



THE QBA BULLETIN

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2

From the President



Richard Ward

The Management Committee of the QBA has undergone some changes in recent months as we farewelled Tim Runting and Charles Page after many years of service to bridge. Coming on board are Janet Hansen from Mackay and William Van Bakel from Cairns. They bring with them their proven skills as bridge administrators and tournament organisers of their respective Barrier Reef Congresses. The Management Committee is now more truly representative of players in regional Queensland which can only be good for our game.

The need to find new volunteers who are willing and able to keep our clubs running smoothly is a problem for us all. Without these generous people working away in the background,

bridge clubs cannot function. The same applies to the Queensland Bridge Association which has operated at a break-even financial level for decades thanks to those who contribute their time and expertise in return for a minimal stipend or just for the love of it. If you go [HERE](#) on the QBA website, you can see the names of all of these individuals including the members of the committees: Management, Tournament, Finance, Youth, Masterpoints, Novice, Bulletin and Director Accreditation not to forget those club delegates who attend the online meetings of the QBA Council. If you ever come across a person who would like to contribute in some way, please let Kim Ellaway know so that they can be approached whenever a vacancy occurs.

In similar vein, Queensland has been well serviced over the years by players who conduct lessons and supervised play in their clubs. They are the lifeblood of bridge and, since Covid, it has been encouraging to see the gradual increase in membership numbers. The [ABF website](#) lists by club all 72 of Queensland's teachers. If there are names missing from this list, please advise Kim who will rectify any omissions.

BRC Yeppoon



Kim Ellaway

FIVE years ago, I talked to the President of the ABF, Allison Stralow, and suggested that she should attend the Barrier Reef Congress. She said she had no partner so with some shuffling of my arrangements, we agreed to play together. Allison's commitment was to attend all four events and she did so. Allison's first event with me was in Townsville and we led for most of the last session and then got pipped at the post. At the second (Cairns) and third (Mackay) we also came in the top ten, and then came Yeppoon. We played a very simple no-gadget system which worked well for us and this year we won. We were very honoured to hold up the Eric Parsons Trophy.



1st Open Pairs: Allison Stralow and Kim Ellaway

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One of the reasons we did well was the ability of Allison to play hands well. Hands that I was going to display have been displayed elsewhere in the ABF Newsletter or this one, so a friend of both of ours sent this to me showing Allison's great play.

Dir S	♠ AK32
Vul Both	♥ AQ42
	♦ 9
	♣ AQ109
♠ —	♠ Q10765
♥ 108753	♥ 96
♦ KQ1065	♦ 84
♣ 432	♣ J765
	♠ J984
	♥ KJ
	♦ AJ732
	♣ K8

She got herself into 6♠ with no interfering bidding. The lead was a club which established the suit. She lead towards the AK of spades and got the bad news. She then proceeded to play all the high cards. If East ruffed she over-ruffed but it really does not matter. Not ruffing meant losers were discarded. The only card East won was the ♠Q at the end.

Allison was the only one in 6♠, but only half the field made 12 tricks. ■



1st Open Teams Barrier Reef Zone: Jan Randall, Don Cameron, Adrian Lohman and Malcolm Allan (absent) with Kim Ellaway - QBA Manager



1st Open Teams: Paul Gosney, Jasmine Skeate, Kate Macdonald and Nick Jacob



1st Under 50 Barrier Reef Zone: Ruth Morris and Luthile Arlett

Need help with any aspects of myABF including the Club Administration module?

CONTACT
 Jacqui Dudurovic 0414 448 844
 Pele Rankin 0439 949 060
 Kim Ellaway 0412 0640903
 Ray Ellaway 0466 288 365



1st Barrier Reef Zone Pairs: Karin le Roux and Malcolm Allan



1st Novice Pairs Barrier Reef Zone: Noel Saunders and Ted Cullinan



1st Restricted Pairs Barrier Reef Zone: Nina Doyle and Ian Leach

25 Years Ago



Andrew Pryde

Q CBC's June Congress is always popular. This year we had 48 pairs on the Sunday and 32 teams on the Monday. The last round of the Pairs saw Eva and Tony Berger going in well ahead only to be edged into 2nd place by the fast finishing Peter Hainsworth and Toni Bardon. Peter being in fine form boded well for the next day as he and Ralph Parker were playing with Claire Green and myself in the teams.

However, too many 'judgment errors' (is that the same as mistakes?) resulted in us coming a poor 2nd to ROBSON (Robson - Lee and Morawiecki - Croft).

These two pairs are part of the Open Team that will be playing in the Australian Championships in Brisbane in just a few weeks time. Here are a few hands.

Teams 2	♠ AK986		
Bd 24	♥ —		
Dir W	♦ A86		
Vul None	♣ AJ654		
♠ J102		♠ Q54	
♥ QJ632		♥ AK94	
♦ KJ10		♦ 9542	
♣ 73		♣ 98	
		♠ 73	
		♥ 10875	
		♦ Q73	
		♣ KQ102	

Nil vul, opponents silent, in 2nd seat what do you open? If you bid 1♠ partner responds 1NT - what now? If you choose 2♣, partner gives preference to 2♠. This is not very encouraging. Are you good enough to move. If so, what do you bid?

Ralph and Peter thought I should bite the bullet and bid 3♣. That seems too much of a push to me - no intermediates and only a 5-card major. Claire's 2♠ rebid meant 5-7 hcps with three spades or 6-9 with two spades.

