

# ABF YOUTH



## BULLETIN

### Australian Youth Triathlon

◆ Issue 03/3

December 2003 ♣

*Edited by David Lusk*

### Mayhem in Mexico

*from Mark Abraham's Travel Diary*

The 2003 Australian Youth Triathlon was conducted in Adelaide over the last week-end in September. The average entry was one table short of 2002, which was disappointing. Those who participated gave every indication that they had a terrific time.

Why not put it in your diary for 2004?

#### RESULTS

##### Youth Triathlon Teams (5 Teams)

- 1st:** Nic Croft-Arian Lasocki (SA), Fiona Brown (NSW) -Matthew Porter (SA).  
**2nd:** Mark Abraham - Griffith Ware (ACT)  
Christy Bridgland-Nye Griffiths (ACT).

##### Youth Triathlon Pairs (6/5.5 Tables)

- 1st:** Justin Howard-Justin Williams (Vic/SA)  
**2nd:** Fiona Brown-Matthew Porter (NSW/SA)  
**3rd:** Ed Barnes-Sussan Wilkinson (NSW/WA)

##### Youth Triathlon Individual (5 Tables)

- 1st:** David Wiltshire (SA)  
**2nd:** Matthew Porter (SA)  
**3rd:** Joel Gue (SA)

##### Outright Awards

- 1st:** Matthew Porter (SA)  
**2nd:** Fiona Brown (NSW)  
**3rd:** Nic Croft (SA)

Matthew Porter and Fiona Brown, as the highest placing pair in the aggregate, will be offered direct entry into the Youth Butler Pairs in January, subject to the condition that they play in the teams as a partnership.

A special mention should go to Justin Howard, the youngest competitor in the field, who took the gold medal in the pairs with Adelaide partner, Justin Williams.

Early in 2003, a team of two Australian Juniors, an ex-Junior and a wannabe-Junior jetted off on a bridge tour of USA, Mexico, Canada and the UK. Mark Abraham and Michael Wilkinson were bent on honing their partnership for the World Junior Teams and John De Ravin and Colin Baker came along for the ride. Initially, Michael put together a two-month itinerary that wasn't rigorous enough for John's liking. "More bridge!" he said, "My annual leave is too valuable to spend sight-seeing!" So bridge there was. We played back-to-back events for 7 weeks around North America - the North American Bridge Championships in Philadelphia, the Mexican "Nationals" in Ixtapan del Sal, a regional championships in Victoria, British Columbia, a regional championships in Gatlinburg, Tennessee that has comfortably more table-sessions than our Australian Summer Festival, the Canadian Nationals, another regional in Florida and a courtesy visit to John's brother in Washington, D.C. before a long weekend in the U.K. at the superb Spring Fours double-knockout in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Mark's diary-come-travelogue went up on the Internet during the trip, read by many friends back home. A few expanded extracts from Mexico follow here.

Travelling from Mexico City to Ixtapan del Sal was an educational experience. Road rules are optional here - indicators show the driver's mood, more than the desire to change lane or direction. There just seemed no correlation between indicators and movement direction, and cars driving straight ahead at the speed limit with hazard lights on were not uncommon. In Ixtapan, it seems normal for a driver to apply the horn to move a stationary pedestrian standing in the gutter talking to other pedestrians standing on the footpath, despite no other traffic or obstacles in sight on a two-way unmarked road. We surmised that the driver knew the horn and bumper bar worked, but was not so sure about the steering wheel. Also noteworthy was that we

stopped counting punch buggies before we left the airport grounds. We had to abbreviate “punch buggy green” as “buggy” in deference to the ever-present green and white VW taxis. We spotted all the normal colours quite early, even acquiring silver and navy blue. Mark was quite proud of his “punch buggy apricot”, but was sceptical about Michael’s “pentachromic punch buggy”. At least a fifth of the traffic in town was VW. Rumour has it that VW has finally produced its last old-model beetle - unsurprisingly in Mexico!

After 2 hours of road mania we arrived at Ixtapan, a semi-tourist spa town in the mountains and found ourselves a hotel over the road from the venue (the resort hotel). We had time to get dinner before the first session, though we foolishly thought that the 8pm start time wouldn’t give us time for dessert. Little did we know that we would be only the second foursome in the room at the start time for the four-session KO teams. More players dribbled in and we opened a book on the average start times of evening sessions this week. John seemed overly optimistic in punting for an 8:06 average, and I was quite happy to snaffle 8:13 with the other two both in between. I got off to a great start as no boards appeared until half past eight. It was a pity about the dessert we missed.

