



Bulletin Editor: Andy Hung

ISSUE 25

2017 Australian Youth Teams



Congratulations to Charles and John McMahon, Jamie Thompson – Matthew Smith, and Nico Ranson – Christopher Rhodes for making the 2017 Australian U25 team! (Special mention to Francesca McGrath and Ella Pattison who came second in the Youth Butler, but unfortunately cannot join the team as Ella and Nick are expecting have a new member to their family – congrats! Update below!)

We also have an Australian Girls Team that consists of Francesca McGrath, Renee Cooper, Lakshmi Sunderasan, Ailsa Peacock, and Kirstyn Fuller with Christy Geromboux as npc. Both teams are now currently competing in the APBF Championships in Seoul, Korea, and you can follow the results and bulletins here. We'd also like to wish Justin Mill (formerly Howard) and Peter Hollands good luck in the Open Teams!

Congrats Nick and Ella!

Nick and Ella have welcomed a beautiful little boy Louis Joseph Jacob on 27th May 2017. Congratulations!





THESE ARE CLICKABLE LINKS!



PRE-ALERTS!

	For 2017	
DATES	EVENT	WHERE
<u>JUN</u> <u>JUN</u> 8 - 12	2017 VCC	Melbourne
<u>JUL</u> <u>JUL</u> 15 - 27	Australian National Championship	
<u>SEP</u> <u>OCT</u> 30 - 7	NZ National Congress	Hamilton
TARGET EV	/ENTS FOR 2	017 YOUTH
MAY <u>JUN</u> 28 - 7	51st APBF	Seoul, Korea
<u>AUG</u> <u>AUG</u> 15 - 24	World Youth Championship	•

TREATS

Pre-Alerts!1
Checkback (Results)2
2017 Youth Week Championships By Matthew Brown4
2016 Youth Awards6
NSW Interstate Trials7
2017 Australian Youth Teams8
Kibitzer's Corner11
Suit Combinations12
Beefing Up Conventions13
State Associations14



CHECKBACK (Results)

2017 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

7 JAN – 13 JAN, 2017 (Canberra)For more details, please visit the Championship website <u>here</u>.

	Place	Team								
Youth Teams	1 ST	HARRISON : Shane Harrison, Jessica Brake, Stephen Williams, Nick Jacob								
(Round	2 ND MITCHELL : Nik Mitchell, Brad Johnston, Matthew Brow Boughey									
Robin)	3 RD	THOMPSON : Jamie Thompson, Matthew Smith, Ella Pattison, Francesca McGrath								
	DI	0								

	Place	C/F	1	2	3	4	Total	Team
Youth Team Finals	1 ST	0	45	27	5	36	113	MITCHELL : Nik Mitchell, Matthew Brown, Brad Johnston, , Andi Boughey
	2 ND	6.5	19	11	33	42	111.5	HARRISON : Shane Harrison, Jessica Brake, Stephen Williams, Nick Jacob

	Place	Pair					
Youth Pairs	1 ST	Andi Boughey – Matthew Brown					
Final	2^{ND}	Nicholas Mitchell – Brad Johnston					
	3 RD	Ailsa Peacock – Erin Tewes					

	Place	Pair
Youth Pairs	1 ST	Kirstyn Fuller – Tomer Libman
Consolation	2^{ND}	Jamie Thompson – Matthew Smith
	3^{RD}	Conor Hosking – Finn Rennie

	Place B-A-M		Team			
Cliff Wake Playoff	1 ST	1.5	CLIFF WAKE CHALLENGERS – Justin Mill, Peter Hollands, Nick Jacob, Jamie Thompson			
FlayOff	2 ND	2.5	YOUTH TEAM WINNERS – Nik Mitchell, Brad Johnston, Andi Boughey, Matthew Brown			

2017 ANOT

For more details, please visit the Championship website here.

Onon	Place	Team
Open	1 ST	Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Avi Kanetkar, Bruce Neill
Teams	2^{ND}	Traian Chira, Laura Ginnan, Laurie Kelso, Sebastian Yuen

Page | 2 🎊 Checkback (Results)





2017 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS For more details, please visit the Championship website here.