My 3♣ bid now, is a mild try for game, showing 5-5 in the blacks and 15-16 hcps. Claire has nice clubs, yes, but is her 7-count going to combine to produce 11 tricks? I don't blame her for passing.

Morawiecki/Croft, at the other table had no trouble with this hand. North opened an Acol 2♠!!-rebid clubs and they cruised into 5♣. It's an easy game.

Pairs	♠ 107654		
Bd 24	♥ 95		
Dir W	♦ 853		
Vul None	♣ 832		
♠ 8		♠ AKJ2	
♥ 832		♥ AKQ	
♦ AJ2		♦ Q1076	
♣ KJ10976		♣ Q4	
		♠ Q93	
		♥ J10764	
		♦ K94	
		♣ A5	

East opens a flat 21-22 and, banking on the good 6-card club suit West forges on to 6NT. The ♥J is led.

After the ♠A is-knocked out you have 11 tricks. Either a diamond or spade finesse could provide the 12th Both may be on; or neither; or only one. What is your plan?

What did you decide? You would hate to go back to your teammates having taken the wrong finesse (with the other one working) if there was some other way. Cashing the AK of spades and taking the diamond finesse if the ♠Q doesn't come down only improves your chances a tiny bit; what about a squeeze? One which works against either opponent sounds like the way to go. We need the ♦A as an entry to the clubs so let's hope South has the ♣A so he can't attack spades. Visualize the ending with either North or South holding both Qxx and the ♦K.

When the ♣7 is played from the West hand East discards the ♦Q, and if either North or South holds both vital cards they're gone.

Away we go then. The ♣Q is ducked; the ♣4 is won by South with the ace who exits with another heart. Win this, cross to the ♦A and run the ... wait a bit; that's not working. Why? Because each hand has one extra card and there is no pressure on

North or South. Win the 2nd heart, cash the 3rd heart and now cross to the ♠A; 12 tricks.

Teams 2	♠ K753		
Bd 2	♥ —		
Dlr N	♦ 10976		
Vul NS	♣ QJ1092		
♠ J86		♠ 10942	
♥ AKQ853		♥ 1076	
♦ QJ54		♦ K832	
♣ —		♣ K8	
	♠ AQ		
	♥ J942		
	♦ A		
	♣ A76543		

Queensland Butler Pairs



Dlr E	♠ 643		
Vul Both	♥ 4		
	♦ KJ10		
	♣ AKQJ85		
♠ 1092		♠ KJ75	
♥ Q97632		♥ KJ10	
♦ 72		♦ Q8643	
♣ 93		♣ 10	
	♠ AQ8		
	♥ A85		
	♦ A95		
	♣ 7642		

	W	N	E	S
	L Martin	T Hutton	J Martin	K Morrison
P			P	2C
P		2C	P	3NT
		6C	All pass	

Sitting West, with NS vul, partner passes and South opens 1♣. You bid 1♥, North doubles and partner raises to 2♥. South now bids 3♣ (alerted - 'extras'), you jump to 4♥, 5♣ by North and back to you. With partner supporting hearts it doesn't look good for your defence-should you bid one more?

Margaret Dyer did well to bid 4♥. If she settles for 3♥ I may now bid 4♥ (agreeing clubs and 1st round heart control) so with her wonderful controls and knowing the heart suit is blanked, Claire could very well bid 6♣. As it was, we had finished in 5♣ but Margaret pushed to 5♥ (doubled of course) but our defence was less than perfect and we came away with +500.

Feeling we were a big minus on the board (+1370 possible and + 620 easy) we found our team mates with +100! South was in 3NT and took the wrong view in clubs. Don't despair - they may not play perfect bridge at the other table.

THIS state championship event was held at the Northern Suburbs Bridge Club under the watchful eye of director, Alan Gibson. A number of pairs reached the top table throughout the 2-day, 12-match event but, in the end, Kim Morrison and Tony Hutton won comfortably from Jill Magee and Terry Strong.



1st: Tony Hutton and Kim Morrison

2♣ was a game force and the rest of the auction is self-explanatory. West found the best lead of the six of hearts against this ambitious slam. It is immediately clear that the spade finesse must be successful and that the diamond guess can be avoided by eliminating the other suits. So the plan will be to ruff both hearts, draw trumps, take the spade finesse and then ace and another spade will endplay the opponents. This earned Hutton-Morrison a useful 12 IMPs against the blameless East-West pair.



3rd: Michael Gearing and Kate Macdonald

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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.

Dir E	♠ AKJ10
Vul None	♥ Q
	♦ 83
	♣ A97643
♠ 965	♠ 8
♥ A62	♥ 973
♦ KJ1062	♦ AQ54
♣ Q5	♣ KJ1082
	♠ Q7432
	♥ KJ10854
	♦ 97
	♣ —

Dir W	♠ A1072
Vul None	♥ K75
	♦ AJ5
	♣ AK4
♠ Q943	♠ K865
♥ QJ82	♥ 96
♦ 4	♦ 10982
♣ 8532	♣ 1096
	♠ J
	♥ A1043
	♦ KQ763
	♣ QJ7



2nd: Terry Strong and Jill Magee

W	N	E	S
A Woollons	J Magee	P Hooykaas	T Strong
		P	P
1D	2C	3C	3H
P	3S	5D	X
All pass			

W	N	E	S
N Moore	K Morrison	R Langdon	T Hutton
P	1C	P	1D
P	2NT	P	3H
P	4D	P	4NT
P	5D	P	6D
All pass			



2nd B: Chris Woolley and Wendy Gibson

Magee-Strong were about to bid to the making 4♠ contract despite their minimal point count when Woollons-Hooykaas took the sacrifice in 5♦, also with a minimal point count. It turns out that both pairs were correct and it was only a brave move in defence by North which saved them from a calamitous -550 score.

