

## Connecting the NSW bridge community

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### We have a name!

Welcome to the first issue of *Bridging NSW* and the third issue of the newsletter (we will stick with continuous numbering).

Several people suggested just "Bridging" or that followed by another word. Only one suggested the combination chosen, so congratulations to Derrick Browne!

Also, thanks to Jean Hydleman and Caroline Carey for joining the editorial team. We are still keen to have more members.

In this issue, we have an update from the Chair of Bridge NSW, some information about the NSW players representing Australia at the World Bridge Championships and Paul Lavings' next contribution to the NSW Hall of Fame – Kath Johnston.

This month, we also have some reports from club congresses. We try to focus on what makes congress and event bridge enjoyable, not just hands and winners.

We'd love to hear stories from the Spring Nationals – including any interesting Director calls!

There is much to be said for keeping the newsletter a monthly publication. We have a lot happening. But to do that, we need contributors!

As always, the newsletter ends with a compendium of the flyers we've been provided with by clubs. The deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, and we only plan to promote events in the next two months.

### MyABF News



New functionality for MyABF will be added in mid-October to enable clubs to fully manage their membership processes through the platform.

When combined with the session management function and the ability to collect table fees, this revolutionises club administration. It replaces two tasks that involve hours of volunteer labour.

In August, Bridge NSW hosted a webinar on the capability of MyABF.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0RySD5Q1FQ>

This webinar included a preview of the membership function. We are in the process of organising a further webinar for December. Please watch out for the promotion.

The Club Support Team is also looking to train a few volunteers to be MyABF experts to assist clubs in the transition. If you have a flair for technology and explaining technology, please let us know at [community@bridgensw.com.au](mailto:community@bridgensw.com.au). There is no need to have any experience with MyABF, though it would be preferred if you have administration rights to your club's MyABF site.

*Did you know the 2% charge the ABF makes on clubs covers the cost of credit card processing; it is not a revenue grab by the national body.*

# From the Chair

Bridge NSW, as an independent entity, isn't yet half a year old.

Our purpose is to advance the playing and enjoyment of bridge. We support the success of all bridge clubs in NSW. We have no premises and very modest employee support.

What was once the New South Wales Bridge Association (NSWBA) has now become simply Sydney Bridge Club and continues to operate a bridge club from its premises at 162 Goulburn St, Sydney. We wish them every success, as we do for all bridge clubs across the state.

While the Board has existed in some form since late last year, most of the time, it was occupied with the legal separation from the NSWBA (now Sydney Bridge Club) and the setup of the new organisation. The effort involved in the separation was enormous. It required significant goodwill, persistence and a sense of humour from the huge cast of volunteers involved.

The Board is still working through how best to support our community. Reviewing what was done in the past, and what should be continued, discontinued, or tweaked, and what new initiatives will best support the game of bridge into the future.

We are well supported by other volunteers in our now six Committees – Events, Education, Clubs and Community, Directing, Governance, and Youth. These committees include those who have given their time to the administration and support of bridge in similar committees for many years and some new faces with fresh ideas. We need these groups of volunteers to work together for success. Knowledge, new ideas, enthusiasm and persistence will shape that future of success.

Our strategies are just beginning to be developed. Please give us some time to start

making a difference. At the end of 2025 I expect we can point to several initiatives making a difference to the bridge community. This includes current and future players, all our clubs, and all the people who generously give their time to make bridge the very best game in the world. The cast who help is long; our directors, teachers, tournament organisers and congress helpers, club and other committees across the state, ...and the list goes on.

We know to achieve our objectives, we need to:

- ❖ grow the number of players in NSW
- ❖ develop bridge skills in NSW
- ❖ support the best representative players and teams in the country
- ❖ build a stronger sense of community

This is easy to say but tough to do. They all require change, and change is always hard.

*"If you do not change direction, you might end up where you are heading" ...Lao Tzu*

Our biggest challenge is to safeguard bridge's future. The total number of bridge players has dropped over the past 10 years. Our first objective has to be to actively grow the number of bridge players in every club, at every club session, and at every local congress and event run in NSW.

These declines have been quite severe in places. Membership in metropolitan clubs has fallen 30% from 2015 to 2024. While there are encouraging signs that the rate of decline has reduced, we need substantial and sustained efforts over the next few years to reverse that trajectory.

All players in NSW should be proud that we consistently field the best teams in the country. We also provide the majority of Australia's representative players.

There has been a decline in the number of our event players. This impacts the viability

and desirability of events at all clubs, state events and championships and national congresses.

These events are enjoyable competitions and social occasions. They are also where we build the talent pool for future NSW and Australian representatives. These events need to create a pipeline of future high achievers in the game and nurture and support our current top players.

The old NSWBA Monday night games have been in steady decline, and players have been critically low in recent years. Our event community needs urgent and proactive reform. Creating a strong event player community is a priority for Bridge NSW and one of the motivations behind focusing and revitalising our Event Committee and our Monday night games.

In reviewing the role of Bridge NSW, the Events Committee concluded that Bridge NSW has to concentrate on genuine State Championships and other State Events. The sustained decline of the other events over many years to low table numbers makes them unviable. Face-to-face night games at Goulburn St achieve, at best, a modest attendance, being only an option for those close to the city. These reflect changes in demand that require a response.

Given our limited resources and need to support the wider community, we believe Bridge NSW should focus on running events to attract and develop tournament players which will benefit all clubs, the wider community and the future of the game.

Other events can and should be run by our member clubs, with whom we should not unnecessarily compete. Like many decisions in times of change, this did not have unanimous support.

We will continue to run events on Monday nights but with key changes. One of these is moving the Online Pairs League to Monday

nights. This event consists of several fields of similarly skilled players. It is intended to grow our event player community by supporting the development of event player skills at all levels.

