

Bridging NSW



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November 2025

From the Chair: Spring Nationals delivers!

Hi everyone,

For anyone who attended the Spring Nationals Congress in Sydney, I am sure you will agree it was a big success. We had particularly strong numbers in the Open and Intermediate events, and our Mini Monday session attracted around 20 participants eager to learn more about congress play. Thanks to organiser, Shannon Queree, and all of the volunteers who assisted to make the event so special.

The next round of Online Supervised sessions is from **2 November to 7 December**. These **free** sessions are being provided by Bridge NSW to assist beginners in making the transition from beginner courses to club play. They are particularly suited to players whose clubs are unable to offer supervised support. Players can join as many sessions as they like and no registration is required. Simply click on the RealBridge link for the relevant Sunday on [this web page](#) to join in. We are working behind the scenes to make these sessions a permanent fixture in 2026.

On 11 November, our Clubs and Community Committee will be hosting a **Presidents' Day at Ballina Bridge Club**. This is the fifth Presidents' Day the C&C Committee has hosted in the past six weeks. The days

provide an opportunity for club representatives in a region to get together and learn from one another, and discover how Bridge NSW can further support them with their goals.

With Spring Nationals behind us, there is still plenty of competition on offer before the year is out. Later this month, state championships are being held for the Daytime Swiss Pairs, Novice and Restricted Teams, and under 100 Masterpoints Pairs. Why take a break from bridge when you can keep playing? Breaks are what the summer holidays are for.

Happy reading.

Catherine Chaffey
Chair of Bridge NSW

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People of Bridge

Profile: Meet Bill Bleechmore, club volunteer



Club: Mudjee Bridge Club

Rank: Regional Master

How do you help out at your club? I am just a member who does a bit on the side. I am the masterpoint secretary and I run director courses and have helped graduate five new directors in the last 24 months. I am also the webmaster for the Club's website: www.bridgewebs.com/mudjee.

How did you get the new directors on board? We were running short of directors. I encouraged a few people to take it on and put them through a course I designed, and they were successful.

You designed the course? Yes, it can be done by email or in person. I break up the rulebook into sections based on the number of rules. I send them an email with the next section they have to do. They do it and send back their mini test at the end of it. Then we go to the next section. When we have the

chance, we get together on an afternoon and go through a session together.

How long does the course take? Around three months. There's no pressure. You can bet someone is on holidays or is not available each week.

Are you happy to share the course with other clubs? If they'd like it, sure. We also do a session on scoring and movements, covering all aspects, with everyday application.

How many directors does Mudjee have now? We have 8-9 directors on a roster basis, Monday and Friday. Your name comes up once or twice every month.

How often you do play bridge? Usually twice a week. Back in 1987, my wife and I took bridge lessons in Dubbo. She had a crook back and couldn't play golf so we had to do something together. She passed away four years ago. I am 87 years old now.

Why did you decide to volunteer at the club? All my life I have been involved in organisations, mainly sporting organisations like polocrosse and golf. Once I knew the rules of bridge, I thought, why not become a director? I like to help people. I used to be a bank manager for 42 years.

Do you enjoy bridge or directing more? Directing is not onerous. It's a lot more challenging playing.

Any tips or advice for people considering becoming a director? It's a means to improve your game and to help other

people to enjoy the game. You give a ruling and someone says thank you. That's rewarding.

Joining the 100 club: Gladys Donovan



Club: Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club

Rank: State Master

Turning 100 is an incredible milestone — did you celebrate with bridge? I regularly play bridge on Wednesdays and Fridays. We had a party after bridge on the Wednesday with around 40 people, including a few friends from my old Sydney bridge club. Then on the Sunday, I celebrated with family and friends at the Ettalong Diggers Club.

How long have you been playing bridge? I started in 2000 when I moved to Sydney from the South Coast. It was hard to get to know people. There was a letterbox flyer about beginner lessons at the nearby Finesse Bridge Club. I made some lovely friends at the club and stayed.

But you are now on the Central Coast? I moved up three years ago to live with my daughter and her partner.

And you play with your daughter as your partner? Yes. Since I moved up here, we play twice a week together. Her game has improved from it.

What do you like about the game? It is challenging. It improves your knowledge. And I like the companionship. It improves your understanding of people.

Do you have any favourite bridge memories? It's all favourite memories. I've had wonderful experiences on bridge holidays. I am keen to go on another bridge holiday in the Hunter region next year.

Any advice for newcomers to bridge? Learn it early. You never master it. It's challenging right to the end.

Congratulations Gladys! We hear you have also enrolled in some improver lessons. Showing us all how to never stop learning and improving our bridge game!

Bridge NSW News

New Online Supervised sessions

Following the success of the September trial, Bridge NSW is once again hosting **FREE** online supervised sessions for beginners **4pm–5:30pm Sundays from 2 November to 7 December**. People can attend one or as many sessions as they like.

The September trial of online supervised play attracted up to **40 players from mainly regional clubs**, showing how popular these sessions are.

The online sessions are designed to **help beginners transition to sessions at their clubs**. Ideally, supervised sessions are best attended face-to-face. But for some players that isn't an option, which is where the online supervised sessions can help. You can read more about [online supervised sessions here](#).

This time we are also inviting players from Victoria. Working together, both states intend to run more of these sessions in 2026.

Who can participate?

- Newer beginners to 18 months of bridge experience welcome. No partner required
- Individual clubs can run their own table (e.g. 3 or 4 players) and have their own teacher supervise
- A group of friends or even parents / grandparents / children can have their own table
- Players still at school are welcome – this is a great platform for them

- Teachers looking to understand the RealBridge platform and how it can be used in teaching

How do you join?