The ace of clubs lead would have simplified the defence but North naturally settled on the ♥Q - 3 - K - A. Trumps were drawn followed by the ♣Q. North was on lead and in the spotlight. Jill Magee rose to the occasion beautifully by bravely underleading her ♠A K, allowing her partner to gain the lead to cash two more tricks. Phew!!



4th: Nik Moore and Rachel Langdon

Tony Hutton was at the helm of this 6♦ contract on the lead of the 2♠. Only three pairs were in this slam and one of those went down which is quite easy to do if the idea of a dummy reversal does not come to mind at trick 1.

The distraction of a possible 3-3 heart break can lead declarer astray. The plan should be to win the ♠A, take three spade ruffs, two hearts, three more diamond tricks and three clubs. To achieve that, the spades need to break 4-4 (likely on the lead) and the hearts no worse than 4-2 and the clubs no worse than 4-3 – all of which came to pass. The defence won the final trick twice, with a heart and a diamond and East-West lost a faultless 12 IMPs.■



1st B: Peter Schmidt and John Rivers



1st C: Sean Quinn and Thais Morgan-Pertus



3rd B: Kathy Males and Fay Stanton



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 BRISBANE

6th – 17th July 2025

EVENTS



Welcome Butler Swiss Pairs – Open & Restricted Sunday 6th
Interstate Teams Monday 7th-Friday 11th
Interstate Swiss Pairs Friday 11th
Open Butler Pairs Saturday 12th →
Mixed Butler Pairs Monday 14th →



Swiss Pairs Monday 14th-Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th-Thursday 17th



VENUE

Brisbane Technology Park Conference and Exhibition Centre
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Entries AND Accommodation options are on MyABF

GOLD POINTS



ANC PROGRAM 2025



0 = Open W = Women S = Senior Y = Youth M = Mixed R = Restricted

Date	Time	Event	Eligibility
SUN 6 JULY	9:30 am	StepBridge Welcome Swiss Butler Pairs	O, R
	6:00 pm	Captains Meeting	
MON 7 JULY	9:30 am	Interstate Teams Championship Rounds 1-4	Preselected State 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	
FRI 11 JULY	9:30 am	ANC Teams Finals Stanzas 2,3,4,5,	O, W, S, Y
	9:30 am	ANC Interstate Pairs Championship 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
MON 14 JULY	9.30 am	ANC TBIB Open Butler Pairs Stage 2	0
		ANC TBIB Mixed Butler Pairs Stage 1	M
		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	M
		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	M
		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	M
		ANC StepBridge Swiss Pairs B - Day2	0
	5.00 pm	Butler & Swiss Pairs Presentations	



Warwick



**Neil
Bonnell**

Dual Celebration for Warwick Bridge Club

The Warwick Bridge Club recently celebrated both the foundation of the club and the 90th birthday of its co-founder Neil Bonnell. When Neil and Beverly Bonnell moved to Warwick in 1985 they found that there was no formally constituted bridge club, despite having been assured that one existed. Several private groups did exist, playing mainly rubber bridge. With the help of locals Mary and (the late) Paul Johnston they called a meeting on 8th May 1985 to set up a club which would have open membership and be affiliated with the Queensland Bridge Association. As a result, a committee was formed, office bearers elected, a constitution approved and the necessary

equipment acquired. Neil was elected President, while Beverly held the position of Secretary, Treasurer and Masterpoint Secretary. At the time of the first game on 5th June, there were 24 members.

From the time of the first game on Wednesday evening, 5th June reports on our results were sent to the local paper. These reports were later expanded to a column based on the hand of the week. Many of our members had day jobs, including about ten from the Hermitage Research Station, who developed their skills with lunchtime sessions at work. At the present time most of our members have retired and the evening game is no longer held.

Daytime sessions of Monday and Friday were presided over by Beverly while Neil was still working. After renting time slots at the Band Centre, in 2006 the club obtained the lease of a disused Scout Den. With the generous donations from club members \$42,000 was raised for renovations. Continuous improvements have brought the total spent on our clubhouse to \$100,000. We are grateful to the Southern Downs Regional Council

and the Community Gambling Fund for the grants which made these improvements possible.

