

Bridging NSW



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From the Chair: From beginner graduates to champions of Asia

Hi everyone,

This month, we feature a diverse range of stories that showcase the breadth of our bridge community. From beginner lesson graduates and our Starter Congress for developing players, to the players representing NSW at this month's Australian National Championships and a victorious team at the recent Asia Cup – our community is shining at all levels.

On the international stage, four NSW players were part of the team that claimed the seniors title at the just-completed Asia Cup in India – a fantastic achievement. We were also represented on the mixed team that finished third. You can see photos and results on **page 18**. Following that great success, our state representative teams are heading to Canberra this month for the Australian National Championships. It is an incredible achievement to earn selection, and because bridge relies so heavily on partnerships, we are pleased to profile the formidable pairs representing our state this year – starting on **page 2**.

At the other end of the experience spectrum, this month we showcase a recent beginner's course at Glenbrook Bridge Club. We highlight the simple tactics they used to attract new players – strategies that any club can easily adopt. Read about that on **page 23**. We also remind you about the upcoming Starter Pairs Congress – a brand-new event specifically for developing players who might want to try congress bridge for the first time. Please recommend this event to players at your club who might be ready to try their first congress.

Also in this issue, we are pleased to introduce a new quiz to our Player Development section, sitting alongside 'Kate's Way' by Kate McCallum and the 'Monthly Bidding Contest' by Philip Glover. The quiz, which you can find on **page 29**, has been designed by Ernie Newman, and we hope it provides an engaging challenge between matches.

We also have a few personnel and organisational updates this month. I am pleased to introduce Aaron Poon, who will become our new Youth Coordinator from 1 August. Aaron takes over from Mitch Dowling, who is stepping down after three highly successful years. I sincerely thank Mitch for his dedicated commitment to youth bridge and wish Aaron well in the role. Additionally, the Events Committee has been renamed the Tournament Committee to align with the terminology more familiar to Australia's bridge community. It also more accurately reflects what they do – which is to plan and deliver state tournaments.

Enjoy this month's newsletter and please share it with fellow players.

Catherine Chaffey, Chair of Bridge NSW

People of Bridge: ANC Teams 2026

This month we present a special feature – introducing the players representing NSW at this year's Australian National Championships. We wish them good luck in Canberra!

OPEN TEAM



Bruce Neil

Most memorable moment: Years ago, The Bridge World published a notoriously difficult defensive problem by Eddie Kantar. Reading

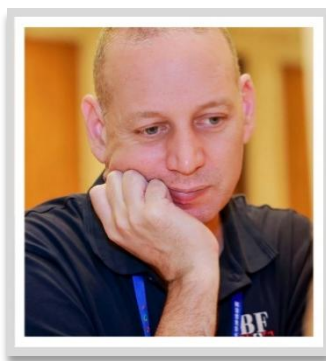
the solution, I ruefully realised I was the actual declarer who had fallen for that exact trick in real life! Even better, the opponent who pulled it off against me was Dave Wiltshire. Luckily, I'm playing with him this time!"

Biggest challenge: Focusing intently on every single hand and watching every card that is played.

Best tip for improving players: Try to picture all four hands and count, count, count... points, declarer's winners, and losers and more. Don't just count suits one card at a time; train yourself to think of hands and suits in patterns (like 4333, 4432, or 5431).

Go-to bridge resource: Before tournaments, I like to work through a book of problems, such as Julian Pottage's *Play or Defend*.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Cryptic cross-words, other mind games, and walking our dog.



Dave Wiltshire

Most memorable moment: My very first time representing Australia as a Junior back in 2003. I don't think I have ever felt more nerv-

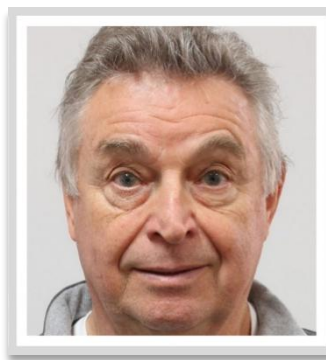
ous before a game.

Biggest challenge: Maintaining absolute concentration. I always say that every expert mistake is simply a failure to count to 13 – a seemingly simple task.

Best tip for improving players: Read every book you can get your hands on regarding card play, and watch live bridge on BBO (Bridge Base Online) to study the bidding judgment of the world's top players.

Go-to bridge resource: For any serious partnership, the Cuebids app is hands-down the best resource out there for bidding practice.

Favourite non-bridge passion: I love to cook – and even more to get to taste what I've made!



Peter Buchan

Most memorable moment: Winning the VCC in 2015 alongside my wife, Kathy, was an incredible highlight. On the flip side, my

saddest moment at the table was once going for a whopping 5800 in a major event!

Biggest challenge: Making an Australian representative team (Seniors in 2006, 2009, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2022).

Best tip for improving players: Remember to set up your side suit before drawing all the trumps.

Go-to bridge resource: Deep Finesse.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Mathematical puzzles. I am currently setting up a dedicated website for them.

Nigel Rosendorff

Responses weren't available in time for publishing of this month's newsletter.



James Coutts

Biggest challenge:

By far, my biggest challenge is maintaining my focus and concentration consistently throughout a full

match or session. I'm still not anywhere close to mastering it!

Best tip for improving players: Talk about hands – in detail – with your partner. And the most important part is to find a way to do it without any egos. There's always something for both players to learn, every time you play.

Go-to bridge resource: I really like using the Cuebids app and website for partnership bidding practice.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Music. While I haven't found much time to play the guitar recently, I spend a lot of time listening to music and try to get out to see live shows as often as possible.

Michael Courtney

Responses weren't available in time for publishing of this month's newsletter.

NON-PLAYING CAPTAIN



David Fryda

Most memorable

moment: Probably it would be when there were three passes to me and I doubled! I'm still not sure why I

thought there had been a 1C opening by my right-hand opponent.

Biggest challenge: Consecutive wins captaining a NSW team... hopefully 2026 is the year!

Best tip for improving players Stop at trick 1 irrespective of whether you are declaring or defending and count!

Go-to bridge resource: So many to choose from! Bridge in the Menagerie is probably my favourite.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Food, wine and travel, preferably all three together!

WOMEN'S TEAM



Sally Clarke

Most memorable

moment: In my early bridge playing days, we played CRO Gerber. My partner asked for Aces and I responded showing

"two odd Aces." We landed below slam, and before dummy was even on the table, my

partner said, "I knew that you gave me the wrong answer... I had the two odd Aces!"

Biggest challenge: Stepping up to represent NSW on the Women's team for the 2026 ANC!

Best tip for improving players: Consolidate the basics first. Improving players are often seduced by gadgets and convoluted conventions that they aren't quite equipped to handle yet. It is much better to seek out a mentor for guidance.

Go-to bridge resource: Ron Klinger's 'A Good Guide to Modern Bridge'.

Favourite non-bridge passion: We have two and a half acres of gardens, so you could definitely say gardening is my other big passion!



Sharon Mayo

Most memorable moment: Playing against Tor Helness in a "board a match" at the transnationals in Lyon. We were expecting a lesson & he didn't disappoint.

Tor was playing with his wife and he opened 2NT with a 7 card spade suit. His wife bid 3H showing a shortage in Hearts & Tor bid 3NT explaining the auction but said "I think my wife has misbid her shortage" She had & he wrapped up 13 tricks. Everyone else of course was in Spades. Thankfully I wasn't on lead...!

Biggest challenge: Managing nerves (remember to take a few deep breaths!) and staying locked in and focused, especially when playing against slow opponents.

Best tip for improving players: Focus heavily on concentration, counting, and recognising hand patterns. Above all, take your time to plan your entire play at trick one.

Go-to bridge resource: The books of Mike Lawrence and Ron Klinger. My husband, Greg,

is my number one resource (he has been fabulous mentoring Sally and me), and for a definitive expert opinion, I contact David Beauchamp, our official adjudicator.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Walking my dog, spending time with family, and travelling.



Nazife Bashar

Most memorable moment: A woman from our class was told to lead "fourth highest from her longest and strongest" against 6NT, so she led the 2 from

AK32! Days later, she delighted in mimicking her 80-year-old ex-partners efforts to get away from her – on a walking stick!

Biggest challenge: Overcoming a temporary lack of concentration immediately after making an error (or a perceived error) at the table.

