



New South Wales Bridge Association

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Editor: Steve Hurley

A forward from the editor

Welcome to the NSWBA Newsletter.

Over the years this publication has in simple terms provided a link between the state body (NSWBA) and the NSW clubs and players. As the NSWBA Bulletin, it kept us informed.

Looking forward, there is the opportunity to develop the publication into something more, to be entertaining as well as informative, for clubs and players, in the city and the country, for experienced and less experienced players, and for clubs big and small. To mark this new approach, I suggest a new name – the NSWBA Newsletter – which is intended to be more reflective of the wider range of content.

Many of the standard features remain such as articles covering bidding / play / defence, recent major events, advice from the NSWBA, book reviews, and congress results. But there will also be a fresh mix of new articles. These include stories from city and country clubs (say where new premises have been built, the club has had a major anniversary, a player has achieved something remarkable, a congress has been a HUGE success, and so on), particularly recognizing effort and success at the club level. And hopefully there will be anecdotes, stories, when and where courses will be delivered around the state, perhaps some cartoons, and maybe a recipe or two, who knows.

The Newsletter is for the players and clubs across NSW, and while I can cajole articles from authors, I would very much appreciate stories and snippets from the club level. So if you have something of interest, please send it in, to editor@nswba.com.au. If you would also like to make comment on the new approach, good or bad, please send that through too.

I trust you will enjoy the new format.

Chairman's corner

Welcome back after a gap of several months! I would like to introduce our new editor Steve Hurley and thank him for enthusiastically taking on this role.



As you will see from Steve's own introduction, one thing we particularly want to do going forward is to make this a publication relevant to all players in NSW, and include content from all around the State. So please send in material to help promote your region!

In June the NSWBA once again hosted a meeting for our Regional Representatives which was a highly valuable day. We continually seek an active network of representatives to help everyone feel part of the NSWBA - we are here to help every bridge player and bridge club in NSW so we need local advocates that can assist with this.

Bridgewise the Australian National Championships have just concluded in Sydney. The tournament was extremely well organised and many thanks are due to Marcia and John Scudder, the conveners. The inaugural NSW Country carnival finals were also held alongside it. You can find reports from both events in this edition.

Finally congratulations to Bruce Neill who was appointed ABF President at the AGM in May replacing Keith McDonald. Bruce remains a member of the NSWBA Council as well.

Happy bridging.

Julian Foster
NSWBA Chairman



The ANC

The Australian National Championships rotates around Australia to state capitals each year, and in this year, it was Sydney's turn. The venue was the Canterbury Racecourse, which lent itself to an equine theme. This continued throughout the whole fortnight, with an actual race meeting on the second Wednesday and a successful "Fashions on the Field" competition at the Victory Dinner.

The first week

Week 1 featured the Interstate Teams competition where a team from each state / territory played multiple round robins with a final. As the host state, NSW was entitled to have two teams in the Women's and Senior's events to make up an even number where NT did not field a team. The NSW teams performed reasonably well, with the highlight being the win in the Women's Teams by the second NSW team. After contesting the lead throughout the qualifying NSW 2 held off a determined South Australia to triumph in the final. Rena Kaplan and Nevena Djurovic also won the medal for the leading pair in the datums.



Rena Kaplan, Giselle Mundell, Nevena Djurovic, Cathryn Herden, Patsy McCartney, with Julian Foster (NPC) - (Pauline Evans absent)

The NSW Open was the other NSW team to feature; it led the qualifying throughout and was favorite to beat a tenacious ACT team in the final. Although all IMPs are important there is often a board near the end which proves crucial. So it was again when with four boards to go and NSW holding a slender lead:-

Nil vul N Dealer

♠ KJ973

♥ A96

♦ 765

♣ 65

♠ -

♥ J2

♦ KJT8

♣ KT98432

♠ AQT2

♥ 84

♦ AQ2

♣ AJQ7

♠ 8654

♥ KQT753

♦ 943

♣ -

Bidding

OPEN Room

North	East	South	West
Buchen (NSW)	Brightling (ACT)	Brown	Hoffman
P 3H	1C 5C	2H All pass	3C

CLOSED Room

North	East	South	West
Kozakos	Beauchamp	Bourke	Griffiths
P P	2NT 4NT	P P	4H* 6C
All pass			*transfer to clubs

(Ed. 4NT presumably must be some type of super accept)

What a difference an opening bid makes! In the open room, the 1C opening allowed the NSW pair to get into the auction with hearts and thereby warn their opponents of the two losers in that suit. In the closed room the 2NT opening kept the ACT pair out and the only issue was whether North would find the AH lead. While George Kozakos huddled, the vugraph audience held its breath but he emerged with his fingers around the Ace and the ACT had hit the front, holding its lead to the end.