	Place	Pair
Youth	1 ST	Charles McMahon - John McMahon
Butler Pairs	2 ND	Francesca McGrath – Ella Pattison
(U25 Team	3^{RD}	Jamie Thompson – Matthew Smith
Selection	4 TH	David Gue – George Bartley
Phase 1)	5 TH	Christopher Rhodes – Nico Ranson
	6 TH	Kirstyn Fuller – Tomer Libman

U25 Team	Place	Pair
Selection Phase 2	1 ST	Christopher Rhodes – Nico Ranson

	Place	C/F	1	2	3	Total	Team
Youth Test Match	2 ND	0	42	24	21	87	Australia : Ella Pattison, Francesca McGrath, Charles and John McMahon
	1 ST	6.5	22	52	27	101	NZ : Matthew Brown, Brad Johnston, Nik Mitchell, Matthew Hughes, Feitong Chen

2017 GOLD COAST CONGRESS

18 FEB – 25 FEB, 2017 (Broadbeach, Gold Coast) *For more details, please visit the Championship website here.*

		ore details, preuse visit the championship website nere.
Bobby	Place	Pair
Richman Open Pairs	1 ST	Justin Howard Mill – Tony Nunn
Final A	2 ND	Ron Klinger – Matthew Mullamphy
Open Pairs	Place	Pair
Final D	2 ND	Jamie Thompson – Johnno Newman
	Place	Team
Open Teams	1 ST	Andy Hung, Nye Griffiths, Liam Milne, Kornel Lazar, Michael Whibley, Roger Lee
Open Butler	Place	Pair
Swiss Pairs	(EW)1 ST	Jessica Brake – Matthew Brown
Restricted	Place	Pair
Butler Swiss Pairs	1 ST	Andrew Gosney – Jack Luke-Paredi

Page | 3 🎊 Checkback (Results)





AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY MATTHEW BROWN, NEW ZEALAND

(This article was originally for The ABF Newsletter March 2017 edition, can be found here.)

2017 started off with a bang for youth players as many travelled from all over Australia and New Zealand to participate in the Australian Youth Week, held at the Canberra Bridge Club. This year New Zealand had a large contingent of players, with four established partnerships crossing the Tasman to compete with and against Australia's finest young players. From New Zealand we had Andi Boughey-Matthew Brown, Feitong Chen-Matthew Hughes, Jacob Kalma-Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin & Nik Mitchell-Brad Johnston.

The week started off with the Youth Teams, where 10 teams played a full round robin over two days, with the top two teams qualifying for a 48 board final. With many strong teams in the field, it would be a race to the finish line to qualify for the final.

At the end of the round robin the HARRISON team (Shane Harrison-Nick Jacob, Jessica Brake-Stephen Williams) were 14 VPs clear of the field, sitting on 148.22 VPs after 9 matches whilst our team MITCHELL (Nik Mitchell-Brad Johnston, Matthew Brown-Andi Boughey) was runner up on 134.22 VPs. This meant that the final would start with HARRISON having a 6.5 IMP carryover.

MITCHELL jumped out to a large lead in the first two stanzas, with the score at halfway being 72-36.5. In the third set however, HARRISON clawed back, winning 33-5 to reduce their deficit to only 7.5 IMPs. The pressure was well and truly on for the last stanza.

At all vulnerable, you hold ♠K5 ♥A843 ♦K963 ♠AJ3.

Your LHO opens 1♠, partner passes, and RHO raises to 2♠. What do you do?

Nik Mitchell decided to double, which worked particularly well on the hand. His partner Brad made the leap to 4∇ , and Nick Jacob, who held 7 spades, felt obliged to sacrifice over this in $4\triangle$ (doubled). This contract went down 3 for -800. Jessica Brake, at our table, somewhat conservatively passed, and so we managed to buy the contract in 2♠ which just made for +110, a 14 IMP gain. On most of the other boards, the HARRISON team played and bid extremely well, and the final score for the stanza was 36-42. This meant our MITCHELL team had held on by the smallest of margins, winning the final 113 to 111.5 IMPs.

The Youth Pairs was the next event to take place, with all teams' finalists qualifying directly to the final. Here is a problem that Andi Boughey faced, with no one vulnerable and a weak 20 opening on her right: ♠A75 ♥A8 ♦10974 ♣AQ65

Andi figured it was unlikely that the opponents held all the diamond honours and that her 10974 was a stopper and worth a point or two. So she overcalled 2NT (not for the fainthearted)!

This worked spectacularly when I raised her to 3NT with: \$8632 **♥**Q54 ♦A **\$**KJ1082

On the lead of the ♦Q, and with the ♥K onside, Andi could not be stopped on her way to 9 tricks and a top board. This proved important, as we eventually went on to win the Youth Pairs by less than a board, ahead of our ex-teammates, Nik Mitchell & Brad Johnston.

