

AUSSIE YOUTH BRIDGE BULLETIN

Bulletin Editor: Andy Hung

ISSUE 26

VCC Grinners



L to R: David Wiltshire, Max Henbest, Jamie Thompson, Shane Harrison

Congratulations to Max Henbest, David Wiltshire, Shane Harrison, and Jamie Thompson for winning the 2017 Victor Champion Cup! Their one (and only) medium loss to the number one seeds (team Markey) came at an unfortunate time on the third last round, but they managed to secure the first place after a big finish. Congrats!

2017 APBF Youth Teams



Australia had sent two youth teams to South Korea to participate in the APBF Junior and Girls Teams Championships. Although neither team came home with a medal, they were both in contention throughout. The Juniors came 5th, and the Girls came 4th. Read more about it on page 4.

ABF PRE-ALERTS!

For 2017			
DATES	EVENT	WHERE	
SEP 30 - OCT 7	NZ National Congress	Hamilton	
OCT 18 - OCT 22	Spring Nationals	Sydney	
NOV 12 - NOV 16	2018 Open Playoff	Canberra	
FOR 2017			
JAN 6 - JAN 12	50 th Youth Week	Canberra	
JAN 10 - JAN 21	Summer Festival	Canberra	
FEB 14 - FEB 18	Commonwealth Nations**	Gold Coast	
**ABF is sending one youth team. Check page 11 for more info **			

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CHECKBACK (Results)

2017 APBF YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

28 MAY - 7 JUN, 2017 (Seoul)

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

	Place	Team
Junior Teams	1 ST	CHINA
	2 ND	SINGAPORE
	3 RD	CHINESE TAIPEI
	4 TH	CHINA HONG KONG
	5 TH	AUSTRALIA: Charles McMahon, John McMahon, Jamie Thompson, Matthew Smith, Nico Ranson, Christopher Rhodes

	Place	Team
Girls Teams	1 ST	CHINA
	2 ND	INDONESIA
	3 RD	CHINA HONG KONG
	4 TH	AUSTRALIA: Renee Cooper, Francesca McGrath, Kirstyn Fuller, Ailsa Peacock, Lakshmi Sunderasan

	Place	Pair
APBF Swiss Pairs	1 ST	Jamie Thompson - Matthew Smith

2017 VCC

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

	Place	Team
Open Teams	1 ST	Maxim Henbest, David Wiltshire, Shane Harrison, Jamie Thompson
	2 ND	Nathan Van Jole, Justin Williams, Paul Gosney, Johnno Newman

2017 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	272 IMPs (Finals)	Charles McMahon - John McMahon - Edmond Lee - Ramanan Rajkumar - Nico Ranson - Matt Smith
	2 ND	WA	68 IMPs (Finals)	Renee Cooper - Francesca Mcgrath - Kirstyn Fuller - Jack O'reilly - Rebecca O'reilly - Megan O'reilly
	3 RD	ACT	700.6	Shannon Bowen - Maximilian Mullamphy - Zachary Neulinger - Andrew Spooner - Daryl Whitfield
	4 TH	QLD	700.5	Andrew Gosney - Jack Luke-Paredi - Darren Brake - Ben Leung - Angus Gray - Jasmine Skeate
	5 TH	SA	475.2	George Bartley - Ben Curtis - Jarvis Dunsford - David Gue - Jack McDonald - Jamie Simpson
	6 TH	VIC	360.6	Victoria Thompson - Liam and Aiden Robertson - Brian Callaghan - Jamie Thompson Finn Rennie

Open Butler Pairs	Place	Pair
	1 ST	Peter Hollands – Michael Ware
	2 ND	Renee Cooper – George Smolanko

2017 Coffs Coast Gold Congress

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

Open Swiss Pairs	Place	Team
	1 ST	Johnno Newman – Paul Gosney

2017 APBF CHAMPIONSHIPS

By LIAM MILNE, SYDNEY

(This article are snippets of the Team reports by Liam during the championships)



2017 Australian Junior Team: John Newman (NPC), Liam Milne (Coach), Nico Ranson, Chris Rhodes, Matt Smith, Jamie Thompson, John McMahon, Charles McMahon

The Australian U25 Juniors

Johnno Newman (NPC): To me, Johnno seems to just have come out of nowhere a few years ago. One of the keenest 'young' players on the Australian scene (although the oldest member of this team!), Johnno has been making runs at many of the biggest events recently. He is the perfect fit for this team, with infectious enthusiasm to go with solid decision making abilities. Johnno will be calling the shots for the team in Seoul.