On most Monday nights of the year, our top players can play in a league with other top players. A Premier Division of the Online Pairs League is currently being considered.

Other players, including those new to competitive events, will play against similar-level players and have a tough but fairer experience. All in the same event.

As a final mention, I would like to wish all the NSW players who are members of the Australian teams in Argentina all the best.

Best wishes

Catherine Chaffey  
Chair, Bridge NSW

## *From the archives*

The Bulletins of the NSWBA from 2006 reveal that the Council grappled with some strategic issues that year.

These included determining the proper role of the NSWBA, determining if there was an overabundance of congress events in NSW, assessing whether the proliferation of clubs was a good or bad thing, and assessing whether internet bridge and changing demographics were likely to result in a structural change in the demand for bridge clubs in NSW in the foreseeable future.

It's good to be addressing these issues almost two decades later.

# Aussie! Aussie! Aussie! – Oi! Oi! Oi!

In the seemingly endless conversations one has about our game with non-players, what surprises them most is that there are [World Championships](#) of bridge. As this newsletter is being prepared, four Aussie teams are contesting the 16<sup>th</sup> World Championships in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## The Worlds

The make-up of the world events is a bit confusing. The World Bridge Team Championships are held biennially in odd-numbered years, while the World Bridge Championships (formerly Olympiad) are held in the Summer Olympics years. The latter has pairs events as well as teams. For simplicity, we'll call these collectively the "Worlds".

Australia sends teams to other international events, but in this article we will only talk about representing at the Worlds.

Each championship is now played in four divisions, Open, Women's, Seniors and Mixed. This is the order of longevity of competition. Just 188 players have represented Australia at Worlds since we first competed in 1971.

The players that have represented us most of the time are Ron Klinger (nine Open and ten Seniors) and Sue Lusk (who I think is from South Australia,) with 19 Women's appearances as an almost permanent feature from 1985 to 2012.

Klinger comes in third place for Open appearances behind two great New South Welshmen, Tim Seres (11) and Dick Cummings (12).

## NSW leads the way

With 36% of the bridge players in Australia, it is unsurprising that players from our state make up most of the playing strength.

Five of the six members of the Open Team come from NSW: Peter Gill, Liam Milne, James Coutts, Nabil Edgton and Tony Nunn. The make-up of the world events is a bit confusing. The ABF has published [Player Profiles](#) for most of the players on its website.

This is Peter Gill's eighth appearance in the Open team (putting him outright fifth in the list of most times played in Open), while it is the first for his Queensland partner Charlie Lu.

The Women's team has three members from NSW, Ella Jacob, Jessica Brake and Susan Humphries. It is the second Worlds for all of them.

The Seniors have four players from our state (Gabi Lorentz, Stephen Burgess, Robert Krochmalik and Paul Lavings) and the Mixed five (David Beauchamp, Maurits van der Vlugt, Dagmar Neumann, Warren Lazer and Pauline Gumby).

Gumby is the only player to have ever represented Australia on all four teams! Beauchamp and Lazer are two of the only three players to have represented in Open, Seniors and Mixed. All the Seniors' players have also previously represented in the Open teams. Neumann and van der Vlugt are making their first Worlds appearance.



## Starting bridge

Three of the players haven't provided biographies. Of the others, only Neumann did not learn bridge as a teenager or younger. But she was a lover of trick-taking card games.

Being taught by parents was a common way to bridge. Peter Gill learnt at 10, filling in for his mother's social foursome as mothers left the play to collect children from school. Edgton learnt from his father at eight before, as he writes, "Peter Gill took over from there". David Beauchamp told us:

*Both my grandma and dad were keen social players. Dad was a member at Chatswood and Lindfield bridge clubs. I went to beginners lessons with my grandma at Sydney Bridge Centre aged about 15. I played once a week at local bridge club and joined the youth group run by Paul Lavings some years later.*

University was another source. It is where Robert Krochmalik learnt at the Sydney University bridge club in the 1960s, and in the 70s Lazer played at the club when Gill was running it. (It is a pity that the SU bridge club has apparently folded).

Other players learnt from books, such as Lazer, by reading Goren's *Bridge in a Nutshell*. Paul Lavings told us:

*We played a lot of 500 at school, I bought a book by Alfred Sheinwold, 5 Weeks to Winning Bridge, and when I had read it I looked up the phone book and rang The Sydney Bridge Club to arrange a game. My partner was Anita McCutcheon and she had a thick Polish accent. We won and it has been downhill ever since.*

For Milne, the pathway was school:

*I learnt bridge around the age of 15 at Wellington College in New Zealand. I was very lucky to be at school during a period of*

*enthusiasm for teaching bridge at school in New Zealand.*

School also featured for van der Vlugt:

*I had seen some family friends play, and then two teachers at school started a course. A bunch of us schoolmates were already mad card players (Klaverjas mainly), and we got hooked pretty quickly.*

For Peter Gill, he played at home and school:

*I had two siblings and, together with my mother, we were a Bridge Four and played after school many times growing up. After playing bridge at our high school bridge club with teenagers like David Havyatt, my first duplicate bridge game was at Lindfield Bridge Club six years later.*

These pipelines are shrinking. Will they be big enough to get more international representative players in the future?

## Time out

Another interesting feature is that some of these players have taken breaks from the game. Having played on Australia's Asian-Pacific Women's team in 2005,06 and 07, Neumann took thirteen years away from the game.

Peter Gill told us:

*In 1984, I made my debut in the Australian Open team. That was the least pleasant bridge experience of my life, because my partner and I turned up to match after match, hoping or expecting to play the next match, but in the middle we found that we were unexpectedly sat out for 9 of 11 matches. It would have been fine if we knew we had the day(s) off.*

*We'd been well in contention at the start of our extended sitting out, and were out of contention by the time we resumed play late in the event. Independent analysis of each hand later indicated we'd been performing strongly prior to our sitting out. My response*

was to retire from serious bridge for a few years, the first of my two periods of retirement which totalled about ten years. Those breaks might explain my longevity in Australia's Open team.

