



# New South Wales Bridge Association

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Editor: Bruce Minchinton

## Chairman's Corner

As you read this I will be enjoying an English summer (it might even be warmer than Sydney if I am lucky!) as I am visiting Europe for a wedding and to see family/friends. There is even a chance I may play in a bridge congress in Bulgaria so, if that happens, it will be interesting to compare with our own tournaments.

Back on home matters I would like to thank all the regional representatives who travelled to Sydney for our annual meeting on 1 June which I think was a very valuable session. I particularly hope we can maintain an active network of representatives right across NSW to help ensure the NSWBA has good communication channels with all our affiliated clubs and meet their needs as far as possible. Several of the representatives stayed on to play our Teams of Three congress on the Sunday which was, as ever, very popular.

Thanks to all the hard work put in by the organizers and to the captains for giving up their time to help less experienced players.

Happy bridging!

Julian Foster

[Chairman@nswba.com.au](mailto:Chairman@nswba.com.au)



## October 23 - 31

Sydney's premier bridge event, the Sydney Spring Nationals, will soon be upon us. This year sees the introduction of the Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs event. Ted was well known and respected on the NSW Bridge scene, as a Player, Director and Teacher. It is fitting that the new Restricted Pairs event will honour Ted.

For details on the events at the Spring Nationals, turn to page 6. Alternatively check it out online at

<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/spnot/2013/index.asp#bro>



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## Get the Picture

Beginners and intermediates

Submitted by Kath Kean

You know we'd all play bridge in a tunnel with Braille cards if we had to, wouldn't we? Let's stretch our imagination and have a look at a very interesting concept, which I might add won an international bridge award many moons ago. It's pretty simple and it gives you an important insight, especially if you're playing five card majors:

### Getting a picture of partner's hand

The great international bridge player, Bobby Hammon once said *Would you try to play golf or tennis blindfolded? Most bridge players do exactly that when they play a hand.*

For example, partner opens 1H or 1S and after your bid, they then bid two of another suit. Partner is showing nine cards in their hand, five of the major and four of the other. What's left in their hand - either two doubletons or a three card suit and a singleton, a shapely lot which could easily be played in a suit contract. Hmmm, nice picture. If you do agree with one of them, then perhaps there's game or slam counting the distribution or total points. (If the shape is more extreme, partner will tell you after you bid).

What happens if you don't agree with either of the two suits? Check to see if you have cover in the other two. If so, with 10-11 pts you can bid 2NT or 3NT with 12+. With anything less, put partner back into their original bid if you can. Example:

Partner	You
S KQJ94	106
H 76	KQJ10
D AQ107	K43
C J2	KQ102

### Bidding - opponents passing throughout

1S: 2C: 2D: 3NT end of bidding

And what have we gained from this picture?  
- we know early in the bidding, at the two level in fact, that partner doesn't have four clubs or four

hearts, and consequently with the above hands, no fit. We can proceed safely to a 3NT contract. A valuable insight which doesn't leave you wondering.

**Note** - *Picture the shape only, not HCPs, you know partner has some with the opening bid, but don't presume or expect they're holding some or all of the top honours in their bid suits.*

### Defense

If you're defending the contract you can also use this method to picture the opponent's hand as well and check it out against your holding. In defense this is extremely valuable. For example if they're playing in a NT contract, and you have the same holding in one of their bid suits, then it's important not to discard any of them - Keep Length.

*Next time - Responder is the Captain of your Contract.*

## State Country Open and Mixed Pairs Championships

At the recent meeting of regional representatives of affiliated clubs, it was decided to introduce two new events for country players: the Country Open Pairs Championship (from October 2013) and the Country Mixed Pairs Championship (from May 2014).

In the past, affiliated clubs qualified pairs to the Finals of these events. These are 2-day events in Sydney in which the top 14 pairs from the Saturday qualifying sessions progress to the Sunday Final. Many of the representative pairs from the country clubs found this a daunting experience, with no real expectation of qualifying for the Final. In the new format, the top 14 pairs on Saturday will qualify for the State Final as before, but now, in addition, the top pairs from the non-metropolitan clubs will qualify to a separate Country Pairs Final on the Sunday.

