened one of the minor and then the major repeated twice to get the full shape over to partner. When the opposition leapt in diamonds, Ian (North) could tell Janeen was probably void in diamonds and that 5<sup>th</sup> was a good spot. Much of the field was in poor spade contracts, no doubt from opening the hand 1<sup>th</sup>.

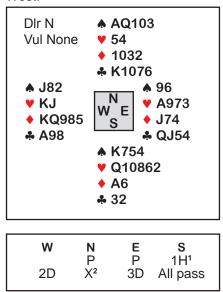


Surprisingly few in the field (22/48) bid this good game. Despite the shortage in partner's opened suit, I think the South hand with 10 HCPs and a good 6-card suit must drive this hand to game.

And from the finals with thanks to Michael Gearing.

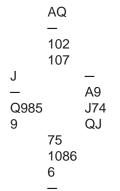
I'd like a review of the bidding with all of the original inflections.

Some nice play from Charlie Lu as West.



<sup>1</sup>Non-vul light third-seat opening <sup>2</sup>Negative double showing spades

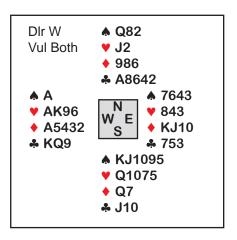
North led the  $\Psi$ 5 to Charlie's  $\Psi$ J. He then led a small spade, won by North with the  $\pm$ 10 and a second heart was led to Charlie's  $\Psi$ K. Next came another small spade, won by South's  $\pm$ K and a club was played through to North's  $\pm$ K. North returned a club to Charlie's  $\pm$ A who led the  $\pm$ K to South's  $\pm$ A giving this picture.



With four tricks in the bag, South now shifted to a 3rd round of hearts. Charlie ruffed with the  $\diamond$ Q and then lead a diamond and finessed the  $\diamond$ 7, drew the last trump and could claim.



Pairs 2nd: Jack Luke-Paredi and Pele Rankin



I'm a fan of opening 2NT on appropriate strength hands even though you have a singleton ace or king. At one table.

W	N	E	<b>s</b>
2NT	P	3NT	All pass
2111		3141	All pass

Not knowing the spade situation, North led the ♣4 and West managed to make 11 tricks.

At the other table.

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	E	<b>s</b>
1D	P	P	1S
X	2S	P	P
X	Ρ	3D	All pass

With the spade weakness now pointed out, 3NT was no longer viable. Declarer made 10 tricks in diamonds.



Pairs winners: Richard Ward and Therese Tully

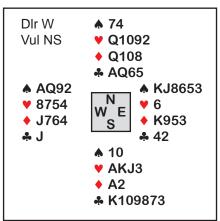
# QBA Festival of Bridge - Pairs



Nikolas Moore

HE QBA Festival of Bridge was held at QCBC from October 12 to 14. In the Teams, STRONG (Terry Strong, Jill Magee, Martin Qin and Charlie Lu) was undefeated in the preliminary round and won the final against GEARING by just 5 IMPs. I was in team BUGLER partnering Larry Moses with Tim Runting and Patrick Bugler as team-mates. We came from nowhere to miraculously sneak into the semi-finals, where we lost by 14 IMPs to GEARING before winning the third-place playoff against GISSING by the same margin.

This meant that Larry and I entered the Pairs on Sunday morning, with a score placing us between 3rd and 4th along with the other semi-finalists. We played a lot of tough opponents and though we had no big losses we lost our last three rounds to finish 18th out of 89. Therese Tully and Richard Ward won the event. We had several boards that were a lot worse than expected, such as this one from our second round against Jill and Terry.



In the East seat I opened a multi- 2 showing a weak hand with a long major. North was declarer in 4.

I led a spade and declarer made his 11 top tricks plus a spade ruff on what I thought would be a fairly average board yet it was a disastrous 6% for us.

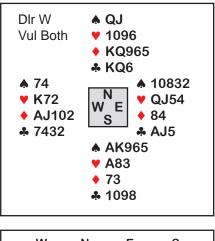
To get an extra trick I have to lead a club and win the first spade to give partner a club ruff. The 4-1 trump break means that if declarer draws trumps to stop this, he can't get a spade ruff. Even -650 was only 22%, with many pairs in clubs instead, or defending  $4 \pm$  or  $5 \pm$ , a cheap sacrifice. The much bigger club fit does not make 12 tricks because there is

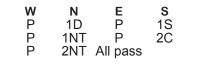


Festival organisers: Toni Bardon, Kim Ellaway and Ray Ellaway

nowhere to pitch the diamond and spade losers; hence the 4-4 heart not only scores more but is much more likely to make 12 tricks!

Second place went to Jack Luke-Paredi and Pele Rankin. Jack fooled me with a fine defensive effort on this board in our third round (round 7 overall) of the event.