Liam Milne (Coach): Having given the NPC role a go last year in the World Juniors in Italy, this year I am here as the official Coach of both the Juniors and Girls teams. I've represented both NZ and Australia (the latter at Open level) and am here to bring a little bit of experience to these teams. As well as helping with opponents' systems and answering bridge questions, I'm here to give the captains and players a bit of support at key moments and help with some of the leadership decisions.

Nico Ranson: On his days off, Nico likes to get out amongst it - him and Chris climbed Bukhansan Mountain just out of Seoul as warmup for the opening ceremony tonight. As well as being a student of the game of bridge, Nico is a student of Physics in Sydney.

Chris Rhodes: Like Nico, Chris is a student at the University of Sydney. Chris and Nico are currently undefeated in international matches: they were part of the triumphant team at the Australia versus New Zealand test match last year in Hamilton.

Matt Smith: Perhaps the most 'bridge obsessed' of the team. At last count, Matt has read virtually every bridge book ever written. Matt's system notes are a perpetually unfinished masterpiece. A perfectionist at heart, Matt is always trying to get Jamie to play 'something new'. Luckily for the team, Jamie usually says no.

Jamie Thompson: the most experienced player on our Junior team, Jamie is the only one of the boys to have represented Australia internationally before. Jamie is affectionately known as "Guns" for his muscular arms - probably developed from picking up thousands of bridge hands out of boards. Having won a gold medal in the U21 category in 2011, Jamie will be hoping to find a U26 gold medal waiting for him at the end of this event.

John McMahon: one of the 'boys from Wagga', John's chiselled features make him a firm favourite for the 'heartthrob of the team' award (his brother Charles would argue the point). Hopefully his strong chin will distract a few of the opponents at the table during the triple round robin in Seoul.

Charles McMahon: the other half of the McMahon brother duo. The tinkerer of the partnership, Charles has a keen eye for good system. When Charles isn't playing bridge, he's letting you back into your house - he's a locksmith by trade. Hopefully he can unlock some of the secrets of the game this event.



2017 Australian Girls Team. L-R: Ailsa Peacock, Kirsty Fuller, Francesca McGrath, Christy Geromboux (NPC), Liam Milne (Coach), Renee Cooper, Lakshmi Sunderasan

The Australian U25 Girls

Christy Geromboux (NPC): Hailing from Canberra, Christy is the brains of the operation. She will have an easy job managing this group of young ladies, however! As well as picking the lineups for each match, Christy is the ABF representative on site and will be doing everything she can to help the Girls team achieve their goals.

Ailsa Peacock: A first time Australian representative, Ailsa originally hails from Sydney, went to Perth, and is back in Sydney these days (when she's not overseas playing bridge!). A voracious reader, Ailsa was once a croupier at the Star casino in Sydney. These days, she prefers to use her skills with cards playing bridge.

Lakshmi Sunderasan: Along with Ailsa, Lakshmi was part of the winning NSW Interstate Youth Team last year. A keen tennis player, Lakshmi is in her eighth (!) year of study to become a doctor. Recently, Lakshmi had a lengthy placement in Grafton, but thankfully for Sydney's bridge scene, she is back in the big smoke.

Kirsty Fuller: With Ailsa and Lakshmi, Kirsty is the third side of a 'triangle' (three-way partnership) as well as the cousin of Renee (below). Originally a Western Australian, Kirsty lived and played in Manchester for some time. She was part of the silver medallist Girls team last year in the World Championships.

Renee Cooper: A student of mathematics and engineering, Renee played every board at last year's World Championship for the Girls. She also earned her first cap for the Australian Women's Team in 2016, qualifying for the round of 16 in the World Bridge Games. If you hear someone saying "matey" at a bridge tournament, it is odds-on to be this young gun from Perth.

Cesca McGrath: One of the babies of the Seoul team, Cesca was also on the Girls team in Italy last year. When she's not practicing her 2/1 system with Renee, Cesca enjoys karaoke - a particular favourite of hers is the Pussycat Dolls.

Here are some memorable hands from the tournament.

My favourite hand from the third day was this one from the first match.

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

Although East-West have 25 points, this is North-South's hand. In 4♠, there are just 3 aces to lose. The McMahon brothers for the Junior team duly bid and made 4♠ for +620.

In the other room, Matt Smith as East managed to buy it in 3NT. There was a spade lead, but Matt somehow managed to get out for just one down, -50 and 11 IMPs.

