



Bulletin Editor: Andy Hung

ISSUE 27

Australia V Indonesia in **Inaugural U25 Test Match**



The Australian Embassy in Indonesia and the ABF organised the Inaugural Test Match between the Australian U25 and the Indonesian U25 teams. This was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, at the conclusion of the 2nd South East Asia Bridge Federation Championships. You can read about the match on page 4.

2018 Youth Bridge Week

6-12th January, in Canberra

The 2018 Australian Youth Bridge Championships will be a special one. It is the 50th anniversary celebration of the Youth Week, and it will feature new things that have not happened before. It features...

- New venue!
- Celebration events for players, past and present!
- Matty is back!!
- Awesome events for players ineligible for the Aus Butler

The tournament website is here.

The full brochure can be found here.

For 2017				
DATES	EVENT	WHERE		
<u>JAN</u> <u>JAN</u> 6 - 12	50 th Youth Week	Canberra		
<u>JAN</u> <u>JAN</u> 10 - 21	<u>Summer</u> <u>Festival</u>	Canberra		
FEB FEB 14 - 18	Commonwealth Nations Bridge	Broadbeach		
FEB FEB 16 - 24	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach		
<u>MAY</u> <u>MAY</u> 3 - 7	<u>ANOT</u>	Adelaide		

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CHECKBACK (Results)

2017 SWAN RIVER OPEN SWISS PAIRS

19 – 20 AUG, 2017 (Perth)For more details, please visit the tournament website <u>here</u>.

Daine	Place	Team
Pairs	4 TH	Jamie Thompson – Johnno Newman

2017 NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL CONGRESS

30 SEP – 7 OCT, 2017 (Hamilton, NZ) For more details, please visit the Congress website here.

	Place	Team	
Youth Teams	1 ST	JOHNSTON: Ella Pattison - Bradley Johnston - Jamie Thompson - Francesca McGrath	
Teams	2 ND	KALMA : Adrian Wisse - David Young - Nick Jacob - Jacob Kalma	
0	Place	Pair	
Open Butler Pairs	3^{RD}	Liam Milne – Tony Nunn	
Butter Pairs	5 TH	Shane Harrison – Ella Pattison	
	Place	Team	
Open Teams	1 ST	COUTTS: James Coutts - Liam Milne - Michael Courtney - Nick Jacob - Rosie Don - Tony Nunn	
Qualifying	2 ND	THOMPSON : Jamie Thompson - Matt Brown - Michael Whibley - Shane Harrison	
	Place	Team	
Open Teams Final	1 ST	COUTTS: James Coutts - Liam Milne - Michael Courtney - Nick Jacob - Rosie Don - Tony Nunn	
Teams Final	=3 RD	THOMPSON : Jamie Thompson - Matt Brown - Michael Whibley - Shane Harrison	

	Place	IMPs	Team
Youth Test Match	1 ST	199	AUSTRALIA : John McMahon - Charles McMahon - Francesca McGrath - Ella Pattison
Maccii	2 ND	167	NEW ZEALAND : Nikolas Mitchell - Bradley Johnston - Matthew Hughes - Feitong Chen

Page | 2 🎊 Checkback (Results)





2017 SNOT

18 – 26 OCT, 2017 (Sydney)For more details, please visit the tournament website <u>here</u>

	Place	Team
Open Teams	1 ST	JACOB : Tom Jacob - Brian Mace - Justin Williams - Johnno Newman
reallis	=3 RD	HAFFER : Joachim Haffer - Ron Cooper - Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson

2017 GNOT

For more details, please visit the tournament website here.

	Place	Team
Knockout Teams	1 ST	SYDNEY 1 : Liam Milne - Nye Griffiths - Sophie Ashton - Sartaj Hans - Adam Edgtton - Nabil Edgtton
reallis	2 ND	SYDNEY 3 : Michael Wilkinson - Shane Harrison - Matt Smith - Fraser Rew - David Wiltshire

Cheap youth accommodation is back for the 2018 Gold Coast Congress! Check out the flyer on page 9!

Special 50th Australian Youth Week

6-12th January Be there or be square!

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2017 AUSTRALIA – INDONESIA YOUTH PRACTICE MATCH

An Australian Junior team was invited to participate in a Youth Team test match again the Indonesian Junior team at the end of the South East Asia Bridge Federation Championships. Playing for Australia were Francesca McGrath, Renee Cooper, Jamie Thompson, and Matthew Smith. Playing for Indonesia were Vila Rosa, Yessi Grasella, Andy Pramana, Restu Narendra, Mohammad Hasyimi, and Ali Akbar.

