



From the Chair: A cross-border collaboration

Hi everyone,

Growing the game we love is a team effort, both here in New South Wales and across the country. With this in mind, I am very pleased to announce a new collaboration with Bridge Victoria. Players from both states are invited to participate in the Victorian Online Pairs Championship (VOPC) in May, as well as the new four-week version of our Online Teams League (OTL) in June.

I plan to play in the VOPC myself and look forward to the challenge of competing against new pairs. I hope you will consider joining both events. You can [learn more about it here](#).

This partnership builds on the success of our fast-growing [Online Pairs League](#). We saw a record 160 players enter the recent summer season, with 30 percent joining from interstate. Entries for the Autumn season, which kicks off on 13 April, have already passed that number. Players are clearly enjoying the fast and fun league – just 12 boards, finished in a bit over an hour.

Another vital way to grow our game is by introducing it to younger players. Many of you have suggested bringing bridge into schools, and it is exciting to see the Central Coast Bridge Club doing exactly that. The inaugural Central Coast School Bridge Challenge encourages students under 18 to try bridge by partnering with a friend or relative – perhaps a bridge-playing parent or grandparent. We hope this initiative is a success and that it inspires other NSW clubs to consider similar youth programs. Learn more about it in the [Clubs section of the newsletter](#).

It is great to hear about the club selection events happening as part of the revamped [State Pairs and Teams Championships](#). The changes this year focus on inclusion. We have introduced qualifying events in home clubs followed by regional finals, new competition levels for developing players, and online finals that can be played from anywhere in the state. I encourage you to check with your local club to see if they are participating.

Finally, a quick reminder about our [Online Supervised Play](#) sessions held every Sunday afternoon. We have seen a strong response to these sessions, and a new series will begin on Sunday 3 May – centred on reinforcing the concepts learned in beginner lessons and aiming to support transition from lessons to confidence to play at their club.

We also need more helpers to ensure we can continue and grow the program. You don't need to be a formal teacher; friendly and experienced players are welcome. Even volunteering for one Sunday a month makes a difference. If you're interested, please [contact our education team](#).

Catherine Chaffey, Chair of Bridge NSW

People of Bridge



Profile: Marie Pickering,
Illawarra Bridge Association
(and Bridge NSW Clubs and Community Committee volunteer)

What first drew you to bridge, and what has kept you connected to the game over time?

I was third oldest in a family of 10 children, and we spent many hours playing card games. As I got closer to retirement, I was looking for a hobby that would keep me interested and help reduce the chance of getting dementia. Along came bridge – I found not only a stimulating game, but one where I am continually learning, meeting wonderful people, developing friendships and travelling to play in congresses around the country.

How would you describe the role that local clubs play in keeping the bridge community strong?

The role of a bridge club is of paramount importance. At its best, it is the epicentre for members to meet and foster relationships beyond the game. It is a safe, welcoming environment with no affiliations or private agendas – a place to learn, share ideas over a cuppa, and connect without judgement. It provides vital face-to-face interaction, creating a sense of wellbeing, camaraderie and belonging.

What makes a great bridge club experience for players?

Good communication goes a long way to running an effective club. Player expectations vary, so clubs need to deliver experiences that meet diverse needs. A great club combines a welcoming, social atmosphere with a well-organised, competitive and educational environment, ensuring players feel valued regardless of skill level. For newer players, it builds confidence and provides opportunities to learn and compete at an appropriate level. Recognising achievements is also important.

What motivates people to volunteer?

People volunteer for many reasons, including personal values, growth and social connection. I fell in love with bridge and wanted to share it through teaching. This has deepened my understanding of the game and given me lasting friendships. Volunteers continue when they feel their contribution is valued and makes a difference.



How does volunteering help strengthen both clubs and the broader community?

Most clubs rely on volunteers to deliver affordable sessions. Volunteering fosters teamwork, unites members and creates a “we are in this together” attitude. This benefits both individuals and the wider community.

What are the biggest opportunities right now to grow and support the game of bridge?

Engaging with the NSW Department of Education to introduce bridge in schools is a key opportunity. Bridge NSW can also support growth through subsidised holiday programs, continued club support initiatives such as webinars, the newsletter and statewide events.

Offering ‘taster’ sessions aligned with activities like NSW Seniors Week could also help grow the game. In 2025, I ran three ‘Taster’ sessions which were so successful, the players continued on to a 6-week beginner course.

For players who may not have volunteered before, what would you say to encourage them to get involved?

Volunteering doesn’t mean doing anything you’re uncomfortable with – clear guidance is provided. Most volunteers receive more than they give through social connection, skill development and community involvement. All contributions are valued, no matter how small and make a big difference to any organisation.

Looking ahead, what would you like to see for the future of bridge in NSW?

I would like to see Bridge NSW continue supporting clubs through education, resources and guidance – including teacher and director development. Encouraging youth

participation and supporting their development is essential. It is a joy watching new players’ excitement as their masterpoints accumulate and they move up the rankings. I would like to see continued recognition of the achievements of newer players. I would also like to see more statewide events and celebrating the success of players at those events.

Want to read more about people in our bridge community? Join our Facebook page

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

State Championships Club Selection Events underway

If your club is yet to schedule a Selection Event for either competition, **it's not too late.** Almost any regular duplicate session can be used as a club selection event.

For the State Pairs and Teams Championships 2026:

- **For pairs** – any duplicate pairs session scored using match points.
- **For teams** – any duplicate pairs or teams session scored using IMPs.

For the State Mixed Pairs Championship 2026 – any duplicate pairs session scored using match points.

State Pairs and Teams Championships 2026

The new format includes three categories (based on a player's experience level) and a simple path from Club Selection Events to Regional Finals, and finally, the State Finals. The new State Teams and Regional Finals replace the Country Teams element of the former State Open Teams. A Country Teams Champion is still selected at the State Final. This format is designed to increase player participation, provide a regional focus, and greater access to the State Finals by hosting both Pairs and Teams events online.

The new player categories will be particularly helpful to clubs with less experienced players – especially those with under 1000

masterpoints. There is now an opportunity for players at different skill levels to enter Regional and State Finals and compete within their relevant category level rather than in just one open category.

