

Growing player numbers

Hi everyone,

Welcome to our first full year as Bridge NSW! We have a lot planned for the coming year, and we hope you join us in making it a great year for our bridge community.

To start the year, we launched our new website. It reflects a new chapter in Bridge NSW's development. If you haven't already, please go and have a look (www.bridgensw.com.au). The site is modern and full of helpful tools to support clubs, teachers, directors and players.

One example is the [beginner lessons materials](#) now available. Many clubs do not currently offer beginner lessons. We hope these materials will help them start. A big thanks to NZ Bridge, Rakesh Kumar, Steve English and all of the experts who helped refine these materials. Next, we are looking to provide

more support around player development – stay tuned.

Nominations for the Bridge NSW Council open 10 February. This is the first time the Council will be elected by clubs. Each club can nominate one person. The only requirement is that you are passionate about helping the bridge community flourish.

We are also seeking volunteers across a range of areas. Like the Council election, these are great opportunities to have your seat at the table and help shape the organisation and the bridge community for the better.

The website and other initiatives support [Bridge NSW's strategy](#) to turn around a slow decline in players numbers over many years, so that our valued clubs can thrive well into the future.

An early sign our efforts are yielding results, the Summer season of the

[Online Pairs League](#)

reached a record registration level of 70 pairs! We will have more to announce about Monday night competitions soon – watch this space.

Catherine Chaffey, Chair of Bridge NSW

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Bridge NSW

A website for the next generation of players

The new website for Bridge NSW officially launched at the start of the year, a moment three years in the making.

The NSWBA Council decided a new site was needed back in August 2021 due to old technology, security issues and a dated look and feel. After plenty of hard work from many people, particularly from Board member Jake Andrew and Executive Officer David Havyatt, the website went live on 6 January 2025.

The new, modern site supports the wider branding project for Bridge NSW, which includes a revitalised newsletter, emails, and Bridge NSW's Facebook page. They are part of Bridge NSW's efforts to grow player numbers and secure the future of clubs and the game for decades to come.

Support for clubs

A fresh design was needed for the site to help bridge appeal to a new generation of players at the club level. The new site now responds to devices of all sizes, and there is plenty of white space and less clutter.

The website navigation and menu focuses on core areas that Bridge NSW considers important for growing the community.

This includes an "Events" section, where people can find a [calendar of events](#), [past results](#), and event information.

A "Play and learn" section is for those new to bridge. There, they can [find a club](#), explore lessons for beginners (a new addition) and

upcoming courses, and youth players can find resources specific for them.

A "Club resources" section offers clubs helpful information on managing and growing their clubs, and hosting a congress. A teaching section offers new free resources to help club-level teachers coach beginners and relatively new players.

The "Directing" section has been created to help grow the pool of directors across the state. It explains the different levels of directing, and it includes a database of NSW directors who can assist with clubs sessions and events.

Outside of the four core menu areas, the "Publications" section is where you can find past editions of this newsletter and player guides. "About us" features our Council, Board, Committees, Bridge NSW's strategy, and other information.

An evolving site

The site aims to balance the need to both grow the bridge community, and support clubs, players, teachers and directors. It will continue to evolve to respond to club and player needs.

So far, clubs and players are accessing the site mainly via desktop (59%). For the 31% using mobiles and 10% using tablets, the site provides a much better experience.

As expected, the Events page is by far the most popular page. Bridge NSW is in the process of refining the Events calendar to enhance its appeal to players and clubs.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email comms@bridgensw.com.au.

Call for council nominations

In a first for Bridge NSW, clubs are being asked to nominate people and vote for the new Bridge NSW Council.

This is an opportunity for clubs across the State to take their seat at the table and help shape the organisation and bridge community for the better.

No particular skills are required to become a Council member. The key is to have a passion for the bridge community and seeing clubs thrive and be sustainable over the long term.

Small, medium & big club representation

The Council represents 140 member clubs across the state. The Council nominates Board members, approves by-laws and has general oversight powers. It meets twice a year formally, and holds informal discussions throughout the year.

To ensure equitable representation of clubs, smaller clubs with fewer than 100 members can elect four Council members. Clubs with over 100 members can elect another four, and the three largest clubs (North Shore, Sydney and Trumps) can appoint three Council members. The Council has a total of eleven members.

Clubs can nominate one person only. That nominee must be a member of their local club and be nominated by the club's President, Secretary or equivalent. A candidate cannot represent more than one club.

Council members hold their positions for one or two years. Those who receive more votes will serve a two-year term, and those receiving a lower vote count will serve a one-year term.

Key dates

Council nominations open **10 February 2025 and close 3 March 2025**. A short consultation period will follow when any club, candidate or volunteer can ask nominees questions.

The election of Council members will take place between **24 March 2025 to 13 April 2025**.

The elected Council will be announced at Bridge NSW's Annual General Meeting on 6 May 2025.

To nominate someone from your club, head to [our AGM page](#) to find the form. Be sure to get your entries in before 3 March!

Seeking volunteers

Volunteers are an invaluable part of our community. Bridge NSW is currently seeking volunteers in the following areas:

- Board directors (based on skills)
- Committee members (do you have an interest in education, directing, youth, teaching, or governance?)
- IT help

- Event and tournament organisers

If you have any interest in the above or know someone suitable, please get in touch with us at eo@bridgensw.com.au.