Club members have enjoyed successes at State and National level. Our most accomplished member has been former member Neville Francis, who won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Bridge Tournament held in conjunction with the Melbourne Commonwealth Games in 2006. Neville was the holder of the Jimmy O'Sullivan Trophy for a decade. In one year (2007?) he won 25 congresses, which is believed to have been a record. Neil and Beverly Bonnell were members of the team which won the Eva Hardy Trophy for Senior Teams at the Canberra Festival of Bridge in 2001. John Rose, Pip Francis, Noela Collins, David Moran and Mavis Simpson are some of our members who have performed well in regional and state tournaments. Tony Hinde and Pat Kelly are newish members who are making the fastest progress. The four members who have reached the rank of Grand Master are Neville Francis, John Rose, Neil Bonnell and Beverly Bonnell. ■



Members present at the anniversary

IBPA Column Service



Tim Bourke

Dir E	♠ Q87	♠ A4
Vul Both	♥ J653	♥ AQ10987
	♦ 632	♦ 97
	♣ AK4	♣ Q105
♠ J106		
♥ 4		
♦ J1085		
♣ J9876		
	♠ K9532	
	♥ K2	
	♦ AKQ4	
	♣ 32	

W	N	E	S
P	2H	1H	1S
All pass		X	4S

North's cuebid promised at least a sound raise to 2♠. As his hand was close to a maximum for a one-level overcall, South just made the obvious bid of 4♠. West led the four of hearts to East's ace and ruffed the heart return with the six of trumps. West exited with the jack of diamonds, which declarer took with his ace.

Declarer observed that there were only fifteen points in the defensive hands, so East (who had opened the bidding) was virtually certain to hold the ace of trumps. Next, declarer saw that leading a trump to the queen would be hopeless if East held a doubleton ace (he would win the trick with the ace and return another heart, on the above deal promoting West's now-bare jack or ten of trumps as it lies behind declarer's king).

Declarer sought to avoid this trap by leading the first round of trumps from dummy. So, declarer crossed to dummy with a club to the ace and led a low trump towards his hand. As the cards lay, East had no winning move! If he rose with the ace of trumps, declarer would ruff the heart continuation with the king and

draw the outstanding trumps with dummy's queen, since trumps were originally 3-2 (as hoped). As a result, there would be a trump remaining in dummy to take care of declarer's losing four of diamonds.

At the table, East played low on the first round of trumps. Declarer won the trick with the king and played a second round, drawing the outstanding trumps. Declarer now had ten tricks: four trumps, three diamonds, a diamond ruff and two clubs.

Dir S	♠ A7	♠ 2
Vul Both	♥ Q97	♥ J108
	♦ A982	♦ Q10543
	♣ AK52	♣ 10984
♠ KQJ10963		
♥ 65		
♦ J6		
♣ J6		
	♠ 854	
	♥ AK432	
	♦ K7	
	♣ Q73	

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

North had an awkward decision over 3♣ and, in the end, decided to rely on South not having wasted honours in spades. If that was the case, his side would have a minimum of around twenty-six or so points in the other suits, making slam a distinct possibility. Accordingly, he enquired about keycards with 4NT, and bid the slam when South admitted holding two of them with his bid of 5♥.

West led the king of spades, taken in dummy with the ace. Declarer saw that even on a 3-2 trump break he only had eleven tricks. It seemed to declarer that relying on a 3-3 club division after finding trumps 3-2 was a poor chance (less than one in five). Instead, declarer asked himself, "What if I could make all of the small trumps in my hand by ruffing two diamonds and dummy's fourth club?" Declarer saw that this would yield twelve tricks so long as East had three or four trumps and at least four cards in each minor!

So, declarer put his plan into action by cashing the ace and king of

trumps. Next, he took the king and ace of diamonds and then ruffed a diamond. Declarer crossed back to dummy with a low club to the king to ruff dummy's remaining diamond. Declarer continued by playing the queen and ace of clubs. When West showed out, declarer ruffed the five of clubs, bringing his trick total to eleven with dummy's good queen of trumps still to come. (If clubs had proved to be 3-3, declarer would have drawn the last trump with dummy's queen and cashed the thirteenth club.)

What are the odds of declarer's plan producing twelve tricks? Perhaps surprisingly, it's almost 50%.

Dir W	♠ AKJ92	♠ 764
Vul EW	♥ A	♥ 82
	♦ K43	♦ AQ1065
	♣ AK72	♣ J106
♠ 3		
♥ KQJ10765		
♦ J7		
♣ Q85		
	♠ Q1085	
	♥ 943	
	♦ 982	
	♣ 943	

W	N	E	S
3H	X	P	3S
P	4S	All pass	

West led the king of hearts to dummy's bare ace. Declarer saw that there was a danger of losing three diamonds and a club, because the heart preempt marked East with the ace of diamonds. So, as West was the danger hand, declarer wanted to lose a club to East not West.

As entries to the South hand were at a premium, declarer led the jack of trumps to his queen and ruffed a heart high in dummy. Next he led the nine of trumps to his ten and advanced the nine of clubs. If West failed to play the queen, declarer would duck the trick to East. However, at the table West covered the nine with the queen. Declarer took this with dummy's king (East unblocking the jack) and led the two of trumps to his eight to play another club. West played the five (to prevent his partner from being endplayed for an overtrick) and dummy played the seven. East won the trick with the ten and exited with a club.

Declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the thirteenth club, throwing a diamond from hand. Declarer now had ten tricks: five trumps, a heart, a diamond ruff in hand and three clubs.

Note that if East had turned up with four clubs, declarer would simply have discarded a diamond on his last club. East would then be endplayed, forced to lead away from his ace of diamonds, allowing declarer to make his ninth and tenth trick with the king of diamonds and a diamond ruff in hand.