Eventually an 8-team event formed and we were asked how many masterpoints we had for seeding purposes. Since there weren’t enough teams for brackets they decided to run the event as a handicapped knockout. Actually the team has about 200 after Philadelphia, which would have given us a carry-under against everyone in the room, but we guessed about 8500 for the team, but we had no problem negotiating our 12 and 6 IMP carry-forwards over 24 board matches.

In the first match I was able to create the following position:

		<b>North</b>		
		♠ —		
		♥ —		
		♦ Jx		
<b>West</b>	♣ 8x	□	<b>East</b>	
♠ xx			♠ x	
♥ -			♥ -	
♦ -			♦ Qx	
♣ Kx		<b>South</b>	♣ x	
		♠ -		
		♥ xx		
		♦ K		
		♣ x		

With diamonds as trumps and the lead in hand, South needs two more tricks. This can be done trivially with ♦K followed by a heart, however there are two ways to set up a smother position by starting with a heart. A club is pitched from dummy and East must ruff to avoid losing three tricks. Now East must exit club (spade allows a club pitch from hand, diamond allows club pitch from dummy) and West must win and play a black card - a club for true smother to arise. Dummy ruffs and the ♦Q is smothered. The other smother position comes if you ruff the initial heart and East overruffs. Now a club to West’s ♣K and another club creates a similar position, with dummy poised to win the ♣8 if East doesn’t ruff.

Part of our win in the second match had this as a defensive problem as East at no-trumps:

		<b>North</b>		
		♠ 10x		
		♥ -		
		♦ -		
<b>West</b>	♣ AQ43	□	<b>East</b>	
♠ xx			♠ xxx	
♥ -			♥ -	
♦ x			♦ -	
♣ xxxx		<b>South</b>	♣ KJ2	
		♠ AJ		
		♥ -		
		♦ A		
		♣ ???		

South, needing 5 more tricks at no-trumps, has stripped hearts and led the ♦A pitching a club from dummy. South is known to be 3-2 or 2-3 remaining in the blacks with the ♠AJ but, for there to be a solution, he must have a doubleton spade. Partner hasn’t been able to give you any signal, declarer has no clues to the club layout, and will expect at least two cards in each black suit remaining in our respective hands.

- a) How do you best try for two defensive tricks?
- b) How if you had ♣K52?
- c) How if you had ♣K2 and thus a fourth spade?

a) If declarer has 109x or 1098 of clubs then he can just take two club finesses and go down boringly. However if we pitch a spade now he has the winning option of stripping spades for an endplay (even ♣Txx is enough when declarer plays to the ♣Q). Maybe we should pitch a club. Now declarer has the winning option of dropping a club honour, but why would he? Much more likely he’d just take his club finesses and be done with it and if he cashes spades he’ll still go down.

So a club pitch seems best so far. However if declarer has a lesser three-card club holding, say 10xx he has options that cater for many doubleton king, jack and nine positions depending on his pips. If we've pitched the ♣2, then a truly careful declarer will cash the ace of clubs before returning in spades. This retains the spade stopper while preserving his basic chance of the king of clubs being onside. He also caters for our starting with ♣K2, ♣J2 or ♣KJ2, in which cases an honour appears on the first round of clubs. (It would be an error for us to discard from ♣K92 or ♣J92, so the nine appearing under the ♣A after the ♣2 pitch is either a very good sign or a very bad sign for declarer.)

So against an uncultured declarer, pitching a club and playing for them not to endplay us will work best. Against a strong declarer we're in trouble if he guesses our shape.

b) If declarer holds the ♣J when we hold ♣Kxx then he is cold, so give the ♣J to partner. If partner has ♣JT8, ♣J107, ♣J98 or ♣J97 then declarer will go down unless he guesses to drop our ♣K when we've pitched a club. If partner has ♣J96 or worse then declarer can make with the lead of the ♣10 from ♣1087, and he's likely to do this if we pitch a spade; after clearing spades (he wins with ♣K onside, ♣J9 onside, ♣KJ offside and ♣K9 offside). If partner has ♣JT6 and we pitch a spade then declarer will clear spades and lead the ♣9, succeeding. If partner has J87 or worse then declarer will make. Thus against a non-psyhic declarer is always right to retain our spade and hope for the best by pitching a club.

c) Don't even dream of pitching a club. You need declarer to not have the ♣J and not to be a witch. At the table I was declarer with AJ - A 1098 and my RHO had xxx - - KJx and pitched a spade giving me an easy endplay for contract. Pity we won that set 50-1 anyway.