It's usually good when your team bids game in both rooms, and this was one of the rare occasions that one of the contracts was 3NT.

Having said that, the Girls did even better! Ailsa Peacock and Lakshmi Sunderasan played 4♠ doubled, which duly rolled in for +790.

In the other room, Renee Cooper as East played 3NT. South led a heart, and Renee ducked. South continued with another heart! Now Renee could win the second heart and knock out the Ace of clubs. North had no more hearts, so Renee had the rest of the tricks. +660 to go with +790 from the other room was a double game swing and a massive 16 IMPs for the Australian Girls.

Here's a hand from the fourth day:

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

North is the dealer, both sides vulnerable. We saw a huge range of scores across all of the matches, with lots of IMPs flying around.

In the Australian Open match, the board was flat, both sides bidding and making 6♠ for +1460. In the NZ Open match, it was also flat: 6♠ doubled making an overtrick, good for +1860!

The best result on this hand from our youth teams was 5♦X played by Matt Smith and Jamie Thompson, making a quiet +1150.

You can score +1390 two ways on this hand: bid and make 6♦ with an overtrick, or get

doubled in 4♠, making three overtricks! Both scores occurred at least once.

Pride of place goes to the +2470s, however. There are also two ways of writing down that juicy number. The Thai Open team bid and made 7♠ doubled, the simple way to get 2470. The Chinese Taipei Ladies and the Chinese Juniors found the other way to get 2470: 6♠ redoubled, making an overtrick! That would feel good to put into the scorebook.

The following article is a match report from Bulletin 8:

The Play Day 6 Brian Senior

Indonesia v Australia (Juniors 2.9)

This is our first look at the Juniors competition. Indonesia and Australia lay fourth and sixth, close to the middle of the field, going into the last match in their second round robin – there is still one more round robin to come.

Board 1

North Deals	♠ A K Q J 9 8 6
None Vul	♥ —
	♦ 10 4
	♣ K 8 6 4

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

	♠ 7 5 4
	♥ A Q J 5
	♦ K J
	♣ A 7 5 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Agrario</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Priambodo</i>
	1 ♠	2 ♠	4 ♠
5 ♥	5 ♠	Dble	All pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Akbar</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>Hasyimi</i>	<i>Rhodes</i>
	1 ♠	2 ♥	3 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥	Dble
Pass	5 ♠	All pass	

For Indonesia, Agrario opened 1♠ and Thompson made a two-suited overcall. Facing a Precision, so limited, 1♠ opening, Priambodo simply raised to 4♠, giving up on any thought of slam, and now Smith took his life into his hands with a 5♥ bid on a balanced hand with no high cards. Double dummy, E/W can be held to five tricks in a heart contract, which could have been -1400. Not surprisingly, Agrario took the push to 5♠ – he had huge extra playing potential – and now Thompson, expecting that his partner would have something for the 5♥ bid, doubled. A shame nobody redoubled – I love the sight of other people's blood – but 5♠ doubled on a low heart lead made an overtrick and +750 was not a bad start to the match from Agrario's perspective.

In the other room Hasyimi made a simple 2♥ overcall and that left room for Rhodes to show a constructive three-card spade raise. Akbar too was willing to get involved with the West cards – he only offered 1100 – but here N/S had shown more

strength, having doubled 5♥, so Hasyimi had no reason to double the final contract. He too led a heart so there were again 12 tricks but this time for only +480 so 7 IMPs to Indonesia.

Board 4

West Deals	♠ 10 3 2
Both Vul	♥ 5 2
	♦ A Q 10 5 4
	♣ K 8 5

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Agrario</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Priambodo</i>
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Akbar</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>Hasyimi</i>	<i>Rhodes</i>
1 ♣	1 ♦	Dble	2 ♦
Pass	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

Smith's natural opening was too high for Agrario to fancy an overcall so the defence knew only that declarer was at least five-four in the majors. Having said which, North should be very concerned about his spade holding, which suggests that the defence needs to get its tricks quickly before they disappear on the spades. Hence, Agrario's trump lead looks wrong and it duly permitted Smith to get home with 11 tricks for +650. I prefer a club lead.

Akbar opened a strong club and Hasyimi's double showed usually a semi-positive. The heart fit was found but the defence knew enough to find the right lead – a diamond – and Ranson won the ace and switched to a low club. Rhodes in turn won that and cashed the ♦K before returning a club to the king for one down and -100; 13 IMPs to Australia.

