

AUSSIE YOUTH BRIDGE BULLETIN

Bulletin Editor: Andy Hung

ISSUE 24

SILVER for the Australian Girls Team



Congratulations to Renee Cooper, Francesca McGrath, Jessica Brake, Kirstyn Fuller, Ella Pattison, Ian Thompson (npc), Justine Beaumont (coach) for taking out the silver medal in the 2016 World Youth (Girls) Championships.

The team had finished fifth (of 13) in the Round Robin,

and continued to fight through the knockouts by beating Poland in the Quarter Finals, then Indonesia in the Semi Finals, but unfortunately fell short at the last hurdle to the Netherlands. This was a fantastic achievement and a great comeback as our Girls Team had lost a very close Quarter Finals in the 2014 World Youth Girls Championships.

In the U25 Category, the Australian Junior team tried their best and had two decent wins in the last two matches of the Round Robin, but unfortunately missed out on the last qualifying spot and finished 9th.

ABF PRE-ALERTS!

For 2017			
DATES	EVENT	WHERE	
<u>JAN</u> 7 - 13	<u>2017 Australian Youth Week</u>	Canberra Bridge Club	
♥ Brochure at the end of Bulletin ♥			
<u>JAN</u> 16 - 24	<u>Summer Bridge Festival</u>	Canberra	
<u>FEB</u> 19 - 27	<u>Gold Coast Congress</u>	Gold Coast	
TARGET EVENTS FOR 2017 YOUTH			
<u>MAY</u> 28 - 7	<u>51st APBF</u>	Seoul, Korea	
<u>AUG</u> 15 - 24	<u>World Youth Championships</u>	Lyon, France	

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2017 Gold Coast Congress

Sat 18th to Sat 25th Feb 2017

The GCC, with the help of the ABF Youth, are helping out youth players who would like to play in the 2017 GCC.

- U20 Players (born on or after 1/1/1997) get **FREE ENTRY!**
- U25 Players (born on or after 1/1/1992) **half price entries!**

NEW Furthermore, they can provide (**very cheap!**) **accommodation** for any youth(ish) players interested. To register, contact Jessica Brake at jessicabrake@hotmail.com



Australia Youth BridgeWeek

Sat 7th to Fri 13th Jan 2017

Open to all players born in 1987 or later. For more info, check out the website/brochure [here](#). You can register [here!](#)

CHECKBACK (Results)

2016 AUSTRALIAN AUTUMN NATIONALS

28 APRIL – 2 MAY, 2016 (Adelaide)

For more details, please visit the Championship website [here](#).

Open Swiss Pairs	Place	Pair
	1 ST	Nye Griffiths – Justin Williams
	4 TH	Daniel Braun – Andy Hung

Open Teams	Place	Team
	1 ST	Sartaj Hans, Michael Ware, David Beauchamp, Tom Jacob
	2 ND	Nye Griffiths, Liam Milne, Andy Hung, Paul Gosney

2016 ANC YOUTH TEAMS

25 JUN – 7 JUL, 2016 (Brisbane, QLD)

For more details, please visit the Championship website [here](#).

Youth Teams	Place	State	VPs	Team Members
	1 ST	NSW	193 IMPs (Finals)	Matt Smith - Ailsa Peacock - Alex Phillips - Charles McMahon - Lakshmi Sunderasan - John McMahon
	2 ND	WA	78 IMPs (Finals)	Renee Cooper - Kate Dores - Francesca McGrath - Kirstyn Fuller - Jack O'Reilly - Rebecca O'Reilly
	3 RD	QLD	694.9	Andrew Gosney - Chris Larter - Jack Luke-Paredi - Jessica Brake - Joshua Davis - Laura Bignell
	4 TH	ACT	670.5	Andrew Spooner - Maximilian Mullamphy - Peter Schmidli - John Yoon
	5 TH	SA	603.1	Jarrad Dunbar - Alexander Dunbar - George Bartley - James Lawry - David Gue - Ben Curtis
	6 TH	VIC	456.5	Jamie Thompson - Finn Rennie - Aiden Robertson - Liam Robertson - Patrick Clifford - Conor Hosking

Restricted Butler Pairs	Place	Pair
	2 ND	John McMahon – Charles McMahon
	4 TH	Jarrad Dunbar – Jim Coffey

CONGRATULATIONS

to Justin Howard and Peter Hollands

Justin Howard and Peter Hollands recently won the 2017 Australian Open Team Playoff (along with Dave Beauchamp, Matthew Thomson, Andrew Peake, and Peter Gill).

