

# AUSSIE YOUTH BRIDGE BULLETIN

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ISSUE 14

## CONGRATULATIONS

### The HANS Team Claim Victory In The VCC!



After a devastating loss in the 2013 VCC by 1VP, the Hans team returned with one clear goal – and indeed they were successful.

The Hans team won decisively, with 147.14 VPs in 10 rounds, with the second place finisher 8.22 VPs behind. You can read an article about it [here](#), by Sartaj Hans.



## PRE-ALERTS!

For 2014

DATES	EVENT	WHERE
<u>JUN</u> 12 - 22	<a href="#">2nd Asia Cup</a>	Jin Hua, CHINA
<u>JUL</u> 12 - 24	<a href="#">ANC</a>	Sydney
<u>AUG</u> 13 - 22	<a href="#">15th World Youth Team Championships</a>	Istanbul, TURKEY
<u>SEP</u> 27 - 4	<a href="#">NZ National Congress</a>	Hamilton, New Zealand
<u>OCT</u> 10 - 25	<a href="#">14th World Bridge Series</a>	Sanya, CHINA
<u>OCT</u> 29 - 6	<a href="#">Spring Nationals</a>	Sydney

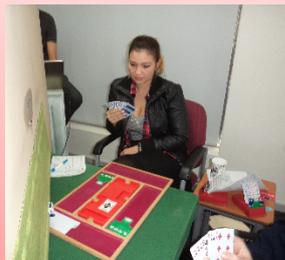
## 2014 ANC YOUTH TEAMS

12 JUL – 18 JUL, 2014 (Sydney)

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

WA	Rhys Cooper, Renee Cooper, Francesca McGrath, Tim Munro, Ailsa Peacock, Matt Smith, Allison Stralow (NPC)
NSW	Ed Burrowes, James Ferguson, Tomer Libman, Richard McAuliffe, Nico Ranson, Chris Rhodes, Michael Wilkinson (NPC)
QLD	Jessica Brake, Michael Gearing, Andrew Gosney, Chris Larter, Josh Davis, Angus Gray, Andy Hung (NPC)
SA	Angus Lum, Alexander Smith, Kandice Ng, Edward Young, Callum Baldwin, David Gue, David Parrot & Jeff Travis (NPCs)
VIC	Ellena Moskovsky, Laura Ginnan, Ella Pattison, Peter Bolling, Finn Rennie, Victoria Thompson, Grant Kilvington (NPC)
ACT	Max Mullamphy, Andrew Spooner, Angus Abbott, Tom Chen, Daryl Whitfield, John Yoon, Christy Geromboux (NPC)

## AUSTRALIAN U25 TRAINING WEEKEND



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Email suggestions or articles to [youthbridge.au@gmail.com](mailto:youthbridge.au@gmail.com)

THESE ARE CLICKABLE LINKS!

# CHECKBACK (Results)

## 2014 AUTUMN NATIONALS

1 MAY – 5 MAY, 2014 (Adelaide)

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

Open Pairs	Place	Pair
	2 <sup>ND</sup>	Renee Cooper – Ron Cooper

## 2014 VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

5 JUN – 9 JUN, 2014 (Melbourne)

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

Open Teams	Place	Team
	1 <sup>ST</sup>	<b>HANS:</b> Sartaj Hans, Michael Whibley, Justin Howard, Peter Hollands
4 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>COUTTS:</b> Glenn Coutts, Nick Jacobs, Ellena Moskovksy, Lauren Travis	

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ASIA CUP

12 JUN – 22 JUN, 2014 (Jinhua, China)

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

Completion of 3 Round Robins	Place	VPs	Team
	1 <sup>ST</sup>	286.26	CHINESE TAIPEI
	2 <sup>ND</sup>	272.66	CHINA
	3 <sup>RD</sup>	240.65	JAPAN
	4 <sup>TH</sup>	211.59	CHINA HONG KONG
	5 <sup>TH</sup>	207.69	SINGAPORE
	6 <sup>TH</sup>	206.79	AUSTRALIA
	7 <sup>TH</sup>	206.05	THAILAND
	8 <sup>TH</sup>	48.31	PHILIPPINES

Youth Pairs	Place	Pair
	1 <sup>ST</sup>	Jamie Thompson – Stephen Williams
	6 <sup>TH</sup>	Max Henbest – Renee Cooper
7 <sup>TH</sup>	Ella Pattison – Rhys Cooper	

