

Bridging NSW



Editor: bridging@bridgensw.com.au

October 2026



Hi everyone,

September provided several wonderful examples of the friendly competition and community spirit that make bridge in NSW so rewarding.

The **State Pairs and Teams Championships Regional Finals** were held across NSW during September. Congratulations to all regional champions and those progressing to the State Finals. Thank you to the clubs, regional coordinators, directors and volunteers who supported the events.

On 20 September, Peninsula Bridge Club hosted the **Metro North Inter-club Teams Challenge** at Warriewood Community Centre. Twenty-six teams from Forestville, Manly, North Shore, Peninsula and Trumps competed for the Margaret Smale Trophy across all experience levels. After an enjoyable day of bridge, North Shore and Peninsula shared the honours in a tie. Congratulations to both clubs, and thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success. If similar events are happening in your region, we would love to hear about them.

It was also a special month for Peninsula Bridge Club, which celebrated its 60th anniversary on 25 September. Congratulations to the club and its members on this significant milestone.

Our attention now turns to the **Spring Nationals**, NSW's premier annual bridge event. The program offers opportunities for players across a wide range of experience levels, and I encourage everyone to find an event that suits them. If you are new to congress bridge, Mini Monday provides a particularly welcoming opportunity to give it a try.

It has also been encouraging to hear of healthy numbers of new players joining beginner courses at several clubs. As clubs and teachers begin planning for next year, now is a good time to consider whether an additional course or a new approach to local promotion could introduce even more people to our game.

Attracting beginners is only the first step. Helping them become confident, regular players is equally important. A warm welcome, patient encouragement, supported play and mentoring can make a lasting difference. Many clubs are already doing excellent work in this area, often through simple initiatives that require little more than empathy, kindness and a willingness to help.

Every member can contribute to creating a bridge community in which new players feel comfortable, supported and keen to return. By continuing to welcome newcomers and strengthen connections between our clubs, we help secure a positive future for bridge throughout NSW.

Michael Green
Acting Chair, Bridge NSW

People of Bridge



Meet **Cath Whiddon**, a bridge teacher, player, director and community builder who has helped introduce new players to bridge across Sydney's Northern Beaches and North Shore, as well as regional NSW and the ACT. Her warm and practical approach creates a safe, social environment where people can learn through experience, enjoy a few light-bulb moments and build the confidence to join competitive play.

Your bridge journey

How did you come to play bridge? I was sitting in a club lounge overseas when three American ladies announced that they were "looking for a fourth". They decided that knowing how to play 500 was good enough for me to become their "dummy"!

What drew you to the game? Every hand offers a new learning opportunity—and it is an experience you share with a partner.

Do you come from a card-playing family?

My Nana introduced me to Gin Rummy and Poker, which we played using matchsticks valued in ice cream.

How did you transition from learning to playing regularly?

I didn't really have formal lessons, although I did read Ron Klinger's books. I gradually progressed from being the last-resort fourth overseas to becoming Joan McClelland's half-table standby at Palm Beach and Narrabeen. That is where I learned through experience at the table.

Teaching and growing the bridge community

What inspired you to become a bridge teacher?

I've always loved opening people up to new experiences in a safe, fun and friendly environment—whether they were learning to swim, communicate, solve problems, implement change or play games.

Where do you teach, and how are you involved in the bridge community?

I'm a member of Peninsula Bridge Club and was invited to start beginner lessons there in 2010 because the club's membership was declining.

I wanted the new players to experience competitive bridge as well as our social supervised sessions, so we introduced restricted sessions and interclub games. We also began offering different types of Teams days, including events with an experienced

captain acting as host, bring-a-friend days and restricted round robins.

In 2026, I have run beginner lessons at Elanora Country Club and Pymble Golf Club, as well as multi-level lessons at Manly Golf Club and Peninsula Bridge Club. I also direct round-robin interclub teams games for several local clubs.

The interclub restricted round robins are particularly popular. They create a wonderful day that is friendly, competitive and social.

I have also been involved in training bridge teachers. This work has taken me to clubs across the Central Coast, Blue Mountains and Southern Highlands, as well as Canberra.

What do you enjoy most about teaching bridge? I love seeing people have fun while trying something new—especially when they glow during those “light-bulb moments”.

What helps new players feel confident and supported? Knowing each person’s name and understanding their reason for learning helps them feel welcome.

I also like to give people the opportunity to try things firsthand, without hovering over them or telling them exactly what to do. We begin with the premise that there is no right or wrong: have a go and see how it works.

What approaches have been most successful in growing the bridge community? Face-to-face communication about people’s needs and ideas, combined with attention to detail and prompt follow-up.

What does a welcoming and thriving bridge club look like to you? It has a smiling, non-playing director and committee members welcoming players as they arrive. The kitchen offers a treat to enjoy with a cuppa and friends before the game, and plenty of volunteers share the clean-up at the end of the session.

What advice would you give someone considering learning bridge? Do it—preferably with one, two or three friends.

Playing and congress bridge

Has your experience as a congress player influenced the way you teach? Yes. I share horror stories about my own mistakes at the table to encourage new players to demonstrate good etiquette and support their partners.

My congress experience also helps them understand the basic laws of bridge in a light-hearted way—and reminds them to call the friendly, helpful director whenever something doesn’t feel right.

Outside of bridge

How do you spend your time when you are not teaching or playing bridge? I love family, travel and teaching bridge. Discovering that working on cruise ships allows me—and my wonderful husband—to enjoy all three has been a delight.

Is there anyone you would like to acknowledge? Joan Butts, in teaching, and John McIlrath, in directing, have been incredibly generous mentors.

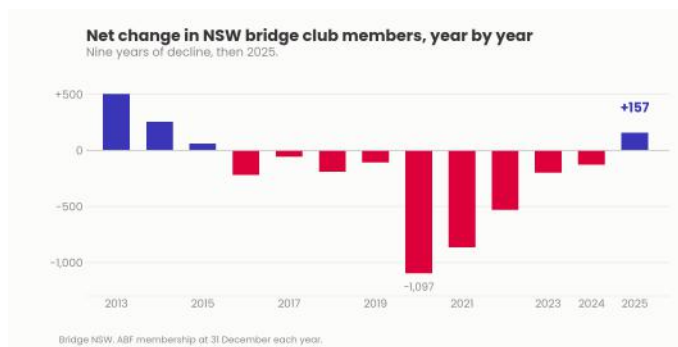
Bridge NSW News

Bridge in NSW grew last year, for the first time in a decade

By Jake Andrew, Executive Director, Bridge NSW

At 1 January 2025 there were 11,446 ABF members in New South Wales. At 31 December there were 11,603.

That is 157 more players than at the start of the year. Does not sound like much, but it is the first year NSW has finished ahead since 2015. Before it, nine years of decline in a row.



What actually changed

Both taps moved the right way, and recruiting moved further.

1,471 people joined NSW bridge clubs in 2025, against 1,293 the year before – 178 more, and the most new joiners in a single year since 2017!

Player losses kept falling from their post-Covid high. As a share of members, losses ran at 15.6% in 2021, 13.1% in 2023, 12.3% in 2024 and 11.5% in 2025. In raw numbers 1,314 members left, the fewest since 2013.

The year swung by 286 players, from 129 down in 2024 to 157 up in 2025. About two thirds of that swing came from more people joining, and about one third from fewer leaving.

For context, national membership grew 0.8% in 2025. NSW grew 1.4%.

Where it came from

No magic here. Most of those 1,471 people came in because a club ran a course, filled it, teachers delivered a positive experience, and clubs looked after the graduates well enough that they became members. Bridge NSW has trumpeted the need for growth and supported many related initiatives. However, the real work, and all the credit, belongs to the many people across NSW who delivered this result.

Anecdotally, clubs report more beginner courses, promoting them harder, and more attention paid to a new players' first few months. That fits the numbers. It is not proof. We want to understand this better to keep it going.

