

MERGER OF NSWBA CLUB OPERATIONS WITH SYDNEY BRIDGE CENTRE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who are Will Jenner-O'Shea and Vanessa Brown and what will they be doing?

Will and Vanessa currently own the successful Sydney Bridge Centre which uses venues at the NSW Writers Centre, Rozelle and at Henley. Will has also directed and taught bridge at Trumps.

Will and Vanessa are both keen bridge players who are often seen at national bridge events. Most recently Will played in the final stages of the process to select the Australian Open bridge team for 2015-16.

Will and Vanessa will focus on the various aspects of directing and managing the day to day operations of the three venues. In addition, Will will manage teaching and player development while Vanessa will be involved in promoting the club with the aim of attracting additional members. In conjunction with Council, she will assist with the identification and establishment of new premises on the city fringe, which would house members currently playing at all three venues.

What difference will Goulburn Street players notice?

Some sessions will have different directors — Will and Vanessa will have a presence at the club and future teaching activities will be under Will's management and supervision.

Extra sessions will be introduced to enable members to play at other times. Players will also be able to play at the existing SBC premises at Rozelle and Henley at member rates.

There will be continuing improvements to the decor and functionality of the playing area.

Will there be any change in table money or membership fees?

The only immediate change will be the introduction of an \$8 Concession card holder rate for club duplicate sessions at Goulburn St to align with existing SBC table rates. All other rates will remain unchanged in 2015.

At the end of 2015, membership fees will be aligned. If you are currently a member of both clubs you will be contacted individually.

What happens to the existing NSWBA staff?

Liz Fanos and Carrie Foster will continue to work for the NSWBA. Carrie will continue to be responsible for the accounting functions.

Liz will assist Will and Vanessa with the club operations but will also be freed up to spend more time on State business.

What about Monday evening sessions?

These will not be affected. Matthew McManus will continue to be the chief director for the Monday evening events. In the future some of these Monday evening sessions will be conducted by Ed Barnes, who has recently been appointed a National level director. All newly combined SBC members will remain entitled to member table money rates where applicable.

Is it feasible in the longer term to run a club from three premises?

No. All three premises have problems of either parking and access (Goulburn Street) or security of tenure (Rozelle, Henley) and are not considered suitable venues for bridge in the medium to long term.

As part of this initiative, we will be embarking on finding new premises and consolidating the operations of Sydney Bridge Centre in one location. This will be somewhere around the city fringe but certainly not on the northern side of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

What will happen with masterpoints?

Sydney Bridge Centre will operate using club number 2-006 in the ABF system. All NSWBA home club members will be transferred to that club number and listed on its reports.

What becomes of the NSW Bridge Association?

The NSWBA name remains but will be used for matters relating to its role as the body administering bridge in NSW.

What happens to existing members voting rights etc?

All rights are preserved. All existing NSWBA members remain members of the NSW State body with rights to attend the AGM, vote, etc. The name "Sydney Bridge Centre" will be used for all club operations, the name "NSWBA" for all State body operations.

The rights of Life Members and those who in the past purchased perpetual memberships will also be preserved.

Who owns the Sydney Bridge Centre business?

The legal ownership of the Sydney Bridge Centre and its trading operations will vest in the NSW Bridge Association, a not-for-profit organisation.