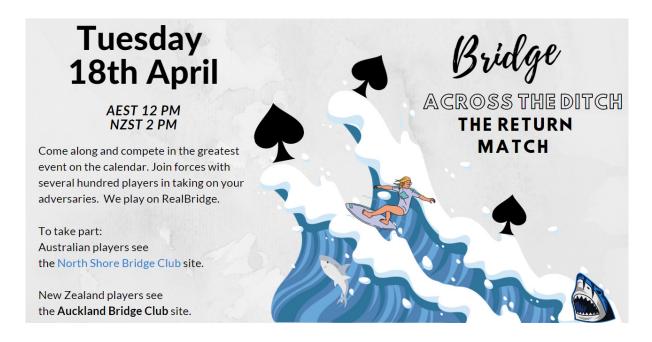
Across the Ditch - The Return Match Tuesday 18th April 2023 Match Report



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	O Dale Lacey & O Robyn Freeman-Greene	+1.48
6	38	🛴 Sandra Milner & 🧘 Giza Fletcher	+1.38
7	6	L Deirdre James & L Peter Koorey	+1.17
8	26	Kobert Case & L De Mitty	+1.08
9	4	Tim Mountjoy &	+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	O Diane Donnelly & O Vicki Adnams	+1.82
3	36	Kim Thomas & Kevin Grundy	+1.60
4	9	Maeve Doyle & <a> Colin Speller	+1.40
5	17	Michelle Bloxham & Lorna Davies	+1.37
6	6	Steve Moore & O Graeme Duhs	+1.36
7	46	Sue Glue & Michelle Gunn	+1.31
8	10	Betty Hopley & O 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 <u>results</u>. Intermediate junior <u>results</u>,

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 - Restricted						
Pos	No	Pair	Average			
1	21	♣ Pamela Mathie & ♣ David Boyle	64.09%			
2	4	Betty Hopley & Terrey Durbin	62.27%			
3=	6	O Jo McKeown & O Beth Henderson	60.91%			
3=	23		60.91%			
5	13		58.64%			
6	10	Jennifer Beecroft & O Christina Hyde	55.00%			
7	22	Maureen Piper & O Joanna Silk	52.95%			
8=	2	O Robert Paull & O Sue Jury	52.50%			
8=	3	🛴 Jo Ampherlaw & 🧘 Linda Cunningham	52.50%			
10=	7	Tony Halse &	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.

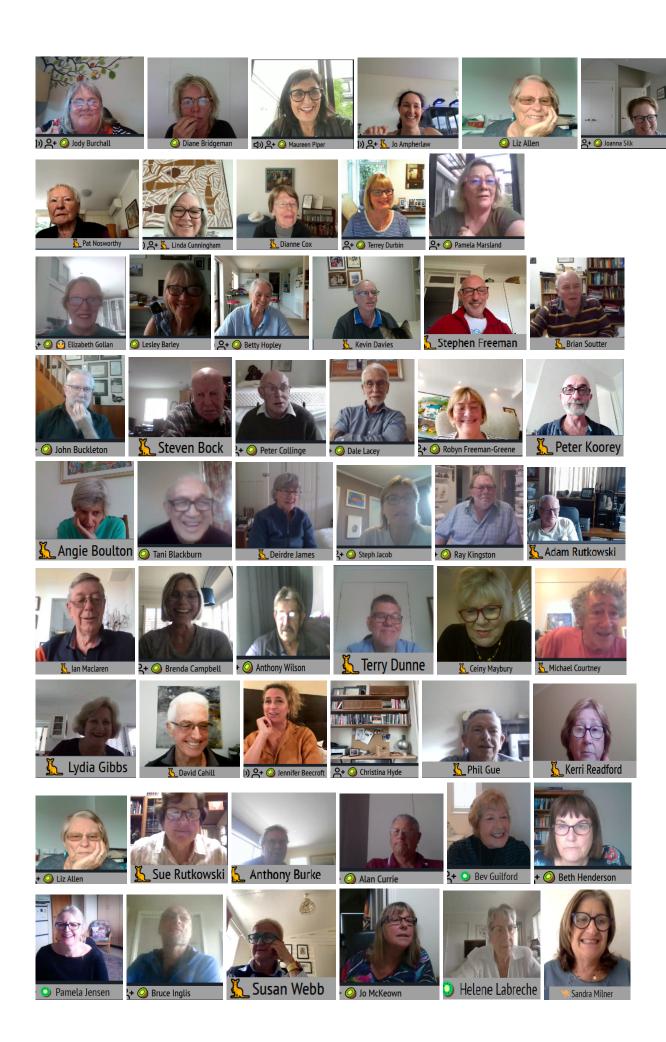
 $Open: \ \underline{AcrossTheDitchOpenTue18Ap}$