We had been starting to wonder if there was going to be any (other?) talent in the field - even though the knockout teams field was 15/16 non-Mexicans - but a pair of Poms showed up, with Nigel Bird pleading cheap airfares as the primary excuse. Brian Senior was heard to observe that it says something about his partner's sanity that he wanted to play what we discovered amounts to a club bridge holiday as practice for the Young Chelsea Marathon (a notorious 5-session 24-hour matchpoint pair game

in London in April). We smiled and remembered who to double.

A few days later we decided to take the afternoon pairs session off and went to the Parco Acuatico. This was a quite pleasant arrangement of kiddie pools, waterslides, other water rides (the "Rio Bravo" circular wave pool was worth a chuckle) and the thermal and normal mineral spas. This was all very pleasant, despite John's actuarial side being appalled at the abrasions he and Michael got on the faster waterslides. Apparently they're designed for Mexican kids' body dimensions, and not for big Western kids!

The two session Swiss Pairs started that night. Michael, Colin and Brian Senior all had interesting play decisions on the following hand:

<b>North</b>		
♠ J1072		
♥ 10965		
♦ KJ4		
♣ K2		
<b>West</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	<b>East</b>
♠ 84		♠ AKQ5
♥ A8		♥ 4
♦ A98		♦ QT62
♣ AQJ875	<b>South</b>	♣ 10943
♠ 963		
♥ KQJ732		
♦ 753		
♣ 6		

They all sat West at nil vul as dealer. They all opened 1♣, however only Michael's was a strong club. He heard a strong 1♦ response and a 2♥ weak jump. He showed clubs, heard a club slam try and declared 6♣ on the lead of a heart. After the weak jump, the ♣K rated to be offside, so he played to strip the majors and use the ♣K to throw the opponents in. So, ♥A, ♥ ruff, ♣A, ♠AKQ, ♠ ruff, trump. North was kind enough to exit ♦ K, and 12 tricks were made.

At Brian Senior's table he opened a natural club and heard a 1♦ response and a 1♥ overcall. He rebid 3♣, and his partner made a takeout double of the 3♥ raise and matters proceeded to 6♣ via 3NT. Here the ♣K was less likely to be poorly placed, so Brian played for the combination of ♣K onside, or a spade-diamond squeeze (requiring spades and ♦K with North, or spades and ♦KJ with South, and to guess which) and that also produced 12 tricks.

Colin was simultaneously the luckiest and unluckiest declarer. His partner responded 1♠ to the 1♣ opening and the 2♥ overcall made South the likely holder of minor suit king(s). After the heart lead he ruffed a heart and took the failing club finesse. After the spade exit, he needed a spade-diamond squeeze for contract and decided that the spade length was likely to be with North. South must have had the ♣K for their two-level non-jump overcall and so he played to transfer the diamond menace by leading the ♦Q, which ended up being run to the ♦K. Unluckily he emerged with 11 tricks, however he was fortunately only in 5♣!

The hand was greeted with great mirth, in that three different advanced-level plays were possible given the opponents bidding and all three occurred! Brian later wrote this hand up in British Bridge Today.

A neighbourhood demon had fun at all three tables with the following exhibit:

	<b>North</b>	
	♠ 765	
	♥ 752	
	♦ K	
<b>West</b>	♣ KQ9765	<b>East</b>
♠ AK4	□	♠ J1098
♥ QJ6		♥ 9843
♦ AQ98752		♦ —
♣ —	<b>South</b>	♣ A10943
	♠ Q32	
	♥ AK10	
	♦ J10643	
	♣ J2	

South dealt at nil vul and passed. Michael opened a strong club and Mark responded a negative 1♠. North hadn't felt like bidding for some reason. Michael now rebid 2♦ as a suggestion of contract. The demon saw the hand record and persuaded Mark to try to improve the contract with 2♥, despite being short about two hearts. Michael bid 4♥ enthusiastically (he considered a 4♣ splinter... xx KTxxxx xx xxx gives 6♥ some play) and South thoughtlessly led the ♦J. Double followed by three trumps would have been a normal action, but on the layout only leads to one off.

