

# Bridging NSW



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February 2026



## From the Chair: New State Format is exciting

Hi everyone,

The big news for the year is our new [State Championships format](#). Our Events Committee and others have worked tirelessly to deliver this new format over the past six months. The new format sees players compete

to represent their clubs at Regional Championships and then State Finals in Open, Under Grand, and Under National categories. The aim is to offer our regional and developing players an equal opportunity to be crowned state champs. We cannot wait.

Back due to popular demand, our free [Online Supervised Play sessions](#) start again on Sunday 8 February. Clubs, please let your newer players know about them, particularly if your club is not in a position to offer supervised sessions. They really are beneficial to newer players and increase the likelihood of newer players returning to their clubs to play regularly.

At the start of the year, our Clubs and Community Committee also launched a webinar program for the year, with all webinars being provided for free. The topics have been selected with the aim of supporting clubs on the most pressing matters. You can view the [schedule here](#).

Our NSW team qualifying events are set to begin later this month with the [Open Interstate Team Selection \(ITS\) event](#). The Women's takes place at the [end of March](#). Participants compete to make the NSW team, with NSW set to take on other states at the Australian National Congress in Canberra in the middle of the year. Competition is always tough at our ITS events. Best of luck to all involved.

And finally, some sad news. We lost two people in our community over the holiday period: Stephen Burgess to sudden illness, and Marika Pogany in the Bondi massacre. Our NSW bridge community is an open, inviting and warm place. We are even family, and it's losses like these that remind us of that.

*Catherine Chaffey, Chair of Bridge NSW*

# People of Bridge

## Peter Gill on Interstate Team Selection (ITS) events



### What's your experience with NSW teams?

I've been a captain of the Open, Women's and Youth NSW teams. The Open team I captained in 2010 won the interstate. With that team, I let the players decide the playing order. I also captained a Women's and a Youth team to the grand finals but we lost both. I stuffed up with the wrong lineups in both. I have learned to do what the players tell me to do. In between, I had a great time winning the Interstate Open Teams for NSW twice as a player with Martin Bloom and Nye Griffiths.

### Are Interstate Team Selection (ITS) events a way to improve your game?

Bridge is a weird game where it is difficult to get better. One of the most interesting things about bridge is that if less experienced players play against the top players, like in ITS, they get better. One of the problems at the moment is that less experienced players don't play against the

top players. The way you get better is to play the top players and lose to them, and gradually you realise that what they're doing is slightly different from what the restricted and intermediate players do.

### Can you provide an example?

Restricted and intermediate players think competitive bidding is about high card points. All of the top players know it isn't high card points, it's all about shape. If you have a 6-5 or 6-6 shape, you can make a ridiculously high number of tricks on low point counts. Kate McCallum in her column in the Bridge NSW newsletter said to get into the auction early and often, and not to punish your partner by going too high or bidding your hand again the second time around. Give the opponents all the problems. If you've got a smaller point count, then the opponents are more likely to make their contract, therefore you should bid more. It makes opponents' bidding decisions a lot harder.

### Any other differences between the top players and developing ones?

The top players are aware of when to do low encourage and when to do suit preference. Suit preference has more uses. Top players are always thinking how can I possibly get five tricks to get 3NT down, and they go for every little chance. That doesn't happen at lower level of play.

### Any example of a pair that have improved as a result of ITS?

Two guys from Springwood Bridge Club, Lionel Murray and John Apthorp, played in the 2025 NSW Seniors ITS and came last. But since then, they've been doing well and won

an online championship event. I played them the other day and they beat me and my partner. They played very well against us.

### **The ITS Open qualifying is online. Good idea?**

Yes. It means anybody in NSW can play the top players. And you can look at the hands later and see where you scored badly because your opponents knew what to do.

### **How does an ITS event differ from a congress?**

ITS is a stronger event. Most national players don't play congresses because there are so many national events in Australia these days. Around 30 to 40 years ago, congresses featured the very best players. Now, they feature tier two players and maybe a handful of tier one players.

### **Any advice for players considering the ITS?**

Go for it. You get double the number of red masterpoints that you get for congresses. Sure, you might not make the team, but if you want to get better, play the top players. Review your hands after on RealBridge and see where you dropped your IMPs or where you did something you consider normal but the bulk of the field did something different. Not during the event, because you'll be exhausted. If you happen to qualify, the finals are face to face, but you can still play the qualifying round and write "non-contending" down for the final. Also, with IMPs scoring at the ITS events, you can get a lucky run.

### **Are you playing any ITS events this year?**

Yes, I'm playing the Open ITS with Jane Dawson and the Seniors ITS with Martin Bloom.

## **Vale Stephen Burgess**

*By Paul Lavings*



My first meeting with Stephen was in 1974, when he was still a teenager. The Australian Open Team was touring New Zealand and our first match was against South Island, and after 30 of the 60 boards we were 60 IMPs ahead. My partner, Andrew Markovics, and I played Stephen in the last set and he played like a tiger to win them the match 119-112.

Stephen moved to Australia in the early 1980s working for the Australian Taxation Office and then branched out into options trading. He formed a very successful bridge partnership with Paul Marston, in fact they swept all before them. They played the Forcing Pass System, Pass=13+, opening bids were 8-12 and 1S was any 0-7. Relay bids were an integral part of the system. Later Stephen and Paul played MOSCITO, featuring Strong Club.

Stephen represented Australia in (at least) six world championships, four zonal championships and has won many, many

national titles. He also played for New Zealand in at least two world championships. A huge result was 3<sup>rd</sup> with Paul Marston in the World Open Pairs in 1986.

From 1989, when Australia narrowly lost the semi final of the World Championships to the USA, Stephen was regarded for many years as one of the world's best bridge players. In the play, he virtually made no errors.