## MEANWHILE AROUND THE GLOBE...



**52<sup>ND</sup> EUROPEAN BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
OPATIJA, CROATIA  
JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> - JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2014

[Link](#)

**12<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN YOUTH PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS + YOUTH CAMP**  
Burghausen, Germany 12 – 19 July 2014

[Link](#)

## THE BOYS AGAIN

BY SARTAJ HANS, SYDNEY

When making plans for the VCC in 2013, Michael Whibley suggested to me that we play with *The Boys* Juzz and Pete. At the tournament, somehow, *The Boys* changed from Juzz and Pete to the whole team. *The Boys* sounded pretty zingy, the bridge was pretty zingy too and soon, we were crushing the field. With two matches to go, we were leading by 23 VPs. *The Boys* had a great time and showed up next day to wrap up the proceedings. Sadly, the other teams had a different agenda and we ended up second, losing the event by one VP.

So this year when *The Boys* lined up again, I emailed the team a photo from last year and said "I do not want to look like this grumpy grouch at the end of this VCC". This is that photo:



The tournament began fine for us. We were not crushing the field but still competing at the top tables.

This hand was good fun:

		<i>Pauline Gumby</i>	
Dlr: W	♠	T 6 2	
Vul: NS	♥	K 8 7	
	♦	9 8	
<i>Peter Hollands</i>	♣	K T 8 7 2	<i>Justin Howard</i>
	♠	7 4	♠ Q J 9 8 5
	♥	9 6 5 4	♥ Q T 3 2
	♦	J 6	♦ A K 7
	♣	A J 9 6 3	♣ 4
		N	
		W	E
			S
	♠	A K 3	
	♥	A J	
	♦	Q T 5 4 3 2	
	♣	Q 5	
		<i>Warren Lazer</i>	

### Open Room

Hollands	Gumby	Howard	Lazer
W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer won the second spade to lead a low diamond out of hand. When Pete played low, Juzz won to clear spades.

Declarer now led another low diamond but the contract could no longer be defeated as the defenders cannot untangle their tricks. The original *The Boys* were a bit unhappy with their effort.

However, the new recruits came to the rescue:

### Closed Room

Braithwaite	Whibley	Robinson	Hans
W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Whibs found the awesome 2NT invite. He judged that a vulnerable No-trump overall opposite a passed hand could be heavier than usual.

West tried the surprise attack of a club and dummy's club seven held. I played a diamond to the queen and another diamond, pretty soon ginning up ten tricks.

What's the problem, boys?

The Klinger team (with honorary juniors Griff and Wilko) were leading the field so our round 6 match against them was crucial.

Justin Howard		♠ AKQJ 6 3	
Dlr: S		♥ K 9	
Vul: All		♦ A 4	
Ron Klinger		♣ 9 8 4	
♠ 5	N W                  E S	Matt Mullamphy	
♥ A 6 5 2		♠ 8 7 4 2	
♦ K 6 3 2		♥ T 7 4 3	
♣ AK 6 3		♦ J 7 5	
		♣ J 7	
		♠ T 9	
		♥ Q J 8	
		♦ Q T 9 8	
		♣ Q T 5 2	
		Peter Hollands	

*Open Room*

Klinger	Howard	Mullamphy	Hollands
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
1♦	1♠	Pass	Pass
X	XX	2♦	X
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All	Pass

Juzz and Pete navigated skilfully to 3NT which was a great contract.

At the other table, the auction went:

*Closed Room*

Hans	Whibley		
W	N	E	S
1♦	X	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Whibs found the amazing club jack lead and that was doomsday for declarer. Leading a doubleton can be very effective when partner has all the points, the payout for hitting a strong holding can be magic.

After the win versus Klinger, the tournament went well for us and at the end, the photo had less grumpy faces and more cheers:



Go *The Boys*

## VCC TRIVIA NIGHT A SUCCESS



The VCC trivia night was a wonderful success, raising just under \$2000 for Youth Bridge! I'd like to thank everyone who took part in organising the event (especially Laura Ginnan), and more importantly everyone who came along, had a great time, supported youth bridge and made the night such a fantastic event. Thanks all!