The format was just a straight up head to head match of 98 boards, 7 sets of 14 boards.

Australia took the first segment by 20-19 IMPs, with a few interesting boards to note. This was the first board out of the slot:

Seg 1, Brd 1 Dlr: N Vul: Nil		
♠ A94♥ Q72♦ A7♠ 97532	N W E S	♀ Q♥ AT5♦ KQJ854♠ AJ4

Open Room					
West	North	East	South		
Grasella	Cooper	Rosa	McGrath		
	Pass	1 ⊉ *	Pass		
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass		
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass		
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass		
4♦	Pass	5♣	End		
	Closed	l Room			
West	North	East	South		
Smith	Pramana	Thompson	Narendra		
	Pass	1♦	Pass		
1NT	2♦*	2♥	2♠		
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass		

In the Open Room, the Indonesian pair had a strong club auction whereby the unfortunate club suit was shown from Grasella. Rosa, probably thinking they only had one spade stopper (imagine $\triangle Kxx$ opposite singleton $\triangle Q$) and that the diamonds can be used as a side suit, decided to play in 5. The contract wasn't great, but it wasn't the worst either as it required to restrict the club losers to two, and a favourable heart layout (if a heart was led). The unfortunate trump break meant 5♠ had to go down whereas 3NT played in the other room was cold for nine tricks. This was 11 IMPs to Australia.

The second double digit swing came about from the bidding. You have ♠K32 ♥K732 ♦AK5 ♠754. Dealer at all vulnerable, you open 1♠, partner responds 1♠, and you rebid 1NT.

Partner now bids 2♠ which forces you to bid 2♦ (2-way checkback), and rebids 2♠ to show an invitational hand with five spades. Do you accept?

McGrath, not particularly liking the 4333 shape, used that as the tipping point to pass, whereas Narenda for Indonesia chose to jump straight to game! Partner had AQ875 ♥IT6 ◆T86 ♣A6, and ten tricks were there (requires very careful defence to beat). Perhaps the middle-of-theroad 3♠ is best, in case partner has an unbalanced hand with around 10 points?

Another bidding decision had to be made on the last board of the first set. At nil vulnerable, you hold \$8732 ♥AKT73 \$76 \$13, and partner opens 1♥. How high would you bid?

Both teams judged correctly on this hand by bidding 3\, (some form of Bergen Raise) to show 6-9 points and four-card support. When partner rejected with 3♥, both sides passed(!) and nine tricks was indeed the limit as partner held ♠AK ♥Q9852 ♦QJ94 ♠87.

Should responder go to game?



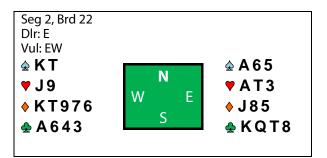
Although 3♥ was the limit on this board, I think I would raise to game. Imagine if opener's diamonds were ♦Kxxx, and now game would be 50%. Or alternatively, imagine if opener had a balanced hand of ♠Ax ♥Qxxxx ♦Kxx ♠Axx, and again, game would be 50%. As opener wouldn't drive to game with all of the minimum hands, the responder's 4-5-2-2 hand should probably drive to game – but then again, I would have lost 6 IMPs on this board!

The second segment was a fairly close match as well, but a memory lapse in one of the Australian pairs unfortunately costed 13 IMPs, which meant Indonesia edged out with 29-21 IMPs, making the total 62-44 IMPs to Indonesia.

Jamie Thompson made a nice lead on board 18. He held ♠AQJ32 ♥3 ♦KQ64 ♠A32, and was vulnerable against not. His LHO opened a precision 1♦ (2+♦ 11-15), partner passed, RHO bids 1♥ and he overcalled 1♠. His LHO raises to 2♥, and RHO jumps to 4♥, passed out. Your lead?

Thompson, knowing that he held the majority of the defence's assets, and with a lot of honours spread out in the three suits, he decided to lead his singleton trump! Unfortunately, the contract was destined to go down, but it produced an additional juicy undertrick for +2 IMPs.

In the same set, Renee Cooper played well in a 3NT contract:



Open <u>Room</u>					
West	North	East	South		
McGrath	Pramana	Cooper	Narendra		
		1♣	1♥		
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass		
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass		

South led the ♥6 to North's ♥Q and Cooper's ♥A. How would you play?