Best tip for improving players: Play in the strongest competition you can find. Right after finishing lessons, I joined the Monday night game – then the best in NSW – and was amazed to witness two players next to me engage in literal fisticuffs! I thought, this is a dangerous game!

Go-to bridge resource: My bridge friends. After a difficult hand, I inevitably text them a photo of the cards; their feedback is invaluable.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Online backgammon (I love that bridge legends Kit Woolsey and Oswald Jacoby are/were also backgammon grandmasters!) and my dogs: Ava, Rosemary, and Daphne.



Kinga Moses

Most memorable moment: Playing in the 2023 Venice Cup in Marrakech when my partner collapsed with a stroke mid-hand. Thanks to excellent local medi-

cal care, she made a full recovery, but spent three weeks in the hospital – and was still in Marrakech when the nightmare earthquake struck!

Biggest challenge: Knowing exactly when to pass and when to bid.

Best tip for improving players: Maintain absolute mutual respect for one another within the partnership.

Go-to bridge resource: Ron Klinger's daily hands, FunBridge, and BBO (Bridge Base Online).

Favourite non-bridge passion: Tennis, knitting, and relaxing by the ocean.



Judy Mott

Most memorable moment: I have represented NSW many times and our team has been fortunate at times to win the Australian Women's Teams title.

Biggest challenge: Too many ups and downs in bridge, but at all times I think you must enjoy yourself, try your hardest and always make your partner feel like they are sitting in a comfortable rocking chair.

Best tip for improving players: When starting bridge, I think "Quantity, Quantity" and then "Quality, Quality". Give your best at all times, and occasionally you may surprise yourself.

Go-to bridge resource: The books of Terence Reese are my go-to resource.

Favourite non-bridge passion: I have played competitive sport all my life and enjoy the challenge, mainly to myself.



Cathryn Herden

Responses weren't available in time for publishing of this month's newsletter.

NON-PLAYING

CAPTAIN



John McIlrath

Most memorable moment: The Laws state that an auction ends when "one player having bid, there are three consecutive

passes". Correct but not at an ANC Open final (we lost by 0.8 Imps) when a player "re-opened" the auction and it continued to our detriment.

Biggest challenge: This is my eighth ANC as a non-playing captain and my biggest obstacle is still how to mould three pairs into a team, to represent NSW.

Best tip for improving players: Please learn to listen – what is partner telling you?

Go-to bridge resource: On Facebook or Instagram, I follow (unashamedly) Bridge Unleashed. I will always remember "5 weeks to Winning Bridge", by Alfred Sheinwold, which was my very first book.

Favourite non-bridge passion: That's easy, it is bridge 24x7, what with directing, teaching, playing and administrating there are not too many hours left in the day. Then sleep and do it all again.

YOUTH TEAM



L-R: Natalie Newman, Ida Anderson

Natalie Newman

Most memorable moment: Probably the look of absolute horror on our opponents' faces when I got beer-carded by my dad and swore at him loudly! (Sorry dad, I still owe you that beer!).

Biggest challenge: Handling feedback. I've gotten much better at viewing these discussions as objectively helpful learning points rather than personal attacks.

Best tip for improving players: Don't waste your time with a partner who doesn't bring out the best in you. Figure out what your goals are – whether it's to improve, have fun, socialize, solve fun math problems, or a mix of these – and find a partner who matches your energy. Do everything you can to make bridge fun for yourself.

Go-to bridge resource: Card Play Technique (book), the Bridgmaster tool on BBO (website), and my family group chat!

Favourite non-bridge passion: I love a morning swim in the ocean, or cooking a meal for friends followed by a collaborative board game night.

Ida Anderson

Most memorable moment: Bidding a 7♠ directly over partner's 6♠ overcall (which was over the opponents' 5♦ opening) – among many other unforgettable table moments!

Biggest challenge: Staying completely tilt-proof and appearing unaffected when a partner does something silly that impacts the final score.

Best tip for improving players: Never be afraid to ask questions, but at the same time, don't take every single piece of advice at face value.

Go-to bridge resource: FunBridge and the Cuebids app.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Playing music



L-R: Adrian Le, Aadhithya Hariharan

Adrian Le

Most memorable moment: Accidentally passing a Stayman bid – definitely a moment I won't forget!

Biggest challenge: Consistently honing my bidding judgment at the table.

Best tip for improving players: Ask experts as many questions as humanly possible to learn from their experience!

Go-to bridge resource: Master of Bridge Psychology by Peter Fredin.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Basketball.

Aadhithya Hariharan

Most memorable moment: I once declared 3NT holding only 17 combined high-card points between the two hands and somehow managed to bring it home! I'm still not entirely sure how that happened.

Biggest challenge: Keeping my cool after a misplay. These days, I try to brush it off quickly and focus on the next trick rather than getting stuck dwelling on it.

Best tip for improving players: Count your winners and losers early when declaring. Once you know where you stand, every decision in the play has a clear purpose.

Go-to bridge resource: More Killing Defence at Bridge by Hugh Kelsey.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Outside of bridge, I love rollerblading and speedcubing.



L-R: David Zheng, Shannon Ooi

David Zheng

Most memorable moment: In a recent casual game, I held a strong NT and my partner invited with a 7-count, which (for whatever reason) I accepted with my minimum. I needed a 3-3 split and a precise finesse to scrape together 9 tricks. Not believing in luck, I tried an early falsecard, but the defenders swiftly pounced to set the contract. In a cruel twist of

fate, it turned out the magic layout was actually there all along!

Biggest challenge: Recovering from bad boards. I've built up an arsenal of mental methods to deal with it now, but the most surprising one is simply discovering a neutral or even positive outcome on the board at the scoring table.

Best tip for improving players: Stay deeply curious. Treat every bridge problem as a puzzle that has a definitive solution and lean on mentors and books to find those answers.

Go-to bridge resource: Winning NT Leads by David Bird and Taf Anthias. They use computer simulations to completely deconstruct unhelpful bidding and leading narratives, which makes you feel like you're conducting lab experiments!

Favourite non-bridge passion: In terms of pure self-satisfaction, my favourite hobby is writing. I also love playing video games and playing the piano – though ideally not both at the same time!

Shannon Ooi

Most memorable moment: When I first started learning bridge in high school, we had online practice tournaments on BBO. Alongside brilliant bidding sequences like 1♠-2♠-3♠-4♠-5♠, there was an occasion where someone just randomly opened 6♥ and made it. To absolutely no one's surprise, we later found out they were just looking at their partner's screen while bidding!

Biggest challenge: The dreaded double – and the even more dreaded redouble. I struggle with deciphering what doubles mean when it's not the standard time for a takeout, negative, or support double. While I'm getting better at them, trying to figure out whether partner wants a specific suit or a pass from me is difficult.

Best tip for improving players: When a board goes badly, let it go immediately so it doesn't hang over your head for the rest of the event, especially during a congress (and play in congresses – that's important too).

Go-to bridge resource: Honestly, I've tried a few books and browsed BridgeBum, but I must have picked the wrong ones because they felt a bit dry to me. My real go-to resource is everyone at youth nights! It's always the best place to ask questions and get real answers.

Favourite non-bridge passion: I crochet quite a bit when I have the time. I just finished making a sweater after running out of yarn midway through, and I've got a fresh skein of wool blend ready to make a cozy winter scarf next—I'm thinking of using the lemon peel stitch for it!

NON-PLAYING CAPTAIN



Mitch Dowling

Most memorable moment: A funny and memorable moment comes from the Gold Coast Congress in 2017. In one match during the Restricted

Teams event, the opponents played in 2NTX down 8 at our table, giving us 18 IMPs for the board. We won that match by 10 IMPs.

Biggest challenge: The biggest challenge has been working with many others in the growth of the NSW Youth community since COVID.

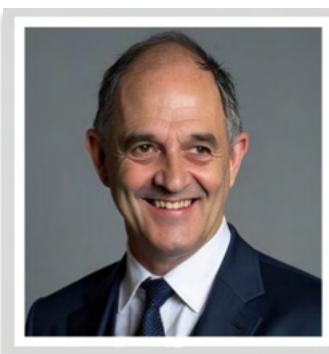
Best tip for improving players: There's no substitute for experience. Be patient with your development. The sooner you can regulate your emotions at the bridge table, the sooner you can reach your potential.

Go-to bridge resource: It's taken me a while, but Cuebids has quickly become my favourite

tool for developing bidding agreements with my regular partner

Favourite non-bridge passion: When I'm not playing bridge, working in bridge, or day-dreaming about bridge, I love getting stuck into all kinds of word games.

