



# New South Wales Bridge Association

## ♠ ♥ Newsletter ♦ ♣

Editor: Steve Hurley

### Chairman's corner

Welcome to the latest edition. I spent most of July over in WA attending the ANC where NSW teams came 1st (seniors), 2nd (women), 3rd (open) and 4th (youth).



Let me start with a few congratulations



Firstly to Marion Rice who celebrated her 106th birthday recently with her regular game at Sydney Bridge Centre. Most decidedly our most senior member!

Secondly to two well-known Sydney players Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer who have both attained some masterpoint landmarks recently, Pauline for becoming the top ranked masterpoint holder of all time, and Warren for becoming Australia's latest Emerald Grandmaster with 10,000 MPs.

Pauline and Warren both do a huge amount of work for the NSWBA (much of it unseen by many people) and another example is convening the new Under 100 MP competition. It's encouraging to see so many clubs signing up for this. If you haven't yet, start talking to other clubs in your area and/or your regional representative and get involved. It's a super opportunity to offer an event for a group of players who actually represent a significant majority of our

members, something that tournament organisers have probably overlooked in the past!

The NSWBA and ABF met recently to discuss ways we could better work together around teaching. One result of that was seen at the latest NSW licensed gold point event held at Coffs Harbour. The NSWBA began a new initiative by funding a lunch and a forum for teachers which was very well received (thanks to Cath Whiddon for organising at very short notice). I hope to see such a program expanded. After all bringing new players into the game is absolutely fundamental to any bridge club's success and I know many clubs struggle with this. We will continue to look for ways we can help all our clubs in this vital area.

Happy bridging

Julian Foster  
NSWBA Chairman



### NSW representatives at the ANC

Here are some hands from our representatives at the Australian National Congress teams championships. Visit the ANC website [here](#).

#### NSW Seniors

Our Senior side qualified first after two qualifying round robins, and won the final. Peter Jeffery writes about an interesting hand from the final.

The last 10 boards of the 60 were flat and boring, but hand 16 in the last set was interesting.

♠85                    Brd: 16  
 ♥A3                    Dlr: W  
 ♦KJ874                Vul: EW  
 ♣KJ64

♠QT3                 ♠AJ642  
 ♥986                 ♥KQT72  
 ♦963                 ♦A  
 ♣A972               ♣QT

♠K97  
 ♥J54  
 ♦QT52  
 ♣853

*(Ed. The expected contract is 4♠. East should play it, but West may do if East uses a stronger version of a Michael's cue bid)*

The lessons on the hand are "non-expect": but a valuable lesson just the same about ducking (the trump King). But no-one found the duck when it counted.

On a non-heart lead, it's a tricky hand, with inadequate entries.

On a diamond lead, or a club lead from south, or trump from north, if south finds the trump duck, a rather routine play, it will surely go down.

There seem to be 4 possible losers, and a threatening ruff in hearts.

In the end it was a bit easier for me. I got a diamond lead from south, then ducked a club to north, to cut communications and reduce the chance of a later heart ruff. North switched to a heart, me winning with KH. Now what? Do I play ace and another spade, and risk a heart ruff when north has three spades, or finesse spades and risk a heart ruff? I did the latter, but you can see it made no difference. Both lines win. Note that in the bidding, I did not show my hearts, which made the defence harder. Although a diamond continuation looks right.

At the other Seniors table Bob Sebesfi lead a spade as north. When south won with the king, and played another trump, Weisz had two extra entries, and wisely played a heart before playing a 3rd round of trumps.

In the open, 4S was made by Hoffman, after Brightling bid Michaels, and south raised to 3D. North led a small heart from Ax. A strange card to play on the auction. Declarer won with the K, played a club to the ace and lead the TS. Gold took his K and it was all over. If South ducks the trump and leads the QS finessing again, declarer is put to a nasty guess in hearts.

At the other Open table, same auction, north led a spade. And the play to the first 3 tricks was identical to the Seniors Sebesfi table. South goofed and did NOT duck the spade, creating a 2nd entry to West. But Hollands goofed by playing a 3rd trump, BEFORE playing a heart thru the ace

In the Women's event, one east was down in 4S, after overcalling 1S and bidding 3H on the way to 4S. Showing the heart suit here was pointless, and only helped the defence. A diamond was led, club to the ace, then QS. Again, south did not duck, which would have doomed the contract. Declarer still had only one entry, and made the percentage play, playing N for Jxx. So -1

The other women's pair made 10 tricks in 3H, after Michaels. And neither pair bid and made 4S in the youth.

### NSW Open

With one round to go in the qualifying round robin, NSW headed the leader board but finished third after a loss to SA, always a tough state to play. Fraser Rew writes about some interesting hands.