Players can come along to any or all of the lessons – your choice. There is no need to register. Just turn up and play using the RealBridge 'Player' links on the [Play online webpage](#).

If you need help with RealBridge, contact onlinesupervised@bridgensw.com.au.

Seeking teacher support

Online supervised sessions are not possible without the support of wonderful teachers. Teachers who are willing to volunteer at some of the sessions can contact onlinesupervised@bridgensw.com.au.

Every teacher is a big help!

Presidents' Days

The Bridge NSW Clubs and Community Committee has been busy travelling across the state to host Presidents' Days at various clubs.

In the past six weeks, days have been held at Gympie, Parramatta, Illawarra, and Orange. Each day has attracted more than 10 club representatives with plenty of enthusiasm and appreciation for the chance to connect with Bridge NSW and nearby clubs.



Parramatta Presidents Day

Coming up in November is a Presidents' Day in Ballina.

- Tuesday 11 November – **Ballina Bridge Club**. 10am–2pm. [RSVP by 4 November](#).

The day is great for bringing together neighbouring clubs to meet each other, share strengths and ideas for collaboration, and learn about how Bridge NSW can support them. Two people per club are welcome to attend, typically the President and another club representative.



Illawarra Presidents Day

Some of the topics discussed at recent Presidents' Days include:

- The essential roles undertaken by volunteers, and strategies for their support and development
- Approaches to recruiting and retaining club members and engaging younger players
- The use of WhatsApp as an effective communication tool
- Mentorship programs for players of all aspirations
- Potential strategies for club and community collaboration

Please register your interest with Glenda Parmenter via email at

community@bridgensw.com.au or call 0414 937 891.

Handy brochure for Congress tips

Are you new to congresses and a little intimidated about playing in one? Fret no more.

Bridge NSW has created a brand new [Congress Tips Brochure](#) to help players who are new to congress play.

The [foldable, pocket-sized brochure](#) explains what to expect, how to prepare, and how to get the most out of your first congress. It's designed for players taking that exciting step from club sessions to state-level play — and for clubs to share with members who might be ready to give a congress a go.

You can download the brochure by [clicking here](#).

Events

Spring Nationals 2025

The Sydney Spring Nationals once again lived up to its reputation as NSW's largest bridge congress and delivered an event to remember across nine action-packed days.

Held at Canterbury Park Racecourse, SN25 kicked off with the new five-day double knockout **Open Teams Championship**, which attracted 48 teams across eight pools. The top two from each pool advanced to the Championship bracket, while others battled it out in the Plate and Shield events. Teams Hung, Gumby, Dalley and McCallum all qualified undefeated.

Alongside the Open Teams, the **Intermediate, Restricted and Novice Teams** drew a strong field of developing players.

The **Poynten Team** (Michael Young, Mary Poynten, Tony White and Martin Clear) claimed the Intermediate title with a perfect record.



Team Poynten: Michael Young, Mary Poynten, Tony White, Martin Clear

The **Payne Team** (Cia Benecke, Kim Dalling, Merle Payne and Anthony Smuts) took out the Restricted category, while the **Sunter**

Team (Melissa Iverach, John Fitzpatrick, Andy Sunter and Anne-Marie Kelly) topped the Novice category.



Sunter Team: Melissa Iverach, John Fitzpatrick, Andy Sunter. Anne-Marie Kelly (absent)

Early midweek saw a burst of energy from newer players during **Mini Monday**, an initiative designed to introduce “newish-to-congress” players to national-level play. With guidance from teacher Joan Butts and director John McIlrath, the event was a hit. A mini competition held was won by **Susan Emmett and Lillian Clark**, with **Ramarathin Krishnamachari and Joe Gomes** runners-up.



Mini Monday winners Susan Emmett and Lillian Clark with host Joan Butts (L)

Open Teams nailbiter

As the week unfolded, spectators followed the action online, with RealBridge's Vugraph providing live coverage of crucial matches.

After several nail-biting rounds, the Open Teams came down to two giants — **Team Hung** (Ben & Jamie Thompson, Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung) and **Team Milne** (David Wiltshire, Jessica Brake, Susan Humphries, Shane Harrison, Liam Milne, James Coutts).

Their 56-board final was tense. Team Milne trailed at stages but clawed back with brilliant play, including a crucial 6♣ contract that swung 17 IMPs in their favour. It was enough for team Milne to emerge as victors. With it, David Wiltshire achieved a rare feat: three consecutive Spring Nationals titles with ten different teammates.



Team Milne: Dave Wiltshire, James Coutts, Jess Brake, Shane Harrison, Liam Milne and Susan Humphries.

The **Jacob Team** (Lysandra Zheng, Zachary Yan, Ella and Nick Jacob, Leon Meier) claimed the Open Teams Plate, while the **Wilkinson Team** (Michael Wilkinson, Stephen Fischer, David Appleton, Brad Coles) only took the lead in the last round to triumph in the Shield.



Jacob Team: Lysandra Zheng, Zachary Yan, Ella Jacob, Nick Jacob, Leon Meier

Lively Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams

The closing days of the Sydney Spring Nationals saw the spotlight shift to the popular **Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams**.

The **Morgan Team** (Lauren Morgan, Liam Milne, Sophie Ashton and James Coutts) topped the qualifying rounds and carried their momentum straight through to victory. They dominated their semi-final against the Mundell Team, winning by an emphatic **86 IMPs**, before meeting the formidable **Lazer Team** (Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby, Kate McCallum and Axel Johannsson) in the 56-board final.