How 2026 is tracking

Membership dips mid-year as renewals work through, so the only fair comparison is the same month a year apart.

At the end of July 2026 NSW had 11,257 members, against 11,210 at the end of July

2025. Forty-seven ahead. A small number, but still positive after a big 2025.

What can clubs do?

- Did your club's intake rise in 2025? Overall NSW clubs grew, but not every club did. Of the 107 clubs with 20 or more members, 50 went forward, 50 went back and 7 held steady. If you're not already doing so, it might be helpful to review your club member numbers.
- If it rose, what changed? More courses, better promotion, great teaching, better follow-up afterwards — or simply a lucky year?
- Is that change still running in 2026? Whatever worked is likely worth repeating deliberately. If your club did not grow, what might you do differently in 2027?

The next article in this series sets out the two rates behind these numbers and how to work them out for your own club.

Where the numbers come from

ABF membership records by club, compared at 31 December each year from 2012 to 2025. A player counts as joining if they are on a NSW club's records at the end of a year and were not on any NSW club's records at the end of the year before; leaving is the reverse. Players moving between NSW clubs are netted out, so a player changing clubs is not counted as new. The 2026 figures are from the ABF Masterpoints Centre.

Only ABF members are counted, so anyone playing without joining up is invisible here.

Your club membership: What affiliation makes possible

Benefits of club membership

The services and programs Bridge NSW delivers to support clubs and players

Membership of a Bridge NSW-affiliated club connects players and clubs to a wider network of support. Affiliation helps fund beginner and supervised play initiatives, club development resources, director training, webinars, event promotion, State and online tournaments, and access to important insurance protections through the Australian Bridge Federation. It also enables clubs to participate in the national masterpoint scheme, allowing players to track their progress and compete in appropriate categories. [Explore the benefits of club membership](#) or visit the [Using Masterpoints page for information and resources](#).

Bridge Events

Sydney Spring Nationals are almost here

With the Sydney Spring Nationals beginning on 17 October, now is the time to explore the program, find the right event and enter.

Nine days of bridge at Canterbury Park Racecourse will offer something for players across a broad range of experience levels. Alongside the major Open events, the program includes Intermediate, Restricted, Novice and Rookie competitions.

New to congress bridge? The **Mini Monday Red Point event** offers an accessible way to experience the atmosphere of the Spring Nationals and enjoy competitive bridge as part of one of Australia's major tournaments.

Other events include Matchpoint, IMP and Butler Swiss Pairs; Swiss Teams; and Double Elimination Teams. Free parking is available onsite, and Canterbury Railway Station is approximately a 15-minute walk from the venue.

Don't leave your plans until the last minute—the Spring Nationals run from **17–25 October**.

Explore the program and enter through [MyABF](#), or [visit the Sydney Spring Nationals webpage](#).

Questions can be directed to Tournament Organiser Shannon Queree at sn@abf.com.au or 0423 122 492.

A promotional graphic for the Sydney Spring Nationals. It features a night view of the Sydney Harbour Bridge with blue lights. The text 'Bridge NSW' is in the top left. The main headline reads 'YOUR NEXT BRIDGE ADVENTURE STARTS IN SYDNEY'. Below that, it says 'Sydney Spring Nationals | 17–25 October 2026'. A circular badge on the right says 'Something for every player'. At the bottom, it mentions 'A national gold masterpoint event – The Sydney Spring Nationals return in 2026 with all your favourite events and some fresh surprises.' and 'Nine days of bridge, with Novice, Restricted, Intermediate and Open events so you can play at your level.' It also includes the website 'bridgensw.com.au/sydney-spring-nationals' and the ABF logo.

Bridge NSW

YOUR NEXT BRIDGE ADVENTURE STARTS IN SYDNEY

Sydney Spring Nationals | 17–25 October 2026

Something for every player

A national gold masterpoint event – The Sydney Spring Nationals return in 2026 with all your favourite events and some fresh surprises.

Nine days of bridge, with Novice, Restricted, Intermediate and Open events so you can play at your level.

Explore the program and enter via MyABF!

bridgensw.com.au/sydney-spring-nationals

ABF

Monday night bridge

The Online Pairs League Spring season begins on 12 October and will run across eight Monday evenings on RealBridge.

The State Online Board-a-Match Teams Championship begins on 26 October and will be played over four Monday evenings on RealBridge. This is an opportunity to experience one of the most exciting formats in bridge, with entry open to all ABF players.

Details and entry links for both events are available through [MyABF](#).

Event results

State Championships Regional Finals

The State Pairs and Teams Championships Regional Finals were held across NSW on 26 and 27 September, bringing together players from 11 regions across the Open, Under Grand Master and Under National Master categories.

Congratulations to everyone who represented their clubs and regions, and particularly to the regional champions in both the State Pairs and State Teams. With results spanning multiple regions, categories and events, the complete list of champions has not been reproduced in this edition but is available on the Bridge NSW website.

Successful pairs and teams will now progress to the online State Finals later this year. The State Pairs Final will be played on 30 November and 7 December, followed by the John Arkinstall State Teams Final from 4–6 December.

Thank you to the clubs, regional coordinators, directors, volunteers and players who supported this year's Regional Finals.

[View the full results and list of regional champions.](#)

Western Region GNOT finalists decided in Orange

Seven teams from Dubbo and Orange contested the Western Region GNOT Final at Orange Bridge Club on Sunday 30 August.

Although regional organiser Pam Bradford was disappointed that more clubs did not enter, the smaller field produced a highly competitive day of bridge.

The Orange team of Robyn Pearce, Michelle Tredinnick, Murray Paterson and Chris Kershaw claimed first place. The Dubbo team of Jane North, Peter Perry, Anne Hazelton and Sanjay Sinha finished second.

A composite Orange–Dubbo team comprising Robyn Pearce, Michelle Tredinnick, Anne Hazelton and Sanjay Sinha qualified to contest the State Final, held online from 18–20 September.

Bridge NSW extends its thanks to Ronnie Ng from the Central Coast, who skilfully directed the event and generously travelled to Orange for the day.

.

Clubs and community

Peninsula Bridge Club celebrates 60 years

Peninsula Bridge Club on Sydney's Northern Beaches celebrated its 60th anniversary on 25 September.

Members gathered at the club's new home in Warriewood Community Centre to enjoy pizza, cake, drinks and plenty of conversation between the busy Friday morning and afternoon bridge sessions.

Raise the profile of your club

How can your club increase its visibility and connect with more people in the local community?

Join Bridge NSW at **6 pm on Wednesday 7 October** for a practical webinar exploring ways to raise the profile of your club.

Glenda Parmenter will introduce the session and provide an overview of the marketing resources available to clubs through Bridge NSW and its website.

The webinar will also offer practical ideas for promoting your club and reaching new audiences, with input from Bridge NSW's Marketing Officer.

Wednesday 7 October at 6 pm

Register for the webinar through [MyABF](#).

From conversation to collaboration

Bridge NSW's Club Presidents' Days are drawing to a close, while a new program focused on practical regional collaboration is about to begin.

The 12th and final Club Presidents' Day will be held for clubs in the Far South West region on Tuesday 13 October, from 4.15–6.15 pm via Zoom.

This will be the first Club Presidents' Day delivered online. While face-to-face meetings remain the preferred format, meeting virtually will make it easier for clubs across this geographically dispersed region to participate.

The session will introduce clubs to Bridge NSW's strategy and the support and services available to affiliated clubs. It will also provide an opportunity for club representatives to connect, share feedback and contribute suggestions.

Following the meeting, a final report will bring together the feedback and insights gathered across all 12 Club Presidents' Days.

Club Collaboration Days begin

The next stage of Bridge NSW's club engagement program begins on Friday 16 October, when the first **Club Collaboration Day** will be held at Armidale Bridge Club.