- Ellena Moskovsky

*(Ed: Very well done El, it was an awesome night!)*

## AUSTRALIAN U25 TEAM FOR THE 2014 ASIA CUP

We are delighted to present to you player-profiles for the 2014 Australian U25 team which played in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Cup Junior Bridge Championships. The player profiles for the U25 teams playing in the World Youth Team Championships will be featured in the next bulletin issue.

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Cup Junior Bridge Championships (Jin Hua, CHINA)

June 12<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> (Click [here](#) for tournament website)



L to R: Ella Pattison, Max Henbest, Jamie (Guns) Thompson, Stephen Williams, Rhys Cooper, Renee Cooper

<b>U25 TEAM:</b>	Jamie Thompson	-	Stephen Williams
	Max Henbest	-	Renee Cooper
	Ella Pattison	-	Rhys Cooper
<b>NPC:</b>	Howard Melbourne		

## CAPTAIN

### HOWARD MELBOURNE



- Q: Name (and Nickname):**  
Howard Melbourne (Sydney, as in the capital).
- Q: How long have you been playing bridge?**  
About 40 years.
- Q: What do you think is the most important aspect about captaining a team?**  
Oh bloody hell, I have no idea.
- Q: Any memorable captaining experiences?**  
Not really, have only captained recently for the Australia Women's Team last year in Bali.

- Q: Would you rather lose the World Championship Final by 12 IMPs on the last board where you revoked against your opponent's grand slam that was missing the Ace of trumps, or lose the World Championship Final when you were up 100 IMPs going into the last set of 16 boards?**  
Hmm, I don't know. Probably prefer the revoke, I don't like losing 100 IMPs.
- Q: Would you rather be invisible, or hear people's thoughts?**  
Be invisible. Why? Because I don't want to hear other people's thoughts!
- Q: Name one thing you did to prepare yourself for the upcoming Asia Cup.**  
Got a visa which was good, but it was an expensive visa.
- Q: I'm going to choose rock. Are you ready? On rock.**  
Rock (Howie) – Rock (Andy). Andy: "Why did you choose rock"  
Howard: "Because you chose it."

**STEPHEN WILLIAMS**



- Q: How long have you been playing bridge?**  
About 7 years.
- Q: Who is your partner, and are you guys prepared?**  
Jamie, and we're on form. We're ready.
- Q: What system are you playing, and what is your most favourite thing about that system?**  
2/1, and I like the fact that I can't go wrong.
- Q: Would you rather be invisible, or hear people's thoughts?**  
Hear people's thoughts, because then I know what my partner had.

**Q: Would you rather lose the World Championship Final by 12 IMPs on the last board where you revoked against your opponent's grand slam that was missing the Ace of trumps, or lose the World Championship Final when you were up 100 IMPs going into the last set of 16 boards?**

Losing by 100 IMPs, because then I know we don't deserve it. They deserve it.

**Q: Name one thing you did to prepare yourself for the upcoming Asia Cup.**

I bought some new swimmers, and I googled the venue location.

**Q: I'm going to choose rock. Are you ready? On rock.**

Scissors (Stevie) – Rock (Andy). Andy: "Why did you choose scissors?"  
Stevie: "Because I didn't trust you."

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**JAMIE THOMPSON**



- Q: How long have you been playing bridge?**  
4½ years.
- Q: Who is your partner, and are you guys prepared?**  
Stephen Williams, and we are super prepared, we are on form \*high fives with Stevie\*.
- Q: What system are you playing, and what is your most favourite thing about that system?**  
2/1, weak two in diamonds.
- Q: Would you rather be invisible, or hear people's thoughts?**  
Hear people's thoughts, so I know what my partner is thinking, and I can play bridge better.

**Q: Would you rather lose the World Championship Final by 12 IMPs on the last board where you revoked against your opponent's grand slam that was missing the Ace of trumps, or lose the World Championship Final when you were up 100 IMPs going into the last set of 16 boards?**

\*Thinks\* (Goslo: That's an easy one)

Losing 100 IMPs, so I can blame teamies.

**Q: Name one thing you did to prepare yourself for the upcoming Asia Cup.**

I watched 6 seasons of Mad Men in a week. And I polished my guns.

**Q: I'm going to choose rock. Are you ready? On rock.**

Rock (Jamie) – Rock (Andy). Andy: "Why did you choose rock?"  
Jamie: "Because it makes my guns look bigger."

**MAX HENBEST**



**Q:** How long have you been playing bridge?  
5 years.

**Q:** Who is your partner, and are you guys prepared?  
Dave Wiltshire, and no, we haven't played in a long time (his actual partner is Renee Cooper).