Clubs need to schedule their selection events in time to advise Bridge NSW of their representative pairs and teams by **Mon 31 August**, with regional and state finals to be held as follows:

- **Sat 26 and Sun 27 Sep** – Regional Finals
- **Fri 4 to Sun 6 Dec** – State Teams Final (online)
- **Mon 7 and Mon 14 Dec** – State Pairs Final (online)

Find out more [here](#) or email us [here](#).

State Mixed Pairs Championship 2026

The State Mixed Pairs Championship is following the same format as in recent years, beginning with Club Qualifying Events. There is some flexibility for clubs to hold qualifying events that aren't exclusively mixed pairs, providing they're in line with the supplementary regulations, which you can view [here](#).

Clubs need to hold their qualifying events in sufficient time to advise Bridge NSW of their representative pairs by **Mon 11 May**. The finals will take place at the Sydney Bridge Centre on **Sat 16 and Sun 17 May**.

Find out more [here](#) or email us [here](#).

NSW and Victoria collaborate to host top-level bridge online

The two largest bridge communities in Australia are coming together to offer a unique cross-border collaboration. By opening their flagship online events to each other, Bridge NSW and Bridge Victoria are creating a new opportunity for players seeking higher level competition.



Benefits to players

This new initiative creates the opportunity for players to compete against a larger field, including opposition you might not usually encounter in state events.

Larger fields mean more masterpoints for winners, which are graded at the state online championship level.

Players beyond NSW and Victoria are also welcome to play, as long as they have an ABF number.

How it works

Victorian Online Pairs Championship **Monday nights – 4, 11, 18, 25 May | 7:00pm**

For the first time, Bridge Victoria is collaborating with Bridge NSW and opening its premier Online Pairs Championship to NSW players. This four-week round-robin tournament is the pinnacle of Victoria's online pairs calendar.

Inviting additional pairs will strengthen the event, offering four weeks of quality bridge. All pairs are eligible to win the event, with recognition to the highest-placed Victorian pair.

Register for the VOPC via [MyABF here](#).

NSW Online Teams League – Season 2 **Monday nights – 1, 15, 22, 29 Jun | 7:00pm**

Bridge NSW will host a new 4-week version of its popular Online Teams League, specifically collaborating with Bridge Victoria and inviting their teams to join.

The league structure, featuring promotion and relegation each season, ensures that teams will be appropriately matched and face suitably strong competition every Monday night. All teams, from any state or in any combination, are eligible to win the event.

Register for the OTL via [MyABF here](#).

How Bridge NSW supports clubs and players

Each member of a bridge club pays an annual affiliation fee to Bridge NSW, which accounts for 80% of the income of the organisation. It is important to outline to clubs and players the programs and services that are being delivered – to demonstrate how member affiliation fees are used to foster a vibrant and inclusive bridge-playing community across New South Wales.

Supporting clubs – activities include convening Presidents' Days at clubs, hosting free webinars, providing materials to support club run beginner lessons and player retention.

Helping to insure and protect clubs – contributing to ABF procured policies that protect directors, club committee members, and injury or damage at club events.

Growing the Director pool – accrediting and developing directors through regular workshops and webinars and online materials.

Supporting masterpoints – supporting clubs to set up eligible masterpoint events, apply national regulations, process results and ensuring players receive their points

Fostering an active community – hosting the event calendar, connecting new players with clubs and lessons, providing resources to support clubs run congresses, to recruit and support directors and teachers.

Running state and large tournaments – running Interstate Team Selection events, State Championships, Sydney Spring

Nationals and supporting clubs to host other gold point events, congresses and state championships.

Running online tournaments – delivering Monday night Online Pairs and Online Teams Leagues and other online events that support development and encourage greater access for regional players.

Managing volunteers and staff – recruiting and organising community volunteers and employing a small number of part-time staff to support the volunteer community and help deliver strategic priorities

This is just a snapshot of Bridge NSW's activities to support clubs and players. Read more about the [benefits of club membership here](#).

Missed a webinar? Watch the recording

Four webinars have been held so far in 2026, and it is encouraging to see increasing attendance. If you weren't able to attend but are interested in the topic, recordings from the following webinars are available to view on the Bridge NSW website or YouTube channel:

- Running and masterpointing a multi-session event – March 2026
- Teach the Teacher #2 – March 2026
- How to recruit and develop club directors – Feb 2026

View these and other videos, as well as the list of upcoming [webinars here](#).

Event Results

Open ITS team results

After a weekend of high-level competition at the Open Interstate Team Selection final on Saturday, 7 March, we are pleased to announce the team that will represent NSW in Canberra this July at the Australian National Championship.

A big congratulations to the top three finishing pairs who have earned their place on the state team:

- **Nigel Rosendorff** and **Peter Buchen**
- **Michael Courtney** and **James Coutts**
- **David Wiltshire** and **Bruce Neill**

We wish our Open Team the very best of luck in Canberra.

Full results are [available here](#).

OPL Summer results

The summer season wrapped up in mid-March. A big congratulations to the top pairs across our five divisions:

Division 1

NS: Ted Griffin / Bruce Neill

EW: Ingrid Cooke / Jeff Fallon

Division 2

NS: Sachiko Cathcart / Hans Van Weeren

EW: Oleg Glushchenko / Elena Rohtchina

Division 3

NS: David Cumming / Steven Kemp

EW: Shannon Queree / Kathy Duke

Division 4

NS: Michael Jackson / Lucy D'ambrosio

EW: Rebecca Dorman / Rebecca Mackiggan

Division 5

NS: Stella Jansen / Bronwyn Shimmin-Clarke

EW: Cheryl Lloyd / Linda Butler

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

Women's ITS results

Congratulations to the top three finishing pairs in the Women's Interstate Team Selection event which was held on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 March:

- **Judy Mott** and **Cathryn Herden**
- **Nazife Bashar** and **Kinga Moses**
- **Sally Clarke** and **Sharon Mayo**

Full results are [available here](#).

Upcoming Events

9-12 April: Central West Festival of Bridge

This annual Gold Point event in Orange, includes open, intermediate, restricted and novice categories for both Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams. [Learn more here.](#)

13 Apr-1 June: OPL Autumn

A record number of players have already signed up. Join them by [registering](#) before Friday 10 April.