Dir S	♠ 982		
Vul EW	♥ 943		
	♦ 1076		
	♣ 10532		
♠ —		♠ Q1053	
♥ AKQJ10852		♥ 76	
♦ Q985		♦ 43	
♣ 9		♣ QJ874	
	♠ AKJ764		
	♥ —		
	♦ AKJ2		
	♣ AK6		

W	N	E	S
4H	P	P	2C
All pass			4S

West and South had obvious bids in the auction. West did well to not bid on, since 5♥ fails by two tricks, losing a club and either three diamonds, or two diamonds and a trick to North's nine of trumps.

West led the ace of hearts. Declarer ruffed and laid down the ace of trumps. West's discard was hardly a surprise, but it meant declarer was faced with losing four tricks – two trumps, a diamond and a club. The winning move on the next trick is not obvious, but declarer found it – he advanced the jack of diamonds, after which West had no winning option. If he took the jack with the queen, then the ten of diamonds would be an entry to dummy, allowing declarer to reduce his trump losers to one via the marked finesse of the jack.

In practice, West eyed the diamond jack suspiciously and surmised that if he took the trick then the ten of diamonds would be an entry to dummy. So, he let the jack hold the trick. Declarer countered by playing the ace and king of diamonds. East ruffed and exited with a heart which declarer ruffed. Declarer continued by ruffing his two of diamonds in dummy. East had to overruff to guarantee his side a second trick in trumps. Declarer took the queen of clubs return with the king and cashed the king of trumps. Declarer now had ten tricks: six trumps, two diamonds and two clubs.

So long as East held at least two diamonds, the play of the jack of diamonds at trick three would catch the person with the queen in a Morton's Fork. That unlucky player would lose no matter whether he ducked or won the trick. ■

Club and QBA News

Congratulations to Yeppoon being the only recipient in the round 122 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

QBA Management Committee for 2025/26

President - Richard Ward

Vice President - Jim Evans

Treasurer - Graham Rusher

Committee - William Van Bakel, Janet Hansen, Rosemary Glastonbury, Jan Peach. Manager Kim Ellaway

Other officials

Tournament Chairman - Jan Peach

Masterpoint Secretary - Peter Busch

Bulletin Editor - Philip Squire

Webmasters -

Andrew Hooper and Peter Busch

Director Accreditation and Training - Chris Snook

Novice Co-ordinator - Eve Sirigos

Youth Co-ordinator and Officer - Michael Gearing

Board Dealer - Geoff Goulding

Tournament Organisers -

2026 Barrier Reef Townsville
Toni Barrell

2025 Qld Festival of Bridge
Kim Ellaway/Toni Bardon

2025 ANC Julie Jeffries

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Territory Gold Bridge Festival Alice Springs

27-31 August 2025

At the Alice Springs Convention Centre

Director: Matthew McManus

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

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Email: desertpalms@desertpalms.com.au PH: 08 89525977

Email: reservations@crowneplazaalicesprings.com.au or PH: (08) 89507777

Enquiries to the Tournament Organiser: Eileen Boocock

Ph: (08) 89524061 Mob: 0409 677 356 eileenbck@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ! SAVE THE DATE !

30th Annual



Barrier Reef Congress



Townsville

Monday 11 May to Friday 15 May 2026

Hosted by Townsville Bridge Club

Program

Walk-in Pairs Monday 11 May (afternoon)

Open and Restricted Pairs – 2 Sessions Tuesday 12 (morning/afternoon)

Open and Restricted Teams – 4 Sessions Wednesday 13 (afternoon),

Thursday 14 (morning/afternoon), Friday 15 (morning)

***Venue: Townsville Stadium
40 – 48 Murray Lyons Crescent
Annandale***

Chief Tournament Director: Chris Snook
Chief Scorer: Peter Busch; Director: Bill Bishop
Tournament Organizer: Toni Barrell 0488 545 543
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Partners: Sam Bishop 0409578214



Directors' Corner



Chris
Snook

A bit of musing ...

Software and AI

The world of artificial intelligence (AI) is all around us and continues to grow in scope and complexity. AI is characterized by its ability to have computers perform tasks that typically require human intelligence such as learning, problem solving and decision making. We may well wonder what this means for the game of bridge. We already have bridge played online (viz StepBridge, RealBridge, FunBridge and BBO) and we might wonder what the future holds. First, the basics of playing ...

Playing online is not quite the same as face to face. Most software platforms utilize a bidding box, where you click on the level and denomination you wish to call, usually with the one button. They hide all the calls that are unavailable to the player, so you cannot make an insufficient bid. With spoken or written bidding, you can easily make an insufficient bid, with bidding boxes you can make a bid that is a bit lower than someone else at the table but not lower than your own previous bid (try it and see).

So, for the Director of online bridge, there are no insufficient bids or bids out of rotation, no play out of rotation and no revokes – and Laws such as 24, 27, 28B-33, 36, 38, 39, and so on, do not apply. Card play is similar – online you can't revoke, and you can't play a card out of rotation. Most of these involve what we might say are "Law book rulings".

Two areas of the law take on extra significance in online bridge, those related to "unintended calls" and "unintended play of a card". These are difficult areas in face-to-face bridge and more so when you add in the all-pervasive mis-click and request for an UNDO. Some online play sessions state a "no undo" policy, but the mechanism is there in the laws of bridge.

Some online platforms require players to alert and explain their own calls – like bidding with screens. Some utilize an audio-visual (AV) environment where a player alerts and explains their partners calls. The Director still must deal with issues from unauthorised information, misinformation, etc.

