

Bridging NSW



Editor: bridging@bridgensw.com.au

March 2026



From the Chair: Building our community, together

Hi everyone,

As we enter our second year as Bridge NSW, I want to be clear about the value we provide the NSW bridge community. I encourage you to [read our article](#) which outlines the services we offer to support the growth and development of a thriving bridge community in NSW.

Our services include things like:

- player development resources, such as beginner lesson plans;
- online supervised play sessions, which are especially helpful for smaller and medium clubs;
- the coordination of an annual events calendar and organising a range of events for both newer and more experienced competition players; and
- state championships and state representative events.

That's just a snapshot – I encourage you to [read our article](#) to better understand what we're doing for our clubs and community.

Our [annual election cycle](#) has begun for the Bridge NSW Council. The Council is the direct voice of the clubs to our Board. You don't need any special skills or experience to be considered – we seek passionate people who want to see our community thrive. Nominations are open until 6 March, with a two-year term beginning at our AGM on 12 May.

I am also pleased to announce some key personnel updates. Jake Andrew will step into a part-time Executive Director role while remaining a volunteer Board member. Jake will drive necessary change and oversee the delivery of our initiatives. He is supported by Anthony Smeaton, who leads our communications, Mitch Dowling, who continues as our Executive Officer and primary point of contact for clubs, and Christine Evans our accountant. All these roles are part-time, a couple just a day, or a day and a half a week, but this is a great, diverse team with the best skills to support our NSW community.

Our various volunteer committees will continue their important work in 2026, and I am pleased to welcome Frank Hardiman in a key role as the new Chair of the Events Committee. If you would like to be more involved in the work of a committee we encourage you to [register your interest here](#).

We are building a peak body that is visible and impactful. As the year progresses, we are eager to explore how clubs and players can be active partners in delivering our growth agenda.

Catherine Chaffey, Chair of Bridge NSW

People of Bridge

Profile: Meet Donelle Foate, Brisbane Waters Bridge Club



Q: How did you come to play bridge?

My parents played, and I met a couple who played when I moved from NZ to Lae, Papua New Guinea, so they got me going. There was no TV back then, so the cards came out. That was the first time I actually played in a club (back in 1971!)

Q: Do you come from a card-playing family?

Yes, I grew up playing every possible game of cards. My mother was from a farming family and it was a time before television so playing cards was home entertainment.

Q: How did you find the learning experience?

I don't remember having lessons – except across the table and later reading books. I probably played terrible bridge until I actually started teaching it, whereupon it started

to make much more sense and I think I improved!

Q: What do you enjoy most about the game?

I enjoy the competitiveness and challenges in each game because everyone is different, but also seeing all the lovely, interesting people in the club each week.

Q: Do you have a favourite bridge memory?

I can remember some terrible results in different competitions over the past 50 years – I don't think I would call them favourites though. I have played with some lovely partners over the years.

Q: What club are you a member of, and how involved are you?

I have been on the Central Coast, NSW playing at Brisbane Water BC for the past two years and am on the committee this year. I tend to end up doing the catering which I particularly enjoy!

Q: What makes a good bridge club?

I think the people are what make a good club – being friendly, helpful and welcoming to new players particularly. My club is very sociable – we enjoy drinks together after playing in the afternoons and celebrate birthdays by dining together which is great fun.

Q: What advice would you give to someone considering trying bridge?

Go do it – you will find your own level and meet lots of nice people while keeping your

brain turning over. Try out a few partners before committing to one! It's like being in a marriage sometimes and hard to get out!!

Q: What helps people to learn bridge?

A good patient teacher and friendly people to play with, which makes a happy atmosphere.

Q: How do you like to spend your time when you're not playing bridge?

I like cooking, baking and gardening but only have a tiny patch now - so I have more time for bridge! I am fortunate that I can bake, and bridge club members enjoy eating!

Q: What is something people at the bridge table might be surprised to learn about you?

I have a 38-year-old grandson plus five other very smart younger grandchildren! Also, my ex and I planted a vineyard in Fordwich, in the Hunter Valley back in 1986 - hence I have a great interest in wine!

Q: Are there any skills or interests outside of bridge that you think have helped your game?

I played golf and tennis for 50 years, which seems to fit in with playing bridge. I first taught bridge to golf members who wanted to learn.