**Q:** What system are you playing, and what is your most favourite thing about that system?  
2/1, 2♦ preempt, it's weak with diamonds.

**Q:** Would you rather be invisible, or hear people's thoughts?  
Be invisible, people have \*\*\*\*ed up thoughts.

**Q:** Would you rather lose the World Championship Final by 12 IMPs on the last board where you revoked against your opponent's grand slam that was missing the Ace of trumps, or lose the World Championship Final when you were up 100 IMPs going into the last set of 16 boards?  
Revoke, it's just a mechanical error, as it's not like playing badly to lose 100 IMPs.

**Q:** Name one thing you did to prepare yourself for the upcoming Asia Cup.  
Went to the Aus Training Weekend, Juzz taught me the finesse.

**Q:** I'm going to choose rock. Are you ready? On rock.  
Paper (Max) – Rock (Andy). Andy: "Why did you choose paper?"  
Max: "I know you, I sniffed it."

**RENEE COOPER**



**Q:** How long have you been playing bridge?  
A long time (too long).

**Q:** Who is your partner, and are you guys prepared?  
China: With Max, not really, doing my best, was playing with 4 different partners before this [VCC] weekend.  
Turkey: Jess, yeahhh, not as much as I'd like.

**Q:** What system are you playing, and what is your most favourite thing about that system?  
With Max: 2/1, and we have an awesome 1M-2♣ sequence.  
With Jess: 2/1, and I like our perverse bids (after reverses).

**Q:** Would you rather be invisible, or hear people's thoughts?  
Be invisible, if I hear people's thoughts, it would be an onslaught. There are some people's thoughts that I don't want to be hearing.

**Q:** Would you rather lose the World Championship Final by 12 IMPs on the last board where you revoked against your opponent's grand slam that was missing the Ace of trumps, or lose the World Championship Final when you were up 100 IMPs going into the last set of 16 boards?  
I hate them both, don't make me choose! Well, if I revoke then it's all my fault but it's a mechanical error, but if we lose by 100 IMPs, then it was a team effort. So I think I would rather loser by 100.

**Q:** Name one thing you did to prepare yourself for the upcoming Asia Cup.  
I went to the Chinese Embassy to get my visa.

**Q:** I'm going to choose rock. Are you ready? On rock.  
Paper (Renee) – Rock (Andy). Andy: "Why did you choose paper?"  
Renee: "You seem like a trustworthy guy."

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**ELLA PATTISON**



**Q: How long have you been playing bridge?**

2 years maybe, with 5 years of following suit.

**Q: Who is your partner, and are you guys prepared?**

China: Rhys, well, we have some different styles.  
Turkey: Kirsty Fuller, and we're getting there.

**Q: What system are you playing, and what is your most favourite thing about that system?**

2/1, and my favourite thing about it is that it's 2/1.

**Q: Would you rather be invisible, or hear people's thoughts?**

Invisible, definitely. People think mean things, and it means I can sneak up on Nick as I turn visible.

**Q: Would you rather lose the World Championship Final by 12 IMPs on the last board where you revoked against your opponent's grand slam that was missing the Ace of trumps, or lose the World Championship Final when you were up 100 IMPs going into the last set of 16 boards?**

Jesus, the revoke, I don't like losing 100 IMPs.

**Q: Name one thing you did to prepare yourself for the upcoming Asia Cup.**

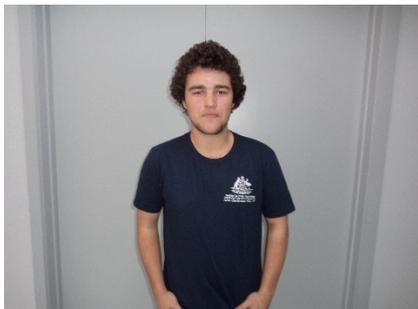
I managed to finish the latest Game of Thrones episodes.

**Q: I'm going to choose rock. Are you ready? On rock.**

Paper (Ella) - Rock (Andy). Andy: "Why did you choose paper?"

Ella: "Because you were choosing rock ... ?!"

**RHYS COOPER**



**Q: How long have you been playing bridge?**

About 8 years.

**Q: Who is your partner, and are you guys prepared?**

Ella, and yes.