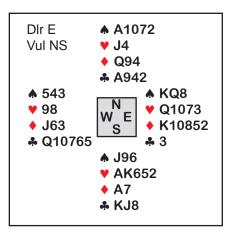




Larry's 24 asks if I have extra length in either major and is at least invitational. With 13 points and a good 5-card suit I could easily have bid 3NT but have often preferred to underbid slightly on borderline hands at matchpoints. Even 2NT does not make, as the heart lead takes out the entry to dummy while the spades are blocked. I won the third heart in dummy and led a diamond. West rose ace and switched to the -4. I played the king and East smoothly ducked the ace, having worked out basically my entire hand. I cashed three rounds of spades and when the ten didn't drop, repeated the "winning" club finesse only for East to win for two down and 31%.

Had he won the ♣A when the suit was first led, and cashed his heart, the third round of diamonds would have forced him to bare his jack of clubs, giving me a chance to make.

Our second last round, against Rachel Langdon and Kim Morrison was similar. In both rounds, Larry made a doubled contract allowing us to recover to 46% after disastrous starts. On this hand, I was endplayed at trick #2.



Larry (West) led a club against 3NT. Declarer won the trick cheaply in hand and ran the  $\bigstar$ J to my queen. No matter what suit I play back gives declarer a trick.

I exited a diamond to the jack and queen, the least of all evils, as I have enough entries to set the suit up. Declarer led the ♥J and ducked my queen to retain an entry to hand. I knocked out the ♦A and declarer cashed a club winner, and I had to discard a diamond winner. Declarer cashed the ♥A K and, with the suit not breaking, went with the odds and repeated the spade finesse to my king for two down and an 86% result to us.

To make this double dummy it would be necessary to cash a second club, so I have to discard another diamond, and then endplay me with the fourth round of hearts so that I have to lead way from the  $\pm$ K.



Best regional pair: Leigh Owens, Richard Ward (QBA Pres.) and Jan Smith

**Ethical Dilemmas** 



Matthew McManus

# Information, and what to do with it

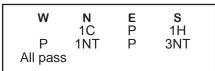
While playing bridge, there is only one legal way of communicating with your partner: during the auction, by the calls you make; and during the play, by the cards you play. Any other information which passes between you and partner is called unauthorised information (often abbreviated to UI). The laws explicitly state that you may not use such information when deciding what action to take.

UI can take many forms. It ranges from the highly undesirable - the shake of the head, the look of disgust, the unmistakeable groan - to the absolutely innocent which is part of the game (eg. partner alerting your bid). Two of the most common types of UI are also a perfectly normal aspect of the game. One is the length of time partner takes when deciding what to do; when they take a long time, they clearly have a problem. The other is the explanation of the meaning of your bid which partner gives to the opponents; if he gets it wrong, you know that partner has misunderstood you and there is the temptation to "have another go" at getting it right.

In this article, I am going to talk about what your responsibilities are when you have UI from partner. It is a question which I am regularly asked. Many players think they should just ignore it and do what they would have done anyway. However, this is not correct. The Laws of Bridge place a greater ethical obligation on you when you find yourself in this position. Hopefully, the following examples may demonstrate it.

With both sides vulnerable, you are sitting East, holding the following uninspiring hand. You hear the opponents, playing Standard, bid uninterrupted to 3NT.

You, sitting East, hold			
<b>▲</b> J7653			
<b>v</b> 10			
♦ 8652			
<b>*</b> 754			
The auction goes			



They haven't shown any inclination to bid towards slam even though you only have one point, so partner must have a reasonable hand – maybe even an opening hand. What do you lead?

Look at the options:

• a blacktriangleft - it is usually pointless leading from a long suit with a weak hand, as it will take a lot for it to be right. (For example, partner holds KQx and declarer can only duck once.) However you might get lucky and this is what many players would choose.

 a ♥ – South has not made any move to search for a heart fit, so the chances are that he has only four and NS have at most seven hearts between them. If they have seven and you have one, partner has five hearts and a good hand, but couldn't bid. The opposition bid his suit. Just think about all the times when partner is on lead to 3NT and you hold a singleton - it's always the suit partner leads! So why not return the favour when you are on lead? There is an excellent chance that it is the best one for your side.

• a ♦ – could be right and it is probably fairly safe. Even if you are picking up the suit for declarer, it is something which he probably could have done himself. It probably won't be a devastating lead (partner may have bid diamonds if that was the case), but it is one that is least likely to give anything away, and maybe that's how you need to defend this hand

• a ♣ – to lead declarer's suit would be a real shot in the dark. I suspect it has the least expectation of being successful.

So, having heard the evidence, what do you choose? For me,

the argument for a heart lead is strongest, although I can understand if you want to choose a spade or a diamond.