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:



Online Supervised Play – Supporting the transition from lessons to club play

Supervised sessions for new and developing players are usually best run face-to-face; that's not always practical for all players and clubs.

[Online Supervised Play](#) has been developed by Bridge NSW to fill this learning gap and ensure new players are supported at a critical point in their learning journey – **moving from beginner lessons to regular club play**. For many players, this step can feel daunting as they begin to compete against more experienced players. These sessions are designed to support that transition.

Sessions are run online every Sunday from 4.00 to 5.30pm and it is very easy to join on the RealBridge platform.

This gives beginners and developing players the chance to practice in a supportive environment, without time pressure, by playing set hands to learn more about bidding and card play. Sessions are supervised by teachers and experienced players who are available throughout to answer questions and explain concepts.

Each session covers a standalone topic, so players can join at any point without having attended earlier lessons.

Supporting clubs and strengthening retention

This program is intended to complement club teaching and beginner programs. Bridge NSW's goal is to help clubs retain the players they work hard to recruit and teach. We aim to build players' confidence and prepare them for regular club sessions so they have a better initial experience of open club play. Ultimately this should support clubs to grow their regular players.

This service is ideal for smaller and medium-size clubs who do not have sufficient new players to host separate sessions for recent beginners.

We encourage all clubs to promote Online Supervised Play to:

- Recent graduates of beginner lessons – continued play and practice, ideally twice a week, is helpful for new players.
- Inexperienced players who are still finding their feet – it's a great way to build confidence.
- Returning players looking to refresh their skills after a break.
- Teachers who want to learn about the RealBridge platform and how it can be used to support their teaching.

Individual clubs can run their own table (e.g. 4 players), ideally with a helper from their own club. We highly recommend this approach as teachers can build direct relationships with their own players, and can provide continuity in teaching messages to their players.

How does it work?

Players can join Online Supervised Play on RealBridge. A partner is not required. Participants will need a computer, laptop or tablet with a camera, microphone and speakers (smartphones are not supported). No software is needed.

During each session, players are matched with others of a similar standard and play set hands related to the week's topic. Supervisors are present throughout the session to answer questions and provide guidance on bidding and card play as each hand progresses.

Online Supervised Play is a **free initiative** offered by Bridge NSW to clubs, teachers and players as part of our broader commitment to growing our bridge community and helping the game thrive. Players from across Australia are welcome to join.

To find out more, including links to join each session, visit bridgensw.com.au/play-online. The page also includes resources such as theme notes and hand analyses from previous sessions – ideal for players who want to reinforce their learning and continue improving between sessions.

Call for council nominations

Clubs are invited to nominate and vote for the Bridge NSW Council.

The Council represents 140 member clubs and over 11,000 players across the state. It also appoints Board members, approves by-laws and has general oversight powers.

The Council meets at least once a year, and holds informal discussions throughout the

year. 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.

Key election dates

- **13 February to 6 March:** Nominations open
- **6–20 March:** Review period
- **1–24 April:** Voting
- **12 May:** Confirmation of Council at Bridge NSW's AGM

To nominate someone from your club, [visit this page](#) and download the nomination form.

Remember, nominations close **Friday, 6 March 2026**.

Please email completed nomination forms to returning.officer@bridgensw.com.au.

Presidents' Days held in Mid North Coast and Hunter and Central Coast

Bridge NSW's Club and Community Committee Chair Glenda Parmenter made two stops in February to host the tenth and eleventh gatherings in Bridge NSW's Presidents' Day series.

Mid North Coast Presidents' Day

The Coffs Harbour Bridge Club played host to ten representatives from local mid north coast clubs, Coffs Harbour, Urunga,

Nambucca Valley, Port Macquarie Hastings and Port Macquarie.

Glenda Parmenter presented on various Bridge NSW strategies and initiatives to support clubs and grow the game in the state. Participants enjoyed learning about these and the range of resources and supports available to clubs. They also discussed collaboration with local clubs; particularly concerning Bridge education. John McIlrath, the Chair of the Directing Committee, attended via Zoom and led a vibrant discussion about Bridge Directing strategies and supports.

Hunter and Central Coast Presidents' Day

Twenty-eight club representatives came together at the Maitland Bridge Club for a Presidents' Day. Participating clubs included Newcastle, Tomaree, Scone, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Maitland, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Charlestown, Belmont, Toronto, Southlakes, Community Bateau Bay, Central Coast Leagues and Brisbane Waters.



