



2022 CONGRESS BULLETIN

NEW ZEALAND
BRIDGE
A GAME FOR LIFE

OCTOBER 1 – OCTOBER 8 2022 • LION FOUNDATION CENTRE • BAY PARK, MT MAUNGANUI



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BULLETIN #8, Friday 7 October 2022

Intermediate Pairs Update

After an appeal at lunch today, the result changed, and **Peter Daffurn** and **Joy Williams** were declared the winner. This differs to the result announced in yesterday's Bulletin.

A BUSY DAY AT BAY ARENA

With the NZ Teams semi-finals finishing and the final starting, the main room was busy with 5 events underway:

The Karen Martelletti Open Teams
Restricted Open Teams
Senior Teams
Intermediate Teams
Junior Teams

The Open teams had the most entries with 40, with many top players who hadn't got past the 1/4 finals of the NZ Teams in the field. In the Restricted Open, **Prem Soundra** and **Jeffery Ren** were aiming to make it a clean sweep of titles for the week, joined again by **Anthony Wilson** and **Hafizur Khan**. 13 other teams were going to be doing their best to prevent that! There are 16 teams in the Seniors, a good field of 30 teams for the Intermediate and a small field of 8 teams in the Junior.

Play got underway at 9:30am and will run over two days.

Unfortunately, there were major issues with the air conditioning / heating before lunch and the

South half of the room in particular was **very** cold. Players were in jackets, hoods, scarves.

Fortunately, this was remedied for after lunch. By this time of the week, some players have already played in close to 400 hands of bridge, so they are either really into the swing of things or their brains are asking for a break!

So hopefully, nothing too tricky to start.

Board 12	♠ 6 2	
West Deals	♥ Q 6 5 2	
NS Vul	♦ K J 7 4	
	♣ Q J 6	
♠ AKT854		♠ J 9 3
♥ K T		♥ A J 7
♦ A T		♦ 6 5 3
♣ T 4 3		♣ A K 8 2
	♠ Q 7	
	♥ 9 8 4 3	
	♦ Q 9 8 2	
	♣ 9 7 5	

Not a particularly exciting hand on the face of it. 4♠ looks to be a very sensible spot to play in. But let's say both you and your partner lost control over your pens and you ended up in 7! Good news, it can be made! Can you see the line? Lead doesn't matter but North doesn't have much attractive to lead against 7 (or 4), wanting to protect their off-suit honours, so may well opt for a ♠, especially as the bidding limits partner to holding 1 or 2 of this suit.



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I am pleased to report that nobody did bid 7! Well done to the 10 pairs though that found the line to make 13 tricks without the benefit of seeing all 52 cards and in the time allowed. Three pairs got well rewarded for bidding and making 6.

NZ BRIDGE JIN CLUB

Junior • Intermediate • Novice

On Thursday evening there was a JIN club event hosted by Mereana Cullen. There was a social aspect with food and drink available and a chance to talk to each other and to NZ reps. There was also a chance for JIN clubbers to ask questions of the expert assembled for the event. Patrick Carter, Julie Atkinson, Pam Livingston and Barry Jones answered a range of questions from the definition of what a monster hand to how to best sort cards in your hand and everything in between. It was informative and enjoyable. Thanks to Mereana and NZ Bridge for making this happen.



The panel considers a tricky question



Mereana looking for the "Ribena"



Keeping a close eye on Patrick



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Aengus and Mereana (before the “Ribena”!)



“You know Derek, if I was to stand on Patrick’s shoulders, I’d be just as tall as you!”



“So THAT’S what that bid meant!”



Julie, Pam and Barry are ready to answer any questions you may have – apart from “How old is Barry?” because nobody knows.



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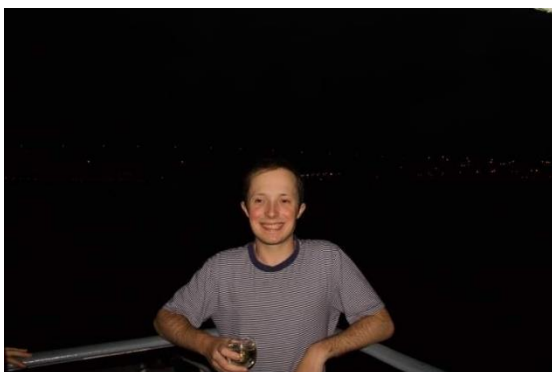
RUBBER BRIDGE UPDATE

The final of the Rubber Bridge competition will be held tonight at the Mt Maunganui Bridge Club from 7:30pm between Auckland's **Duncan Badley and Chris Marshall** and **Otago's Sam Coutts and Brad Johnston**.