SENIORS' TEAM



Peter Gill

Most memorable moment: My partner and I went minus 4000 on the first board of a 20-board teams match. After stuffing the defence – which

should have netted our opponents 4600 – the other pair blame-shifted acrimoniously for not breaking their 4000+ lifetime record! Fortunately, my partner and I used our useful agreement listed under "Other Conventions" on our system card: "Smile Sweetly After Disaster". We gave each other beaming smiles, while our screaming, emotional top-class opponents stuffed up the remaining 19 boards. We won the match 20-0!

Biggest challenge: I grew up lacking confidence. It took a few decades to fully overcome, but it has ultimately contributed to my late blooming and longevity at the top of the bridge tree.

Best tip for improving players: Be a good partner. It takes hard work, but it is entirely worth training yourself until you are one.

Go-to bridge resource: After any bridge event has finished, I systematically go through the hands to see where I could have done better. I never do this during the event, as it would be far too exhausting and counterproductive.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Tennis. Our Sunday evening tennis game – played after any weekend bridge congresses wrap up, of course – is 41 years old. This year, the tennis players in our bridge community have won the Australian Open Team Playoff (Fraser), the South African Teams Championship (Julian), the Central West Teams (Warren), and the Australian Senior Teams (which fell to me). There is strong evidence that tennis is excellent for your bridge!



Martin Bloom

Most memorable moment: Winning the prestigious National Open Teams back in 2011.

Biggest challenge: Maintaining absolute concentration and

fighting the urge to play an "obvious" card without proper thought.

Best tip for improving players: Find a favourite partner and dedicate real time to working on your mutual partnership understanding.

Go-to bridge resource: Australian Bridge magazine.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Reading and going to the movies.



Warren Lazer

Most memorable moment: Making the quarterfinals of the Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai in 2007. The team (Neill-Jedrychowski, Peake-Green,

Gumby-Lazer) was generally considered to have no chance, but was qualifying for the finals easily from about day 3 onwards.

Best tip for improving players: Doing the Master Bridge hands (free on BBO) is always good practice. There are levels appropriate for all players.

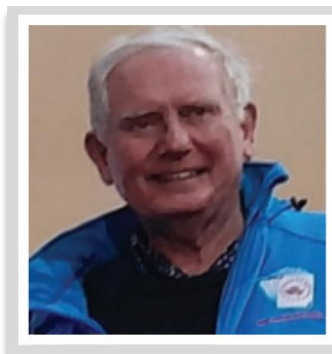
Go-to bridge resource: As a useful text, Reese on Play, or any book by Reese for that matter. For humour, all the Bridge in the Menagerie books by Mollo. Adventures in Card Play showed me the true beauty in the game. There's magic in every hand. How that book could be written before the advent of double dummy analysis programs amazes me – it was published in 1979.

Favourite non-bridge passion: Cryptic crosswords, trivia quizzes, word games, tennis



Pauline Gumby

Responses weren't available in time for publishing of this month's newsletter.



Ted Griffin

Most memorable moment Partnering Peter Fordham in Stage 2 of the NSWBA State Team Selection, our opponents ended up in a

slow, tortured auction that landed them in 4 ♦ redoubled vulnerable after I had opened 1 ♦. I held 20 high-card points, including ♦ AKxxx. I led the ♦ K, and when dummy hit with ♦ Jxx, I was able to underlead my ♦ A. Peter won the trick with the ♦ Q, with declarer showing out! Peter then ran his clubs, I got back in to draw the ♦ J, and we claimed all 13

tricks for a massive +5800 –the highest score I have ever seen or heard of at the table!

Biggest challenge: Learning and mastering the intricacies of the Forcing Pass system as put together by Bruce Neill!

Best tip for improving players: Find a like-minded partner who is more experienced than yourself to help you grow.

Go-to bridge resource: Any book written by Hugh Kelsey, and BBO's BridgeMaster for refining declarer play (which you can now find under the Solitaire tab).

Favourite non-bridge passion: Golf, croquet, and playing the flute (as well as skiing and tennis in former years).

Mike Hughes

Responses weren't available in time for publishing of this month's newsletter.

NON-PLAYING CAPTAIN

Bob Sebesfi

Responses weren't available in time for publishing of this month's newsletter.

Congratulations once again to all players. We wish them the best of luck in Canberra and look forward to featuring the results next month.

Want more community stories?

Bridge NSW has a Facebook page where you can find out the latest results and happenings in the community, and the latest news about Bridge NSW. It is also a great way to engage with the community.

To follow us, simply log in and head to our **Facebook page** and click the "Like" button.

You can also use the QR code below to go straight to our Facebook page:



Bridge NSW News

Introducing our new Youth Coordinator



L to R: Aaron Poon and Mitch Dowling

We would like to introduce our new NSW Youth Coordinator, **Aaron Poon**, who will take over the role from 1 August 2026.

Aaron will replace **Mitch Dowling**, who is stepping down after three successful years. We sincerely thank Mitch for his commitment to youth bridge in New South Wales.

During his time in the role, Mitch has overseen strong growth in the weekly youth bridge night at Sydney Bridge Club and organised the annual State Youth Championship and Youth Interstate Team Selection events. This coming July, Mitch will captain the NSW Youth team at the Australian National Championships for the fourth straight year.

In his younger days, Aaron Poon was an active and talented youth player whose early bridge career included representing Hong Kong in the World Youth Championships in

2006. After 13 years away from the game, Aaron returned to the table in 2024, jumping back into the congress circuit and mentoring several younger players.

Aaron is looking forward to supporting the state's youth community and welcomes anyone else interested in helping out.

Visit the [youth homepage](#) on the Bridge NSW website to get in touch with Aaron or to find out more about bridge for younger players:

Supporting first time congress players

The inaugural Starter Congress is just over a month away! The event will be held at Peninsula Bridge Club on Sunday 9 August.

What is a Starter Congress?

A full-day pairs event specifically for newer players who are interested in trying tournament bridge but might feel hesitant to take that first step.

How does it work?

The Starter Congress is a “supported pathway” to allow players to give congress bridge a go. It features:

- **Fair competition:** created for players with under two years' experience or less than 50 masterpoints to ensure players compete with those at a similar stage in their bridge journey.

- **A gentler pace:** a shorter day with fewer boards than a standard congress and a focus on learning – a great experience without the pressure of a standard tournament.
- **Helpful guidance:** the day begins with an introduction to congress etiquette and scoring, with dedicated “Go-to” volunteers on hand to support players throughout the day.

Why play a Congress?

Playing a Congress is the best way to:

- Make new friends and connect with other bridge players
- Compete against others at about the same level of ability (or if you feel up to the challenge, in a higher-level field)
- Have a wonderful time, sharing stories of triumphs and disasters, while you laugh and learn!

Clubs and players are encouraged to share details of this event with newer players in your community. [Find out more here.](#)

Regional Bridge Directing Tour: 1,000 Kilometres of Expertise

This April, John McIlrath completed an ambitious 1,000 km tour across New South Wales, hosting three intensive workshops designed to bolster the skills, confidence, and regional connections of local bridge directors.

Day 1: Blue Mountains (April 27th) The tour kicked off at the Blue Mountains Bridge Club, bringing together directors from Glenbrook,

Springwood, and Hawkesbury. John focused on two primary themes: innovative ways to attract new players to the directing profession and mastering the rules regarding common table indiscretions, such as leads out of turn. Participants gained valuable strategic insights into managing scenarios involving major penalty cards and discussed movement options to eliminate extended sit-out periods for players.



Day 2: Central West at Orange (April 28th)

The newly refurbished Orange Bridge Club served as the hub for 28 directors and presidents representing seven regional clubs, including Dubbo, Narromine, Forbes, Parkes,

Cowra, and Bathurst. This session dived deep into technical expertise, covering Major and Minor Penalty Cards, Alerting, and Club Championships. John also provided practical instruction on various movements, such as the Arrow Switch, 2 Table Howell, and Swiss teams, while encouraging the sharing of resources and programs across the Central West region.



Day 3: South West at Wagga Wagga (April 29th)

The final stop was at the Wagga Bridge Club, which hosted 23 attendees from four regional clubs across South West NSW. The presentations were highly interactive and specifically tailored to the local clubs' realities, focusing on improving director confidence when delivering rulings and explanations at the table. A key highlight was the exploration of how to make bridge sessions of the best possible value for players, a discussion that significantly raised director enthusiasm and strengthened the bonds between regional clubs.