Face-to-face, the reason for a break in tempo (such as a "hesitation") is generally obvious although sometimes subject to considerable angst. Online, if an opponents call or play takes a long time to appear, the Director can immediately look at the event log and see exactly how much time was consumed (whether it was about bridge or some other matter is unknown).

In 2020, the ABF published Regulations for ABF Online Events which highlight matters such as the above : <https://www.abfevents.com.au/events/tournregs/ABFOnlineRegs2020.pdf>

My view is that playing online has slightly changed the game to suit the software (and all AI does that) and in the process has reduced the need for the Director for some of those Law Book Rulings. Thus far, online has not replaced the very important role of the Director as the official representative of the Tournament Organizer, nor most of the Director's duties and powers (Law 81C). AI might eventually become the front face (collect/collate entries, greet people, start-time finish-time, etc). Simple rulings have been eradicated (I was going to give an example of automatic trick adjustment after an established revoke, but ...).

So, we are left with more complex and judgement rulings. It is a rookie mistake for the Director to use double dummy analysis to guide their "what if ..." rulings, this is not wise because the standard of players, the preceding auction and the card play may have been different before the infraction occurred. We don't like to rely on the results in the rest of the field for similar reasons. The Director, who is a strong player, can do this thought process without that table, and good luck to them. Using software, we can use such play engines to start from the point of the infraction and then run the software from that point to see what the outcomes could be.

What about detecting cheating? AI

is good for looking at patterns and there are software efforts already to watch for things such as low percentage card plays that give a positive result more often than statistics expect, etc. Online the data is all there. In large face-to-face events, the auctions and card play for some tables may be transcribed. There are some initiatives to have all bidding and card play done on tablets even in a face-to-face session (eg cardless bridge!!!). Online, with an AV interface, software can be used to determine eye-gaze direction.

Could the AI software make decisions and bridge judgements in the future? The strength of AI is the experiences (the data set) on which its lessons have been learnt. This is an area where we have a long way to go. Will an AI Director happen in our (bridge) lifetime? Will an AI Assistant Director happen in our lifetime?

Back at the Club

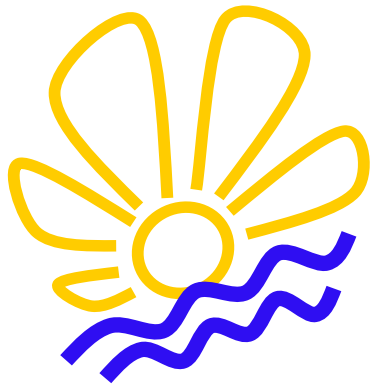
Back to the club face-to-face environment, our role as Director continues to require handling all those Law Book rulings that keep us so busy. We get the occasional complex ruling, and we should consult with other Directors or experienced players when required. We may conduct polls amongst a player's peers. On rare occasions a ruling may go to appeal (as we discussed in the last article). I suggest that if we are on our own, we can use a double dummy (eg BridgeSolver) to test the possible outcomes in tricky situations – just don't solely rely on that double dummy table on the hand record. Many clubs also have a friendly "expert" that can be called on if required (perhaps a strong player, perhaps a congress Director) – judgement rules rarely require an immediate answer, so take your time and get it right.

Director Accreditation

I have a nice little bundle of QBA Club Director exams to mark. The clubs, the QBA and I, all value the efforts of these candidates and look forward to their ongoing contributions to the bridge scene.

The next QBA Online Directors Seminar is Saturday 27th September. The next QBA Club Director exam is Saturday 8th November.

The next QBA Congress Director exam is Saturday 15th November.



Gold Coast Gold Point Online Congress

Two one-day ABF gold point events conducted by the Queensland Bridge Association under licence to the ABF. These two events are a calendar-hold for the possible return of a face-to-face congress in 2027.



**Event One: Matchpoint Swiss Pairs
Saturday 7th February 2026**

**Event Two: Matchpoint Swiss Pairs
Sunday 8th February 2026**

RESULTS – APRIL-JUNE

APRIL

SELECTION TRIALS FOR AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS [Director – Alan Gibson]: **WOMEN:** 1 Elizabeth Zeller / Julie Pigdon; 2 Toni Bardon / Greer Tucker; 3 Annette Corkhill / Wendy Gibson; 4 Maha Hoenig / Janeen Solomon; **SENIORS:** 1 David Smith / Tony Hutton; 2 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; 3 Ian Halford / Ralph Parker; 4 Alison Dawson / Greg Lee; **DALBY CONGRESS** [Director – Chris Snook]: **PAIRS** 1 Joan Mladen / Jim Wood; 2 Raelene Clark / Richard Fox; **B** Pauline Lutton / Elizabeth Anderson; **C** Mark Hunt / Terry Sheedy; **TEAMS** 1 Joan Mladen / Jim Wood / Oliver Dashwood / Delma Clark; 2 Laurie-Marie McRoberts / Kathy Duke / Sandy Fraser / Susie Fraser.