The ACT was the most successful State at the ANC winning the Seniors as well as the Open but history was made in the Youth event (in which NSW finished a respectable third.) One of the members of the winning Victorian team is Finn Rennie who is just 11 years old!! This clearly is an Australian and possibly a world record. And he still has 13 more years to play in youth events – the other youngsters had better look out!



Finally a fascinating hand from the Teams Championship featuring Nigel Rosendorff in the Seniors where the 2 NSW teams did not otherwise feature. He was in 3NT as South holding these cards and with no adverse bidding:-



♠ AK8
♥ KQ
♦ KQ
♣ JT9654

♠ QJ54
♥ 8753
♦ T64
♣ A2

South leads 5D (4th best), West follows with the 2, systemically encouraging. With seemingly West holding 4 or 5 diamonds, is there any lie of the cards which will allow you to make 9 tricks against best defence. His opposite number thought not and ran for tricks in the majors.

But after considerable thought, Nigel visualised the one East holding which would allow him to make. East needed to have started with A Hearts, Jxx Diamonds (blocking the suit), and Kx or Qx in Clubs. This was in fact the lie of the cards, so Nigel ran the J Clubs to West's K and when the Diamond suit was blocked, the Q Clubs fell under the Ace he was home!

The second week

This was devoted to the Butler Championships during which the competing pairs were subjected to virtually a week of continuous play.

This year there was a large entry of some 70 pairs in Stage One of the Open Butler, with the 20 top qualifiers progressing to the second and last stage. Vying with Avi Kenetkar and Nigel Rosendorff who took the lead for a couple of rounds in the middle stages, Gabi Lorentz and Stephen Burgess came first, with Avi and Nigel a meritorious second, and a NSW /SA combination of William Jenner-O'Shea and Mike Doecke an impressive third.

In the Seniors Butler, the ACT which had won the interstate teams also produced the winners Neil Ewart and Chris Quail and the second placed Richard Nixon and Bernie Waters (who were members of the winning interstate team), with Robert Krochmalik and Brian Bedkober third. Notably Margaret Bourke and Sue Lusk eschewed the Women's event to compete here and finished a creditable fourth.

The Women's event produced the excitement finish, where after leading for much of the event Nafi Bashar and Kinga Moses had slipped back to third place with one round to go but they were only 1.5 VP's behind the leaders with the fourth placed pair only 1 VP further back. Board 12 of the Butlers was "swingy" to say the least:

N-S Vul WD

♠ J6
♥ 97652
♦ -
♣ J98632

♠ 74 ♠ KT32
♥ KQJT3 ♥ A4
♦ KQJ743 ♦ AT965
♣ - ♣ 75

♠ AQ985
♥ 8
♦ 82
♣ AKQT4

Deep Finesse which is a far better card player than we mere mortals opines that N-S can make 6C and E-W can make 6D from East (with West one down on a spade lead if North divines a Spade lead or South doubles indicating lead dummy's first bid suit).

In the Open field all tables played a Diamond contract ranging from a 4D aberration to a 6D slam defeated by the spade ruff. In the Senior event a wide range of minor suit contracts ensued with the winners and a couple of other pairs collecting a bundle of IMPs in 6CX.

In the Women's event, the auction at Kinga Moses and Nazife Bashar's table went:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	Nazife		Kinga
1D	P	1S	2C
2H	5C	X	All pass

Against the averages for all scores for this hand, this yielded 16 IMPs, and Kinga and Nazife won the event by 6 Victory Points, with Toni Sharp and Marilyn Chadwick completing a NSW quinella, and Beverley Stacey and Connie Schoutrop from Queensland third.

The ANC concluded with medal presentations to the Butler winners and the 13 days of competition were voted an outstanding success due to the positive attitude, friendliness and ethical behavior of the players, the super-efficient but unobtrusive directors, the venue, and most of all the superb organisation of John and Marcia Scudder and their team.