With just a **4.6 IMP carry-forward**, every board mattered. Both sides traded big swings: a precise defence earned Morgan 9 IMPs early, while Lazer struck back with 13 IMPs after Johannsson's coolly judged 3NT. Bidding was bold throughout. Ashton and Morgan fearlessly competed to the five-level on several hands, showing the aggressive, spirited play that defines this event.

In the end, consistency and clever card reading saw **Team Morgan** lift the trophy.

For Milne and Coutts, it capped off a remarkable fortnight with both featuring in the team that won the Open Teams event earlier in the week.



Morgan Team: Liam Milne, Sophie Ashton, Lauren Morgan, James Coutts

Pairs winners

The second half of SN25 showcased the Pairs events. Congratulations to the following winners:

- **Dick Cummings Open Pairs:** Ian Thomson and Matt Mullamphy



Ian Thomson and Matt Mullamphy (with Shannon Queree C)

- **Gerda Stern Mixed Pairs:** Maurits Van Der Vlugt and Dagmar Neumann



Maurits Van Der Vlugt and Dagmar Neumann with Danielle Stern

- **Spring Nationals Intermediate Pairs:** Christine Hanley & Craig Mietzke



Christine Hanley and Craig Mietzke

- **Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs:** Louise Cowan & Susan Bezette



Louise Cowan and Susan Bezette

- **Avi Kanetkar Restricted Pairs:** Oleg Glushchenko and Elena Rochtchina.



Oleg Glushchenko and Elena Rochtchina with Lalita Kanetkar

- **Avi Kanetkar Novice Pairs:** Tim Jackson & Shane Grogan



Tim Jackson and Shane Grogan with Lalita Kanetkar

- **Two Day Butler Open Pairs:** John and Charles McMahon



John McMahon and Charles McMahon

- **Two Day Intermediate Pairs:** Roy Bentley and Harish Patney



Roy Bentley and Harish Patney

- **Novice Matchpoint Pairs:** Denise Reid and Judy King



Denise Reid and Judy King

Kudos to trainee directors Kelly Barber, Bricet Kloten and Dave Havyatt, who earned praise for their calm professionalism under pressure.



*Trainee Directors
(L to R): Kelly
Barber, Bricet
Klore, David
Havyatt*

Youth in full bloom

From Mitch Dowling

Coming from all over Oceania, bridge youngsters sought to tango with the best in open events over the nine days.

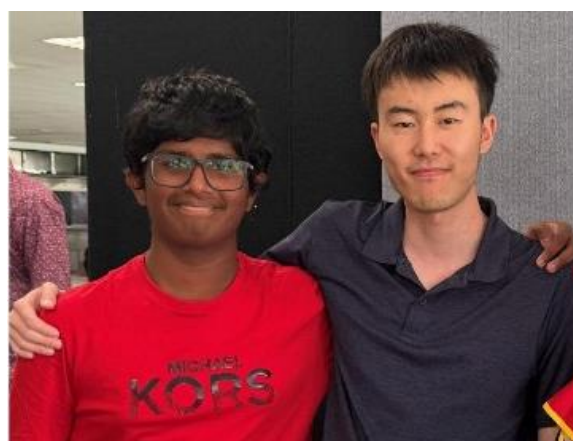
Special mention to **Team WATKINS** (Heath Watkins, Kate Macdonald, Yiwei Qi, Matt Smith) for hanging in until the quarter-finals of the Plate before finishing third in the Shield. The New Zealand hit squad **Team JACOB** (Ella Jacob, Nick Jacob, Leon Meier, Zachary Yan, Lysandra Zheng) managed to collect first place in the Plate. Incredible efforts all round!

In the inaugural Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams event, Brisbane youth player **Lauren Morgan** clinched victory with her star-studded Team Milne.

The Dick Cummings Open Pairs on the final weekend saw many more youth successes. Natalie and Hamish Newman, whose maternal grandfather was Dick Cummings, took part. It is great to see the love for

bridge filter down from generation to generation.

Young guns **Aadhi Hariharan** and **Yiwei Qi** put on a stellar performance, coming fifth place in the open field and winning Best Youth Pair. Not an easy feat when there are plenty of strong players about! Mitch Dowling and Fraser Rew managed to come in sixth place.



Aadhi Hariharan and Yiwei Qi

Youth players have plenty more bridge events to look forward to this summer with the **State Youth Championships** kicking off at Sydney Bridge Club on 6-7 December and the **Australian Youth Championships** commencing early January 2026, the latter of which decides the Australian Junior Team for the calendar year.

Know someone under 25 who you think should learn bridge? Email Mitch Dowling at nswyouthbridge@gmail.com.

In reflection

As Convenor **Shannon Queree** summed up in her closing remarks, the real joy was “watching first-time winners — like toddlers taking their first steps, except these toddlers know Stayman and will never be the same.”

A huge thank you to Shannon, Tournament Director **Matthew McManus**, the dedicated team of directors and volunteers, and everyone who made the 2025 Sydney Spring Nationals such a success.

Full results are available [here](#). And you can access all five bulletins on the [SN25 MyABF page](#). Only **356 sleeps until SN26 – October 17–25, 2026!**

Open Teams State Champs (Metro) - results

The Metropolitan Finals for the Open Teams State Championships were held on 12 October at Pennant Hills Bridge Club.

Despite winning every match, Team Gumby finished second behind Team NSBC1, who won big in three matches. Third place getters Team Barnes only lost one match.

Congratulations to the top three teams on a great effort.

1. **NSBC1** – Tony Nunn, Nigel Rosendorff, Martin Bloom, Elliott Kaplan: 140 IMPs (88.55 VPs)
2. **GUMBY** – Liz Adams, Peter Gill, Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby: 111 IMPs (88.49 VPs)
3. **BARNES** – Elvitta Lasut, Denis Kristanda, Denise Barnes, Hamid Sadigh: 64 IMPs (78.63 VPs)

Full results are [available here](#).

