

# Across the Ditch - The Return Match

## Tuesday 18th April 2023

### Match Report

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AEST 12 PM  
NZST 2 PM


Come along and compete in the greatest event on the calendar. Join forces with several hundred players in taking on your adversaries. We play on RealBridge.

To take part:  
Australian players see the [North Shore Bridge Club](#) site.

New Zealand players see the [Auckland Bridge Club](#) site.

# Bridge

## ACROSS THE DITCH THE RETURN MATCH



Well, here we are again folks. **Last year** saw the launch of this world-class event. You may recall that Auckland and friends carried the day, through the heroic efforts of their junior/restricted players – summary below.

#### Leaderboard - Open - Last Year

Pos	No	Pair	Average
1	10	Giselle Mundell & Rena Kaplan	+2.54
2	53	Pam Livingston & Jan Alabaster	+1.87
3	1	Jo Simpson & Sam Simpson	+1.68
4	18	Elise Kotkin & Barbra Abraham	+1.56
5	47	Dale Lacey & Robyn Freeman-Greene	+1.48
6	38	Sandra Milner & Giza Fletcher	+1.38
7	6	Deirdre James & Peter Koorey	+1.17
8	26	Robert Case & De Mitty	+1.08
9	4	Tim Mountjoy & Trish Lacey	+1.06
10	49	John Buckleton & Mike Dunn	+1.00

#### Leaderboard - Junior/Restricted - Last Year

Pos	No	Pair	Average
1	28	Amanda Bublitz & Justine Hart	+2.25
2	26	Diane Donnelly & Vicki Adnams	+1.82
3	36	Kim Thomas & Kevin Grundy	+1.60
4	9	Maeve Doyle & Colin Speller	+1.40
5	17	Michelle Bloxham & Lorna Davies	+1.37
6	6	Steve Moore & Graeme Duhs	+1.36
7	46	Sue Glue & Michelle Gunn	+1.31
8	10	Betty Hopley & Terrey Durbin	+1.10
9	61	Noni Glew & Holger Henze	+1.08
10	51	Alison Pick & John Pick	+1.03

Open: North Shore +203.24, Auckland -203.24

Junior: Auckland +238.60, North Shore -238.60

**Overall: Auckland +35.36, North Shore -35.36**

For all the details, see Open/Intermediate [results](#). Intermediate junior [results](#). and last year's Match [report](#).

So our Trans-Tasman cousins were thirsting for revenge, and so it transpired. Top 10 pairs in each section were as follows.

Bridge Across the Ditch 2 - Open			
Pos	No	Pair	Average
1	10	Eugene Gordon &  Michael Courtney	70.44%
2	18	Tani Blackburn &  Peter Collinge	66.74%
3	3	Phil Gue &  Anthony Burke	62.18%
4	39	Ros Howes &  Margaret Foster	60.61%
5	53	Giselle Mundell &  Rena Kaplan	59.62%
6	6	Patrick Carter &  Julie Atkinson	57.26%
7	15	Mischa Solar &  Helen Lowry	57.05%
8	52	Cathy Carroll &  Felicity Hannay	55.84%
9	12	Ken Crawford &  Margaret Crawford	55.70%
10	28	Ray Kingston &  John Buckleton	55.56%

Bridge Across the Ditch 2 - Restricted			
Pos	No	Pair	Average
1	21	Pamela Mathie &  David Boyle	64.09%
2	4	Betty Hopley &  Terrey Durbin	62.27%
3=	6	Jo McKeown &  Beth Henderson	60.91%
3=	23	Kerri Readford &  Susan Webb	60.91%
5	13	Barry Feyder &  Tony Smuts	58.64%
6	10	Jennifer Beecroft &  Christina Hyde	55.00%
7	22	Maureen Piper &  Joanna Silk	52.95%
8=	2	Robert Paull &  Sue Jury	52.50%
8=	3	Jo Ampherlaw &  Linda Cunningham	52.50%
10=	7	Tony Halse &  Brett Slater	52.27%
10=	11	Dianne Cox &  Stephen Freeman	52.27%

But which country won overall this year? Gary Barwick, obviously not satisfied with last year's results, came up with a new method for calculating a winner, and (no surprise) it was Australia this time that triumphed. We tried tweaking his calculations, but even sharing Michael Courtney (who has one foot in each country), we had to admit that Australia had won this time.