Placing the club length (if any) with North (since South has shown $5+\heartsuit$), Cooper accounted for four club tricks, two spades, and two hearts, so she only needed one diamond trick. The normal play in the diamond suit would be to run the \blacklozenge I to finesse against the \blacklozenge Q, so Cooper led the \blacklozenge I (to tempt South to cover if he had it), but when South followed with the ♦2, Cooper played the ♦K!

Playing South for the ♦A is reasonable (South should have something for the 1♥ overcall if his suit was king-high). If Cooper had played low and North held the ♦Q, North would then return a heart and the suit could then be cleared as South still held the \A.

The ♦K did in fact win the trick, so Cooper then turned her attention to the clubs (by playing ♠K, then \clubsuit A) to check if the club suit was coming in for four tricks. When it did, she simply established the second heart winner for +600. This was good enough for +7 IMPs as Matt Smith at the other table declared in 4\sqrt{X}, going down two.

Here's an everyday bidding problem that came up during the second set. You are South:

W	N	E	S
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	?



1NT is 15-17, and 2♥ is a transfer to spades. What do you do?

Your natural instinct might be to bid 3, but the question you have to ask yourself, is it possible for your side to have a game on? Not here, since partner is a passed hand, so there's no need to 'find the major suit fit' - in a competitive auction such as this, it's more important to play in the better fit. One option is to bid 2NT as "two places to play" - if partner bids 34, you pass, but if partner bids 3♦ (likely implying hearts and diamonds), then you can convert that to 3♥.



This 2NT "two places to play" you will find is a fantastic convention that will help you to identify your best fit without needing to guess. Picture another hand where you have a 3=2=4=4 shape. Without the 2NT tool, you are essentially forced to guess which minor suit to bid, but utilising the 2NT, you can now ask your partner.

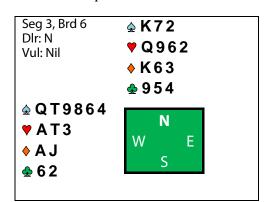
Back to the actual hand, is 2NT the best bid, or should you bid 3♠? Bidding 3♠ will often be OK, but if your partner might double with a 2=4=5=2 shape, then 2NT is definitely better! As it turns out, it didn't matter as partner had &K ♥AK53 ♦87632 &874 and both 3& and 3 \blacktriangledown makes.

The third set saw the Indonesians making less mistakes than our team, which won them 44-31 IMPs. The biggest swing came from a slam board when Pramana from the Indonesian team took the "silence is golden" proverb to heart (or into practice), and it won them 17 IMPs.

Pramana held ♠QJ64 ♥A9762 ♦97 ♠T9 and heard the auction 2♠ (strong) on his right, as the opener then rebid 2\(\phi\) followed by 3\(\phi\). A series of cuebids then saw the opponent's auction rest at 6\(\rightarrow\). Inexperienced players may not have come across this type of problem before, but as you might know where this is headed, but passing out 6♠ was the correct action!

We can see that the contract is likely going down one or two, but the main danger is that if you double, the opponents may run to 6NT! At the other table, the opener was able to open 14 (precision), and Thompson, holding Pramana's cards, was able to double to show both majors. This had the unfortunate side effect of 'forcing' the opponents to land in the right spot of 6NT.

The Aussies then fought back two boards later when Matt Smith found a brilliant switch. Take a look at this problem:



Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Smith	Akbar	Thompson	Hasyimi	
		Pass	1NT	
2♥*	X	2♠	Pass	
Pass	X	Pass	3♦	
Pass	3NT	End		

*Smith's 2♥ was a transfer to spades

Smith led the \$10 which went around to declarer's \$\Delta \operatorname{J}\$. Declarer now led the \$\Delta 2\$ to the jack, king, and eight from Thompson. Declarer played a club to his king (winning), and led out the \$4 to Smith's now bare ace. What now?

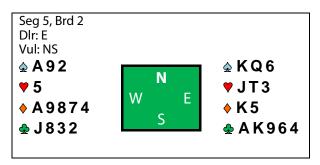
Most players would go for the 'safe' option of the ♠Q, continuing to establish the suit, but Smith noticed that there was not much future in spades. In fact, Smith worked out that declarer had two spade tricks, four diamond tricks (Thompson showed an odd number of diamonds), and at least two club tricks (and any club finesse was working).

As a result, his only hope left remaining was to play his partner for ♥K[7x or ♥K[8x - and switched to the $\P 10!$ The trick went $\P 10 - \P Q - \P K - \P 4$, and a heart came back $\P 5 - \P 8 - \P 4$. The ♥8 was a beautiful sight, and Thompson did in fact have ♥KJ75, so the contract was beaten!