17 Apr: NSW Seniors' Interstate Team Selection

For players born before 1 Jan 1962, this is your chance to compete for the state representative team. [Register here.](#)

19 Apr: NSW Youth Interstate Team Selection

Youth players of all skill levels are encouraged to come along for a day of fun and friendly competition! [Register here.](#)

From 3 May: Online Supervised Play

Designed to support new and developing players, a new series gets underway from 3 May focussing on reinforcing concepts learnt in beginner lessons. [Learn more here.](#)

4-25 May: Victorian Online Pairs Championship

Join Victoria's premier online pairs championship as part of the new NSW/Vic collaboration. [Learn more here.](#)

5-19 May: Women's Pairs State Championship

Hosted on RealBridge by the Hunter Region Bridge Association, women pairs are encouraged to join this state championship event. [Register here.](#)

5-19 May: Veterans' Pairs State Championship

Hosted on RealBridge by the Hunter Region Bridge Association, veterans' pairs are encouraged to join this state championship event. [Register here.](#)

16-17 May: Mixed Pairs State Championship Finals

Successful pairs from the club qualifying events will come together for the Finals at the Sydney Bridge Club. [Learn more here.](#)

Club News

Profile: Peninsula Bridge Club

With Rob Scott, President



How long has the club been running and how did it first get started?

Peninsula is over 65 years old with the last 22 years at the Council's Nelson Heather community centre in Warriewood. The committee at the time raised funds and paid for an extension giving them long term security. For the past 2 years we have been at another council premises while the old building was demolished and a new community centre built, which we will be moving into early April.

How big is your club community and what sessions do you run?

We are a fairly big club with over 450 members and some 400 members playing bridge each week over 10 or 12 different sessions - some mornings, afternoons and evenings. On Sunday we run a variety of special events including our Congress.

Our Bridge Education group is highly committed to player retention through our beginner classes, Play & Practice sessions and

support to transition players into regular club play.

What makes your club special?

This is such an easy question to answer - our Volunteers! Every aspect of the club works because we have so many members who are able to assist in some way. We rely heavily on our wonderful directors and our dealers of session boards. The tournament committee plan out the year's activities and manage them throughout the year with our Congress being our main event.

What other activities do you run at your club?

We hold interclub events and at the end of most Honour Board and Shield events, we have nibbles & drinks while awaiting the results - always a nice social occasion. We conduct Charity Days where the club matches all 'donations' from the fun activities, a Melbourne Cup Day and a huge sold-out catered Christmas Party. Last year we donated \$6,000 to a local charity on the Northern Beaches, One Meal.



What's one memorable moment in your club's history?

The move into a temporary clubhouse in early 2023, was a wrench for our members

after some 22 years in a very familiar location. In July 2024, the Council had us move again into facilities next door, followed by our third move in a couple of years later in 2024.

What sticks out like a sore thumb to our committee is the amazing loyalty of our members. Our playing numbers barely changed and the willing help of members packing up and unpacking all the 'stuff' that a large club needs to operate efficiently. And now, we are about to do it all again!



What challenges or opportunities do you see ahead?

Again, a really easy question to answer. As soon as the club left Nelson Heather, the club started discussions with council on our return to the new centre. We appointed a small task-force to ensure the new facility would meet the needs of a bridge club.

We are now on the brink of relocating into a brand new multi-million building that will host us for the next 10 to 20 years! While we will need to finesse some aspects of our current operations in the new facility we are committed to delivering an enjoyable and sustainable environment in which to learn and play bridge.

Running our Congress on April 18 & 19th is certainly going to stretch the commitment of our volunteers, being so close to relocating, but we can do it! We encourage you to join us – you can book at [MyABF here](#).

Tweed Heads Bridge Club Open Day Draws Strong Community Response

By David Freilich, President

Tweed Heads Bridge Club recently held an Open Day aimed at introducing new players to bridge, and the response from the local community was extremely encouraging.



Like many clubs, we are conscious of the challenges of attracting new members, particularly beginners who may feel the game is complex or difficult to access. Our goal was simple: create a welcoming, hands-on environment where visitors could sit down, start playing, and learn by doing.

Approximately 30 visitors attended, with six tables dedicated to guided play and instruction. What stood out was the level of engagement. Visitors didn't just observe – they became fully involved, often remaining

at the table for extended periods, supported by club members explaining the basics as they went.

A combination of structured introductory material, including Paul's bridge basics booklet, and informal support from experienced players created a relaxed and effective learning environment. Club members played an important role in making visitors feel comfortable from the outset.

Strong support from members was a key factor in the day's success, creating a welcoming atmosphere and a shared sense of purpose. This collective approach made a noticeable difference to how the event ran.

The level of interest translated into immediate results, with around 10 attendees signing up for upcoming beginner lessons, and strong indications of further participation in sessions commencing on 21 March.

One of the most pleasing aspects was that virtually all visitors chose to stay, participate, and engage with the game, reinforcing that when bridge is presented in an accessible and social way, it has strong appeal to new audiences. The club is now looking to build on this momentum through its training program and ongoing initiatives.

We were also supported by local MP Geoff Provest, two councillors from Tweed Shire Council, Lachlan Kennedy from TBIB who came all the way from Towoomba, and Glenda from Bridge NSW who travelled from Armidale. Their contributions helped create a positive and welcoming atmosphere.



We are grateful to our members for their time and enthusiasm, and optimistic about the opportunities this creates for future growth.

Youth Storm Batemans!

By Mitch Dowling

Another March, another successful Batemans Bay! Huge thanks to organisers Stephen and Jenny Mendick, and directors Sebastian Yuen and Christy Geromboux, for their undying support of the youth and for putting on a fantastic event.

This year, we had an incredible turnout. Nearly 40 youth players from NSW and ACT flocked in to duke it out in the pairs and teams competitions. The atmosphere was amazing!



Huge turnout for the youth at Batemans Bay!

Amongst the youth in attendance were two players who'd only started learning the game about three weeks prior! I must admit that I was a little nervous but my fears were quickly put to rest when I saw how eager they were to get involved. And very well done to Dinh Thong Nguyen and Henry Newton for travelling with us from Sydney for over four hours just to give competitive bridge a crack. Hats off to you both!

While many youth players pick up the game in university, there are some who learn in high school. But how many do you know that learn bridge in primary school? There were three such players in our group this year! 11-year-old Alexander Wilkinson from Canberra, 10-year-old Jack Curtis from Mollismook, and 12-year-old Solcita Lu from Sydney. There was no shortage of energy and enthusiasm, that's for sure!