CHECKBACK (Results)

16TH WORLD YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

3 - 13 AUGUST, 2016 (Salsomaggiore, Italy)

For more details, please visit the Championship website [here](#).

Junior Teams (Round Robin)	Place	Team
	1 ST	Poland
	2 ND	China
	3 RD	Sweden

Girls Teams	Place	Team
	1 ST	Netherlands
2 ND	AUSTRALIA: Renee Cooper, Francesca McGrath, Jessica Brake, Kirstyn Fuller, Ella Pattison, Ian Thomson (NPC)	

15TH WORLD BRIDGE GAMES

3 - 17 SEPTEMBER, 2016 (Wroclaw, Poland)

For more details, please visit the Championship website [here](#).

Women's Teams	Place	Team
	1 ST	USA
	2 ND	FRANCE
	3 RD	CHINA
	=9 TH (of 35)	AUSTRALIA: Pele Rankin, Paula McLeish, Renee Cooper, Jane Reynolds, Helene Pitt, Ruth Tobin, Jenny Thompson (NPC)

NZ-AUS YOUTH TEST MATCH

30 SEPTEMBER - 7 OCTOBER, 2016 (Hamilton, New Zealand)

For more details, please visit the Congress website [here](#).

Test Match	Place	Team						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
	NZ: Andi Boughey, Matthew Brown, Vicki Bouton, Feitong Chen	35	21	7	13	7	c	83
AUS: Charles McMahan, John McMahan, Nico Ranson, Chris Rhodes	25	29	45	40	45		184	



GRAND FINAL

PHILLIP ALDER

There are certain hands that basically cannot be bid scientifically, especially when the opponents burn up acres of bidding space.

On Board 17 of the fourth session on Friday, with neither side vulnerable, the West players held:

♠ A K J 8
♥ Q J 10 8 3 2
♦ Q 10
♣ A

After a pass by North, partner opens with one strong notrump. What should West do after South bids (a) three clubs or (b) four clubs or (c) five clubs?

Over three clubs, West can bid three hearts if it definitely forcing, or cue-bid four clubs. Over the higher interventions, though, some guesswork will be needed.

This was the full deal:

Dealer North. None vul.

♠ A K J 8	<table border="1" style="background-color: #003366; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ Q 10 9 7
N						
W						
E						
S						
♥ Q J 10 8 3 2	♥ A K 4					
♦ Q 10	♦ A J 9					
♣ A	♣ Q 8 3					

♠ 6 5 2
♥ 9 6 5
♦ K 8 5 4 3 2
♣ 2

♠ 4 3
♥ 7
♦ 7 6
♣ K J 10 9 7 6 5 4

As you can see, seven spades is the best contract. You win the club lead and draw two rounds of trumps. When they break 3-2, you draw the last trump and claim these thirteen tricks: four spades, six hearts, one diamond, one club and a club ruff in the West hand. If spades are 4-1, you take the club ruff earlier.

Seven hearts seems to need the diamond finesse, which admittedly is a favourite given that South has lots of clubs. However, just for curiosity, how could West make seven hearts on a club lead if he knew South had the king of diamonds, say doubleton? I will return to that at the end.

Let's look at the various sequences.

Youngsters, Italy vs. Netherlands

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>L. Stougie</i>	<i>Manganella</i>	<i>M. Stougie</i>	<i>Scata</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠ (a)	Pass	6♥	All Pass

(a) Two key cards and the queen of hearts

If Leen Stougie had used Roman Key Card Blackwood over four diamonds, he would have learned that his partner had ace-king-ace in the red suits. If he had followed up with five notrumps, he would have learned that he had no minor-suit king. So, he presumably had both major-suit queens; but without knowing about the four-card spade suit, bidding seven would still have been a gamble.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Giubilo</i>	<i>Caris</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Dupont</i>
	2♣ (a)	2NT	4♣
5♣	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Gianmarco Giubilo uncovered the spade fit, but had no room to conduct a scientific sequence.

Both declarers took all thirteen tricks for a flat board.

Juniors Third-Place Playoff Sweden vs. Netherlands

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>C. Westerb.</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>	<i>R. Westerb.</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
	Pass	1NT	4♣
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>O. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Polak</i>	<i>M. Rimstedt van Overb.</i>	
	Pass	1NT	5♣
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Another push.