The two hands that I recall were these ones (one good, one bad). First the bad one:

♠-                        Brd: 9  
 ♥QJT76                Dlr: N  
 ♦A43                    Vul: EW  
 ♣AQT65

♠AQJT432            ♠9876  
 ♥5                      ♥K8432  
 ♦Q652                ♦J  
 ♣J                      ♣972

♠K5  
 ♥A9  
 ♦KT987  
 ♣K843

Nick Rodwell      George Kozakas      Fraser Rew      David Appleton

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♥	P	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	3♠
4♣ <sup>2</sup>	p <sup>3</sup>	5♣ <sup>4</sup>	P
5♠ <sup>5</sup>	P	6♦	All pass

- (1) Natural, game forcing
- (2) Showing shortage, then a void
- (3) After a hesitation
- (4) First or second round control
- (5) Now showing a void

We'd obviously much prefer to be in 6C, but it's hard to say that any of the bids was unreasonable - sometimes pre-empts just get you.

I got the play completely wrong. West led the SQ(!) and I made my first mistake by ruffing in dummy. Next I played the DA. My plan originally was to cross to hand in Hearts, ruff a Spade, then come back to hand again to draw trumps. However, if West is void of either suit, he can ruff and I'll go off. When the DJ fell from East, I had a better idea. As West has bid 3S at unfavourable, he clearly has an 8-card suit (hahaha), so he's unlikely to hold four Diamonds. This is verified by East's Pass over 4S, as he'd obviously bid 5S with 4-card support (hahaha). So, the Jack must be from QJ Doubleton. I therefore confidently played dummy's last trump - which, as you can see, wasn't a triumph. West could ruff in early and cash his Ace of Spades.

Also, well done to David Appleton for working out when to underlead his Ace. On any other lead, I can take a ruffing finesse in Hearts.

And the good one, Vs Vic, also in the 1<sup>st</sup> round robin.

♠T96	Brd: 9
♥72	Dlr: N
♦A9862	Vul: EW
♣852	
♠AJ5	♠432
♥T954	♥KQJ3
♦K	♦QJ7
♣AQ943	♣JT6
♠KQ87	
♥A86	
♦T543	
♣K7	

Justin Howard      Fraser Rew      Pete Hollands      Nick Rodwell

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
P	P	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	P
1♠ <sup>2</sup>	P	1NT	X <sup>3</sup>
2♦ <sup>4</sup>	2NT	P	3NT
P	P	P	

- (1) Unbalanced with Clubs, or any Balanced
- (2) No major
- (3) Penalty X of Clubs
- (4) Weak, Diamonds

It's not often that you get to game after your partnership's first three calls are Pass, but that's what we managed here. We agreed that passing and then doubling 1NT, as Nick did here, shows Clubs. I had a maximum for my initial Pass, with useful Club cards; also, on that auction, all the finesses are likely to work, so I invited. Maybe I should just shut my eyes and bid 3NT, but Nick was there for me.

There was nothing to the play when they started with two rounds of Diamonds: I won in hand and led the Jack of Clubs, covered, and played on Hearts. That was 11 tricks for +660, and 10 imps in when opponents stopped in 3H at the other table.

*(Ed. And now dear reader, grab something stronger than your cup of tea ...)*

The next two hands are instructive from a partnership agreement and trust perspective!

♠AK65	Brd: 15
♥AQ2	Dlr: S
♦84	Vul: NS
♣9843	
♠74	♠QJ98
♥T	♥KJ98753
♦AQ763	♦-
♣AJT52	♣K7
♠T32	
♥64	
♦KJT952	
♣Q6	

Nick Rodwell    Tony Hutton    Fraser Rew    Malcolm Carter

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
X	XX <sup>2</sup>	P	2♦ <sup>1</sup>
p <sup>4</sup>		p <sup>3</sup>	P

- (1) Fantunes - 5+D, 10-13 HCP
- (2) Expecting us to run....
- (3) Happy to play 2D XX!
- (4) I hope you are right....

Result - two off +600

Match 5 vs VIC Again Board 15....

	♠J97	Brd: 15
	♥AQT94	Dir: S
	♦Q2	Vul: NS
	♣973	
♠KT83	♠A4	
♥65	♥J873	
♦AJ865	♦T974	
♣AK	♣T52	
	♠Q652	
	♥K2	
	♦K3	
	♣QJ864	

Justin Howard    Fraser Rew    Pete Hollands    Nick Rodwell

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
2♥	P	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	1NT
XX	p <sup>3</sup>	P	X <sup>2</sup>
		P	p <sup>4</sup>

- (1) Unbalanced with Clubs, or any Balanced
- (2) Take Out
- (3) Seems our most likely Plus - If I have to play redoubled then so be it!
- (4) I trust you partner....