He had a couple of pet conventions, open 2H or 2S with a 5-card suit and 8 to 11 points, and open game on 11 cards in two suits, 7-4 or 8-3 shape. The first convention continues to grow in popularity.

Stephen always wanted to play in the Open Team Selection Playoffs but Robert Krochmalik and I had the pleasure of being he and Gabi Lorentz's teammates in Senior events over the last ten years, which featured four overseas trips as the Australian Seniors Team.

Stephen leaves Denise Gobes, and 4 children and 6 grand-children from earlier partners, and many friends and admirers.

## Connect with our bridge community on Facebook.

To follow us, simply log in and head to our [Facebook page](#) and click the "Like" button. You can also use the QR code:



# Bridge NSW News

## New State Championships format in 2026

We're reshaping the NSW State Pairs and Teams Championships in 2026.

The new format replaces the State Open Pairs and State Open Teams. It is designed to encourage all players across the state to compete to represent their club to become **Regional Champions** in three different categories (**Open, Under Grand, Under National**) in Pairs and Teams. Regional Champions will represent their region at the **State Finals**.

The new format is expected to increase regional participation by players of all levels, and strengthen the event playing community across the state.

### What's new in 2026?

From 2026, we are introducing **Regional Championships** where players represent their clubs to become Regional Champions. Pairs and teams are chosen to represent their clubs in **Club Selection Events**. Regional winners compete at the **State Finals**.



3 player categories for Pairs and Teams:

- Open
- Under Grand
- Under National

Clubs can conduct up to three **Club Selection Events** in times regularly allocated to club sessions, provided each is targeted at a different player audience (e.g. different days/nights, F2F/online). Each **CSE** must consist of no more than four (4) sessions and a club is limited to a total of nine (9) sessions.

**Regional Championships** will be played in categories (Open, Under Grand, Under National) where possible. They will be held **in ten country regions** and **metropolitan Sydney** (the same as the GNOT regions). Pairs and teams can also register directly for the Regional Championships.

At the **State Finals**, the three player categories (Open, Under Grand, Under National) will be played as separate fields. Each will feature Regional Champions, including Metropolitan Champions as well as the next three qualifiers from the Metropolitan finals. The State Finals **will be online**, to make it easier for players across the state to participate.

All events attract red masterpoints at **double the rate** of club red point sessions.

The **three player categories** are according to players' masterpoint rank as at **1 January 2026**. Full **Supplementary Regulations** are on the [State Pairs and Teams page](#).

### Benefits of the change

The new format offers a number of benefits.

- **Broader participation.** The new player categories encourage greater participation at the club and regional

levels. Players can also benefit from red masterpoints without having to play Open State Finals.

- **Regional focus.** Players compete to play in Regional Championships and to become Regional Champions. This is expected to foster greater local and regional engagement, as well as stronger competition at club and regional levels.
- **Greater access.** All Regional Champions will have better access to State Finals, as the State Finals will be online.

The new format is expected to help grow the event playing community and provide another type of event for player development at all skill levels.

## Key 2026 dates

### Club Selection Events

Clubs can hold events when and how it suits them, provided they are completed before **31 August 2026**.

### Regional Championships

Regional Championships will be held in-person at 11 host clubs across the state on or around the following proposed dates:

- **Saturday 26 September:** [Region name] Pairs
- **Sunday 27 September:** [Region name] Teams.

The **host clubs** will be determined by an expression of interest process.

### State Finals

It is proposed that the State Finals are held online with RealBridge on:

- **Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December:** State Teams
- **Monday 7 and Monday 14 December (evenings):** State Pairs.

For more information, head to the [State Pairs and Teams page](#).

## Seeking Regional Organisers

Bridge NSW is seeking Expressions of Interest for Regional Organisers to implement the new Championships. The RO's role is to encourage clubs in their region to hold Club Selection Events and, in conjunction with a host club (which may be their own), organise the Regional Final and provide required information to the Tournament Organiser. Head to our [Vacancies page](#) for more.

## Online Supervised Play is back

Following the success of the two trials at the end of last year, Bridge NSW is once again hosting **FREE** Online Supervised Play sessions for newer bridge players on **Sundays 4pm-5:30pm from 8 February**.

The two trials averaged around 8-9 tables every Sunday, demonstrating how popular these sessions are, particularly for newer players whose clubs are not in a position to offer supervised sessions.

Online Supervised Play is designed to **help beginners transition to sessions at their clubs**. Ideally, supervised sessions are best attended face-to-face. But for some players that isn't an option, which is where the online supervised sessions can help. You can read more about [online supervised sessions here](#).

## Join via link

Players can come along to any or all of these lessons – your choice. There is no need to register. Just turn up and play using the RealBridge links on the [Play Online webpage](#). If you need help with RealBridge, contact [onlinesupervised@bridgensw.com.au](mailto:onlinesupervised@bridgensw.com.au).

No partner is required, and players from Victoria are also invited!

## NEW: Monthly webinars for clubs in 2026

Bridge NSW is ramping up support for clubs with monthly webinars on key topics in 2026. View the full schedule on our new [Webinar page](#). All webinars will be recorded and made available on the website.

## Webinar on club beginner lessons – 8 December

Bridge NSW held a webinar in early December to outline support for clubs hosting and looking to host beginner lessons in 2026. You can view a recording of the webinar [here](#).

Support includes promotion of club beginner lessons on our [Instructed Lessons](#)

[page](#), with around 5000 people visiting the website every month.

Bridge NSW is also offering a [free marketing promotions service](#). Clubs can access free templates or request Bridge NSW to customise them for the club. Flyers, Facebook images and banners are all available. Please email [comms@bridgensw.com.au](mailto:comms@bridgensw.com.au) with your request.