Good luck to both teams. Spectators are welcome!

PLAYER PROFILE:

Today we meet another young player who is making a name for himself and already making a contribution to the game.



Name: Thomas Freeman – Greene

Age: 25

Club: Auckland

Years Playing Bridge: 1

Congresses Attended: 2 – one online and this is the first one in person.

Favourite Convention: RKCB 1430

What got you into bridge?

I have a lot of family that play bridge. One of my grandmothers is a Grand Master (Robyn Freeman – Greene). My grandmother in Auckland plays at my club and my auntie plays in Christchurch.

Do you have any bridge highlights you want to share?

I have only been playing bridge for a year and have represented NZ in an online bridge tournament, played in the NZ Inter-Regionals, the Auckland interclub and I'm on the Auckland Bridge Club board.

Do you have any hobbies outside of bridge?

I play League of Legends and I am in New Zealand's top 16 in beer pong. (Ed's note: if you don't know what either of these are, join the club and look them up!)

What's on top of the bucket list for you?

Getting back to Europe.

NZ OPEN TEAMS SEMI FINALS. HUGE COMEBACK WIN FOR TEAM HUNG WHO PLAY TEAM BACH IN FINAL.

Going into stanza 3 the match between **Fisher** and **Bach** was very tight, with the former narrowly in the lead. A good win though for **Bach** in the third stanza, helped in no small part by Board 4.

Board 4		♠ J 8 7 4						
West Deals		♥ Q J T 9						
All Vul		♦ 5						
		♣ A Q J 6						
♠ 5 3		<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>		N	W E	S	♠ K T 9	
N								
W E								
S								
♥ 4 3 2		♥ A K 7 5						
♦ Q 9 8 6		♦ A 4 2						
♣ 8 7 4 3		♣ K 9 2						
		♠ A Q 6 2						
		♥ 8 6						
		♦ K J T 7 3						
		♣ T 5						

Despite the power of East's hand there is no contract available whatsoever for EW. Unfortunately for team **Fisher, Blair and Liz** opted for 2♦ which was doubled and, 3 light



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vulnerable went for 800 which is unlikely to be good in a teams event on a board where part-scores are only available. You can only hope the same has happened at the other table. However, at the other table, teammates **Sam and Jo Simpson** sitting NS played it in 2NT which went 1 light. So, 900 and 14 IMPs to team Bach who won the stanza by 20 IMPs. It's worth noting that in the other match, **Jenna Gibbons and Julian Foster**, playing EW for team **Geromboux** played the same contract and went 4 light for -1100. However, their teammates **Christy Geromboux and Sebastian Yuen** were able to claw 500 of those back by defeating 1NTX by 2 tricks.

In a very high-scoring match **Geromboux** beat **Hung** by 42-32 to extend their lead to 35 IMPs going into the last 12 boards.

In the fourth stanza a decision to bid slam proved costly for the Fisher team on Board 18 as **Michael Ware and Malcom Mayer** opted for the game contract. Both tables made 11 tricks so 13 IMPs for team **Bach**. Most of them were recovered on Board 19.

Board 19 South Deals EW Vul	♠ K 8 5 ♥ T97543 ♦ 9 4 3 ♣ 6										
♠ A 9 3 2 ♥ 6 ♦ A 7 ♣ AQJT93	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 7 ♥ A K Q 2 ♦ T 6 2 ♣ K 8 5 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ Q T 6 4 ♥ J 8 ♦ K Q J 8 5 ♣ 7 4										

Clair Miao and Wayne Burrows from the **Fisher** team bid 3NT and made 2 overtricks while 3C was the choice at the other table. It wasn't enough though as **Bach** scored

consistently throughout the stanza, winning it 39-19 and the match 140 to 108.

The other match saw the big action. As mentioned, **Geromboux** took a lead of 35 IMPs into the final stanza.

"Just needed that extra set," commented **Andy Hung** after the match. How right he was!

In a whitewash that I'm not sure many people saw coming, team **Hung** won the final stanza by an almost unbelievable 53 – 0. That made the final score 144 to 126.