The day will bring local clubs and Bridge NSW together to identify the capabilities, opportunities and shared challenges within the regional bridge community. Participants will then workshop priority issues and begin developing practical

strategies to address them. One anticipated area of discussion is the current shortage of directors and how clubs might work together to strengthen directing capacity across the region.

The Club Collaboration Days are designed to turn conversation into coordinated action—helping neighbouring clubs share their experience, support one another and strengthen bridge within their local communities.

The inaugural Club Collaboration Day will run from 10 am–2 pm, with morning tea and lunch provided. Clubs are asked to RSVP by 9 October.

A warm welcome at the Glen Bridge Club Congress

Glen Bridge Club welcomed 80 players to its recent Congress, held at the Glen Innes Town and Country Club.



The 20-table field brought together players from Armidale, Inverell, Ballina, Kenmore, Toowong, Toowoomba and Quirindi for a wonderful weekend of bridge in the

welcoming surrounds of the Town and Country Club.



Gerry Dawson of Glen Highlanders Bridge Club and Eric Baker of Armidale Bridge Club took first place in A Grade. Gary Lynn and Anne Riley from Ballina Bridge Club finished second.

In B Grade, Quirindi players Dennis Lee and Bill Wilmott claimed first place, with Warren McElroy and Marney Tilley finishing second.

Sal Gilder and Kirsten Mallam were the C Grade winners.



Alongside the competition, the Congress was distinguished by the generous

hospitality for which Glen Bridge Club is well known. The club received many compliments from visiting players about the warm welcome, lovely atmosphere and wonderful catering.



Meg Liston and the team from the Glen Innes Town and Country Club catered for the event, while Annette Bain and Eunice Vivers provided the bar service. Director Jo Neary travelled from Brisbane to oversee the bridge.



Glen Bridge Club thanks everyone who helped organise and deliver the Congress, as well as the players who travelled from across NSW and Queensland to take part.

The strong attendance, friendly competition and contributions of volunteers and supporters made it a memorable weekend for all involved.

Australia's Bridge Day Out returns in October

Australia's Bridge Day Out returns on Tuesday 13 October, inviting clubs across NSW to host a special Red Masterpoint session while supporting the Bridge Australia Foundation. Clubs unable to participate on the day may choose another day during the same week.

The Foundation, formerly the ABF Foundation, supports bridge through grants and scholarships for research and projects that strengthen the game's future. The inaugural Bridge Day Out in 2025 brought clubs together nationwide and raised funds for education, youth development and other bridge projects.

Clubs can register their interest now and select Tuesday 13 October or another suitable day during that week. Full details and registration information are provided in the accompanying flyer.

Australia's Bridge Day Out

The Bridge Australia Foundation's primary fundraiser Tuesday, 13 October

TUESDAY, 13 October
(Clubs may also select another day that week)

THE BRIDGE AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION
The Bridge Australia Foundation (formerly ABF Foundation), established in 2020, is a not-for-profit organisation that supports bridge through grants and scholarships for research and projects that strengthen the game's future. Funded by bequests, donations, and fundraisers, it has already made a meaningful impact and is exploring charity status.



BRIDGE DAY OUT
In September 2025, the Foundation launched its inaugural Bridge Day Out as the major fundraiser for the year. Clubs across the country hosted special Red Masterpoint bridge sessions, bringing players together to support the Foundation while enjoying the game. Prizes and expert analysis added an extra layer of engagement to the day.

Funds raised from the event are already making an impact, supporting the Foundation's ongoing initiatives, including the early development of a program for school-aged children.

2026 REGISTRATIONS OPEN 1 MAY
Click [HERE](#) to register your club's interest. Click the Facebook link below to follow us on Facebook

Helping clubs and players make the most of MyABF

The Bridge NSW Clubs and Community Committee is working with the Australian Bridge Federation to help more clubs and players discover and use MyABF.

MyABF provides a central place for players to find upcoming events, enter competitions, view event information and manage their MyABF credits. For clubs and tournament organisers, it offers practical tools for promoting events, managing entries and communicating important details to participants.

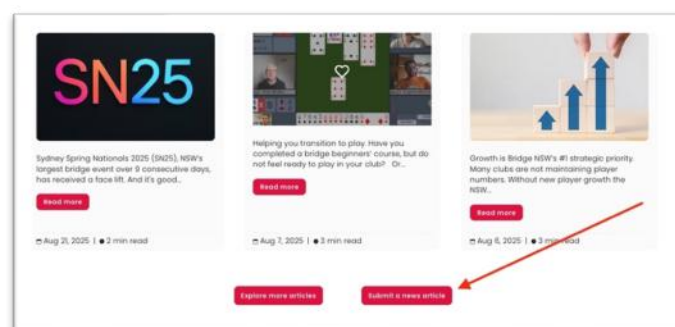
Whether you are looking for your next congress or helping to organise an event,

becoming familiar with MyABF can make the process easier.

Visit MyABF to create an account, explore upcoming events or access your existing profile. Clubs and players can also find guidance through the ABF's MyABF resources.

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 [click here](#). We'd love to hear from you!



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

Teaching & Education

Have you considered starting beginner lessons with Mini-Bridge?

MiniBridge gives new players cards to handle from the very beginning, helping their first experience feel less like a lesson and more like a game.

It introduces the fundamentals of bridge without the complexity of the auction, often the most challenging part of learning. Rather than feeling overwhelmed, beginners can start playing and having fun while building a strong foundation for future lessons.

The way MiniBridge is taught can be flexible. Begin with the game and allow the learning to flow naturally. Teachers will often find it becomes clear which concept needs to be introduced next. As players grow more confident and curious, they will want to learn about bidding—but there is plenty to explore before reaching that stage.

With thanks to Gerry Dawson from Highlanders Bridge Club.

Example

Dealer: North

North — 16 HCP

♠ A K 9
♥ A K Q 8
♦ 9 5 4 2
♣ 10 2

South — 14 HCP

♠ 10 5 4
♥ 5 3 2
♦ A K 7
♣ A K 5 3

For the first board or two in a lesson, have all four hands visible. This example shows the declaring partnership only

North, as dealer, announces or records 16 HCP. The other players then count and announce their HCP

North–South have the greater combined total, with 30 HCP. North becomes declarer because North has the higher individual count within the partnership.

North looks at dummy's hand and chooses the contract. In this example, there is no eight-card suit fit, so North chooses notrumps. With at least 25 combined HCP, the partnership is encouraged to bid game.

East is on lead and can be encouraged to lead the fourth-highest card from a suit. MiniBridge is typically used during the first few beginner lessons before bidding is introduced.

Other resources

The [No Fear Bridge MiniBridge resources](#) include two sets of videos. Part 1 explains how to play MiniBridge, while Part 2 offers guidance on improving card play.

Bridge [NSW's Notes on How to Play Mini-Bridge](#).

Player Development

Kate's Way #14

By Kate McCallum

Kate McCallum is an experienced bridge player and teacher who believes a strong partnership is essential for success. Over the years, she has developed 79 General Principles, or 'Meta-Rules', many of which she has shared with her students. In this column, Kate explores the principles that guide her approach to bridge.



One of my most important partnership principles is:

NO FAST ARRIVAL

For readers unfamiliar with the principle of Fast Arrival, it simply means that, when you're in a game-forcing auction, getting there quickly is your weakest action. A jump to game shows the worst possible hand. You go more slowly with some extras, leaving room for slam investigation.

Most players use Fast Arrival. I do not. However, I concede that it has a lot of merit *if* it's properly employed. If you already use it and prefer it, it's a perfectly good way to play—I don't wish to suggest otherwise. It's more important to have an agreement than not, whatever that agreement may be. I'm in a

small minority of players who feel that jumps to game are better used to describe specific hands.