Juniors Final China vs. Poland

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Tang	Klukowski	Tao	Zmuda
	Pass	1♣	3♣
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

It was slightly surprising that Tang bid seven when his partner denied a minor-suit king, but perhaps he was thinking about seven notrump.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Nowak	Wei	Kazmierczak	Sun
	Pass	1NT	4♣
5♣	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Nicely done ... sort of, for another flat board.

Now we get to the third-place playoff in the Youngsters: China Hong Kong vs. Germany.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Man	Alter	Tseng	Streck
	Pass	1NT	5♣
6♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

That was bettered by one of my three favourite sequences:

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Vornkahl	Chan	van Oosten	Tsang
	Pass	1NT	5♣
7♥!!	Pass	Pass	Pass

Germany won 11 imps.

The two best sequences occurred in the girls matches.

First, the unsuccessful auctions. Australia vs. Netherlands

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Ticha	Brake	Banas	McGrath
	Pass	1NT	4♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

This did not do so well, the contract only going four down, plus 800 to the Netherlands.

Indonesia vs. Norway

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Hauge	Sibuea	Ekren	Ningtias
	Pass	1NT	3♣
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Now the "winners":

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Cooper	Bruijnsteen	Pattison	Wackwitz
	Pass	1NT	3♣
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT (a)	Pass	5♠ (b)	Pass
5NT (c)	Pass	6♥ (d)	Pass
7♠ (e)	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (a) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (b) Two key cards and the queen of spades
- (c) Anything extra?
- (d) The king of hearts (and no minor-suit king)
- (e) "Thank you, partner!"

Just perfect and a gain of 12 imps.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Eva	Sjodal	Martanti	Indrebo
	Pass	1NT	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♥	Pass	7♠	All Pass

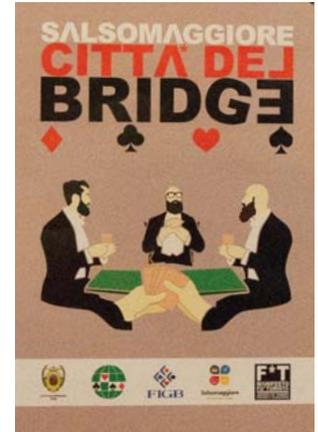
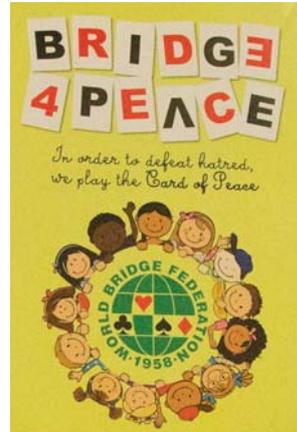
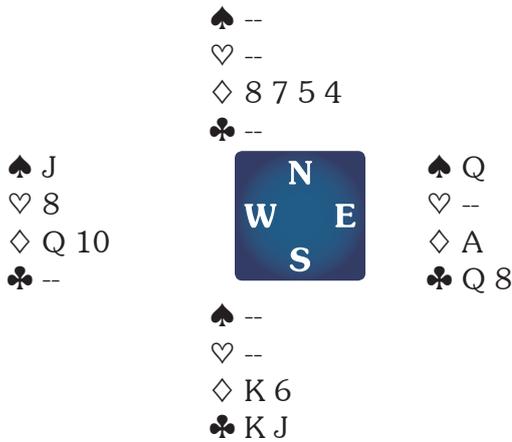
So that was 11 imps to Indonesia.

Now let's look at the play when South has the king of diamonds.

♠ 6 5 2											
♥ 9 6 5											
♦ 8 7 5 4 3 2											
♣ 2											
♠ A K J 8	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 10 9 7
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ Q J 10 8 3 2		♥ A K 4									
♦ Q 10		♦ A J 9									
♣ A		♣ Q 8 3									
♠ 4 3											
♥ 7											
♦ K 6											
♣ K J 10 9 7 6 5 4											

West in seven hearts can catch South in a crisscross squeeze. He wins with the ace of clubs, runs all of the trumps except one, then cashes the spades ending in the East hand. With the last one to come, this is the position:

On the last spade, what does South discard? If he throws the six of diamonds, declarer cashes the ace and his hand is high. Or, if South pitches the jack of clubs, a club ruff establishes dummy's queen. Pretty.