(For more photos of the ANC, please visit
<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/anc/2014/photos.asp>)

Neville Moses

The Country Carnival

With the removal of the Grand National Pairs from the ABF calendar, the Country Carnival took its place to provide the opportunity for country players to compete against their peers.

The inaugural Country Carnival of Bridge was held on the 19th and 20th July. Players came from the Northern, Southern/Western, and Outer Metropolitan zones, from towns like Ballina, Parkes, and Batemans Bay, and though held in Sydney this year in conjunction with the ANC, it will be held in different country locations in subsequent years. For next year, it may be in Coffs Harbour or the Central Coast, and after that, options may be say Armidale, Dubbo, Wagga Wagga, and points in between. There are long distances in the country, and to support players the NSWBA will be considering subsidies to travel and stay.

The Country Carnival this year was held at the Canterbury Racecourse.



The races were not on that day, but there was a wonderful feel of races in proceedings, with a view of the course, entry fees in guineas, and the bridge events called "Raceday Sweepstake Pairs" and "Champagne Stakes Swiss Pairs". The Country Carnival Final was incorporated into the "Canterbury Guineas Flighted Butler" field of 38 pairs, with three sections, open, intermediate (<750MPs), and novice (<100MPs), with each pair playing nine matches over two days, using teams scoring.

The event had its share of interesting hands. How would you treat the following? Board two of round 9, vul against not vul, east dealer, as north you hold =>

♠ -
♥ A
♦ KQ8432
♣ AQ8653

East opens 1NT (15-18), partner passes, and west bids 2D, transferring to Hearts. Your go.

There is a lot to think about. Notionally you have two losers, they could make game, you could make game, what support does partner have for either suit, and east has a lot of points. How to proceed...? There is a case of bidding 4NT, conventionally showing very strong in the minors, but this locks the contract into the 5 level vulnerable when partner may have the majors and no minor support. And you should expect to be doubled. Perhaps just bid 3D, then if the 1NT bidder supports Hearts, bid say 5C expecting that you will have a minor fit somewhere. If the 1NT bidder passes (implying no Heart support and therefore some length in the minors), then bid 4C on the next round if you get the opportunity.

The full hand was =>

♠ -
♥ A
♦ KQ8432
♣ AQ8653

♠ A97 ♠ KJ42
♥ 975432 ♥ KJ6
♦ 75 ♦ AJT9
♣ T2 ♣ K7

♠ QT8653
♥ QT8
♦ 6
♣ J94

Deep Finesse says that north can make 5C but only 3D.

Another hand. Board 27 of round 8, no-one vul, south dealer, as east you hold =>

♠ KJ52
♥ 42
♦ AKQJ832
♣ -

After south passes, west (partner) opens 1NT (15-18), and north doubles showing a single suited hand. Your go.

There could be many ways of bidding this. But whatever way, 6D looks to be the contract, which was bid. The 6C was led, and dummy comes down =>

♠ A743 ♠ KJ52
♥ AK73 ♥ 42
♦ 74 ♦ AKQJ832
♣ KJ8 ♣ -

Planning the play, there are 7 diamond, 2 heart, and 2 spade tricks on top, making 11 tricks. And the spade suit is odds on to produce a third. So you need to think what could go wrong?

So after playing the JC on the 6C, north plays QC, and you ruff. You draw trumps, revealing that both opponents had 2 Diamonds each. Now for the Spades. Three Spades tricks are needed - a 3-2 break, singleton Q, or Q with north will do it. But there is another option. The correct play is K Spades (both follow, with north playing the 10), and a Spade towards the Ace. If left hand opponent follows, play low, which guarantees three spade tricks if north follows (a 3-2 break now means the Q will fall). As it happens, north shows out, and South's spade suit was Q986, with seemingly another defensive spade trick.

Now for your second option. By ducking the spade, this both preserves an entry to dummy and tightens the position. Both are needed to squeeze South for the twelfth trick. The full hand was =>

♠ T
♥ 95
♦ T3
♣ AQT97432

♠ A743 ♠ KJ52
♥ AK73 ♥ 42
♦ 74 ♦ AKQJ832
♣ KJ8 ♣ -

♠ Q986
♥ QJT86
♦ 95
♣ 65

South performs returns a heart (or otherwise gives you a third spade trick). After playing the ace and king of Hearts, ruff the third heart to hand. Then run the Diamonds. With three cards left, the layout is =>

Immaterial

♠ A7 ♠ J5
♥ 7 ♥ -
♦ - ♦ 2
♣ - ♣ -

♠ Q9
♥ J
♦ -
♣ -

When east leads the 2D, whatever suit south discards, dummy discards the other, and declarer gains a twelfth trick.