Before I continue this discussion, let me first explain *why* I don't like Fast Arrival. There are five key reasons:

1. It is too often misused. Players jump to game when they have a minimum, even when they have a decent minimum, leaving partner unsure what to do with a strong hand. There's a difference between a minimum and "the worst".
2. A jump to game, while getting the "I am minimum" message across, leaves no room for choice of games. An auction that starts 1♠–2♠ may very well end in 3NT, the only making game—but not if somebody has jumped to 4♠ to show a minimum hand.
3. When you have a weak hand, you are not in a good position to make a judgement call. You just don't know enough. You're often unable to tell whether your side-suit king, for example, is the one partner needs or is wasted.
4. "The worst" is not specific enough to help partner make a difficult decision. A jump carrying specific information is more useful to a partner with a strong hand.
5. There is less room for slam investigation after a Fast Arrival jump, so sometimes partner simply has to guess whether it is safe to move past

game. It's better if you can make that decision safely below game.

For all these reasons, and more, I strongly prefer **SLOW ARRIVAL**. This means that we go slowly when we have no clear information to convey. If we don't go slowly, we are sending a specific message:

JUMPS IN A GAME-FORCING AUCTION SHOW EXTRAS.

That may take several forms:

- Jumps in trumps show a Good-Trumps Slam Try with no control in the opponents' suit, if they have bid.
- For example: 1♠ (2♥) 3♣ (Pass); 3♦ (Pass) 4♠. Responder's jump to 4♠ says, "I have great trumps and serious slam interest, but I don't have a heart control."
- If the opponents haven't bid, jumps in trumps show no control in the unbid suit or suits and good trumps—in other words, nothing to cue-bid.
- "Good trumps", when you're responder, means two of the top three honours and four-card support.
- If you're the opener, "good trumps" normally means three of the top four honours.
- Jumps in notrump show extra high-card points. For example: 1♠–2♣; 3NT shows a hand too good to open 1NT—18–19 balanced.

A deal from a local club game illustrates the effective use of Slow Arrival and a Good-Trumps Slam Try.

Playing standard bridge, I opened 1♥ with:

♠ 943

♥ AKJT5

♦ AJT4

♣ A

My left-hand opponent overcalled 1♠ and my partner bid 2♠, a strong heart raise forcing to game. My nice hand was looking pretty good for slam now, except for those three little spades. I rebid 4♥, a jump showing a Good-Trumps Slam Try with no spade control.

That worked out pretty well when my partner held:

♠ JT6

♥ Q86432

♦ KQ

♣ KQ

He had an easy pass on a deal where most of the field got overboard. Even 5♥ is too high this time.

Monthly bidding contest

By Philip Glover

What would you bid?

Bridge is full of close decisions—and this month's challenge asks you to consider what partner's action reveals before choosing your next call. Review the auction, weigh the available clues and decide: what would you bid?

October 2026 Bidding Challenge

RealBridge runs a bidding competition each month. Thanks to Marc Smith and

RealBridge for permission to use the material.

This month's hand is from September 2025. West is a passed hand and both sides are vulnerable. East has made a Michaels cue-bid showing both majors (normally 5–5).

What is the potential for the two hands? Consider the values and shape that East might hold. Crazy shape with no values is unlikely. North–South have a lot of diamonds and may make a sacrifice.

Can West inhibit the sacrifice?

Having considered these issues, what is West to do?

Make your choice and see how you compare with the experts.

Hand 1

Both Vul. Dealer West. IMPs.		West	North	East	South
♠ K J 10 4		Pass	1♦	2♦	Pass
♥ A 7 3		?			
♦ 5					
♣ J 7 6 4 2					
		2♦ = majors			

ACTION MARKS		PANEL VOTES	Competitors' Entries (%)
4♦	10	17	8
3♦	7	2	8
4♠	5	4	29
3♠	2	0	28
2♠	0	0	21
Pass	0	0	3
2NT	0	0	2
3♣	0	0	2

Competition entrant average score: 3.37 out of 10

Comment by Marc Smith

We start with a matter of hand evaluation that turned out to be by far the toughest deal of the set for competition entrants. There is a big majority vote from the panel, but their choice gains the support of barely only one competitor in twelve. Nearly a third of competition entrants opt for the panel's conservative choice, and almost as many choose a huge underbid that was not even considered by any panelist. Indeed, 3♠ gets a token 2 marks as it was not quite as much of an underbid as the 2♠ chosen by the third-largest group of competitors.

The core takeaway is that 17 of the 23 experts had more than game in mind when they made the splinter bid of 4♦.

Not one of the 23 experts chose a passable part-score bid.

For interest, when the hand was played in the Open Teams at the 2025 World Championships, one table played 4♠ for +680. At the other table, they reached 6♠ and scored +1400 after a 7♦ sacrifice.

You too can participate in the bidding challenge each month:

<https://realbridge.online/realbridge-bidding-contest-2026>

Monthly Quiz

by Ernie Newman

Ernie Newman plays bridge in the Blue Mountains and claims that he can count to thirteen. Sometimes. He is a grand master whose quizzes are popular with club players.

Penalty Doubles

This is the fourth quiz on doubles. The focus is on penalty doubles.

Imagine the reveries of a dynamic doubler. Before she sleeps, she thinks no peaceful thoughts; she visualises no meadows, brooks or mossy glens. Her mind's eye sees partner write 4♠, a doomed contract! But then RHO bids 5♣, a ridiculous sacrifice. Yes! Her eyes narrow as she sees that the enemy is vulnerable. She doubles. Life is good.

Most doubles are for takeout, not penalty. If you think about it, it makes sense to use doubles primarily to find a fit because they keep the auction flexible.

Even doubles at game level are often best defined as takeout. If your opponents open 4♥, double is takeout because you could still have game in three other suits. If they make a weak raise from 1♠ to 4♠, they typically have 10+ spades, so you should have a massive fit somewhere. With an enormous fit and lots of shape, they might make nine or ten tricks when you are cold for game!

So, if double is usually for takeout, how do we know when it is for penalty? Here is a pragmatic set of agreements you can apply to basically any auction.

Doubles are strictly for penalty after:

- We have agreed on a major-suit fit
- We bid game
- Partner has pre-empted
- We redouble, showing the majority of the HCP
- They open or overcall in notrumps
- They make a balancing bid
- Our third double

Four of the following five questions contain penalty doubles. Can you spot them?

Question 1

West North East South

1♦ (1NT) X

You are West.

Question 2

West North East South

1♦
(X) XX* (1♠) X

*XX = 10+ HCP, no fit
You are South.

Question 3

West North East South

3♣
(3♠) X

You are South.

Question 4

West North East South

(4♦) X

You are North.

Question 5

West North East South

1♠

West North East South

(2♣) 2♠ (3♣) X

You are South.

Answers

Answer 1

West North East South

1♦ (1NT) X

You are West.

Partner in East doubles 1NT for penalty. Partner is implying 10+ HCP to go with your 12+, for a total of 22+. 1NT is in lots of trouble. Opener passes unless they have a weak, shapely hand.

A second reason to pass the penalty double is that it might be tricky to make game, even if you have 15+ HCP, because the big hand is sitting over you. Accept the penalty double.

Answer 2

West North East South

1♦
(X) XX* (1♠) X

*XX = 10+ HCP, no fit

You are South.

Partner's double of 1♠ implies four or more good spades. She plays that, after a strong redouble, all doubles are for penalty. A great method. After all, we hold 22+ HCP and no fit. The opponents are outgunned.

Perhaps partner has:

♠ KQJ8

♥ 74

♦ A985

♣ KT9

Partner's 13 HCP and your misfitting 10+ HCP may not be enough for game, but with such strong spades she can wreak havoc against a spade contract. When she can't double 1♠ for penalty, she can pass and leave it up

to you to take the next step. If she has a weak, shapely hand that isn't suitable for penalty doubles, she can bid rather than pass.

Answer 3

West North East South

3♣
(3♠) X

Doubles after your partner pre-empts are for penalty. South's 3♣ opening described their hand, so North's double is unilaterally for penalty, showing a good hand with spades.