A letter from NSWBA Tournament Committee's Chairman, Warren Lazer detailing the new events was recently sent to all clubs. If your club has not received this letter contact the NSWBA Office.

# A hand from the Senior State Finals – board 19

Submitted by John McIlrath

What do you do with a hand that by Losing Trick Count offers just 1 loser? Here's an example, Bill Westwood held the North hand and Tom Goodyer the South.

<p>♠AK632 ♥AKQ985 ♦AK ♣</p>	+	<p>♠985 ♥732 ♦Q6 ♣KJ9853</p>
<p>♠QJ9 ♥JT4 ♦J94 ♣A742</p>		<p>♠T74 ♥6 ♦T87532 ♣QT6</p>

The bidding

West	North	East	South
			P
P	1♣ (1)	P	1♠ (2)
P	4NT (3)	P	5♣ (4)
P	5♦ (5)	P	5♠ (6)
P	6♠ (7)	P	P
X (8)	XX (9)	All Pass	

1. Strong Club
2. <6 points and my Spades are better than my hearts
3. RKCB
4. 3014 – so no keycards partner
5. Do you have the queen than?
6. No, I do not have the queen!
7. Does not matter, I was always bidding 6S
8. I think I have a couple of tricks here, a trump and the Ace of Clubs
9. Have I got a surprise for you!!

Making 12 tricks for 1,620 and no surprise a top!

The event was won by David Smee & Kevin Davies, pictured below



## Change to Alerting procedures – Announcements

Recently a letter was sent to all affiliated club explaining a change to alerting procedures that come into effect from August 1, 2013.

If your club has not received the letter, please contact the NSWBA office.

The changes introduce announcements, a system that has been used successfully in North America and Europe for some time.

Announcements are a statement by a player when partner opens a particular bid. The player does not wait for the opponents to ask about the bid, a description of partners holding is given voluntary.

The bids covered by announcements are 1♣ and 1NT.

When partner opens 1♣, partner would describe the bid, e.g. when playing a short club, partner would say, "2 plus Clubs". If you play Precision, you would say "Strong, 16+ points". For a 1NT opening partner would say the point count range, eg "15 to 17".

For full details, please refer to the letter sent out to all affiliated clubs.

## Book Review

### The Complete Book on Takeout Doubles - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

by Mike Lawrence

The front cover of this book says “Revised and updated for the first time in 20 years”. The author’s credentials are excellent and can be viewed on line by Googling his name. For readers without a computer let me say that he has won dozens of major tournaments in USA plus three world championships (1970, 1971, and 1987). Wikipedia lists him as author of 28 bridge books. His first bridge book “**How to Read Your Opponents Cards**” came out in 1974 and is always in the various lists of top 20 best bridge books of all time.

**The Complete Book on Takeout Doubles** is aimed at Intermediate/Advanced players. It covers a lot of ground –and in depth. There are 19 chapters and the book concludes with 56 review hands (pages 279 to 312).

Before getting into the nitty gritty, Lawrence writes about four conventions that he says will be helpful (some might say even essential) to use in conjunction with Takeout Doubles. These are: Michaels Cuebid, Responsive Double, Lebensohl and Equal Level Conversion. Everyone knows the first three conventions and when you read the book you will know all about the fourth one.

The layout of the book may look rather daunting as you view the Contents, but once you start reading it all falls into place. Each bidding situation is covered by headings such as **LHO opens and RHO bids 1NT**. The text (pages 52-53) discusses that situation and then recommends that your double of that 1NT bid is a takeout of opener’s suit.

Lawrence frequently reminds the reader of the importance of having the correct values for a take out double. For example on Page 79 he says:

*“Do not overlook the takeout double. Be sure to have the takeout shape when you double. Doubling just to show points is a sure loser. Be willing to surrender on hands with flat*

*distribution. Passing sometimes requires more bravery than bidding, but the results are worth it.”*

The book is packed with good advice. There are numerous example hands all laid out in the modern style with the bidding diagram always presented in the sequence: West – North –East-South. Most of the time the reader is sitting South and the vulnerability is nil on majority of hands. Naturally there are some situations where you are red or green versus red and appropriate comments are given.