Finally, the Australians and New Zealanders were to contest the Stern-Cornell trophy in a test match. Andi had qualified to the knockouts of the Women's Teams with her mother Carol Richardson, so the New Zealand youth team comprised Nik Mitchell & Brad Johnston playing throughout, and Feitong Chen playing with both Matthew Hughes & Matthew Brown.

Feitong showed marvellous judgment on this board:



W	N	Е	S
C. McMahon	Brown	J McMahon	Chen
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

South		
Q 83 ♥AK96 ♦KQ8432 ♣ -		

*2♥ = Fourth suit forcing

If I held a singleton diamond, or if the Ace was offside we would be extremely hard pressed to take enough tricks in 3NT. Therefore Feitong bid 3♠. I duly raised to 4♠ and we played in the Moysian 4-3 fit, which could not be defeated as the spades broke 3-3 and the diamonds could be established by ruffing. 3NT at the other table failed by 3 tricks, and so we picked up 12 imps for Feitong's good judgment, and we eventually won the test match 101-87.



We are extremely thankful to Elainne Leach and Bruce Crossman, who organised and directed Youth Week so efficiently and made the experience so enjoyable. We also want to especially thank Tracey Lewis, New Zealand's new Youth Co-ordinator who put so much time and effort into securing subsidies from New Zealand Bridge and the New Zealand Bridge Foundation to help us all make the journey over. This was the first time participating for Jeremy and Jacob, and hopefully not the last!



2017 Australian Youth Bridge Week

For the tournament website that contains the full results, as well as the daily bulletins that has write up about the annual Cliff Wake Challenge, click here.



2

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This award, worth \$200 annually and supplemented with a further \$100 from the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund, is awarded to the Australian Youth Player who earns the most masterpoints in the calendar year in question.

This year Matt won with 216.79 masterpoints (actually Jamie won with 221.07 but you can only win this award once). Matt's move across the Nullabor to pursue a bridge career in Sydney is certainly paying off well in terms of masterpoints!

THE HILLS-HURLEY TROPHY: JOHN AND CHARLES MCMAHON



This trophy, donated by Richard Hills and Steve Hurley, is intended to encourage talented young bridge players to form long-standing partnerships and reward a successful pair who has developed a well-organised partnership to harness their full potential.

Following their first-time appearance at Youth Week in 2016, the McMahon brothers made an immediate impression with their thoughtful and skilled play and were given the opportunity to represent Australia at the New Zealand National Congress where

they won the Intermediate Teams and defeated the New Zealand Youth Team 184 – 83 to take out the Stern-Cornell Trans-Tasman Trophy.

THE HELMAN-KLINGER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: JAMIE THOMPSON





This award, worth \$400 annually and supplemented with a further \$200 from the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund, is presented each year to the Australian Youth Bridge Player whose ability, achievements, sportsmanship, attitude, contribution and commitment during the calendar year are most deserving.

A regular on the Australian Under-25 Team for three straight years, whilst still eligible to play Under-20s, in 2016 Jamie played every single national teams event together with the Open Team Play-Offs. Jamie has also taken over the running of the Victorian kiddies night at Waverley Bridge Club and plays regularly with up-and-coming <16s, anchored an inexperienced Victorian Youth team at ANC.

Both Helman-Klinger Awards exist due to the generosity of the late Rabbi Leonard Helman, an American lawyer, prominent bridge enthusiast and philanthropist, who made a substantial donation to establish the prizes to honour Ron and Suzie Klinger's outstanding contribution to bridge in Australia.







This award is granted to the best performed pair in international competition taking account of performance in the events themselves, commitment to preparation and contribution to team success.

The unanimous choice of the two non-playing captains at the World Youth Team Championships in Salsomaggiore, Renee and Ella anchored the Australian Girls Team to their outstanding silver medal performance.







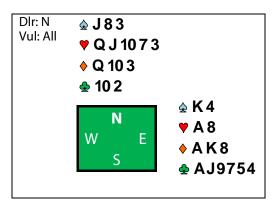
NSW INTERSTATE TRIALS

BY LEIGH MATHESON, SYDNEY

The NSW Youth Interstate Trials was held on 23rd April at the NSWBA, directed by the fantastic Matty McManus. Although there were nine pairs that participated, not all of them were contending pairs as some were slightly over age.