Breaks don't have to be long. Beauchamp gave us this tip:

*After a DISASTER hand take a break – for coffee, get fresh air. make sure to get up from table.*

## Improving

We also asked players what advice they would give others who want to improve. Gill replied:

*The best way for a decent player to improve their game is to go through the hands you've played with a better player than you. Playing the hands in "Bridge Master" in the Practice section of BBO (Bridge Base Online) is another way, as long as you're not easily frustrated by constant failure. Watching the world's best players on Vugraph on BBO or [kibitz.realbridge.online](http://kibitz.realbridge.online).*

We have more in the newsletter on kibitzing on RealBridge and using Vugraph.

Lavings was more succinct, "Read books". The ABF profiles include some of these players' recommended books. *Card Play Technique* by Mollo and Gardiner got several mentions.

## Cheering them on

We can't line the stands and chant, "Aussie! Aussie! Aussie! – Oi! Oi! Oi!". But we can follow how the teams are going.

Results, BBO schedules and daily bulletins are all available from the championship website <http://championships.world-bridge.org/16th-world-bridge-games-2024>.

## Kibitzing

"Kibitz" is a Yiddish word that means a spectator, usually one who offers (often unwanted) advice or commentary. Noting that in bridge, kibitzers reserve their advice till after the event!

Kibitzing started as an in-person activity, as shown in this ad from the April 1971 issue of *Australian Bridge*.

**KIBITZERS REQUIRED**

IT IS HOPED TO ORGANISE A PACKAGE DEAL FOR KIBITZERS WISHING TO SUPPORT THE AUSTRALIAN TEAMS AT THE BRIDGE OLYMPICS TO BE HELD IN MIAMI, IN MAY, 1972.

WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HEAR FROM ANYONE CONTEMPLATING THE TRIP IN ORDER TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE MOST FAVOURABLE RATES. THERE IS NO OBLIGATION AT THIS STAGE; ADVICE OF YOUR INTENTION, HOWEVER REMOTE, WOULD ASSIST US GREATLY.

IF INTERESTED, WRITE: "MIAMI"  
Box 242, P.O.,  
Darlinghurst, N.S.W. 2010

Online bridge makes it possible to watch a game being played online or a face-to-face game created by a "broadcaster" in the room. These even come with the ability to comment. Once created, the event pages can be saved on the platform.

ABF matches use RealBridge, while international matches use BBO (referred to as Vugraph, which refers to an original system developed in 1991).

## Kibitzing on RealBridge

Where available, links are provided directly on the event MyABF page, or you can access the RealBridge Kiibitz page here:

- <https://kibitz.realbridge.online/>

This page also offers recordings of previous events. For example, the list of events for July includes (most of) the sets (RB calls them

stanzas) from the Interstate Finals played in Orange.

This allows examining how these top players have approached their games. Because the whole hand is recorded, kibitzers can see what was bid and the result and watch the actual card play.

Board 16 of set 3 had interesting results across the field. All tables were in 4♥. With East as the declarer, this went off one, and West made the contract in all but one case, which went off by two (Deep Finesse calculates that both can make).

We aren't going to write this hand up here. To see how it was played and bid, go to the link above, enter your name and log in. Then, under results you click on 2024/07.

Scroll down to and click on (Division) Interstate Teams Final – Stanzas 2-3. That provides a standard result list for the boards in the final. Click on the result (e.g. 4♥-1) under one table. That shows the hands and the bidding. The chevrons (<,>) in the bottom left advance the card play a trick at a time. How would you have gone on that hand?

## Kibitzing with BBO Vugraph

BridgeBase Online (aka BBO) also enables watching play at tournaments. Selected matches at the World Bridge Championships are broadcast on BBO. Just go to <https://www.bridgebase.com/> and click on VUGRPAH on the very top line.

This gives you a choice between going straight to watch an event, looking at the schedule, or looking in the archive.

The Australian Open team's match against France in Round 7 was broadcast. Have a look at Board 30.

♠ JT82  
♥ 32  
♦ AK973  
♣ K3

♠ A9  
♥ 9  
♦ 86542  
♣ QJ952

♠ 3  
♥ KQJ8765  
♦ J  
♣ A86

♠ KQ7654  
♥ A4  
♦ QT  
♣ T74

This is a great hand because both pairs look to have a possible game contract. Without going through the bidding, let's look at the play.

Both sides wound up in 5♥X by East in the Australia-France match, and each gets the ♠K lead. If East counts losers, they have no loser in spades, one loser in each of hearts and diamonds, and two losers in clubs.

The only way to make the contract is to hope the ♠K is bare or a doubleton in North. So, after taking the first trick with the ♠A, declarer leads the ♠Q from dummy. If it is covered by the King (or it drops), we finesse by leading the eight up to the Jack when we come back to clubs. If the ♠Q isn't covered, switch to hearts – lose the ♥A and ♦A and trump the second diamond, draw trumps, then lead the ♣A and the third club up to the Jack.

If East goes one-off, they can't find solace in it being a good sacrifice against 4♠ by South. That also goes off one. After winning the ♥K lead with the Ace, West immediately wins the next trick with the ♠A. Seeing the ♠K in dummy, West leads the ♠Q, making two club tricks, and East has the lead to take a heart trick.

## NSW Bridge Hall of Fame



The NSW teams for the Centenary Contract Bridge for "The Star" Challenge Cup 1934 Myra Millingen is in the front row on the left, with the Women's team of Mrs VA Rosich (C), Mrs J Greer, Mrs A Nathan and Mrs JK Johnston.