**Q: What system are you playing, and what is your most favourite thing about that system?**

2/1, and I don't know, I don't have a favourite. Just a pretty normal system with trash multi.

**Q: Would you rather be invisible, or hear people's thoughts?**

Invisible, I don't want to know what other people are thinking about.

**Q: Would you rather lose the World Championship Final by 12 IMPs on the last board where you revoked against your opponent's grand slam that was missing the Ace of trumps, or lose the World Championship Final when you were up 100 IMPs going into the last set of 16 boards?**

100 IMPs, it's less humiliating.

**Q: Name one thing you did to prepare yourself for the upcoming Asia Cup.**

I made a bet with Max that I could run 10km in an hour.

**Q: I'm going to choose rock. Are you ready? On rock.**

(Rhys resigned)

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Round 4 was another family affair, as I convinced my sister, Ingrid, and her partner Hayden to give it a go on the youth scene. I was looking forward to a more relaxed game as they have only started playing this year. Perhaps I underestimated Ingrid's competitiveness and deviousness as I found myself declaring 3♠X, doubled by my little sister:

Ingrid Burrowes	
B23	♠ J T 5 4 2
S/All	♥ A
	♦ K 9 7
	♣ A 9 7 3
James Ferguson	Edward Burrowes
♠ 6 4 3	♠ A K Q 9 8 6
♥ Q T 9 4 3 2	♥ 7
♦ 4	♦ T 8 4
♣ Q T 2	♣ Q J 8
	♠ -
	♥ K 9 8 5 2
	♦ 6 5 3 2
	♣ K T 5 4
	Hayden Wellington

James	Ingrid	Ed	Hayden
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♠	2♣
2♥	3♣	3♠	Pass
Pass	X	All Pass	

Not expecting trumps to be 5-0, I went down one. Well played Ingrid.

After lunch we had a match against two new faces, Alex and Deirdre. This was Board 12 against them:

James Ferguson	
B12	♠ A 8 3
W/NS	♥ 8 3 2
	♦ Q J 7 5 3
	♣ A 3
Edward Burrowes	
♠ T 7 4 2	♠ K
♥ A K J 9	♥ Q T 7 5 4
♦ T 9 2	♦ 4
♣ 9 8	♣ K Q J T 7 2
	♠ Q J 9 6 5
	♥ 6
	♦ A K 8 6
	♣ 6 5 4

	James	Ed
W	N	S
Pass	1♦	1♥
2♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass
		4♠

I jumped to the vulnerable game due to my good shape and location of high cards as well as the known double fit.

The ♥A was led and then West switched the ♣9. Immediately I was suspicious, and so rose ♣A and cashed the ♠A, dropping the singleton king offside.

Some might call this amazing card sense, but really I could count 10 tricks (5 diamonds, 1 club and 4 spades) as long as spades behaved. Of course I had to change my plan because I was now at risk of losing two club tricks, along with a heart and a trump. So I played a club while I had a trumps left in dummy.

East won and returned a diamond, which I won in hand. I could now ruff a club, draw 2 more rounds of trumps and play on diamonds. West could ruff in with his master trump but then there was nothing he could do.

Overall, it was a competitive day with a good standard of bridge. In what is an early warning shot to the other states, one punter was heard to comment, "Who needs the Edgttons?"

## NEW ZEALAND YOUTH TEAM FOR THE 15<sup>TH</sup> WORLD YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

By NICK JACOB, AUCKLAND

Two world youth championships, two world youth congresses, and three Asian-Pacific zonal events: New Zealand's absence at international youth events has stretched back for too long. Were it not for one ex-youth kiwi, the 2014 worlds in Istanbul, Turkey, would certainly have been added to this list. Susan Humphries also happened to play in one of New Zealand's last teams at the worlds - Beijing, 2008 - but don't ask her whether playing or organising has been harder. She has galvanised this squad, battled in committees, juggled funds and tapped into the generous bridge populace of New Zealand.

Seriously generous. When a Simultaneous Pairs session was organised in May, 363 pairs from 25 clubs participated, raising \$7,260. Donations from these clubs and a further seven raised an additional \$4,286. This funding, with support from New Zealand Bridge and its Foundation, will pay for the team to travel to Turkey in August, as well as two training weekends beforehand. Providing young players with opportunities to play and learn at the highest level is crucial in personal development, so it's exciting that we have a chance to practice this. Comparing 2014 to 2008, we have twice the Coutts (though only half the beard) and twice the Bailey (though only in height). If all goes well, hopefully this year will be the strong platform we need to continue youth development for the international game. Here's Vicki on a strong platform: Click [here](#).