Now let me give you some more information. After South bid 3NT, partner paused for about 15 seconds before passing. What were they thinking about?

There are two possibilities: bidding or doubling. What was partner thinking of bidding? I don't think there is an answer to that question, There is no way that partner would have considered stepping in over 3NT. So it was double. If partner had doubled, what would you have led? The correct answer is a ♥. When partner, having passed throughout, doubles a freely bid 3NT, it asks you to lead dummy's first bid suit. They have got very good hearts; they couldn't bid them since the opponents bid them first, and they couldn't double 1H as that would be for takeout showing the other suits.

Now on the actual hand, partner did not double, but they were clearly thinking about it. Do you still lead a heart? This is where knowledge of your ethical responsibilities comes into play.

#### Law 73C

Where a player has available to him unauthorised information from his partner, such as from a remark,... explanation,...hesitation..., he must carefully avoid taking any advantage from that unauthorised information.

So it is not good enough to merely pretend that you didn't notice that partner had passed some UI (as they did here through the hesitation before passing over 3NT) and lead what you were going to do anyway. The Laws require that you actively steer clear of the action which partner has, in this instance, unconsciously suggested will be the winning one. The only time that a heart lead would be allowed is if it was absolutely clear cut on your hand. (#AKQJ10 would be the most extreme example of when it would be standout, but it has to be very, very obvious.)

My second example relates to the bidding:

Partner opens 1H and you hold:

♠ AK4
💙 J862
<b>•</b> 984
<b>&amp; K</b> 98

The auction goes:

W	<b>N</b> 1H	E	<b>s</b> 3D!	
Р	?	Г	50:	

You have close to an opening hand (albeit a very weak one), four card support for partner, but poor shape. You decide to show this as a limit raise. You and your partner have agreed to play Bergen raises and the bid to show this hand is 3D.

Partner alerts 3D as required and then starts thinking. After what seems like an eternity, partner eventually bids 3H, signing off. Are you tempted to try 4H? Look at all your points! You would open the bidding with most 11 counts, so you can use the excuse that you have an opening hand. What UI do you have from partner's hesitation? What were his alternatives? 3H or 4H. If you are going to "carefully avoid taking any advantage", you must pass.

Same situation. Partner alerts 3D. This time the opponents ask and he says, "6 to 9 points with four hearts" and bids 3H immediately. This time you have heard the wrong explanation. Partner may have an automatic 4H bid opposite a limit raise. But again in avoiding taking advantage of the UI, you must pass.

Are there any times when you could bid again when you show a limit raise and partner bids 3H? Yes, if you have no UI, you are free to do what you like, no matter how silly it might be. So if partner explained 3D correctly and bid 3H straight away, do whatever you want. Similarly, if there were no questions asked and partner bid 3H without hesitation, again you are at liberty to make any call at all.

The only other time you may get a chance is if your hand "changes" and you haven't got your bid. So say you suddenly discover that the  $\clubsuit 9$  is actually the  $\bigstar A$ . Now you could justify a 4H bid.

When players bid 4H in the face of UI, their excuse is often, "But I was

going to bid it anyway". Apart from being a self-serving statement, it misses the point. When they have UI, they need to bend over backwards not to take an action which takes advantage of it. Unless you have a miscount of a similar magnitude to the one I described in the previous paragraph, if you choose to show a limit raise, for example, that's it. Once partner conveys UI, you have absolutely no option but to pass their sign off.

Is there a way around it?

1. Get your partner not to pass UI! That's hard. In one instance, they have to get the system right. On the other hand, if they do hesitate, encourage them to err on the side of bidding on rather than signing off. Get them to understand that you will be bound by their decision.

2. If you have a hand on which you want to be in game, make a bid which is not invitational. So, for example, if you decide that the above hand is worth bidding game, then do not make a limit raise – find another bid.

3. Change your system so that you have a bid which forces you to game without overstating your strength. For example, the auction 1H-3NT is one which doesn't come up very often. My suggestion is to use 3NT in this sequence to show a hand which is about the strength of a limit raise, but is just too good to stop out of game. That way you don't have to include such hands in your normal game force raise sequence and can avoid the risk of partner shooting off to slam when you just don't have enough ammunition. One thing you should definitely avoid is having a bid which shows "limit raise or better". That is asking for trouble. If you get UI from partner before a sign off and you then bid on, you will get little sympathy from the director if your hand is at all borderline.