Next year the Carnival will begin its trek around the state. It is a major state event with a state final providing red masterpoints. This will involve club events qualifying pairs to a regional final, then from the regional final three pairs (representing each of

the Open, Restricted and Novice sections) will be sent (with subsidies) to the Country Carnival state final, wherever it may be. While there will be place getters for each section, all results will be aggregated and one zone will be declared as the champion zone.

This year, the open section was won by Steve HURLEY - Liz HURLEY, followed by Margaret THORN - Arthur ANLEZARK and Peter LAMEKS - David PRIOL third. The restricted section was won by Lou RICHARDSON - Florence GIBBONS, followed by Kay BAGULEY - Bruce BAGULEY, then Lalita KANETKAR - Michael MCAULIFFE third. And the novice section was won by Stephanie MATHEWS - Shan LAWSON, followed by Kerry WRIGHT - Lynne DE RIDDER, with Robin TOMLINSON - Geoffrey MALTBY third. The Country Carnival was won by the Northern Zone, with Southern/Western and Outer Metropolitan zones finishing in that order.

As a major event, the Carnival is an opportunity for country players to enjoy good quality bridge and to receive higher levels of masterpoints. And with a theme this year of a day at the races, it added that little bit of fun. So as it travels around, country players are encouraged to pencil the event into the calendars and enjoy the Carnival.

Ethyl Seuvre

Be a good sport

(This article is reproduced from the Ethics page on the NSWBA website and is presented two sections over the next two newsletters. The NSWBA webpage is <http://nswba.com.au/member/ethics.html>)

We all play bridge because we love it. Help make the game fun for everyone by observing the few simple proprieties that make bridge fair and enjoyable.

Play tough but fair

Play tough, be competitive, but be a good sport.

- Be pleasant to the opponents (and partner!). Welcome new opponents to your table. Don't conduct lengthy post-mortems.
- Don't stare at opponents, their cards, or where in their hand they play a card from.
- If you think an experienced opponent may have done something inappropriate, speak privately to the official recorder.
- Slow players – make the effort to catch up; it's not fair to use more than your share of the clock, and finishing late disrupts the schedule. Claim if it's clear.

Make beginners welcome

New players are the future of the game we love.

- Make a special effort to explain your bidding fully to less experienced players, and remember they may not know the methods and conventions you are using.
- When claiming, state your line clearly and explain it if required. Less experienced players may not see it as quickly as you.
- If opponents don't yet know the bridge code of behaviour, explain (politely!) – even better, refer them to this code.

Tell the opponents what they need to know about your system

Your opponents are entitled to know as much about your system and style as your partner does ... the only secret in bridge is what cards you hold.

- Provide two fully completed system cards
- Make every effort through alerts and explanations to tell your opponents what they need to know about your system.

Individual Eccentricities

The 2014 NSW State Individual was held at the NSWBA on Saturday 2nd August. It's an absolutely hilarious event, in which one plays with a different partner in each of the 18 rounds. As a result, there's no place for fancy systems – the NSWBA provides a "bare bones" standard system card (5-card majors, better minor, strong notrump with 4-suit transfers, strong 2C and weak everything else) which most players choose not to modify too much, as there's usually only about a minute in which to discuss system before the round begins.

Inevitably, there are quite a few misunderstandings and many results rely solely on (mis)judgement! Importantly, however, this is a sociable, convivial and genuinely friendly event, for players of all levels of expertise and experience. If you have never played in it before, you simply *must* put it on your list for next year. And if you live outside suburban Sydney, the NSWBA would be delighted if you could somehow synchronise that trip into the city to coincide with the State Individual – this year all 28 entrants were local.

If you need more reasons to consider playing, I should tell you that the Individual was directed by the wonderfully capable Matthew McManus, who provided barometer scoring (i.e. "live" scoring per 3-board round, displayed on the projector screen) so you could see how well or otherwise you were doing, blow by blow. As it turned out, going into the last

round there were 3 contestants within a single matchpoint of one another! When the smoke cleared, there was a tie for first place, which was shared by Yumin Li and Zofia Dreher.