Result: 1 off +400. The play is written up in [Bulletin 4](#) from ANC

## NSW Youth

The Youth team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the qualifying rounds. Leigh Matheson (Non-Playing Captain of the NSW Youth Team) writes about insightful play from our up and coming youth players, Tomer Libman.

In round 10, playing against Victoria, finalists,

♠Q954	Brd: 13
♥A98	Dir: N
♦K952	Vul: All
♣JT	

♠J732	♠AT8
♥T73	♥QJ64
♦63	♦Q74
♣A854	♣932

♠K6
♥K52
♦AJT8
♣KQ76

Tomer was South and playing in 3NT on the lead of the 2♠. This was ducked to the K♠. Tomer led a club and West took the A♣ and returned a club to dummy. Tomer guessed the diamonds correctly cashing the K♦ (dropping the 10♦ underneath) and then running the 9♦. Tomer cashed all the diamonds, West pitching a spade and (critically) a heart. On the run of clubs this position was reached:

♠Q95	Brd: 1
♥A9	Dir: N
♦-	Vul: All
♣-	

♠J7	♠AT
♥T7	♥QJ6
♦-	♦-
♣8	♣-

♠6
♥K52
♦-
♣Q

The Q♣ was cashed; Tomer discarded a spade from dummy. This squeezed East without the count! If East discards a heart, the suit comes good. East instead discarded 10♠. Tomer read the position accurately and ducked a round of spades to the now bare A♠ and claimed the rest. +660.

## Bidding to the limit

At the recent Wagga Wagga congress, there were some hands that well extolled the virtue of getting to your contract quickly.

There are several adages =>

1. You own the auction and you bid to your contract quickly to stop them finding a fit and taking the save.
2. They own the auction and you bid to your contract quickly to stop them finding their best contract.
3. Once you made the pre-emptive bid, do not bid again.

Cases in point. You are West and hold the following hands =>

1.

♠T862  
♥6  
♦KQJ965  
♣KJ

The bidding proceeds =>

East	South	West	North
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	??	

What do you bid?

Now look at all the hands.

♠3	Brd: XX
♥AKT753	Dlr: E
♦T83	Vul: EW
♣972	

♠T862	♠AKQ5
♥6	♥J
♦KQJ965	♦A74
♣KJ	♣QT653

♠J974  
♥Q9842  
♦2  
♣A84

The answer is 4♠.

At the table, North passed with an ample heart overcall (not sure why). With no expectation of slam, West should bid game showing offensive strength, cutting North out of showing their suit and making a very good save.

2.

You hold the following motley lot:

♠32  
♥843  
♦8542  
♣8652

Partner opens 3♣, not vul against them vulnerable, and South over calls 3♥. Your go.

This time it is to arrive at your best contract quickly before they can divine where to play. The answer is 5♣

♠KQ984	Brd: XX
♥AK76	Dlr: E
♦Q9	Vul: NS
♣AK	

♠32	♠AT5
♥843	♥9
♦8542	♦J63
♣8652	♣QJT973

♠J76  
♥QJT52  
♦AKT7  
♣4

Over 5C, North is at a guess to bid 5♥, 6♥, or even 7♥. At the table, North chose a very conservative 5♥ - North must have seen South make some ropey overcalls before.

3.

Lastly, you hold:

♠T9742  
♥AT976  
♦7  
♣T5

And both not vul, North opens, and the bidding proceeds:

East	South	West	North
			1♦
1♠	X	??	

Same principle as point 2 above. You bid 4♠.

This time the bidding continued ....

East	South	West	North
			1♦
1♠	X	4♣	5♣
Pass	5♦	??	

Your go. What do you bid?

Here is the full hand.

	♠J5	Brd: XX
	♥K	Dir: N
	♦AKJ63	Vul: Nil
	♣A8764	
♠T9742	♠KQ863	
♥AT976	♥542	
♦7	♦QT8	
♣T5	♣Q2	
	♠A	
	♥QJ83	
	♦9542	
	♣KJ93	

You are tempted to bid 5♠ with your great shape. But you have already shown that by bidding to game immediately (expecting to go off against a game rather than a slam, as was the case above). East has chosen not to move so you should do so as well. Otherwise it is 800 away against a game

Steve Hurley

## For players with fewer than 100 masterpoints

If you do, you're part of the majority - over 70% of the registered active players in NSW have fewer than 100 masterpoints.

Masterpoint range	% of registered active NSW players
0-9.99 MP	33%
10-24.99 MP	13%
25-49.99 MP	12%
50-99.99 MP	12%

In May this year, the NSWBA announced the introduction of a new State Championship for this large cohort of players. The event has been specifically designed to reduce travel times, eliminate accommodation costs and promote interclub competition. It will be played in two distinct stages and in the four masterpoint divisions shown above.