Bookkeeper wanted

Bridge NSW is in need of a bookkeeper for 8-10 hours per week (sometimes more or less), ideally split over two or three days per week. We are open to engaging the bookkeeper as a contractor or employee. You can be located anywhere in New South Wales.

Working closely with the Treasurer and Executive Officer, the bookkeeper's primary responsibilities are the payment of authorised bills, the issuing of invoices and the maintenance of the accounts.

Experience with Xero is an absolute requirement and experience with a community or professional association will be beneficial.

As will some familiarity with the operation of bridge clubs, congresses and tournaments. The ability to document procedures to ensure the efficient and accurate payment of bills, issuing of invoicing, and maintenance of tracking codes to provide various management accounts is desirable.

A full job description is currently being prepared and can be obtained from the Executive Officer, Dave Havyatt at eo@bridgensw.com.au or by calling 0477 52 52 52.

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Events and results

Summer Festival of Bridge

The annual Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra saw NSW-based players turn out in force from 7-19 January. A big congratulations to the following NSW players who made representative teams or won events!

Australian Women's Team: Dagmar Neumann, Ella Jacob



Australian Seniors Team: Avinash Kanetkar, Maurits van der Vlugt, Terry Brown, David Beauchamp



National Open Team: Liam Milne (middle), James Coutts (right)



National Women's Team: Jessica Brake, Ella Jacob, Dagmar Neumann,



National Seniors' Team: Nigel Rosendorff, Martin Bloom



National Life Masters Team: Phil Halloran



Chris Diment Pairs: Jenna Gibbons, Julian Foster



TBIB <300 Masterpoints Pairs: Chris Hamam



The Bridge Shop Under 20 Masterpoint

Teams: Mark Lakota, Peter Brook



Red Point Duplicate: Jamie Thompson



Greats of game and Bridge NSW acknowledged

In honour of Pauline Gumby's and Warren Lazer's decades of service to the bridge community, Bridge NSW's Spring National Mixed Teams Event will from now on be called the Spring Nationals Gumby Lazer Mixed Teams event.

The pair was awarded lifetime free entry to their event, and given \$500 each to go towards entry fees in 2025 as part of Bridge NSW's celebration of their service.



The acknowledgement was made at an ABF event in Canberra celebrating Pauline Gumby's achievement of becoming Australia's first Diamond Grand Master with over 15,000 masterpoints.

Warren, an Emerald Grand Master, is second to Pauline on the national all-time masterpoint list with nearly 13,600 MPs.

Both members of the Sydney Bridge Centre club have committed countless volunteer hours to the NSW Bridge Association and Bridge NSW over the decades.

Pauline did an invaluable job running the NSW Bridge Association website to perfection for 25 years. Warren initially joined the NSW Events/Tournament Committee and went on to chair it for many years.

Without their efforts and passion, bridge in NSW and Australia would not be what it is today.

NSW team selections on the horizon

Have what it takes to represent NSW? Or keen to test your skills against the State's best for a bit of fun? Team selection events are coming up and all are online using RealBridge, meaning you don't have to travel.



If you are not familiar with it, RealBridge is easy to use and just like face to face (F2F) play. It makes for a fun and competitive event.

For those aiming to make the NSW team, NSW players will go on to represent the state at the Australian National Championships in Brisbane on 6-17 July.

Here are the details for the three NSW divisions:

- Open: 22-23 February - [register now](#)
- Women: 28-30 March - [register now](#)
- Seniors: 25-27 April - [register now](#)

New Online Teams League for bridge guns

Bridge NSW is launching a new Online Teams League (OTL) in April for experienced players looking for challenging and competitive weekly play.

The event runs for seven weeks from 7 April to 26 May on Monday nights from 7pm. No need to worry about clashes with Gold Point events as the OTL will always work around them.

Divisions of eight teams will play a round robin format. Each round will be a 24-board match on RealBridge played as two 12-board half matches.

Red masterpoints are on offer, as are prizes, including an Annual Team Championship.

The entry fee is \$560 per team for 4-8 players. An early bird discount price of \$480 is on offer for teams who **register before 21 March**. Youth get a 50% discount.

Ready to pit yourself against the best of the best on Monday nights?

Head to the [My ABF page to register](#).

Clubs

New online beginner materials

By Steve English

In a survey of clubs, Bridge NSW found the majority of clubs do not offer beginner lessons.

In response, Bridge NSW has developed beginner lesson materials that are freely available for all clubs to use on the [Bridge NSW website](#).

The materials include Student & Teacher Notes, Quizzes, Handouts, Powerpoints, Deal Analysis and Deal Files.

They are ideally suited to small clubs with new or inexperienced teachers, with tips on how to prepare and run each lesson. Experienced teachers might also find them useful.