A huge thank you to the scoring team from Compass, to Alister Stuck from NZB for organising with gusto, the New Zealand Bridge Foundation, and all the supportive people who turned out. With a whole country behind us, it is a privilege and a source of pride for the New Zealand youth team to be travelling overseas. It's been a while, but this time it's been done right. If you have any support to share while you're cheering on the Aussie U25 and Girls teams, New Zealand's team of Matthew Brown, Vicki Bouton, Sam Bailey, Sam Coutts, Glenn Coutts and myself would much appreciate it :)



Sam Coutts  
OTAGO



Sam Bailey  
OTAGO



Nick Jacob  
AUCKLAND



Glenn Coutts  
OTAGO



Matthew Brown  
WHANGAREI



Vicki Bouton  
INVERCARGILL

# 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](mailto:dave@amontay.com). For any other junior players outside of Australia, simply send in an email to [diana@bridgebase.com](mailto:diana@bridgebase.com) or [rain@bridgebase.com](mailto:rain@bridgebase.com) with the same details along with some proof of your "juniorhood" such as a link to your junior masterpoints earned, or it could just be a photo of you with other juniors! (But do not send in photocopies of IDs.)

## 2014 VIC YOUTH BRIDGE CLUB CONGRESS

The Victorian Youth Bridge Club is holding a congress on July 5-6 for youth and non-youth players.

For more info, click [here](#).

### FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER [DECLARER PLAY]

S/All	♠ A K
	♥ 9 6 5
	♦ K 10 8
	♣ K 6 5 4 2
♠ Q	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 50px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> </div>
	♠ -
	♥ K Q
	♦ 6 5 4 2
	♣ A Q J 10 9 8 3

South to make 5♦ (IMPs)

Opening lead is ♠Q.

*Solution on Page 15*



Do you have a bidding problem? Then ask our expert, Andy Hung at [What Should I Bid?](#)

Each month Andy will select the best enquiry and the winner will be presented a \$30 voucher (funded by [TBIB](#)) toward any purchase made at the [Bridge Shop](#) or at [Paul Lavings Bridge Books](#).



The ABF Youth Website is moving! The new relocated website will be [www.youthbridge.com.au](http://www.youthbridge.com.au) and we will also be creating a bridge forum to discuss anything from bridge problems to international events. This is currently under construction - send [griff.bridge@me.com](mailto:griff.bridge@me.com) an email if you have any suggestions or want to help test the forum. Stay tuned ☺



# KIBITZER's CORNER - Training Weekend + Asia Cup



For more photos, or to simply view the photos from this bulletin in higher quality, click [here](#).



## VIC YOUTH TRAINING WEEKEND

BY LAURA GINNAN, MELBOURNE

The Victorian Youth Bridge Club has hosted its second youth bridge training weekend for players from across the state. The weekend is aimed at bringing the young whipper snappers together with the more experienced youth players (and some of the truly expired people like Borrie that are still young at heart) to have fun and learn some stuff to ensure that Victoria continues national domination.



The weekend consists of some training and also a pro-am where Victoria's leading open players donate their time to putting up with us and having a game. This is a great opportunity for players as not only does it allow them to have a game with some shippers but it gives youth players the chance to meet players who would be happy to help with questions about hands etc.



This year's training was held by Justin Howard (Juzz) and focused on how to judge how you are running in a Swiss Pairs and how to approach the game based on the match situation and your opponents' style. Juzz was an excellent instructor with well edited notes, attention to detail, well thought-out examples and a great pitched delivery. Without giving too many Vic secrets away, Juzz's talk can be summarised into four words: "Bid game, winimps".

During the afternoon, teams matches were played and each youth player had the opportunity to play with two different pros.

A big thank you goes to Henri De Jong, Robert Drew, Dee Harley, Max Henbest\*, Pete Hollands, Justin Howard, Andrew Mill, Matt Porter Stephen Weisz and Dave Thompson for giving their time to play as pros in the event.

At the end of the day Peter Bolling was crowned with the title of Victoria's Best Youth Bridge Player. Peter was a part of the winning team from both American Whist round robin teams that have been played. Peter also recently subbed at the VBA for Peter Hollands, playing with Leigh Gold. PB won both his matches that night. Is PB the new Pete Hollands?