The first stage consists of Club Qualifying Events, played in your home club. Those clubs that indicated they will participate, and the dates and times of their qualifying sessions, can be found at <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2015&E=uhmpevents>. If your club isn't listed, get onto your club administrators and ask why not. There's still time to organise a qualifying session!! Any pair that plays in a club qualifier is eligible to play in the Local Final.

The second stage consists of a Local Final, played over two sessions on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November. All Local Finals will play the same boards and the results will be matchpointed across the state. Local Finals will be truly that, generally within an hour's drive of the participants' home clubs.

The cost is just \$2 per player per club qualifying session (plus normal club table money). There's no NSWBA entry fee to play the Local Final, but it is expected that the hosting club will charge table money to cover directing, catering and room-hire costs.

All pairs will be given a handicap based on the average strength (MP holding) of their Local Final

and their own MP holding. Results will be posted on the NSWBA website.

Top prize will be a \$2000 grant to attend the Restricted (<300 MP) Butler Pairs at the 2016 Brisbane ANC. Other prizes will include cash, medals, certificates and subscriptions to the online Novice Edition of the Australian Bridge magazine. Prizes will be based on the handicapped results.

Red masterpoints will be issued at State Championship B4s level. Half of the players in each of the masterpoint ranges will receive awards - they won't "all" be won by the 50-99.99 players.

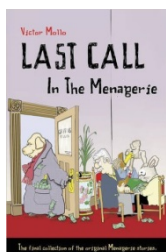
Full details, along with a list of clubs holding Local Finals, can be [found](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2015&E=uhip) at : <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2015&E=uhip>

*(Ed. Note the letters to editor article below discussing handicaps.)*

## Musings from a master

Victor Mollo's Menagerie series is perhaps one of my favorite series of bridge books. Each article is a few pages long, with characters colorful and with many traits recognisable from bridge players, and the hands are a marvelous creation of ingenuity and card play. The setting is the Griffins Bridge Club, with characters such as the Hideous Hog (the redoubted expert), the Rueful Rabbit (with luck always on his side), Karapet (cursed and unlucky), the Secretary Bird (sage of bridge law), Walter the Walrus (High Card Point rule!), and many more personalities.

Although Mollo passed away in 1987, a final book (Last Call In The Menagerie) in the series has been released. Here is one of the earlier hands from the book to give you a taste of his musings.



Put yourself as East. The Hideous Hog (HH), foremost card player at the Griffins Club, sits South. You are first to speak and you hold:

♠ A  
♥ KT965  
♦ KJ986  
♣ J3

A good 11 count. You choose to open 1♥. Then the bidding proceeds:

East	South	West	North
1♥	1♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

HH is declarer in 6♠, and partner leads 3♥ (normal leads). Dummy comes down, and you see:

♠ Q4	
♥ QJ874	
♦ AQ	
♣ A875	
	You
	♠ A
	♥ KT965
	♦ KJ986
	♣ J3

South plays 4♥, you play 6♥, and South wins with the A♥.

South leads 5♠, West plays 2♠, dummy plays the Q♠, and you win performe with the A♠. Your go.

What do you return based on the bidding and line of play?

Did you go thinking about the 2♥? HH hoped you did.

Here is the full hand.

♠ Q4	
♥ QJ874	
♦ AQ	
♣ A875	
♠ 732	♠ A
♥ 3	♥ KT965
♦ T7543	♦ KJ986
♣ T942	♣ J3
	♠ KJT9865
	♥ A2
	♦ 2
	♣ KQ6

The HH assumed that if the Q♥ was put up, this would imply a doubleton ♥ in his hand. You would simply win the A♠ and knowing that South now has the doubleton ♥ give your partner a ♥ ruff. So to deceive you, HH played a low ♥ from dummy. Then

you dare not lead back the K♥ fearing that it will be ruffed and that would be the easy 12 tricks for declarer.

The beauty of the hand does not end there. There is still the ♥ loser.

But wait!

After drawing trumps, the HH tries for the 3-3 ♣ break, but the ♣ suit does not break and there is nowhere to pitch the losing ♥. Still the HH continues running trumps, reaching this position:

♠ -	♠ -	♠ -
♥ -	♥ -	♥ K
♦ T7	♦ AQ	♦ KJ
♣ T	♣ 8	♣ -
	♠ 5	
	♥ 2	
	♦ 2	
	♣ -	

Now the last trump is played. It is a double squeeze. West's turn first. West discards the ♦ to guard dummy's ♣. Dummy's 8♣ is no good so is discarded. Then it is East's turn. East must now bare the K♦ or discard the K♥. East chose to discard the K♥ expecting his partner to have the 2♥, only to have the ignominy of allowing South's lowly 2♥, a trick East could have made, to be a winner and the 12<sup>th</sup> trick for the slam.

And that is the musings of a master...