THE STRANGEST RESULT

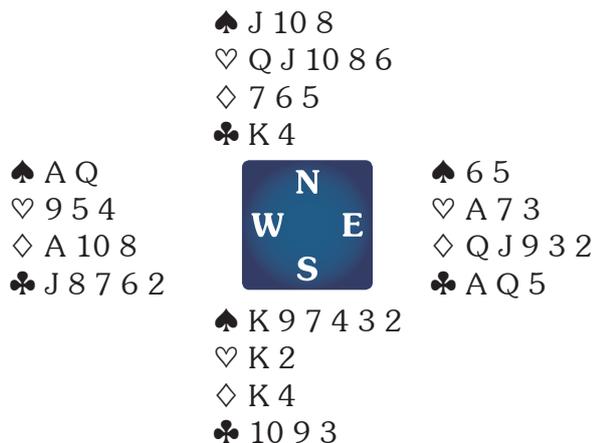
PHILLIP ALDER

In the Youngsters final, Italy started the last day down by 42 imps but gained 84 to win by 42: 217-175.

Perhaps this was the strangest Italian gain in the final set:

The result in the Closed Room was sweet for the Italians:

Dealer South. Both vul.



West	North	East	South
Giubilo	M. Stougie	Porta	L. Stougie
Pass	2♥ (b)	Pass	2♦ (a)
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Weak two-bid in either major
 (b) Pass or correct

North led the jack of spades. Gianmarco Giubilo, aided by three winning finesses and the doubleton king of clubs, took all thirteen tricks: two spades, one heart, five diamonds and five clubs!

That was worth 12 imps to Italy.

The auction in the Open Room was short:

West	North	East	South
Caris	Manganella	Dupont	Scala
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass



YOUTH NO LONGER

BY FRASER REW, SYDNEY (/AROUND THE WORLD)

I like to tell myself that I'm still pretty much a youth player. But after what just happened at a local congress, I think I'll have to stop pretending. I was lucky enough to score a game at a local congress with Australian Open Team member Sartaj Hans. Round 5 found us amongst the leaders. This was Board 8:

Brd 8	♠ A K Q J 4				
Dlr: W	♥ Q 5				
Vul: Nil	♦ T 8 5				
	♣ Q 4 3				
♠ 8 5 3		N		♠ T 9 7 6 2	
♥ K T 7 6 4 3		W	E	♥ 9 8 2	
♦ -				♦ A Q 6	
♣ K J 5 2				♣ 8 7	
		S			
	♠ -				
	♥ A J				
	♦ K J 9 7 4 3 2				
	♣ A T 9 6				

		Sartaj			Fraser
W	N	E			S
2♦*	2♠	3♥			3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass			

*2♦ = Multi

Contract: 3NT by South

Lead: ♥6

I put up the ♥Q and was relieved when it held, as otherwise I would have had to lead Diamonds from hand. I cashed four rounds of spades, discarding a diamond and three clubs, and led ♦10 from dummy. My delight when the ♦A came up on the first round quickly faded when West showed out.

East cashed the long spade (diamond discard by me) and led a second round of hearts to my ace, which was my last heart stopper. East still has to score a trick with the ♦Q, and can lead a heart to partner's established suit, so I had little hope at this stage. I led the ♦K and a small diamond. East won and played another heart, leaving West to run the hearts.

But a funny thing had happened. This was Trick 11 (we'd played five spades, two hearts and three diamonds), so West was down to his last three cards. He'd decided to keep the ♣KJ, so that was his last heart. He exited to my bare ♣A, and I claimed the ♦J at Trick 13. Making 3.

Obviously, I've got no way of getting to the ♣Q, so West can discard all his clubs, even the King, to beat me.

Immediately after that one was Board 1 (played after Board 8):

Brd 1	♠ 8 4				
Dlr: N	♥ A Q 9 6				
Vul: Nil	♦ A 9 8 7 6				
	♣ 6 2				
♠ A Q J 3		N		♠ 5 2	
♥ 7 3 2		W	E	♥ K T 4	
♦ J 5 4 3				♦ Q 2	
♣ T 5				♣ A Q 9 8 7 4	
		S			
	♠ K T 9 7 6				
	♥ J 8 5				
	♦ K T				
	♣ K J 3				

		Sartaj			Fraser
W	N	E			S
	1♦	2♣			2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass			3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass			

Contract: 3NT by South

Lead: ♣10

I upgraded because of my well-placed club honours. Sartaj upgraded because of ... actually, I meant to ask him about that. Anyway, the opening lead was ducked to my jack. Needing to establish both red suits, I led the ♥J, ducked, and a heart to the queen and king.

East cashed the club ace and can beat me by switching to spades or playing a third heart, but instead continued with a club to my king as I discarded a spade from dummy.