So to a few hands and a few stories, not necessarily involving bridge at the highest level of quality ...

Here's a hand demonstrating that it's not always the worst thing to misunderstand partner's signal. As West, I opened a moderately disgusting weak 2S in third seat, and North, possibly more impressed by her 4-card heart suit than her single stopper in spades, elected to double rather than bid 2NT. However, South promptly bid 3NT anyway. On this auction, I figured that a spade lead probably wasn't going to get us anywhere, so I led the ♥J, which declarer ducked in dummy. Partner played the ♥8 and I cogitated. We had agreed to play low encourage and the ♥6 was not in evidence. So what was declarer up to? Did partner hold something like ♥AK8? Should I continue hearts anyway? Eventually I decided to interpret the ♥8 as a discouraging signal and switched to ♣J. This turned out to be unexpectedly effective, as declarer now went 2 down for quite a reasonable result for us!

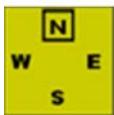
Board 2	♠A53
Dealer E	♥Q732
Vul N-S	♦AK9
	♣AT3
♠QT9742	♠-
♥JT5	♥K98
♦Q3	♦T8542
♣J4	♣KQ875
	♠KJ86
	♥A64
	♦J76
	♣962



Optimistically hoping for implicit agreements to be part of the bidding system wasn't the worst thing either. On this board, Steve Baron, who finished third, opened the East hand 1NT and South overcalled 2S. I really wanted to be able to bid a Lebensohl 2NT and have us play in hearts, but we hadn't discussed this and it certainly wasn't on the card. However, partner was a capable player and well familiar with Lebensohl, so surely he would treat 2NT as a request to bid 3C? No, partner was a sensible person who said to himself "If it's not a systemic agreement, it's natural" and passed. And he duly raked in 8 tricks to score 100% on the board, with Deep Finesse confirming that this was the highest value contract that EW can actually make (3H would go at least one off). Gulp!

There was, of course, the usual collection of distributional hands that were just impossible to bid correctly, such as this one:

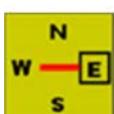
Board 17	♠J7653
Dealer N	♥Q52
Vul None	♦73
	♣Q32
♠9	
♥4	
♦AKQT642	
♣KJ54	
	♠A82
	♥AT987
	♦J95
	♣AT
	♠KQT4
	♥KJ63
	♦8
	♣9876



EW can readily make all 13 tricks in diamonds, but even bidding to 6D was too hard. One pair played in 5D for a poor score, while everyone else played in 3NT, and then it was all about accurate discarding and not giving away too many overtricks, the usual matchpoint pairs conundrum, which not everyone solved!

With the "simple" system card in force, natural weak 2-bids were the order of the day. Their effectiveness should not be underestimated. On this hand, East as dealer has the playing strength to open 1S even with sub-minimal values in terms of high card points, but our East chose to bid 2S. What are you going to do as South? And if South and West pass, what can you do as North? Only one NS pair reached 5D (possibly after 1S by East and an unusual 2NT overcall by South) while one played in a diamond partscore, with the remaining tables defending an EW contract in spades.

Board 6	♠AT3
Dealer E	♥A98
Vul E-W	♦AJT84
	♣76
♠985	
♥KJT7543	
♦K	
♣QJ	
	♠KQJ642
	♥6
	♦96
	♣KT93
♠7	
♥Q2	
♦Q7532	
♣A8542	



Then on this hand, there was the other usual pairs conundrum of 3 notrumps or 4-of-a-major. We

reached 4H and when the heart finesse failed, I could find no way of scraping home, as I also lost 2 clubs and a diamond trick. However, the skilled player with plastic-penetrating vision might find the Deep Finesse line of playing the ♥K and then pushing the ♥J through, smothering the ♥10.

Board 5	♠AQ9
Dealer N	♥A42
Vul N-S	♦Q9832
	♣83
♠J876	
♥Q75	
♦KJ	
♣K652	
	♠T542
	♥T3
	♦754
	♣AJ94
♠K3	
♥KJ986	
♦AT6	
♣QT7	



What of the skilled player in 3NT, which Deep Finesse asserts should also make 10 tricks? Well, that's not so simple either, and in fact the greater the skill, the greater the capacity to see alternatives, which doesn't always help. Leigh Matheson, former Australian under-26 representative and previous winner of the youth award in the State Individual, played in 3NT and received the ♠6 lead. He thought thus: "If I play on hearts and the ♥Q is offside or the suit breaks badly, I will still be a trick short. So I will play on diamonds instead. If East has a diamond honour the contract should make." This seems a very reasonable view of the suit with ♦A10 opposite ♦Q9, but of course as the cards lie it was doomed.