Here are some other good reasons to use these materials:

- No more emailing or finding notes!
- If a student has missed a lesson, they can catch up by reviewing the material online
- Teachers may wish to use their own material for the introductory lessons but could use Bridge NSW material for others (eg overcalls/doubles, stayman/transfers)
- The Handout includes suggestions for relevant videos and the bridge-training links for the student to view and practice in their own time

- The Teachers Options & Teacher Notes cater for different approaches
- Flexibility is provided to teach either Declarer Play first, as per website lesson structure, or Bidding first, through the use of Mini Lessons. The Mini Lessons can be used as a quick lesson before a regular or supervised session.
- The hands for Lessons 2 (Declarer Play in NT) and 3 (Declarer Play in Suits) can be used in supervised sessions to practice play concepts
- [Bridge-training.com](#) can be used by the Teacher to show a particular concept, for eg, play a hand to show discarding a loser on a winner. Students can practice bidding in their town time.

Additional Supervised Session hand analysis and deal files are provided on the website. A set of Improver Lessons will be made available through February.

If you have any feedback about these beginner materials or need further support in setting up beginner courses, please contact education@bridgensw.com.au.

Be the first to contact education@bridgensw.com.au with one of the "secret codes" embedded in the material and **you will win a prize!**

Promoting bridge

From The International Bridge Press Association

Bridge needs to innovate in order to move forward and grow.

Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA) has a new report on promoting and marketing bridge, which has emerged as a result of a Masters thesis conducted by Abby McCutcheon at the University of Stirling.

Abby, who is also a BAMSA researcher, interviewed thirty bridge players from seven countries. Interviewees were a combination of bridge players, teachers, and volunteers/employees of National Bridge Organisations (NBOs) from England, Scotland, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Australia, and the USA.

Bridge faces many challenges, as these players in the report point out:

"Bridge doesn't have celebrities...no one knows who bridge players are." – Eric, EBL Chair

It puzzles me when they say that they can't recruit new people and that they've tried the same thing for 20 years, and it's like, obviously, that's not working. – Marianne, Norwegian Bridge Federation

All the national bridge organisations in this study have the desire to recruit younger people, but many lack the resources to offer youth programmes and the skills/resources to market to this demographic.

"Recruiting people 55+ is great for the short term, but it's not necessarily so great for the long term when that bubble isn't here anymore and you haven't done anything with younger people." – Emily, Manager of Marketing and Education for the ACBL

A common theme is that bridge tends to 'preach to the converted' and struggles to engage non-players who are unfamiliar with the game. Tailored marketing and alternative ways of communicating, playing bridge, and learning are required to reach a wider audience. There appears to be an awareness (at local, national, and international levels) of weaknesses in marketing and promoting bridge. However, study participants reported that there is some unwillingness or reluctance to change promotion, recruitment, and marketing strategies, and how games are offered.

There is hope for change and innovation, particularly if bridge organisations cooperate and collaborate together to work on solutions.

Opportunities for bridge promotion involve embracing digital marketing and social media, creating interactive ways for people to teach themselves, increasing the visibility of bridge, heightening awareness and response to negative behaviour, and making the game more social and fun.

The full report (click [here](#)) and a three-page summary (click [here](#)) are available in the Research section of the BAMSA website, in the *Bridging Organisations* project.

Upcoming workshops

Directors workshops

Sunday 15th February: Port Macquarie Bridge Club, 10am. Contact tommeakinster@icloud.com

Tuesday 11th March: Maitland Bridge Club. For details, go to <https://www.bridgewebs.com>

On player laws

Friday 11th April, Central West Festival, Orange. At lunchtime between matches 9 and 10. FREE. For more, contact pam.bradford99@gmail.com

Advertise your lessons

A new feature on the Bridge NSW website is a list of upcoming lessons in clubs across NSW. To have your lesson listed, complete the form on the page: <https://bridgensw.com.au/instructed-lessons>.

Tell us about your club

Want to appear the newsletter? Put your hand up to have your club profiled (email bridging@bridgensw.com.au) or share other stories or news about events happening at your club. We always love to hear from clubs about what's happening on the ground.

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Learning & Development

Monthly bidding competition

By Philip Glover

RealBridge runs a monthly bidding competition. Marc Smith, world renowned author of more than 40 books on the game, moderates the competition. Bridge NSW readers are invited to join in.



Marc Smith

The bids submitted by the entrants are scored by comparison with the expert panel bids from over 20 world class experts. Marc Smith allocates scores from 10 to 0. The best scoring entrant is invited to be a future guest panellist.

The bidding system is natural. The system is outlined on the RealBridge website. Nothing fancy! Are you and your partner on the same wavelength?

Consider the hand and auction below.

EW Vul. Dealer South. IMPs.		West	North	East	South
♠	Q 10 4				1♠
♥	A Q 5	Pass	Pass	2♦	2♠
♦	9 8 6 3 2	?			
♣	K 8				

Did you agree with the experts and bid 3NT, or are you with the almosts?

ACTION	MARKS	PANEL VOTES	Competitors' Entries (%)
3NT	10	11	13
2NT	8	8	25
3♠	5	1	11
4♦	5	1	12
Dbl	3	1	<1
3♦	3	0	36
5♦	2	0	3
Pass	0	0	1

The experts provide comments on their selection on the website. New entrants are encouraged to participate. It is a instructive and rewarding exercise to fine tune your thinking.

To access the competition, go to <https://realbridge.online/bidding-contest>. Get your answers in before the end of each month to have your bidding recognised.