Even with the misdefence, I'd pretty much given up hope. I was off if East held the ♠A, or the guarded ♦Q, or the ♦Jxx(x) and West found an unblock on the first round. In any of those cases, he'd have an entry to the clubs.

However, you need to keep trying, so I led ♦K, ♦10 to the ace and a small diamond. West won, but couldn't touch the contract. In practice, he held ♠A and then the ♠Q. My ♠K scored, but it didn't really matter by then – the heart that I discarded on that trick was a winner anyway. I crossed to dummy to score ♥A, ♦9 and ♦8 for my 7th, 8th and 9th tricks.

Starting on hearts may look odd, but if I'd started on Diamonds instead, West would win the third round and lead his last club, to establish the suit while East's ♥K was still an entry to his clubs.

Two thin (no-play?) games in a row – well done, right? Well, yes and no. You're all youth players, so I'm sure you've all seen it.

On the first hand, when I exited a diamond to the queen, I had the ♦J, ♦9 and ♦7 remaining, I just have to lose to the ♦Q, so I can play any of them. I carelessly played my smallest one – the beer card!

And on the second hand, when I exited a diamond from dummy, I had ♦987, so I could have played any of them. Again, I carelessly played the ♦7, and missed a beer card for the second board in a row.

So I think I'll hand back my Youth card, and just hold on for a few years until they let me into the Seniors. Still, there was some good news: our teammates Susan Humphries and Sophie Ashton carried us to a 12-VP victory in the event.



Fraser Rew, Sartaj Hans, Sophie Ashton, Susan Humphries

2016 Australian Women's Team

Renee Cooper and Jane Reynolds were selected as the third pair to join the 2016 Australian Women's Team and competed in the World Bridge Games in Wroclaw Poland. The team had qualified for the Round of 16 but unfortunately lost their knockout match to the strong USA team who were the eventual winners.



THE NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



A great Christmas gift to your loved ones

JUNIOR BRIDGE COURSE

A 3-day introduction course for anyone aged 6 to 25

3rd – 5th January 2017 (Tue – Thu)

10AM – 1PM at L1, 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills

by Will Jenner-O'Shea

ENTRY FEE \$50 PER CHILD (Includes morning tea)

Optional side game for parents & grandparents

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FREE ROBOTS For JUNIORS!

BBO's generous offer of FREE leasing of GIB Robots on BBO is still available!

If you are an Australian youth player, and under 26 years of age (or 26 that year), simply send in your name, date of birth, and your BBO I.D. to Dave Thompson at dave@amontay.com.

'Geekiest game in town': Bill Gates joins world's best bridge players for global online tournament



Read all about it [here](#)!

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER [DECLARER PLAY]

S/All ♠ 10 9 8 6

♥ K 6 2

♦ Q J

♣ A 7 4 2

♥ J



♠ A Q J 5 4

♥ A 5 4

♦ K 7 4

♣ Q J

South to make 4♠ (IMPs)

Lead is ♥J.

Solution on Page 12

Interesting Bridge Problems

Johnno Newman is giving out free bridge problems from real life play! If you would like to try these out, sign up over at <http://eepurl.com/ctNI5n>



Australia Youth BridgeWeek

Sat 7th to Fri 13th Jan 2017

Open to all players born in 1987 or later. For more info, check out the website/brochure [here](#). You can register [here](#)!

- ◆ Lots of Bridge
- ◆ Lots of Fun and Games
- ◆ Free BBQ on Friday afternoon open to all
- ◆ Book prizes generously donated by Paul Lavings



KIBITZER'S CORNER



For more photos from the 2016 World Youth Championships, visit WBF's Facebook page [here](#).





SUIT COMBINATIONS

THIS ISSUE	FOR NEXT ISSUE
<p><i>(Assume unlimited entries)</i></p> <p>A Q J 3</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 5 tricks</p> </div> <p>K 9 6 5 2</p>	<p><i>(Assume unlimited entries)</i></p> <p>K Q 7 3</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 3 tricks</p> </div> <p>10 9 2</p> <p>A K 9 4</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 3 tricks</p> </div> <p>10 5 2</p>
<p>A K J 4</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 4 tricks</p> </div> <p>10 5 2</p>	

Even against a 4-0 break we can handle that without a problem. The one that you might like to do however is to save the 2 in South's hand.

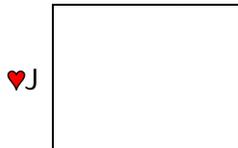
If the suit breaks 2-2 or 3-1, sometimes you might find yourself need an additional entry to the North's hand, so it certainly can't hurt to save the 2 until later.