For example:

♠ KJT93

♥ KJT4

♦ AQ9

♣ 2

Partner expects 3♠ to go down by three or four tricks for 800 or 1100. Even if you could make nine tricks in 3NT, that would yield only 600.

Answer 4

West North East South

(4♦) X

You are North.

This is a takeout double. Partner has a pretty good hand to make you bid at the four level.

Perhaps:

♠ AJ962

♥ AK54

♦ 7

♣ KQ2

If at all possible, choose a major. Pass only if you can beat 4♦, for example with this hand:

♠ T7

♥ 987

♦ QJT8

♣ A632

Partner will take tricks in the majors, and you have a trick in clubs plus two trump winners. Partner will be more than pleased with you for turning this takeout double into a penalty double with your trump stack. You should be able to take them three off for 800. Excellent!

Answer 5

West North East South

(2♣) 2♠ (3♣) X

You are South.

This is a penalty double. You have announced a fit by responding 2♠, so the double can't be seeking a major-suit fit. All doubles after you have found a major-suit fit are for penalty. Partner has a stack of clubs.

Perhaps:

♠ AT982

♥ AT

♦ 7

♣ KJT93

Partner was overjoyed with the 3♣ overcall. She worked out that you are almost certainly void in clubs, as she has five and the opposition probably has eight. Now she desperately wants you to trust her penalty double.

Introducing Bridge Champions

This month, we welcome a new regular contribution from Bridge Champions. Each edition will explore an instructive deal or memorable match, sharing practical insights to help readers improve their game.

An epic knockout match with Ishmael Del'Monte

Let's cast back to 2014 and set the scene.

2014 Summer Festival of Bridge, Canberra.

National Open Teams semi-final, the first of four sets (boards 1–16).

TEAM MILNE

- Ishmael Del'Monte
- Peter Hollands
- Adam Edgton
- Andy Hung
- Liam Milne
- Nye Griffiths
-

TEAM BLOOM

- Martin Bloom
- Tony Nunn
- Peter Gill
- Sartaj Hans
- Michael Whibley

Board 2

ISHMAEL (WEST)		BOARD 2 · DEALER EAST · N-S VUL			
		W	N	E	S
♠ 7 6					
♥ A 10 8 7 3 2				Pass	1♠
♦ 8					
♣ Q J 8 4					
				3♥	

THE BID Ish bid 3♥. At the other table Gill bid 2♥.

Partner is a passed hand and is at favourable vulnerability (his side is not vulnerable; the opponents are vulnerable). Ishmael showed a clear preference for getting into the auction.

There is some debate about whether pre-empting is always a good thing. Ish followed the rule: bid your hand as high as possible, as soon as possible.

Gill at the other table bid 2♥.

Board 3 — Careful or not when you're vulnerable?

ISHMAEL (WEST)	BOARD 3 · DEALER SOUTH · E-W VUL
♠ J 6	
♥ Q 10 7 5	
♦ A 10 8 2	
♣ A Q J	
	W N E S
	1NT

THE BID Ish bid 1NT. At the other table South opened a weak 1NT and Gill doubled.

There is a widespread misconception that you need to be careful when vulnerable—it is actually the opposite.

RULE

You need to be aggressive vulnerable, you have to “take a risk” and enter the auction with points or good hands.

Why?

The risk of being too passive when vulnerable is that you could miss a vulnerable game. That is 11 IMPs in a teams match—a huge deal. The risk of being too aggressive is that you may go down, but the potential game bonus makes action attractive.

Ishmael, never one to miss a vulnerable game, refused to remain silent with 14 points. He mustered a bare-minimum 1NT overcall.

Board 4 — Texture matters

ISHMAEL (WEST)	BOARD 4 · DEALER WEST · ALL VUL
♠ 8 5 2	
♥ 3	
♦ 10 9 8 5	
♣ 9 8 5 4 3	
	W N E S
	Pass 1♣ 1♥ Pass
	Pass 2♣ X Pass
	2♦

THE BID Ish bid 2♦. Gill made the same bid at the other table.

Both Gill and Del'Monte made the same bid. They did not leave the penalty double in despite holding a five-card club suit. Why?

Those very weak trumps may take no tricks: they can simply be drawn, and declarer can often do so without difficulty. West has almost no defensive assets. Moving to the two level is more attractive.

RULE

Trump texture matters a lot – both in defence and as declarer.

Board 6 — Distribution, vulnerability, action...

ISHMAEL (WEST)	BOARD 6 · DEALER EAST · E-W VUL	ISH'S TABLE	PETER GILL'S TABLE
♠ K J 10 3 2			
♥ K 7 4			
♦ —			
♣ A K Q 9 5			
	NORTH		
	♠ —		
	♥ A 10 6		
	♦ A K J 9 6 4 3		
	♣ 8 4 2		
	EAST		
	♠ 8 7 6 5 4		
	♥ 9		
	♦ Q 10 8 5 2		
	♣ 10 6		
	SOUTH		
	♠ A Q 9		
	♥ Q J 8 5 3 2		
	♦ 7		
	♣ J 7 3		
		W N E S	
		Del'Monte Bloom Hollands Nann	
		2♥ 4♥ Pass 1♥	
		5♣ 5♥ X Pass	
		X Pass Pass Pass	
		5♥ doubled by South, two down, N-S -300	
		W N E S	
		Gill Edgton Hans Hung	
		2♥ 4♥ Pass 1♥	
		5♣ 6♥ Pass Pass	
		6♣ X Pass Pass	
		Pass	
		6♣ doubled by East, one down, E-W -200	

The 4♥ bid happened at both tables. It was very unusual on the North cards: 4♥ would normally show a weak hand with, say, five hearts.

Both tables then bid 4♠. This is quite standard and reasonable with five-card support and a singleton—the sort of hand you might expect North to hold.

Whether to bid 5♥ was the next question. Andy chose to; Tony did not. I prefer not to bid with such good spade values.

RULE

Points opposite partner's shortage is a misfit, often indicates defending and otherwise keeping the contract low

I think Andy's approach, particularly at the time, was to be ultra-aggressive at favourable vulnerability. He gained a great deal from doing that throughout his career.

What can we learn from Ish?

I think Ish's continuation of this auction was very professional.

He began by eyeing a vulnerable slam bonus, but trusted that slam bidding is about communicating with partner and describing your hand—not merely gambling on the final contract.

The opponents entered with 5♦ and his partner doubled, typically showing values in diamonds. Ish knew this was a bad sign for his side: there was a real danger that the opponents' distribution would make slam poor.

Ish then doubled 5♥, showing some length and strength in hearts. He shifted from pursuing a vulnerable slam to accepting the more modest objective of defeating the opponents.

His decision was based on:

1. Showing your hand and trusting partner, rather than overbidding or gambling unnecessarily.
2. Being happy to defend when the opportunity looks good—you can make a profit defending, particularly at the five level.
3. Not being overly committed to bidding slam—only to making the correct bid.

At the other table, the auction was wild and difficult to decode. North in particular had a very unusual hand for the bidding, and perhaps South did too. I think Ishmael's disciplined approach made the difference.

Result — Ish's table: 5♥ doubled by South, two down, North–South –300. Other table: 6♠ doubled by East, one down, East–West –200. 11 IMPs to Milne.

AFTER THE FIRST STANZA

Milne 34 • Bloom 20

Three stanzas to go.

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.

Richard Madden
McGrath

LABOUR DAY

MATCHPOINT PAIRS

**Rookie, Restricted
Intermediate & Open**

- 10 am Start
- 2 x Sessions
- East Lindfield
- \$55 per player



PENNANT HILLS BRIDGE CLUB

**GREAT
VENUE**

TEAMS CONGRESS 2026

Thornleigh Community Centre
Cnr Phyllis & Central Av Thornleigh

Sunday 11th October 2026



Two Sessions – commencing at 10:00am

Conducted under the auspices of BridgeNSW.