19-year-old Amelie von Bibra paired up with ex-youth Alan Stoneham in the teams and produced this gem:

Match 5, Board 16

Dealer W, EW Vul

♠ T6	♠ QJ74
♥ A82	♥ 95
♦ K954	♦ QJT87
♣ K975	♣ JT

♠ K985	♠ A32
♥ KQT3	♥ J764
♦ A2	♦ 63
♣ AQ8	♣ 6432

Amelie found herself declaring INT as West on this hand with the ♣5 as the opening lead and the jack winning the first trick. The ace and queen of clubs were played, north

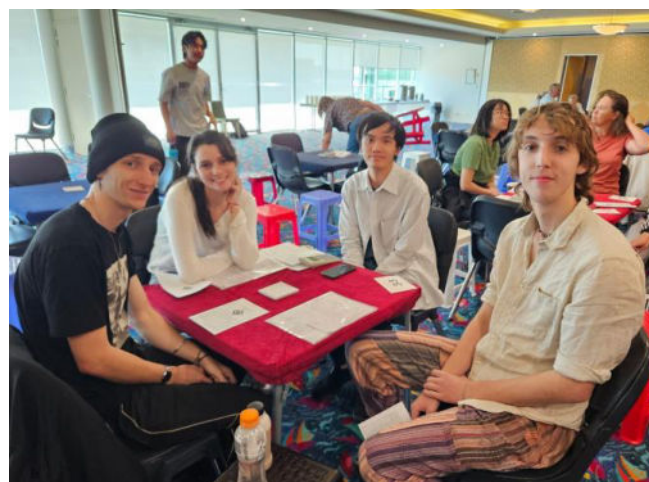
winning and cashing the fourth club with hearts discarded from both dummy and declarer. A passive spade exit was made to the ace and a spade continued whereupon Amelie cashed the spades leaving the position below:

	♠ A8	
	♦ K95	
	♣	

♠	♠
♥ KQT	♥
♦ A2	♦ QJT87
♣	♣

	♠
	♥ J764
	♦ 3
	♣

Currently the defence is at three tricks and declarer five. A diamond was played to the ace and the two to the king. North elected to underlead the ace of hearts to the king, but was then forced to be a stepping stone to dummy's good diamonds, totalling eight tricks for declarer. Unfortunately, the beer card was not preserved...



This youth team took out first place in the restricted!
L-R: Noah Klugman, Lydia Bodsworth, Duncan Lai, Soren Arthur

Central Coast Bridge Club celebrates Golden Anniversary



Central Coast Bridge Club held its Golden Anniversary Congress last weekend to celebrate 50 years since the inaugural Central Coast Bridge Club Congress was held at the Florida Inn, Terrigal.

It was a terrific turnout with players coming from many different clubs throughout NSW but the highlight had to be that four of the original players at that first Congress played and one was ranked among the winners!

Members of the club provided an amazing array of food, most of which was home cooked and feedback has been amazing! The newly renovated premises provided a great venue and the addition of noise cancelling panels proved very effective.



Inaugural Central Coast School Bridge Challenge

Central Coast Bridge Club, located at Long Jetty, is inviting local schools to enter a pair/pairs to compete in their Inaugural Central Coast Schools Bridge Challenge. This multi-generational event seeks to foster a relationship between youth, schools and the wider community, through the excellent mind-sport of Bridge.

A prize of \$500 will be awarded to the winning pair. A further \$500 will be donated toward their school's nominated fund-raising initiative. This could include a project of the P&C or Student Representative Council or assistance for a sports/dance/debating representative team, or disadvantaged student, for example.

**INAUGURAL CENTRAL COAST SCHOOLS
BRIDGE CHALLENGE**

free beginner lessons for
contestants

SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2026

win **\$500**
cash for YOU
AND **\$500**
for **your**
SCHOOL

PAIRS can be 2 students; student/teacher
student/parent; student/grandparent
Enter as many pairs as you like
Entries close Friday 5th June
Enquiries:
Sue Woodbury: 0409881770
Peter Greening: 0406810371
ccbridgeclub@gmail.com

Entry to the event is free and no experience is necessary. The club will host free beginner lessons for all competitors at the Long Jetty clubhouse during the April school holidays and the four Sundays leading into the event.

Additionally, Joan Butts, a renowned Bridge educator and elite international player is offering student competitors free access to her Online School of Bridge in the lead-up to the competition.

If you would like to learn more about the challenge, contact Central Coast Bridge Club [via email here](#).

Grafton Bridge Club's Annual Congress

By Denise Llewellyn Secretary

Grafton Bridge Club conducted our Annual StepBridge Congress on Saturday 21st March. We had a very successful Congress attracting 80 players who by all accounts thoroughly enjoyed their game of bridge. We would like to thank Tournament Director Alan Bustany and all participants for a great day of bridge. It was a wonderful competitive day and we would like to congratulate the following winners:

- **1st:** Bev Daniel & Michele Tredinnick
- **2nd:** Tim Davis & Florence Maltby
- **3rd:** Sachiko Cathcart & Hans Van Weeran

RESTRICTED

- 1st Ina Buhse & Heather Whitely
- 2nd Sue Mittermair & Julie-Ann Bradwyn

NOVICE

- 1st Tony Gam & Pamela Mathie

BEST GRAFTON PAIR

- Kerry Harding & Wendy Doyle

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!

You can also **share photos from your club and events** on our 'Game face', which is also on the homepage. We love to show pictures from all types of people from across the state. Simply go to the bottom of 'Game face' to find and click on the red upload button, or [click here](#).

Join our Facebook page!

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Directing

The Bridge NSW Directing Committee, under the leadership of John McIlrath, has been very active since its creation in mid-2024. Our community is very lucky that John came out of retirement as a director to lead this work.

The Committee is confronting the shortage of directors at all levels throughout NSW, with a particular focus on developing more congress, and ultimately, national directors.

In general, players don't need to understand the intricacies of director qualifications. We do hope to build player understanding of the importance of experienced congress directors, as well as those that direct gold point events, such as the Sydney Spring Nationals, who are masters of their craft.

But it all begins with Club Directors.

Recruiting and Developing Club Directors

The development of club-level directors is primarily a responsibility of clubs – and they don't need any specific qualifications for an ordinary Green Point event.