Avi prize money for emerging players at SN

In honour of her late husband, Avi Kanetkar, Lalita and her family have kindly offered

prize money for Novice and Restricted players in Sydney's biggest annual bridge event, the Spring Nationals, for the next five years.

"Avi was very passionate about bridge," Lalita says. "By doing something in his memory, we can show our love for him and his love for the game."

Winners of the Novice and Restricted Butler Swiss Pairs events receive \$300 per pair, and runners up receive \$200 per pair.

From 2025–2029, the events will be named:

- **Avi Kanetkar Butler Swiss Pairs – Novice**
- **Avi Kanetkar Butler Swiss Pairs – Restricted**

Both of these events were played on 23–24 October at this year's [Spring Nationals](#).

In memory of a passionate player

Avi was a giant of the bridge game, winning over 50 national events, and the 2010 and 2013 Asia Pacific Seniors Teams events. He was also a finalist in several Seniors World Championships and was set to represent the Australian Seniors team at the Asia Pacific and World Championships this year.

Lalita says Avi always encouraged people to learn and play bridge.

"He often said: 'It's a bidder's game, keep bidding'. He never interfered when I was learning to play. He only asked what I had learned on the day," Lalita says.

"He would have liked to see more and more players coming in."

Avi sadly passed in March this year.

The Kanetkar family is also sponsoring engravings on the back of gold medals given to each member of the Australian Seniors Team.

Bridge NSW kindly thanks Lalita and the Kanetkar family for honouring Avi's legacy and supporting emerging players and the NSW bridge community.

Upcoming events

November is shaping up to be a big month for State-level competition, with three major events on the Bridge NSW calendar:

- 14-21 November: State Daytime Swiss Pairs
- 22-23 November: State Novice and Restricted Teams
- 24-30 November: Under 100 Masterpoints Pairs Championship

Ready to take part? Visit the [Bridge NSW Calendar to register](#).

For **Central West Festival** fans, you may have seen the Pairs and Teams events are [already full](#)! Registrations only opened on 1 October.

Now the Gold Coast Congress is no longer what it was, CWF appears to have taken the mantle for the most popular national gold point event on the bridge calendar. But you have to register early!

Join the Bridge NSW Community!

To follow us, simply log in and head to our [Facebook page](#) and click the "Like" button. You will automatically become a follower of our page and receive our posts in your live feed.

You can also use the QR code below to go straight to our Facebook page:



Clubs

Profile: Armidale Bridge Club

With Ian Price (President)



No of members: 109

Armidale has a congress coming up on 15-16 November. What's on offer?

Our upcoming congress has a Pairs event on Saturday and Teams event on Sunday in a new format. We are trying for two separate fields for the Pairs for the first time: a NS field and an EW field with an IMP-based Swiss movement. Our November congress was an all-teams event for many years, but we changed this to separate events to allow more people to play only one day if that suits them. It is often too difficult to organise four people to play for both days.

Tell us a bit about the history of the club.

The Armidale Bridge Club has its origins in the 1970s and our congresses have been running from the 1980s. For a long time, we played in local clubs and other venues with all the setting up and dismantling that that entails. In the 90s, we initiated a deliberate policy of working toward obtaining our own clubhouse. In 2007, we eventually moved into our current premises on Rockvale Road.

We now offer three congresses each year – two two-day events and a one-day event in mid-winter known as “Frostbite Pairs”.

What's the appetite for bridge playing in your region like? Since moving into our new clubhouse, our numbers have declined from about 150 members at our peak to less than 100 members immediately after COVID. But we have been running lessons twice per year and have gradually improved our number of members to 109. Several other bridge clubs in our region have seen member numbers decline and the number of congresses has also declined. At least one club has closed. It takes considerable and consistent work to engage new members.

How does your club support new players?

We run beginner lessons twice per year and we supplement this with supervised play one night (to accommodate working players) and one morning each week. We also run one full Restricted session (<100 Masterpoints) per week. This was our most

popular session for a long time, and we find this session critical for encouraging our newer players to learn the fundamentals of the game. We also bring in an experienced teacher once a year to run a weekend of intermediate lessons. These have been very well attended.



Any recent standout events? We pride ourselves on creating a very pleasant social environment for all our members. We hold “Bridge & BBQ days” twice per year where we mix up our better players with our newer players. We have also introduced a “Train Trip to Tamworth” event in which Armidale players catch the Sydney-bound train one morning. We then arrive in Tamworth later that morning to be ferried to the Tamworth Bridge Club where we play bridge and have lunch until about 3pm and then catch the afternoon train back to Armidale. This has been a very successful cross-club event for us.

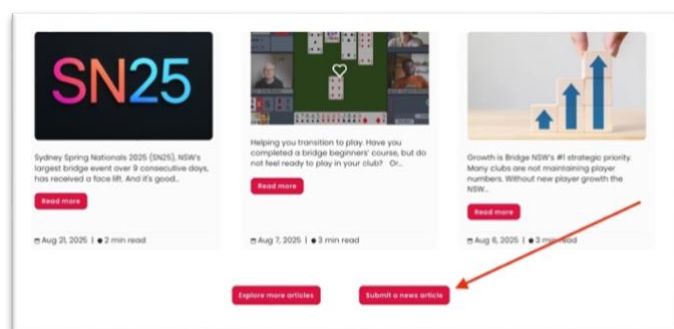


If your club had unlimited resources, what one thing would you do? Through the efforts of many people, we are generally travelling ok as a club. We need money mainly for club improvements like a new roof (in 2022), and, currently, the resurfacing and re-marking of our car park.

