



Celebrity Speakers Program

All Celebrity Speaker sessions will take place before play starts and are free to attend.

Declarer Play: Managing to Play Safely Presented by Joan Butts

Thursday, January 10 9:00am - 9:40am Great Room, Canberra Rex

Working out which opponent holds the cards that can hurt declarer most, is essential for your success. Sometimes it's one opponent, sometimes the other. Learning to play safely to avoid the dangerous opponent must be part of your plan at the outset when you consider the way you'll play the hand, before touching a card.



Joan Butts

Joan Butts is a well-known bridge personality who has played for Australia. Joan has taught thousands of people to play bridge at her bridge club, in her role as the ABF's National Teaching Coordinator and through her Online School of Bridge.

Joan has a BA, Dip Ed, Dip Ed Psych from University of Queensland, and many years of teaching experience.

Trick One: Stopping to Think When Defending & What to Think About Presented by Kate McCallum (USA)

Friday, January 11 9:00am - 9:40am Great Room, Canberra Rex

Kate has also enormous experience in teaching and coaching, and will bring to Australia some of her proven techniques for WINNING!



Karen "Kate" McCallum

Kate, from the USA, now on long term visit to Australia, plays both Open and Women's bridge, and has won almost every world title available in women's bridge, and has some impressive Open results too.

Her latest results are:

- Silver Medal: European Championships Women's Teams, Montecatini, 2016
- Winner World Champion Women's Teams - McConnell Cup - Orlando, Florida 2018
- Winner World Champion Mixed Pairs - 2006, Verona Italy Winner World Champion Women's Teams - McConnell Cup - Sanya, China 2014
- Winner National Women's Teams 2014, 2015
- Winner: European Championships Women's Teams, Tromso, 2015
- Bronze Medal: European Championships Mixed Teams, Tromso, 2015

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Common Mistakes in Defence: How to Improve Your Thought Process Presented by Liam Milne

Saturday, January 12

9:00am - 9:40am

Great Room, Canberra Rex



Liam Milne

Liam Milne is a professional bridge player and bridge teacher based in Sydney. A ten-time Australian national champion, Liam's achievements include wins in all of the major Australian teams events. In addition to playing for Australia in the Bermuda Bowl, Liam's most impressive international result is a ninth-place finish in the 2014 World Open Pairs. He has also represented Australia as both a non-playing captain and coach. Liam won the 2018 International Bridge Press Association prize for article of the year.

Improve Your Competitive Bidding: Game Tries, Competitive Raises Presented by Will Jenner-O'Shea

Sunday, January 13

9:00am - 9:40am

Great Room, Canberra Rex



Will Jenner-O'Shea

Will Jenner-O'Shea is from Ceduna in country South Australia and learnt to play bridge in Adelaide. He has represented Australia in several bridge events, including the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008.

He has built a successful career teaching at clubs all around Sydney.

Coaching for Partnerships

Slam decisions: How to reach the ones that make! Presented by GeO Tislevoll & Joan Butts

Tuesday, January 15

9:00am - 9:40am

Great Room, Canberra Rex



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. In 2018, GeO won the International Bridge Press Association award for the best defended hand in 2018, and won the New Zealand Trials to represent New Zealand in 2019. He has also written several books.



Teachers Events

CPD Day - Competitive Bidding

Tuesday, January 8

Noon - 4pm

Great Room, Canberra Rex

A free professional development workshop for bridge teachers who wish to update their skills for intermediate to advanced lessons.

Presented by National Teaching Coordinator Joan Butts, this new workshop will cover everything teachers will need to deliver a five-lesson course focused on Competitive Bidding.

The workshop will use the new Competitive Bidding Teacher Resource Pack materials and cover:

- Overcalls & Responses
- Two-Suited Overcalls,
- Overcalls over their 1NT
- Takeout Doubles
- Responding to Takeout Doubles

Participants are eligible to receive 10 accreditation points for attending this workshop.

Register online at

www.abf.com.au/education/workshops

ABF Teachers Party & Panel

Wednesday, 16 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. Updates to the 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](mailto:joan@joanbuttsbridge.com)

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