Following a presentation of Bridge NSW initiatives and club support resources, participants enjoyed a wide ranging and lively discussion on Bridge education and club management. Communication and collaboration between clubs took place, with

many ideas from the participants. The Chair of the Directing Committee, John McIlrath attended in person and his presentation on Directing was well received.

Bridge NSW thanks both the Coffs Harbour Bridge Club and the Maitland Bridge Club for graciously hosting these important community events.

Director's workshop at Toronto Bridge Club

From Ros Nicholson, Treasurer

In early February, the Toronto Bridge Club hosted a highly successful Director's Workshop in the picturesque surrounds of Lake Macquarie, Newcastle.



The workshop did not disappoint, thanks in large part to the expertise, professionalism and passion of John McIlrath. His experience and calm, inclusive teaching style ensured a diverse group of participants, ranging from brand new directors to seasoned veterans, walked away with valuable insights and practical skills.

With a large and varied group of 48 participants, a special mention goes to the Toronto Bridge Club volunteers who made the day run smoothly. Participants were treated to a delicious morning tea and lunch, all

provided by the club members, which contributed greatly to the welcoming atmosphere that characterised the event.



The Club has since received follow-up emails from attendees, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to learn and to connect with fellow bridge enthusiasts from across the region.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to making the day such a resounding success. The combination of expert instruction and enthusiastic participation ensured that the day was both enjoyable and educational.

Don't want to miss the next Director's workshop? Join our Facebook page

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:



Events

2026 Interstate Team Selection underway

The Interstate Team Selection (ITS) process for NSW's four representative teams is underway. Stage one qualifying for the Open team took place on Sat 21 and Sun 22 February. The top 7 pairs from each direction have now qualified for stage 2, to be held on Sat 7 and Sun 8 March. [View the results here.](#)

There are still great opportunities for players eligible for three other representative teams – Women's, Seniors and Youth – to join the qualifying process.

The four representative teams will compete at the Australian National Championships, to be held in Canberra from 4–10 July.

The ITS is about more than just state representation. The events also provide a valuable opportunity for players eager to improve their game. The selection process gives players the chance to test their skills in a high-level competitive environment and learn by competing against NSW's leading players.

For more information on team selection and the dates of qualifying events for the women's, seniors and youth team, [click here.](#)

Record numbers join Online Pairs League Summer season

A record number of 80 pairs is currently competing in the Summer season of the **Online Pairs League** (OPL) including growing participation from other states and

territories. Pairs from the ACT, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania are enjoying a fantastic season, which is entering its final weeks.

You can find out more about how this season is unfolding by reading prolific bridge author and expert, Derrick Browne's weekly analysis at our [OPL home page.](#)

If you've been considering trying the OPL and matching up against players from across the country, now is the time to start planning – the Autumn season is just around the corner and registration is open.

OPL Autumn 2026 dates:
April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, Jun 1

The **Online Teams League** (OTL) has reached the halfway mark of its Summer Season with a strong field of teams competing. Each week is a 24-board match comprising two 12-board half-matches.

The current season concludes on 30 March, with details for the Autumn season to be announced soon. For players looking for competitive matches against strong opposition, the OTL is for you. Teams can consist of up to eight players and generous substitution regulations apply. It is a State event that awards red masterpoints. [Find out more here.](#)

Clubs

Profile: Port Macquarie Hastings Bridge Club

With Carolyn Hughes (President)



Tell us about the history of the club?

Port Macquarie Hastings Bridge Club was initially the idea of some forward-thinking members who wanted a dedicated venue to enable them to host a congress as well as regular sessions of play. They also didn't want to be dependent on the availability of venues such as clubs or hotels where continuity was uncertain, and equipment had to be carried in and out regularly.

Discussions about feasibility and design were undertaken in 1986, followed by negotiations with the Council to lease the site. Construction took place in 1989, and the first game of bridge was played in November of that year, with a large kitchen added 10 years later. The vision and dedication of those early members has ensured that we have a comfortable venue and the facility to offer sessions of play throughout the week as well as conduct lessons and competitions.

What kinds of events and competitions does the club host throughout the year?

We host quite a number of events during the year – notably the previously mentioned congresses which are open to players from far and wide. We regularly have people not only from Port Macquarie and Laurieton, but others travelling from Coffs Harbour, Nambucca, Armidale, Forster and even Sydney to attend. We also have national and state-sponsored, as well as in-house competitions for advanced and intermediate level players.