Open: New Zealand won, 283 points, Australia 277.

Restricted: Australia won, 221, New Zealand 151.

**Overall:** Australia 498, New Zealand 434.

Links to the full results.

Open: [AcrossTheDitchOpenTue18Apr](#)

Restricted: [AcrossTheDitchRestrictedTue18Apr](#)

Here are the lists of this year's entrants, together with action shots of the happy smiling faces of some of the nearly 150 who played in the event. Apologies if any of them are embarrassed by their backgrounds.

## Bridge Across the Ditch 2 - Open

Australian players please take a seat N-S; New Zealand players please take a seat E-W. Start time: Noon Sydney, 2am Auckland. If you haven't pre-registered, please contact the organisers.

Switch view:  Sort:  Filter:

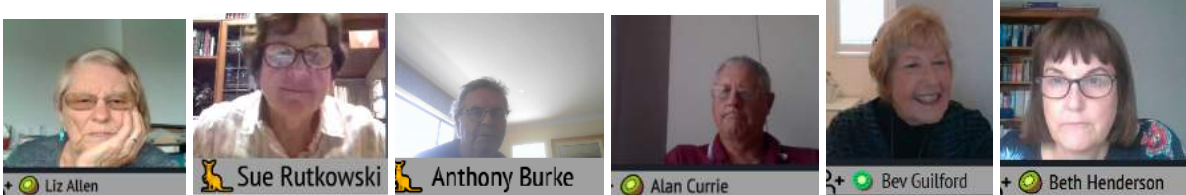
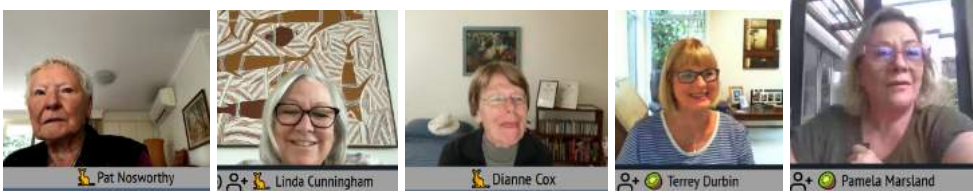
	N	S	E	W
1 2.0	Marika Lorschky	Janice Harris	Anne Gelb	Pauline Andrews
2 1.12	Phil Gue	Anthony Burke	Anthony Wilson	Brenda Campbell
3 1.9	Julia Connor	Janie Russ	Patrick Carter	Julie Atkinson
4 2.0	John Mottram	Lorraine Schaap	Kathryn Morgan	Jacqueline Pulman
5 2.1	Mary Poynten	Tony White	Eugene Gordon	Michael Courtney
6 2.0	Ian Maclaren	Terry Dunne	Ken Crawford	Margaret Crawford
7 2.0	Rosalind Crighton	Carol Harpur	Peter Robinson	Keith Walker
8 2.0	Mischa Solar	Helen Lowry	Gwyn Lobb	Kate McFadyen
9 2.3	Ceiny Maybury	Lydia Gibbs	Tani Blackburn	Peter Collinge
10 2.1	Maureen Diamond	Helene Greenblau	Amanda Bublitz	Pamela Jensen
11 2.0	Leo Goorevich	Elli Urbach	Fiona Moon	Chris Fleming
12 2.7	Christine Chandler	Judy Atkins	Patrick McCarthy	Richard Huelin
13 2.5	Deirdre James	Peter Koorey	Kristine Sullivan	Dennis Sullivan
14 2.1	Rav Kinoston	John Buckleton	Sandra Milner	Giza Fletcher
15 2.0	Jacky Gruszka	Libby Tonkin	Steph Jacob	Pamela Marsland
16 2.2	Louise Chain	Annette Sacher	John Driscoll	Rona Driscoll
17 2.0	Lorraine Grill	Barbara Kaler	Sharon Maryatt	Trish Young
18 2.1	Brian Soutter	Adam Rutkowski	Mary Price	Dave Almond
19 2.1	Alicia Mercer	Angie Boulton	Takayo Yanagisawa	Kerri McCrae
20 2.7	Ros Howes	Margaret Foster	Trish Murphy	Christine Haronga
21 2.0	Marilyn Jackson	Ernie Sutton	Barrie Jacobson	Helene Jacobson
22 2.0	Rakesh Kumar	Colin Clifford	Robyn Freeman-Greene	Dale Lacey
23 2.5	Jenny Watson	sandie manning	Anita Thirtle	Val Gardiner
24 2.0	Pat O'Connor	Kay O'Connor	Alan Currie	Bruce Inglis
25 2.0	Peter Jeffery	George Finkiotis	Dianne Bernie	Bev Guilford
26 2.3	Kevin Davies	Steven Bock	Cathy Carroll	Felicity Hannay
27 1.E	Giselle Mundell	Rena Kaplan	Colin Bray	Helene Labreche
28 2.0	Pam Whitehead	Stuart Grant	Peter Cox	Bernard Edelstein