At the other table, West did not find the switch and McGrath made nine tricks, good for 10 IMPs. The fourth segment was yet another close match, but once again, Indonesia edged out by 38-35 IMPs.



The fifth set created the largest IMPs exchanged out of the entire match, partly due to a board with a costly misunderstanding. The first swing came about from a board that was bid nicely by the Indonesian pair.



East started off with a strong 1NT, and after a series of artificial bids, presumably West had shown a singleton heart with both minors, East drove to slam. Although slam is not best with a heart loser and requiring the clubs to be 2-2 or 3-1 with a singleton queen (which equates to about 53%), but it is definitely better than playing in 3NT which unfortunately is what the contract was at the other table.

Clubs did break 2-2, so that was 14 IMPs to Indonesia.

The Aussies fought back a few boards later when a vulnerable 4\(\preceq\) game made after a misdefence, as the game wasn't bid at the other table.

Unfortunately on the very next board, Smith and Thompson had a bidding misunderstanding which I'm sure they will never replicate again. To cut the story short, let's just say the misunderstanding came from a redouble and the eventual score was...-2800!

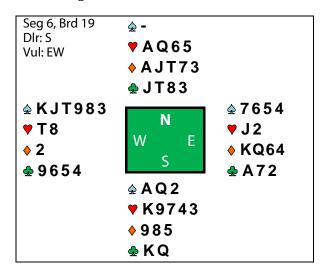
One of the toughest things to do is to keep your composure after a bad board. Many times have I seen players go on tilt (i.e. crazy) after a bad board, and more often than not, that emotional rollercoaster tends to result in a continuous string of more bad boards.

But Smith and Thompson were better than that (or perhaps they have learnt from experience!). Despite losing 21 IMPs on that board, they tried their best to forget about the previous board, and fought on for the second half of the set. What happened? The last seven boards turned out to be 40-3 IMPs in favour of Australia. Despite a couple of losses, the Aussies had won the fifth set 50-44 IMPs, making the total score 188-160 to Indonesia. The Aussies were only down 28 IMPs, but with 28 more boards to play.

The sixth set turned out to be yet another swingy set. First board out of the slot, dealer at nil vulnerable, Thompson had to decide whether to open this hand: ♠A72 ♥KQ54 ♦Q43 ♠T32.

He did open 1 and his Indonesian counterpart at the other table passed. This had a big impact on the final contract. Their partners held a whopping 21 count \$\delta 654 \ndets AI6 \delta AK \delta AKQ75, and the Aussies were not stopping short of a slam! They played in 6NT making 13, and the other table only rested in 3NT, so that was 11 IMPs to Australia.

Another good result came about on this hand:



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Grasella	Thompson	Pramana	Smith
			1♥
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
McGrath	Akbar	Cooper	Hasyimi
			1♥
2⊈(!)	4ዿ*	X	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	



In the Open Room, Thompson's 3NT bid presumably showed a game forcing hand with a spade shortness, to which Smith signed off in 4♥. West led the ♦2 and Smith played it safe by hopping up with dummy's ace, drew trumps, and gave up the ♣A and two diamond tricks.

In the Closed Room, McGrath was fearless despite the unfavourable vulnerability! The weak $2 \triangle$ overcall did its job – it caused Akbar to show the spade shortness via $4 \triangle$ (since $3 \triangle$ is presumably just a good raise), and this pre-empted N/S to end up in $5 \heartsuit$, which also had the same three losers on the singleton diamond lead.

After a series of swings to both sides, the last board of the set ended up being 7 IMPs to Australia. Cooper-McGrath achieved a score of +1790...have a guess at what the contract was.

The sixth set ended up going to the Aussies, a small win of 42-38 IMPs, making the total 226-202 IMPs to the Indonesians. With only 14 boards left, the Aussies only trailed by 24 IMPs which was easily doable.

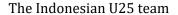
(The contract for +1790 was 7NTX making 13 tricks! Everyone likes to joke around about that contract, and at last it finally came up! Usually, if a contract involved 7NT, it would generally be undoubled, or redoubled!)

Unfortunately, the final set for the Aussies did not turn out the way they wanted it to. Although they picked up on a few boards, the Indonesians made the right decisions more than the Aussies did. The final set was 47-20 IMPs to Indonesia, to close the match out 273-222 IMPs.

Although the match was fairly close throughout the seven sets, the Indonesian U25 team did well to hold onto the lead at the end. This friendly practice match was certainly a fantastic experience for both teams, and undoubtedly there will be more to come in the future.



The Australian U25 team







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.