We conduct a Pro/Am followed by a barbecue which offers the opportunity for players of different skill levels to have a fun afternoon. We hold a Christmas Party, Melbourne Cup Day and other social gatherings providing the opportunity to mix and meet other players.

Can you share more about the lessons you offer? Are they tailored for beginners, advanced players, or both?

Our lessons this year will commence on Friday 13th March from 10:00am until 12:00pm and are tailored for beginners but are open to, and can be beneficial for, anyone wanting to do a refresher course. They will continue until the end of June.

During the year we will also offer individual lessons at an intermediate level on a specific topic relating to bidding, card play or defence. In addition, we offer supervised play sessions and mentoring.



What has your own experience with the club been like? How does the club foster a sense of community among its members?

I had, when living in Sydney, considered learning bridge but didn't get around to it. After relocating to Port and finding another new resident with a similar goal I arrived at PMHBC. Now 12 years later I have made many new friends and acquaintances and have a hobby I love.

We have found several newcomers to Port who have joined our club, met members who have then introduced them to other activities and people. This has helped expand their friendship base and social network.

You're currently welcoming new members. What would you say to someone considering joining the club or learning bridge for the first time?

Perhaps you are newly retired, transitioning to retirement, just wanting to try something

different or are new to the community and looking to make new friends – come along. Sometimes you need to try a variety of activities to find the right “fit” for you and you might find people here that you already know! You don't need to have a partner but if you do, you may like to learn together.

Bridge can also be appealing to the younger generation, with not all interested in sporting activities. It is something that can take you around the world with it being such an international game.



How can people get involved with the club, whether as players, students, or supporters?

Clubs such as ours cannot exist without the support of their members and once you've become a member, you will find that you can join in sessions up to 5 days a week, participate in necessary jobs such as card dealing or just help out as needed with incidental tasks. If you are already an experienced player, you might be happy to undertake some mentoring to share your love of the game.

No More Sit-Outs at Moonee Valley Bridge Club

By Kim Frazer

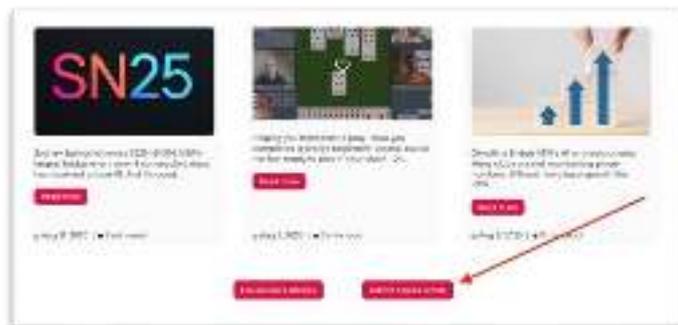
Sit-out tables at bridge clubs are often unpopular, especially when players miss three or four boards. Moonee Valley Bridge Club (MVBC) in Melbourne has found a clever solution.

Inspired by the Chicago Duplicate Bridge Club, MVBC's Ev Fallshaw and Phil Young introduced a system using tablets and BBO robots. The sit-out table runs East-West on tablets, with robots playing North-South. Deal files are converted into LIN format with dummy boards and loaded into BBO, allowing the director to monitor the table and manage any issues.

After a trial session, the first live session received mostly positive feedback. Players enjoyed avoiding the long sit-out, and only one noted that the robots played a little fast. Overall, the new system has made club sessions more engaging and inclusive, ensuring everyone gets to play without missing out. [Learn more here.](#)

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](#).



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

Teaching & Education

Webinar – Teach the Teacher – Wednesday 11 March, 6pm

We invite you to join us for our second “Teach the Teacher” webinar, a relaxed and supportive space to pick up new ideas and share your own.

What We’ll Explore Together

Cate MacMillan brings a wealth of experience from her years as a teacher and mentor of teachers as a school principal. She has a wonderful knack for making teaching feel less daunting and more rewarding. In this session, she’ll guide us through:

- **Starting Strong:** Creative ways to recap previous lessons so your students feel confident moving forward.
- **The “Mixed-Level” Room:** Practical tips for teaching a group where everyone is at a different stage.
- **Thinking on Your Feet:** How to handle those unexpected “what do I do now?” moments with ease.

Is This for You?