The Directing and Clubs & Community Committees hosted a [webinar in February](#) about recruiting and developing club directors. Bill Bleechmore from Mudgee and DaFarmer from Peninsula spoke about their club's success in director recruitment, and some relatively new directors also shared their observations.

From the webinar, a series of simple tips to help clubs were developed:

1. **Ask people directly** whether they would like to train as a director – this addresses their concerns about whether they are good enough.
2. **Mentoring is key** to recruitment and on-going development. The mentor could come from any club.
3. **Split the function into two:** Scoring (setting the movement, running the scoring program) and Directing (providing rulings following infractions).
4. **Hold monthly meetings** for directors to discuss rulings notes from past sessions.

Bill Bleechmore, who spoke at the webinar, has provided a set of useful notes he uses to guide new recruits through movements, the laws and scoring, and these are available under the 'Workshop and Workshop notes' section [here](#).

The Directing Committee looks forward to feedback from any club that decides to use these resources. We also want to hear from players and clubs on what more we can do to help develop top-quality directors in NSW. Contact us at [via email here](#).

Workshops Coming Up

So, You Want to be a Director – Thu 16 Apr
Tweed Heads Bridge Club. [Register here](#).

Build Your Skills – Fri 17 Apr
Ballina Bridge Club. [Register here](#).

Teaching & Education

My Favourite Sunday

By Steve English, Education Committee Chair

Wake up to the gentle sounds of *Bridge over Troubled Waters*

Pick up David Bird's *Bridge over Troubled Waters* bridge book and put it back down.

Off to brunch for a Diamond Fizz.

At last, **Online Supervised Play** 4pm on RealBridge.

Finally, series 5 of *Bridgerton*

Or maybe a bridge too far...

Online Supervised Play

There will be no sessions on Easter Sunday April 5th or 26th (Anzac weekend). On 3rd May we will launch a new series focussing on reinforcing concepts learnt in beginner lessons:

- 3 May - Declarer Play in NT
- 10 May - Declarer Play in Suits
- 17 May - Responding to a 1 major opening
- 24 May - Responding to a 1 minor opening
- 31 May - Forcing or not forcing
- 7 June - Overcalls

Who should join?

- Players who've recently completed beginner lessons. Come on your own, better as a pair and best as a club table of four
- Clubs - if your teacher is exhausted after beginner lessons then have an experienced player from your club help supervise a club table. Or just sign up for a club table and let our helpers give advice to your students. [Click here to reserve a table.](#)
- Players who can't make club sessions but want to stay involved. These are run on RealBridge so you can see and hear all the players at your table - it's fun & rewarding.

You can [find our more here](#) and join each week by clicking the relevant date under '**2026 sessions**'. Hand records and notes accompany each season.

Are you an experienced player who can help out? We are restricted on what we can offer by the number of helpers we can get. If you are a friendly, reasonably experienced player and willing to help out, even just once a month, please [get in touch here](#).

Player Development

Kate's Way #8

"SAY IT NOW."

When you have something to say, say it now while you can - before you lose the opportunity. If you wait until later there may not be a later.

This principle was only just "created" in 2025, specifically to apply to Red vs. White preempts (although it will certainly have wider application). Up until recently, we've been following stringent requirements regarding loser-count and suit-quality for our Red vs. White preempts, but this strategy hasn't been working out all that well. While it's undoubtedly true that aggressive unfavorable preempts will occasionally lose in a big way, there are many times where the preempt works out well. The latter may be far more numerous. I won't know for sure for a while... It's in the testing phase. To see how well it works out we've adopted a looser approach, based on some apparent "facts."

- The dreaded disaster is infrequent
- Preempts are hard on the opponents
- Recent findings show that the side which initiates the bidding wins twice as many IMPs.

The requirements will undoubtedly be adjusted as we acquire more experience.

I come from the old Culbertson school of preempts: 60 years ago, in my early days of tournament bridge, a preempt was expected to be 2, 3 or 4 tricks away from your bid, depending upon the vulnerability. (2 at

unfavorable, 3 at equal vulnerability, 4 at favorable) The theory was that you should expect a trick from partner. So, if a favorable preempt is 4 tricks away from what you bid, a trick from partner would result in -500, 3 down against their vulnerable game. A good score.

Times have changed - and so have I. Bridge players know that the preemptive value is more important than avoiding the occasional disaster. For many, many years I have been a super-aggressive preemptor, and the results support that decision. But still, I clung fiercely to one last remnant of Culbertson: a six-loser hand and a good suit at the 2-level, unfavorable. It was difficult to let go of it. I held on for a long time, thinking maybe I should let it go.

And then came Pula.

In September of 2025, playing with my husband in the Pula International Bridge Festival, I held AQTxxx x xxx xxx, in first seat, Unfavorable. With 8 ½ losers I passed, in fear of the dreaded -800. I wasn't a bit happy about it - with that good suit, I wanted to say something - but rules are rules.

It didn't go well for us. Our opponents bid to 6H, making and we didn't find the cheap save in 6S.

My partner held KJxxx xx AKJxxx --. He heard 3H and overcalled 4D showing diamonds and 4+ spades. I happily bid 4S over 4H. And he competed to 5S over 5H. But we subsided and 6H made comfortably.

At the other table my counterpart had no vulnerability fears. (He was in his 20's and had probably never heard of Mr. Culbertson.) He opened 2S and the bidding was quick: 2S-3H-6S-Dbl.

The "save" made 12 tricks. We were -980 and our teammates were -1660! Minus 21 IMPs! And that was the death of Culbertson preempts.

Nowadays, if I have something to say, I "Say It Now!"

Monthly bidding contest

By Philip Glover

Another month, another chance to shine brightly. Appreciation to Marc Smith and RealBridge for permission to use the material.

You too, can join the monthly bidding competition at RealBridge. It is not only fun, but competitors improve their bidding judgement. [Find out more here.](#)

This month the hand is hand 8 taken from the February 2025 set.

Both Vul. Dealer South.	West	North	East	South
Matchpoints.				1♦
♠ A Q 10 5	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
♥ A Q J 9 7 2	?			
♦ 5				
♣ 7 3				

Judgement issues

- Can partner have 4 spades?
- What is the strength range of the 1NT bid?

- How many hearts is partner likely to hold?
- How to make an invitational bid for game?
- Is game likely?