**Bridge is a fun game played by 220 million people**

Bridge is played with a 52-card deck by two teams of two people. A team bids a contract and then plays to make that contract. It is an inexpensive hobby that can be played online and face to face. People love it!

### Why play?

- ♠ Socialise and have fun
- ♠ Join a vibrant and growing community
- ♠ Improve your mental fitness

“Many games provide fun, but bridge grips you.”  
Martina Navratilova

### Beginner lesson details



*The template A4 flyer which can be customised for your club's lessons for free.*

## Teaching webinar – 28 January

The Bridge NSW Education Committee hosted a “Teach the Teachers” webinar on 28 January hosted by Cate MacMillan from Yamba Bridge Club. Talking points included:

- It's good to teach in pairs

- Clubs can help teachers prepare for lessons with planning and practice to get timing right (e.g. dummy audience, look to avoid too much content, KISS)
- Clubs can help with lesson debrief / reflection so teachers improve (eg a third party who sits in on lessons)
- Encourage teachers to spend time reviewing/recapping the previous lesson.

Cate is offering to help any new or inexperienced teachers in their preparation. Contact her via [education@bridgensw.com.au](mailto:education@bridgensw.com.au)).

### **Upcoming webinars**

- Tuesday 17 February: **Directing** - how to recruit and develop club directors.
- Tuesday 17 March: **Masterpoint Secretaries** - how to run a masterpoint multi-session event.

### **Presidents' Days in Coffs and Maitland**

The Clubs and Community Committee hosted two Presidents' Days in January – in Coffs Harbour on 25 January and at Maitland on 27 January. The Maitland day saw over 20 club representatives from the surrounding region attend! These days are an invaluable opportunity for club officials to get up to speed and exchange ideas and success stories with their fellow clubs.

### **Calls for nominees for Bridge NSW Council**

Planning is underway for the upcoming Bridge NSW Council election.

Here are the key dates for this year:

- 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

Clubs will be sent a reminder closer to nominations opening. Any questions can be addressed to the Returning Officer at [returning.officer@bridgensw.com.au](mailto:returning.officer@bridgensw.com.au).

### **In case you missed it...**

Bridge NSW gave a [big shout out](#) to our amazing volunteers at the end of the year. We also pulled together a [list of achievements](#) by these volunteers and others in the organisation's first full calendar year of operation. Thanks to everyone who has helped shape Bridge NSW, and here's to an even better 2026!

# Events

## OPL and OTL Spring results

Our Monday night Online Pairs League (OPL) and Online Teams League (OTL) wrapped up for the Spring season in early December. Both leagues brought together players from every corner of NSW for fast, friendly and competitive play.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part and kept Monday nights a buzz. Now for the winners!

### OPL results

Congratulations to the top pairs across the four divisions.

#### Division 1

- North-South: **Margaret Foster** and **Robbie Freyder**
- East-West: **Ingrid Cooke** and **Jeff Fallon**

#### Division 2

- North-South: **Oleg Glushchenko** and **Elena Rochtchina**
- East-West: **Martin Brown** and **John Russell**

#### Division 3

- North-South: **Hamish Newman** and **Natalie Newman**
- East-West: **Kathy Duke** and **Shannon Queree**

#### Division 4

- Winning Pair: **Rebecca Mackiggan** and **Rebecca Dorman**

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

### OTL results

A strong field played through to a cracking final. Congratulations to team BLOOM for taking the top prize!

Champions: BLOOM

**Malcolm Carter, Tony Nunn, Martin Bloom, Tony Hutton**

Runners Up: ADAMS

**John McMahon, Charles McMahon, Liz Adams, Peter Gill**

[View full results here.](#)

### 2026 summer seasons

OPL Summer is already underway with a record 80 pairs – it is becoming a real highlight on the bridge calendar.

OTL Summer begins Monday 2 February and runs until 30 March. Registrations closed late January. But don't worry, there are more seasons coming up!

### 2026 Autumn

OPL: Apr 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, Jun 1

OTL: (After Australian Women's Playoff) Apr 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, Jun 1

### 2026 Winter

OPL: Jul 20, 27, Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Sep 7

OTL: Jul 20, 27, Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

## 2026 Spring

OPL: Oct 12, (after Sydney Spring Nationals)  
26, Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Dec 7

OTL: Sep 21, 28, (after Canberra In Bloom) 12,  
(after Sydney Spring Nationals) 26, Nov 2,  
(after NZ National Congress) 16, 23

## NSW State Youth Champs – results

By *Mitch Dowling*

Bridge NSW hosted its annual State Youth Championship in early December.

The event continues to grow each year, drawing an enthusiastic field from across the state and beyond. From first deal to last, the room was full of energy, concentration and plenty of laughter.

A huge thank you to all participants who made the weekend such a joy. It was wonderful watching people play, learn, and cheer each other on.

We thank our fantastic director, Alan Bustany, who spent his birthday weekend guiding the field with good humour and steady hands. And a warm thank you to Paul Lavings for sponsoring the weekend with gift voucher prizes and a mountain of free books.

### State Youth Pairs

- Winners: **Aadhi and Yiwei**
- Runners up: **Noah and Sherry (王辰羽)**



*Pairs winners Aadhi and Yiwei*

### State Youth Teams

- Winners: **David, Adrian, Duncan, Noah**
- Runners up: **Shannon, Sherry, Ida, Natalie, Magnus**



*Winning team – David, Adrian, Duncan, Noah*

We were also lucky to welcome interstate friends **Jade (ACT), Taydon (VIC) and Andrew (ACT)**.

Full results are [available here](#).