What further support would you like to receive from Bridge NSW? We have found the Bridge NSW website to be very useful for designing lesson materials and directing newer players to resources. Perhaps larger-scale publicity about the playing of bridge in our region or city would encourage more people to at least be aware of bridge and what it entails. This then might encourage more people to take notice of our advertisements or look for our website. It is difficult for small clubs to promote bridge on a larger scale.

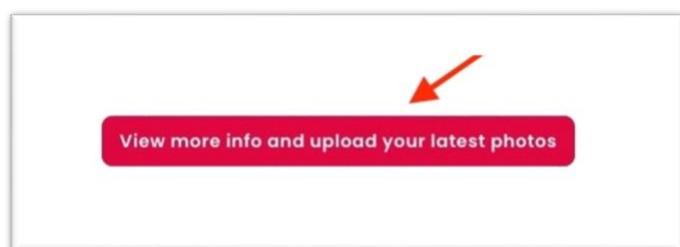
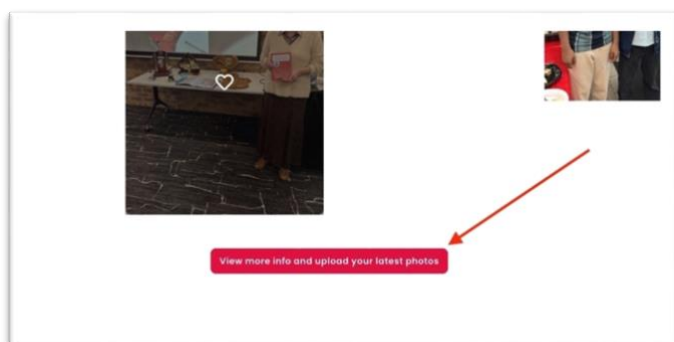
Got a club story to share?

You can now [submit your club story](#) for the newsletter and more **on our website**. Go to the ‘Latest bridge news’ section on the homepage and under the articles you will see two red buttons. Click on the button on the right to submit your story, or simply [click here](#). We’d love to hear from you!





You can also **share photos from your club and events** on our 'Game face', which is also on the homepage. We love to show pictures from all types of people from across the state. Simply go to the bottom of 'Game face' to find and click on the red upload button, or you can simply [click here](#).



And don't forget to join our [Facebook page](#), if you haven't already. **Click the 'Like' button to follow us.**

Want to read more? Join the Bridge NSW Facebook community!

Bridge NSW has a [Facebook page](#) where you can find out the latest results and happenings in the community, and the latest news about Bridge NSW. It is also a great way to engage with the community.

To follow us, simply log in and head to our [Facebook page](#) and click the "Like" button. You will automatically become a follower of our page and receive our posts in your live feed.

You can also use the QR code below to go straight to our Facebook page:



Teaching & Education

New Online Supervised sessions for beginners

After a successful September trial, Bridge NSW is once again hosting **free** online supervised sessions for beginners, running **Sundays 4–5:30pm from 2 November to 7 December**. These friendly RealBridge sessions help newer players (up to 18 months' experience) build confidence before joining club play.

Players from both NSW and Victoria are invited to join any or all sessions. No registration or partner is required! Simply visit the [Play online page](#) to join a session using the RealBridge link for that date. Teachers who are willing to volunteer at some of the sessions can contact onlinesupervised@bridgensw.com.au. Every teacher is a big help to the student experience.

Seeking feedback on club's beginner experience

One of Bridge NSW's core objectives is to help clubs retain beginners and progress them to club sessions. We are seeking feedback on your club's beginner experience this year.

- How many beginners did you get to start lessons and how many are now playing at the club? Are you aware why some beginners did not continue to play at the club?
- What were 2 or 3 things the club did really well to help retain beginners?
- What would you do differently next time?

Your experiences can help other clubs. Please tell your story to education@bridgensw.com.au. If you would prefer a phone call, let us know and we will give you a call.

Free Online Teachers' Webinar – Sunday 9 November

The Australian Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) is running a **free Zoom Seminar on Sunday 9 November from 2–5 pm**. Presenters include **Joan Butts** (Bridge is a trick-taking game), **Laura Ginnan** (Teaching ideas combining tech with club activities), **Nick Hughes** (Problems with INT), **Paul Marston** (What we should be teaching beginners), and **Ron Klinger** (Bridge holidays). Register on [MyABF](#) or [use this link](#) on the day.

Advertise your club's lessons

We have a [website page](#) that promotes club lessons – Beginner, Improver and Online – happening at clubs across the State. Our website receives **over 6000 visits per month**. If any clubs are running online lessons and would like more players to attend, please let us know and we will include them on the page. Contact education@bridgensw.com.au.

Join the Bridge NSW Teaching community

Bridge NSW's WhatsApp Teaching Community is active and a great place to lodge a question and find answers. [Click here](#) to join.

Player Development

Kate's Way #4

PHILOSOPHY: GET IN AND GET OUT EARLY.

I love to bid! Fortunately for me, an aggressive bidding style is winning bridge. And it goes hand-in-hand with our basic philosophy, which is to present the opponents with a problem anytime we judge it's relatively safe to do so.

"Aggressive" sounds so unpleasant – we like to call it "GET IN AND GET OUT EARLY." That means, when in doubt, bid.

Whatever you want to call it, when you have something to say, it's a good bidding strategy to get it out of your system on the first round of bidding. You find your fits immediately and get out low if you don't have one. When you do find a fit, you can compete aggressively and hopefully give your opponents a problem. If you don't bid, you don't find your fits – and the opportunity to give them a problem is lost.