*(Ed. "Last Call In The Menagerie" kindly supplied by [The Bridge Shop](#))*

Steve Hurley

## Teachers lunch Forum

The NSWBA funded a teacher's forum & lunch hosted by ABF National Teaching Coordinator, Joan Butts, at Coffs Super Congress this month. It was hailed as a great event with an overflow of participants (36).

New country teachers particularly appreciated the opportunity to discuss with other local community teachers what's working & how to provide better teaching to beginners.



Expert players & teachers generously shared their thoughts & experiences for an hour.

With the arrival of our lunch each table joined their dining partners for a vigorous exchange of views on improving teaching services & programs & materials.

After lunch there was a further mix of teachers, with good feedback on what teachers would like to see happen at future forums.

## The Balancing Act

**Joan Butts, the ABF National Teaching Coordinator, recently presented a workshop on Balancing at the Coffs Super Congress. An excerpt is reproduced below with Joan's kind permission.**



**Joan has kindly provided detailed notes & hands for teachers at clubs affiliated with the NSWBA.**



## Balancing in the Pass out seat

The origin of the term “balancing” is that your side might have the balance of power. When the opponents stop in a low-level partscore, there’s an inference that they have only half the points in the deck. If they had 26 they would have been bidding game.

The theory in balancing situations is that you may, and should, bid a suit or make a take-out double with fewer values than usual (say 8+ points).

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	???		

If the opponents have an eight-card trump fit, it is very likely that your side also has an eight-card or longer fit in some other suit. If the opponents have a nine-card or longer fit, your side **must** have at least one eight-card fit in another suit. Why let the opponents play the hand? By competing for the contract, you might also push the opponents beyond their comfort level if they come back into the auction.

If the opponents are known to have an eight-card fit, you should bid with shortage in their suit, and 8+ points. However, it is not so important to balance when the opponents do not have a known fit, and when you have too many cards in the opponent’s suit. Being active and balancing is more effective at matchpoints (pairs) than IMPs (teams).

But, there are disadvantages to competing too: you might be doubled for penalty; you might push the opponents into an excellent contract they would never reach on their own; you might give away information about your distribution or the location of your side’s high cards. In general though, there’s more to be said in favor of bidding than passing.

## Balancing in 4th Position

If the player on our left opens the bidding and it goes:

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	Pass	???

You can overcall, double or pass, but you are now in what’s called the balancing seat. This means that if you pass, the auction will be over. You also know something about all three of the other hands:

- (1) Your left-hand opponent has enough to open at the one-level, but not enough to open with a strong two-bid
- (2) Partner doesn’t have the right type of hand to compete with an overcall or a double. They could be weak or strong without the correct shape to bid
- (3) The player on your right does not have enough to respond to the opening bid – fewer than 6 points

Your partner (North) might have a hand like this:

♠K2  
♥AQ1094  
♦1052  
♣A62

Your partner certainly can’t say anything over 1♥. X would be takeout, and the shape is totally wrong for that. They are making a “trap” pass, planning to pass your takeout double for penalties.

Here is a “Summary of Adjustments for Bidding in the Balancing Position”:

- Overcalls and doubles may be made on less than normal values, about a King less, say 8+ (1♥ : P : P : 1♠)
- 1NT in balancing is usually 11 – 14 (some play 11 – 16), say 1♥ : P : P : 1NT)
- To jump in your suit in balancing is not weak, it’s intermediate to strong (1♥ P : P : 2♠) = 13+ points. It shows partner that you really have a good hand
- 2NT in the balancing seat is also strong, not the unusual variety (say 1♥ : P : P : 2NT = 19 – 20)
- Michaels applies in balancing, same as in the direct seat (1♥ : P : P : 2♥ = ♠ and a minor)
- Don’t balance without the correct shape.
- When your partner has balanced, you should bid with more caution, assuming partner may be weaker than usual. The “king less” that partner has balanced on, should be the

“king more” that you have “up your sleeve” so to speak.

If you would like more information on this material please contact Cath on: [CWHIDDON@LIVE.COM](mailto:CWHIDDON@LIVE.COM)

Cathy Whiddon

## Meanwhile, on the silver screen ...

James Bond strolls into the room and sits down against his arch rival Dr Hugo Drax in the ‘Diamonds Are Forever’. Drax is sitting South and picks up the following monster:

♠AKQJ  
♥AKQJ  
♦AK  
♣KJ9

“6 or 7 of something” he would be thinking.

But he is not the first to call. On his left, James Bond opens 7♣. Then after two passes, it’s Drax’s bid. What would you have done?

The answer is to fire your staff (or as Drax would have done, had them shot).