## State Restricted and Novice Teams – results

Congratulations to the top three teams:

- 1st: Team BISSETT – **Neil McMaster, Lucy D'Ambrosio, Jennifer Bissett and Shannon Queree** – 223.81 VPs
- 2nd: Team CLARK – **Paula Corbett, Cath Gregory, Bevan Clouston and Don Clark** – 160.35 VPs
- 3rd: Team SAPPIDEN – **Ian Leigh, Wynne O'Brien, Ros Hoatson, Pamela Leathley, Julie Leigh, and Tony Sappiden** – 141.49 VPs

View [full results here](#).

## 2026 GNOT format confirmed

The Australian Bridge Federation has confirmed the 2026 Grand National Open Teams format, following endorsement by the ABF Board. The updated structure is designed to strengthen the face-to-face National Final, improve the overall player experience, and support the long term financial sustainability of the event.

- **Phase 1** club and state qualifying will continue under existing arrangements.
- **Phase 2** will be an online National Qualifying Final held from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 September 2026. The event will feature 64 teams over 2.5 days, with eight Open teams and 12 Non-Metro teams qualifying for the face-to-face National Final, an increase on previous years.
- **Phase 3**, the face-to-face National Final will be held from Friday 27 to Sunday 29 November 2026 at the

Queensland Contract Bridge Club in Brisbane, with Kim and Ray Ellaway appointed as Tournament Organisers. The Open Final will run as quarter finals, semi finals and a final with a playoff for third place, while the Non-Metro Final will feature 12 teams playing a round robin followed by positional playoffs.

## New Open Teams event

A new Grand National Open Teams Plate will run alongside the National Final on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November. This open entry gold point teams event will consist of eight 14 board matches, with an entry fee of \$100 per player. Teams eliminated in the National Final quarter finals will be required to play in the Plate at no additional charge.

## Fees

Entry fees for 2026 will increase to \$14 per team for club qualifying and \$400 per team for the National Final, while pairs-based qualifying events remain \$7 per pair.

Further details and supplementary regulations will be circulated in due course, with additional information to appear on the Australian Bridge Federation website and in the February newsletter.

Key contacts are Fraser Rew for Phases 1 and 2, Kim and Ray Ellaway for Phase 3, and Margaret Cusack for entry fee administration.

## Upcoming events

### 2 February – OTL Summer

OTL gets underway again on Monday 2 February, and runs until 30 March. Registrations have closed. Good luck teams!

### 5 February – Director's workshop at Scone

Calling all directors and want-to-be directors in the Toronto area. Directing savant John McIlrath will be imparting his wisdom at no cost and with tea and biscuits at the ready. To book your place, email [torontonsw@outlook.com](mailto:torontonsw@outlook.com).

### 7–8 February – Gold Coast Congress

The previously marquee event on the Gold Coast is back, albeit in a much shorter format and online. The organisers have split the events into Open and Under 500 Masterpoints. Head to [MyABF for more](#).

### 8 February – Online Supervised Play

They proved to be very popular in the two trials Bridge NSW ran late last year. As a result, Online Supervised Play is back on Sundays from 4pm. No partner needed. Expert support. Ideal for players looking to improve their game in readiness for club-level play. And no need to register. Just click on the link for that date on our [Play Online page](#).

### 14–18 February – Australian Open Playoff

Playoffs to select the Australian teams is happening in Canberra this year. Good luck to all NSW players taking part. More details can be [found here](#).

### 21–22 February – NSW ITS Open qualifying

Let the qualifying begin! Compete for your spot on the team to represent NSW at the 2026 Australian National Championships in Canberra. [Register on MyABF](#). The finals will take place face-to-face in Sydney on 7–8 March.

### 21–22 February – Australian Bridge Directors' Association workshop

Held down in Melbourne, the workshop features a full program across two days and John McIlrath is presenting. [Head to the flyer](#) for more information.

### How has bridge changed? Survey by Uni of Melbourne researcher

University of Melbourne researcher and Joyce Thorpe Nicholson Creative Fellow, Monique Grbec, is surveying how bridge has changed over the past 40 years. The survey is anonymous and takes about 3 minutes. Help her and the bridge community by [clicking here](#) to take it.

# Clubs

## Profile: Great Lakes Bridge Club

With Bronwyn Boehm (Public Officer)

Great Lakes Bridge Club (GLBC) in Forster NSW will **host their 42<sup>nd</sup> Congress on 28 February to 1 March**. Entries for this event last year filled up fast. Competitors will arrive from Canberra and the Gold Coast, and many clubs in-between. Friendly rivalry from supportive regional club members in Taree and Port Macquarie is also expected.



For many bridge players, the popularity of country face-to-face congresses remains despite the post-2020 hiatus that witnessed a boom in online congresses. Who doesn't want to visit a beautiful seaside town, eat home-baked goodies and play bridge all at the same time?



The Great Lakes district is renowned for its tourism appeal. Its proximity to Sydney and other major cities means the journey is pleasantly short. And Forster's fine range of accommodation and the country friendliness of the locals see many visitors regularly returning to club events.

Another factor in the club's success and congress's popularity is a recent upsurge in new members. In recent years, a drive to introduce more people to the delights (and tribulations) of bridge has proved very effective.



Generous hardworking volunteers, Sylvia Goodwin and Shirley Craig, pictured above, regularly run excellent bridge lessons for free.

We offer a range of Hi-Lo (mixed skill level) and mentored club events that provide realistic bridge game opportunities for beginners. The newbies jump in the deep end to play in tough and unnerving pairs and teams competitions, but by partnering with more experienced players, their

confidence and skills improve exponentially. The clubs are lucky to have supportive bands of stronger players who are happy to share their expertise and provide encouragement—the key to a positive future for the clubs and for bridge in general.



