

# Across the Ditch - The Return Match

Tuesday 18th April 2023

## Match Report

### Tuesday 18th April


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: Table No ↑ Filter:

|        | N                  | S                | E                    | W                 |
|--------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 2.0  | Marika Lorsch      | 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 Bubltz        | 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 Kinaston       | 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 Bervie        | 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: Table No ↑ Filter:

| TD      | N                 | S                 | E                 | W               |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|         | 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<br>3NT+1 W             |   | ♠ QJ76<br>♥ Q107<br>♦ J3<br>♣ A1063 | N  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|-----|---|-----|---|---|---|--|--|
| W                                   |   |                                     | E  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |
| ♠ 104<br>♥ A82<br>♦ A10742<br>♣ K94 |   | ♠ AK32<br>♥ KJ6<br>♦ Q965<br>♣ 87   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |
|                                     |   | ♠ 985<br>♥ 9543<br>♦ K8<br>♣ QJ52   | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</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> </table> | W | N | E | S | P | P | 1♠ | P | 2NT | P | 3NT | P | P | P |  |  |
| W                                   | N | E                                   | S  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |
| P                                   | P | 1♠                                  | P  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |
| 2NT                                 | P | 3NT                                 | P  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |
| P                                   | P |                                     |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |
|                                     |   | Libby Tonkin S                      |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |

| Bd 11, Dlr S<br>3♥ = E             |    | ♠ A84<br>♥ K<br>♦ Q1065<br>♣ A10765 | N   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| W                                  |    |                                     | E   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
| ♠ Q963<br>♥ Q10982<br>♦ A<br>♣ 942 |    | ♠ J105<br>♥ AJ763<br>♦ J73<br>♣ J8  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|                                    |    | ♠ K72<br>♥ 54<br>♦ K9842<br>♣ KQ3   | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♦</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> </table> | W | N | E | S | P | 1♣ | P | 1♦ | X | 2♦ | 2♥ | 3♦ | 3♥ | P | P | P |
| W                                  | N  | E                                   | S   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
| P                                  | 1♣ | P                                   | 1♦  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
| 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.



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  
♥ 10 9 7 5 2  
♦ A K 10 9 7 5  
♣ 2

♠ K 8 6 5 4 2  
♥ Q  
♦ 6 4 3  
♣ K 9 8

♠ Q J 10 7 3  
♥ A K  
♦ —  
♣ A Q J 10 4 3

♠ 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