The back row is JA Burke (Manager) and the men's team, C. Cadwallader, Johnny Griffiths (C and last month's Hall of Famer), HL Tonkin and Bertie Flohm (Source: Chua P. 68)

### **KATH JOHNSTON (1898-1974)**

*By Paul Lavings*

The first official Australian National Championship (ANC) was played in Sydney in 1934 in the Open and Women. NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania competed in both Championships, and Victoria took out the double. Kath Johnston was considered the best woman player in NSW.

Kath was not on the 1935 Women's Team, which again lost to Victoria, but was on the winning 1936 team, defeating Victoria in the final. Kath played on the NSW Women's team again in 1937, 1947 (there was no ANC from 1939-1945), 1948, 1949, 1950, 1952 (winning), 1954 (winning), 1956 and 1957.

By 1960, Kath had confined herself to rubber bridge games at her home in Cremorne, on Sydney's lower North Shore. It was there from 1962 to 1968 that I was occasionally invited to

play when a fourth was needed. The regular players were Kath, Erzi Parry, Bill Zorn (still alive), John Makai and Leila Thompson.

Kath took a shine to me and called me "dear boy" and once said, "Pray may I lead partner", which you might well have read in a book by Dickens. They all loved defence and would go into raptures when someone pulled off a good one.

Kath displayed a few weaknesses in her later years. When her partner opened the bidding, and her right-hand opponent overcalled INT, she would never double with a good hand but instead bid 2NT. I have not seen this before or since.

John Makai wrote an In Memorium for Kath in the October 1974 issue of Australian Bridge Magazine. To quote John:

*Kath Johnston won perhaps more titles in her time than any of her contemporaries.*



*Defence was her real element and she had a flair for penetrating opening leads and really appreciated co-operative defence. It was a pleasure to see her face light up at a successful switch by her partner.*

*She used her strong personality – as so many champions do – to dominate her opponents. She could use devastating psychic bids when least expected.*

*As a person she was a survivor of a nearly forgotten age: In her "ancient regime" manners blended easily with robust earthiness.*

I searched in vain for a deal featuring Kath; the best I could find was this from 1935 in Cathy Chua's "The History of Australian Bridge" starring Myra Millingen, a player she would have known well. (Editor: As we can see from the photo, Millingen travelled with the team.)

Milingen was a significant administrator, writer and player in the 1920s and 30s.

<p>♠ AKQJ95 ♥ T876 ♦ 8 ♣ AJ</p>	<p>♠ T73 ♥ QJ93 ♦ QJ2 ♣ 986</p>
<p>♠ 8642 ♥ void ♦ 6543 ♣ KQT43</p>	<p>♠ void ♥ AK432 ♦ AKT97 ♣ 752</p>

<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
Millingen	Goldring	Smith	Thwaites
1♠	2♥	3♣	3♦
3♠	4♥	4♣	4NT
5♠	P	P	6♥
6♠	P	P	X
XX	All Pass		

Her partner's bidding had told her of good clubs and spade support and the opponent's eagerness to bid 6H told her she faced heart shortness as well. After a heart lead 13 tricks are there, 6 spades, two heart ruffs and 5 club tricks. Well judged indeed.

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*A note from the Editor.* With Paul away, I could not share that I found a hand from the 1934 first interstate match in *The Argus* of 15 October 1934. Unfortunately, it is not one where Kath does anything brilliant.

The *Argus* described this as "an example of the more enterprising (or risky) bidding which helped the Victorian women to overhaul their deficit".

Rosich - Johnston were EW in room 1. East got the contract at 2♦ and made four.

Dir: S	♠ T9542	
Vul: Both	♥ J92	
	♦ T742	
	♣ K	
	♠ K63	♠ 8
	♥ A86	♥ Q43
	♦ AK	♦ QJ98653
	♣ T9743	♣ A2
	♠ AQJ7	
	♥ KT75	
	♦ void	
	♣ QJ865	

In the other room, the bidding was:

<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTHs</u>
P	P	1♦	1♣
2NT	P	3♦	P
3NT	All Pass		

West made 11 tricks for 670. (Note: If North had been equally daring and led the singleton ♣K, the contract would have gone off.)

How would you have bid it?

# From the Clubs

## Mollymook Congress

By John Reid

The 2024 Mollymook Congress was held at the Mollymook Bowling Club for the first time in recent memory.

Saturday saw 58 pairs contesting, 16 of these being a fantastic local turnout from Mollymook.

Three sessions down brought us to lunch. The club provided each table with a plate heaped (I think that is the operative word) with very tasty sandwiches. The wonderful MBC bakers provided toothsome tortes and tarts, scrumptious strudels and scones. Our guests were greeted by a cornucopia of choice carbohydrates and were farewelled by a chaotic collection of crumbs.

As the four afternoon sessions progressed, no one could prise the eventual winners, Tom and Jan Hackett (pictured with Lauri Perino), from the top table, though many tried.



Adrian Riepsamen and Jeff Lassman from Nowra were the best-place regional pair, who finished second overall.



A few people told me the story of a pair playing in the last match of the morning session. East opened the bidding with 1NT, opponent passed, and after some thought, West bid 1 Spade. 'Director!' immediately trumpeted the opponents.

Jeff Carberry strolls over and is advised of the insufficiency of West's bid. He calls West aside. East, watching mirthfully from the table, is astounded at the intensity of the red hue suffusing West's face. Jeff looks into West's flushed features and asks, 'What the heck were you thinking?'. West briefly muses, looks him squarely in the eye, and replies, 'Lunch'.

The teams' event on Sunday was similarly well patronised, with 28 teams competing, six from Mollymook. The final placings on Sunday didn't vary too greatly from the original rankings. The top-ranked team of Ian Lisle + Vicky Lisle and Marilyn Chadwich + Niek Van Vucht took out first place.