Board 5

	♠ 7						
North Deals	♥ K 10 8 5 4 2						
N-S Vul	♦ 8 4						
	♣ J 5 3 2						
♠ K J 9 5		♠ A 8 6 2					
♥ J 6 3		♥ A Q 9 7					
♦ K 10 6		♦ 5					
♣ A 7 6		♣ K Q 10 4					
	♠ Q 10 4 3						
	♥ —						
	♦ A Q J 9 7 3 2						
	♣ 9 8						

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Agrario</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Priambodo</i>
	2 ♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	3 ♦
Dble	All pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Akbar</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>Hasyimi</i>	<i>Rhodes</i>
	Pass	2 ♦	4 ♦
Dble	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♠	All pass

Agrario opened with a weak two bid and that went round to Smith, who doubled for take-out. At this vulnerability it was routine for East to leave it in and play for a penalty and now Priambodo rescued his side into the long and strong diamonds. Smith doubled again, this time for penalty, and that was that.

Smith led the jack of hearts to the king and ruff and Priambodo led the ten of spades from hand. Smith left that to his partner to win with the ace so the trump play could come from the correct hand for the defence. Priambodo rose with the ace on the trump lead, ruffed a spade and ruffed a heart back to hand. He made six trump tricks plus the ruff so was down two for -500, a lot better than would have been the case in 2♥ doubled.

Ranson did not open the North hand, a wise decision vulnerable against not, so Hasyimi got to open a system bid, 2♦ to show the three-suiter with short diamonds, 11-15 HCP. Rhodes preempted with 4♦, offering a double dummy 1100 but putting his opponents under pressure. Of course, Akbar's double was not taken as being for penalty, though surely it should be when partner has defined his hand so well already? The Indonesians scrambled into 4♠ then Hasyimi asked for key cards, or at least it is hard to see what else he could be doing, though the response puts that in some doubt. He signed off in 5♠ now.

Ranson led the seven of spades which, while understandable – theory suggests that it is often right to lead trumps against three-suited hands – helped declarer by picking up the ♠Q in the hand where it was not expected to be after the preemptive overcall. Akbar won the queen with the king and cashed the ♠J. On seeing the four-one split he led a club to the king followed by a second club to the ace then took the finesse of the ♣10 – by now South's distribution was almost certainly 4-0-7-2. Rhodes ruffed and cashed the ace of diamonds then returned his remaining trump. Akbar won, threw a heart on the queen of clubs, and led the last spade to his hand. It does seem that this line leaves declarer with a loser at the end so, given the BBO operators' deficiencies on previous occasions, I find it hard to accept this story, given that declarer is credited with 11 tricks for +450 and 2 IMPs to Australia.

Board 7

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Agrario</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Priambodo</i>
			Pass
Pass	1 ♠	1 NT	2 ♠
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Akbar</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>Hasyimi</i>	<i>Rhodes</i>
			Pass
2 ♥	All pass		

Akbar opened a normal weak two bid and played there. Ranson led the ten of diamonds, Rhodes encouraging with the nine and Akbar winning the king. Akbar led a spade up, Ranson winning the ace and playing a second diamond. Rhodes won the ace and gave him his ruff and Ranson got out with a spade. Akbar won the king, pitching a club from hand, cashed the ♥A and ruffed a spade. After cashing the ♥K, he played a club up and had eight tricks for +110.

Smith didn't seem to like the West hand for some reason. Certainly, I would open it 2♥ every

day of the week. We expect randomness from juniors, not super-conservatism, so come on boys! Agrario opened the North hand in third seat and Thompson couldn't bear to pass his 14-count so overcalled a distorted 1NT. That was enough for Smith to transfer to 4♥ and that ended the auction. Priambodo led ace and another diamond, breaking the communications for the ruff. However, there was still one trick to be lost in each suit so the contract was down one for -100 and 5 IMPs to Indonesia.

Board 8

West Deals ♠ 10 7 6 3
 None Vul ♥ 8 7 4 2
 ♠ 6 5 3

♠ A 5 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q 9 8 4	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ A 6		♥ J 9 5				
♦ A 8 6 4 2		♦ K 10 9 7				
♣ J 10 2		♣ A 9				

♠ K J
 ♥ K Q 10 3
 ♦ J 5
 ♣ K Q 8 7 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Agrario</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Priambodo</i>
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	1 N
Pass	Pass	Dble	All pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Akbar</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>Hasyimi</i>	<i>Rhodes</i>
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Dble
Redble	2 ♥	2 ♠	All pass

Smith opened the West hand with 1♣, clubs or balanced, and Thompson made a transfer response showing spades. For the second deal running we saw an ugly 1NT overcall and this one too got punished, though in a rather different fashion to the previous deal. When 1NT came back to Thompson he had just enough to make a penalty double and no-one saw fit to run so that was the final contract.