Players subject to BridgeNSW's Congress Disciplinary Regulations.

**The ABF has approved the issue of RED master points
at Level B4**

Yellow Systems not permitted

**Tournament Director
John McILRATH**

PRIZES

**Tournament Convenor
VINCE CARIOLA**

All Teams

**1st Place \$ 300.00
2nd Place \$ 200.00**



**Best restricted – lower
1/3 of field \$ 180.00.**

We reserve the right to deem players ineligible for restricted classification and adjust Prize Money according to player numbers



GRAFTON BRIDGE F2F CONGRESS

SWISS BUTLER IMP PAIRS
10-11th October 2026

Play starts Saturday 10am till 5.00pm

Sunday 9.30am till 12.30pm

Cash prizes in masterpoint divisions

Conducted under the auspices of BridgeNSW

Red Masterpoints at B4 Level

Green & Blue Systems only

Systems cards must be available

Cost \$120 per player, \$240 per pair

All entries via MyABF

The Greater

BSB 63700 A/C 780225017 with your name as reference

Entries close 5pm 5th October

Tournament Director

Ronnie Ng

Event Organiser

Denise Llewellyn

Tel 0422100601 email graftonbridgeclub2460@gmail.com

Held at

Grafton District Services Club

105-107 Mary Street, Grafton

Telephone 0266403200

(No night time play)



NORTH SHORE BRIDGE CLUB



*Play a day for
the future of bridge!*

PROUD SUPPORTER OF
THE BRIDGE AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

AUSTRALIA'S BRIDGE DAY OUT

TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER

RED POINTS • EVERY SESSION

5 SESSIONS TO CHOOSE FROM

YOU CAN PLAY IN
ONE SESSION ONLY

12.15pm

THE WILLIS

FACE-TO-FACE

OPEN

1.30pm

EAST LINDFIELD

FACE-TO-FACE

ROOKIE

1.30pm

REALBRIDGE

ONLINE

OPEN

2.00pm

REALBRIDGE

ONLINE

ROOKIE

7.00pm

REALBRIDGE

ONLINE

RESTRICTED



RED
MASTERPOINTS



VIDEO HAND
ANALYSIS

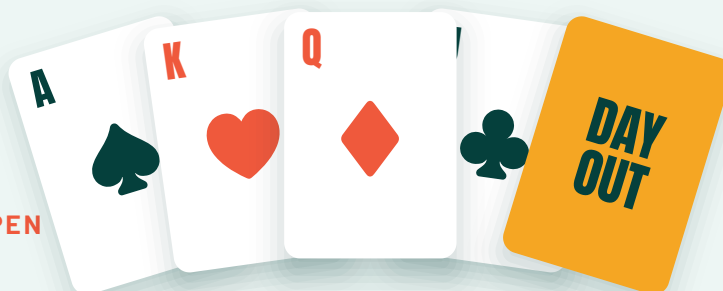


PRIZES
& FUN

*Five sessions,
one big day.*

EVERYONE WELCOME

ROOKIE • RESTRICTED • OPEN



\$5

OF YOUR TABLE MONEY GOES TO BRIDGE IN SCHOOLS

Australia's Bridge Day Out is the Bridge Australia Foundation's annual fundraiser — play a session and back the next generation of players.

PLAY

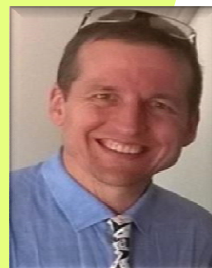
GIVE

HAVE FUN

BE PART OF IT!

Develop your Bridge Skill

*Main teacher **Derrick Browne***



Weekly schedule

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

Walk-ins welcome | All levels welcome

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

\$19 (\$15 members)



Trumps Bridge Centre

58 Spit Road

Mosman NSW 2088

trumps@trumps.net.au

(02) 9969 5959 | 0412 947 279



Stimulate your mind & make new friends!

Learn Bridge!

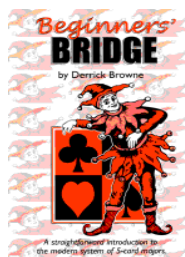
Main teacher

Derrick Browne



For just \$99 you get:

- ♦ *Beginners' Bridge* book
- ♦ *Discount on membership*



(Ongoing training & supervised
play tailored to beginner
graduates available)

Choose a course of six 2-hour lessons:

Mondays 9.30am from 12 October

Thursdays 6.30pm from 15 October

Enrol now with...

Trumps Bridge Centre



58 Spit Road, Mosman NSW 2088
trumps.net.au, trumps@trumps.net.au
Facebook.com/Trumpsbridgecentre
phone 9969 5959 or 0412 947 279



... 'The top teaching club'



Learn to Play Bridge



Beginners' Course

*Bridge is the most fascinating card game in the world.
It is a very social activity, while being constantly
mentally stimulating.*



6 Wednesday Afternoons @ City

October 7th – November 11th, 1.30pm – 4.00pm

City, Level 1, 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills

Parking Available

6 Friday Afternoons @ City

October 9th – November 13th, 1.30pm – 4.00pm

City, Level 1, 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills

Parking Available



\$159 for the full course (notes included). Free for those who have done our Beginners Course before. You will have the option to continue your journey in Supervised sessions in either City or Polish Club Ashfield once completed the course.

To enrol in this course, or for more information, please call office on (02) 9264 6884 or email at office@SydneyBridgeClub.org.au.

FIVE ESSENTIAL CONVENTIONS

📍 East Lindfield 2b Carlyle Road East Lindfield

🕒 9.30am

with Liz Wilkinson

1 STAYMAN 16th September

When partner opens 1NT and you have 4 cards in a major, how can you cleverly find out if partner has 4 in the same suit?. This is a must have convention for every bridge player, beginners included!



2 TRANSFERS 23rd September

Partner opens 1NT and you have 5 cards in the major, learn how to invite partner to play your suit from their hand.



3 STRONG 2♣ 7th October

WOW! That is a lot of points. Learn how to tell partner that they need to keep bidding til we have game. Licence to describe your hand.

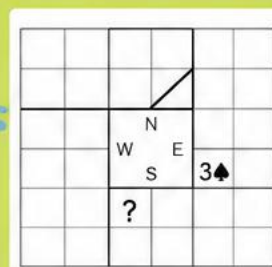
4 BLACKWOOD 14th October

How to find out how many Aces or Kings partner has? Is it worth you bidding slam? Learn how to work it all out.



5 PRE-EMPTS 21st October

Not enough points to open, but you have six, seven or eight cards in one suit! Learn how to be a menace and make life difficult for the opps.



No booking required



No partner required



Just show up



Saturday Workshop Opener's Rebids

With Will Jenner-O'Shea

Saturday October 10th, 10am – 3:30pm

@Goulburn Street

All of the hands have opportunities for good play or defence to have an effect on the outcome.

Conventions and Topics

Handling Misfits and Stopping Low.

Showing Your Shape and Very Shapely Hands.

This workshop is suitable to players of all standards, right from recent Beginners Graduates, through to Supervised players.

It is also a good revision of basics for players who have played for a few years.

Play Regularly to Reinforce

For Open players: (City) Monday to Thursday mornings (10.00am), Tuesday night (7.15pm), Friday ARVO (1.30pm), Sunday ARVO (1.00pm) / (Polish Club Ashfield) Thursday (10.00am)

For Supervised players: (City) Monday & Wednesday morning (10.00am), Tuesday evening (6.30pm) and Friday ARVO (1.30pm) / (Polish Club Ashfield) Thursday morning (10.00am).



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.