Board 19, just mentioned saw 13 IMPs banked for team **Hung** as **Andy Hung and Shane Harrison** bid and made 6♣ while 5♣ was played at the other table, also making 12 tricks. While that was the biggest board of the match, they scored positively and consistently with two 9s, an 8, a 7 and a 5.

One of the crucial 9 IMP boards was number 16.

Board 16 West Deals EW Vul	♠ A T 9 8 3 ♥ T 5 3 ♦ A 8 ♣ A 4 3										
♠ J ♥ A K 6 ♦ T 9 5 2 ♣ KJ952	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 7 5 ♥ Q98742 ♦ K Q 6 ♣ 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ Q 6 4 2 ♥ J ♦ J 7 4 3 ♣ Q T 8 7										

Jenna and Julian bid what looked like a correct sacrificial 4♠ which was doubled to give 300. Potentially a good gain if their teammates can pick up 620 in the ♥ game. However, while 4♥ was played at the other



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table, it went 1 away after the lead of the 3♥. Bo Haglund analysis says there are 10 tricks there. See if you can make it!

So, a great comeback from team **Hung** and **Andy Hung and Shane Harrison** are in with a shot to complete a very rare double – winning both the NZ Open Pairs and NZ Open Teams in the same Congress. **Andy Hung, James Coufts and Glenn Coufts** were part of the team that won this event at the 2021 Congress which was played online earlier this year so are looking to go back-to-back.

The final against team **Bach** got underway this afternoon. The Bach team took 7.52 IMPs as a carry-over into the final. In the first of six 12 board stanzas the **Bach** team came out on top 36-15. The main damage was done on Board 7.

Board 7	♠ K 9 5	
South Deals	♥ 9 5 4 2	
All Vul	♦ Q J	
	♣ T 8 5 2	
♠ Q J 7		♠ 8 4 2
♥ K J T 7 3		♥ Q
♦ K 9 4 3		♦ A Q 7 6
♣ Q		♣ A K J 6 3
	♠ A T 6 3	
	♥ A 9 8	
	♦ T 5 2	
	♣ 9 7 4	

Paul Dalley and Ashley Bach played it in 3NT and made 4. At the other table, **James and Glenn Coufts** found themselves in 6NT by East and with South holding 2 aces and on lead it was an easy double. 3 tricks taken to add 500 onto their teammates 660 and a big 15 IMP gain. A small win for team **Hung** in stanza 2, winning 36-33. **Peter Newell and Martin Reid** ensuring the loss was small with their result on Board 20 where they found themselves in the rare, but welcome position of being in a

doubled slam that they then made. A 9 card suit 4th in hand and it doesn't look like 3 passes are coming before you.

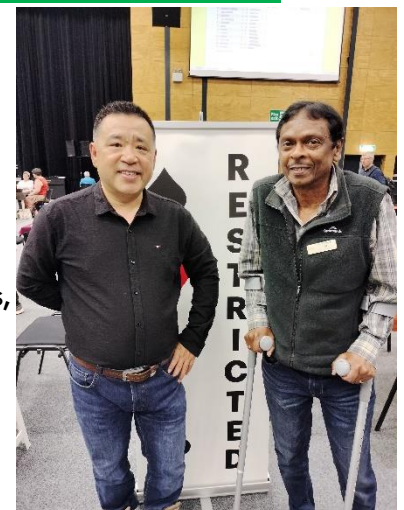
Board 20	♠ J	
West Deals	♥ T 6 2	
All Vul	♦ A K 8 4	
	♣ J 7 6 3 2	
♠ 5		♠ 8 3
♥ A J 7 5		♥ 9 8 3
♦ J 9 6 5 3 2		♦ Q T 7
♣ A Q		♣ K T 9 8 5
	♠ AKQT97642	
	♥ K Q 4	
	♦ -	
	♣ 4	

At the other table 12 tricks were also made, but only 4♠ was made. Interesting that the two winning aces were not cashed in either case.

The final stanza saw a 20-10 victory for team **Bach** in a fairly low-scoring affair so team **Bach** takes 35.52 IMP lead into the last 3 stanzas tomorrow.

TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY

You should all now be familiar with the tremendous success **Prem Soundra** of Howick club has had this Congress, playing with **Jeffery Ren**. You will have noticed that Prem is on crutches. A few





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weeks ago, he damaged his hip playing badminton. The damage is so severe it will need to be replaced.