## Bridge Across the Ditch 2 - Restricted

Australian players please take a seat N-S; New Zealand players please take a seat E-W. Start time: Noon Sydney, 2am Auckland. If you haven't pre-registered, please contact the organisers.

Switch view:  Sort:  Filter:

TD	Sit N	Sit S	Sit E	Sit W
1 2.0	Jennifer Maneschi	Susan Lipman	Robert Paull	Sue Jury
2 2.0	Jo Ampherlaw	Linda Cunningham	Betty Hopley	Terrey Durbin
3 2.2	Pat Nosworthy	Ian Newton	Jo McKeown	Beth Henderson
4 2.0	Tony Halse	Brett Slater	Liz Allen	Lesley Barley
5 2.0	Doug Marshall	Chris Fitzpatrick	Jennifer Beecroft	Christina Hyde
6 1.6	Graham Pert	Karyn Pert	Dianne Cox	Stephen Freeman
7 2.0	Barry Feyder	Tony Smuts	Bronwyn Mackenzie	Sally Synnott
8 2.0	Jody Burchall	Elizabeth Gollan	Lee Merlini	Paula McTaggart
9 1.6	Valerie Thomas	Robyn Wilmot	Margaret Powell	Sally ostick
10 2.2	David Cahill	Sue Rutkowski	Diane Bridgeman	Jude Wood
11 1.11	Pamela Mathie	David Boyle	Maureen Piper	Joanna Silk
12 2.0	Carol Cornelius	Lynda Bateman	Kerri Readford	Susan Webb





## So how do you win an event like this?

What better way to find out than to look at the winners' sterling efforts: 70+ % in a field of this quality is an extraordinary achievement. At pairs, it is a lot about scoring those vital overtricks or defending well so as to avoid giving away extra tricks. Here we see the Open winners showing just how to do it. No sophistication in the bidding necessary – 4 card openings, natural 2NT response - but playing the socks off the final contract. Michael Courtney received the lead of 7♥, which he won in hand. He was very keen to avoid letting South get the lead, as a club through his tenuous holding could prove costly. So he crossed to dummy with a spade and laid down the Q♦, intending to run it if not covered. South was caught napping, and erred by not covering, so that was 5 tricks in that suit, together with two spades and 3 hearts. +430 scored 52 out of 54 match points.