With newer players in mind, the 2026 GLBC Congress will award prizes for Novice/Restricted winners, as well as the Open section, with the pairs event (maximum 68 pairs) filled mid-December 2025, and the teams' event registrations not far behind.

At over 45 years old, GLBC has a long history of dedicated volunteers. Following a series of successful lessons conducted in August 1980, the new club amassed 43 foundation members, drawn from the then-tiny twin towns of Forster and Tuncurry (1980 population ~3,000 is now 21,000+).

Its Inaugural Congress in 1982 saw silent bidding pads introduced (!) and by 1984, the club's Congress attracted over 175 entries. Space was a continual problem for the quickly thriving club who set up in various clubs and halls around the district.

By 1998 a record number of 78 players attended regular sessions—new premises were sought urgently. And yes, the clubhouse was built by bridge-loving volunteers.



By early 2000, GLBC began play in its current clubhouse on Lake St, Forster.



As with many other small rural bridge clubs, GLBC faces challenges. Since games are generally held during the day and most members are older adults, attracting younger players remains an issue.

Further, online bridge's recent upsurge results in a smaller pool of on-hand volunteers and thereby, volunteer fatigue. The consequent reduction in the clubs' revenue affects resources. And physical

bridge clubhouses require ongoing maintenance, regardless of member numbers. Luckily, loyal locals who also enjoy online games have retained their commitment to the club. And GLBC's recent membership boost of intrepid beginners allays some of these challenges.

Mindful of the club's motto, which includes the word 'fun', GLBC recently reintroduced monthly dinner-and-bridge evenings. Many of its members live alone and while the game is ever the priority, the relaxed social atmosphere and camaraderie found among like-minded members is encouraged and supported.

GLBC is committed to supporting its community. Though a thriving bridge club, it remains a welcoming, relaxed and friendly environment.

## Beginner lessons success at Bellingen/Camp Creative

*By Richard Levy*

Six months ago, the Chairman of Bellingen-based Camp Creative asked if I would consider running an Introduction to Bridge Course in their 2026 program. This was a surprise as Camp Creative is respected for its artist, designer and musician workshops. As bridge is a great game with mental challenges and social interactions, I suggested it could be included.

So, not one to dodge a challenge, I agreed to run a five half-day course on 12-16 January 2026 from 9am – 12pm each day.

I worked with Camp Creative to produce a professional web presence. I asked Bridge

NSW to help, and they produced posters promoting the course and graduation certificates. I enlisted volunteers to place the posters in libraries, art galleries and shops. My regular bridge partner, Lyndall, agreed to help and she has been instrumental in making sure I dotted the I's and crossed the T's.



I also approached local bridge clubs for support. Coffs Harbour provided two scholarships (\$275 each) and made their course notes and pre-dealt boards available. Nambucca Valley provided playing cards and bidding slips and Urunga came up with tables and tablecloths.

**Twenty people enrolled in the course, with 17 local and 1 each from Perth, Brisbane and Sydney.**



The results were fantastic but managing five tables is challenging because people had varying degrees of knowledge from zero to refresher.



The Coffs Harbour and Urunga Presidents and Lyndall attended every session and each was allocated a table to work with as players grappled with applying the skills I taught them by playing the hands presented. I looked after the other tables with a late volunteer to my support group.



Over the five days, a lot of boards were played and we had lots of laughs and misfortunes along the way! It was great to hear the excitement as people bid correctly or made the contracts they had bid. And

there's nothing quite like the Aha factor, is there?

We covered a lot of ground. The good news is no one dropped out. We made sure attendees knew where supervised sessions are held and how to access Bridge NSW's Online Supervised Play sessions.

Will I do it again? Watch this space! But I think you know the answer.



**Richard Levy** is based near Nambucca Heads but plays at the Coffs Harbour and Urunga clubs. He also runs a weekly Introduction to Bridge session at the Nambucca Valley Bridge Club. In his spare time, Richard coaches privately around the mid-North Coast concentrating on card playing skills.

## Upcoming beginner lessons support for clubs

As part of Bridge NSW's support for clubs, it is offering to promote a club's lessons on our [Instructed Lessons page](#). Our website receives over 5000 visitors every month. Listing your club's lessons is free and can be easily done by [filling out this form](#).

Bridge NSW also has [free marketing templates](#) your club may like to use to promote beginner lessons. You can download and fill in these templates yourself, or ask Bridge NSW to customise them for you at no cost.



### Play one of the world's most popular mind sports

Bridge involves teamwork, communication, gamesmanship, memory and strategy.

And people love it.

### Why play?

- ♠ Socialise and have fun
- ♠ Join a vibrant and growing community
- ♠ Improve your mental fitness with this mind sport

### Lesson details



*The letterbox flyer template, one of many available on our [website](#).*

Please email [comms@bridgengsw.com.au](mailto:comms@bridgengsw.com.au) with your request.

## 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!

## Connect with our bridge community on Facebook.

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.

To follow us, simply log in and head to our [Facebook page](#) and click the "Like" button. You can also use the QR code:



# Teaching & Education

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## Online Supervised Play starts again 8 February

Following the success of the two trials at the end of last year, Bridge NSW is once again hosting **FREE** Online Supervised Play sessions for newer bridge players on **Sundays 4pm-5:30pm from 8 February**. The two trials averaged around 8-9 tables every Sunday, demonstrating how popular these sessions are. No partner is required, and players from Victoria are also invited!

This year we'll be trialling some themes for the Sunday sessions starting with bidding a major and what's next, and transfers and Stayman and making your hand.

We are always looking for teachers to help out on an occasional basis and it's a great way to get an introduction to teaching on RealBridge. Contact [onlinesupervised@bridgensw.com.au](mailto:onlinesupervised@bridgensw.com.au) if interested. There is no need to register. Just turn up and play using the RealBridge links on the [Play Online webpage](#). If you need help with RealBridge, contact [onlinesupervised@bridgensw.com.au](mailto:onlinesupervised@bridgensw.com.au).