Leigh won ♠Q on table and played a diamond to the ♦10 and ♦J. West switched to a club to the ♣A, a club was returned to the ♣K and a third club was played to declarer's queen. He then crossed to the ♥A to lead the ♦Q, feeling a bit uncomfortable about letting it run.

Disaster duly struck. The remaining cards were:

Board 5	♠A9
Dealer N	♥4
Vul N-S	♦983
	♣
♠J87	
♥Q7	
♦	
♣5	
	♠T54
	♥T
	♦7
	♣9
♠K	
♥KJ98	
♦A	
♣	



Leigh pointed out: "If the defenders played a spade now, the diamonds would be dead and I would be two down, having to make something of the hearts after all. However, instead West returned a club – it was the setting trick after all. I let go of a spade from dummy and discarded the ♦A from hand."

This jettison play revived dummy's diamonds, so he claimed one off, thus recovering to equal the score of the majority of the field, who were going one off in 4H!

Rakesh Kumar

From the fringe

A hand that is joy for all.

You would have played hands where either direction makes 1NT or even a 2 level contract. But have you ever considered a hand layout where everyone makes 3NT?

Look at the following hand =>

♠ -
♥ A8765432
♦ KJ
♣ QT9

♠ A8765432 ♠ QT9
♥ KJ ♥ -
♦ QT9 ♦ A8765432
♣ - ♣ KJ

♠ KJ
♥ QT9
♦ -
♣ A8765432

Yes, contrived, but fascinating. The feature is that suits are blocked, and the opening lead assists declarer. Say you are south; west leads a small spade to the Q and K, and dummy discards a club. When east gets in with the K clubs, the 10 spades is returned to the J and A, but the suit is still blocked by east's 9. West cannot get back in, dummy's diamond combination holds that suit, and north has a club to come back to South's hand to run the suit for 9 tricks.

Whereas the lead suit is blocked, south is able to run the clubs because the opening lead allowed a club to be discarded; and the suit is unblocked.

What about a diamond lead from west? Yes, that would stop south from making 3NT using clubs. But now south can use dummy's heart suit for running tricks with south discarding the 9 hearts.

Now look at the hand being played by east. Then by north, and west. Whatever direction plays the hand, the same points apply. Declarer makes 3NT.

An amazing hand!

Steve Hurley

Bridge for Beginners and Intermediates

(Ed. Kath Kean gives a quick rundown on grappling with overcalls.)

Firstly, knowing the stepping stones of learning helps when we just don't seem to be able to 'get it':

The 1st step unconscious incompetence

I don't know yet how I'm going to handle it, will I be good or terrible?

The 2nd step conscious incompetence

Oh my God! I'm an idiot after all!

The 3rds step conscious competence THE HURDLE

Here we go, I think I see light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. Now if I could just reach that..... Ah! I'm beginning to 'get it'.

The 4th step unconscious competence

Well, that dusted that lot off, now for the next adventure. Hmm, looks like a slam this time ☺

With that confidence builder, let's look at ...

Overcalls

A simple suit overcall is a bid which interrupts the opponents opening or responding bid. For example:

Right Hand Opponent (RHO)	You	Left Hand Opponent (LHO)	Partner
1C	1S		
	or		
1H	1S	1C	Pass

So what are the objectives of an overcall?

- a) to indicate a lead to partner, or
- b) to rob the opponents of bidding space,
- c) to compete for a part score, or
- d) if the hand is stronger, to look for game.

You don't need to have an opening hand to make an overcall, however it's recommended that you promise a five plus card suit with a minimum of 9 HCPs (or 8 HCPs with a singleton), and a maximum of 15 HCPs. For example:

♠ K8763	♠ KQ9	♠ A6
♥ 94	♥ AJ	♥ QJ643
♦ AQ3	♦ 954	♦ AJ2
♣ 754	♣ Q8763	♣ K54

The overcalled suit should contain at least one honour card – A, K or Q.