This lead led to an interesting position - clearly declarer needs some degree of cross-ruff to go with his top tricks, but it isn't immediately clear what to play for. Mark tried the ♦A and was rewarded by the ♦K dropping. He tried the ♦Q now and North ruffed and was overruffed. A spade finesse

succeeded as did two more spades and now Mark eloped away - diamond ruff, ♣A, ♣ ruff, diamond ruff and a black card to table forces a trick for the ♥QJ, +420. Intriguingly, Mark needn't have risked the third spade being ruffed, for ♦A, ♦Q ruffed and overruffed, ♠A, ♠K, diamond ruff, ♣A pitching spade, ♣ ruff, diamond ruff, spade ruff, diamond ruff completes a different elopement for ten tricks. North cannot defeat the contract by pitching a spade on the second diamond because declarer counters with the second elopement line. A quick dip into Deep Finesse shows that it is necessary to play for exactly this heart layout once diamonds are 5-1, and that spades 3-3 is also necessary - but not for three spade tricks!

Mark erroneously thought this board would IMP quite well, but his demon was busy elsewhere! Brian Senior opened a natural 1♦ and heard a 3♣ weak overcall, pass and 3NT back to him. He thought clubs might be running, so he saved with 4♦. Nigel Bird didn't like the look of this, and the resident demon made him try what he hoped was a take-outish 4♥. This was swiftly doubled and redoubled and a club was led. The play developed along similar lines for +880.

However even Nigel wasn't to get a "top" on the board, for he reckoned without the demon getting at Colin. Colin had opened 1♦ and heard a 3♣ overcall passed around. The demon had his reasons for not making Colin bid 3NT, but 3♦ seemed clear enough and this was passed to South, who the demon managed to scare into bidding 4♣ without looking at his diamonds. Thinking it might be possible to beat this in John's hand, it was clear for Colin to double 4♣ and John led the ♠J. Three spade tricks later, Colin was on lead and tried a small diamond - after all he could see 12 of them! John ruffed and played a heart to dummy. Declarer tried the ♣J, ducked and now the ♦J, covered by Colin. Declarer erred by not throwing a loser on a loser, ruffed and John pitched a heart. Declarer played a heart to table and another diamond, covered, ruffed and overruffed. Now John played a heart to Colin for another diamond to set up John's fourth trump trick for +1100. And yea verily, the demon was satisfied and the goddess of pain smiled.

The following evening, Michael had an interesting 6♦ contract to play on the lead of a trump to a relay auction in which only dummy's shape and AK controls were known.



**North**  
 ♠ A9  
 ♥ AJxxx  
 ♦ Q7  
 ♣ AJxx  
  
**South**  
 ♠ 8xxx  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ AKJ1098xx  
 ♣ x

This is of course the only lead to make life interesting, as a spade ruff is easy to arrange otherwise. How should declarer attempt 12 tricks, on the likely assumption that the lead was not a singleton? So far only Eric Rodwell and Michael Rosenberg have gotten the problem right, and they both had it over-night.

If hearts are 4-4 then declarer can ruff those good, using two trump entries and two aces, so in the meantime declarer ruffs a heart at trick two and leads a spade up intending to put in the ♠9. However West inserts an honour and dummy wins, to ruff another heart. Now another spade to the 9 sees West win in order to lead a trump to prevent a further spade ruff in dummy. Declarer cashes the ♥A and ruffs a further heart. If both follow, the contract is made.

If RHO pitches (as happened at the table), then declarer plays for a double squeeze around clubs, requiring RHO to guard the ♠8 - meaning LHO started with exactly two spade honours.

If LHO pitches then you must play for a simple squeeze on either opponent - in practice from the lead, LHO will not have ♠KQJ10, so you need LHO again to have started with exactly two spade honours and no guarded club honour. There is no guard squeeze on RHO as dummy is squeezed in the round suits ahead of RHO.

Thus to make the contract you need LHO to have at most two spade honours if they have multiple trumps. If LHO had a singleton trump all along, then you will need hearts 4-4 or one of the squeezes mentioned above - they're just much less likely to occur.