This is a derivative of the famous ‘Duke of Cumberland’ hand. The full layout is:

♠65432	♠T987
♥T9872	♥6543
♦JT9	♦-
♣A8	♣76532
♠-	♠AKQJ
♥-	♥AKQJ
♦Q8765432	♦AK
♣AQT84	♣KJ9

The hand is a complete setup, arranged to sucker Drax in for the double, which Bond redoubles. Then on any lead, Bond ruffs out the diamonds and comes

back to hand with successive club finesses claiming 13 tricks.

The story goes that the Duke Of Cumberland lost £20,000 on the hand, which would be close to \$1,000,000 today.

The movie may have been ‘Diamonds Are Forever’ but the hand could have been called ‘Diamonds Are For 13 Tricks’.

## Around the State

Clubs across NSW are strongly encouraged to submit articles to the editor to promote activities, events, successes, etc, in their club. Please send articles to [editor@nswba.com.au](mailto:editor@nswba.com.au) .

## Far North Coast



## Greetings from Grafton

The Grafton Bridge Club is a small but enthusiastic Club. Our President, Frances Hiatt, and her husband Geoff have been the people who have dedicated so much time and effort to grow the Club. They have given lessons, free of charge, for years. This has introduced new players to bridge.

We will be holding our Grafton Bridge Congress in a month's time. The Congress will be held on 17 and 18 July and the venue is the South Grafton Ex-Servicemens Club. There will be no night time play. We are a friendly Club and we will look forward to welcoming bridge players to our Congress.

With best wishes,  
Heather (Roland)  
Secretary

## South Coast



### Batemans Bay Bridge Club celebrates 29 years

Players from the early days cut the cake with President Jan Mitchell to celebrate the 29<sup>th</sup> birthday of Batemans Bay Bridge Club.

Bridge was played in Batemans Bay from the early 1980s when a group of people responded to advertisements placed in the local paper. The group played on Wednesday nights at each other's homes and also travelled to play with the Moruya players. The first Batemans Bay bridge session to be held in a public place was at the CWA Hall in Batemans Bay (the old school house) on 9 August 1986. The club was affiliated with the Australian Bridge Federation the following year and bridge continued at the CWA Hall on Friday nights.

Player numbers gradually grew until by 1988 there were 10 or so tables of players. Table fees were \$2 and at the tables ash trays were provided with cask wine available by the glass for 20 cents.

A purpose built clubhouse was opened in Orient Street Batemans Bay in 2003 and today the club has over 200 members and offers 5 bridge sessions per week as well as lessons and supervised play.



Jenny Lora, Graham Jones, Beverley Jones, Bette Herget, Maureen Cornish and Jan Mitchell

### Kiama and District Bridge Club

Gwen Hinchliffe and Vonnie McCafferty have been awarded life membership at the Kiama and District Bridge Club.

Gwen, a contributor to and a great supporter of the Kiama bridge club has also been a keen, competitive bridge player, as shown on the various honor boards. From 1984 to 1995, Gwen was treasurer of the Kiama Leagues Bridge Club, then taking on the role of president for that particular club in 1998. Gwen is twice a past President of the Kiama and District Bridge Club Inc., presiding in 2010 and again in 2013. Her commitment, devotion and loyalty to the club needs no qualification, is undisputed and is unmatched.

As the stickers around Kiama espouse "Kiama is Rugby", "Vonnie is Bridge" captures just how important and fundamental Vonnie McCafferty is to the character of the club and to bridge in Kiama. As a foundation member of the club and a touchstone for bridge in Kiama, she has supported and represented the club with pride, in competition and in the community. She continues to teach less experienced players in the club, and directs sessions with skill and patience. And as a player, Vonnie has won numerous club and intra club events



Wayne Courtney (Secretary), Vonnie McCafferty (Life Member), Gwen Hinchliffe (Life Member) and John Hetherington (President).

## Sydney



### 2015 Sydney North Inter-Club Pairs Challenge

Sunday 21 June was a great day, with great bridge, a great director (thanks Tony!), a great convenor (thanks Cath!) and even background music.

The happy Trumps crew managed to win the day narrowly over the hosts North Shore Bridge Club, with Manly Leagues, Peninsula and the All-Stars (comprising North Sydney Leagues Club, Manly Golf Club, Narrabeen & a standby novice pair) (following in that order).

The winning pairs in each category were:

- A (Open) - Derrick Browne & Joshua Wyner (Trumps)
- B - Margaret Owen & Sunny Pang (North Shore)
- C - Richard Lazar & Leo Kearley (Trumps)
- D - Jeanette Weaver & Loraine Neville (Manly Leagues)
- E - Peter Whitford & Diana Neale (North Shore)
- F - John Coughlin & Nina Lis Coughlin (All-Stars - North Sydney Leagues)

Certificates for these winning pairs will be sent to their bridge clubs for presentation!