NSBC Festive Season Teams 2024

By Rakesh Kumar

The North Shore Bridge Club held its online Festive Season Congress two weekends before Christmas. On the Saturday, Jenna Gibbons – Julian Foster had a convincing win in the Pairs. Second place went to Chelliah Arul – Simon Tissera. The Teams event on the Sunday was won by Mathew Vadas – George Fleischer – Cevat Emul – Catherine Zhang. In second place were Elli Urbach – Kevin Davies – Colin Clifford – Rakesh Kumar.

The format for both events was 6 × 9-board rounds and there were of course many interesting boards that generated significant swings. Here are a few from the Teams, which I will present to you as problems.

The setup

Firstly, after your LHO opens 1D as dealer and partner doubles, you arrive in 4S. LHO leads ♦K followed by ♦A. You ruff in dummy and play a small club to the ten, which holds. Now what?

♠AJ85

♥A864

♦3

♣QJ82

♠KQ74

♥J97

♦J752

♣AT

Secondly, with both sides vulnerable, you hold the hand below as dealer. What, if anything, will you bid?

♠AKJ65

♥QT87

♦2

♣T97

And thirdly, after two passes, RHO opens 2NT showing 20–21 hcp. LHO bids 3C, puppet Stayman, and RHO rebids 3NT denying a 4+ major suit. What will you lead from this hand?

♠A965

♥QT3

♦53

♣Q876

The solution

This was the deal associated with the first problem, now in its correct orientation. There's nothing especially clever involved in making the contract, but you have to count your tricks. If you draw trumps at this point (they break 4-1) you will make 5 trump tricks (including the ruff of a diamond in dummy) plus 2 clubs (assuming the king doesn't drop on the second round) and one heart. Nowhere near enough!

Board: 22
Dlr: E
Vul: E-W

♠ 9632
♥ QT3
♦ T64
♣ K53

♠ KQ74
♥ J97
♦ J752
♣ AT



♠ T
♥ K52
♦ AKQ98
♣ 9764

♠ AJ85
♥ A864
♦ 3
♣ QJ82

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N

N	-	-	3	4	1
S	-	-	3	4	1
E	-	1	-	-	-
W	-	1	-	-	-

		11
5		12
		12

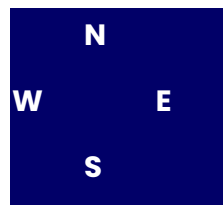
So you have to work on a cross-ruff, trusting that RHO has at least 3 diamonds. Then because LHO has 4 clubs, you can make 7 trump tricks to go with the club and heart tricks. Not everyone got this right, because across the field of 16 tables, 6 declarers made only 9 tricks in spades, while 5 made 10 tricks although one wasn't in game. Another 5 were in other contracts, including one in 5DX by East, which was not a success.

Your choice on the second problem hand is likely to swing a number of IMPs! This was the deal:

Board: 29
Dlr: N
Vul: All

♠ T9843
♥ 32
♦ T75
♣ A64

♠ AKJ65
♥ QT87
♦ 2
♣ T97



♠ Q2
♥ A52
♦ A9
♣ KQ8532

♠ 7
♥ KJ96
♦ KQJ8643
♣ J

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N

N	-	3	4	-	-
S	-	3	4	-	-
E	2	-	-	1	2
W	2	-	-	1	2

		10
4		15
		11

If you figure that 10 hcp isn't enough to open when vulnerable, LHO is likely to start with 1NT even (especially?) with the 6-card club suit. Now you will struggle to reach 4H unless you play Woolsey doubles of 1NT, showing a 4-card major and a longer minor suit. However, if you decide that 2 quick tricks in a 7-loser hand with a singleton and an easy rebid makes 1S a mandatory opening, LHO will overcall 2C and partner will make a negative double showing hearts, so all will be well.

Of course if you believe in opening 2H (or perhaps 2D) with 5+/4+ in the majors then life is remarkably simple! Across the field, 6 pairs played in 4H, 7 played in 3D while 3 defended contracts by East-West.

Here's the deal associated with the third problem:

Board: 43 ♠ K82
 Dir: S ♥ AK5
 Vul: None ♦ A9642
 ♣ AK

♠ Q3		♠ A965
♥ J82		♥ QT3
♦ K8		♦ 53
♣ T95432		♣ Q876

 ♠ JT74
 ♥ 9764
 ♦ QJT7
 ♣ J

	♠	♦	♥	♣	N
N	-	5	4	3	2
S	-	5	4	3	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	1	-	-	-	-

		21	
6			8
		5	

Received wisdom is that when the opponents bid 1NT-3NT or 2NT-3C-3NT it's usually a good idea to lead a major. Just to prove that all generalisations have exceptions, especially at the bridge table, the lead of ♠5 made it easy for declarer to claim 10 or 11 tricks. Only 4 of 15 led a club – this time around, they were richly rewarded, as declarer could not reach dummy to take the diamond finesse.

Trumps Festival Pairs 2024

By Rakesh Kumar

The Trumps Festival of Bridge was as usual held in the period between Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Both the Festival Matchpoint Pairs and the Festival Swiss Pairs were won by Jenna Gibbons – Julian Foster. In the Festival Teams, the winners were Cevat

Emul – Catherine Zhang, Donald Cartwright – Mathew Vadas.

