



Education Program

Celebrity Speakers Program

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS: LEARNING TO COUNT WITH JOAN BUTTS

Thursday, January 11 8:45am - 9:30am Great Room, Canberra Rex

GAINING CLARITY WITH JOHN NEWMAN

Saturday, January 13 9:00am - 9:40am Great Room, Canberra Rex

DEMYSTIFYING THE DEFENCE WITH NICK JACOB

Sunday, January 14 9:00am - 9:40am Great Room, Canberra Rex

TWO OVER ONE PANEL WITH MICHAEL POLOWAN & GEO TISLEVOLL

Tuesday, January 16 9:00am - 9:40am Great Room, Canberra Rex

Events for Teachers

CPD DAY 4 - TEACHING DECLARER PLAY

Tuesday, January 9 Noon - 4pm Great Room, Canberra Rex

Presented by Joan Butts, this free, four-hour workshop will cover the basic techniques of card play, as well as more advanced declaring skills, and how to present them as teachers.

TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

Friday, January 19 10am - 4pm Great Room, Canberra Rex

Presented by Joan Butts and Cath Whiddon, this session aims to prepare prospective teachers for their first class and to assist experienced teachers with new ideas for their classes. Each Teacher Training Program offers a closer look at teaching methods and presentation.

ABF TEACHERS PARTY & PANEL

Wednesday, 17 January After play finishes Venue TBA

Open to all teachers, the Teachers Forum will include a panel discussion with world experts ready to answer your questions. ABF Accreditation will also be on the agenda. This is a chance for teachers to get together and celebrate how far we've come, and where we're going! RSVP to joan@joanbuttsbridge.com

Events for Directors

DIRECTOR TRAINING

Wednesday, 17 January 8:30 - 9:30 am Great Room, Canberra Rex

Presented by John McIlrath and open to Directors of all levels and potential Directors, this session will examine and provoke discussion about how directors are applying the new laws and comparable calls.



Celebrity Speakers Program

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS – LEARNING TO COUNT!

Thursday Jan 11, 8:45am - 9:30am

The difference between good declarers and the “not so goods” is the ability to know the count of every hand. That means noting carefully when the defenders play their cards, and building up a picture of how suits are divided. It might seem miraculous when an expert can tell you the exact shape of your hand afterwards, but it’s not magic, it’s just practice! This workshop will give you tips to make counting easier.



Joan Butts

Joan Butts has represented Australia in world championships. Her passion is teaching bridge, and for the past 25 years she has owned and operated a club in Brisbane. Since 2011 she has been the ABF National Teaching Coordinator.

GAINING CLARITY

Saturday, January 13 9:00am - 9:40am Great Room, Canberra Rex

It’s rumoured that a bridge hand was once played and defended perfectly, but I’m skeptical. Bridge is not only humbling, it’s impossible. We’re all terrible. This realisation brings a nice surprise: it’s easy to improve once you are curious and detached. The pressure is off. You do your thing at the table, and iron out the biggest errors later. Slowly learn how good players think. It’s a fun approach! I’d like to share it and look at some hands that I love with a group. Some hands are embarrassing, others amusing, but they’re all quite beautiful once you get to the simple logic at the centre.



John Newman

John discovered that he loved bridge in 2013 at Youth Week. He has pursued the game passionately ever since, recently winning the Spring National Open Teams. He loves to teach and coach bridge, last year captaining the NSW Youth team to victory and this year captaining the Australian Under 25 team in Korea. John believes anyone can become competitive.



Celebrity Speakers Program

DEMYSTIFYING THE DEFENCE

Sunday, January 14 9:00am - 9:40am Great Room, Canberra Rex

Presented by Nick Jacob, this Celebrity Talk will focus on demystifying defence. The session aims to make the defence a fun, engaging and thought-provoking part of the game for intermediate-class players.



Nick Jacob

Nick is a former New Zealand representative who played in the 2015 Bermuda Bowl. He has won several national titles in Australia and New Zealand. When he's not traveling he teaches from his home in Auckland with his partner Ella and their son Louis.

TWO OVER ONE GAME FORCE PANEL DISCUSSION

Tuesday, January 16 9:00am - 9:40am Great Room, Canberra Rex

Hear two world experts discuss the most modern approach to Two Over One, the system that has taken over the bidding world. Come along and have your questions answered by the best in the game. The panel will be hosted by Joan Butts.



Michael Polowan

A leading US professional bridge player from New York City, Michael's specialty is Two Over One Game Force. He has played full time for 34 years and was named the New York player of the Year in 2003. Michael has won four American National events, including a Vanderbilt. He has also won the Hoechst/Forbo/WhiteHouse tournament in Holland, the Prix de Nations in Luxembourg and the Israeli National Open Pairs.



GeO Tislevoll

Norwegian-born Geir Olav (GeO) is a professional bridge teacher, coach, player and writer now living in Auckland. He has represented both Norway and New Zealand in international championships and has coached numerous, successful Norwegian international teams. He has also written several books in two languages and is co-author of the official World Championships books.