*\*Member of the Australian Youth Team which put in a big effort to come 6<sup>th</sup> in this year's Asia Cup*

## PAUL LAVINGS BRIDGE BOOKS



Paul Lavings is a frequent supporter of the Australian Youth Bridge scene and he generously donates bridge books as prizes for the Australian Youth Bridge Week. He has represented Australia in our Open Team many times, including his recent success in the winning team at the 2012 and 2013 Australian Open Team Playoffs, and the 2012 Autumn National Open Teams in Adelaide. He also owns a bridge book and supplies company, so make sure to visit his website at [www.bridgegear.com](http://www.bridgegear.com) and contact him if you are in any need of a bridge book or CD. (P.S. Paul offers a good price on bridge books for youth players so be sure to check his website out!)

Email: [paul@bridgegear.com](mailto:paul@bridgegear.com) for all things bridge  
**Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies**  
[www.bridgegear.com](http://www.bridgegear.com)



## SUIT COMBINATIONS

THIS ISSUE	FOR NEXT ISSUE
<p><i>(Assume unlimited entries)</i></p> <p><b>A K 9 6 4 2</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p><b>Target:</b> 5 tricks</p> </div> <p><b>J 3</b></p>	<p><i>(Assume unlimited entries)</i></p> <p><b>A Q 9 6 4 2</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p><b>Target:</b> 6 tricks</p> </div> <p><b>J 5 3</b></p> <p><b>A J 9 5 4</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p><b>Target:</b> 4 tricks</p> </div> <p><b>7 3 2</b></p>
<p>Since 5 tricks are needed, we can discard the 3-2 breaks. So what is the best way to handle the 4-1 breaks? If East has queen-fourth, it is best to lead low towards your jack. This loses to singleton queen with West as well as any time West has queen-fourth (except when East has singleton 10).</p> <p>If West has queen-fourth, it is best to lead towards dummy, either the 3 to the 9, or run the jack. Running the jack loses to singleton queen with West, as well as East (you will not be taking a second finesse with the 9 as this risks losing against Q-10-(x) with East). Playing 3 to the 9 loses to singleton ten with East. So, there are two equal lines; small towards your jack, or 3 to the 9.</p>	

<p><b>K Q 9 6 4</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p><b>Target:</b> 4 tricks</p> </div> <p><b>J 3 2</b></p>	<p>3-2 breaks are easily handled by knocking out the ace in any order so let's ignore those breaks. What about 4-1 splits? If East has AT8x, then there is nothing we can do to prevent us losing two tricks. We can handle AT8x with West, however. By leading out an honour card, West can win with his ace but with the presence of the 9 in dummy, we can arrange to take a marked finesse against West's 10 after cashing a second honour. There is a catch. To guard against a possible singleton ace also with West, our first round play should be low towards the K or Q. Whether it wins or loses, we will play the jack next.</p>
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### BETTY'S STORY



Betty, aged 81, teaches bridge to young indigenous people in prison. What if learning to play bridge could change your life? You can find more information about it [here](#). You can also keep updated via Facebook by friending [People Who Play Bridge](#) You can also view the ABF article [here](#).

#### FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER [DECLARER PLAY] SOLUTION (Problem on page 12)

S/All

- ♠ A K
- ♥ 9 6 5
- ♦ K 10 8
- ♣ K 6 5 4 2

♠ Q



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

South to make 5♦ (IMPs)  
Opening lead is ♠Q.

Discarding two diamonds on dummy's top two spades will leave you with a heart loser and one or two diamond losers depending on the location of the ♦A.

A better way is to go for an elimination play. Win the ♠AK and discard your ♥KQ, ruff a heart, middle trump to the ♣K, ruff a heart, ♣3 to dummy's ♣4, and ruff dummy's last heart.

Come back to your hand via a club, and lead a diamond and cover whatever West plays. Once East wins the trick, he is endplayed and you will only lose one more trick.



## FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER - BEEFING UP BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

### SHORT CLUB OR BETTER MINOR ?

Playing a natural system, a common question arises as to which minor-suit openings to play. Which is better? Better Minor or Short Club? Is there a difference?

There is a subtle difference, but in reality, not by much.