If you are a new teacher feeling those first-day jitters, or a seasoned teacher looking for a fresh perspective (or willing to mentor others), we’d love to have you.

A Quick Note: *This session focuses entirely on the how of teaching—we’ll be talking about classroom techniques, not bridge strategy.* [Register for the webinar here.](#)

Advertise your club’s lessons

We have a [website page](#) that promotes club lessons – Beginner, Improver and Online – happening at clubs across the state. Our website receives over 6000 visits per month. If any clubs are running online lessons and would like more players to attend, please let us know and we will include them. Contact education@bridgensw.com.au.

Join the Bridge NSW Teaching community

Bridge NSW’s WhatsApp Teaching Community is active and a great place to lodge a question and find answers. [Click here](#) to join.

Player Development

Kate's Way #7

Pre-empts are light and aggressive

When we pre-empt, we're usually bidding one level higher than most players. Never heavy except at Unfavourable. Not crazy, but on the cliff edge of sanity (by some people's standards).

"I'm not for delusional optimism, but I'm also not for cynics either. I'm for sceptics, and I also think true optimism is true realism." – Matthew McConaughey

NON-VUL:

Weak-two bids are 5-card suits, 3-9 HCP. (This includes Multi 2D and any other 2-suited two-bids). They are opened at the two-level, irrespective of suit quality and side distribution. Not 100% mandatory but close...

- Not expected to be as bad as Jxxx and a side Jack, unless 5/5. That's taking things too far and partner can't field it. But we may still open it tactically if, for example, we're losing a match and need a swing.
- We may bypass a very bad Multi, based on state-of-the-match, temperament & quality of the opponents. We may bypass a bad one playing against a pair who likes to make aggressive penalty doubles. We may bypass with very weak hands, particularly with a very weak suit and strong side-suits. That said, the Weak 2-bid is usually made when we hold a hand that qualifies.

Therefore, a Non-Vul pass is presumed to deny a 5-card major, for purposes of defining other sequences by a passed hand.

VUL:

Vulnerable pre-empts are more sound – but still somewhat more aggressive than standard. Suit quality matters, but we lean towards the pre-empt whenever the decision is close.

Unfavourable pre-empts are very sound. Good suits are mandatory. Intermediate in terms of loser-count.

- 6 losers at the 2-level, 5 losers at the 3-level, etc. Jump overcalls adhere more rigidly to loser-count than do opening-bid pre-empts, since overcalls are easier to double if we're wrong.
- The agreement is rigid so that responder can count on it for game and competitive decisions.
- We've been discussing relaxing this agreement due to a number of bad results when we passed while our counter-part(s) pre-empted. Kate is not keen on relaxing the good-suit requirement, Axel takes more liberties and would like less rigidity. We've been considering 5-6 losers at three-level, 6-7 losers at two-level. Possibly opening good suit weak two-bids with more than 7 losers. For example, we might open 2S with AQJTxx xxx xx. Even though it's 7½ losers, because of the good suit. It's harder for them to double when your suit is good, and we'd like to have the pre-emptive value.

- As of this writing, we're experimenting with slightly more aggressive pre-empts when we're red vs. white. The results are promising but the jury is still out.

Here's a recent example of the damage an aggressive pre-empt can do:

BOARD 18		
BD: 18	♠ J7	Dlr: E
	♥ 53	Vul: NS
	♦ AKQ	
	♣ AKT865	
♠ AT965		♠ 3
♥ J7		♥ KT9642
♦ J87		♦ T9532
♣ Q74		♣ J
	♠ KQ842	
	♥ AQ8	
	♦ 64	
	♣ 932	

At the recent Open Team Trials in Canberra, Joe Haffer was East, in 1st seat favourable, and opened 4H. I was North and I wasn't happy! After carefully weighing all the pluses and minuses, I made a poor decision to pass out 4H, on the theory that we were probably going plus and if I bid it's easy to turn a plus into a minus. If I double Axel may remove to 4S which could be a very bad thing to do.

Aaahh, the power of negative thinking. 4S makes, 5C makes and 6NT makes if you guess the clubs, which you should do.

What matters here is that Joe's pre-empt gave us a big headache, and we were destined for a sub-par result, no matter what we did. It's virtually impossible for us to reach 6N after a 4H opening.

On another deal from the same event the tables were turned when I was North in first-seat favourable.