With the best-placed regional team from Batemans Bay taking out third place: Andrew Creet + Karen Creet and Louise Brassil + Michael Brassil. You might be excused for thinking that they are looking awfully happy for a team of bridge players, regardless of their success - I suspect their imminent seven-week trip around Africa is playing more on their minds ...



Congresses don't just happen. At Mollymook, "the usual faces" helped with the bump-in on Friday night and the bump-out on Sunday evening. Thanks to Leigh Taylor, Bob Jones, Michael McTiernan, KT, and, in particular, Neil Duffy (and Lauri, of course). We thank the Milton Bridge Club, which again helped with additional side tables and rubbish bins.

Thanks to all the providers of the amazing baked goods. I will aspire to compile a list of recipes.

*John Reid*

(Editor: If John or any other reader would like to share their best congress baked goods recipes, we would be happy to publish them).

## NSBC Labour Day Pairs

*By Mike Prescott*

Nearly 100 players took part in this annual MatchPoint pairs congress on the holiday Monday. The event was conducted in two fields, with winners North-South and East-West.

Winners North-South

Liz Wilkinson and John Scotford (NS)



Winners East-West

Catherine Zhang and Cevat Emul



A special award was given to Jill Johnson and Jenny Clarke, a rookie pair who gave it a go in their first Open Congress.



## Port Macquarie -Hastings

By Tom Meakin

The Port Macquarie Hastings Bridge Club Congress this year in September was my first, and it was a steep learning curve.

We decided to go back to catering ourselves. The committee was able to gather a great group of volunteers. I'm sure everyone agreed that the catering was great.



The feedback I received was fantastic.

However, we barely had enough participants. Next year, we are considering a split field to increase the attractiveness for less experienced players.

Certainly, the comment from one player was encouraging, writing:

*As this was my first Congress, I found it to be a calming setting (not nerve-wracking as I had imagined) and shall pass this on to fellow novice players.*

*The food on Sunday was scrumptious, and all the catering helpers were very welcoming.*

*Thank you for a great initiation into the world of Bridge Congresses.*

More experienced players also enjoyed it, with one writing:

*The 9 board matches were great. The food was wonderful on both days, and seeing old friends is always so nice.*

There was another great accolade from a person who only played in the pairs, saying:

*I have to congratulate you and your team of amazing workers on a job well done. Apart from playing badly, I had a wonderful day. Food and organisation were top draw.*

(Editor: You did a great job as the organiser of your first Congress, Tom. It sounds like next year will be bigger).

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## Glen Innes

By Margaret Harrison

Secretary, Town and Country Club Glen Innes.

It's fair to say we had the most wonderful weekend.

We were blessed with beautiful weather, and all the new growth and blossoms were a delight for visitors and locals alike. Our Congress was booked out early, and we were fortunate to have a waiting list for those last-minute apologies.

We think we might have cracked a winning formula, which we're happy to pass along.

We're fortunate that our local Glen Bridge Club is supported by a very hardworking Town and Country Club. It's a successful partnership as the Town and Country Club has lots of members who don't play bridge but who are more than willing to work tirelessly in the background all weekend.

They cook, serve, wash up and do anything they're asked to do. Many of them love helping over the weekend, as they come with friends and enjoy catching up with old friends while doing all the important "back of house" work.

This happy atmosphere is felt by all the visitors throughout the weekend.

We know from past Congresses that our visitors adore the home-cooked food. There are tables groaning with home-cooked

delicacies for morning and afternoon tea. The lunches and dinners are two-course meals– prepared on the premises that day by our wonderful cook, Amy.

We also find that our visitors are most impressed by our venue. We fill it with fresh flowers from our members' gardens, and we're fortunate to have some brilliant florists in our midst.

"It's like a welcoming family home" is a common refrain in the many thank you notes we receive. We're very proud of our building and work hard to keep everything looking loved.

I haven't mentioned the bridge! Great fun, and we're accepting of all ability levels. We always have a great director and try to source interesting prizes from our local artisans.

The winners across our three categories were:

Category A:

Tina Strickland and Mary O'Toole

Category B:

Lindsay Main and Penelope Whitaker

Category C:

Lindy Stevenson and Robyn Hepburn.

We'd love you to come next year. It's on the third weekend in Sept 2025.

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## Send Us Your Story

Every Congress has a different story – and they are never just about the bridge.

Please send us your story and a few pictures about your congress – or even stories from the point of view of a player.

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Sixteen teams competed in the Sydney Bridge Centre Spring Swiss Teams on Saturday, 28 September 2024. The congress attracted players ranging from fewer than 2 masterpoints to almost 5000 masterpoints – a great example of Sydney Bridge Centre's core value!

It's great to see that our more experienced players are warm and welcoming, and the newer players are keen to discover more about this game.

Congratulations to the winners: Phil Halloran, Chris Hamam, Sam Zilber and Sam York. Pictured with (l) Chair Mary Anne Loveridge.



The Best Team with each player with fewer than 50 masterpoints) went to Michael Jackson, Denise Reid, Judy King (pictured) and Claire Bonic (absent).