NORTH SHORE BRIDGE CLUB



*Play, connect,
compete!*

RED POINT EVENT
ENTRIES OPEN

AUSTRALIA WIDE RESTRICTED PAIRS

Play the same boards as 500+ pairs around
Australia



RED POINTS



MPS OR LESS



PRIZES GALORE

DATE
WED 28 OCT

TIME
10.00 AM

VENUE
EAST LINDFIELD

Under 300 MasterPoints as at 31 August • Hand analysis provided



SCAN TO ENTER

Entries through the club
website

Open players: our usual club
session runs alongside –
Red Points, no entry needed.

PLAY | MEET | ENJOY | BE PART OF IT!

WILL JENNER-O'SHEA *Workshop*

*Build
a better
bridge game!*

- ♠ Simple Useful Conventions
- ♠ Finding Your Best Contract
- ♠ Improving Your System
- ♠ The Game Forcing Cue Bid
- ♠ The Gambling 3NT Opening
- ♠ Improving Your Responses to Weak Twos

Learn • Practice • Improve
Take your game to the next level!

FEE
\$60.00

Includes lunch,
snacks and all notes
of the workshop
plus play some hands!



**FRIDAY
30TH OCTOBER**



**EAST LINDFIELD
CLUB HOUSE**



10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

*An informative and enjoyable day
with Will Jenner-O'Shea*





SBC Education Seminar

Graded training sessions with specific topic by various teachers



Listening to the Auction suitable for: experienced players by Steve Geddes

Friday 16th October 2026, 10.00am – 12.30pm

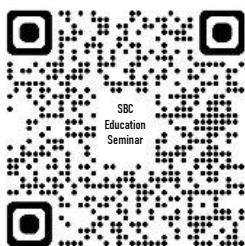


Competitive Bidding suitable for: experienced players by Ian Lisle

Friday 6th November 2026, 10.00am – 12.45pm

Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills

Parking available



Book via My ABF or contact the office
memberservices@sydneybridgeclub.org.au or 02 9264 6884

Costs: Costs: \$35 Early Bird price for SBC Members who book & pay in advance (before 24/09/26), or \$40 for visitors and anyone who pays on the day.

Discounted table fee of \$10 at the Friday afternoon duplicate for Seminar Participants who decide to stay for the game.

Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits available. Place an order for lunch with Rush so that you have time to join our afternoon duplicate session at 1:30 pm.



• Sydney Bridge Club •

• www.sydneybridgeclub.org.au • memberservices@sydneybridgeclub.org.au •
(02) 9264 6884



No-Trump Sequence by Ian Lisle

suitable for: experienced players

Friday 25th September 2026, 10.00am – 12.45pm



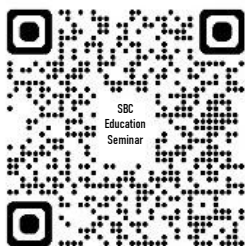
Listening to the Auction by Steve Geddes

suitable for: experienced players

Friday 16th October 2026, 10.00am – 12.30pm

Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills

Parking available



Book via My ABF or contact the office

memberservices@sydneybridgeclub.org.au or 02 9264 6884

Costs: Costs: \$35 Early Bird price for SBC Members who book & pay in advance (before 24/09/26), or \$40 for visitors and anyone who pays on the day.

Discounted table fee of \$10 at the Friday afternoon duplicate for Seminar Participants who decide to stay for the game.

Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits available. Place an order for lunch with Rush so that you have time to join our afternoon duplicate session at 1:30 pm.



• Sydney Bridge Club •

• www.sydneybridgeclub.org.au • memberservices@sydneybridgeclub.org.au •
(02) 9264 6884



Learn to play better



Improvers I and II

*Continue your bridge journey with our
Improvers Courses!*



Improvers I

6 Monday mornings @ City

from October 12th – November 16th,
10.00am – 12.30pm

6 Tuesday nights @ City

from October 13th – November 17th,
7.00pm – 9.30pm

6 Thursday mornings @ Ashfield from
October 15th – November 19th,
10.00am – 12.30pm

Improvers II

**6 Wednesday
afternoons**

@ City

from October 14th –
November 18th,
1.30pm – 4.00pm

*Syllabus can be
found on the
SBC website /
Learn Bridge /
Beginners &
Improvers.*



\$159 for the full course (notes included). You will have the option to continue your journey in Supervised and Club duplicate sessions in either City or Polish Club Ashfield once completed the course.

To enrol in this course, or for more information, please call office on (02) 9264 6884 or email at office@SydneyBridgeClub.org.au.

NORTH SHORE BRIDGE CLUB

BODY

WOMEN'S MIXED FOR TEAMS

29th Oct

5th Nov

12th Nov

@ 7PM

*Great
Prizes!*



SCAN ME





Saturday Workshop Simple Useful Conventions

With Will Jenner-O'Shea

Saturday October 31st, 10am – 3:30pm

@Goulburn Street

All of the hands have opportunities for good play or defence to have an effect on the outcome.

Conventions and Topics

Find Your Best Contract. Improve Your System.

The Game Forcing Cue Bid. The Gambling 3NT Opening.

Improve Your Responses to Weak Twos.

This workshop is accessible for players of all levels.

Play Regularly to Reinforce

For Open players: (City) Monday to Thursday mornings (10.00am), Tuesday night (7.15pm), Friday ARVO (1.30pm), Sunday ARVO (1.00pm) / (Polish Club Ashfield) Thursday (10.00am)

For Supervised players: (City) Monday & Wednesday morning (10.00am), Tuesday evening (6.30pm) and Friday ARVO (1.30pm) / (Polish Club Ashfield) Thursday morning (10.00am).



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.



PARRAMATTA BRIDGE CLUB

FOUNDATION DAY TEAMS CONGRESS

to be held at

ERMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2026

Commencing at 10.00 A.M.

Conducted under the auspices of Bridge NSW

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

All players are subject to Bridge NSW's Congress Disciplinary Regulations

Tournament Director: Ronnie Ng

Convener: Margaret East 0416 513 295

PRIZES: 1st \$500 2nd: \$300

1st Parramatta Team: \$300

2nd Parramatta Team: \$200

Restricted: \$100

(only one prize per team)

ENTRY FEE \$180.00 per team

Bring your own lunch or
buy from local shops

Refreshments provided during the day



MELBOURNE CUP

FASHION
FRIENDS
BRIDGE
RACING
GOOD TIMES

Tuesday 3rd November



*A day
to enjoy!*

Bridge starts at 10:30am

Come along from 10:00am
to get your Melbourne Cup Sweeps!

Something a little different this year!

We're catering lunch, so there's
no need to bring a plate.

\$35.00

PER PERSON

Includes:



Bridge



Lunch



Prizes



The bar will be open
to buy drinks.

PLEASE ENTER VIA
OUR WEBSITE



*Get your race-day outfit ready
and join us for a fabulous Melbourne Cup Day!*



T B I B CITY OF SYDNEY TEAMS

Saturday 14th November 2026, 10.00am

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

Entry Fee: \$65 per player (lunch included)

DIRECTOR: John McIlrath | **RED Masterpoints**

Programmes

Proudly sponsored by TBIB (Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers), the City of Sydney Teams returns to the SBC congress calendar! The Teams event will be run in the format of a one-day congress on Saturday 14th November. Play commences at 10.00am for two sessions: three matches in the morning, break for lunch, then another three matches in the afternoon. Please form a team of 4 – 6 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.

We accept only payment via MyABF and Credit Card payment. No cash or SBC PP.

The Venue

The venue can be easily accessed by train, light rail and bus. Secure Parking, 101 Goulburn Street (corner of Elizabeth and Goulburn Streets) offers special parking rate \$16 for whole day parking on weekends and public holidays.