BOARD 9		
BD: 9	♠ 943	Dlr: N
	♥ 975	Vul: EW
	♦ J9	
	♣ QJ743	
♠ AJT8		♠ K72
♥ Q2		♥ KJ6
♦ AQ65		♦ K73
♣ K85		♣ A962
	♠ Q65	
	♥ AT843	
	♦ T842	
	♣ T	

I'm not recommending what I did here, but a pre-empt can work well if I get lucky, and we were desperate for some good results at this point in the event. It can go horribly wrong, of course, but I opened 3C. The result was a problem for East-West to find the right level. They didn't get it right and landed in 6NT with no play. Another victory for aggressive pre-empts.

Here's one more from the South Australian State Pairs Final a couple of weeks ago:

BD: 9	♠ A	Dlr: N
	♥ 93	Vul: EW
	♦ 985	
	♣ JT76542	
♠ KQ95		♠ J632
♥ QJ86		♥ A74
♦ AJ42		♦ KQ6
♣ 3		♣ AK8
	♠ T874	
	♥ KT52	
	♦ T73	
	♣ Q9	

Justin Williams was North and, thinking that 3C was maybe a bit too easy to cope with, opened 4C.

The rest of the auction was more than a bit uncomfortable for East-West and when the bidding stopped they were in a poor 6D contract, one off, and 8½ IMPs for Justin and Cathy Chua.

Most of the field played in game, as you would do it you didn't have to contend with a 4C opening. And as it happens, 4C is only three off, so doubling 4C won't help East-West – they will still score poorly for +500.

Monthly bidding contest

By Philip Glover

RealBridge runs a [monthly bidding competition](#). Marc Smith, world renowned bridge author, moderates the competition.

Entries are received from all over the world. The answers are compared with the panel of experts and scores out of 10 are awarded.

Welcome to the Monthly Bidding Competition. RealBridge and Marc Smith are acknowledged for permission to use the material. The selection for this month is Hand 5 of the January 2025 challenge set.

Looking at your 7 loser hand, opposite Partner's invitational game bid, how do you appraise your values? Partner should have a 6/7 card H suit headed by QJ, and some better than minimum values to make the jump to 3H.

Now is the time to make your decision (before peeking at the answers!)

22 out of 23 experts and 53% of the entrants thought that 4H was inadequate. Interestingly, despite no minor controls, 4 experts reckoned 6H was best. There was little support for Keycard Blackwood (4NT)

Join the monthly bidding competition at RealBridge and develop better bidding judgement.

<https://realbridge.online/realbridge-bidding-contest-2026>

Hand 5 Jan 2025

None Vul. Dealer East. IMPs:	West	North	East	South
♠ A 8 6 4			1♥	Pass
♥ A K	1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
♦ Q J 8 3	?			
♣ 9 7 2				

ACTION	MARKS	PANEL VOTES	Competitors' Entries (%)
5♥	10	8	6
4♣	8	5	2
4♦	8	3	8
6♥	7	4	6
4NT	5	2	25
4♥	3	1	47
3NT	0	0	3

Don't miss out on the latest bridge insights. Join our Facebook page!

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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.



And for my next trick!

with Liz Wilkinson

01

"It's not a magic trick!"

Know where your tricks come from

02

Aces, Kings, Quacks

Make the most of your high cards



03

A bag of tricks

Turn your long suits into tricks

04

Tricks of the Trade

Use the power of trumping for extra tricks



TOP TIPS

Where

East Lindfield
Sunday at 10am

No booking or partner required,
just show up.

When

Sun 1st Mar
Sun 8th Mar
Sun 15th Mar
Sun 22nd Mar



NORTH SHORE
since  1962
BRIDGE CLUB

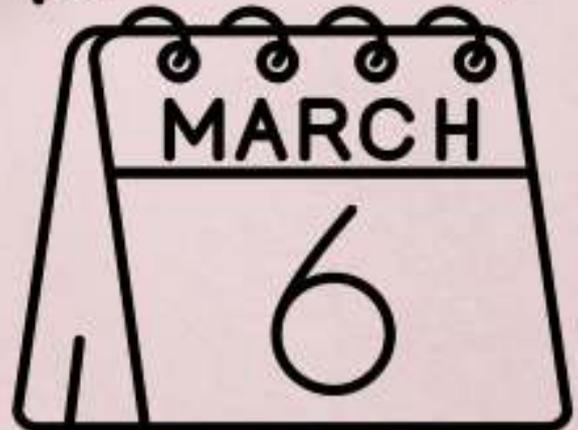
**F2F
WORKSHOP**

**COMMONLY
MISUNDERSTOOD
AUCTIONS**

Will Jenner-O'Shea

**\$60 PP
INCLUDES
LUNCH AND
MORNING
TEA**

10AM - 3PM





Friday Workshop
Commonly Misunderstood Auctions, and How to Get Them Right!