Peter Hollands Live Bridge Stream

Live bridge streaming sessions (All sessions will run most weeks)

AEDT Time (Melbourne)

Monday 2.00 - 5.00 PM + 8-10 PM

Tuesday 3.00 - 6.00 PM

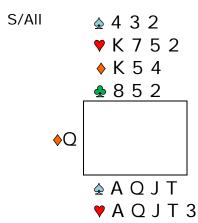
Thursday 11.00 AM -12.00 PM

(Lesson) + 1-3PM (Beginners)

Saturday (occasional) 11AM-1PM

To watch these **free** live sessions: https://www.twitch.tv/peterhollands

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER [DECLARER PLAY]



♦ 8

♣ Q J 6

South to make 4♥ (IMPs)

Lead is ♦Q. Plan your play.

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



YOUTH BRIDGE PLAYERS

Subsidised (or FREE!!) entry fees and accommodation

The Gold Coast Congress is the biggest bridge competition in Australia – a smorgasbord of events over 8 days (Friday 16 February 2018 to Saturday 24 February 2018) to suit players of all ages and standards.

We want you!!

Entry Fees

All players born in 1998 or later get free entry. All players born between 1993 and 1997 get a 50% discount.

Accommodation

The Gold Coast Congress offers heavily subsidised accommodation in high rise holiday units to youth(ish) players. The cost is only

- \$17 a night for those born in 1993 or later.
- \$27 a night for older youths (up to 32 years or so).

The La Grande Broadbeach Holiday Apartments have air-conditioning in the living area and a fully equipped kitchen. The complex is a short 800 metre stroll to the venue, and even closer to the beach. It has a pool, BBQ, gym, spa and sauna, and the youth players who stayed there last year had an awesome time!

For details or to book accommodation, contact Jessica Brake on 0414 134 888 or jessicabrake@hotmail.com. Accommodation places are limited. Preference is given to those born in 1993 or later, or "older" youth players not in full time employment.

Other financial help

Your state based bridge association or local bridge club may also offer a subsidy – it doesn't hurt to ask!



SUIT COMBINATIONS

THIS ISSUE (Ed: Apologies, this was the same as the previous issue)

(Assume unlimited entries)

K 10 9

Target: 1 trick

432

One option is to play small to the king (on the second round probably in case East has a singleton ace) to play West for the ace.

An even better play would be to take two finesses, small to the 9 followed by small to the 10.

You might think that when you play small to the 9, and assuming it loses to either the queen or the jack, then playing small to the 10 or K is a 50-50 guess. Actually, this is a typical Restricted Choice problem. If East had both the queen and the jack, he would have a choice of plays. If East had AJ or AQ, he would have been forced to play the queen or the jack.

FOR NEXT ISSUE

(Assume unlimited entries)

AQ986

Target: 5 tricks

J52

AT98

Target: 3 tricks

Q32

AT9

Target: 2 tricks

Q32

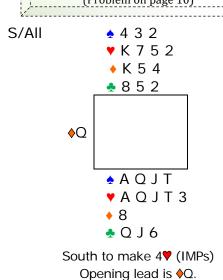
There are two options, and they are fairly close.

First one is to run the queen, followed by playing small to the 10. This will pick up any time that the honours are split.

The second option is to play small to the 9 first, and later run the queen. Again, this will pick up the suit any time that the honours are split, but it has the added advantage if the suit splits 0-7 (!), you can play the ace on the first round instead!

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER [DECLARER PLAY] SOLUTION

(Problem on page 10)



Although unlikely, it is good practice to *not* play the ♦K from dummy (as the ace is surely with East) as East may have short diamonds.

Assume the ♦Q wins, and West continues with another diamond. As you have a loser in diamonds and two (possibly three) in clubs, and a potential spade loser, the contract requires a lot of work!

Since you are lacking in entries to dummy, you must be careful to ruff the diamond with any heart but the **♥**3! Say you ruff with the **♥**10.

Next, cash the ♥A, followed by the ♥Q and *overtake* it with dummy's ♥K! That way, if hearts are 2-2, the ♥3 can be another entry to dummy. Assume they're 2-2.

You should then play a low spade to the ten (you need the &K onside). If that wins, cross back to dummy via the ♥3 to ♥7, and take another spade finesse, followed by the ♠A. Assuming the spades are good (require spades to be 3-3 or East to have ♠Kx doubleton), you can then use one to discard a club from dummy, and your tenth trick will be via a club ruff. If hearts were 3-1, then hope East has ♠Kx.



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/



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/