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## READING BRIDGE BOOKS IS THE BEST WAY TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME

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*New and secondhand books are postfree*

### TOP PICKS

**Eddie Kantar Teaches Topics in Declarer Play** by Eddie Kantar. The best intermediate level book on declarer play  
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**Defence is every player's weakness**

**Modern Bridge Defense** by Eddie Kantar. All you need to know about defence for the intermediate player  
**\$44.95 postfree**



**Advanced Bridge Defense** by Eddie Kantar. Advanced defensive techniques  
**\$44.95 postfree**



**Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand** by Seagram and Bird. 17 chapters with many full hand examples, 2010 ABTA winner  
**\$34.95 postfree**



**25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know** by Seagram & Smith, over 100,000 copies sold Revised and updated edition 2022  
**\$44.95 postfree**



**All other 25 Ways books are \$34.95 postfree**

25 Ways to be a Better Defender  
25 Ways to Compete in the Bidding  
25 Ways to Take More Tricks as Declarer  
25 More Bridge Conventions You Should Know

25 Bridge Myths Exposed  
25 Steps to Learning 2/1

**We have a large selection of good condition secondhand books**

### CLASSIC BOOKS

**Card Play Technique** by Mollo & Gardener. Alternating chapters on play and defence -the best selling bridge book of all time  
**\$39.95 postfree**



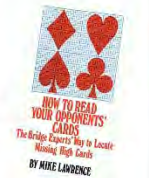
**To Bid or Not to Bid** by Larry Cohen. Classic best-selling bridge book on how to judge the auction  
**\$36.95 postfree**



**The Language of Bidding Strong Notrump** by Paul Marston  
Features 2/1 GF  
**\$34.95**



**How to Read Your Opponents' Cards** by Mike Lawrence. Mike's first book was, Book of the Year 1973. A classic on counting and detective work  
**\$29.95 postfree**



**35% DISCOUNT**  
for Australian beginners books to clubs and teachers (plus postage)

**30% DISCOUNT**  
for all other books to clubs (plus postage)

**AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE MAGAZINE** \$69.00 per year for 6 issues  
**Novice Online Edition** \$25 per year for 6 issues



www.bridgegear.com.au

0408 888 085

15A Outlook Drive, Figtree NSW 2525

## 2024 NSW Under 100 Masterpoints Pairs Championship (UHMP)

Any Under 100 Masterpoints Pair can play in a local final. You do not have to have played in a qualifying event.

Club	Date	Time	Address
Armidale Bridge Club	27/11/2024	1:00	Armidale Bridge Club, Rockvale Rd, Armidale
Ballina Bridge Club	28/11/2024	1:00	13 North Creek Road, Ballina NSW 2478
Brisbane Water Bridge Club	27/11/2024	12:30	93 McMasters Rd Woy Woy
Cowra Bridge Club	26/11/2024	12:45	Club Cowra, Brisbane St, Cowra
Georges River Bridge Club	26/11/2024	10:00	2 Carrington St, Penshurst
Great Lakes Bridge Club	28/11/2024	9:00	34C Lake Street, Forster
Illawarra Bridge Association	01/12/2024	13:30	11 Princes Hwy, Figtree
Peninsula Bridge Club	29/11/2024	1:15	9/5 Vuko Pl, Warriewood
Port Macquarie-Hastings Bridge Assoc	29/11/2024	1:00	Hamilton Green, 176 Hastings River Drive, Port Macquarie
The Sapphire Coast Bridge Club Inc	27/11/2024	1:00	Shop 9/13 Tura Beach Drive, Tura Beach
Sydney Bridge Centre	24/11/2024	1:30	Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills

Are you reading someone's printed copy of the {Title Goes Here}?

To get your own, scan the QR code.



If you are reading an electronic copy, you can click on this link.

[Subscribe](#)

The following pages are a compendium of flyers for forthcoming events and courses sent to the Newsletter. The extra reminder will not be sent next month. The deadline for flyers to be received is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Flyers must be a single A4 page and cannot advertise club sessions. Only provide flyers for events and courses in the following two months.

To have your flyer included in the next issue, please send it to [office@bridgensw.com.au](mailto:office@bridgensw.com.au)

**Any other contributions are welcome.**

We want to share your stories of how you are advancing the playing and enjoyment of bridge at your club or at congresses. any thanks to Paul Lavings for his contributions.

# State Novice and Restricted Teams 2024



**Bridge**  
NSW

Illawarra Bridge Association Hall  
11 Princes Highway Figtree  
9-10 November 2024



Teams of Novice and Restricted players are all invited to the Illawarra to play in the 2024 State Novice & Restricted Teams.

Eligibility cut-off is the 1 October Masterpoint Centre update.

All players in a Novice team must have less than 100 Masterpoints.

All players in a Restricted team must have less than 300 masterpoints.

Red masterpoints are awarded at the State Championship (B) level for this event. Medals are also awarded to the winners.

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Tea and instant coffee will be available throughout the event. Lunch will be provided.

Players must be seated at 9:30 for a 10:00 am start.

Tournament Organiser: Jill MacRae  
Phone: 0414 900 239  
Email: [jill.macrae54@bigpond.com](mailto:jill.macrae54@bigpond.com)

Director: Alan Bustany

Entries via MyABF: <https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/1767>

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The Management Committee and members of the Illawarra Bridge Association look forward to your participation in this event.



# Bridge NSW

invites you to a  
Club Directors Course  
Presented by Ian Lisle



Bridge  
NSW

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Friday 15 November 2024

North Shore Bridge Club  
2B Carlyle Rd, East Linfield

Commencing 9 for 9.30 am and concluding at 3:30 pm

**This course is suitable for those wishing to learn more about the laws of bridge and those wishing to become Club Directors.**

**It will provide:**

- Required skills and knowledge for a Club Director
- Knowledge of the laws related to the most common calls for the Director
- An understanding of the basics of movements and matchpoint scoring

*Completion of this course will equip you well to sit the D level exam required to direct red point sessions at club level.*

There is no charge for this course and course notes are provided. Copies of three books recommended for Directors will be for sale. The NSBC have kindly provided their premises and complimentary tea and coffee. A lunch of sandwiches and snacks will be provided.