It goes without saying that he is in constant pain. His sleep is interrupted every two hours.

A former rural vet, who is also playing at Congress, suggested to Prem that turmeric can help alleviate the inflammation. When asked if that's how he would treat his horses he replied that no, if Prem was a horse ... and then made a cutting motion across his throat!

Playing bridge to win is demanding and tiring. For Prem to achieve the success he has had at this Congress shows exceptional determination and courage.

(Thanks to the friend of Prem who contributed this but has asked for their name to be withheld).

UPDATE OF OTHER TEAMS EVENTS

The **Fisher** and **Geromboux** teams, having been knocked out of the NZ teams, joined the Martelletti Teams field in round 3, bringing in 23.99 VPs each, meaning they had to play each other. The **Geromboux** team was victorious by 18 IMPs. The third round of the teams events being played in the main room saw a slightly unusual board:

Board 6 East Deals EW Vul	♠ Q ♥ K J 8 4 ♦ J 8 6 5 ♣ J 4 3 2	
♠ T 2 ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ K Q 3 ♣ Q 9 8 5	N W E S	♠ 9 6 4 3 ♥ 3 2 ♦ A 9 7 4 2 ♣ 7 6
	♠ AKJ875 ♥ A Q T ♦ T ♣ A K T	

in which NS can make slam in both majors with 7 card fits. No Trumps doesn't even make game, despite having 29 HCPs, thanks to the unhelpful position of the ♦ suit.

Unsurprisingly, with no 8 card fit, a fair number did opt for 3NT, doomed on the ♦ lead but making plenty of overtricks on any other. Most people did opt for the ♠ contract though. A number even managed to find and make 6♣ including **Wendy Morris and Alan Mace** in the Intermediate section. Also in that section, **Jan Gyenge and Megan Richards** were the only pair anywhere in the room to bid and make 6♥.

Good reward for any EW pairs who bid the skinny slam on Board 5 in the final match of the day.

Board 5 North Deals NS Vul	♠ 9 8 ♥ Q 9 5 2 ♦ 9 8 3 2 ♣ J 9 7	
♠ A Q J T ♥ K 8 ♦ AJT74 ♣ A K	N W E S	♠ K 6 5 ♥ A 6 4 3 ♦ Q ♣ T 8 5 4 3
	♠ 7 4 3 2 ♥ J T 7 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ Q 6 2	

Unless someone gets creative it will be up to West to open in seat 4 with 2NT or a bid that shows an equivalent hand. East must have reservations over the usefulness of their Q♦ and based on the fact that 3NT is the overwhelmingly favourite contract most Easts would have valued their hand accordingly. Of those that bid slam, 6NT was the popular one although 6♣ and 6♠ were both attempted and successful.



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So, at the end of 5 matches, with 3 left to play tomorrow, the Martelletti Open teams are led by **Berrington** with teams **Mace and Geromboux** tied for 2nd. In the Restricted Open, the teams of **Stearns, Gurney and Hannaway** make up the top 3. A 4-for is looking very unlikely for **Prem Soundra and Jeffery Ren**. The Seniors have **Lichtnecker, Stuckey and Collins** on top. **Starr, Morris and Gyenge** lead the Intermediate while **Powell, Wood and Robinson** are the top 3 in the Junior teams.

The Tale of the Spade 9's

Contributed by Tom Jacob

In round 8 of the Swiss Pairs we played against June Glenn and Alan Hamilton of Brisbane who both found great success on lead with the S9.

On board 12 West opened 1D and East responded 2D inverted. June, South doubled for takeout, West passed and North bid 2H. I bid 3H asking for a heart stop, doubled by June and 3NT by my partner ended the auction.

BOARD 12		
BD: 12	♠ 984	Dir: W
	♥ AT865	Vul: NS
	♦ T6	
	♣ Q53	
♠ K72		♠ 653
♥ K3		♥ 4
♦ QJ94		♦ AK8532
♣ K987		♣ AT6
	♠ AQJT	
	♥ QJ972	
	♦ 7	
	♣ J42	

Alan led the S9 which June took with the Ace to switch to the HQ, taking the first six tricks and few IMPs for us.

On board 18 I opened 1D and we bid 1S 1NT 2NT all pass. The evidence that my partner thought I might make 3NT opposite her hand was scarcely evidenced to this point.