An essential part of the "get in and get out" strategy is to bid the full value of your hand early. If you never underbid, partner knows that you won't have extras lurking in reserve. He will play you for a minimum, and not hang you for bidding – that's what allows an aggressive style to work so well.

Therefore, I don't like to pass and await developments unless it's the *only* way to handle a hand. It should be rare to pass a good hand on the first round, unless you have a clear follow-up plan. I prefer to get my message across immediately before we

are left without enough bidding room to make a cooperative decision.

Here's a decision my partner had a few days ago where the "Get in and Get Out" approach scored a huge win.

♠ 5
♥ 43
♦ AJ985432
♣ 97

At IMP scoring, Vul against Non-Vul, his RHO opened 1S. He took a quick glance and saw 8 diamonds and bid 2D without much thought. He never really looked at his little 5-count. Points don't take tricks. 8-card suits are supposed to be trumps. It may go badly sometimes, but the suit length will usually protect you. He considered 3D, but at unfavourable vulnerability he thought a tiny bit of caution might be in order. As it happens, we were in big trouble – they could have doubled 2D for +800 but look what happened.

The bidding continued:

1S 2D P P
3C P 3H P
4C P 4H

Whew! We escaped. They couldn't quite manage the play in 4H and we emerged +50. Much better than the -800 we were headed for. But the really good news came from the other table. The South player didn't want to overcall Vulnerable at the 2-level with only 5 hcp, so he passed. Now he heard 2H from his LHO. The bidding proceeded as follows:

1S P 2H P

3C P 3H P
P ?

When 3H was passed around to him, never having bid his 8-card suit, South belatedly recalled that he had been taught that an 8-card suit should be trumps. So he balanced with 4D! The entire deal was:

Board:	♠ KQ8743			
Dlr:	♥ K97			
Vul:	♦ --			
	♣ KJT8			
♠ J		N		♠ AT962
♥ QJT865				♥ A2
♦ KQT7	W		E	♦ 6
♣ 54		S		♣ AQxxx
	♠ 5			
	♥ 43			
	♦ AJ985432			
	♣ 97			

West was delighted to double 4D, and when the smoke cleared declarer was -1400! +17 IMPs for our side. A big bonus for simply getting it out of your system on the first round.

"Our biggest regrets are not for the things we did but for the things we didn't do."

Mark Twain

Karen McCallum (aka Kate) is a world-class bridge player who has won seven world titles.

SN25 – a Youth take

By Mitch Dowling

An interesting hand for evaluation took my fancy on Day 1 of SN25, which I think

represents many youth players' gung-ho style of play.

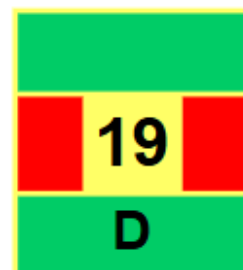
You are South, first seat favourable. It's been quite fashionable recently for youth players to agree to make an Ekren 2D opening here, showing a weak hand with both majors. But let's suppose you don't have that agreement available. With such a weak hand you should, of course, pass!

West opens 1NT, showing 15-17 balanced. Our partner in the North position bids a natural 2S. East doubles for take-out and it's our call again. You might be staring at your 4 HCP and thinking you should keep the bidding low. Partner didn't double, so they probably don't have a huge hand over there. Therefore, we won't have enough values to make a game and you should pass. Fair enough.

But hang on a second! There are some things we haven't yet considered...

Firstly, bridge is a trick-taking game. It's not a "points-taking" game. This is important to realise, particularly when we have extra shape and/or extra trump length for partner. The magic '25 points for game' rule-of-thumb starts to break down.

Secondly, partner freely bids 2S over a strong 1NT opening. They must have a good reason to make that bid, so you can expect partner to hold at least five or six decent spades. They must also hold some good shape; balanced hands should be passing



♠ 7432
♥ KJT32
♦ 982
♣ 9

most of the time, even with good suit quality.

Thirdly, if you arrive in a spade contract, the play will be made a little easier by the fact that West will hold most of the remaining points.

And finally, you can see you've got entries to your hand via multiple club ruffs and possibly the heart suit. Entries that will be invaluable for taking finesses through the strong West hand.

All these points put together make your little 4 HCP hand capable of achieving a big score! As such, we should definitely be raising partner and I believe 4S is the right call.

Board: 19	♠ AKQ865		
Dlr: S	♥ 98		
Vul: E-W	♦ Q		
	♣ K632		
♠ JT		N	♠ 9
♥ A64			♥ Q75
♦ KT7	W		♦ AJ6543
♣ AQJT5		S	♣ 874
14	♠ 7432		
15 7	♥ KJT32		
4	♦ 982		
	♣ 9		

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N			1	4	
S			1	4	
E	4	4			1
W	4	4			1

Just 20 out of the 48 North-South pairs got to play either 4S or 4SX for a nice score. 4S

makes with a mere 18 HCP in the partnership. Points schmoints!

Monthly bidding contest

By Philip Glover

RealBridge runs a [monthly bidding competition](#). Marc Smith, world renowned bridge author, moderates the competition. This month's offering is Hand 7 taken from the August 2024 set.

NS Vul. Dealer West.	West	North	East	South
Matchpoints.	1♥	3♣	X	Pass
♠ Q 8 6 2	?			
♥ K Q J 8 6 2				
♦ A 8 2				
♣				

ACTION	MARKS	PANEL VOTES	Competitors' Entries (%)
4♣	10	18	22
4♥	8	5	10
4♠	6	3	14
3♠	5	2	32
3♥	3	0	17
Pass	0	0	4

Competition Entrant Average Score: 5.95

18 out of 28 experts chose 4C as their bid. This allows Partner to contribute to the contract decision. All the experts treated the X from P as take out. It is worth a partnership discussion to define what the cue means in this situation.