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

Organiser: Wing Roberts

Phone: 0487 350 160 **Email:** office@sydneybridgeclub.org.au

Website: www.sydneybridgecentre.com

SBC CITY OF SYDNEY TEAMS

WWW.SYDNEYBRIDGECENTRE.COM



GREAT BARRIER REEF CRUISE

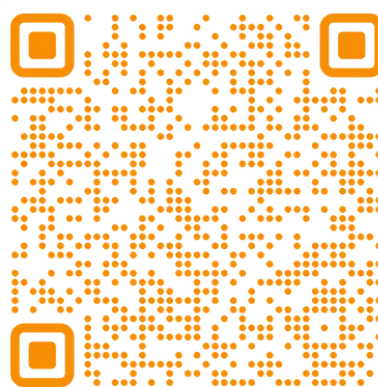
with Will Jenner-O'Shea

9-19 November 2026

Sydney to Sydney

EXPERIENCE BRIDGE
like NEVER BEFORE

SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT
MORE AND BOOK



SCAN ME



CHARLESTOWN BRIDGE CLUB

Celebrates 50TH ANNIVERSARY

*You are invited to a
Celebration and Casual Lunch
followed by Bridge
20th November, 2026*

At 1pm

*At Biala Centre, 17 James Street,
Charlestown*

DRESS CODE something GOLD

For catering purposes please **RSVP** by 15.10.26

charlestownbridge@gmail.com

If playing bridge please register online or need a
partner ring Janice on **0402 032 265**

North Shore Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY

AM

ONLINE

State Daytime Swiss Pairs

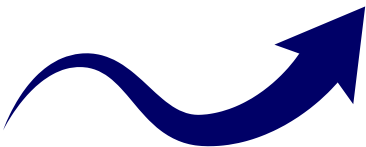
NOVEMBER
25

DECEMBER
02

DECEMBER
09



EVENT


SCAN ME





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

on Friday 27th November 2026

Afternoon 1.30pm – 4.00pm

Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills

\$23 member (\$19 concession) / \$28 visitors

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.

Divisions for



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

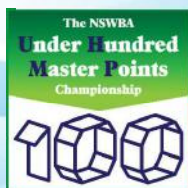
Please ENTER DIRECTLY as a Pair via MyABF:

<https://myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4726>

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 2026. 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? Enter with a TBA and leave us a note!

Conducted under the
auspices of BridgeNSW





Trumps Bridge Holidays bridge break in the Blue Mountains



Leura Gardens Resort

20-28 Fitzroy Street, Leura

Sunday 22 to Wednesday 25 Nov 2026

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 \$839pp (+ \$195 single) less early bird discount of \$10 for those who pay in full before 22 Oct (otherwise full payment due by 15 Nov).

Trumps members \$60 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.

Direct transfer: *BSB 633000, Account 149823767, Description <your name> Leura*
Then email remittance advise to trumps@trumps.net.au

Leura Resort November 2026 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)



Wine & Bridge Cruise Adelaide 07 - 16 April 2027

Wed 07Apr2027	Sydney, Australia		4:30 PM	Boarding
Thu 08Apr2027	Cruising	1.15PM	4.30 PM	Bridge
Fri 09Apr2027	Hobart,	8:00 AM	5:00 PM	Docked
Sat 10Apr2027	Cruising	1.15 PM	4.30 PM	Bridge
Sun 11Apr2027	Kangaroo Is	8:00 AM	7:00 PM	Tendered
Mon 12Apr2027	Adelaide	8:00 AM	8:00 PM	Docked
Tue 13Apr2027	Cruising	1.15 PM	4.30 PM	Bridge
Wed 14Apr2027	Melbourne	8:00 AM	6:00 PM	Docked
Thu 15Apr2027	Cruising	1.15 PM	4.30 PM	Bridge
Fri 16Apr2027	Sydney, Australia	6:30 AM		Departure

Enjoy exceptional value with all meals, onboard activities, and a full bridge program included. Join us for duplicate sessions, lessons, hand on workshops, and **Green Red Point** events. We sail on the beautiful **Celebrity Edge**, with exclusive bridge sessions with dedicated directors **Nick Hughes and Nicoleta Giura** . Expect improvement, inspiration, and plenty of fun along the way.

For more details call **0404 083 913** .



***From \$3300.00 per person TWIN/DOUBLE includes all food, taxes and bridge .
Prices are subject to availability and conditions apply.***

HELANE K TOURS



New Zealand Bridge Cruise 18 Feb-02 Mar 2027

Thu 18Feb2027	Sydney, Australia	4:30 PM	Departs
Fri 19Feb2027	Cruising	1.15 PM 4.30 PM	Bridge
Sat 20Feb2027	Cruising	1.15 PM 4.30 PM	Bridge
Sun 21Feb2027	Milford Sound, New Zealand	1: 15 PM 4:30 PM	Bridge
Sun 21Feb2027	Doubtful Sound	1: 15 PM 4:30 PM	Bridge
Sun 21Feb2027	Dusky Sound	1: 15 PM 5:15 PM	Bridge
Mon 22Feb2027	Dunedin, New Zealand	7:00 AM 4:00 PM	Docked
Tue 23Feb2027	Cruising	1.15 PM 4.30 PM	Bridge
Wed 24Feb2027	Napier, New Zealand	7:00 AM 2:30 PM	Docked
Thu 25Feb2027	Tauranga, New Zealand	7:45 AM 7:00 PM	Docked
Fri 26Feb2027	Auckland, New Zealand	6:00 AM 7:00 PM	Docked
Sat 27Feb2027	Bay Of Islands, New Zealand	7:00 AM 4:30 PM	Tendered
Sun 28Feb2027	Cruising	1.15 PM 4.30 PM	Bridge
Mon 01Mar2027	Cruising	1.15 PM 4.30 PM	Bridge
Tue 02Mar2027	Sydney, Australia	6:30 AM	Departure

PORT DAYS BRIDGE AT 2.00 PM FOR THOSE THAT RETURN IN TIME.

Enjoy exceptional value with all meals, onboard activities, and a full bridge program included. Join us for **duplicate sessions, expert lessons, hands on workshops, and Green/Red Point events**. We sail on the beautiful **Celebrity Edge**, with the bridge program led by respected **A3 ABF Director Ian Lisle**. Expect improvement, inspiration, and plenty of fun along the way



From \$3699.00 per person TWIN/DOUBLE includes all food, taxes and bridge

ard. www.helanektours.com.au ABN: 55294079115 Email: helanektours@gmail.com Ph: 0404083913

HELANE K TOURS



Great Barrier Reef Bridge Cruise 02 Mar —13 Mar 2027

Tue 02Mar2027	Sydney, Australia	-	4:30 PM	Boarding
Wed 03Mar2027	Cruising	1.15 PM	4.30 PM	Bridge
Thu 04Mar2027	Cruising	1.15 PM	4.30 PM	Bridge
Fri 05Mar2027	Airlie Beach,	7:00 AM	4:00 PM	Tendered
Sat 06Mar2027	Cairns, Yorkey's Knob	9:00 AM		Tendered
Sun 07Mar2027	Cairns, Yorkey's Knob		6:00 PM	Tendered
Mon 08Mar2027	Port Douglas, Australia	8:00 AM	6:00 PM	Tendered
Tue 09Mar2027	Willis Island (Cruising),	1.15 PM	4.30 PM	Bridge
Wed 10Mar2027	Cruising	1.15 PM	4.30 PM	Bridge
Thu 11Mar2027	Cruising	1.15 PM	4.30 PM	Bridge
Fri 12Mar2027	Newcastle, Australia	8:00 AM	6:00 PM	Docked
Sat 13Mar2027	Sydney, Australia		6:30 AM	Departure

Enjoy exceptional value with all meals, onboard activities, and a full bridge program included. Join us for duplicate sessions, lessons, hand on workshops, and **Green/Red Point** events. We sail on the beautiful **Celebrity Edge**, with exclusive bridge sessions with dedicated director. Expect improvement, inspiration, and plenty of fun along the way.

For more details call **0404 083 913** .

Prices from \$3199.00 pp TWIN/DOUBLE includes all food, service fees port charges and all bridge on board . Prices are subject to availability and conditions