**If you have ever been mildly curious about what it takes to be a Director, we encourage you to come to this course.**

Enquiries to:

David Havyatt Ph: 0477 52 52 52

Email: [eo@bridgensw.com.au](mailto:eo@bridgensw.com.au)

Bookings by MyABF

<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/1889>

# THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BUT MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN...

*with Will Jenner-O'Shea*

1st November at East Lindfield Bowling Club 10am - 3PM



WHICH  
AUCTIONS ARE  
FORCING?



WHAT IS NOT  
FORCING?



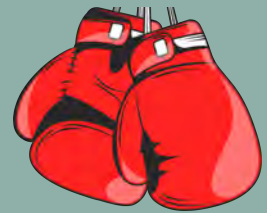
HOW MANY  
CARDS  
REQUIRED?

oops

COMMONLY  
MISTAKEN  
AUCTIONS



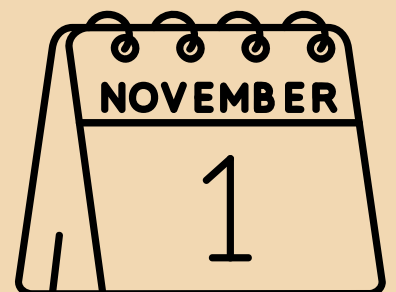
WHEN HIGH-  
LOW SHOWS A  
DOUBLETON



TIPS ON PLAY  
AND DEFENCE



SCAN ME



10AM - 3PM

Book via Upcoming events on our Website  
\$60 per person includes Morning Tea & Lunch  
[www.northshore.bridge-club.org](http://www.northshore.bridge-club.org)

**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRIDGE CLUB**  
**31st ANNUAL CONGRESS**  
**2nd & 3rd November 2024**

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**Saturday Swiss Pairs**  
(Open & Restricted)  
& Sunday Swiss Teams

**Venue:** The Highlands School of Performing Arts  
73 Kirkham Road (Cnr Willow Road)  
Bowral NSW 2576  
(Drop off point for Disabled, Street Parking Only)

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**Director:** Jeff Carberry  
**Convenors:** Stephen Brabyn & Tony Lye  
**Email:** shbc2251@outlook.com  
**Web:** www.shbcbridgeaustralia.org

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**Please Enter Online Via myABF**  
Red masterpoints will be awarded at Level B4  
Red & yellow systems are not permitted

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**Entry Fees: \$110 per Pair | \$220 per Team**  
Includes morning tea & lunch on Saturday  
and lunch & refreshments on Sunday

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**Completing Your Online Entry**  
Saturday Swiss Pairs Open or Restricted with  
< 200 MP's as at 1st August 2024

**Closing Date for Entries:** 15th October 2024

**How to Pay:** Bridge Credits via myABF

Or Direct Deposit to:  
**Southern Highlands Bridge Club Inc**  
**BDCU Bendigo Bank**  
**BSB: 633 000**  
**Acc: 200103737**  
Please include your name as a reference.

**For Enquiries or Assistance:**  
**Email:** shbc2251@outlook.com

**Final Date for Payment:** 15th October 2024  
(Places will not be confirmed until payment is made)

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## ITINERARY

### Saturday 2nd November

**9:45am for a 10:00am Start**  
Swiss Pairs Championship  
Restricted (less than 200mp)  
and Open Sections

Prize money for open and restricted pairs for  
1st, 2nd & 3rd placegetters  
A Special Perpetual / Regional Pairs  
Trophy donated by NSWBA

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### Sunday 3rd November

**9:30am for a 9:45am**  
Start Swiss Teams Championship

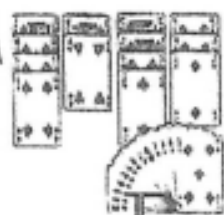
Prize money for 1st, 2nd & 3rd placegetters  
A Special Perpetual / Regional Pairs  
Trophy donated by NSWBA



## Dress Code

Neat Casual, Appropriate Footwear  
(No Thongs)

This congress is conducted under the auspices of  
BNSW. All players are subject to BNSW's Congress  
Disciplinary Regulations.



# Parramatta Bridge Club Foundation Day Teams Congress

to be held at  
**Ermington Community CENTRE**

10 River Road, Ermington

**SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2024**

Commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA

The ABF has approved the issue of RED MASTERPOINTS at level B4

All players are subject to NSWBA's Congress Disciplinary Regulations.

**Tournament Director : Ronnie Ng.**

Convener : Margaret East 0416 513 295

**ENTER via MyABF**

**PRIZES: 1st \$480 2nd \$240**

1st Parramatta Team \$120

2nd Parramatta Team \$100

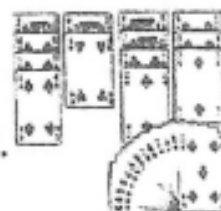
Restricted. \$100.

(Only one prize per Team)

**Entry Fee \$160.00 Team**

Bring your own lunch or buy from  
local shops

Refreshments provided during the day.





# Armidale

BRIDGE CLUB

## Pairs & Teams Congress 2024 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> November Director: Ronnie Ng

**Armidale Bridge Club, 12 Rockvale Road, Armidale**

Conducted under the auspices of Bridge NSW. The ABF has approved the issue of Red Master points at Level B4. All players are subject to the Bridge NSW's Congress Disciplinary Regulations.

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### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Swiss Pairs

10.00am Registration 10:15 First Session starts Lunch provided

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Teams

9.00am First Session Lunch provided Second session

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

Enter at <https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/1706>

**Entries close 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Maximum tables = 18

For enquiries contact Ian Price on 0432 153 294 or [priceshdc@gmail.com](mailto:priceshdc@gmail.com)

---

### Entry Fee:

**\$100 per person**

**or \$50 for each day**

### Payment Options:

#### Direct Deposit details:

BSB: 637 000

Account Number: 718 449 871 Reference: Surname + ABF number, e.g. Smith55396

**Online payment** at the time of entry is preferred but eftpos payment on the day is also fine. Refunds will be given at the discretion of the Committee.