QUEENSLAND GRADED TEAMS [Director – Julie Jeffries]: 1 Pamela & Jim Evans / Jill Magee / Terry Strong; 2 Tere Wotherspoon / Ziggy Konig / Jenny Hay / Ralph Parker; **UNDER 750** 1 Jane Tagney / David Sydes

/ Peter Munro / Gill Phillipppo; 2 Jenny McGowan / John Rivers / Vanessa Brewis / Sameer Pandya; **UNDER 150** 1 Brian Clark / Brooke Anderson / Karen Gosney / Suzy Brownlow; 2 Claire Vanderloos / Clemens Vanderloos / Heather & David Douglas; **MACKAY PAIRS** [Director – Ian Cruickshank]: 1 Janet Hansen / Diane Morgan; 2 Noel Bugeia / Tex Sheedy; **B** Richard Wix / Janine Rogers; **C** Diane Stokes / Annie Lynch; **GYMPIE CONGRESS** [Director – Steve Murray]: **PAIRS** 1 Neven Burica / John Morris; 2 Lyn Martin / Jim Martin; **B** Astrid Korfgen / Lynne Layton; **C** Siobhan & Bob Davies; **TEAMS** 1 Ken Dawson / Adrienne Kelly / Tim Runting / Patrick Bugler; 2 Verna & Stephen Brookes / Lyn Martin / Jim Martin; **B** 1 Rebecca Burnett Smith / Joanne McCarthy / Margaret Robertson / Don Robertson; 2 Sue Smith / Warwick Newton / Michael Huddart / Anna Jadach.

BRISBANE BRIDGE CENTRE EASTER CONGRESS

[Director – Chris Snook]: **PAIRS** 1 Jack Luke-Paredi / Andy Hung; 2 Martin Qin / Kuldip Bedi; **B** 1 Margaret Giebels / Mick Fawcett; 2 Sonya & Shayne Palfreyman; **C** 1 Judith Hansen / Neil Hansen; 2 Sandra Berns / Dov Berns; **TEAMS** 1 Zhuqiang Tian / Charlie Lu / Jill Magee / Terry Strong; 2 Zac Ross / Jasmine Skeate / Paul Gosney / Kate Macdonald; **B** 1 Remco Spencer / Lauren Morgan / Sarah Strickland / Ben Leung; 2 Helen Clayton / Kathy Males / Vesna & Voyko Markovic; **C** 1 Oliver Goodman / Kathleen Clifford / John Rivers / Sameer Pandya; 2 Maria Mills / Anthony Mills / Alexander Mills / Gray Renwick.

MAY

ANZAC DAY TEAMS [Directors – Jan Peach, Tony Treloar]: 1 Agnes Kempthorne / Barry Kempthorne / Therese Tully / Richard Ward; 2 Charlie Lu / Zhuqiang Tian / Tony Hutton / Neville Francis; **B** 1 Lyn Tracey / Eugene Pereira / Richard Spelman / Davis Zhang; 2 Jenny Williams / Murray Perrin / Evelyne Mander / Joan Jenkins; **C** 1 Jill Dunning / Sue Sharp / Andrew Sharp / Sue Ziegenfuss; 2 Carol Findlay / Peter Munro / Jenny Thompson / Gill Phillipppo; **HERVEY BAY CONGRESS** [Director – Chris Snook]: **PAIRS** 1 Maurice Williams / David Priol; 2 June Glenn / Alan Hamilton; **B** 1 Rhonda Chantler / Kevin Chapman; 2 Astrid Korfgan / Lynne Layton; **TEAMS** 1 Sue Smith / David Smith / Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison; 2 Maurice Williams / Michael Stoneman / June Glenn / Alan Hamilton; **B** Helen Manzau / Judy Zeller / Betty Theodore / Peter Gordon; **C** Lynne Layton / George Gibson / Astrid Korfgan / Janelle Shaw.

QUEENSLAND NOVICE PAIRS [Director – Julie Jeffries]: 1 Richard Huysmans / Marianna de Jongh; 2 Peter Grinlaubs / Prasad Nettur; **B** 1 Chris Niermand / Neil Niemand; 2 Karen Colier / Rowan Ward; **C** 1 Alexandra Mills / Jeremy Lin; 2 Kellie Tesolin / Giovanni Tesolin.

BARRIER REEF CONGRESS – YEPPOON [Directors – Chris Snook, Jo Neary, Peter Busch]: **PAIRS** 1 Kim Ellaway / Allison Stralow; 2 Tere Wotherspoon / Ziggy Konig; **RESTRICTED** 1 Jan van Riel / Vivienne Dacey; 2 Sue & Andrew Sharp; **NOVICE** 1 Veronica Cullen / Alanna Waugh; 2 Valda Corbett / Tania Rayfield; **TEAMS** 1 Jasmine Skeate / Kate Macdonald / Paul Gosney / Nick Jacob; 2 Sue Ingham / Matt Smith / Ian Thomson / Terry Brown; **UNDER 300** 1 Lilly Jia / Paul Ruan / Sameer Pandya / John Rivers; 2 David Cumming / Sa Smith / & Paul Smith / Mike Morrissey.

SURFERS PARADISE TEAMS [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Suzie Braithwaite / Andy Braithwaite; Paul Hooykaas; George Bilski; 2 Marjorie Askew / Kim Morrison / Rachel Langdon / Bill Powell; **B** Carole Cooke / Mary Simon / Jennifer Sawyer / Kevin Hamilton-Reen; 2 Suzanne Purnell / Merle Bogatie / Birgitt Bingham / John Glennie.