The inter-club pairs challenge, now in its eighth year, gives the same weight to expert and novice players. The fifty-three pairs were divided into two fields: open and restricted. Each of these fields were in turn divided into three categories, each of these balanced to have between 8 and 10 pairs. The top half of each category earned points for their club.

It was interesting to see how the different clubs fared across the categories. The open field was dominated by Trumps and then North Shore bridge club. The restricted field on the other hand was far more balanced with strong showing from Manly Leagues, Peninsula, North Shore and the All-Stars

teams. North Shore almost caught Trumps, finishing with 19 to Trumps' 22.

The highlight of the day was the opportunity to chat with bridge players across the metro north region.



The triumphant Trumps Club crew

## Letters to the Editor

### **It's time Bridge embraced Handicaps.**

Bridge and golf are similar in that the results in both are determined by a rank ordered set of scores, Bridge aiming for high scores and golf aiming for low scores.

Over a century back, it was realised that a golf competition would be fairer if players were handicapped so that all ability levels have a chance. Most golf competitions are played this way while recognition of the best outright score is often done in conjunction.

The results in unhandicapped Bridge provide little opportunity for new players and players with low to moderate ability to do anything but be near the bottom of the result list. Both match pointed and handicap results should be produced in conjunction. The handicapped results provide both encouragement and pleasure for these players.

The May ABF Newsletter indicates that seventy percent of Bridge players have less than 100 masterpoints . For a great number of these, the accumulation of master points is both a rarity and

an irrelevance. These players are there to enjoy the day while expecting to be in the lower part of the field. They are, however, the life blood of all Bridge Clubs

There are many countries that use a uniform golf handicap system, and there is the possibility it will become global. Essentially it ranks all courses against one another according to their degree of difficulty; it then ranks each course internally for different playing conditions and then it uses the best 8 of the last 20 scores that a player has had to determine their handicap.

Golf handicaps are managed by a central computer system used by all clubs and handicaps are adjusted each time someone plays.

Bridge has similar criteria that could be used. The average Master points of a club would provide a means of external ranking. Within each club, the various sessions can similarly be ranked by the average Master points of players within the various sessions and finally the players percentage scores can be used to get the player a handicap.

A centralised computer system would allow players to have their handicap recognised when they visit other clubs, as is done with golf handicaps.

At Bathurst and District Bridge Club, we started handicapping all club sessions in 2013. Since then, one night session has unfortunately closed down due to lack of attendance. However, overall player participation is up by about thirty per cent, most of these relatively new players to Bridge. We introduced prizes ( an Aldi chocolate) for winners and an award for the best handicap score of the month ( a free game voucher for these *Hot Shots*).

All levels of players are winning awards and the excitement shown by modest players when they win or do well certainly emphasises the success of handicapping.

Bob Dillon

Bathurst Bridge Club

[rldillon@southernphone.com.au](mailto:rldillon@southernphone.com.au)

## Announcement

The sponsorship agreement between the ABF and Get Wines Direct has expired.

We have not entered into any new arrangement with this organization.

There are new owners and a new approach.

Clubs - Please note that the 7% discount no longer exists.

The ABF will place a notice on the website, however,

For further details, contact:

Allison Stralow  
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Australian Bridge Federation Inc

Tel: 0403153823

Email: [ABF\\_secretary@live.com.au](mailto:ABF_secretary@live.com.au)



## Congress Results

### Tweed Birthday Teams

Fred Whittaker, Michael Sykes, Malcolm Carter, Barbara Fechny

### Toronto Teams

Warren Dobes, John Scotford, Witold Chylewski, Wahyne Zhu

### Kings and Queens Almost Spring Teams

Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, John Newman, Tony Nunn

### Peninsula Swiss Pairs

Witold Chylewski, Wayne Zhu

### Moree Pairs

Darryl Almeida, Myra Katz

#### Wagga Wagga Congress

*Swiss Pairs:* Leigh Matheson, Richard McAuliffe  
*Teams:* Stephen Hurley, Liz Hurley, Bill Hunt, Neven Burica

#### Ingleburn RSL Teams

Steven Bock, Les Grewcock, Kevin Davies, Rakesh Kumar

#### Orange Congress

*Swiss Pairs:* Donald Cartwright, Liz Cartwright  
*Teams:* Janet Rowlatt, Peter Wong, Tammy Schwarz, Alan Schwarz

#### Brisbane Water Super Congress

*Open Swiss Pairs NS:* Ken Wilks, Rosalie Broughton  
*Open Swiss Pairs EW:* Titus Ling, Yumin Li  
*Restricted Swiss Pairs NS:* Irene Campbell, Margaret Regan  
*Restricted Swiss Pairs EW:* Hamid Sadigh, Siamak Parsanejad  
*Novice Swiss Pairs NS:* Holly & Guy Dillon  
*Novice Swiss Pairs EW:* Judith Parsons, John Russell  
*Open Teams:* Wendy Ashton, Sartaj Hans, Andrew Peake, John Newman  
*Restricted Teams:* Nola Daly, John Major, Forde Leathley, Pamela Leathley  
*Novice Teams:* Charles Bowen-Thomas, Lesley Bowen-Thomas, Alan Hemmingway, Joe Conde