Given that you have sorted out those issues, now it is your turn to bid. Make your bid and compare it with the expert panel. Trust that you did well.

ACTION	MARKS	PANEL VOTES	Competitors' Entries (%)
2♠	10	16	25
2♦	7	5	3
3♥	6	2	16
2♥	4	0	45
4♥	2	0	6
2NT	2	0	1
Pass	0	0	2
3♠	0	0	1
3NT	0	0	1

The 45% of the competitors opting for 2H, are at odds with the experts

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.



State Championships 2026

State Pairs and Teams Championships

Feb until Mon 31 Aug - Club Selection Events | In-person or Online

Sat 26 and Sun 27 Sep - Regional Finals | In-person

Fri 4 to Sun 6 Dec - State Teams Final | Online

Mon 7 and Mon 14 Dec - State Pairs Final | Online

State Mixed Pairs Championship

Feb until Mon 11 May - Club Selection Events | In-person or Online

Sat 16 & Sun 17 May - State Finals | In-person



Learn more at:

**[bridgensw.com.au/
state-championships](https://bridgensw.com.au/state-championships)**

Get in touch:

State Pairs and Teams: ✉ state.champs@bridgensw.com.au

State Mixed Pairs: ✉ smp@bridgensw.com.au

KIESEER



Swiss Pairs

INTERMEDIATE

and

OPEN SECTIONS

- At East Lindfield
- Starts 10am
- \$55 per person (incl lunch)





Let's team up!

The SBC Easter Monday Swiss Teams

Monday 6th April 2026, 10am start

at the SBC clubroom on Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Sydney

Entry fee: \$70 per player (refreshment & lunch included)

RED Masterpoints

Programmes

Play commences at 10.00am sharp on Monday 6th April for two sessions: three matches in the morning, break for lunch, then another three matches in the afternoon. Please form a team with 4 players. [Entry in advance on MyABF](#) required.

Separate fields for Open and Novice & Restricted teams. Prize money will depend on the number of entries.

For Restricted Teams, each player must have fewer than 300 masterpoints as at 1st January 2026, For Novice Teams, each player must have fewer than 100 masterpoints as at 1st January 2026.

Easter themed refreshment throughout the day! A delicious light lunch included. Please indicate your dietary restriction when enter.

Conduct under the auspices of Bridge NSW. All players are subject to the BNSW's Congress Disciplinary Regulations and Rules for Congresses. The congress qualifies for the issue of Red Masterpoints at level B4.

No yellow system allowed.

Partnerships are encouraged to have a system card that includes the real names of the players. Pairs without a system card may find themselves at a disadvantage in respect to misinformation rulings.

Organiser: Wing Roberts

Phone: (02) 9264 6884 / 0487 350 160

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

Beginners Introductory Course By Armidale Bridge Club

Love to have fun? Love a challenge? Want to meet new friends? Improve your brain power? Do you like card games?

Then bridge may be for you. . .



When:

Weekly Monday nights 7-9pm
Starting 13th April, 2026

Where:

ABC clubhouse: 12 Rockvale Road, Armidale

Cost:

\$60 per person includes 8 scheduled lessons, textbook, snacks, drinks, and membership of the Armidale Bridge Club for the following year.

Interested? Want more information?

Contact:

Ian Price

Mobile: 0432 153 294

Email: priceshdc@gmail.com

Bridge

The world's most popular mind sport

Bridge is a game played with a 52-card deck by four people. Players bid to a contract and then play the cards to make that contract. It involves strategy, deduction, concentration, and visualisation.

Play bridge for your health and happiness:

- Meaningful social interaction
- Maintain mental sharpness
- Make new friends
- A game you can play into your senior years

“Many games provide fun, but bridge grips you”

~Martina Navratilova~



Online Pairs League - Autumn 2026

 Mondays 7:30pm–9pm, 13 Apr – 1 Jun

 Online with RealBridge

 \$50 per player (discounts on offer)



Take your game to the next level against players from NSW and Victoria. Divisions for all levels!

- ♥ One 12-board match each Monday night for eight weeks
- ♥ Play in a division with players of similar skill, friendly round robin format
- ♥ Earn RED masterpoints
- ♥ \$25 refund for Youth and players with <100 MPs, \$10 refund for players with 100–300 MPs
- ♥ Substitutions allowed up to 3 matches



[Enter via MyABF](#)

Entries close 8pm – Friday 10 April



Northern Rivers Bridge Directors' Workshops



Learn. Develop. Direct with Confidence.

“So, You Want to be a Director” - Introductory Workshop

Thursday 16 April 2026 | 10am – 4pm | Tweed Heads Bridge Club

Topics Covered:

- Attitude
- Responsibilities
- Etiquette
- **Laws** – *revoke, lead out of turn, insufficient bid, claims, comparable calls, card played*

“Build Your Skills” - Intermediate Workshop

Friday 17 April 2026 | 10am – 4pm | Ballina Bridge Club

Topics Covered:

- Adjustments
- Decision-Making
- Table Presence
- Deportment
- Movements
- **Laws** – *misinformation, unauthorised information, dummy's rights, others*

Cost: \$20 per workshop
(includes lunch & refreshments)

Entries: via MyABF

Enquiries:

Marjorie Askew – Ballina
marjorie.askew@gmail.com
0459 023 907

Andy Braithwaite – Tweed
tweedbridgeclub@gmail.com
0402 534 305

Hosted by:

John McIlrath

National Director and Chair of Directing
Committee Bridge NSW





Half Day Education Seminar
Forcing or Not? Limited or Not?
With Ian Lisle
Friday April 17th, 9.30am–12.30pm
@Goulburn Street

A question one often asks oneself in an auction and just as often, one answers the question wrongly. When is partner's bid forcing? What is their range?

We will look at these questions in relation to uncontested and contested auctions.

If you have been playing in Supervised and thinking about moving to Open or want to brush up in your foundational bridge skills, this seminar is for you!



You do not need a partner. Please book online on www.sydneybridgecentre.com, or contact the office – Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street. office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au or 9264 6884
Costs: \$35 for Members, \$40 for Non-Members.