Restricted: <u>AcrossTheDitchRestrictedTue18Apr</u>

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, ple									
Switch view	Sort: Table No ↑ ✓	Filter:							
1 2.0	N	S	E	W					
	Marika Lorschy	Janice Harris	Anne Gelb	Pauline Andrews					
2 1.12	Phil Gue	Anthony Burke	Anthony Wilson	O Brenda Campbell					
3 1.9	<u>K</u> Julia Connor	Janie Russ	Patrick Carter	Usualie Atkinson					
4 2.0	<u>₹</u> John Mottram	Lorraine Schaap	(2) Kathryn Morgan	Jacqueline Pulman					
5 2.1	Mary Poynten	Tony White	Eugene Gordon	Michael Courtney					
6 2.0	🛴 Ian Maclaren	K Terry Dunne	Ken Crawford	Margaret Crawford					
7 2.0	Rosalind Crighton	Carol Harpur	K 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	K Maureen Diamond	K. Helene Greenblau	Amanda Bublitz	O Pamela Jensen					
11 2.0	🤽 Leo Goorevich	Elli Urbach	O Fiona Moon	O Chris Fleming					
12 2.7	Christine Chandler	🧘 Judy Atkins	Patrick McCarthy	Richard Huelin					
13 2.5	K_Deirdre James	Koorey	Kristine Sullivan	O Dennis Sullivan					
14 2.1	Rav Kingston	O John Buckleton	🖔 Sandra Milner	🖔 Giza Fletcher					
15 2.0	🛴 Jacky Gruszka	🤽 Libby Tonkin	Steph Jacob	Pamela Marsland					
16 2.2	🤽 Louise Chain	K Annette Sacher	John Driscoll	🔾 🗨 Rona Driscoll 🐯					
17 2.0	Lorraine Grill	Barbara Kaler	Sharon Marryatt	Trish Young					
18 2.1	K Brian Soutter	🧘 Adam Rutkowski	Mary Price	O Dave Almond					
19 2.1	🧘 Alicia Mercer	K Angie Boulton	 Takayo Yanagisawa 	Kerri McCrae					
20 2.7	Kos Howes	Margaret Foster	Trish Murphy	O Christine Haronga					
21 2.0	Marilyn Jackson	Ernie Sutton	Barrie Jacobson	K Helene Jacobson					
22 2.0	🤼 Rakesh Kumar	Colin Clifford	O Robyn Freeman-Greene	Oale Lacey					
23 2.5	Jenny Watson	🛴 sandie manning	Anita Thirtle	Val Gardiner					
24 2.0	K Pat O'Connor	🤼 Kay O'Connor	Alan Currie	O Bruce Inglis					
25 2.0	K Peter Jeffery	K George Finikiotis	Oianne Benvie	Bev Guilford					
26 2.3	Kevin Davies	K Steven Bock	Cathy Carroll	Felicity Hannay					
27 1.E		🔼 Rena Kaplan	O Colin Bray	Helene Labreche					
28 2.0	O Pam Whitehead	Stuart Grant	K Peter Cox	K Bernard Edelstein					

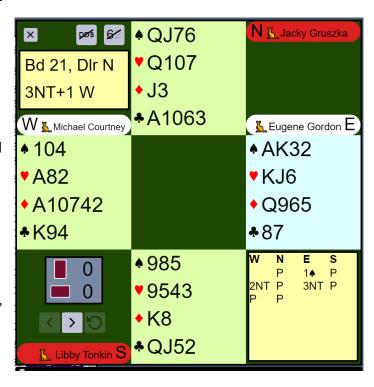
Bridge Across the Ditch 2 - Restricted 💃 Australian players please take a seat N-S; 🥝 New Zealand players please take a seat E-W. Start time: Noon Sydney, 2am Auckland. If you haven't pre-registered, ple Sort: Table No ↑ ✓ Filter: Switch view 2.0 Jennifer Maneschi Susan Lipman Robert Paull Sue Jury 2.0 Jo Ampherlaw 🤽 Linda Cunningham Betty Hopley Terrey Durbin Rat Nosworthy 2.2 🤼 lan Newton Jo McKeown Beth Henderson 2.0 Brett Slater O Lesley Barley Tony Halse Liz Allen 5 2.0 🤽 Doug Marshall Chris Fitzpatrick Christina Hyde 1.6 Karyn Pert K Barry Feyder Bronwyn Mackenzie 2.0 Sally Synnott 2.0 Jody Burchall Elizabeth Gollan Q Dee Merlini Paula McTaggart 1.6 Sally ostick 🛴 Valerie Thomas 🤽 Robyn Wilmot Margaret Powell 2.2 L David Cahill 🛴 Sue Rutkowski O Jude Wood Oiane Bridgeman 1.11 Namela Mathie 🛴 David Boyle Maureen Piper Joanna Silk 12 2.0 Carol Cornelius Lynda Bateman Kerri Readford Susan Webb

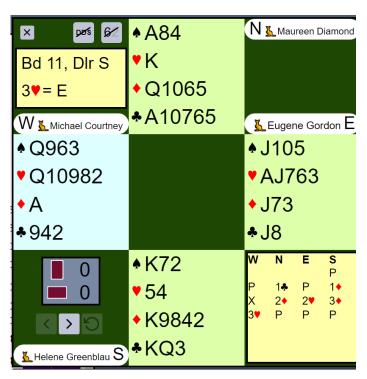




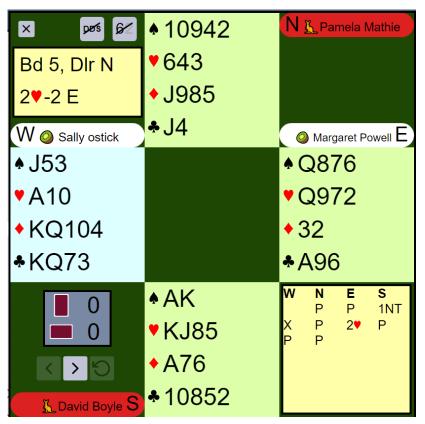
So how do you win an event like this?

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.



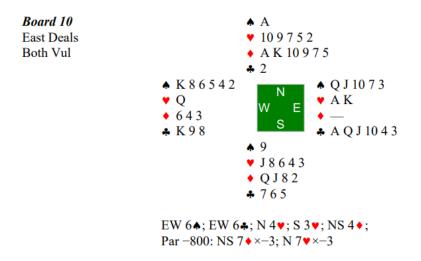


Another very important aspect of the pairs game is to compete accurately in part score battles. Here Michael makes a late entry into the fray by coming in with a second round take out double to show the majors, and the pair wound up to the easy 3 to score another 52 out of 54.



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.



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