At the table, LHO holding Q10x K10xxx xx Qxx was threatened on the opening lead (trump stops the easy spade ruff, anything else allows it), then when spades were led (big allows a second trump

lead eventually, small allows a spade ruff), then when spades were led a second time (big allows a second trump lead, small allows a spade ruff), then when on lead having won a spade (trump prevents the spade ruff, but club breaks the double squeeze). Declaring well on an 'interesting' hand is all about maintaining your threats to present the defence with difficulty... here your success was fore-ordained if only you have the wit to recognise it!

Our week in the sun in Mexico came to a close and we headed off, John back to Sydney briefly for a work meeting, and the other three of us to set new land speed records driving from Las Vegas to the Grand Canyon and back.

### 5th International Youth Challenge, 2004

The teams for the 2004 International Challenge are as follows:

#### **New Zealand:**

Jeremy Kennard, James McGowan\*,  
Darius Molloy, Fraser Rew

#### **Australia A:**

Nic Croft (SA), Gabby Feiler (NSW),  
Daniel Geromboux, Griffith Ware (ACT)

#### **Australia B:**

Fiona Brown (NSW), Paul Gosney (Qld)  
Tony Nunn (NSW), Matt Porter (SA)

The event will be conducted at Fenner Hall on Canberra's Northbourne Ave, on Saturday, January 10th. The day should get under way by about 10:30 am and conclude at about 6:30/7pm.

There will be some genuine youth talent on display over the day. Those of you coming in early for the Summer Festival or Youth Week would do well to come and have a look.

\* Why is ACT's James McGowan representing New Zealand. Well, initially only Fraser and Jeremy were booked to come over. Then Darius, and we needed an expatriate Kiwi to fill the gap. James kindly agreed to do just that.

The International Challenge has been a feature prelude to Youth Week since 1999.

## A Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Traditionally, it is a player from the victorious team who writes the official report on their final for the relevant bridge newsletter. Unfortunately, this can sometimes result in a one-eyed report.

In his writeup of the 2003 ANC Youth Teams, Arian Lasocki wrote: "SA was unlucky that one table had not finished all 10 hands, as the 2 boards missed out could have picked up another 20 imps."

In the slow closed room, I was the official recorder, so I would have redrafted Arian Lasocki's sentence to read:

"SA was lucky that one very slow member of the SA team did not cause the SA team to receive a 6-imp slow play fine. Only after a set where only 8 boards were played did the Director delegate to table recorders the power to determine responsibility for slow play."

Ideally, a newsletter's report on a final should include not only good hands from the winning team, but also a success story of the gallant losers. This omission from Arian Lasocki's report is rectified below.

Nye Griffiths made his debut for the ACT Youth Team in Darwin this year, but already has a knack at coping with high-class and high-pressure bridge.

Dealer: E  
Vul: EW

**Christy Bridgland**

♠ K2  
♥ Q94  
♦ J653  
♣ J962

**West**

♠ --  
♥ K876  
♦ AKQ97  
♣ KQ105



**East**

♠ Q843  
♥ 102  
♦ 102  
♣ A8743

**Nye Griffiths**

♠ AJ109765  
♥ AJ53  
♦ 84  
♣ --

After Nye perpetrated a youthful hiccup in the bidding, he found himself in the contact of 3♥x. A test of how good a player can be determined by how well bad contracts are played. (And it cannot be argued that playing a 4-3 fit with the long trumps being forced is very bad news.)

Expecting slightly more accurate bidding from Nye, West found the Unlucky Expert lead of a low trump, to the four, ten and jack. Nye continued with a low trump from hand, and West made another Unlucky Expert decision to duck, so Christy's nine of trumps won.

Now Nye correctly abandoned trumps to test spades. However, when Christy's king of spades was ruffed by West, Nye began to envision the sticks and circles of -1100.

West cashed the ace of diamonds, then tried the king of clubs, which Nye was forced to ruff. Nye now brilliantly played for his only chance, and laid down the jack of spades. East won the queen of spades, and returned a diamond to West's winner.

West now tortured Nye by thinking for many minutes. At last West decided on the maxim "stop dummy ruffing losers by leading trumps", played the king of hearts, but was hit by Nye's maxim gun claim for +730.

Nye's clever play in the doubled partscore kept the ACT team competitive in the Youth Final but, alas, the SA team still managed to scrape victory against ACT by a narrow margin for the second year in a row.