Bd 21, Dlr N 3NT+1 W		♠ QJ76 ♥ Q107 ♦ J3 ♣ A1063	N  Jacky Gruszka																
W  Michael Courtney	♠ 104 ♥ A82 ♦ A10742 ♣ K94	E  Eugene Gordon	♠ AK32 ♥ KJ6 ♦ Q965 ♣ 87																
0 0		♠ 985 ♥ 9543 ♦ K8 ♣ QJ52	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	P		1♠	P	2NT	P	3NT	P	P	P		
W	N	E	S																
P		1♠	P																
2NT	P	3NT	P																
P	P																		
Libby Tonkin S																			

Bd 11, Dlr S 3♥ = E		♠ A84 ♥ K ♦ Q1065 ♣ A10765	N  Maureen Diamond																
W  Michael Courtney	♠ Q963 ♥ Q10982 ♦ A ♣ 942	E  Eugene Gordon	♠ J105 ♥ AJ763 ♦ J73 ♣ J8																
0 0		♠ K72 ♥ 54 ♦ K9842 ♣ KQ3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	P		1♣	P	X	2♦	2♥	3♦	3♥	P	P	P
W	N	E	S																
P		1♣	P																
X	2♦	2♥	3♦																
3♥	P	P	P																
Helene Greenblau S																			

Another very important aspect of the pairs game is to compete accurately in part score battles. Here Michael makes a late entry into the fray by coming in with a second round take out double to show the majors, and the pair wound up to the easy 3♥ to score another 52 out of 54.

x    pas        ♠ 10942 Bd 5, Dir N 2♥-2 E W  Sally ostick    ♣ J4 Margaret Powell E		N  Pamela Mathie																
♠ J53 ♥ A10 ♦ KQ104 ♣ KQ73	♠ 10942 ♥ 643 ♦ J985 ♣ J4	♠ Q876 ♥ Q972 ♦ 32 ♣ A96																
	♠ AK ♥ KJ85 ♦ A76 ♣ 10852	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>1NT</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>P</td><td>2♥</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		P	P	1NT	X	P	2♥	P	P	P		
W	N	E	S															
	P	P	1NT															
X	P	2♥	P															
P	P																	
David Boyle S																		

And where did the Intermediate winners record their good scores? Here David Boyle as South opened a 15-17 NT, which West decided to double for penalties, showing 15 plus points. With 8 points, East should pass, as they have a clear majority of the points, but decided to pull to 2 hearts. This was not a great success, and the contract eventually wandered 2 light, for 20 out of 22 match points to the eventual victors.

### Finally, a cautionary tale.

**Board 10**  
East Deals  
Both Vul

♠ A		♠ Q J 10 7 3								
♥ 10 9 7 5 2		♥ A K								
♦ A K 10 9 7 5		♦ —								
♣ 2		♣ A Q J 10 4 3								
♠ K 8 6 5 4 2	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S					
W	N	E	S							
♥ Q										
♦ 6 4 3										
♣ K 9 8										
♠ 9										
♥ J 8 6 4 3										
♦ Q J 8 2										
♣ 7 6 5										

EW 6♠; EW 6♣; N 4♥; S 3♥; NS 4♦;  
Par -800: NS 7♦×-3; N 7♥×-3

A very useful advanced convention is Exclusion Blackwood (or Key Card, whichever you choose). This is usually initiated when one side discovers a good major suit fit, and the next bidder has a void. A jump to the 5 level in the void suit asks partner for aces or key cards *outside that suit* – that way the asker can ascertain whether partner's key cards are working or not. The above exhibit illustrates the method perfectly (the hand has been anonymised to protect the guilty). East opened 1 club, South passed, West bid 1 spade and North showed the other suits with a double. East now tried for slam in spades with a leap to 5 diamonds – how many key cards do you have outside diamonds, partner? However, one thing you must do when employing a less widely used method is ensure that you and your partner are on the same page. Sadly, West was at least 15 pages behind on this occasion, and passed. 8 down when 6 spades is cold did not score well.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in this super event, which looks like becoming a regular feature of the annual calendar. And a huge shout out to the organisers (and directors) Sylvester Riddell of Auckland and Gary Barwick of North Shore for their outstanding efforts in setting all this up. I had intended to play in the event this year with Biritch the Russian Blue, but he was otherwise engaged with some serious snoozing. Maybe next year.

Douglas Russell

Auckland