Across all three stops, John McIlrath was thanked for his generous sharing of wisdom, patience, and humour, leaving the regional bridge community better equipped to serve their players.

Spring Nationals 2026 update

A flagship Spring tradition, Sydney Spring Nationals will take place from Saturday 17 to Sunday 25 October at Canterbury Park Racecourse.

With 18 events over nine days, there is something for every player – whatever your level of experience.

A simplified Open Team Championship

The format for the Open Teams Championship has been simplified this year. The event will run as a double knockout format over three days, followed by semi-finals and finals.

Teams knocked out after the first day will progress through to compete in the Open Team Plate over two days. No Shield event will be run this year.

The format change is in response to feedback following the 2025 trial of a double knockout format and will eliminate issues that arose during that trial.

Entries are now open for all events at Sydney Spring Nationals, with an early bird discount available until 31 August. [Find out more and register here.](#)

Benefits of club membership

Bridge NSW provides a range of programs and services to support clubs and players throughout the state and to develop and grow the game.

Benefits of club membership

The services and programs Bridge NSW delivers to support clubs and players

These programs and services are mainly funded through annual affiliation fees that members pay to Bridge NSW via their club.

In the months ahead, these key service areas will be featured in the newsletter to demonstrate the value of club membership with Bridge NSW.

Growing the Director pool

Bridge NSW is responsible for the accreditation of Directors below the level of National Director and do this by:

- Maintaining comprehensive support resources on its website
- Conducting regular workshops to develop club and congress Directors
- Hosting webinars on specific directing issues
- Providing support to clubs on law interpretation and technology.

You can read the full list of programs and services delivered by [Bridge NSW here](#).

Bridgemates webinar recording now available

It's the most popular scoring device used in Australian clubs, but like all technology, it can occasionally present unique challenges.

In our recent webinar, **Solutions to common Bridgemate problems**, national directors Laurie Kelso (Victoria) and John McIlrath (NSW) walked through practical solutions to some of the most frequently occurring issues with Bridgemates.



You can watch the video at our YouTube channel, and you are encouraged to share it with people at your club who might find this useful. [View webinar recording](#).

Event results

Seniors Pairs and Teams State Championships 2026

26 – 29 May

The Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club hosted, for the sixth year, the State Seniors Championships from Tuesday, 26 to Friday, 29 May.

Pairs Championship (36 pairs)

1st: Dorothy Berzins & Larry Bryant

2nd: Sharon Mayo & Sally Clarke

3rd: Di Coats & Jan Clarke



Winners (L-R): Dorothy Berzins & Larry Bryant

Teams Championship (14 pairs)

1st: Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Peter Gill & Martin Bloom

2nd: Terry Bodycote, Paul Weaver, Ian & Vicky Lisle

3rd: Liz Sylvester, Robbie Feyder, Chris Dibley & Steven Bock



Les Longhurst Teams of Three 31 May 2026

Open category

1st: Team Browne – Frank Hardiman, Jane Biscoe, Andrew Grace, Derrick Browne

2nd: Team Moses – David Burton, Kinga Moses, Felix Shteyman, Susan Feeney

3rd: Team Mott – Yuri Vizel, Alex Glikin, Ludo Onstein, Judy Mott



Open winners (L-R): Frank Hardiman, Jane Biscoe, Andrew Grace, Derrick Browne

Restricted category

1st: Team Rosendorff – David Zheng, Shannon Ooi, Edmond Lee, Nigel Rosendorff

2nd: Team Neill – Jillian Raymond, Timothy Bestelink, Catharina Muller, Bruce Neill

3rd: Team King – Aaron Poon, Noah Klugman, Duncan Lai, Linda King



Restricted winners (L-R): David Zheng, Shannon Ooi, Edmond Lee, Nigel Rosendorff

Novice category

1st: Team Hughes – Chris Kervin, Mary Anne Loveridge, Rosie Wilson, Nick Hughes

2nd: Team Le – Adrian Le, Lesley Berry, Mark Lakota, Winnie Raste



Novice winners (L-R): Chris Kervin, Mary Anne Loveridge, Rosie Wilson, Nick Hughes

Victorian Festival of Bridge

3 – 8 June 2026

There were some strong results for NSW players at the Victorian Festival of Bridge – **highlighted in bold** below:

Jim and Norman Borin Mixed Swiss Pairs

1st: **Giselle Mundell & Andrew Peake**



Winners Mixed Swiss Pairs (L-R): Andrw Peake and Giselle Mundell

Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs

3rd: Ben Thompson and **Jamie Thompson**

Victor Champion Cup Teams

1st: Arian Lasocki, **Terry Brown, David Beauchamp**, Ian Thomson



Winners VCC Teams (L-R): Jan van Riel (Bridge Victoria Chair) with Arian Lasocki, Terry Brown, David Beauchamp (Not pictured: Ian Thomson)

2nd: Sue Lusk, **Warren Lazer**, **Bruce Neill**,
Pauline Gumby



Runners-up VCC Teams (L-R): Jan van Riel (Bridge Victoria Chair) with Bruce Neill, Sue Lusk, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer

Ian McCance Trophy Winner (Best Seniors' Team)

1st: **Andrew Braithwaite**, Arjuna De Livera,
Ian Robinson, Neil Ewart

OPL Autumn results

13 April – 1 June 2026

The Online Pairs League (OPL) Autumn season wrapped up on **Monday, 1 June** after another terrific season, enjoying record participation for the third straight season.

A big congratulations to the winning pairs across each of the five divisions.

Division 1

NS: Adrian Beaumont / Dell MacNeil
EW: Jerzy Szyszkowski / Wieslaw Przewozniak

Division 2

NS: Ryan Touton / Kerry Delcourt
EW: James Leitch / Pravin Nahar

Division 3

NS: Felix Shteyman / Susan Feeney
EW: Pamela Lidl / Fiona Hickey

Division 4

NS: Sue Mittermair / Julie-Ann Bradwyn
EW: Alex Penklis / Emi Kaiwa

Division 5

NS: Jan van Riel / Margaret Grant
EW: Judy Hooley / Roger Hooley

You can view [full results here](#).

OTL Season 2 results

1 – 29 Jun 2026

Season 2 of the Online Teams League (OTL) for 2026 concluded on **Monday, 29 June**. Congratulations to this season's winners and runners-up:

Champions: Team Mundell

Tania Lloyd, Hugh Grosvenor, Andrew Peake,
Giselle Mundell, Jane Lennon (sub)

Runners Up: Team UShallNotPass

Aaron Poon, Zongrun Li, Noah Klugman,
Duncan Lai

Bonus 5th Asia Bridge Cup

Goa, India: 21 – 27 June 2026

Several NSW players were selected to the Australian squads and were part of the champion senior team and third place mixed team.

Seniors Teams

The Australian Seniors team took first place, defeating India in the final – a fantastic result. Four NSW players were on the Seniors' team:

1st: Ian Thomson (Playing Captain), **Terry Brown, Peter Gill**, David Hudson, **Michael Courtney, Paul Lavings**



Winners Seniors' Teams (L-R): David Hudson, Terry Brown, Ian Thomson (Playing Captain), Paul Lavings, Peter Gill, Michael Courtney



1st Place – Australia, 2nd place – India B, 3rd place – Japan

Mixed Teams

The Australian Mixed Team 1 finished on the podium, claiming third place. Four NSW players were on the team.