## Teaching webinar 28 Jan

The Bridge NSW Education Committee hosted a "Teach the Teachers" webinar on 28 January hosted by Cate MacMillan from Yamba Bridge Club. Talking points included teaching in pairs, how clubs can help teachers around planning, practice, and debriefs, and encouraging teachers to spend time recapping previous lessons.

Cate is offering to help any new or inexperienced teachers in their preparation. Contact her via [education@bridgensw.com.au](mailto:education@bridgensw.com.au)).

## 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](mailto: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 #6

### Bidding style is consistently aggressive

*“Moderation is a virtue I admire in my friends. May it never visit itself upon my head.” – Victor Mollo*

When faced with a decision of whether or not to bid, we lean towards the aggressive choice as opposed to the conservative at all times.

I play a Strong Club system which affects ranges. The opening bid range is 10-15, which is something that's assumed throughout my System Notes, and General Principles, of course.

Open light, overall light, respond light, invite light and accept light. This is particularly true in game-bidding at IMPs, because of the game bonus.

#### Light initial action

We want to be “involved” in their auctions, creating situations which do not exist at the other table, taking away the opponents’ bidding space and gathering distributional information if we end up defending.

Therefore...

**Opening bids with any shape** are based on trick-taking power, and strategy – not High Card Points (HCPs). (But, balanced-hand openings are based primarily on HCPs.) All references to HCPs are in light of essential

upgrading and downgrading. HCPs are a guide, but not the primary one.

**Non Vul:** We open all balanced 10's. (1NT 10-12). Occasionally open 1NT with a balanced 9 in 1<sup>st</sup> seat favourable, when legal (not in the ACBL).

**Open all 11's at any vulnerability.\*** We may open 10's at any vulnerability with a little shape and good suits. We may even open lighter in HCP with extra shape or good suits and low loser-count.

\* In theory, we open all balanced 11's at any vulnerability, but it's acceptable to pass Vul 11's if you downgrade a really bad hand. That said, standards are not high. (Vul 1NT rebid is defined as 11-13.)

**Super-Light Openings** (less than 10 HCP): We may open lighter than 10 when unbalanced (based on loser-count and trick-taking potential). A 7-loser hand is an optional opening bid (pre-empting may be acceptable). A 6-loser hand is a mandatory opening bid (not a pre-empt, except at unfavourable vulnerability).

Non-Vul, an 8-loser super-light hand with a 6-cd suit is a problem – it doesn't fall into any category (weak-two's are 5-cd suits). It may be opened at the three-level, in preference to a weak-2 with a good 6-card suit, or at the one-level if it has the equivalent of an Ace and a King. (But follow applicable regulations regarding 8-HCP openings.) If nothing else fits, we may choose the weak-2 anyway, despite the 6-card suit.

We don't open super-light hands Vul unless they fall into the 6-loser category with good suits (possibly 7 losers if it looks good). Overcalls are similarly aggressive, and may be quite light at the one-level (depending upon position and vulnerability). A good suit is expected at 2-level or higher (EXCEPTION made for 2H over 1S with weakish 5-card heart suit and decent hand). In general: "When in doubt, bid."

Vul initial actions are far more sound than Non-Vul, in all situations. Unfavourable openings and overcalls (particularly pre-emptive) are generally sound.

Responder forces to game on all 13's Vul, and nearly all 13's when we're NV (14 facing 10-12 notrump). Advancer needs 18+ for a GF. Opener accepts an invitation with any 13 at any vulnerability (including upgrades, as always). INT opening:

Non-Vul: 10-12 in 1&2; 10-bad 15 in 3&4  
Vul: 14-15 in 1&2; 15 in 3; 10-13 in 4<sup>th</sup>

## Some examples of "Consistently Aggressive" from recent play

In the Open KO in Canberra, we drew the strong Dalley Team in the 6<sup>th</sup> match. They bid 3 very thin games and an aggressive slam against us, and made them all. One could have been beaten but it's nearly impossible to find. We lost by 31 and all we'd done was sit in the wings and watch! They played the game the way it should be played. Consistently Aggressive!

Earlier, in the Seniors KO in Canberra we faced a strong team in Match 5. The player holding my cards at the other table was one

of the best and known to be conservative. A perfect opportunity for my kind of swings. At favourable Vulnerability I held a very weak hand:

QJ874  
9  
43  
J6542

My RHO opened 1D in 1<sup>st</sup> seat and, true to my beliefs "Get in and Get Out," and "Aggressive at All Times," I overcalled 1S. I doubted that it would be duplicated at the other table, and it wasn't.

This led quickly to 4SX, one off: -100 against their Vul 4H and 11 IMPs for us.

BOARD 16	
<b>BD: 16</b>	♠ QJ874
Dir: W	
♥ 9	<b>Vul: EW</b>
♦ 43	
♣ J6542	
♠ 52	♠ K9
♥ Q654	♥ KJ732
♦ AK65	♦ 87
♣ K83	♣ AQ97
♠ AT63	
♥ AT8	
♦ QJT92	
♣ T	

Another deal from Canberra, Senior KO Semi-Final. With None Vul my hand was:

AT874

9

K92

AOJ T

I opened 1S in 2<sup>nd</sup> seat and partner raised to 2S. In keeping with "Consistently Aggressive," instead of dismissing it as "only 14," I had a good look at my hand. Upgradeable to about 16 because of the long spade and the good club suit. Good trick taking potential - 6 losers, but closer to 5½ . A simple raise is usually 9 losers, maybe one too many. But if it fits well, we could have a lot of tricks. I made a game try with 3D and Axel accepted. With 3-2 trumps I didn't even need the club finesse. At the other table, East passed 2S and scored +170. 6 IMPs for aggressive bridge.