Smith led a diamond and Priambodo put up the queen – this is a questionable play as it guarantees that East will play his honour, though no doubt Priambodo will argue that he would have a dummy entry if west had underled the ace and king. Play low, and a sleepy East may play the nine or ten, giving declarer an undeserved trick. Five rounds of diamonds did nothing to improve declarer's remaining holdings and Smith next switched to ace and another spade to the king. Declarer played the king of hearts so Smith won and played a third spade through to the nine.

Thompson cashed the ♠Q then played the ♥J to the now bare queen, and there was one club trick for each side at the end; down four for -800.

Akbar opened a Precision 1♦ and Hasyimi responded 1♠. With five-four in the unbid suits, there was much less temptation for Rhodes to make a poor overcall and he instead doubled for take-out. Akbar redoubled to show three-card spade support and Hasyimi competed to 2♠ over Ranson's 2♥.

Rhodes led the king of hearts against 2♠. Hasyimi won the ace and returned a heart to the nine and ten, and ruffed the heart continuation. Next he played a club to the nine and queen and Rhodes led the jack of diamonds, which Hasyimi won in hand with the king. He now got the diamond position wrong by treating the jack as a falsecard, running the ♦9 to North's queen. Back came a club to the now bare ace. Hasyimi played ace and another spade to the nine and king but had lost trump control and could only come to two more trump tricks for down one; -50 and 13 IMPs to Australia.

Board 14

East Deals ♠ 8 7 6 5
 None Vul ♥ J
 ♦ 10 9 3
 ♣ A 8 6 5 4

♠ A Q	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K 10 4 3	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ 9 8 7 6 2		♥ K 10 5 4 3				
♦ 7 6 5		♦ A 8 4 2				
♣ K 10 7		♣ —				

♠ J 9 2
 ♥ A Q
 ♦ K Q J
 ♣ Q J 9 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Agrario</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Priambodo</i>
		1 ♥	1 NT
Dble	Redble	Pass	2 ♣
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Akbar</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>Hasyimi</i>	<i>Rhodes</i>
		1 ♥	1 NT
3 ♥	All pass		

Both Easts opened the shapely ten-count and both Souths made the normal 1NT overcall. Now Akbar raised to 3♥ and that, not being the strongest way he could have got to this level, did not excite Hasyimi sufficiently for him to go on to game.

Smith, by contrast, started by doubling 1NT. Agrario started a rescue sequence and Priambodo

bid 2♣ as requested. Now Smith jumped to 3♥ but this combination surely showed a stronger hand than had Akbar's. Thompson certainly saw it that way and went on to game.

Both Souths led the king of diamonds and both declarers played in exactly the same fashion – ace of diamonds, ace and queen of spades, club ruff, king then ten of spades from two diamond pitches from the dummy. There were 11 tricks at both tables but there was a difference, of course – +200 for Hasyimi but +450 for Thompson and 6 IMPs to Australia.

The Australians also had the better of the minor swings and those helped them to run out winners by 45-12 IMPs, 17.49-2.51 VPs, moving them up to fourth in the rankings, while Indonesia slipped to fifth.

Call for nominations for the Youth Team to the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships

The Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships will be held from 14 – 18 February 2018 at the Gold Coast. The ABF has agreed that a six-person youth team will be one of the two contending Australian teams for this event.

Eligibility: Open to all Male and Female Under 25 players who are born on or after 1 January 1993 and before 1 January 2000.

Selection: Will follow the procedure as outlined in the [policy for non-target events](#).

This event is seen as an important part of the overall preparation for the World Youth Bridge Team Championships in China in 2018 and nominating pairs who are selected for this event will be expected to trial in those partnerships in the 2018 Youth Butler unless exceptional circumstances arise.

Funding: A subsidy of \$1800 per team, plus entry fees will be provided.

Nominations which should include a summary of recent results from National events should be sent by email to [Jane Rasmussen](mailto:Jane.Rasmussen@abf.com.au) <secretariat@abf.com.au>. The closing date for nominations will be **20 October 2017**, and the team will be announced on 15 November 2017.

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.