3rd: Sebastian Yuen, Christy Geromboux, **Cathryn Herden, Matthew Thomson** (Playing Captain), **Maurits van der Vlugt, Dagmar Neumann**



Third Place Mixed Teams (L-R): Sebastian Yuen, Christy Geromboux, Cathryn Herden, Matthew Thomson (Playing Captain), Maurits van der Vlugt, Dagmar Neumann



1st Place – China A, 2nd place – China B, 3rd place – Australia

Upcoming events

4 – 16 July: Australian National Championships

One of the premier events in the Australian bridge calendar with a range of gold and red point events as well interstate team finals. [Learn more.](#)

From 20 July: Winter OPL

Following record-breaking participation in the Autumn season, this fast and fun format continues – matching players against those of a similar level. [Learn more.](#)

From 27 July: OTL – Season 3

A round robin format with teams competing in divisions – a 24-board match each night in two 12 board half-matches. [Learn more.](#)

From 1 Aug: State-Wide Pairs

In 2025 the *NSW State-Wide Pairs* will run for one session only during the first week in August. [Learn more.](#)

From 2 Aug: Online Supervised Play

Designed to support new and developing players, focussing on reinforcing concepts learnt in beginner lessons. [Learn more.](#)

9 Aug: Starter Pairs Congress

A full-day pairs event specifically for newer players who are interested in trying tournament bridge but might feel hesitant to take that first step. [Learn more.](#)

11-16 Aug: Coffs Coast Gold Congress

The second NSW gold point national event for 2026, held in Coffs Harbour. The event includes intermediate/restricted and open pairs and teams events. [Learn more.](#)

22 Aug: GNOT Teams – Metropolitan Final

Qualifying and direct-entry teams will participate in the final for a chance to progress to the national qualifying stage of the Grand National Open Teams 2026. [Learn more.](#)

Clubs

Profile: Strathfield Bridge Club

With Stephen Dennis, President and Treasurer

Every successful club has a story, and Strathfield Bridge Club's is one of dedication, resilience and a shared passion for bridge.



The club's current home – the Canada Bay Club.

Founded in 1971, Strathfield Bridge Club has been part of Sydney's bridge community for more than 50 years. The club was established by a group of enthusiastic players who saw the need for a welcoming space in the Inner West. Among these pioneers were Pauline Khu, Marie Jenkins, Elizabeth Morgan, and Dr Joyce Law, whose vision and commitment laid the foundations that support the club today.

The club's journey included several venues – beginning at the Coronation Club in Burwood, followed by stints at Strathfield Bowling Club and Burwood RSL – before settling at the Canada Bay Club, its home for the past 16 years.



A Monday night session at Canada Bay Club.

Establishing a lasting club requires immense effort. The founding members devoted countless hours to organising sessions, attracting players, and creating an environment where all standards could enjoy the game. Over the decades, generations of volunteers – committee members, directors, teachers, scorers, and helpers – have maintained this vibrant atmosphere. The club's Honour Roll recognises many of those individuals whose service has helped shape the organisation we enjoy today.



L-R: Peter Cloke, Jerzy Szyskowski, Bruce Neal and Wieslaw Przewozniak (Peter and Bruce – winners of Club Selection Event for 2026 State Pairs Championship; Jerzy and Wieslaw – winners of 2026 GNOT Qualifying event).

Today, Strathfield Bridge Club has grown to around 115 members, drawing players from

across Sydney. This resurgence is particularly remarkable given the profound challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, when membership plummeted to just 37 players and threatened the club's future. Through the sheer determination of its community, the club survived and emerged stronger.

Regular Monday and Thursday duplicate sessions cater to both competitive and social minds. Beyond weekly club play, members have a proud tradition of representing Strathfield in State and National events, including the Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) – testing themselves against strong opposition from across the state and country.



L-R: Herbert Lachs (Grand Master), Keith Napier, Margaret Wear (Grand Master) and Audrey Belt. Four members in their 90's – playing strongly and remain as sharp as tacks.

Bridge remains one of the world's most intellectually rewarding games, blending logic, judgment, memory, and partnership. Whether competing for masterpoints or enjoying a casual weekly game, members find fulfillment at every level. Ultimately, the true strength of Strathfield lies in its welcoming culture; success here is measured by community, not just trophies.

The founders would undoubtedly be proud to see the club thriving more than five dec-

ades later. As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude for those who came before us and confidence in our future. The next chapter of the Strathfield story is still being written, and every member plays a part in that continuing legacy.

Contact Stratfield Bridge Club

Stephen Dennis

President & Treasurer

Phone: 0412 775311

Email: Stephen5304@gmail.com

Veni, Vidi, Vici – the IBA Chris Diment Memorial Congress

With Dave Havyatt and Rakesh Kumar

Mitch Dowling could have borrowed this famous phrase on his way back to Sydney after the Illawarra Bridge Association Chris Diment Congress. Julius Caesar coined it to describe his swift and decisive victory in the Battle of Zela, but he and his troop of youth players could equally cry that they came, saw and conquered.

As they plunged through the fog on their way back to Sydney (as described in their [Facebook post](#)), they could enjoy their impressive results.

In the Swiss Pairs (out of 82):

4th place (1st Intermediate) – Zongrun 'Edward' Li and Noah Klugman

6th place (1st Restricted) – Natalie Newman and Ida Andersen

10th place (1st Novice) – David Zheng and Shannon Ooi

17th place – Adrian Le and Dinh ‘Tintin’ Nguyen

In the Swiss Teams (out of 36):

- **3rd place** – Natalie Newman and Ida Andersen (playing with Alan Stoneham and Mitch Dowling – note, Nat and Ida are both technically Novices)
- **10th place** (1st Intermediate) – Duncan Lai (playing with Aaron Poon), Zongrun ‘Edward’ Li and Noah Klugman (two Novices and two Restricted players)
- **11th place** (1st Restricted) – David Zheng, Shannon Ooi, Adrian Le and Dinh ‘Tintin’ Nguyen (Three Novices and one Restricted)

Mitch is the Executive Officer of Bridge NSW and Youth Co-ordinator for NSW. He is also a member of the ABF’s Youth Committee. Together with Alan Stoneham, Aaron Poon and Edmond Lee, Mitch runs the Youth Bridge Nights at the Sydney Bridge Centre.

In his Facebook post Mitch also noted the achievements of players who are now out of the youth category but still very much involved. These included Edmond Lee and Nico Ranson who partnered with Peter Gill and Liz Sylvester to win the Teams event.

If you would like further information about Youth Bridge in NSW contact the team through youth@bridgensw.com.au. Aaron will be taking over as Youth Co-ordinator in July – this is the person who needs to counter sign applications for (free) membership through the ABF Youth Club (see <https://www.abf.com.au/youth-bridge/abf-youth-club/>).

Full results available at <https://nsw.bridgeaustralia.org/resultslistbyheadevent.asp?umbid=1179>

The deal below from the Saturday Swiss Pairs showed Zongrun (Edward) Li and Noah Klugman, one of the youth pairs, in action. Their auction was a fine demonstration of the effective use of standard bidding tools to achieve an excellent outcome.

BD: 7	♠AT952					Dir: S
	♥9					Vul: ALL
	♦KQ					
	♣AJ872					
♠J874					♠3	
♥7642					♥JT53	
♦94					♦6532	
♣K53					♣QT64	
	♠KQ6					
	♥AKQ8					
	♦AJT87					
	♣9					

West	North	East	South
			1D
P	1S	P	2H
P	3C*	P	3S
P	4C	P	4D
P	4H	P	4NT
P	5H	P	5NT
P	6D	P	7S
P	P	P	

After a 1D opening, South reversed into hearts, promising 5+/4 shape and 16+ hcp. North's 3C bid was fourth suit forcing to game. When South showed 3-card support for spades, North bid 4C as a first-or-second round control bid, promising 5+ spades and indicating slam interest. Two more control bids followed, then 4NT Roman Keycard Blackwood confirmed that North held both missing keycards. A follow-up 5NT ask for the cheapest king revealed that North had ♦K, after which South bid the grand slam. The play was straightforward: after cashing ♠KQ, North could pick up the onside 4-carder ♠J and had fourteen tricks available.

Noah Klugman was South and he later explained that because he held ♥AKQ, he knew that North's control in hearts could only be a singleton or void, so even though he couldn't locate ♦Q, there had to be discards available to North that would enable the diamond suit to be established.

Quite so ... in fact Edward and Noah were the only pair in the entire field to reach 7S. Rakesh reports that they did so in the round against him and his partner, so although he applauded the auction, it was greatly to their cost!

Case Study: Glenbrook Bridge Club's Beginner Lessons



Recruiting new players is a constant focus for committees, but a recent success story at Glenbrook Bridge Club offers a practical blueprint for growth. By rethinking scheduling, leveraging community spaces, and utilising Bridge NSW resources, Glenbrook recently graduated seven new players – with three already joining regular club sessions.

1. Flexible scheduling: Evening home lessons

In previous years, daytime sessions excluded working locals. To fix this, Glenbrook moved the 10-week course to the evenings and hosted them directly in the homes of the Training Team. This creative shift bypassed venue constraints and accommodated busy modern schedules.