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# 2025 Canberra SUMMER FESTIVAL of Bredge

# Whether it's your 1<sup>st</sup> Festival or your 50<sup>th</sup> COME HAVE SOME FUN

### **♦♥♦** EARLY BIRDS **♦<b>†**♥**♦**

One lucky player will win the value of their entry back in ABF credits. Entries must be made and paid by <u>October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024</u>. The draw will be held on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

## BONUS EARLY BIRD OFFER FOR CANBERRA REX HOTEL BOOKINGS

Book and pay by <u>October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024</u> to be in the draw to win a \$100 dining voucher at the HOWLING MOON BROCHURE BOOK NOW CONTACT

Tournament Organiser: Laura Ginnan email not@abf.com.au







# **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

Silly shoes an



# YEPPOON BRIDGE CLUB

PRESENTS

# 29th BARRIER REEF CONGRESS 2025 2- 5 MAY 2025

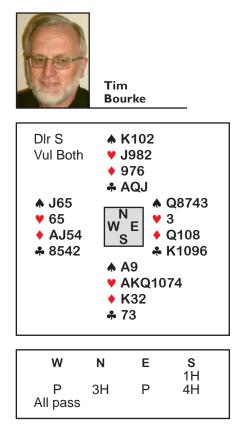
GOLD POINT EVENT

# VENUE: ST URSULA'S COLLEGE 42 QUEEN STREET, YEPPOON QUEENSLAND

Chief Director: Chris Snook | Chief Scorer: Peter Busch Tournament Organiser: Karin le Roux 0428 859 898 Website <u>https://qldbridge.com.au</u> | Email: brc2025yep@gmail.com



# IBPA Column Service

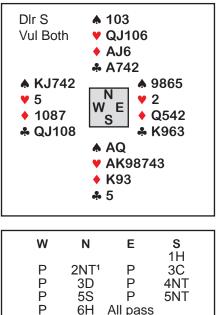


After North made a limit raise in hearts, South had an obvious raise to game. As he didn't like any of his plain suit options for the lead, West led a trump. When dummy appeared, declarer realised that game would be easy if either the diamond ace was with East or the king of clubs was on his left. However, if both of those cards were badly placed the contract was likely to fail, since the defenders would then be favourites to take four tricks in the minor suits.

Declarer's strategy was therefore to try and develop a second trick in clubs without East, the danger hand, being allowed to gain the lead. At trick one, he took the trump lead on table with the eight and called for dummy's two of spades. When East followed with a low card declarer covered it with his nine. After winning the trick with the jack of spades, West exited with a club.

Declarer was not tempted to finesse, rising with the ace of clubs instead. Declarer continued by playing dummy's ten of spades to his ace and then led his seven of trumps to dummy's nine. Next he cashed the king of spades and threw the seven of clubs from hand. Now the point of the play in spades becomes clear: he could guarantee his contract by leading dummy's queen of clubs and running it if East followed with a low club. (He would make six trumps and four tricks in the black suits.)

In practice, East played the king of clubs and declarer ruffed it with the ace of trumps. Then declarer led his ten of trumps to dummy's jack to cash the jack of clubs and throw a low diamond from hand. Finally, declarer led a diamond to his king to try for the overtrick. When West took this with the ace, declarer conceded another diamond and claimed ten tricks.



<sup>1</sup> Four-card raise.

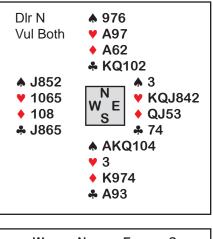
This deal came up in a teams game and both teams reached the heart slam on similar auctions. After a Jacoby 2NT forcing raise in hearts by North, South showed his singleton club then drove to the slam via a key-card enquiry. The lead was the same at both tables: the queen of clubs.

The play at the first table was quick. Declarer took the lead with dummy's ace of clubs and cashed the queen of trumps. Next he led a spade to his queen. West took this with the king and exited with a club. Declarer ruffed this in hand then cashed the king of diamonds before leading a diamond to dummy's jack. When that lost to East's queen he was down one. At the other table, declarer won the first trick with the ace of clubs and ruffed a club high. Declarer then led a trump to dummy's queen and ruffed a second club. Continuing with this theme, declarer returned to dummy with a trump and ruffed dummy's remaining club. Next, instead of embarking on any finesses, declarer played the ace of spades followed by the queen.

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West took this with the king and exited with the seven of diamonds, as it was clear to him that declarer had eliminated the black suits from his hand. Declarer played low from dummy and East was fixed: it did not matter whether he played high or low – declarer would make three diamond tricks and his contract.

What are the odds of the two lines? The first one would make when either finesse succeeded, a three-in-four chance. The second plan succeeds whenever East began with the king of spades, and also when West has the king of spades and at least one of the queen and ten of diamonds, which occurs about seven times out of eight.

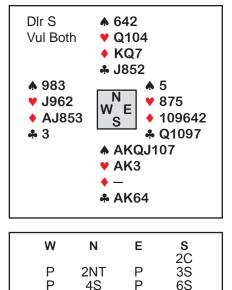


After South made a move toward slam with his cue bid of 4, North appreciated that his hand had improved as a result, and so made a return cue bid of 4. South then checked on key cards with 4NT before bidding the slam in spades.