#### SHORT CLUB

Let's take a look at Short Club first. Short Club is where a  $1\clubsuit$  opening shows  $2+\clubsuit$ 's and a  $1\diamondsuit$  opening shows  $4+\diamondsuit$ 's. Essentially, any hand with four diamonds (unless you have longer clubs or a five-card major) will be opened  $1\diamondsuit$ .  $4=4=4=1$ ,  $3=4=4=2$ , etc, you name it. This means that whenever you open  $1\clubsuit$ , you will generally have at least three clubs.  $(43)33$  would be opened  $1\clubsuit$ , as is  $4=4=2=3$ . The only time that you will have a doubleton club is when you have an exact shape of  $4=4=3=2$ : if you think about it, if you have a doubleton club with any other shape, you must have a five-card major or  $4+\diamondsuit$ 's, so you will be making some other opening bid.

#### BETTER MINOR

Better Minor essentially means that both  $1\clubsuit$  and  $1\diamondsuit$  openings show a minimum of 3 cards. When you have 3-3 in the minors, some like to have choice between either opening depending on suit quality (i.e.  $\diamondsuit AK2 \clubsuit 984$  would be opened  $1\diamondsuit$ ). However, I believe that to get the maximum usage out of Better Minor, it is more beneficial to open  $1\clubsuit$  any time you are 3-3 in the minors. This would mean that your  $1\diamondsuit$  opening would generally have at least four diamonds, and the only time that you will have only three diamonds is when you have an exact shape of  $4=4=3=2$ . This would help out your competitive auctions: whenever your partner opens  $1\diamondsuit$ , you can safely compete in diamonds knowing that partner will most likely have four of them.

So what's the difference between both styles?

Not much really! Both ways are essentially the same, but the underlying focus is knowing what to do with that dreaded  $4=4=3=2$  shape.

What you want to do is to look at it from a competitive auction's point of view. If the auction goes  $1\diamondsuit-(1\spadesuit)$  or  $1\diamondsuit-(2\clubsuit)$ , or  $1\clubsuit-(1\diamondsuit)$  or  $1\clubsuit-(2\heartsuit)$ , would you rather be absolutely certain that the  $1\diamondsuit$  *promises* at least four cards, or would you prefer that the  $1\clubsuit$  *promises* at least three cards? Of course, you should generally always assume that partner has  $3+\clubsuit$ 's for the  $1\clubsuit$  opening and  $4+\diamondsuit$ 's for the  $1\diamondsuit$  opening, since the chance of having an exact  $4=4=3=2$  shape is about 3%. Furthermore, when you have interference from the opponents (especially when it's an overcall of a major suit), the chances of partner having a  $4=4=3=2$  greatly diminishes!

The choice, ultimately, is up to you and your partner.

## STATE ASSOCIATIONS - UPDATES

	EVENT (QLD)	DATES
	QLD Youth Fun Days (More info <a href="#">here</a> )  For More INFO: <a href="http://www.qldbridge.com/">http://www.qldbridge.com/</a>	6 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> July

	EVENT (NSW)	DATES
	After school bridge club @ NSWBA, held on Friday afternoons (during school term from 4pm-5:30pm) Email: <a href="mailto:fraserrew@gmail.com">fraserrew@gmail.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.nswba.com.au/">http://www.nswba.com.au/</a>	

	EVENT (ACT)	DATES
	ANU Bridge Club regular meetings at ANU Bar Email: <a href="mailto:youth@bfact.com.au">youth@bfact.com.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.bfact.com.au/">http://www.bfact.com.au/</a>	Mondays 4:30pm during term

	EVENT (VIC)	DATES
	<b>VIC Youth Congress</b>  After school bridge club @ Waverly Bridge Club, held on Tuesday afternoons (during school term from 4:30pm-6:30pm) Contact: <a href="http://www.vba.asn.au/vbaHome.php">http://www.vba.asn.au/vbaHome.php</a>	July 5-6

	EVENT (SA)	DATES
	Contact: <a href="http://www.sabridgefederation.com.au/">http://www.sabridgefederation.com.au/</a>	

	EVENT (WA)	DATES
	Contact: <a href="http://www.bawa.asn.au/">http://www.bawa.asn.au/</a>	...

	EVENT (NT)	DATES
	Contact: <a href="http://www.ntba.com.au/">http://www.ntba.com.au/</a>	...

	EVENT (TAS)	DATES
	Contact: <a href="http://www.tasbridge.com.au/">http://www.tasbridge.com.au/</a>	...