2. Active recruitment: The local market

To find learners outside the existing player base, Glenbrook set up a stall at the Glenbrook Rotary Markets. This face-to-face approach raised the club's profile and successfully identified locals curious to learn the game.

3. Structured delivery: Bridge NSW materials

The clubs dedicated training team, delivered the course based on Bridge NSW's beginner material, providing a clear, structured program. Feedback from the graduates highlighted why this approach worked:

"Presented each topic clearly, then demonstrated the topic well with specially set boards."

"Instructors clearly have experience in presenting facts and simple, concise explanations."

"Very friendly, non-judgmental environment."

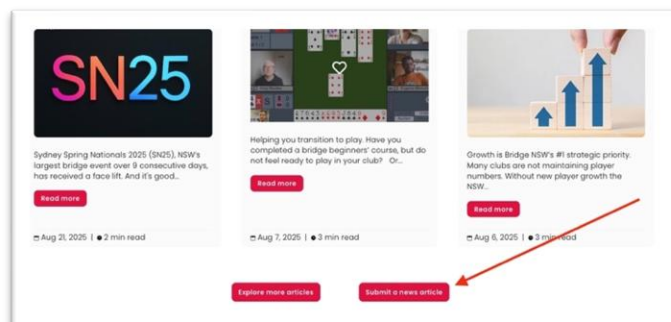


A model for other clubs

By taking the game to the public, offering flexible evening options, and using structured Bridge NSW resources, Glenbrook successfully lowered the barrier to entry. Congratulations to the Glenbrook Training Team and their enthusiastic new graduates.

Got a club story to share?

You can now [submit your club story](#) for the newsletter and more **on our website**. Go to the 'Latest bridge news' section on the homepage and under the articles you will see two red buttons. Click on the button on the right to submit your story or [click here](#). We'd love to hear from you!



And don't forget to join our [Facebook page](#), if you haven't already. Simply **click the 'Like' button to follow us**.

Teaching & Education

Online Supervised Play – for newer players

Our latest series of Online Supervised Play continues – to help newer players reinforce concepts learnt in beginner classes. Up-coming sessions are:

5 July – Opening Leads

12 July – Defence Basics

19 July – Preempts

26 July – Strong Hands

[Join any session](#), any Sunday at 4pm.

Material for clubs and teachers

Clubs and teachers are welcome to use the themed material from Sunday Online Supervised Play for club supervised sessions.

To support improver lessons, new materials have been added to the website focusing on Declarer and Defence Play, as well as four popular Intermediate Conventions.

Find these [resources here](#).

Teach the teacher webinars

We are planning a new webinar series in October/November to help develop and support our teachers. If there are specific topics you would like to see included, [please let us know](#).

Join the Bridge NSW teaching community

The Bridge NSW WhatsApp Teaching Community is active and a great place to ask questions, share ideas, and find answers. [Click here](#) to join the group.

Please contact us at education@bridge-nsw.com.au with any ideas or enquiries

help develop and support our teachers. If there are specific topics you would like to see included, please let us know.

Player Development

Kate's Way #11

By Kate McCallum

Kate McCallum is...?? She believes that a good partnership is essential for winning, and that it is best achieved by having good General Principles, aka Meta-Rules.

She has 79! Many of which she has passed on to her students, and they have clamoured to see them in print. This column is intended to enumerate and share the General Principles Kate lives by.

EMPHASIS ON IMPS

My partnerships focus on teams and other IMP events (as opposed to match-pointed pair events. Since the team games are the events we care about most, all of our principles assume IMP scoring. That said, most of those principles can be applied to match-points as well as to IMPs, with some minor adjustments.

The spotlight is on the big hands – games and slams as well as high-level competition, saves and doubles – as opposed to part-score deals. Those are the high-scoring deals where as many as 25–26 IMPs are often at stake on a single deal. This is not to say that the part-scores don't matter at IMPs. They do. They occur more often than the big hands, so we do try hard to get them right, **but games and slams are where the big IMPs are.**

Part-Scores

Part-scores are where the matchpoints are because of their high frequency, and the big reward for accuracy, so that affects our thinking in pair games.

In team games, somewhere between 3–7 IMPs are at stake on a part-score deal, so they're not at all unimportant at IMP scoring. If you lose, say, 5 IMPs on every part-score deal you'll be spotting your opponent's upwards of 70 IMPs in a 28-board match! That's losing bridge in a big way.

But part-scores are so much easier to get right at IMP scoring than they are at pairs. You don't need to score +140 instead of +100. You just need to go plus. There's a bit more to it than that – you certainly need to consider fit and the number of trumps held by each side (the Law of Total Tricks for those readers who are familiar with it) – but the bottom line on the IMP part-score deals is simple: **"Go Plus."**

Therefore,

OUR PRIMARY EMPHASIS IS ON GAME-BIDDING & SLAM-BIDDING & HIGH-LEVEL COMPETITION.

Game-Bidding & Slam Bidding

Game-bidding is, in fact, pretty simple at IMPs. If you smell a game, you bid a game. There's a bit more to it than that, of course, but it doesn't take much work until we get into choice-of-games decisions and slam-bidding.

Our system functions best on the slam deals, by design (we play ViKing Strong Club with Relay), and we build our General Principles to cater to slam investigation.

Slam Bidding takes up more than 60 pages of our System Notes. It's a lot of hard work, but worth the effort. Just as an example, we have seven varieties of "Blackwood," in order to handle as many problems as we possibly can:

- RKC for the ordinary hands
- One-Over KeyCard so that we can keep our Ace Ask as low as possible, in case we want to stop short of slam, or want extra space to investigate a choice-of-slams or a grand
- Specific Ace Blackwood: an opening bid, for big directional hands with a void, where opener just wants to take over the auction immediately
- Optional Preempt KeyCard to cater to very weak preempts and the low number of KeyCards a preemptor can hold, making it easier to stop in game when opener's hand is disappointing
- Splinter Blackwood: Optional RKC responses to a splinter bid if you like your hand. Again, it keeps the bidding from getting too high when we don't have the necessary KeyCards for slam.
- Exclusion Blackwood for hands with voids
- Super Gerber in notrump auctions so that all notrump calls are natural and/or quantitative.
- And finally, simple Blackwood by responder on the 1st round, asking for the number of Aces.

I'll close with a not-so-recent not-so-successful success story that didn't happen (is that a bad intro?), because it's a classic coulda, shoulda, woulda... And because it emphasizes the importance of good slam-bidding agreements. And because I love this deal.

My regular partner (Axel Johannsson) and I were playing in the NOT a couple of years ago, in other partnerships (non-partnerships), when our respective partners held this incredible hand:

AKQJTx x --- AKQJTx

They both heard a 1H opening on their right. My partner started with 2H Michaels, followed by 6S. Axel's partner was a little more creative – he tried 3H asking for a heart stopper, followed by 6S. It was a bit disappointing, and frustrating, to find partner with the heart Ace and no way to find out.

If only...

Had Axel and I been playing together it would have been a dream hand:

(1H) 4NT asks for Specific Aces. Partner shows the heart Ace and you are easily in 7S, winning 13 IMPs.

And that takes us back to our General Principle:

OUR PRIMARY EMPHASIS IS ON GAME-BIDDING & SLAM-BIDDING & HIGH-LEVEL COMPETITION.

It's hard work, but it's necessary if you want to be the best pair you can be.

"Everyone has a will to win, but very few have the will to prepare to win."

- Vince Lombardi

Monthly bidding contest

By Philip Glover

Courtesy of RealBridge and Marc Smith, this month's challenge is from June 2025. Each month there is a Bidding Challenge on RealBridge. You can compare your bidding prowess with world experts. System is natural and is available on the website.

Hand 7 from June 2025

None Vul. Dealer North. IMPs.	West	North	East	South
♠		1♣	X	XX
♥ 10 7 6 2	?			
♦ Q 10 8 6 5 3				
♣ 8 4 3				

Key questions in considering your bid:

- Do you need to bid?
- Where are the spades hiding?
- Could partner hold a powerful single suiter (in Spades!?) for the X?
- If pre-empting, how high is an acceptable risk ?

Now that you have made your bid, how does it compare with the experts?

ACTION	MARKS	PANEL VOTES	Competitors' Entries (%)
3♦	10	8	14
2♦	9	7	21
1♦	8	6	46
4♦	5	1	1
Pass	2	0	9
1♥	0	0	8
5♦	0	0	1

Competition Entrant Average Score: 7.20

This was an apparently simple question of 'How many diamonds?' The panel are widely divided, but the competitors produce their largest vote of the month, with almost half deciding that the 1-level is high enough for them. Let's hear the debate, in ascending order.