West led a third-highest five of hearts. Declarer took this with

dummy's ace and then cashed the three top spades, which revealed that he had a sure loser in trumps. Declarer realised that the only hope to make his contract was to ruff dummy's hearts with low trumps and to score six tricks in the minors. So, declarer continued with a low club to dummy's king to ruff a heart. Next he cashed his ace of clubs and led a low club toward dummy.

Since he needed to score four club tricks to make his contract, he covered West's low club with dummy's ten. (If clubs had been 3-3, West would ruff the fourth club and declarer would still have to lose a diamond.) When that held and East discarded, declarer played the gueen of clubs before ruffing dummy's remaining heart. As West was marked with an original 4=3=2=4 shape, declarer confidently took his eleventh and twelfth tricks with the ace and king of diamonds. East's diamond winner and West's jack of trumps fell on the remaining trick.



As North's bidding promised about eight to ten points and at least three spades with his first two calls, South leapt to the small slam in spades. West led the nine of trumps. Declarer took this in hand with the ace and then drew the outstanding trumps by cashing the king and queen of the suit. Declarer followed this by playing the ace and king of clubs. All would have been well if the suit had been 3-2 or West had four clubs but, alas, the clubs were 1=4 with the queen on his right. Many declarers would give up at this point but this declarer was not one of them. He realised that there was a chance if West began with the jack of hearts and the ace of diamonds.

Declarer's next move was to cash the ace of hearts and continue by leading the three of hearts toward dummy. After West followed with a low heart declarer called for dummy's ten of hearts. When declarer opened his eyes, he was relieved to see that the ten had won the trick. Now, he played the king of diamonds from dummy and, after East followed low, he threw the king of hearts from his hand. West took his ace of diamonds and, with only red suit cards left, had to lead either a heart or a diamond. Either way, dummy's red-suit queens would take care of his two club losers. The slam had been brought home!

## Manager's News



Kim Ellaway

LOVE August and one of the reasons is the Northern Territory Gold. It's the only Congress Ray and I commit to playing with each other. We did not shine: however the restaurants thanked our patronage and the bottle shops also thanked us. 2025 is in Alice Springs and Ray and I already have our airfares booked we are still awaiting accommodation details but as soon as they are available we will organise that. Don't always believe what you read - I have been going to Alice Springs for many years and have never seen what the news implies.

Lots of things happening in the bridge world.

- Congratulations to Caloundra who were successful in the Round 121 Gambling Community Benefit Fund.
- 2025 QBA Bridge Calendar is published on the front page of the QBA so start organising your year.
- Flyers and more QBA Information

for all the upcoming events are published throughout this bulletin

- Good Luck to Queenslanders representing Australia in the upcoming World Bridge Games

   Open – Charlie Lu, Womens – Pele Rankin (Captain), Seniors – Andy Braithwaite. Event is on from 22nd October to 3rd November.
- Congratulations to Andy Hung who was on the winning team at New Delhi's 21st HCL International Bridge Championship, winning \$52,000 USD.

The GNOT Qualifying online finals have been completed. Successful Qld teams to the Non-Metropolitan Final were:

Sunshine Coast – Peter Busch, Ken Dawson, Adrienne Kelly, Richard Touton, Stephen and Verna Brookes

Gold Coast – Margaret Pisko, Trish Anagnostou, Krystyna Homik, Frank Hymus, Sue Spurway

Sunshine Coast – Anne Young, Fay Stanton, Andrew and Pippa Hooper, Wendy O'Brien, Amber Noonan

Far North Qld – William Van Bakel, Tony Lusk, Sandy Long, Peerapan Maslen, Jonathan Silberberg, Michael Byrne.

#### Hervey Bay

Hervey Bay City Bridge Club obtains a Community Other Liquor License.

In July 2023, bridge clubs across Queensland received advice from the QBA that alcohol could not be served after play without a liquor license.

The social aspects are an integral part of any bridge club. The post-game session provides an opportunity for club members to socialise, to welcome new members and to host visitors. For this reason, the Hervey Bay City Bridge Club decided that members would be encouraged to stay after play and to provide their own alcohol.

Over the ensuing months, there was a significant decrease in the number of players, including visitors staying to socialise after play. Our membership started to decline so the Hervey Bay City Bridge Club's Management Committee decided to

All pass

explore the feasibility of obtaining a Community Other Liquor License. A cost analysis was undertaken, and we determined that the costs would be recouped within a two-year period.

The next step was to survey the members and 90% strongly supported our club obtaining a liquor license. With the overwhelming support of the club, the committee began the process of applying for a Community Other Liquor License. The first step was to incorporate Queensland's Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR) requirements into our constitution. Once our constitution was approved by our members, a project plan was developed and the application process, including providing RSA training for several club members, began in earnest.