One of the recurring themes of this book is the importance of both partners knowing what the various doubles mean. Consider this auction:

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣	Dble
1♦	1♥	2♣	Dble *

Lawrence says (P218) the second double shows a good hand with three hearts. His rationale is clear and convincing but obviously both North and South need to know what is going on. Looking again at the above bidding grid, I wonder if the use of brackets around the opponent’s bids might have enhanced the presentation. The use of brackets in this way is often found in bridge system notes and, in my view, it works well.

Lawrence’s example hands are well chosen and I liked the way he always covers in depth many situations where partner has various types of bad hands.

Most of his recommendations would be considered to be ‘modern standard’. But there are a few segments where he introduces some new ideas. For example LHO opens 1♣, partner doubles, RHO bids 1NT and the spotlight is on you. Go to page 142 to read his sensible suggestions for what bids of 2♣, Double, and 2NT mean here.

The book is sprinkled with many pithy and shrewd comments such as (P156) “ An excellent rule of thumb is to compete when you do have a fit but to go quietly when you do not have a fit”. These comments are always in context with the relevant chapter.

His rationale for making a double of their 4♠ opening to be takeout (P245) is excellent. I would guess that many bridge players would say that a double of 4♠ is 'penalty'. After you read this book you will want to change to making that double = takeout.

He has some useful thoughts on rescue redoubles (also known as SOS redoubles). It is surprising how often bridge players (even experienced ones) have accidents in this area of bidding.

I liked the positioning of the review hands at the end of the book. This is much better than having a quiz at the end of each chapter such as you might find in a book for improvers. Some of the review hands are very good in the way they cover several themes or rules from various chapters all in the one bridge hand.

This book is best read in installments. Don't try to read too much in one sitting. You need to concentrate on the material but take time to enjoy the writing which is lucid, pithy and frequently entertaining.

Lawrence does not put down huge quantities of rules. Instead he will often present an interesting situation and say "I would bid....." and emphasizing that other players might wish to choose a different bid in that situation. He states his viewpoint clearly and succinctly and then moves on to the next problem.

By the way, he has a small segment (pp118-119) on the Law of Total Tricks (sometimes known as LOTT) which is often cited by some players as a good guide for competitive bidding when you have found a fit. Lawrence wrote a book in 2004 (with Anders Wirgren) called *I Fought The Law of Total Tricks*.

This book is essential for all serious bridge players and should be read by both members of any regular tournament bridge partnership.

At the end of the book the thought occurred to me that it would be interesting to see copy of Mike Lawrence's current bridge system notes to see how he documents his use of takeout doubles with his main tournament bridge partners. I am sure there is such a document.

Reviewed by Peter Jamieson

## Recently Released Books

### **Defensive Play at Bridge: A Quizbook**

Barbara Seagram & David Bird  
Companion to the Declarer Play book – ideal for improver/novice players.  
**\$24.95** or ♥\$13.99 as an eBook♣

### **Diamonds are the Hog's Best Friend**

More long lost Menagerie stories from Victor Mollo.  
**\$29.95** or ♥\$19.49 as an eBook♣

### **A Treasury of Bidding Tips**

Eddie Kantar  
Another volume of tips in Kantar's typically entertaining style.  
**\$29.95** or ♥\$19.49 as an eBook♣

### **Bid More, Play More, Enjoy More, Win More**

Matthew Thomson  
Great advice from a multiple Australian champion player.  
**\$24.95** or ♥\$13.99 as an eBook♣

### **Complete Guide to Takeout Doubles.**

Mike Lawrence  
2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Revised & Updated.  
Reviewed here.  
**\$34.95** or ♥\$23.99 as an eBook♣

Available from:

♦ **The Bridge Shop 02 9967 0644 or [www.bridgeshop.com.au](http://www.bridgeshop.com.au)**

♦ **Paul Lavings Bridge Books and Supplies 02 9388 8861 or [www.bridgegear.com](http://www.bridgegear.com)**

## Vu-Bridge

Vu-Bridge available at The Bridge Shop.