BOARD 18		
BD: 18	♠ AKJ54	Dir: E
	♥ 8543	Vul: NS
	♦ 76	
	♣ 32	
♠ Q632		♠ T7
♥ 97		♥ KJ2
♦ K85		♦ QJ43
♣ AQ75		♣ KJT9
	♠ 98	
	♥ AQT6	
	♦ AT92	
	♣ 864	

It was June's turn now to lead the S9, which Alan took with the Jack to switch to a low heart. June took that trick with the 10, continued with a second spade to Alan's King for another heart through. June collected HK with the Ace and played her fourth heart to Alan's eight who took the spade Ace, and I still had the diamond Ace to lose. Down three for even fewer IMPs.

Congratulations Tony!

Well done to Tony Winters of Invercargill who has just got the last A point he needed to become NZ's latest Grand Master!



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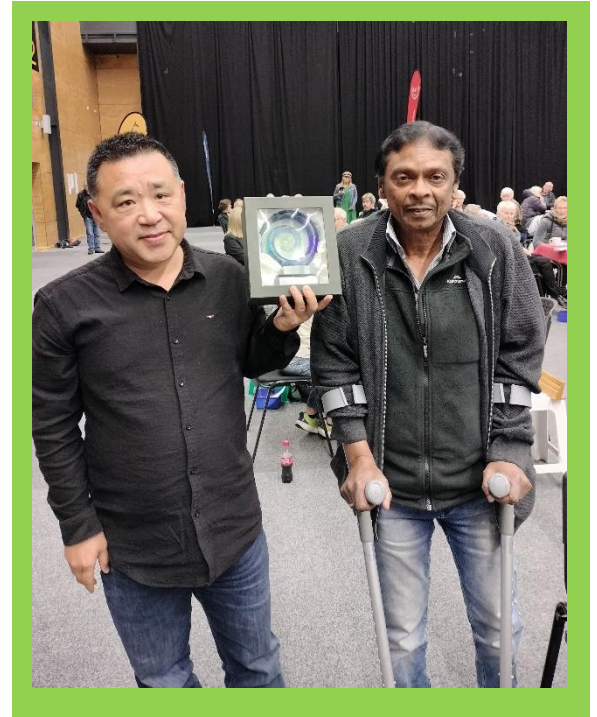
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WINNERS ARE GRINNERS



Sandra and Jeff Veling. Winners, Junior Pairs



Jeffery Ren and Prem Soundra. Winners, Open Restricted Swiss Pairs



Joy Williams and Peter Daffurn. Winners, Intermediate Pairs

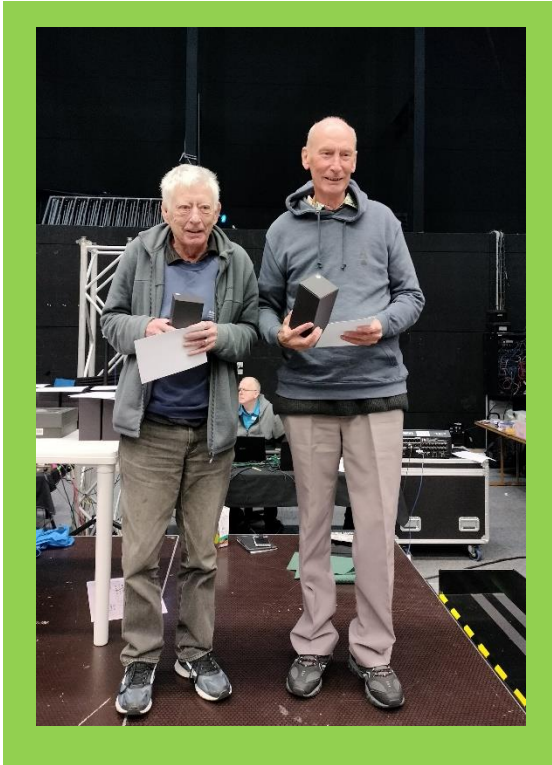


Rosemary Jackson and Takayo Yanagasiwa. Winners, Intermediate Swiss Pairs



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Les Gould and Gary Duncan. Winners, Open Swiss Pairs NS.



Timothy Schumacher and David Skipper (use your imagination!) Winners, Open Swiss Pairs EW.



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