Congratulations to Charles and John McMahon, Ramanan Rajkumar – Hong Pui Edmond Lee, Nico Ranson – Matthew Smith, as they will compete in the ANC Youth teams in July, held in Canberra.

Although Morgan Gao, playing with William Brazie, did not make the cut, I was on the receiving end of good defence by the pair. Take a look at the deal below:



West	North	East	South
William	Georgina	Morgan	Leigh
Brazier	McMahon	Gao	Matheson
	Pass	1♣	2♥
2♠	4♥	X	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Contract: 4♥X / South

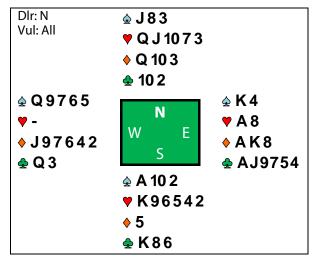
Lead: ♦6

Partner leads the ♦6. Declarer plays the ♦10 from dummy and you win the ♦K. What next? Have a think about it before looking at the full deal below.

Morgan doubled Leigh Matheson in 4. Morgan won his partner's diamond lead with the \diamond K and switched to the \diamond K!

Without this switch, declarer would be able to draw trumps and lead a spade to the $\mathfrak{L}10$, picking up the suit for one loser. After the $\mathfrak{L}K$ play declarer did the best he could by winning the $\mathfrak{L}A$ and leading trumps. But Morgan won the A and continued with a spade, allowing his partner to win the $\mathfrak{L}Q$ and give him a spade ruff to hold declarer to 8 tricks. +500.

When asked later, Morgan simply stated that this was the only way he could see to take the contract *two* down. Well worked out Morgan.





2017 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH TEAMS



Left to Right: Ailsa Peacock, Kirstyn Fuller, Matthew Smith, Jamie Thompson, Liam Milne (coach), Francesca McGrath, Johnno Newman (U25 npc), Christy Geromboux (Girls npc), Nico Ranson, Lakshmi Sunderasan, John McMahon, Renee Cooper, Charles McMahon, Chris Rhodes.

Liam Milne is writing daily reports about the Australian Teams for the APBF Championships. To know more about each youth player, you can read the fantastic summaries over here on this website: http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/apbf/2017/ebull.asp?id=5 (or click http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/apbf/2017/ebull.asp?id=5 (or click http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/apbf/2017/ebull.asp?id=5 (or click http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/apbf/2017/ebull.asp?id=5 (or click http://www.abfevents/apbf/2017/ebull.asp?id=5 (or click http://www.ab

We wish both teams the best of luck!

2017 ANC YOUTH TEAMS

15 JUL - 27 JUL, 2017 (Canberra)

WA	Renee Cooper, Francesca McGrath, Kirstyn Fuller, Jack O'Rielly, Rebecca O'Rielly, Megan
NSW	Charles McMahon, John McMahon, Ramanan Rajkumar, Edmond Lee, Nico Ranson, Matt Smith
QLD	Andrew Gosney, Jack Luke-Paredi, Darren Brake, Ben Leung, Angus Gray, Jasmine Skeate
SA	David Gue, George Bartley, Ben Curtis, Jamie Simpson, Jarvis Dunsford, Jack McDonald
VIC	Jamie Thompson, Victoria Thompson, Finn Rennie, Aiden Robertson, Liam Robertson

ACT Shannon Bowen, Maximilian Mullamphy, Zachary Neulinger, Andrew Spooner, Daryl Whitfield



FREE ROBOTS For JUNIORS!

BBO's generous offer of FREE leasing of GIB Robots on BBO is still available!

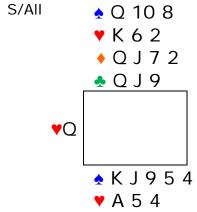
If you are an Australian youth player, and under 26 years of age (or 26 that year), simply send in your name, date of birth, and your BBO I.D. to Dave Thompson at dave@amontay.com.

'Geekiest game in town': Bill Gates joins world's best bridge players for global online tournament



Read all about it here!

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER [DECLARER PLAY]



♦ K 5

★ K 6 5

South to make 44 (IMPs)

Lead is ♥Q.

Solution on Page 11

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

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KIBITZER's CORNER







For more photos from the 2017 Youth Week, click here.