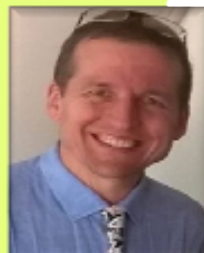
Partnership discussion item "Are the bids of 3H or 3S forcing?" What would your bid be with say 2 rag clubs and a 3532 shape? Interesting to note that 26 experts assessed the hand after the X to be game going.

Upcoming Events

The following pages are flyers for forthcoming events and courses. The deadline for flyers to be received is the **second last Friday of each month**. Flyers must be a single A4 page and should be for events and courses in the following two months. To have your flyer included in the next issue, please send it to bridging@bridgensw.com.au.

Develop your Bridge Skill

Main teacher Derrick Browne



Weekly schedule

- 10am Mondays
- 10am Wednesdays
- 10.30am Wednesdays (easier)
- 7pm Thursdays
- 10am Fridays
- Other sessions available

Walk in welcome | All levels welcome

- Learn with set hands
- Improve bidding
- Sharpen play
- Master defence

\$17 (\$14 members)



Trumps Bridge Centre

58 Spit Road
Mosman NSW 2088

trumps@trumps.net.au

(02) 9969 5959 | 0412 947 279



W R T MIXED TEAMS



30th Oct

6th Nov

13th Nov

20th Nov

@ 7PM

*Great
Prizes!*



SCAN ME



New to NSBC

Friday

ONLINE

State Daytime Pairs Championship



10am - Morning Session
1pm - Afternoon Session



10am - Single Session



SCAN ME





The SBC Spring Swiss Teams

Saturday 15th November, 10.00am

at the SBC clubrooms on Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills

Entry fee: \$65 per player (lunch & end of congress refreshment included)

Director: John McIlrath | RED Masterpoints

Programmes

Play commences at 10.00am sharp on Saturday 15th November for two sessions: three matches in the morning, break for lunch, then another three matches in the afternoon. Please form a team with 4 players. Entry in advance on MyABF required.

Prize money will depend on the number of entries.

Entry and Payment method

Please enter online via MyABF. It is free to become a registered MyABF user, as long as you have an active ABF number.

For SBC members who have a Pre-pay account, entry fee will be deducted from your PP account on the day if no other payment methods are specified.

For visitors, please pay your entry fee via MyABF.



The Venue

The venue can be easily accessed by train, light rail, and bus. Please use the NSW Trip Planner to find the most suitable route. Secure Parking, at the corner of Elizabeth and Goulburn Street offers special parking rate \$15 for whole day parking on weekends and public holidays.

For enquiries / assistance, please email office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au

Conduct under the auspices of BridgeNSW. The ABF has approved the issue of RED Masterpoints at B4 level.
No yellow system allowed.

Organiser: Wing Roberts

Phone: (02) 9264 6884 **Email:** office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au

Website: www.sydneybridgecentre.com

The Armidale Bridge Club Pairs & Teams Congress 2025

Saturday 15th Swiss Imp Pairs

Registration from 9:30am

10:00am First Session starts

Lunch provided

Second session

Sunday 16th Teams

9:00am First Session

Lunch provided

Second session

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

Entries close 12th November 2025

Maximum tables = 18

For enquiries contact Ian Price on
0432 153 294 or priceshdc@gmail.com
[online entries through ABF](#)

Entry Fee:

\$110 per person

or

\$55 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 accepted. 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 in open, novice, and restricted categories. Wine prizes are also usually provided.

to be held at the
**Armidale Bridge Club
12 Rockvale Road, Armidale**



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Friday Workshop **Things to Discuss** **to Improve** **Your Partnership**

With Will Jenner-O'Shea

Friday November 21st, 10am – 3:30pm

@Goulburn Street

Each hand has an interesting Play or Defence Tip.

Topics

- Some Useful Conventions for Partnerships to Play.
- 2NT Enquiry After Weak Two Openings.
- Rate Your Partner as Aggressive or Conservative Bidder (and Yourself!)

*While this workshop does contain some more advanced topics,
it is suitable for players of all levels.*

.....

You do not need a partner. Please book online on www.sydneybridgecentre.com, or contact the office – Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street. office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au or 9264 6884

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

Notes, a delicious morning tea and a light lunch will be provided.

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YOU ARE INVITED TO

Director's workshop @ Castle Hill Bridge Club



- **22 NOVEMBER, 10AM**
- **MULTI PURPOSE ROOM @
GRACEWOOD
RETIREMENT VILLAGE
(ACCESS & PARKING VIA
HODGES RD, KELLYVILLE)**
- **\$20 - INCL. MORNING
TEA & LIGHT LUNCH**

**BRUSH UP ON YOUR DIRECTOR SKILLS
WITH DIRECTING LEGEND
JOHN MCILRATH!**

Contact
Stephanie Badger, 0418 243 569,
chccbg@outlook.com



Trumps Bridge Holidays bridge break in the Blue Mountains



Leura Gardens Resort

20-28 Fitzroy Street, Leura

Sunday 23 to Wednesday 26 Nov 2025

Hosted by

Derrick Browne

Your Leura Gardens Resort Holiday Inclusions

- ✓ A Blue Mountains holiday at the best time of year in a **4-star** resort
- ✓ Four-day program with 3 nights accommodation
in recently **refurbished spacious** suites (many with balconies)
- ✓ 4½ acres of **landscaped gardens**
- ✓ Pet friendly rooms and lots of walks for furry family members
- ✓ **Dinners** and buffet **breakfasts** daily (lunch not included)
- ✓ Coffee, Tea and Biscuits available during sessions
- ✓ **Bridge with Red Points**, Expert Clinics and Competitions
- ✓ **Prizes** for all sessions with special awards for developers
- ✓ No need to come with a partner, and teams can be arranged
- ✓ Non bridge players welcome (deduct \$250); bridge only \$250