The OLGR granted our club a

Community Other Liquor License for 25 hours per week on 12 July 2024. We are the first bridge club to be granted this type of liquor license in Queensland.

We are hopeful that our membership over the next few months will flourish, members will once again enjoy the social aspects of bridge, visitors will stay and enjoy our hospitality, and new members will feel welcome and part of our community.



We cater for all budgets, but we have only one standard of service: the K.M.Smith Standard.



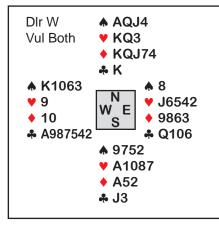
For you... we think of everything Phone 3252 2031 or visit kmsmith.com.au

## **Teams of Three**



Richard Wallis

AGAIN this year I had the pleasure of playing with Jacqui Dudurovic and her friends. This year, Althea Crowley and Andrea Parkins. We had a good day, winning four out of six matches and finishing 3rd overall. Eileen Li (Ying Liu, Ping Xie and Bob Ren) beat us in match 4 and went on to win the event, and Peter Evans (Annie Henderson, Ada Krawazajk and Lynda Welleans) beat us in match 5 and went on to finish second.



	W 3C P	<b>N</b> X 4S	E P All pass	<b>s</b> 3S
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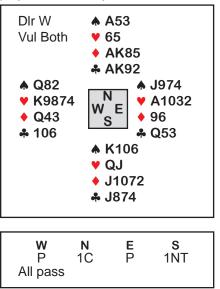
In the first match West put us to the test by opening 3♣ and Althea (North) doubled. East obviously passed and I elected to bid 3♠, allowing for a 4♥ bid next if the bidding continued, but this met with a 4♠ raise and West led the ♥9, which gave me the tempo.

Winning in hand, I took the spade finesse, and when this won I had at least 10 tricks by way of the red suits, so I cashed the A and realized that I had a spade loser now, but still 10 tricks for +620,

At the other table3 South bid 3♥, and was raised to game, but unluckily for him the 5-1 break meant one off for +100 and 12 IMPs to us.

I could have made 11 tricks by coming to hand with the A and

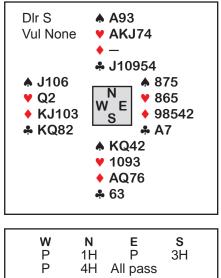
taking the spade finesse again, but since I had the extra heart trick, I did not need to risk a diamond ruff and played safe for my 10 tricks.



On this board in the third match, EW were strangely quiet and Andrea passed my 1NT response to her 1. opening, and what a good decision it turned out to be.

West obviously passed as dealer, and did not warn us about hearts by overcalling a risky 2, but led the 7 to my 1NT contract and EW took the first five tricks in hearts.

West exited with the  $\clubsuit$ 6 after cashing hearts, and I cashed the top clubs just in case the queen was dropping, then came to hand with the  $\bigstar$ K to take the diamond finesse, finishing with eight tricks for +120. At the other table North made a reasonable try for game by bidding 2NT over the 1NT response by South and South accepted, going two off for +200 and 8 IMPs to us.



In the fifth match against EVANS, Jacqui opened  $1 \forall$  as North after two passes, and I encouraged with  $3 \forall$ , taken to game by Jacqui, to which East led the A.

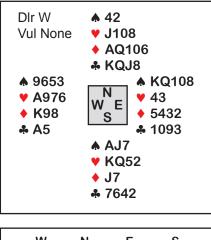
Jacqui has a bit of work to do, but the moderate hearts in dummy gave her some leeway, and she finished with 10 tricks for +420.

At the other table NS stopped in 2v and made just nine tricks, so we gained 7 IMPs.

This was a crucial match for us but the 7 IMP loss dropped us to 3rd, where we stayed until the end.



Section A 1st: Ping Xie, Bob Ren, Ying Liu and Eileen Li



I P 1D			
P 2C	P	2H	
P 3NT	Al pass	2NT	

In the last match West passed as

dealer and Jacqui opened 1♦ as North, to which I responded 1♥.

Jacqui, wary of the spade suit rebid 2, and I showed my spade control with 2NT over which Jacqui bid game.

West led the  $\bigstar$ 9, which gave me hope as it looked like East had the K Q and so it proved.

I took the diamond finesse successfully and racked up 10 tricks in total for +430.

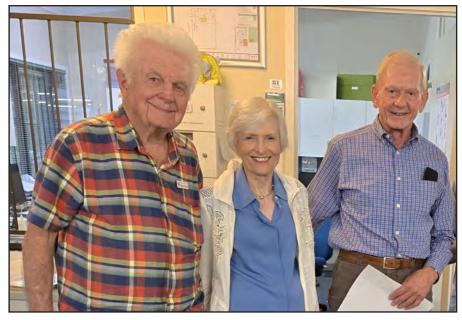
At the other table EW stopped in just 2NT by North, and just made eight tricks for –120, but 7 IMPs to us.