Overcalling at the one level is simple. However, if you need to overcall at the two level, (for example opponent opens 1S and you hold 5 cards in a lower ranked suit), you will need at least 10-15 HCPs, and at the three level, 12-16 HCPs. The higher the bid, the more points needed.

What if you hold 16 HCPs? Now we're talking strong. You double, then bid your suit. Example:

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
1C	Dbl	1H	Pass
2H	2S		

This shows a five card spade suit and 16+ HCPs.

Or

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
1D	Dbl	Pass	1S (forced)
Pass	2H		

(Note that because LHO passed, partner is forced to bid even with no HCPs to avoid playing in 1D doubled.)

The doubler now bids 2H to show a five card heart suit and 16+ HCPs.



Responding to an overcall

You can compete by supporting partner's suit with a minimum of:

- With 5–7 HCPs with four card support, or with 8 HCPs with at least three card support, raise the overcaller's bid by one level. (e.g. 1S:2S)
- With 9+ HCPs and at least three card support, raise the overcaller's bid by two levels (e.g. 1S:3S)
- With 9–12 HCPs, no support, and at least one stopper in their suit, bid NT.
- With 9+ and a strong suit of your own, bid it.

Where are you situated on the learning stepping stones? The 'idiot' stage?

Well, don't lose any sleep, you have lots to look forward to, I promise.

Kath Keane

Around the state

Southern Highlands



It was a hearty congratulations to club members John Zaranski and Anna Zaranski from the Bowral Bridge club who topped the 2014 Bridge for Brains Championships, comprising of over 1850 tables. Congratulations also to Ant Ratcliffe and Sherri Gates who came 20th to make it a great result for Bowral.



South Coast



Our oldest player at the IBA.

Marja Schutte continues to play bridge, now in her 102nd year. She plays twice a week at the Illawarra Bridge Association and once a week at the Master Builder's Club, still winning her fair share of sessions. Peter Graham, a member of the club, says she still does her own shopping and pops out for a cup of coffee with the girls. Power on Marja!

Far North



Greetings from the Tweed

Time flies when you are having ... good bridge hands, whether you are Declarer or Defender, especially to find a particular card in one's hand that is a challenge to make a trick with. Sunday at the TwinTowns Birthday congress, we played Ashley Bach and Fred Whitaker (team 2) and Fred won the last trick with the 7 Diamonds. Ashley told us it is called the "free Drink" and the diamond 7 is the "Beer Card". This entitles declarer to a free drink at the expense of partner. Now THAT would keep me awake!

Metro



Peninsula Bridge Club

The Peninsula Bridge Club diverted from their usual normal duplicate competition to try something different. Swiss Pairs introduced players to teams scoring,

playing 4 rounds with 6 boards per round. The highest scoring winners from the first round moved to table 1, the next highest winners to table 2, and so on.

After a very close tussle with Trish Giles and Anita Kite in the final round, Jen Ardill and Cath Whiddon won and came 1st, with Ray Bragge and Ken Watson squeezing 2nd, and Trish and Anita 3rd.

Congratulations particularly to Jen, who came from a non-card player in 2011, to playing supervised bridge in 2012, to regular duplicate in 2013, to her 1st congress and foray to Gold Coast congress in January, and now winning her first Swiss pairs.

It was great to see Monday's relaxed 'red' row players at Table 1 - they loved it too! And all players seemed to enjoy the different Monday experience.

Winners of the Swiss Pairs Jen Ardill and Cath Whiddon, with President Alan Davies.



A request for assistance

Keith Ogborn, the ABF historian, is currently putting together a biography of Norma Borin, who passed away recently. Norma lived in Sydney prior to moving to Melbourne in the 1960s and Keith is trying to find some information about her family and early life in Sydney. Before marrying Jim Borin, her surname was Maguire. If anybody knows anything about Norma's family or early life, Keith would be grateful if you could contact him at historian@abf.com.au .

Overheard at the next table

"I have come to think that bridge is like marriage."

"How come, Agnes?"

"You start off with two hearts and one diamond and wind up wanting one club and one spade!"

Meanwhile, over at table 82 ...

Two novice players arrive at their first big congress, and they start against two top players. The bidding proceeds and the good players realize that they both have strong hands, and rather than bid the slam in 6C, they pushed for a top by bidding 6NT. As dummy goes down, a count of the tricks shows there are only 11 tricks with no hope of another. So realizing that he is going down, declarer has a bit of fun and on the run

of the clubs in dummy, he holds one back one club in hand for later on, a clear revoke. He then crosses back to his hand. Expecting to be caught, he plays down his last club, and the next player shouts "Here comes those bloody clubs again!"