## BOARD 1

**BD: 1**    ♠ QJ2    **Dlr: N**  
                  ♥ Q7    **Vul: None**

◆ QJ8743

♣ 97

♠ K96

18643

◆ A5

♦ 052

AKTE 2

◆ T6

• K843

				N
♣	♦	♥	♠	T
N	1			8
S	1			8 14
E	2	2	4	1 10
W	2	1	4	1

*Karen McCallum (aka Kate) is a world-class bridge player and writer. She has won seven world titles playing for the US and was once ranked second best female player in the world. Originally from New York City, Kate lives in Adelaide.*

## Monthly bidding contest

*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.

This month's offering is Hand 8 taken from the September 2024 set.

Both Vul. Dealer South. IMPs.	West	North	East	South
♠ J 5				1NT
♥ 7 5	Pass	2♦	2♠	3♥
♦ A K J 8 6 4		?		
♣ K 7 2				

Action Marks	Panel Votes	Competitors' Entries (%)
Dbl	11	7
4♠	6	9
4♦	1	22
3♠	3	35
Pass	3	26
3NT	0	1

## Competition Entrant Average Score: 6.62

*From Marc Smith*

*No majority from the panel, but a clear favourite nonetheless. More than half of*

*competition entrants vote with the quarter of the panel who take a conservative approach.*

Does partner bid 2S vulnerable without a good suit? (6 carder probably)

Of the 24 Panellists, 11 decided that Double was the optimum bid. They made the comment that the X is card showing, not penalty. Some considered the bid as being a game try in spades

Six panellists considered that the hand was good enough to bid game whilst another 6 took the popular conservative view of passing or 3S.

How did you go? Match the experts?

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

Bridge NSW has a [Facebook page](#) where you can find out the latest. 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:



## Upcoming Events

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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](mailto:bridging@bridgensw.com.au).

# Summer Online Teams Championships

**THURSDAY NIGHTS @ 7PM**



*Stimulate your mind & make new friends!*

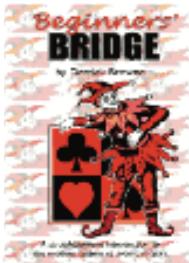
# Learn Bridge!

Main teacher

*Derrick Browne*

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

- *Beginners' Bridge* book
- Club joining fee



(Ongoing training & supervised play tailored to beginner graduates available)

*Choose a course of six 2-hour lessons:*

**Thursdays 2pm from 5 Feb**

**Thursdays 6.30pm from 5 Feb**

*Enrol now with...*

## Trumps Bridge Centre



58 Spit Road, Mosman NSW 2088



[trumps.net.au](http://trumps.net.au), [trumps@trumps.net.au](mailto:trumps@trumps.net.au)



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



phone 9969 5959 or 0412 947 279

*... 'The top teaching club'*

# FIVE

## ESSENTIAL CONVENTIONS

@ EAST LINDFIELD @ 10AM

with Liz Wilkinson

1

### STAYMAN 6th Feb

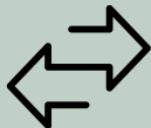
When partner opens 1NT and you have 4 cards in a major, how can you cleverly find out if partner has 4 in the same suit? This is a must have convention for every bridge player, beginners included!



2

### TRANSFERS 13th Feb

Partner opens 1NT and you have 5 cards in the major, learn how to invite partner to play your suit from their hand.



3

### STRONG 2♣

20th Feb

WOW! That is a lot of points. Learn how to tell partner that they need to keep bidding till we have game. Licence to describe your hand.

4

### BLACKWOOD 27th Feb

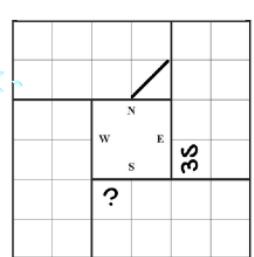
How to find out how many Aces or Kings partner has? Is it worth you bidding slam? Learn how to work it all out.



5

### PRE-EMPTS 13th Mar

Not enough points to open, but you have six, seven or eight cards in one suit! Learn how to be a menace and make life difficult for the opps.



No booking required | No partner required | Just show up

# Learn to Play Bridge



## Beginners' Course

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



### 6 Monday Mornings @ City

**February 9<sup>th</sup> – March 16<sup>th</sup>, 10.00am – 12.30pm**

### 6 Tuesday Evenings @ City

**February 10<sup>th</sup> – March 17<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm – 9.30pm**

**City, Level 1, 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills**

*Parking Available*

### 6 Thursday Mornings @ Polish Club Ashfield

**February 12<sup>th</sup> – March 19<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am – 12.45pm**

**Polish Club Ashfield, 182 Liverpool Road, Ashfield**

*Free Parking onsite*

*\$159 for the full course (notes included). Free for those who have done our Beginners Course before. You will have the option to continue your journey in either City or Polish Club Ashfield once completed the course.*

*Both of our venues provide on-going Supervised Sessions.*



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

# INTRODUCTION TO BRIDGE

## FACE TO FACE LESSONS

- Course starts Sat 14th February 2026,
- Book your place at [www.learnbridgeinsydney.com.au](http://www.learnbridgeinsydney.com.au)
- 2 hour lessons held at East Lindfield Bowling Club.
- Weekly practice session 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."