The resulting 11 IMP win consolidated our 3rd place but was not enough to regain 2nd place from the EVANS team.

#### Qld Graded Pairs



1st: Ian Afflick and Paul Collins

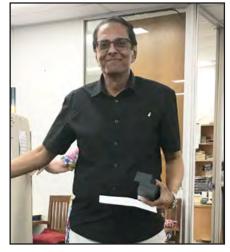


Section B 1st: Maxim Wilson, Anne McEvoy, David McEvoy and Joyce O'Brien (absent)



Section C 1st: Catherine Mahoney, Andrew Slater, Simon Byrne, Graham Killoran (NSBC Pres.), Anthony Reed and Jim Evans (QBA Vice. Pres)

2nd: Richard Ward (QBA President), Tony Hutton and Neville Francis (absent)



1st U750: Eugene Pereira and Martin Wu (absent)



2nd U750: Shanaal and Hema De Zoysa



Winners: Martin Qin, Charlie Lu, Eileen Li and Watson Zhou



1st U150: 1st Peter Neil and Linda Neil



2nd U150: Ada Krawczyk and Linda Wealleans



2nd: Doug Matthew (Sunnybank President), Paul Hookyaas, Therese Tully, Tony Hutton and Neville Francis (absent)



3rd: Andy Braithwaite, Suzie Braithwaite, George Bilski and Pele Rankin

#### **QBA FINANCIAL STATUS**

Gold The Coast International Congress, entering its 63rd year in 2025 (and due for cancellation in 2026), has been the mainstay of the QBA balance sheet, allowing management to keep fee increases to a minimum for decades. The 2021 Covid-caused cancellation of the GCC with a nonrefundable loss of \$30,000 followed by a further loss of over \$100,000 in 2022 provided a sobering wake-up call to the QBA Management committee that the financial foundations of the organisation were not as secure as most believed. The facts are that, if the profits from the GCC are excluded, the QBA makes an annual loss of between \$10K and \$20K annually. This is no way to conduct a business - even a not-for-profit one such as the state association.

It is inevitable that capitation and masterpoint fees must rise in order to sustain the viability of our game at all levels – club, state and national. For those many wonderful people who volunteer their time and skills to the administration of bridge, it is a labour of love which has held the whole show together for decades.

This chart provides a rough summary of how the QBA expenses were shared in the 2023 calendar year. These figures come from the annual audited statement which was routinely tabled at the April AGM and made publicly available to all.

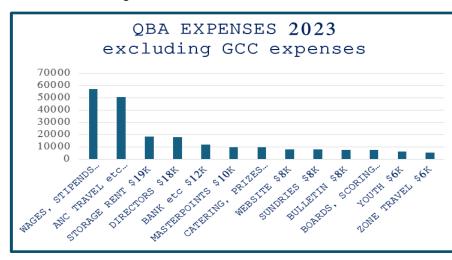
Some observations going forward:

 This year the decision was taken to freeze all QBA wages and stipends as an austerity measure to stem the danger of continuing deficits in running costs.

- The QBA capitation fees have been kept on a par with the ABF fees for many years. This policy is due for review prior to 2026.
- Sending four teams to the Australian National Championships and Interstate Teams our secondis highest most significant cost. Surprisingly, the Orange ANC this year cost us slightly more than the Perth ANC in 2023. A decision to have just one nonplaying captain in charge of all three teams, Open, Women's and Seniors' plus sending a 4-person Youth team were further cost-cutting initiatives this year and will be reviewed for 2026.
- In 2025, with the ANC being held in Brisbane, the QBA budget promises to be much healthier. This happens once every seven years and picks up some of the losses made when travelling around Australia in other years.
- Queensland continues to be one of the few Associations which provides subsidies for regional players to attend State championships and trials.
- Providing support for youth bridge is a high priority for the QBA.

Richard Ward





Novice Pairs



1st: Karen Gosney and Suzy Brownlow with Jim Evans (QBA Vice-pres.)



2nd: Peter ànd Linda



3rd: Aaron Zijun Wang and George Zihao Wang



Winners: Ray Ellaway, Kim Ellaway, Patrick Bugler and Toni Bardon



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:

- Club Insurance
- Home & Contents insurance
- Investment Property
  Insurance
- Motor Vehicle Insurance
- Commercial Building and Business Insurance

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If you haven't yet spoken to them, contact either Steve Weil or Josh Dejun at TBIB on **07 3252 5254** and see how they might assist you.