With Will Jenner-O'Shea

Friday March 13th, 10am – 3:30pm

@Goulburn Street

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

Conventions and Topics

Defining Which Jumps are Strong and Weak, How many Cards and How Many Points, Identifying When Conventions Apply, and Don't.

This workshop is accessible for players of all levels.

Play Regularly to Reinforce

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

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



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

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

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



SBC GNOT Direct Qualifier

This event qualifies **one team directly** to the
GNOT National Qualifying Online from 18th -20th September 2026
*The GNOT National Final will be held F2F in Brisbane from 27th - 29th November (plus
 a Plate event running F2F alongside for open entries)*

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

One seventh of the field will also qualify to the **GNOT Sydney Metropolitan
 Final (F2F)** in Sydney Bridge Club from 22nd – 23rd August.

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

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 2026 GNOT qualifying event and the entry must specify the club(s) at which the members played.

Please contact the Metropolitan GNOT Organiser, André Korenhof via metrognot@bridgensw.com.au for such an arrangement.

Director: John McIlrath | Organiser: Wing Roberts

ENTRY FEES: \$280 per team (lunch included)

You don't need to be a Sydney Bridge Club 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 will be available soon 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@sydneybridgeclub.org.au •

• Website: www.sydneybridgecentre.com •

GNOT SBC DIRECT QUALIFYING EVENT

WWW.SYDNEYBRIDGECENTRE.COM



The Armidale Bridge Club Pairs Congress 2026

Saturday 14 March

9:30am Registration

10:15am First session

Lunch provided

Second session

Sunday 15 March

9.00am Third Session

Lunch provided

Fourth session

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

Entries close 11th March 2026

Maximum tables = 18

Matchpoint scoring with Swiss movement,
No yellow systems

For enquiries or more information contact
Ian Price 0432 153 294 or priceahdc@gmail.com
or online entries through ABF

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.



12 Rockvale Road
Armidale, NSW 2350





PARKES BRIDGE CLUB



Teams Day Agnes Hewett Trophy

Sunday 15th March 2026

9:00AM FOR 9:30AM START

\$200 PER TEAM

LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY
(PLEASE ADVISE SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS)

MONETARY PRIZES

UNRESTRICTED - 1ST & 2ND

INCLUSION OF RESTRICTED DIVISION
AND PLAYER HAVING MORE THAN 100 MPSI
TO BE DECIDED ON RECEIPT OF ENTRIES

PAYMENT

USE MY ABF CREDITS

OR

EFT BSB 062-588

ACCT NUMBER 28000180

PLEASE REFERENCE TEAM NAME WITH PAYMENT

ALL ENTRIES VIA MYABF

BY 14TH MARCH 2026

CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF BRIDGE NSW
ALL PLAYERS ARE SUBJECT BRIDGE NSW'S CONGRESS DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS
THE ABF HAS APPROVED THE ISSUE OF RED MASTER POINTS AT LEVEL 34
YELLOW SYSTEMS NOT PERMITTED



**PARKES SERVICES CLUB
9 - 17 SHORT ST, PARKES**





Bridge
NSW

Webinar

Setting up and masterpointing multi-session events

What

Experienced directors and masterpoint secretaries with everything you need to run club multi-session events

Who

Presented by the Clubs+Community Committee and the Directing Committee

Why

For directors, masterpoint secretaries and club committees. Any masterpoint question welcome.

When

Tuesday 17 March
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

For more details and to register go to MyABF

<https://www.myabf.com.au/go/NSWwebinars>



Half Day Education Seminar
How Good is My Hand?

With Ian Lisle

Friday March 20th, 10am – 1pm

@Goulburn Street

This seminar is designed to explore your system and help you evaluate the strength of your hand in various situations.

We will look at the different methods that are used to evaluate hand strength and learn how to better estimate which contract and how high we should be bidding.

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.