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:

Friday 17th April, 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Wednesday 22nd April, 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills
parking available



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



Ballina Bridge Club Swiss Pairs Congress April 18 & 19, 2026



Play starts: Saturday 10am, Sunday 9.30am

Cash prizes in masterpoint divisions

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA
Red Masterpoints at B4 Level

Cross Imps Scoring
Green, Blue & Red Systems only

Cost: \$120 per Player, \$240 per Pair

All entries via MyABF

Entries close 6pm Saturday April 11

Tournament Director

John McIlrath*

Event Organiser

Marjorie Askew

Tel: 0459 023 907 e: marjorie.askew@gmail.com

All players are subject to the BNSW's Congress Disciplinary Regulations.

Ballina Bridge Club

13, North Creek Road, Ballina

Website: <https://ballinabridge.org.au>

***John McIlrath will be presenting Northern Rivers Directors Workshops on Thursday 16 April at Tweed BC, and Friday 17 April at Ballina BC. Check these out, and sign up, on MyABF.**



Peninsula Bridge Club
4 Jacksons Rd
Warriewood

Peninsula  Special  Congress
Saturday 18th April - Swiss Pairs
Sunday 19th April - Teams

- Director – Peter Hume.
- Enquiries to the Convener - Vivien Eldridge–0407 206 105,
- Entry PER EVENT - \$55 per person
- Includes morning tea, lunch and anytime tea and coffee plus wine/beer at the end of the day.
- Enter on MYABF.
- Masterpoints are as at 1st April 2026 and are PER PLAYER.
- Prize money may be adjusted commensurate with entries in each section.



Saturday Pairs Congress

- **OPEN – SWISS PAIRS**
 - 2 Sessions.
 - No yellow systems permitted
 - Prizes – 1st \$200, 2nd \$100.
- **RESTRICTED/NOVICE - SWISS PAIRS**
 - Under 300mps / Under 100mps
 - 2 Sessions.
 - Green and Red systems only
 - PRIZES – 1st Restricted \$100
1st Novice \$100.



Sunday Teams Congress

- **OPEN**
 - 2 Sessions.
 - No yellow systems permitted
 - PRIZES – 1st \$400, 2nd \$200.
- **RESTRICTED/NOVICE**
 - Under 300mps /Under 100mps
 - 2 Sessions.
 - Green and Red systems only
 - PRIZES – 1st \$200, 2nd \$100.
 - PRIZES – 1st Novice \$100.

Parking is available in the car park and in Boondah Rd. The B1 B-line and 199 bus stop is across the road.

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

WILL JENNER-O'SHEA

WORKSHOP

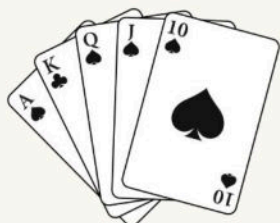
SLAM HANDS & BIDDING

JACOBY 2NT RAISE

Find out about shape at a low level, learn about the responses to the bid.

HAND EVALUATION

How to evaluate shape, length, fits, voids and why.



MAKING YOUR SLAM

Interesting Play Hands for Slam and how to make or defend them.

CONTROL BIDS FOR KINGS

How to show what kings you have in both hands.

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 10AM – 3PM

NSBC @ East Lindfield
\$60pp (incl morning tea and lunch)
Visitors are very welcome
Booking essential
Bookings via website

SCAN



BATHURST BRIDGE CLUB - 2026 CONGRESS

May 2nd & 3rd

BridgeNSW/approved/event



Director - Ronnie Ng - Convenor - Alan Sims 0435 976 545

Saturday - Swiss Pairs - 9.30 for 10am start - Tables 28 (max)

Prizes: Open 1st \$300 2nd \$200 3rd Gift

Restricted (under 300mp) 1st \$200 2nd \$100

Novice (under 100mp) 1st \$100 2nd \$50

Best Local Gift

Sunday - Swiss Teams - 9.00 for 9.30 start - Tables 28 (max)

Prizes: Open 1st \$400 2nd \$200 3rd Gift

Restricted (under 300mp) 1st \$200 2nd \$100

Novice (under 100mp) 1st \$100 2nd Gift

Best Local Gift

Cost - \$55 per player per day - Light lunch, morning/afternoon tea included

Please provide any dietary requirements

Entries and Payments - through [MyABE](#) Closing 25th April

Prizes may change depending to the number of entries

A NSW and Victoria Collaboration



Victorian Online Pairs Championship 2026

Hosted by Bridge Victoria

Starts 4 May



Monday nights - 4, 11, 18, 25 May



7.30pm start time



Online via Real Bridge



NSW Online Teams League Autumn 2026

Hosted by Bridge NSW

Starts 1 June



Monday nights - 1, 15, 22, 29 Jun



7.30pm start time

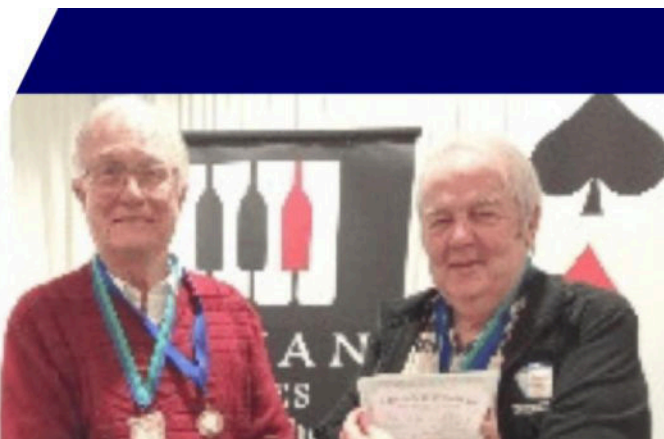


Online via Real Bridge

- ✓ A new era of collaboration between Australia's two largest states
- ✓ Stronger and larger fields of competitors in each event
- ✓ Online State Championship level masterpoints on offer
- ✓ A great opportunity to challenge yourself against top competition

[Register here for Vic event](#)

[Register here for NSW event](#)



State Veterans' Pairs Championship 2026

 1:30pm Tuesdays, 5-19 May

 Online via RealBridge

 \$35 per player



Have you got what it takes to beat the best in NSW? Win prize money for a top four placing!