# GOLD COAST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025 POSITIONS VACANT [from 31 January]

As the Gold Coast International Congress enters its 63<sup>rd</sup> year, this week-long congress held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach is the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere attracting over 2000 players and is internationally renowned. The Queensland Bridge Association is seeking expressions of interest to fill the following positions [rates available on request]:

- House pairs willing to commit to an entire event. Free walk-in game if not used
- Substitutes on-call available nearby on mobile in emergencies, advise which days available, free game
- Bump-in and set-up, transition re-set, bump-out need 3 or 4 fit and able people, accommodation supplied, fill-in other tasks during the week
- Coffee station staff before play and during breaks need at least 3 people
- Caddies preference given to those living on Gold Coast

bridge background not required

Apply to Kim Ellaway, manager@qldbridge.com.au or 0412 064 903 as soon as possible.



ABF.	Α	NC PROGRAM 2025	BA
Date	0 = Open W Time	= Women S = Senior Y = Youth M = Mixed R = Restricted Event	Eligibility
SUN 6 JULY	9:30 am	StepBridge Welcome Swiss Butler Pairs	O, R
SUN O JULI	9:50 ani	Stephildge welcome Swiss butter Fairs	0, K
	6:00 pm	Captains Meeting	
	*	Interstate Teams Championship Rounds 1-4	Preselected State
MON 7 JULY	9:30 am	Interstate Teams Championship Rounds 1-4	
			Teams O, W, S, Y
TUE 8 JULY	9:30 am	Interstate Teams Championship Rounds 5-8	Preselected State
			Teams O, W, S, Y
WED 9 JULY	9:30 am	Interstate Teams Championship Rounds 9-12	Preselected State
			Teams O, W, S, Y
THU 10 JULY	9:30 am	Interstate Teams Championship Rounds 13-15	Preselected State
			Teams O, W, S, Y
	5:00 pm	ANC Teams Finals Stanza 1 of 5 stanzas	0, W, S, Y
FRI 11 JULY	9:30 am	ANC Teams Finals Stanzas 2,3,4,5,	0, W, S, Y
	9:30 am	ANC Interstate Pairs Championship	0
		Each member of partnership must be from the same state	
	5:30 pm	Interstate Victory Presentations	
SAT 12 JULY	9:30 am	ANC TBIB Open Butler Pairs Stage 1	0
SUN 13 JULY	9:30 am	ANC TBIB Open Butler Pairs Stage1	0
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MON 14 JULY	9.30 am	ANC TBIB Open Butler Pairs Stage 2	0
		· · · · ·	
		ANC TBIB Mixed Butler Pairs Stage 1	М
	0.00	ANC StepBridge Swiss Pairs A – Day 1	0
TUE 15 JULY	9:30am	ANC TBIB Open Butler Pairs Stage 2	0
		ANC TBIB Mixed Butler Pairs Stage 1	М
		The Third Funce buller Fully buge I	1.1
		ANC StepBridge Swiss Pairs A - Day 2	0
WED 16 JULY	9:30 am	ANC TBIB Open Butler Pairs Stage 3	0
		ANC TBIB Mixed Butler Pairs Stage 2	М
		ANC StopPridge Swice Dairs P. Day 1	0
	0.20 arrs	ANC StepBridge Swiss Pairs B – Day 1	0
THU 17 JULY	9:30 am	ANC TBIB Open Butler Pairs Stage 3	0
		ANC TBIB Mixed Butler Pairs Stage 2	М
		ANC StepBridge Swiss Pairs B - Day2	0
	-		
	5.00 pm	Butler & Swiss Pairs Presentations	













# Territory Gold Bridge Festival Alice Springs

# 27-31 August 2025

## At the Alice Springs Convention Centre

#### **Director: Matthew McManus**

Sessions: Matchpoint Pairs - Aug 27<sup>th</sup> 9.30am and 2.15 pm and Aug 28<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Swiss Teams - 28<sup>th</sup> 2.15pm Aug 29<sup>th</sup> 9.30am and 2.15pm Swiss Pairs (with PQP's) – Aug 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> at 9.30am & 2.15 pm

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#### ACCOMMODATION

**Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel Casino** and Convention Centre is an excellent venue, with exclusive event accommodation packages. Book your accommodation early in 2025 for 20% off the Best Flexible Rates at the Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel. PH: (08) 8950 7777

#### Desert Palms Resort (approx. 5 min walk) Self-contained Villas: Special Price: \$185 per night.

Mention the **Bridge Festival** when booking because rooms are limited. **Email:** <u>desertpalms@desertpalms.com.au</u> **PH**: 08 89525977 **Email:** <u>reservations@crowneplazaalicesprings.com.au</u> or **PH**: (08) 89507777

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Enquiries to the Tournament Organiser: Eileen Boocock Ph: (08) 89524061 Mob: 0409 677 356 eileenbcck@gmail.com