

2023 ACT Youth Coordinator Report

This year has been a more productive year for Youth and Youth-Adjacent Bridge in the ACT than since pre-Covid.

I ran several “**Youth Days**” at the club. These consisted of young players aged between 8-25 as well as slightly older players (up to their 30s) attend and play hands. I dealt set hands that were appropriate for the age and experience levels of the players. Beginner/Introductory hands for those that had never played, and hands that extended players knowledge or introduced new conventions. *The plan is to run these semi-regularly in the new year as well.*

These were run by me, free of charge, and CBC provided the club room for no charge. There are CBC and BFACT reps present.

The **ACT ANC Youth Team** had good success for the age and experience level of the players. Regulars Dev & Diya Shah don't play very often throughout the year, but have played the ANC a few times in the past.

Jade Wilkinson joined from Japan, partnering Alexis Wilshire. These two have also played on a few ANC teams in the past.

These 4 are all eligible to play next year as well, and I will discuss with Jade's parents if she could possibly travel back next year.

The third pair included a new player, Zara Chowdhury, and an experienced player on university exchange Ken Takizawa. Ken has returned to Japan, but Zara has one more year of eligibility.

Since the ANC, a few other players have joined the club, who are also eligible for next years Youth Team, so I am confident that the ACT will have 6 players for next years Interstate Teams.

The team performed well, and was in the running to make the finals at some stages.

I plan to use the Youth Days in the early part of next year to encourage players to join the ANC and determine who should be on the team. It is not likely that a selection event will be needed.

ACT Youth uniforms.

I suggest that the ACT Youth team be provided with a team uniform, perhaps the other representative teams as well. This year I made a donation from one of my workshops towards making polo shirts.

The shirts cost \$29 each, with \$10 of embroidery, and a \$77 setup fee (those figures are ex gst).

They cost me \$350 for 7. Ordering more would reduce the cost per shirt. It is almost certainly possible to find cheaper shirts or embroidery services (perhaps a member has a computer embroidery machine).

If BFACT (with CBC) choose not to supply uniforms, then I will find a way to supply them. Please let me know so I can plan ahead.

Travel Subsidy / Entry Fees for other congresses

The NSWBA, and some funding from Friends of Youth Bridge, contribute to Youth players in NSW getting half price, or free entry to some congresses and state events.

This year, Nico Ranson from NSW, organised a contingent to travel to Wagga Wagga to play in their congress. He also made arrangements with Susan McMahon to help arrange accommodation so that players could stay with the McMahons, or with other local players for free.

One suggestion would be that BFACT (with CBC?) provides entry fees for players to play in the Wagga Wagga, Batemans bay, or Cootamundra Congress next year.

I will enquire about the Friend of Youth Bridge contribution, but the NSWBA covers at least half of the entry fee, and all of the fee in some cases.

Will Jenner-O'Shea
ACT Youth Coordinator