Beautifully light and bright playing area and lovely spacious and modern suites

Your Holiday Bridge Program (subject to minor changes)

Sunday

Arrive at the Leura Gardens Resort
1.30pm Clinic
2.30pm Welcome Pairs
6.00pm Dinner
Then trivia, Oh Hell game

Tuesday

7.30-9am Breakfast
9am Leura Teams Champ. 1
2.30pm Leura Teams Champ. 2
6.00pm Presentation dinner

Monday

7.30-9am Breakfast
9am Leura Pairs Champ. 1
4.30pm Clinic
6.00pm Dinner
Then Leura Pairs Champ. 2

Wednesday

7.30-9am Breakfast
9am Q&A; 9.15 Farewell Pairs
12.30pm Prize Presentation & depart

Holiday price is \$819pp (+ \$195 single) (full payment due by 15 Nov).

Trumps members \$50 off; others free sub. Play only rates available.

Rooms will be allocated on a first-in-first-served basis upon receipt of the form below plus \$100 per person deposit (+ 1% if paying by credit card).

Direct transfer: BSB 633 000, Account no. 149823 767, Description <your name> Leura, and then email remittance advice to trumps@trumps.net.au

Leura Resort November 2025 bridge break entry form

Name:.....Partner:.....

ABF Numbers (if known):.....Contact Address:.....

.....Post Code:.....

Phone:..... Email:.....

Enclosed is \$.....being my/our deposit/full fees for single/twin/double accommodation

How did you find out about this? (e.g. club/friend name)



invites you to play in the
**UNDER 100 MASTERPOINTS
PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**

on Wednesday 26th November 2025
either Morning 10.00am – 1.15pm; OR
Afternoon 1.45pm – 5.00pm

Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills
\$21 member (\$17 concession) / \$26 visitors

ALL are welcome*

Divisions for

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

Each player must be below the threshold
for that category.



**Players with more than 100 masterpoints are welcome to play, they will be
ineligible for the state-wide ranking.*

Please ENTER DIRECTLY as a Pair via MyABF:

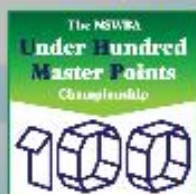
<https://myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/3425>

PRIZES & MASTERPOINTS are awarded within each division by BNSW.

GREEN Masterpoints for the session and **RED Masterpoints** at State
Championship level. Pre-dealt boards with hand records.

This event is for any player who had <100 MPs as of 1st September 2025. 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!



Conducted under the
auspices of BridgeNSW



XMAS PAIRS

Thursday Night @ 7PM



&



- Open Section
- Rookie, Restricted, Intermediate Section
- Red Points
- Club Championship Points
- Substitutes Allowed
- Entry Fee \$44 per person
- Enter via Upcoming Events on Website



State Youth Championships 2025

 **10am, 6–7 December**

 **Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills**

 **\$15 for FT students, \$25 otherwise
(includes light lunch both days)**



**Challenge
yourself against
the best in NSW!**

- ♠ Players born after 31 December 1995 are eligible (interstate players welcome)
- ♠ Youth Pairs on Saturday, Youth Teams on Sunday (4 players required per team)
- ♠ Need a partner? Email nswyouthbridge@gmail.com
- ♠ Red Masterpoints will be awarded at State Championship level. No yellow systems permitted.

Register here:
myabf.com.au

**Entries close Thursday
4 December**

Organiser: Mitch Dowling

 office@bridgensw.com.au

Xmas Teams

**Thursdays 11th Dec &
18th Dec @ 7PM**





Saturday Workshop
**Consolidate & Extend
Your Bridge Knowledge**

With Will Jenner-O'Shea

Saturday December 13th, 10am – 3:30pm

@Goulburn Street

Each hand has an interesting Play or Defence Tip.

Topics

Clever Continuations and Extensions of Stayman and Transfers

Defining Strong Hands – Better Using 2♣ and 2NT

Finding the Best Contract

Revision and Practice Reverses and Showing Stoppers

*While this workshop does contain some more advanced topics,
it is suitable for players of all levels.*

You do not need a partner. Please book online on
www.sydneymbridgecentre.com, or contact the office – Level 1, 162
Goulburn Street. office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au or 9264 6884

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

Notes, a delicious morning tea and a light lunch will be provided.

INTRODUCTION TO BRIDGE

FACE TO FACE LESSONS

- Course starts Tuesday 27th January 2026
- Book your place at www.learnbridgeinsydney.com.au
- 2 hour lessons held at Lindfield Rollers Bowling Club
- 2 hour Supervised weekly practice sessions available
- Course notes for you to revise.
- No partner needed, just give it a go!
- Free tea and coffee

Only
\$150

**6 week
course**

**2hr lessons
full of fun
and a
workout for
your brain**

If you enjoy learning the game, further lessons and play will be available in the same time slot following on from the course.

WHAT OUR PAST PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID....

"Thank you for being such a good teacher, you have made the lessons so interesting and entertaining, it has all made sense."

"I have very much enjoyed these classes and I have been so impressed with the professionalism and supportive, welcoming culture."

"The course and our teacher, Liz were amazing!! It was a great first step into the world of bridge"

"This 6 week course is exceptional"

"I have played with some lovely people, we have lots of laughs and real catch-ups over a coffee."