We should first cash the ace (guarding against an unlikely singleton queen with East), cross back to the South's hand, then lead the 5 to the jack. We don't want to waste the 10 in case West started off with a doubleton queen.

The interesting case is if you don't have extra entries to the South's hand – in that case, it might better to lead the 10 (on the first or second round of the suit) and hope West falls asleep and does not cover with Qxx or Qxxx!

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER
[DECLARER PLAY] SOLUTION
 (Problem on page 10)

S/All ♠ 10 9 8 6
 ♥ K 6 2
 ♦ Q J
 ♣ A 7 4 2



♠ A Q J 5 4
 ♥ A 5 4
 ♦ K 7 4
 ♣ Q J

South to make 4♠ (IMPs)
 Opening lead is ♥J.

You have a potential loser in each suit, and two possible finesses in spades and clubs. What should you do first?

Your first priority should be to get rid of that heart loser. If you can do this, then you won't need *any* finesses!

One way to get rid of that heart loser is to set up the diamonds. Win the opening lead with the ♥K and play out a diamond. Assuming the defence wins ♦A and continues with a heart, win ace, unblock the ♦J, and come back to your hand with the ♠A (don't risk the finesse!).

Once you're in hand, cash the ♦K for a heart discard, and now knock out the ♠K to draw trumps. Later, you can even take the club finesse for the overtrick.

Take note that after winning the opening lead, if you tried to go after the clubs instead for the heart discard, you will be short of an entry to dummy.



FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER - BEEFING UP BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

KOKISH AND 'REVERSE KOKISH' ?

In a previous Youth Bulletin Issue #20 (click [here](#) to take a look), we touched upon the useful Kokish convention. For a quick summary, this was the gist of the convention:

2♣ ?	Pass	2♦*	Pass	*Assuming 2♦ = Waiting
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2♥ 2NT Other	Kokish Relay, multi meaning. A puppet to 2♠ so opener can clarify 22-24 balanced (Assuming a 2NT opening shows 20-21 balanced) As per normal
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After 2♣-2♦-2♥-2♠ (2♠ is forced):

2♣ 2♥ ?	Pass Pass	2♦* 2♠	Pass Pass	*Assuming 2♦ = Waiting
---------------	--------------	-----------	--------------	------------------------

2NT	(24)25+ balanced
3♣	5+♥ 4+♣
3♦	5+♥ 4+♦
3♥	6+♥ (single suited hand)
3♠	5+♥ 4♠

Focusing in on the ways to bid the strong balanced hands, some people like to *reverse* the way they strong the strength of the balanced hands. That is, the 2♣-2♦-2NT route shows the 25+ balanced, whereas the 2♣-2♦-2♥*-2♠*-2NT (via the Kokish sequence) shows the *weaker* 22-24 balanced hand. Why the switch?

One big advantage is when responder has a very weak hand with a longer minor, say something like ♠7 ♥53 ♦873 ♣JT96432. When opener bids 2♥ Kokish (2♣-2♦-2♥), responder can now *break* the 'forced' 2♠ bid and rebid 3♣ (or 3♦ if diamonds) to show this hand. If opener has the 22-24 balanced hand, then the ability to play in 3-minor would be great. And if opener has a game-forcing hand? Then he simply bids on with 3♦, 3♥, or whatever his suit is.

The question is, is this a good trade-off? On paper, it is, since the ability to play in 3-minor is great if you have a 22-24 balanced hand opposite a near-yarborough with a long minor (as you cannot get to 3m via the normal sequence of 2♣-2♦-2NT).

The **problem** however is this: Whenever opener does go through the 2♣-2♦-2♥ sequence to show the 22-24 balanced hand, responder will tend to bid the forced 2♠ than the "3m potential signoff". If responder has four or more spades, this could prove to be troublesome since if opener has the balanced hand, the potential spade game will be wrong-sided. Whilst you might think that is a small downside, a game swing out I would think is a *huge* downside. As you'll more often have 22-24 balanced rather than 25+ balanced, you will be getting more of the 2♣-2♦-2♥-2♠ sequences more often.

In any case, there is an upside and an downside to both methods – it's up to you to decide.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS - UPDATES

	EVENT (QLD)	DATES
	Queensland Youth Bridge Fun Day, QCBC For More INFO: http://www.qldbridge.com/	Wednesday 28 th Dec 2016

	EVENT (NSW)	DATES
	Youth Bridge Nights Email: johnno.newman@gmail.com Web: http://www.nswba.com.au/	Contact Johnno!