### Prizes

Prizes will depend on the number of entries. If sufficient entries, cash prizes will be awarded to place getters and there will be a restricted category. Wine prizes are also usually provided, but will depend on entries.

# MUDGEE BRIDGE CLUB



## Annual Congress 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

### Main Pavilion, AREC,

267 Ulan Road Bombira NSW 2850

(located 2.5 kms north of Mudgee township)

Important for those using GPS to use the locality of Bombira rather than Mudgee

Saturday Nov. 9th

Swiss Pairs

9.30am for 10.00am

\$55 pp

Sunday Nov. 10th

Swiss Teams

8.30am for 9.00am

\$55 pp

- Cash prizes awarded
- Coffee and tea available throughout
- Lunch included both days
- Entry form: [Australian Bridge Federation \(myabf.com.au\)](http://myabf.com.au)
- Payment by direct debit to BSB 082-726 A/c no. 87-313-3080 using your name as the reference – or with bridge credits on myabf

Director: Ian Lisle

Convener: Marelle Irvine

Email: [mudgeebridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:mudgeebridgeclub@gmail.com)

Phone: 0407 730 996

PO Box 536, Mudgee 2850 NSW

*All players are subject to the NSWBA's Congress Disciplinary Regulations.*

*This event is conducted under the auspices of the NSW Bridge Association.*

*The ABF has approved the issue of Red Masterpoints at level B4.*



## Saturday Full Day Workshop

# Michaels Cue Bids, The Unusual 2NT and Power Doubles

*With Will Jenner-O'Shea*

Saturday November 9th, 10am – 3:30pm

@Goulburn Street

Each hand has an interesting Play or Defence Tip.

### Topics

How to use these competitive bidding tools.

Competing and finding your best fits as quickly as possible.

The Michaels Cue Bid to show the Majors.

The Unusual 2NT (and Unusual 4NT) to compete in minors.

Power Doubles, and how to show very strong hands as the overcaller.

Interesting Play and Defence topics.

*Intermediate / Open / Advanced*

### Play Regularly to Reinforce

**For Open players:** (City) Monday – Thursday mornings (10.00am), Tuesday night (7.15pm) / (Canada Bay) Monday and Thursday (10.00am) / (Henley) Saturday (1.30pm).

**For Supervised players:** (City) Monday & Wednesday morning (10.00am) and Tuesday evening (6.30pm) / (Canada Bay) Thursday morning (10.00am).

**All are Welcome:** (City) Sunday Funday (1.30pm) every two weeks, please check website for dates.

*Book online via SBC website*



You do not need a partner.

Book online on [www.SydneyBridgeCentre.com](http://www.SydneyBridgeCentre.com), or contact the office – Level 1, 162 Goulburn St. [office@sydneybridgecentre.com](mailto:office@sydneybridgecentre.com) or 9264 6884

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

A delicious morning tea and light lunch will be provided.





invites you to play in the

# UNDER 100 MASTERPOINTS PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024

1.30pm - 4.30pm

Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills

\$20 member (\$17 concession) / \$24 visitors

**Snack and drinks included**

Divisions for

ALL are welcome.

You don't need to have played in any club qualifying event.

Each player must be below the threshold for that category.



Please ENTER DIRECTLY as a Pair via MyABF:

<https://myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/1939>

This event is for any player who had <100 MPs as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024. No need to have played in Qualifying Event! The only pre-requisite is the masterpoint limit, i.e. you and partner MUST each have under 100 MPs. If you and your partner are in 2 different categories, you will qualify under the higher category.

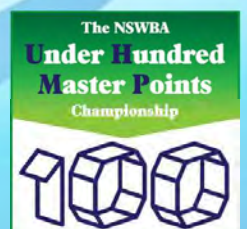
**Need a partner? Tell us via the entry form!**



For those who have more than 100 MPs, a Sunday ARVO game will be held parallel to the UHMP Finals. Join us for a social Sunday game with drinks and munchies! Walk-ins are welcome. Same entry fee.

PRIZES & MASTERPOINTS are awarded within each division. **RED Masterpoints** at State Championship level. Pre-dealt boards with hand records.

Conducted under the auspices of BridgeNSW







# Sydney Bridge Centre

## Saturday Full Day Workshop

# A Summary, Review and Practice, Of This Year's Workshops

*With Will Jenner-O'Shea*

Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 3:30pm

@Goulburn Street

Each hand has an interesting Play or Defence Tip.

### Topics

Practice Cue Raises, Checkback, and Doubling 1NT.

Plenty of Bidding and Defence Tips.

A Summary Of All the Suggested Conventions We looked at in 2024.

Improved Judgment and Evaluation.

*This Workshop is suitable for players of all levels, from Supervised to Open. Tips for Players at all levels. It doesn't matter if you didn't attend any, or all, of the previous workshops.*

### Play Regularly to Reinforce

**For Open players:** (City) Monday – Thursday mornings (10.00am), Tuesday night (7.15pm) / (Canada Bay) Monday and Thursday (10.00am) / (Henley) Saturday (1.30pm).

**For Supervised players:** (City) Monday & Wednesday morning (10.00am) and Tuesday evening (6.30pm) / (Canada Bay) Thursday morning (10.00am).

**All are Welcome:** (City) Sunday Funday (1.30pm) every two weeks, please check website for dates.

Book online  
via SBC  
website



You do not need a partner.

Book online on [www.SydneyBridgeCentre.com](http://www.SydneyBridgeCentre.com), or contact the office – Level 1, 162 Goulburn St.

[office@sydneybridgecentre.com](mailto:office@sydneybridgecentre.com) or 9264 6884

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

A delicious morning tea and light lunch will be provided.