You can play bridge interactively on line as well as receive newsletters. There are two different levels namely beginners and intermediates. For all the details go to the Bridge Shop web site and select **Vu-Bridge** from the menu bar.

# Sydney Spring Nationals



**23-31 October 2013**

For the second time the Sydney Spring Nationals will be held at Canterbury Park Racecourse, 96 King St, Canterbury.

The events are:-

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 23-25 October | <b>Open Teams Qualifying</b>   |
| 23-24 October | <b>Two Men &amp; a Truck Restricted Teams</b> (all players with <300 Masterpoints)   |
| 26-27 October | <b>Dick Cummings Open Pairs</b>  |
| 26-27 October | <b>Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs</b> (all players with <300 Masterpoints)  |
| 28-31 October | <b>Linda Stern Women's Teams Qualifying, then final</b>  |
| 28-31 October | <b>Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams Qualifying, then final</b><br>(all players born < 1/1/1955)<br>Finals will follow each of the qualifying rounds shown above. |



This year sees the introduction of the Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs. Ted was well known on the NSW Bridge scene, as a Player, Director and Teacher. It is fitting that the new Restricted Pairs event will honour Ted.

Every event will attract **Gold Masterpoints**.  
**PQPs** are awarded to all but the Restricted Teams and Pairs.

**A cafeteria will be available for purchase of lunch and a bar will be open for a short time after play each day.**

**Free parking** is available at the venue. **Canterbury Railway Station** is about 1 km away.

If you are coming by **taxi**, use address of 96 King St, Ashbury. This will get you to the best entrance gate.

**Any player who enters both the Restricted Teams and the Restricted Pairs will be given a \$20 voucher redeemable with Paul Lavings Bridge Books and Supplies.**

<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/spnot/2013/index.asp#bro> gives some nearby accommodation options, full brochure and on-line entry facility.

# CONGRESS RESULTS

## Trumps Autumn Teams

- 1 Julian Foster, Jenna Gibbons, Steven Bock, Rakesh Kumar
- 2 Patricia Mann, Ron Speiser, Peter Cox, Bernard Edelstein
- 3 Angie Boulton, Peter Boulton, Judy Twigg, Julianne Rocks

## Leeton Congress

### Pairs

- 1 D Brennan & J Rava
- 2 B Krishan & P Timmins
- 3 J Hackett & T Hackett

### Teams

- 1 Eric Taylor, Helen Taylor, Pam Lonnie, Vince Kelly
- 2 Elaine Leach, John Brockwell, Phillip Williams, Michael Ross
- 3 Valerie Sanderson, Richard Harman, David Brennan, Jan Rava

## Coffs Harbour Teams

- 1 Carolyn Miller, Kevin Steffensen, Kellie Potts, Nigel Mcivor
- 2 Jamie Mcfall, Frances Gaunt, David Shorter, Ben Haagsma
- 3 David Weston, Michael Waring, Greg Mayo, Sharon Mayo

## Strathfield Teams

- 1 Marlene Watts, Michael Prescott, Helena Dawson, Fraser Rew
- 2 Susan Crompton, Michael Wilkinson, Michael Courtney, Catherine Ritter
- 3 Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Andrew Peake, Orlando Wu

## NSWBA Teams of Three

- 1 Tony Nunn, Patricia Lacey, Carmel Bourke, Elaine Dignan
- 2 David Beauchamp, Ian Jamieson, Timothy Stewart, Rod Dunn
- 3 Michael Wilkinson, Sylvia Foster, Jaan Oitmaa, Patricia Kull

## Nambucca Valley Congress

### Pairs

- 1 Helena Dawson & David Weston
- 2 Julian Foster & Michael Waring
- 3 Kellie Potts & Nigel McIvor

### Teams

- 1 Kellie Potts, Nigel McIvor, Magda Kiraly, Ben Raaphorst
- 2 Pauline Erby, Gil Clarke, Anne Rutter, Jenny Michael
- 3 Helena Dawson, Michael Waring, David Weston, Julian Foster