CENTRAL COAST BRIDGE CLUB

2026 Golden Anniversary Congress 19 - 22 March 2026

Golden Anniversary Match Point Pairs:

Two day event

Thursday 19 March and Friday 20 March

Open to all players, Thursday's play will form pairs for the finals on Friday

+

Two Single day events

Swiss Pairs:

Saturday 21 March

Swiss Teams:

Sunday 22 March

Registration: MyABF
or email:
ccbridgeclub@gmail.com

Entry Fee:
\$60 or \$200pp for 4 days



Delicious Lunch each day
Morning and Afternoon Tea
Tea Coffee Iced Water
Drinks and Nibbles

Dietary requirements?
Please advise at
registration or via email

Closing Date: 12 March 2026
or at Directors discretion

CASH PRIZES for ALL PLACEGETTERS in EACH SECTION

Tournament Director: John MacIlraith
Convener: John Redfean

VENUE:
CENTRAL COAST BRIDGE CLUB
415 The Entrance Rd
LONG JETTY

ENQUIRIES:
John Redfean **0466 055 969**
email: ccbridgeclub@gmail.com



2026 Interstate Team Selection (ITS)

The ITS is about more than just state representation – test yourself against the best and sharpen your game.



Final teams will represent NSW at the ANC 2026 in Canberra

Women's Team Selection

 27-29 March 2026 | Online (RealBridge)

Seniors' Team Selection

 17-19 April 2026 | Online (RealBridge)

Youth Team Selection

 19 April 2026 | In-person – Sydney Bridge Centre

FIND OUT MORE AT: bridgensw.com.au/2026-interstate-team-selection-is-here

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS BRIDGE



**Congress will be held on
Saturday 28th March & Sunday 29th March**

Swiss Pairs - Saturday 28th 10.00 a.m.

Swiss Teams - Sunday 29th 09.00 a.m.

Cost is \$50 per person per day.

Lunch as well as morning and afternoon tea will be provided.

Please advise of any dietary requirements.

Book online using MyABF. (Please ask someone at your club to sign you up to Myabf and help you enter.)

Entries close on Monday 9th March.

Organiser: Tom Meakin Phone: 0439 198 751
Email: tommeakinster@icloud.com

Tournament Director: Alan Bustany

Bidding boxes will be in use.

There will be a limited number available to borrow. For sale \$15.

176 Hastings River Drive, Port Macquarie

All players are subject to Bridge NSW congress and tournament Regulations.

Conducted under the auspices of Bridge NSW. The Congress qualifies for the issue of Red Points at level B4

**NOVICE/RESTRICTED
SWISS TEAMS**

Sunday 29 March 2026

Maximum 24 teams - Minimum 12 teams



9 am for 9.30 am start

Venue - Newcastle Bridge Club

12 Young Road, Broadmeadow, NSW

(a short walk from Broadmeadow Railway Station)

\$35 per player

Please bring your own lunch

Light refreshments provided

Hot snacks/drinks at end of play.

<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/2704>

Director Peter Peterson

Convenor Ailsa Kearney

Enquiries 0400 062 199

amkearney01@gmail.com

Payment Options

ABF Credits

Cash on the day

Direct Deposit to Newcastle Bridge Club

Mail Entries

The Congress Convenor - Newcastle Bridge Club

PO Box 257 Hamilton NSW 2303

Parking

Club carpark and plenty of on-street parking

Restricted (<300 MP/player) ——— Novice (<100 MP/player)

Master Points: as recorded at 31 December 2025

Prize money: allocated on a pro-rata basis across the combined field.

If there are fewer than 12 entries by this date the congress will be cancelled. NBC reserves the right to accept late entries, to deem players ineligible for their Novice/Restricted classification and to adjust prize money according to player numbers.

KIESEER

NORTH SHORE
since  1962
BRIDGE CLUB

Swiss Pairs

INTERMEDIATE

and

OPEN SECTIONS

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



Lunch & Snacks Incl.





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



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
- Deputiment
- Movements
- **Laws** – *misinformation, unauthorised information, dummy's rights, others*

💰 Cost: \$70 per workshop (includes lunch & refreshments)

📧 Entries: via MyAB+

Inquiries:

❓ **Marjorie Askew** - Ballina
marjorie.askew@gmail.com
0459 623 907

Andy Braithwaite - Tweed
twheadbridgeclub@gmail.com
0400 574 303

Hosted by:

John McIlrath

National Director and Chair of Directing
Committee Bridge NSW





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





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