Matchpoint pairs is the default at club sessions, but matchpoint tournaments are becoming a rarity, so for a change this article focuses on the Festival Matchpoint Pairs event. This was scored on aggregate percentage and Jenna Gibbons – Julian Foster won both sessions, with 61.9% and 63.7% respectively, making them very convincing overall winners. Helen Lowry – Jane Beeby held it together for second place, with 54.2% and 59.7% respectively.

The setup

Here are hands from three interesting deals, each of which poses a different kind of bidding problem. Firstly, you hold:

♠AKQJ6
 ♥864
 ♦–
 ♣KT952

Nil vulnerable, partner is the dealer and opens 1H. Your RHO bids 2H, promising 5+/5+ in spades and a minor suit. What will you bid?

Secondly, not vulnerable against opponents who are vulnerable, you open 1H with this hand:

♠Q
 ♥KQT75
 ♦AJT942
 ♣4

LHO overcalls 2C and partner bids 3C, showing an invitational-plus raise of hearts. What will you bid?

And thirdly, again with neither side vulnerable, you hold:

♠643
 ♥AQ9764

♦ T
♣ K82

RHO passes as dealer. Your choice?

The solution

Here is the complete deal for the first problem, which comes from the morning session:

Board: 17	♠ 42				
Dir: N	♥ KQJ73				
Vul: Nil	♦ K95				
	♣ A73				
♠ T					♠ 98753
♥ AT952					♥
♦ J8764					♦ AQT32
♣ Q6					♣ J84
	♠ AKQJ6				
	♥ 864				
	♦				
	♣ KT952				
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N				
N	5	-	4	4	2
S	5	-	3	3	1
E	-	2	-	-	-
W	-	2	-	-	-

What are your partnership agreements for raises after an intervening Michaels cue bid? A generally accepted approach is that a cue bid of the shown suit promises a good raise, so South can bid 2S to show an invitational-plus hand with heart support. Now North, who has only a 7-loser minimum hand, should simply rebid 3H, but with a 5-loser hand South might think about looking for slam. The catch is that South has feeble heart support and needs North to have an excellent suit, because the Michaels cue bid

makes it very likely that trumps will not break well.

To complicate matters, there is no effective way of exploring: if South makes a cue (control) bid of 4C, North might cue 4D but that doesn't help opposite a void. Roman Keycard Blackwood 4NT is a very poor idea, again because of South's void: he will never be able to tell whether North actually has the cards necessary for a slam to succeed. So discretion is likely to be the better part of valour and South should sign off in 4H. However, two pairs got excited and found their way to 6H, which did not work out at all well when trumps broke 5-0.

The board associated with the second problem comes from the afternoon session:

Board: 15	♠ 754				
Dir: S	♥ 92				
Vul: N-S	♦ 3				
	♣ KQJ9862				
♠ Q					♠ A9863
♥ KQT75					♥ AJ83
♦ AJT942					♦ K7
♣ 4					♣ 75
	♠ KJT2				
	♥ 64				
	♦ Q865				
	♣ AT3				
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N				
N	2	-	-	-	-
S	2	-	-	-	-
E	-	5	6	1	-
W	-	5	5	1	-

At adverse vulnerability, North is unlikely to bid 3C, but passing is wimpy so a 2C overcall is a reasonable compromise. Now when East shows a good raise with 3C,

South might double. In any case, though, West needs to show his 5-loser hand with club shortage – that is achieved by rebidding 4C, which is forward-going unlike 4H. With 4-card support to 2 honours and top controls in the other suits, East can now bid 4NT and find the slam. In the event, only 2 pairs reached 6H, one of those being the eventual runners-up.

This is the board associated with the third problem, also from the afternoon session:

Board: 27

♠ QJT8

Dlr: S

♥ T53

Vul: Nil

♦ K863

♣ T6

♠ 643

♥ AQ9764

♦ T

♣ K82

♠ A7

♥ K

♦ AQJ952

♣ AQ95

♠ K952

♥ J82

♦ 74

♣ J743

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N

N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	6	6	7	3	6
W	6	6	7	2	6

		6	
9			20
		10	

With neither side vulnerable, many would argue that this West hand is too good for a weak 2-bid: it has 7 losers, 2 quick tricks and a rebiddable suit. Look at it another way: would you open 1H with Jxx-AQxxx-x-KJxx? If so, do you think the extra length in hearts is at least equal to a couple of jacks?

As it turns out, if you choose to open 1H, partner is automatically going to look for a slam. She might even be thinking about a grand slam, but when you deny ♦K she will

settle for 6NT. South isn't going to lead a scary spade against this contract – on any other lead the slam proves to be easy when hearts break 3-3. Only one pair bid to 6NT and even though that was against Jenna Gibbons – Julian Foster, it didn't stop them cruising to victory!

WBF Online Women's Championship

By Dave Havyatt

The 2nd WBF Online Women's Teams Championship was contested over 3-5 January. With 74 teams from 41 countries from 8 WBF Zones the RealBridge team did a fantastic job in scheduling the event.

The Australian Jillaroos, Avocado and Kookaburras all contained NSW players, while the Bridge Babes team from SA/WA was captained by Lauren Travis who learnt her bridge in NSW. This was the first WBF online event for which [a bulletin](#) was published.