	EVENT (ACT)	DATES
	Email: youth@bfact.com.au Web: http://www.bfact.com.au/	

	EVENT (VIC)	DATES
	Contact: http://www.vba.asn.au/vbaHome.php	

	EVENT (SA)	DATES
	Contact: http://www.sabridgefederation.com.au/	

	EVENT (WA)	DATES
	Contact: http://www.bawa.asn.au/	

	EVENT (NT)	DATES
	Contact: http://www.ntba.com.au/	

	EVENT (TAS)	DATES
	Contact: http://www.tasbridge.com.au/	



YOUTH BRIDGE PLAYERS

Subsidised (or FREE!!) entry fees and accommodation |

The Gold Coast Congress is the biggest bridge competition in Australia – a smorgasbord of events over 8 days to suit players of all ages and standards.

Entry Fees

All players born in 1997 or later get free entry.
All players born between 1992 and 1996 get a 50% discount.

Accommodation

The Gold Coast Congress offers heavily subsidised accommodation in holiday units to youth(ish) players. The cost is only

- \$15 a night for those born in 1992 or later.
- \$25 a night for older youths (up to 30 years or so).

The La Grande Broadbeach Holiday Apartments have air-conditioning in the living area and a fully equipped kitchen. The complex is a short 800 metre stroll to the venue (and is even closer to the beach). It has a pool, BBQ, gym, spa and sauna.

For details or to book, contact Jessica Brake at jessicabrake@hotmail.com, 0414 134 888, or via Facebook message. Accommodation is limited. Preference is given to those born in 1992 or later, or "older" youth players not in full time employment.

Other financial help

Your state based bridge association or local bridge club may also offer a subsidy – it doesn't hurt to ask!

The 49th Annual



Upgraded
Venue

Australian Youth Bridge Championships

Saturday 7th to Friday 13th January 2017

The Canberra Bridge Club
6 Duff Place, Deakin, Canberra

Open to all players born in 1987* or later

International participants very welcome

Youth Week ALSO includes the Australian Junior Team Selection Butler

Entries and info: youthweek2017@abf.com.au

Three MAJOR Events

**The Australian Youth Teams Championship
The Australian Youth Pairs Championship
The Australian Youth Team Butler Selection**

As well as side events for non-qualifiers to the Butler Final

**Entry Fees ONLY \$10/day/event
Includes light lunch every day**

No Evening Bridge

www.abfevents.com.au/events/ayc/2017

Director: Bruce Crossman

*Australians must be ABF Members. To qualify for the Australian Junior Team Selection Butler event, players must satisfy eligibility requirements including being born on or after 01/01/1992.

General Information

The 2017 Australian Youth Championships (AYC) consists of three major events:

- Australian Youth Teams 7th to 9th January – starting 10am on the 7th.
The Final (top two teams at end of qualifying) to be played on Monday 9th 10:30 am.
Players in the final receive automatic entry to the Pairs final on Tuesday 10th January
- Australian Youth Pairs 9th to 10th January – starting 10.30am on the 9th.
- Australian Junior Team Selection Butler 11th to 13th January – starting at 9.30am

Plus:

- Other events and activities from 11th to 13th January for players who do not qualify to, or are not eligible for, the Butler.
- Social events, including some bridge events such as speedball, will be organized for the evenings

There will be a test match between New Zealand and the Australian team, as selected, on Saturday 14th January, to contest the "Stern-Cornell Trophy".

The format of the Australian Youth Team Selection Butler (11th to 13th January) will be determined by the number of entries received, but the final will "likely" be contested between the 10 top qualifying pairs. The TOP THREE PAIRS AT THE END OF THE BUTLER FINAL will qualify as the Australian Youth team for 2017.

The targeted events for 2017 are the Junior Teams at the APBF Seoul, Korea, May 28th to June 7th 2017 and The New Zealand National Congress and Test Match, Hamilton, New Zealand, from September 30th to October 7th 2017.