- ♠ Players must be born before 1 January 1952.
- ♠ Across three Tuesday afternoons:
5 May, 12 May, 19 May
- ♠ Scoring will be matchpoint pairs with RED masterpoints weighted at 3.75
- ♠ Hosted by Hunter Region Bridge Association (HRBA)


[Register here:](https://myabf.com.au)
myabf.com.au

**Entries close Thursday
30 April**

Organiser: John McIlrath

 john@johnmcilrath.com.au

 0437 274 343



State Women's Pairs Championship 2026

 7pm Tuesdays, 5-19 May

 Online via RealBridge

 \$35 per player



Have you got what it takes to beat the best in NSW? Win prize money for a top four placing!


- ♠ Entrants must be current active members of the ABF Masterpoint Centre
- ♠ Across three Tuesday evenings: 5 May, 12 May, 19 May
- ♠ Scoring will be matchpoint pairs with RED masterpoints weighted at 3.75
- ♠ Hosted by Hunter Region Bridge Association (HRBA)


[Register here:](https://myabf.com.au)
myabf.com.au

**Entries close Thursday
30 April**

Organiser: John McIlrath

 john@johnmcilrath.com.au

 0437 274 343



Learnto 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 Wednesday Afternoons @ City

May 6th June 10, 2.00pm – 4.30pm

City, Level 1, 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills
Parking Available

6 Friday Afternoons @ City

May 8th – June 12th, 2.00pm – 4.30pm

City, Level 1, 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills
Parking Available



\$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 Supervised sessions in either City or Polish Club Ashfield once completed the course. To enrol in this course, or for more information, please call office on (02) 9264 6884 or email at office@SydneyBridgeClub.org.au.

INTRODUCTION TO BRIDGE

FACE TO FACE LESSONS

- Course starts Wednesday 20th May,
- Book your place at www.learnbridgeinsydney.com.au
- 2 hour lessons held at The Willis Recreation Centre.
- 2 hour Supervices weekly practice sessions available
- Course notes for you to revise.
- No partner needed, just give it a go!
- Free tea and coffee

Only
\$150

6 week
course

2hr lessons
full of fun
and a
workout for
your brain

If you enjoy learning the game, further lessons and play will be available in the same time slot following on from the course.

WHAT OUR PAST PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID....

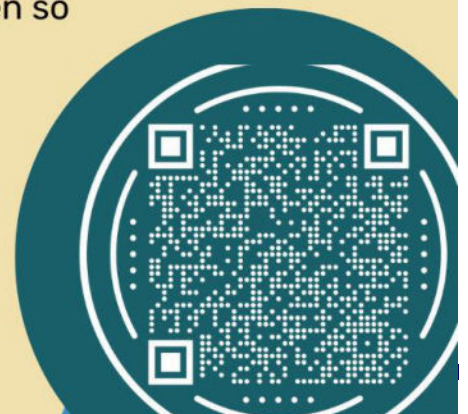
"Thank you for being such a good teacher, you have made the lessons so interesting and entertaining, it has all made sense."

"I have very much enjoyed these classes and I have been so impressed with the professionalism and supportive, welcoming culture."

"The course and our teacher, Liz were amazing!! It was a great first step into the world of bridge"

"This 6 week course is exceptional"

"I have played with some lovely people, we have lots of laughs and real catch-ups over a coffee."





**Cancer
Council**

BIGGEST
Morning
TEA



EAST LINDFIELD

@ 9:45AM





MAITLAND BRIDGE CLUB

2026 CONGRESS

SWISS PAIRS

Sunday 24 May 2026

Registration 9.30am for 10am start
Walka Grange Lifestyle Village
28 Waterworks Road, Rutherford

1st prize \$300

2nd prize \$160, & 3rd prize \$120
Novice \$120, Restricted \$120, Local \$120

*Only one prize will be awarded per pair

Entry: \$60 per person

Includes:

Morning tea

Lunch including a wine, beer or soft drink
Please advise any dietary requirements

Enter online via MyABF

and pay with ABF credits or by direct deposit to: Maitland Bridge Club

BSB: 062-813; Account: 10361999 - include your name & ABF number

Entries close 17 May 2026

Director: Alan Bustany

Convenor: Kaye Frankland-phone 0411 704 502

President: Ruth Perris-phone 0412 424 886

maitland@bridgewebsemail.com

Conducted under the auspices of Bridge NSW

All players are subject to Bridge NSW Congress Disciplinary Regulations

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

Sponsored by



INAUGURAL CENTRAL COAST SCHOOLS **BRIDGE CHALLENGE**

free beginner lessons for
contestants

SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2026

win **\$500**
cash for YOU
AND **\$500**
for your
SCHOOL

PAIRS can be 2 students; student/teacher
student/parent; student/grandparent
Enter as many pairs as you like
Entries close Friday 5th June
Enquiries:
Sue Woodbury: 0409881770
Peter Greening: 0406810371
ccbridgeclub@gmail.com





GREAT BARRIER REEF CRUISE

with Will Jenner-O'Shea

9-19 November 2026

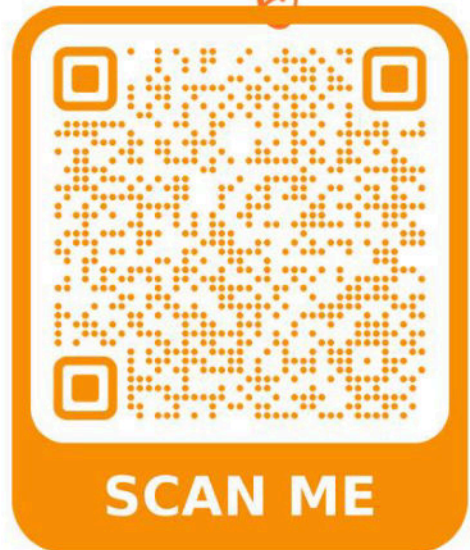
Sydney to Sydney

EXPERIENCE BRIDGE

like

NEVER BEFORE

SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT
MORE AND BOOK



Bridge Today on Bridge Base Online



Details:

- 1** **Monday to Saturday** afternoons at **1.30pm** (Australian Eastern Daylight Time)
- 2** Each session is **24 boards** and the cost is just **4 BB\$** (US\$4) per session!
- 3** Ten minutes before the start of every online session you will see the **Tip of the Day** with bidding and play advice from Australian Champion players **John Roberts** and **Matthew Thomson**.



Please add your name to our playing list by registering at our website www.bridgetoday.com.au or by clicking here - [Online Bridge - Bridge Today](#).

www.bridgetoday.com.au

admin@bridgeaway.com.au

(02) 9979 9099