16 out of 22 experts decided that some pre-emption was right. Passing or bidding 1 Heart had no expert support. Take your pick between 2, 3 and 4 Diamonds.

Fun, educational and very satisfying to out-bid the experts. You can join the [RealBridge challenge here](#).

Good luck with the challenge.

Monthly Quiz

By Ernie Newman

We are pleased to introduce the first monthly quiz – compiled by Ernie Newman.

Ernie plays bridge in the Blue Mountains and claims that he can count to thirteen. Sometimes. He is a grand master whose quizzes are popular with club players.

WHAT DO PARTNER'S DOUBLES MEAN?

This week you're playing with Max. A bidding wizard with 52 friends. A knave whisperer. Max loves to double, but what do his doubles mean?

In these 5 auctions everyone is vulnerable. You are South and Max doubles.

1.	West	North	East	South
			(1♠)	P
	(2♣)	X		

2.	West	North	East	South
				1♦
	(1♥)	X		

3.	West	North	East	South
				1♦
	(1♥)	INT	(P)	2♦
	(3♥)	X		

4.	West	North	East	South
				1♥
	(2♣)	X		

5.	West	North	East	South
		1♦	(X)	XX*
	(1♠)	X		

*XX = 10+ HCP, no fit

ANSWERS

1.	West	North	East	South
			(1♠)	P
	(2♣)	X		

Max's double is for takeout. Choose a suit. With four hearts, prioritise your major. If you have game values, don't make a minimum bid. Jump to game, or make a cue bid (3♠) if you don't know which game is best.

The only time you would pass a takeout double is with phenomenal trumps, confident that the contract will fail. Max would be happy for you to pass 2♣X for penalties with:

♠KQT9
♥764
♦AT6
♣985

If Max has a minimum you will probably collect +200 or +500. That is an excellent result when you don't have a game on! Even better, Max relishes a penalty double.

2.	West	North	East	South
				1♦
	(1♥)	X		

This is a negative double. Negative doubles always follow the same pattern:
1-suit (suit overcall) X = the unbid majors
Max's double shows 4 spades and 6+ HCP. With 5 spades he should bid 1♠ rather than double.

For the nerds: After 1♣ (1♦) 1-Major shows 4+ cards, because double is reserved for both majors. After 1♦ (2♣) or 1♣ (2♦), X promises only one major, because there's limited space. This double implies an invitational+ hand, or less with a fit to fall back on.

3.	West	North	East	South
				1♦
	(1♥)	INT	(P)	2♦
	(3♥)	X		

Max's double is for penalty. He is not showing the unbid suits here, as he could have doubled at the 1-level to do that. His INT response showed 6-10 HCP and a heart stopper. West has stepped out on a solo adventure and Max is sitting over them with a stack of trumps. Max has something like:

♠AT3
♥KQT4
♦6
♣98752

Max smells blood! He hopes to take 3 trump tricks and a spade, plus whatever you have. A juicy penalty!

4.	West	North	East	South
				1♥
	(2♠)	X		

This takeout double implies clubs and diamonds. Max might hold:

♠983
♥Q4
♦KJ98
♣AJ52

He might also hold less with more shape:

♠8
♥J3
♦KJT96
♣AT985

5.	West	North	East	South
		1♦	(X)	XX*
	(1♠)	X		

*XX = 10+ HCP, no fit

Max's double of 1♠ implies 4+ chunky spades. Max believes that after a strong re-double all doubles are for penalty. It's a good method. After all, we hold 22+ HCP and no fit. The opponents are outgunned. Perhaps Max has:

♠KQJ9
♥74
♦A985
♣KT9

Max's 13 HCP and your mis-fitting 10+ HCP may not be enough for game, but with such strong spades he can wreak havoc against a spade contract. When he greets the opposition he smiles, but his teeth are bared and his nose quivers with bloodlust. It's important to feed the vampire.

Upcoming events

The following pages are flyers for forthcoming events and courses. The deadline for flyers to be received is the **second last Friday of each month**. Flyers must be a single A4 page and should be for events and courses in the following two months. To have your flyer included in the next issue, please send it to bridging@bridgensw.com.au.



What is contract Bridge?

♠♥ **FREE Intro Seminar** ♦♣

Are you looking for a mental challenge that's fun and social? Have you heard about Bridge, but not known what it's about or how to learn it? This one-hour, free seminar will give you an insight into the fascinating world of bridge:

City | Tuesday 7th July, 6.00pm – 7.00pm

City | Monday 13th July, 9.00am – 10.00am

Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills

Ashfield | Thursday 9th July, 11.00am – 12.00nn

Polish Club, 182 Liverpool Road, Ashfield



To enrol in this seminar, or for more information, please call office on (02) 9264 6884 or email at office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au.

For more details you can check out our website: www.sydneybridgecentre.com



The Club with a Heart

BRISBANE WATER BRIDGE CLUB ANNUAL CONGRESS

Saturday 18th July 9.30 am- Swiss Pairs

Sunday 19th July 9.30 am- Swiss Teams

**Venue : Ettalong 50+ Leisure and Learning Centre
corner of Broken Bay Rd and Karingi St, Ettalong**

- Director – Peter Hume.
- Enquiries to the Conveners – David Bowerman 0420 295 758, or Chris Hasemore 0490 191 741
- Entry PER EVENT - \$40 per person. Enter on MyABF
- Please BYO lunch. Tea and coffee available all day, plus home-made cakes and slices.
- Separate fields for Novice / Restricted players dependent on number of entries.
- Table limit – 32 tables
- For Restricted Pairs or Teams, masterpoints for each player must be < 300 at 30th June 2026
- For Novice Pairs or Teams, masterpoints for each player must be < 100 at 30th June 2026
- Yellow systems not permitted



Saturday:

SWISS PAIRS

- o 2 Sessions, starting 9:30 am
- o Best Pair – 1st \$300
- o Best Restricted Pair - \$250.
- o Best Novice Pair - \$200.
- o Prizes for 2nd and 3rd placings depending on number of entries. (Prize money may be adjusted if entries are low.)



Sunday:

SWISS TEAMS

- o 2 Sessions, starting 9:30 am
- o Best Team – 1st \$600
- o Best Restricted Team - \$500.
- o Best Novice Team - \$400.
- o Prizes for 2nd and 3rd placings depending on number of entries. (Prize money may be adjusted if entries are low.)

*Conducted under the auspices of Bridge NSW. The Australian Bridge Federation has approved the issue of red masterpoints at level B4.
All players are subject to Bridge NSW's Congress Disciplinary Regulations.*



Hunters Hill Bridge Club is proud to hold a **series of lessons** for members and their friends.

It is always satisfying to be higher on the leaderboard and these lessons are designed to **improve the understanding and performance** of our duplicate players.

Presented by ABF accredited bridge teacher **Peter Bardos** and assisted by HHBC favourite **David Emmerson**.

Quizzes, interesting topics with notes and **practice hands** will provide for an entertaining morning.

The first session is ***the Importance of the Negative Doubles***. Other areas include Jacoby 2NT, Reverses, Roman Key Card Blackwoods, Fourth Suit Forcing, Moysian Fits, Balancing, Inverted Minors, Splinters and more.

If you want to **improve your bidding, leads and card play**, these **lessons are for you!**

Time: 10.30 am – 12.00 pm

When: 2nd & 4th Wednesday mornings

Where: HHBC - Henley Community Centre, 2 Crown St

1st Session: 8 July 2026 – Negative Doubles

2nd Session: 22 July 2026 – Jacoby 2NT

Cost: \$12.00 (no discounts)

Booking: Walk- in but it would be nice to know you're coming.