GOONDIWINDI PAIRS [Director – Jo Neary]: 1 Malcolm Saunders / Ian Price; 2 Sue O'Brien / Paul Collins; **B** 1 Julie & Kevin Willcocks; 2 Barbara Whitmee / Danah-Lee Gibson; **C** 1 Janine Cumming / Peter Cumming; 2 Michele Rau / Lee Chenoweth; **BRISBANE BRIDGE CENTRE PAIRS** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: 1 Andrew Woollons / Nikolas Moore; 2 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; **B** 1 Leith Cameron / Rod Wilson; 2 Gray Renwick / Maria Mills.

RIVER CITY GOLD MIXED PAIRS [Directors – Alan Gibson, Chris Snook]: 1 Pauline Gumby / Warren Lazer; 2 Therese Tully / Richard Ward; **B** Joyce O'Brien / Ross

Murtagh; 2 Krystyna Homik / Frank Hymus; **C** 1 Kate Macdonald / Zac Ross (Anthony Mills); 2 Mark Harnack / Fay Stanton; **D** 1 Robyn Bishop / David Sydes; 2 Kerry Barridge / Dennis Sullivan; **NOVICE** Emma Langford / Robert Cumming.

JUNE

ARANA CONGRESS [Director – Julie Jeffries]: **PAIRS** 1 Rachel Langdon / Nikolas Moore; 2 Raelene Clark / Richard Fox; **B** 1 Lyn Tracey / Richard Spelman; 2 Fay Jeppesen / Ross Shardlow; **C** 1 Jo Neary / Wendy Casey; 2 Eliza Hemphill / Robert Olander; **TEAMS** 1 Vanessa Brewis / Peter Evans / Ian Afflick / Normand Maclaurin; 2 Jenny Hay / Sue O'Brien / Ralph Parker / Paul Collins; **B** 1 Lauren Morgan / Kate Macdonald / Anthony Mills / Paddy Taylor; 2 Fay Jeppesen / Ross Shardlow / Annette Hyland / Peter Stride; **C** 1 Karen Gosney / Trish Lye / Rhonda Wieckhorst / Robert Van Beest; 2 Debbie Pearce / Brooke Anderson / Brian Clark / Tom Murphy.

GOLD COAST BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS [Director – Alan Gibson]: **PAIRS** 1 Pele Rankin / Paul Hooykaas; 2 Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison; **B** 1 Lauren Somers / Bob Hunt; 2 Cheryl Hensel / Dale Wells; **C** 1 Judy Stephens / Kevin Gosling; 2 Jakov Miletic / Val Saunders; **TEAMS** 1 Lauren Morgan / Kate Macdonald / Ben Leung / Paddy Taylor; 2 Janet Brown / Bill Powell / Clive Klugman / Marjorie Askew; **B** Lauren Somers / George Topfner / Bob Hunt / Eduardo Besprosvan; **C** Pam Craig / Lois & John Rolls / Marina Green; **TOOWOOMBA NOVICE CONGRESS** [Director – Chris Snook]: **NOVICE** Debra Coward / Bruce Coward / Dale Burey / Rosanne Munns; **U500** 1 Kathy Duke / Paul Matthews / Dennis Lincoln / Pamela Steele; 2 Trevor Henderson / Mavis Simpson / John Erlandson / Pat Kelly.

QUEENSLAND BUTLER PAIRS [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Tony Hutton / Kim Morrison; 2 Jill Magee / Terry Strong; **B** 1 Peter Schmidt / John Rivers; 2 Wendy Gibson / Chris Woolley; **C** 1 Thais Morgan-Pertus; 2 Michelle Lewis / Deanne Gaskill; **CAIRNS NOVICE PAIRS** [Director – Jan Cluff]: 1 Julie Duncan / Julie Brooker; 2 Denise Maroney / May Hubbard.

QUEENSLAND TEAMS-OF-THREE [Director – Julie Jeffries]: 1 Anthony Reed / Simon Byrne / Catherine Mahoney / Tony Treloar; 2 Leanne Roles / Jodie Ramsay / Bernadette Dwyer / Robyn Clark; **B** 1 Sue Sherrell / Liz Lovering / Theresa Fabian / John Gough; 2 Suellen Rushbrook / Julie Webster / Anoja Sritharan / Pamela Evans; **C** 1 Jacqui Dex / Suzanne Irwin / Rhonda Harrison / Ed Roggeveen; 2 Claire Neale / Cate Edwards / Robyn Bowman / Charles Page; **SUNSHINE COAST CONGRESS** [Director – Peter Busch]; **PAIRS** 1 Alison Dawson / Ken Dawson; 2 Andrea Smith / Jan Hoffman; **B** 1 Elizabeth Van Vugt / Julie Scott; 2 Howard Baker / Sue Gardner; **C** 1 Sue Mittermair / Julie-Ann Bradwyn; 2 Sharon Jacobs / Debra Hamilton; **TEAMS** 1 Pippa Hooper / Andrew Hooper / Beverley Stacey / John Stacey; 2 Shanaal De Zoysa / Hema De Zoysa; Denise Hartwig / Chris Snook; **B** 1 Ross Shardlow / Peter Gruythuisen / Debbie Gibbards / Gary Gibbards; 2 Ian Pitts / Bob Hannam / Siobhan & Bob Davies; **C** 1 Tom Murphy / Brian Clark / Karen Gosney / Suzy Brownlow; 2 Geoff Johnston / Peter Logan / Marilyn Endacott / Betty Stanley.