## IBA Chris Diment Memorial Congress

### Pairs

- 1 J Donovan & A Hewat
- 2 M Kolodziejczyk & R Waszyrowski
- 3 E Lindh & P Phillips

### Teams

- 1 George Czubala, Wally Malaczynski, Andrzej Adamczewski, Richard Waszyrowski
- 2 Eugene Graczynski, Wieslaw Podworski, Ewa Kowalczyk, Gheorghii Belonogov
- 3 Ken Colbert, Alexander Hewat, Noel Bugeia, George Stockham

## Newcastle Congress

### Pairs

- 1 Anne Rutter & Jenny Michael
- 2 Ken Berry & Normand MacLaurin
- 3 Michael McAuliffe & Richard McAuliffe

### Teams

- 1 Julie Gleeson, Wayne Smith, Chris Dibley, Michael Seldon
- 2 Christo Moskovsky, Pam Robinson, Bernie Adcock, Ian Walker
- 3 Paul McGrath, Robyn Fletcher, Warren Dobes, Patrick Neary

## Wollstonecraft Teams

- 1 Susan Crompton, Michael Wilkinson, Linden Raymond, Michael Courtney
- 2 Ranjit Limaye, John Clifton, Kelsey Chen, Catherine Zhang
- 3 Shirley Phillips, Michael Phillips, Lee Dreyer, Frank Dreyer

## Twin Town Teams

- 1 Bruce Marr, Merle Marr, Michael Sykes, Fred Whitaker
- 2 Carol Wilkinson, George Wilkinson, Janet Johnson, Bobbie Greenwood
- 3 Eric Hurley, Janet Brown, William Powell, Marjorie Askew

## Tamworth Swiss Pairs

- 1 Maureen Wright & Barbara Green
- 2 Greg Mayo & Sharon Mayo
- 3 Chris Van Wyck & Margaret Ingold

## Kings and Queens Swiss Pairs

- 1 Michael Prescott & Marlene Watts
- 2 Kinga Moses & Neville Moses
- 3 Joe Barda & Ishmael Del'monte

## North Shore Super Congress Audio Clinic Teams

- =1 John Scotford, Liz Wilkinson, Phillip Osie, Julia Connor
- =1 Lynn Kalmin, Judy Osie, Giselle Mundell, Pauline Evans
- 3 Ronald Smith, Anne Small, Ronnie Ng, Kaylee Lemon

## Watermark Swiss Pairs North-South

- =1 Marlene Watts & Michael Prescott
- =1 Terry Bodycote & Paul Weaver
- 3 Helen Hellsten & Tong Ong

## East-West

- 1 Neil Perry & Arnold Volframs
- 2 Pauline Evans & Giselle Mundell
- 3 Andrew Peake & Orlando Wu

## Two Men & A Truck Teams

- 1 Jeanette Reitzer Terry Brown, Marlene Watts, Michael Prescott
- 2 Kim Morrison, David Weston, Fraser Rew, Orlando Wu
- 3 George Bilski, Jennifer Rothwell, Steven Bock, Kevin Davies

## DIARY OF UPCOMING CONGRESSES IN NSW

At our web site ([www.nswba.com.au](http://www.nswba.com.au)), go to **Tournaments** then select **Calendar** for congress details

To get the latest news on congresses subscribe to NSWBA's eCongress Newsletter and have it delivered to your inbox. Subscribe at [www.nswba.com.au](http://www.nswba.com.au)

## Upcoming State Events

NSWBA State Individual – Aug 3: day

NSWBA State Open Teams Qualifying – 6 weeks from August 5: evening

NSW State Wide Pairs – August 5 – 26: many sessions

NSWBA State Master Pairs – 4 weeks from August 20: mornings

North Shore State Seniors Pairs – 3 weeks from Sept 3: afternoons

NSWBA City of Sydney Board-a-Match Teams – 4 weeks from Sept 16: evenings

Check out NSWBA web site for further details.