#### Grafton Bridge Club Swiss Pairs

*A Grade Winners:* Sarah Strickland and David Tucker  
*B Grade Winners:* Margaret Lawrence and Adele Liddle

#### Sydney Bridge Centre Winter Teams

Helena Dawson, Sophie Ashton, Andrew Peake and Sartaj Hans

#### Taree Bridge Club Teams

*Winners:* Greg and Sharon Mayo, Sally and Garry Clarke  
*Second:* Ken Wilkes, Rosalie Broughton, Mike Simes and Michael Johnson  
*Third:* Jenny Michaels, Noel and Shirley Crockett and Anne Rutter  
*Intermediate:* Jim Thatcher, Carolyn Seymour, Trish Thatcher and Amber Noonan  
*Best Novice Team:* Judy Haliday, Margaret Sylow, Bev Cleary and Patricia Healey

#### North Shore Bridge Club Super Congress

*Mr Solace Swiss Teams:* David Hudson, David Beauchamp, Pele Rankin, Paul Hooykaas  
*Two Men & A Truck Teams:* Leo Goorevich, Kevin Davies, Elli Urbach, Frank Budai  
*Watermark Swiss N/S:* Anita Curtis, David Hudson  
*Watermark Swiss E/W:* Peter Jeffery, Heather Cusworth  
*Novice Teams:* Gabrielle Fitzgerald, Berenice Air, Stephanie Mathews, Gary Barwick

*Restricted Teams:* Shanti Korathota, Julie Moloney, Jamal Rayani, Parveen Rayani

#### Kings and Queens Winter Matchpoint Swiss

Sue Ingham and Terry Brown

#### Wollstonecraft Teams

*Pairs:* Susan Crompton and Adam Edgton  
*Teams:* Anthony Burke, Peter Gill, Matthew Vadas, Tony Nunn

#### Newcastle Congress

*Open Swiss Pairs:* Anthony Burke, Peter Gill  
*Restricted Swiss Pairs:* Philip Hocking, Cathy Hocking  
*Best Novice Pair:* Derek Ponsford, Sally Morton  
*Open Teams:* Sharon Mayo, Greg Mayo, Julian Foster, David Weston  
*Restricted Teams:* Cheryl Pletz, Brigitta Kuegler, Janet Ritchie, Margaret Carter

#### Illawarra Bridge Association Chris Diment Memorial

*Pairs:* Robert Kinloch and Alan Watkins  
*Teams:* Peter Lloyd, Kaye Hart, Robert Kinloch, Alan Watkins

#### Nambucca Valley Congress

*Pairs:* Janet Brown and Eric Hurley  
*Teams:* Chris Birch, Colin Tolley, Barbara Herring and Mike Siford

#### NSWBA Teams of Three

*Open:* Will Jenner-O'Shea (Captain), Catherine Whiddon, Vivien Eldridge, Alan Davies  
*Novice Teams:* Richard McAuliffe (Captain), John Russell, Judith Parsons, Gerry Hanna

## **About us**

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## ***Bathurst & District Bridge Club***

***Invites you to the inaugural***

# ***Central West Novice Bridge Tournament***

***31 October & 1 November 2015***

***For players 0-35 MP's at 1 May 2015***

### ***Programme***

***Saturday: Pairs      Sunday: Teams***

***Divisions for 0-10 and 10-35 MPs***

***For more information please  
contact: Karin Le Roux  
mob: 0428 859 898***

***email: [kle-roux@bigpond.com](mailto:kle-roux@bigpond.com)***

***OR enter on-line at the NSWBA Congress Calendar***

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# Friendship Day Pairs



**Date: Sunday, 20th September, 2015**

**Time: 9.30 for 10 am start**

**Cost: \$5.00 (incl. a light lunch)**

This event is open to members who have **less than 50 masterpoints** as at **1st July, 2015**. It will be run along the lines of a Pairs Congress and other clubs in the area will be invited to attend. Newer players will get the opportunity to compete at their level against like players in a non-threatening environment.

This Friendship Day is sponsored by the **Australian Bridge Federation** and prizes will be awarded in 3 divisions.



Morning tea, lunch and snacks will be provided.



**Director: Liz Jeffery**

Phone/fax entries to:  
Ballina Bridge Club  
Ph: 02 66 815533

**Convenor: Dawn Horder**

Email: [bbclub@internode.on.net](mailto:bbclub@internode.on.net)

**Entries close Monday 14th September, 2015**