Best wishes,

*Richard James Hills*

Canberra

## Youth Week, 2004

January 10:

International Youth Challenge

January 11-12:

Australian Youth Pairs Championship

January 13-14:

Australian Youth Teams Championship

15-16 January:

Under 16 Youth Camp

15-17 January:

Australian Youth Selection (Butler)

18 January:

Youth Team Playoff

Venue: Fenner Hall,  
210 Northbourne Ave  
Braddon ACT

Enquiries: **David Lusk:** lusk@internode.net.au

**Brad Coles:** grover@bigpond.net.au

## Gabby Feiler Joins Youth Committee

The ABF Youth Committee is delighted to accept Gabby Feiler as a member.

Gabby has distinguished himself as a youth player, representing Australia and NSW (both Youth and Open).

The ABF Youth Committee is now:

**David Stern** (Convenor)

david@thesterns.com.au

**David Lusk** (Youth Coordinator)

lusk@internode.on.net

**Mark Abraham**

abraham@rsc.anu.edu.au

**Gabby Feiler**

gfeiler@iprimus.com.au

**Leigh Gold**

leighkater@hotmail.com

## Youth Calendar, 2004

*International events in bold type.*

Jan 10-17

Australian Youth Week  
International Youth Challenge

Jan 14-15

Under 16 Youth Camp  
*Canberra*

April 3-4

**OKB Inter-Collegiate  
Youth Championships**

*On-line*

June

**Australia v NZ Youth Test**

*Hamilton*

July 14-16 **World Junior Individual**

17-20 **World Youth Camp**

*New York*

August 1-6 ANC Youth Teams & Pairs

*Melbourne*

Sept 24-26 Australian Youth Triathlon

*Adelaide*

## Youth at the GNOT

Three Youth Teams competed in the National Knock-outs in November.

The ABF Colts have become a fixture for this event. This year, the team was:

**Justin Howard-Adam Hooper (Melb/Adel)**  
**Nabil and Adam Edgton (Sydney)**

The ACT Regional Team was an all youth affair:

**Nye Griffiths - Stephan Winkler**  
**Daniel Geromboux - James McGowan**

In addition, a late withdrawal was covered by a hastily assembled Sydney Youth team consisting of:

**Ed Barnes, Gabby Feiler, David Wiltshire,**  
**Anthea Rowberry, Hui Li, Jonathan**  
**Dennis, Julie Senegre and Thomas Lam.**

The Colts team won their first knock-out match and then drew the eventual finalists, NOBLE. They held their own in the first half but were overrun in the second and were relegated to the repechage. They had a tough time from this point but won all of their last four matches, finishing with 133 VPs.

The ACT Provincial team survived until Saturday afternoon amongst the last eight teams. After doing so well in the knock-out stage, they had three disappointing matches in the Swiss to finish on 137 VPs.

The Sydney Youth Team had a lot of fun but were knocked out in the first round and finished the Swiss on 105 VPs.

**Tony Nunn** competed in the Sydney 8 team and reached the repechage final before being eliminated by eventual finalists, NOBLE.

**Fiona Brown** competed in a regional team from Ballina.

## The 2005 World Junior Teams

### **Subject to Contractual Agreement with the WBF...**

The 2005 World Junior teams will be hosted by Australia. The convening committee (David Stern, John Brockwell, Peter Gill, Matthew McManus and Ishmael del'Monte) report that they are firming up on a venue for the event.

Following an ABF inspection, the venue should be announced in late January.

### **Dates**

The event will follow the 2005 ANC which is scheduled to be conducted in the same city. This sets the likely dates as 8th-17th of August.

### **Personnel**

Many important roles will obviously be filled by professionals but the Convening Committee are also hoping that they will receive support from volunteers. You may be able to help in any of these areas:

Bulletin reporting  
Vu Graph assistance/commentary  
IT skills

### **Zone 7 Participation**

The Convening Committee reports that Australia, as host nation, will take an automatic place in the event. Traditionally, 2 teams from each zone are invited. The peculiarity of this is that 2 other Zone 7 teams will be invited to participate. This means that any of two of New Zealand, French Polynesia, New Caledonia or Tonga may be involved.

### **Friends of Australian Youth Bridge**

Because the Friends of Australian Youth Bridge will be providing financial support for this event, expect some local and national fund-raising initiatives over the next eighteen months. Young players can help in these ventures. Please support these events when they arise and encourage others to do the same.