Congress Results

NSWBA Teams of Three

Les Grewcock (Captain), Richard McAuliffe, Johnno Newman, John Scotford

Nambucca Valley Congress

Swiss Pairs:

Frances Gaunt, Jamie McFall

Teams:

Janet Brown, Eric Hurley, Helen Tootell, Peter Tootell

Illawarra Chris Diment Memorial Congress

Pairs:

Steve Hurley, Liz Hurley

Teams:

Noel Bugeia, George Stockham, Ken Colbert, Alexander Hewat

Newcastle Congress

Open Swiss Pairs:

Andrei Lachsz, Witold Chylewski

Restricted Swiss Pairs:

Bob McKay, Janice McKay

Novice Swiss Pairs:

Terry Page, Prue Haydon

Open Teams:

Julian Foster, Emily Middleton, Greg Mayo, Sharon Mayo

Restricted Teams:

Gai Brouwer, Brigitte Kuegler, Janet Ritchie, Cheryl Pletz

Novice Teams:

Helen Tait, Pamela Rodwell, Miriam Officer, Wendy Rissler

Wollstonecraft Teams

Equal 1st:

Michael Prescott, Marlene Watts, Susan Crompton, Adam Edgton

Nigel Rosendorff, Andrew Markovics, Les Grewcock, Steven Bock

Orange Congress

Swiss Pairs:

Jennifer Hector, Liz Scorer

Teams:

David Lilley, Denise McKinnon, Khokan Bagchi, Garry Khemka

Kings and Queens Autumn Swiss Pairs

Cevat Emul, Catherine Zhang

Maitland Super Novice Pairs

Charles Bowen-Thomas, Lesley Bowen-Thomas

North Shore Super Congress

Audio Clinic Teams:

Marlene Watts, Michael Prescott, Sue Crompton, Adam Edgton

Watermark Swiss Pairs:

NS: First David Hudson - Anita Curtis
EW: Equal 1st : Steve Baron - Paul Gosney, Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer

Two Men & a Truck Teams:

Elizabeth Adams, Andrew Peake, Peter Gill, Martin Bloom

Restricted Teams:

Don Huang, Yumin Li,- Linxin Guo, Judy Zhu

Novice Teams:

Parveen Rayani, Jamaluddin Rayani, Joy Thurstan, Fay Jeffery

Taree Teams

Greg Mayo, Sally Clarke, Sharon Mayo, Garry Clarke

Trumps Winter Teams

1st Marlene Watts, Michael Prescott, Sue Crompton, Peter Gill

2nd Joshua Wyner, Derrick Browne, John Newman, Johnno Newman

3rd Emily Middleton, Michael Wilkinson, Julian Foster, David Weston

Grafton Butler Pairs

A Grade: Meg Featherstone, David Featherstone

B Grade: Fern Hinchcliffe, Ivan Redwood

Brisbane Water Super Congress

Open Swiss Pairs:

NS: Julian Foster, Jenna Gibbons

EW: Eric Lindh, Patricia Phillips

Restricted Swiss Pairs:

NS: Pamela Joseph, Susan McCall

EW: Warren Robinson, Catherine Else

Novice Swiss Pairs:

NS: Judith Parsons, John Russell

EW: Veronica Antill, Tracey Evans

Open Teams:

Paul McGrath, Robyn Fletcher, Liz Quittner, Joe Quittner

Restricted Teams:

Joan Bale, Margaret Carter, Janet Ritchie, Cheryl Pletz

Novice Teams:

Jean Moran, Mary McFadden, Ronald Moran, Roy Cotton

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Doing business with us

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Sydney Spring Nationals



29 OCTOBER – 6 NOVEMBER 2014

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96 King St, Ashbury

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October 29-31 (Open)

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Restricted Teams

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Free tea and coffee
Oaks Day Pairs on Nov 6

Open Pairs

Novice Pairs
Restricted Pairs

Women's Teams
Seniors' Teams

November 3-5
November 1-2

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Restricted players must hold fewer than 300 masterpoints at 1/7/2014

Novice players must hold fewer than 100 masterpoints at 1/7/2014

Seniors players must have been born before 1/1/1956