2017 AYC Provisional[†] Program

At Canberra Bridge Club, Deakin, 7th to 13th January 2017:

	Morning	Afternoon	
7/1/17 Saturday 10 am start	Teams	Teams	
8/1/17 Sunday 10 am start	Teams	Teams	
9/1/17 Monday 10:30 am start	Pairs Qualifying Teams Final	Pairs Qualifying Teams Final	
10/1/17 Tuesday 10 am start	Pairs Final and Consolation	Pairs Final and Consolation	Cliff wake/ Pizza Night
11/1/17 Wednesday 9.30 am start	Youth Butler Qualifying	Youth Butler Qualifying	
12/1/17 Thursday 9.30 am start	Youth Butler Final & Consolation event	Youth Butler Final & Consolation event	
13/1/17 Friday 9.30 am start	Youth Butler Final & Consolation event	Youth Butler Final & Consolation event	BBQ at TBA

14/1/17 Saturday
Start time TBA

Test Match Australia vs. New Zealand

[†] The program is subject to change dependent on entries. The events listed in italics are for participants not playing in the Butler and are given as a guide only. The start times of the pairs and teams events will not change. Please arrive at the venue at least 30 minutes early.

Venue and Accommodation

The venue is the Canberra Bridge club, 6 Duff Place, Deakin.

Accommodation is not provided but there are many options available.

Entry is via an online form on the AYC website. Those players under-18 are also required to submit a parental consent form, available at:

<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/ayc/2017/>

Any queries should be directed to **Elaine Leach**: email them at youthweek2017@abf.com.au, or ph 0402081506

Partners and teammates can be arranged, please email for a partner or team-mates if required.

Fees

Fees are simply \$10/player/day. So, for the Teams \$80 per team, Pairs \$40 per pair. The Butler Selection event will be \$20 per pair for Stage 1 (Wednesday January 11th), and \$40 per pair for Stage 2 (Thursday and Friday January 12th to 13th). Side events on the Wednesday to Friday will be \$20 per pair per day.

Lunches (normally; assorted sandwiches, fresh fruit, fruit juice) will be provided daily for the event, free of charge. There will a B-B-Q evening on Friday January 13th.

Any participants with dietary requirements (gluten intolerance; allergies; etc) should contact the organisers when entering, otherwise normal catering will be provided.

Payment is required prior to arrival. Payment can be made by bank transfer to:

Account Name: ABF BSB: 082-968 Account Number: 641482644

Reference: your ABF number or, if you don't have a number, your name

For other methods of payment please contact Elaine Leach.

Travel

Transport to and from the Championships will normally be cheaper if booked early on the web. Canberra is serviced by Virgin, Qantas and Tiger flights and by Greyhound and Murrays buses. Please let us know if you need to be picked up from the airport or bus station. Some players typically drive to Canberra from Sydney and Melbourne.

The ABF Youth Committee and the Australian Youth Bridge Championships organisers and officials take no responsibility for passenger safety for any transport arranged for players.

System regulations

ABF system regulations apply. Yellow systems are not permitted. Brown Sticker conventions will also be prohibited in certain events: check the supplementary regulations closer to the event. Inexperienced pairs may be able to claim protected pair status against brown sticker conventions in some events.

Further Information and Regulations

- To play in the Butler, qualified pairs must be born on or after 01/01/1992, sign declarations of availability for designated event(s) and for additional training, and ensure they satisfy ABF residency requirements for international representation.
- The designated events for the team selected by the Butler are: (i) the The targeted events for 2017 are the Junior Teams at the APBF Seoul, Korea, May 28th to June 7th 2017 and (ii) The New Zealand National Congress and Test Match, Hamilton, New Zealand, from September 30th to October 7th 2017.
- Pairs may be available for one of these events, but not the other. The top three pairs together with the reserve fourth pair will be invited to form a squad that will undergo preparatory training activities. Further conditions relating to team and squad membership, together with details of the process for selecting ABF or Oceania teams for other international youth events in 2017, will be posted on the Championships' website.
- The ABFYC and those appointed to conduct the Championships reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to regulate player behaviour and attire both in and around the playing rooms during the week. This regulation applies both to sessions of play and periods between sessions.
- Smoking or drinking of alcoholic beverages will not be permitted in the playing area at any time. The organisers and director(s) will have the right to sanction participants who abuse alcohol or other drugs. Sanctions may include expulsion from the Championships and/or longer-term suspension from ABF events. 'Abuse' includes, but is not limited to, the consumption of any alcohol by participants under 18 years of age or the provision of alcohol to such a participant. For further details see the supplementary regulations.
- Supplementary regulations pertaining to participation in, the format of, and the running of, the Championships will be posted in the playing area during the week and on the Championships' website prior to the event.

**Book Prizes Sponsored by
Paul Lavings Bridge Books
<http://www.bridgegear.com/>**

A Gold Point Event conducted by the ABF Youth Committee under the auspices of the ABF