# Harmony Park Swiss Pairs

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
at Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills, Sydney  
Entry Fee: \$65 per person (lunch included).  
**RED masterpoints.**

*NEW ONE-DAY CONGRESS*

## SBC Harmony Park Swiss Pairs

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

at the SBC clubrooms on Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills  
Entry fee: \$65 (lunch included)

Director: Ronnie Ng • Organiser: Wing Roberts  
**RED Masterpoints**

### Programmes

Play bridge with the view of the beautiful Harmony Park at SBC! Play commences at 10.00am sharp on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for two sessions. There is a break for lunch between sessions and refreshment at the conclusion of congress.

Entries are OPEN to everyone. Please sign up in advance via MyABF.

We plan to run separate fields for Open and Novice & Restricted, depending on table numbers. Please nominate the field you would like to compete in on the entry form, or you will be placed in the category based on the masterpoints ranking of the pair as at 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025. Category prizes will be awarded. Prize money will depend on the number of entries.

**RED masterpoints** awarded.

Conducted under the auspices of Bridge NSW. All players are subject to the BNSW's Congress Disciplinary Regulations. The congress qualifies for the issue of red masterpoints at level B4.



Organiser: Wing Roberts

- Phone: (02) 9264 6884 / 0487 350 160 • Email: [office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au](mailto:office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au) •
- Website: [www.sydneybridgecentre.com](http://www.sydneybridgecentre.com) •



**Illawarra Bridge  
Association**

Open, Intermediate,  
Restricted, Novice and  
super Novice categories  
**Book Now!**

## **Illawarra Swiss Pairs**

### **Illawarra Bridge Association**

**Sun 15 February 2026**



Director: Jeff Carberry

Convenor: Cath Gregory

Information: [taffybint@gmail.com](mailto:taffybint@gmail.com) 0426 740 754

Online entry: MyABF [www.myabf.com.au/events/](http://www.myabf.com.au/events/)

Registration: **9.30am, play commences 10am**

Entry fee: \$55 per player (lunch included)

**Venue:** The Loft, The Builders Club, 61 Church Street, Wollongong

Please make sure you bring your system card. Yellow systems conventions are not permitted. Conducted under the auspices of BNSW. All players are subject to BNSW congress disciplinary regulations. The ABF has approved the issue of red masterpoints at level B4.



**Port Macquarie Hastings Bridge Club will be hosting the  
Regional Swiss Pairs on Sunday 15th February, 2026**

*Starts at 9:30 am*

*Cost is \$30 per person per day.*

*Morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Bring your own lunch.*

**Book online using MyABF.**

*(If necessary, please ask someone at your club to sign you up and help you enter.)*

**Entries close on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

*Organiser: Tom Meakin*

*Ph: 0439 198 751 Email:[tommeakinster@icloud.com](mailto:tommeakinster@icloud.com)*

*Tournament Director: Ray Inglewiecz*

**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.*

*This Congress qualifies for the issue of Red Points at level B4.*



# SUMMER PAIRS

Sunday 15th February @ 10am

**OPEN**

**INTERMEDIATE  
& RESTRICTED  
ROOKIE**

**SCAN**



FEBRUARY 2020

**Online**  
**SWISS PAIRS**

32



# 2026 Open Interstate Team Selection (ITS)

- 21-22 February 2026 (qualifying)**  
**7-8 March 2026 (final)**
- Online and Sydney Bridge Centre**
- \$100 per player (qualifying stage)**



**Compete for your spot on the team to represent NSW at the ANC 2026 in Canberra**

- Qualifying on RealBridge, 21-22 Feb (10am start)
- Top 14 pairs proceed to the final (\*)
- Final at Sydney Bridge Centre, 7-8 Mar (10am start)
- Top 3 pairs from the final will represent NSW at the Australian National Championships (\*\*)
- Representative team will receive travel subsidy to Canberra



**Register at  
[myabf.com.au](http://myabf.com.au)**

**Entries close 6pm  
Thursday 19 Feb**

(\*) Format subject to change depending on entries  
(\*\*) Subject to Bridge NSW Board ratification

Convenor: Lavy Libman

[lavy.libman@gmail.com](mailto:lavy.libman@gmail.com)

0410 763 935

Director: Ronnie Ng



**Friday Workshop**  
**Slam Bidding**  
**Keycard and Control Bidding**  
**No-Trump System**  
***With Will Jenner-O'Shea***  
**Friday February 27th, 10am - 3:30pm**  
***@Goulburn Street***

Make your No-Trump system a solid one! Learn the important bids to find the exciting slams.

**Conventions and Topics**

Slam Bidding, including Keycard and Control Bids.

No-Trump System. Responding to our 1NT Opening: Stayman, Transfers, Showing Minors, and Getting to Slams.

Competitive Bidding Judgement: Doubles, Overcalls and when to Double for Penalties.

*This workshop is a little more advanced, though should be 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](http://www.sydneybridgecentre.com), or contact the office – Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street. [office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au](mailto: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.



# 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



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



**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](http://www.sydneybridgecentre.com), or contact the office – Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street. [office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au](mailto: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.



## **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 [priceshdc@gmail.com](mailto:priceshdc@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**





## SBC GNOT Direct Qualifier

This event qualifies one team directly to the  
**GNOT National Qualifying Online** from 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> September 2026

*The GNOT National Final will be held F2F in Brisbane from 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.MyABF.com.au).



Organiser: Wing Roberts

• Phone: (02) 9264 6884 / 0487 350 160 • Email: [office@syrdneybridgeclub.org.au](mailto:office@syrdneybridgeclub.org.au) •

• Website: [www.syrdneybridgecentre.com](http://www.syrdneybridgecentre.com) •



**Congress will be held on  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

# 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](http://www.bridgetoday.com.au) or by clicking here - [Online Bridge - Bridge Today](#).

[www.bridgetoday.com.au](http://www.bridgetoday.com.au)

[admin@bridgeaway.com.au](mailto:admin@bridgeaway.com.au)

(02) 9979 9099