Please **tell Kathie** 0416175131 **or David**, huntershillbridge@gmail.com

Bring your lunch and stay for the session with
Richard Lane starting at 12:30pm

A NSW and Victoria collaboration



Bridge
NSW



BRIDGE VICTORIA



Online Pairs League Winter 2026



Monday nights for 8 weeks



7.30pm start time



Online via Real Bridge



\$50 per player (discounts on offer)



Winter season starts 20 July

- > **Quick & convenient:** Just 12 boards in under 90 minutes
- > **Fair matchups:** Divisions tailored to your skill level
- > **Friendly & fun:** Meet players from across the country
- > **Earn red masterpoints:** Build your national ranking



Register now at MyABF



Learn to Play Bridge



Beginners' Course

*Bridge is the most fascinating card game in the world.
It is a very social activity, while being constantly
mentally stimulating.*



6 Monday Mornings @ City

July 20th – August 24th, 10.00am – 12.30pm

6 Tuesday Evenings @ City

July 21st – August 25th, 7.00pm – 9.30pm

City, Level 1, 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills

Parking Available

6 Thursday Mornings @ Polish Club Ashfield

July 23rd – August 27th, 10.30am – 12.45pm

Polish Club Ashfield, 182 Liverpool Road, Ashfield

Free Parking onsite



\$159 for the full course (notes included). Free for those who have done our Beginners Course before. You will have the option to continue your journey in Improvers I and II plus supervised sessions in both venues.

To enrol in this course, or for more information, please call office on (02) 9264 6884 or email at office@SydneyBridgeClub.org.au.

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE!



- IMPROVE YOUR LEADS.
- WHEN TO LEAD SINGLETONS / DOUBLETONS, AND WHEN NOT TO.
- IMPROVE YOUR SIGNALS.
- KNOW WHICH SUIT YOUR PARTNER WANTS, OR DOESN'T WANT
- COUNTING. COUNT DECLARER'S POINTS AND TRICKS.



SCAN ME



- At East Lindfield
- 10am to 3:30pm
- Incl Lunch & tea
- \$60 pp
- Visitors Welcome

with Will Jenner-O'Shea



Saturday Workshop
**Improve Your Defence.
Better Leads, Signals and
Counting in Defence.**

With Will Jenner-O'Shea

Saturday July 25th, 10am – 3:30pm

@Goulburn Street

All of the hands have opportunities for good play or defence to have an effect on the outcome.

Conventions and Topics

Improve Your Leads. When To Lead Singletons/Doubletons & When Not To.
Improve Your Signals. Know Which Suit Your Partner Wants / Doesn't Want.
Counting – Count Declarer's Points And Tricks.

This workshop is accessible for players of all levels.

Play Regularly to Reinforce

For Open players: (City) Monday to Thursday mornings (10.00am), Tuesday night (7.15pm), Friday ARVO (1.00pm), Sunday ARVO (1.00pm) / (Polish Club Ashfield) Thursday (10.00am) / (Henley) Saturday (1.30pm).

For Supervised players: (City) Monday & Wednesday morning (10.00am) and Tuesday evening (6.30pm) / (Polish Club Ashfield) Thursday morning (10.00am).



You do not need a partner. Please book online on www.sydnebridgecentre.com, or contact the office – Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street. office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au or 9264 6884

Costs: \$60 for Members, \$65 for Non-Members.

Notes, a delicious morning tea and a light lunch will be provided.

NSBC OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS (STATE QUALIFIER)

Open, Under Grand and Under
National Pairs



Starts at 7PM - Substitutes permitted





The SBC Xmas in Winter Congress

Pairs – Saturday 1st August 2026, 10.00am start

Teams – Sunday 2nd August 2026, 10.00am start

at the SBC clubrooms on Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills

Entry fee: \$65 per person per day (lunch included in both days)

RED Masterpoints

Play in one day or both days!

There will be two separate one-day events – Pairs on Saturday 1st August and Teams on Sunday 2nd August 2026. Playing Pairs requires different strategies to playing in Teams. You can choose to play in just one day or play in both!

Playing in a two day congress is a great way to build your match fitness. It sounds like a good idea to play cards cozy indoors in winter. Christmas / Winter themed refreshments throughout the play, and a delicious lunch will be provided in both days.



Programmes

Event commences at 10.00am sharp on both days for two sessions. Entry in advance on MyABF required.

We plan to have a separate field for Novice & Restricted players. Prize money will depend on the number of entries.

Conduct under the auspices of the BNSW. The ABF has approved the issue of RED Masterpoints at B4 level.

Organiser: Wing Roberts

Phone: (02) 9264 6884 / 0487 350 160

Email: office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au **Website:** www.sydneybridgecentre.com

SBC XMAS IN WINTER CONGRESS

WWW.SYDNEYBRIDGECENTRE.COM

Convenor

Host

Supporting Clubs



Starter Pairs Congress 2026

Designed for players with limited or no congress experience

 **Peninsula Bridge Club**, 4 Jacksons Rd, Warriewood

**Sunday
9 August
9.30am-4pm**



A fun, friendly and supportive day of learning and development



Tailored for players with less than two years experience



Build confidence and skills for regular club play and club congresses



Helpful guidance: Pre-event Q&A, a relaxed pace of play and "Go-to" volunteers to support players throughout the day.



A social day: Meet players from other clubs over lunch and post game refreshments.



Great venue: Brand new club house, convenient location with ample free parking and B-line bus stop out the front.

\$55 per player (inc. lunch, snacks and post-game drinks)



Register now at MyABF



PARKES BRIDGE CLUB

Mini Congress Teams Day Muriel Waddell Trophy

Sunday 9th August 2026

9:00am for 9:30am start

Holy Family School Hall enter Albert St side.

\$160 per team

Morning tea & refreshments throughout the day
(Please advise special dietary requirements)
BYO - lunch

Monetary Prizes

Unrestricted - 1st & 2nd
Inclusion of Restricted Division
(no player having more than 100 mps)
to be decided on receipt of entries

Payment

Use My ABF credits

OR

EFT BSB 062-588

Acct Number 28000180

Please reference Team Name with payment

Conducted under the auspices of Bridge NSW

All players are subject Bridge NSW's Congress Disciplinary Regulations

The ABF has approved the issue of Red Masterpoints at Level B4

Yellow systems not permitted

Registrations: ALL ENTRIES VIA MYABF By 5th August 2026





JOHN MCILRATH TROPHY

GOLD POINT SWISS PAIRS

SCAN



GNOT METRO QUALIFIER

Sunday



\$60 PER PLAYER
INCLUDES LUNCH AND SNACKS

NORTH SHORE
since 1962
BRIDGE CLUB





Tweed Heads Birthday Congress 2026 August 22-23rd 2026

**Come and help us celebrate our 61st birthday
Playing 2 days of Swiss pairs at
Tweed Heads Bridge Club
Unit 1/6 Park Street Tweed Heads NSW 2485**

**64 pairs maximum. Entries close 8th August 2026 6pm.
Red Masterpoints
Generous prizes in various levels depending on entries**

**To facilitate those travelling play will be
Saturday 10am – approx 5.30pm,
Sunday 9.30am – approx 3pm.**

**Delicious all day grazing, including birthday cake.
Drinks and snacks at the end of the day**

**Close to Coolangatta airport
Lots of accommodation in Coolangatta as well as Tweed Heads
Saturday dinner for those interested at a local restaurant**

**Cost \$100 per person for 2 days
Entries via MyABF. Payment by credit card/Bridge Credits
or Direct Deposit BSB: 062-682 Account: 2800-2835
Please include surname and Congress with direct deposits**

Sponsored by TBIB Insurance



**Director: Ed Roggeveen
Organiser: Jenni Cover**

Further information: jenni.cover@gmail.com or 0409560008

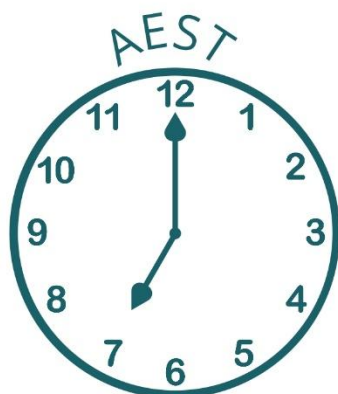
**All systems except yellow. Systems cards must be available
All players subject to BNSW's Congress Disciplinary Regulations**

NSBC

Great Prizes

Club Teams Championship

Thursday
nights



Fathers Day

SWISS PAIRS

**Rookie, Restricted
Intermediate & Open**

Sunday 6th September

2 x Sessions starting at 10am

Online

NORTH SHORE
since  1962
BRIDGE CLUB



PETER PAN PLUMBING

Open Swiss Pairs

**GREAT
PRIZES**

- 10 am Start
- East Lindfield
- 2 x Sessions
- \$55 per player



NORTH SHORE BRIDGE CLUB

TUESDAY NIGHTS 7 PM

State Swiss Pairs Championship