I've lifted one hand from the bulletin featuring the Kookaburras that I thought might be of interest. You can see how every hand was played through the [RealBridge kibitz link](#).

Leading Ladies v Kookaburras (Session 7, 4 Jan)

Board: 23	♠ 87
Dlr: S	♥ QT3
Vul: All	♦ 932
	♣ KJ842
♠ KQJ5	♠ AT432
♥ KJ952	♥ 6
♦ A76	♦ J
♣ A	♣ T97653
	♠ 96
	♥ A874
	♦ KQT854
	♣ Q

Before we look at the bidding and play, how would you respond to partner's double if the bidding went:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♦
X	P	?	

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Covarrubias	Tutty	Riedel	Neumann
			1♦
X	P	1♠	P
4♠	All Pass		

South led the ♣Q to dummy's ♣A and declarer cashed the ♠KQ and the ♦A, ruffed a diamond, led the ♠T and discarded a diamond from dummy won by North's ♣J*, ruffed North's diamond lead and played a heart, putting up dummy's king when South withheld the Ace. Leads a heart and ruffs.

Has two trumps in dummy and two losing hearts. +620

* The bulletin incorrectly stated that the ♣T was ruffed in dummy.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rankin	DiLorenzo	Humphries	Pramotton
			1♦
X	P	4♠	P
4NT*	P	5♣*	P
6♠	All Pass		

4NT RKCB

5♣ 1 keycard

South led the ♦Q and having taken dummy's ♦A, declarer ruffed a diamond and played the ♥6. South took the ♥A and exited with the ♦K. Declarer ruffed, played a club to the ace, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, cashed the ♥K and claimed +1430 and 13 IMPs.

Note that 12 tricks can be made even against the club lead as the heart ace is onside.

The Kookaburras finished a highly creditable eighth, with the other three teams all finishing towards the middle of the field.

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.

Stimulate your mind & make new friends!

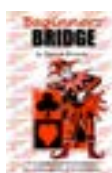
Learn Bridge!



Main teacher *Ingela Bjelobrk*

*For just **\$99** you get:*

♦ *Beginners' Bridge Book*



♦ *Trumps Social Bridge Ryde club
joining fee*

♦ *Six 1.5-hour lessons*

Mondays 10.30am-12pm
from 10 Feb - 17 Mar

Enrol now with...

Trumps Social Bridge Ryde

Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club

www.trumps.net.au, trumps@trumps.net.au



[Facebook.com/Trumpsbridgecentre](https://www.facebook.com/Trumpsbridgecentre)

phone 9969 5959 or 0412 947 279

... 'The top teaching club'

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

Feb 10th – Mar 17th, 10.00am – 12.30pm

6 Tuesday Evenings @ City

Feb 11th – Mar 18th, 7.00pm – 9.30pm

6 Wednesday Mornings @ City

**Feb 12th – Mar 19th, 10.00am – 12.30pm
City, Level 1, 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills
Parking Available**

6 Thursday Mornings @ Canada Bay

**Feb 13th – Mar 20th, 10.30am – 12.45pm
Canada Bay Club, 8 William Street, Five Dock
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
either City or Canada Bay once completed the course.
Both of our venues provide on-going Supervised Sessions.*



To enrol in this course, or for more information, please call
Wing on (02) 9264 6884 or email at office@sydneybridgecentre.com.



Saturday Workshop

Getting to Good No-Trump Games More Often

With Will Jenner-O'Shea

Saturday February 15th, 10am – 3:30pm

@Goulburn Street

Each hand has an interesting Play or Defence Tip.

Topics

Using the Fourth-Suit Forcing Convention.

Showing Stoppers, and Asking Stoppers.

Improve Your Hand Evaluation.

Play and Defence Tips at No-Trump Contracts.

Intermediate / Open / Advanced

Play Regularly to Reinforce

For Open players: (City) Monday – Thursday mornings (10.00am), Tuesday night (7.15pm) / (Canada Bay) Monday and Thursday (10.00am) / (Henley) Saturday (1.30pm).

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

All are Welcome: (City) Sunday Funday (1.30pm) every two weeks, please check website for dates.

**Book online
via SBC
website**



You do not need a partner.

Book online on www.SydneyBridgeCentre.com,

or contact the office – Level 1, 162 Goulburn St.

office@sydneybridgecentre.com or 9264 6884

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

A delicious morning tea and light lunch will be provided.





2025 OPEN INTERSTATE TEAM SELECTION (ITS) QUALIFYING 22-23 February



- Represent NSW at the ANC!
- Online with RealBridge
- Enter as a pair (IMP scoring)
- Finals: 8-9 March (F2F)*
- Top 3 pairs go to ANC (Brisbane 6-17 July)
- Contending pairs commit to playing finals + ANC, should they qualify

\$100 per player (for qualifying only)
Entries close 6pm, 10th February
Enter and pay on My ABF:

**[https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/
view/2331](https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/2331)**

*The number of pairs that qualify to the Final depends on entry levels.
Participation is restricted to members of clubs affiliated with Bridge NSW.
All substitutions must be requested in advance.