Peter Hollands Live Bridge Stream

Live bridge streaming sessions
(All sessions will run most weeks)
AEDT Time (Melbourne)

Monday 2.00 - 5.00 PM + 8-10PM

Tuesday 3.00 - 6.00 PM

Thursday 11.00 AM -12.00 PM
(Lesson) + 1-3PM (Beginners)

Saturday (occasional) 11AM-1PM

To watch these **free** live sessions:

<https://www.twitch.tv/peterhollands>

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER [DECLARER PLAY]

S/All ♠ A 8 5
 ♥ 7 6 4
 ♦ A J 7 5
 ♣ A 5 3

♠Q



♠ 9 3
♥ A K 9 5 3
♦ 4
♣ K Q 8 4 2

South to make 4♥ (IMPs)

Lead is ♠Q. Say you win ♠A and cash ♥AK. Hearts are 1(West)-4(East).

Solution on Page 13

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>



50th Australian Youth Week Sat 6th to Fri 12th Jan 2018

As the Australian Youth Bridge Week turns 50, rumour has it that this one will be a special one with lots of hidden surprises. First one is, Matthew McManus will be joining us! More to come.

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



Bathurst & District Bridge Club

Invites you to the 3rd

Central West

Novice Bridge Tournament

For players with 50 MPs or less at 30 June 2017

Divisions: 0-10.00 MPs; 10.01-30.00 MPs; 30.01- 50.00 MPs

****50% discount for
Youth Players 25
years or under****

A weekend of:

- **Bridge**
- **Good food**
- **Great company**
- **Friendly competition**

****50% discount for
Youth Players 25
years or under****

**Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA
RED master points approved by ABF at level B4
Directed by Ed Barnes**

28 & 29 October 2017

Programme

Saturday: Pairs

Sunday: Swiss Teams

Contact Details:

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 - **mob: 0428 859 898**
- **enter via NSWBA website on line entries for congresses**



SUIT COMBINATIONS

THIS ISSUE	FOR NEXT ISSUE
<p><i>(Assume unlimited entries)</i></p> <p>K 10 9</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 1 trick</p> </div> <p>4 3 2</p>	<p><i>(Assume unlimited entries)</i></p> <p>K 10 9</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 1 trick</p> </div> <p>4 3 2</p> <p>A T 9</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 2 tricks</p> </div> <p>Q 3 2</p>
<p>One option is to play small to the king (on the second round probably in case East has a singleton ace) to play West for the ace.</p> <p>An even better play would be to take two finesses, small to the 9 followed by small to the 10.</p> <p>You might think that when you play small to the 9, and assuming it loses to either the queen or the jack, then playing small to the 10 or K is a 50-50 guess. Actually, this is a typical Restricted Choice problem. If East had both the queen and the jack, he would have a <i>choice</i> of plays. If East had AJ or AQ, he would have been forced to play the queen or the jack.</p>	
<p>A T 9</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 2 tricks</p> </div> <p>Q 3 2</p>	<p>There are two options, and they are fairly close.</p> <p>First one is to run the queen, followed by playing small to the 10. This will pick up any time that the honours are split.</p> <p>The second option is to play small to the 9 first, and later run the queen. Again, this will pick up the suit any time that the honours are split, but it has the added advantage if the suit splits 0-7 (!), you can play the ace on the first round instead!</p>

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER

[DECLARER PLAY] SOLUTION (Problem on page 11)

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

South to make 4♥ (IMPs)

Opening lead is ♠Q. Say you win ♠A and cash ♥AK. Hearts are 1(West)-4(East).

With normal breaks, this game would roll home. But when West shows out on the second round of hearts, the contract now hinges on avoiding a club loser.

This is easy if East has two, three, or four clubs (you can ruff one in dummy), but you can also succeed if East has a singleton club provided you do not let him ruff one of your club honours. This is accomplished by winning with the ♣A first, then leading towards the king, as well as the queen.

At trick 4, play a club to dummy's ace then a club towards your hand. If East ruffs, play a low club and the rest of your clubs are good. If East discards instead, win with the ♣K, then a diamond to the ace and lead another club.

Again, if East ruffs, play low. If he discards, win the queen and now play a fourth club ruffing it in dummy (to set up the clubs). Whether East overruffs or not, your troubles are over. The defence gets two hearts and a spade.



STATE ASSOCIATIONS - UPDATES

	EVENT (QLD)	DATES
	For More INFO: http://www.qldbridge.com/	

	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/	