Kibitzer's Corner (Page 10)

Page | 10



SUIT COMBINATIONS

THIS ISSUE		FOR NEXT ISSUE	
(Assume unlimited entries)		(Assume unlimited entries)	
KQ73	To make maximum use of your intermediate cards, you	K 10 9	
Target: 3 tricks	should first start by running the 10 to finesse against the jack. This is the best start to obtain <i>three</i> tricks in this suit.	Target:	
10 9 2	Let's assume East wins the ace. What next?	432	
	You should again run the 9, and if this gets covered by the jack, win it, and cash your other honour playing for	A T 9	
	a 3-3 break. The percentages are pretty close, whether you play West for Jxx or J8xx, but it slightly favours the former.	Target: 2 tricks	
		Q 3 2	

AK94

Target: 3 tricks

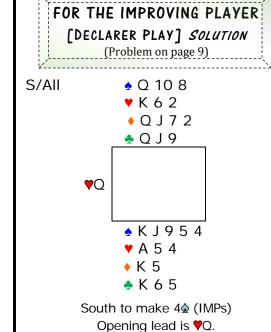
10 5 2

We should first cash the ace to guard against a singleton honour with East. Assume East follows with a small card, should you now cash your other honour, or play low to the 9? Cashing your other top honour will win when the suit breaks 4 (West) – 2 (East) with East having a doubleton jack or queen $(6.46\% \times 2 = 12.92\%)$.

Playing low to the 9 will win against West having QJxx (9.69%) and West having QJxxx (4.84%).

Every other combination will come out as a wash (i.e. if the suit breaks 3-3, both plays will

win. Adding up the total, it looks like playing low to the 9 comes out ahead by a smidgeon! Of course, if you think it's unlikely for West to have five cards in the suit (e.g. West has shown up with a five card suit elsewhere), then the percentage play will favour cashing the other top honour.



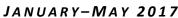
You have a potential loser in each suit, and the only way to dispose one of the losers is from the diamonds. The key question here is, should we be drawing trumps first, or playing on diamonds?

As we need to give up the lead *twice* (to the $\triangle A$ and $\triangle A$), we must arrange to set up our diamonds for a discard before we draw trumps.

If we draw trumps at trick two, the opponents will win and continue with another heart, thus exposing our heart loser before the \A is knocked out!

By knocking out the \A at trick two, we can then handle the second round of hearts, play off our diamond winners to discard our heart loser, and *then* draw trumps.

Oh by the way, I hope you won the opening heart lead in your hand! If the opponents hold up their ◆A on the first round of the suit, you will need a fast entry back over to dummy to discard your heart loser!





FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER - BEEFING UP BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

BOURKE RELAY

Take a look at this problem:

W	N	E	S
	1 ♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	?

South
♦ A985 ♥ AK ♦ Q32 ♣ K863

Jumping to 3NT may be your first instinct, but this is a bit premature. Imagine if partner has these type of hands:

- (a) ♠Kx ♥Jxx ♦xx ♠AQJxxx Opposite this minimum hand, 5♠ is a much better contract.
- (b) ♠Kx ♥xxx ♦Ax ♠AQxxxx Opposite this hand, 3NT is cold but 6♠ is also cold!

Essentially, with so many different possibilities, we must at least try and see whether 5♣ or even 6♠ is a possibility before we commit to 3NT. How do we do this?

A very well-known convention, also known as the Bourke Relay, will help you out. When you have an uncontested auction of 1minor - 1Major - 2minor, use the next step bid as artificial and game-forcing. So in the auction above, that would be 2.

This would allow you and your partner to continue exchanging information about your hands until you both decide what the best contract is. For example, imagine after rebidding 2♦, your partner now rebids 2♥, suggesting four hearts. You can now bid 3♠ (cannot be passed out as we are in a game-forcing auction!) and your partner now rebids 3\. What do you know?

Your partner must be something like a 2=4=1=6 shape, and now you have the information that 3NT is likely down on a diamond lead! Not only that, 6♠ is starting to look like a real possibility!



STATE ASSOCIATIONS - UPDATES



EVENT (QLD)

DATES

For More INFO: http://www.qldbridge.com/



EVENT (NSW)

DATES

Youth Bridge Nights

Contact Johnno!

Email: johnno.newman@gmail.com Web: http://www.nswba.com.au/

BRIDGE FEDERATION ACT INC.

EVENT (ACT)

DATES

Email: youth@bfact.com.au/ Web: http://www.bfact.com.au/

VB4

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/