Full Supplementary Regulations at:

<https://bridgensw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/ITS-2025-Regulations.pdf>



3 sessions over a Weekend from 1st – 2nd March 2025

SATURDAY 1st March 10.00am – 1.00pm-ish

SUNDAY 2nd March 10.00am – 6.00pm

This event qualifies **one team** directly to the
GNOT National Qualifying Online from September 19th – 21st.

♠♥ *Entry fee paid for by Sydney Bridge Centre* ♦♣

One seventh of the field will also qualify to the **GNOT Sydney Metropolitan Final (F2F)** in Sydney from August 23rd – 24th.

♠♥ *Entry fee paid for by Sydney Bridge Centre* ♦♣

Players who fail to qualify for the Metropolitan Final may form teams and enter the Metro Final directly. All members of such teams must have participated in a 2025 GNOT qualifying event and the entry must specify the club(s) at which the members played.

Please contact the Metropolitan GNOT Organiser, Bridge NSW <https://bridgensw.com.au/gnot/> for such an arrangement.

Director: Michael Wilkinson | Organiser: Wing Roberts

ENTRY FEES (3 sessions over 2 days): \$420 per team (Breakfast type morning tea included on Saturday and Lunch included on Sunday)

You don't need to be a Sydney Bridge Centre member. However **entry is restricted** to residents to **Metro+ areas** (the Sydney Metropolitan, Central Coast, Illawarra & Blue Mountains regions).

Format: Dependent on entries

No Yellow Systems are permitted.

Full supplementary Tournament Regulations available at <https://bridgensw.com.au/gnot/>

GOLD Masterpoints will be awarded.

Tea, instant coffee and refreshment throughout the day.

Please enter via www.MyABF.com.au.



Organiser: Wing Roberts

Phone: (02) 9264 6884 | 0487 350 160

Email: office@sydneybridgecentre.com Website: www.sydneybridgecentre.com



Pairs Congress 2025 (Matchpoints)

15th & 16th March

Director: Ronnie Ng

... [Click here for online entries](#) ...

to be held at the
Armidale Bridge Club
12 Rockvale Road, Armidale

Conducted under the auspices of Bridge NSW. The ABF has approved the issue of Red Master points at Level B4. All players are subject to Bridge NSW's Congress Disciplinary Regulations.

The Armidale Bridge Club Pairs Congress 2025

Saturday 15 March

10.00am Registration

10:15am First session

Lunch provided

Second session

Sunday 16 March

9.00am Third Session

Lunch provided

Fourth session

4:30pm Presentation of prizes, light snacks,
& drinks at the end of play

Entries close 12th March 2025

Maximum tables = 18
Matchpoint scoring with Swiss movement.
No yellow systems.

For enquiries or more information contact
Ian Price 0432 153 294 or priceshdc@gmail.com

Entry Fee:

\$110 per person

Payment Options:

Payment by EFT is preferred. However, payment by card or cash will be available on the day.

EFT details:

BSB: 637 000

Account Number: 718 449 871

Reference: Surname + ABF number,
e.g. Smith55396

Cheques should be made payable to
'The Armidale Bridge Club'

Prizes

Prizes will depend on the number of entries. If sufficient entries, cash prizes will be awarded to place getters and there will be Restricted and Novice categories. Wine prizes are also usually provided.

CENTRAL COAST BRIDGE CLUB LONG JETTY

INVITES YOU TO OUR

49TH ANNUAL SUPER CONGRESS

22ND & 23RD March 2025



Saturday 22nd March 2025

8.30am for 9.30am start

Swiss Pairs	Three Divisions	\$60 per person
PRIZES (dependent on entry numbers)		
OPEN	First	\$300 2 ND \$200 3 RD \$100
RESTRICTED	First	\$250 2 ND \$150 3 RD \$100
NOVICE	First	\$200 2 ND \$100 3 RD \$50

Sunday 23rd March 2025

8.30am for 9.30am start

Swiss Teams	Three Divisions	\$240 per team
PRIZES (dependent on entry numbers)		
OPEN	First	\$600 2 ND \$300 3 RD \$200
RESTRICTED	First	\$500 2 ND \$300 3 RD \$200
NOVICE	First	\$400 2 ND \$200 3 RD \$100

REGISTRATION via myABF, PAYMENT by EFTPOS and Credit Card on the day

Drinks and presentation of cash prizes at the end of each day.

DELICIOUS LIGHT LUNCH WITH FRUIT PLATTER (PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS)

Tea, coffee, water and snacks available all day.

All players are subject to the NSWBA's Congress Disciplinary Regulations. The event is conducted under the auspices of the NSW Bridge Association. The ABF has approved the issue of Red Masterpoints Level B4. Novice players must have less than 100 Master Points, Restricted players less than 300 Master Points, as of 28 February 2025. (No yellow systems are permitted and brown systems are permitted but not when playing against Novice players)

Director: Alan Bustany

Convenor Maree Kelly 0490048962

Email ccbridgeclub@gmail.com

Long Jetty Bridge Club, 415 The Entrance Rd , Long Jetty NSW 2261

Variety of choices for accommodation and restaurants that surround our beautiful waterway.

ENJOY A WONDERFUL EVENT AT OUR NEW BEAUTIFUL CLUB HOUSE

www.facebook.com/CentralCoastBridgeClub



2025 WOMEN'S INTERSTATE TEAM SELECTION (ITS) 28-30 March



- Represent NSW at the ANC (Brisbane 6-17 July)!
- Three day event*
- Play online with RealBridge
- Enter as a pair
- Cross IMP scoring
- Women's pairs only

Entry fee: \$150 per player
Entries close 10am, 27th March
Enter and pay on My ABF:

**[https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/
view/2234](https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/2234)**

*If more than 18 pairs enter, the event will be played in 2 stages: qualifying on Friday, followed by a final on Saturday and Sunday. Pairs who do not make the final will be refunded their entry fee.

Participation is restricted to members of clubs affiliated with Bridge NSW

All substitutions must be requested in advance

Full Supplementary Regulations at:

<https://bridgensw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/ITS-2025-Regulations.pdf>

2025 CWF GOLD

Central West Festival of Bridge – A Gold Point Event

Play like legends, live like locals!

Orange Ex Services Club

10th to 13th April 2025

Thursday 10 th	Friday 11 th	Saturday 12 th	Sunday 13 th
Swiss Pairs 9:30 am, Open, Intermediate, Restricted, Novice sections. \$140 per player (includes 2 buffet lunches, all-day tea and coffee)		Swiss Teams 9:30 am, concludes 1pm Sunday, Open, Intermediate, Restricted, Novice sections, \$140 per player (includes 2 buffet lunches, all-day tea and coffee)	

Early Bird rates: \$130 per player if paid by 31 January 2025

Chief Tournament Director: Matt McManus

Organisers:

Murray Paterson 0418 206 485 murray.paterson@keystosuccess.com.au

Rob Ward 0418 611 908 rob@robward.com.au



<http://myabf.com.au/go/CWF2025>



Bridge
NSW



Orange
Bridge
Club



2025 SENIOR'S INTERSTATE TEAM SELECTION (ITS) 25-27 April



- Represent NSW at the ANC (Brisbane 6-17 July)!
- Three day event*
- Play online with RealBridge
- Enter as a pair
- Cross IMP scoring
- For players born before 1st January 1962

Entry fee: \$150 per player
Entries close 10am, 24th April
Enter and pay on My ABF:

**[https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/
view/2239](https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/2239)**

*If more than 18 pairs enter, the event will be played in 2 stages: qualifying on Friday, followed by a final on Saturday and Sunday. Pairs who do not make the final will be refunded their entry fee.

Participation is restricted to members of clubs affiliated with Bridge NSW

All substitutions must be requested in advance

Full Supplementary Regulations at:

<https://bridgensw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/ITS-2025-Regulations.pdf>

Revise and Improve your Competitive Bidding

with Will Jenner-O'Shea

1



Improve your knowledge of Overcalls & Doubles

2



How to respond to Overcalls and Doubles

3



Improve your competitive bidding judgement

4



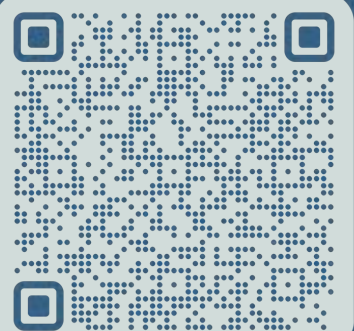
What you need to know about Matchpoint scoring

FRIDAY 9TH MAY 10AM - 3:30PM

\$60 per person

Incl Morning Tea, Lunch & Notes

- BOOK VIA WEBSITE OR SCAN QR CODE ->
- NO PARTNER REQUIRED
- 2B CARLYLE ROAD, EAST LINDFIELD



SCAN ME

Bridge on Board Italy & Croatia 11 night Cruise 07 Jul-18 Jul 2025

Join Helane K Tours's bridge on Board for the ultimate bridge holiday experience, where you can indulge in your passion for bridge while exploring breathtaking destinations alongside fellow bridge enthusiasts. Our tours offer the perfect blend of adventure and mental stimulation, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

07Jul2025	Ravenna, Italy	-	5:00 PM		Boarding
Tue 08Jul2025	Zadar, Croatia		8:00 AM	5:00 PM	Bridge
Wed 09Jul2025	Dubrovnik, Croatia		9:00 AM	7:00 PM	Docked
Thu 10Jul2025	Split, Croatia		8:00 AM	6:00 PM	Docked
Fri 11Jul2025	Kotor, Montenegro		8:00 AM	6:00 PM	Tendered
Sat 12Jul2025	Cruising		1.15 PM	4.30 PM	Bridge
Sun 13Jul2025	Sicily (Messina), Italy		8:00 AM	7:00 PM	Docked
Tue 15Jul2025	Cruising		1.15 PM	4.30 PM	Bridge
Wed 16Jul2025	Florence /Pisa , Italy		7:00 AM	-	Bridge
Thu 17Jul2025	Florence /pisa , Italy -			5:00 PM	Bridge
Fri 18Jul2025	Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy			5:00 AM	Depart.

\$2799.00 pp twin share. Includes all food , activities on board , duplicate bridge sessions and bridge work shops with a accredited ABF bridge director. Call 0404083913 for details.

For this itinerary bridge on port days will be held at 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm with a later dinner booked .

For a land tour and/or another cruise please contact us on 0404083913. Conditions apply subject to availability.

