



Editorial

The Australian Bridge Foundation (ABF) does many things to support and promote bridge in Australia. Through the affiliated clubs, it has over 35000 members. A subsidiary body, the ABF Foundation, has recently been established for the express purpose of securing the future of Australian bridge, by promoting the game for young people, through a Bridge in Schools program.

Many bridge clubs, nationwide, participated in a recent '*Bridge Day Out*' event, to raise funds for this program. Some familiar faces appear on the cover of the recent ABF newsletter – friends from the Gosford (CCLCBC) club, from their '*bridge day out*'.

Retiring Director

Christine Hadaway is retiring from her directing duties at our club. Christine has served the club in this capacity for over 20 years directing a full range of events from teams to various regular weekly sessions. Christine, we greatly appreciate and value your contribution to our club and the world of '*bridge*'. Thank you for your service.



Player Promotions

Last month 3 of our members moved up the bridge ranking scale. Congratulations all. Well done. May all your finesses come off.



BRISBANE WATER BRIDGE CLUB		
NAME	RANK	TOTAL MPs
Adams, Merran	Regional	50.38
Robertson, Kerry	Local	15.86
Fisher, Helen	Club	5.06

Giving Advice at the Table

Please refrain from advising new players at the table. Newbies are usually working through a sequence of lessons with their teacher and your advice may well be in lessons to come. Some advice given can conflict with what they learn in lessons. Your well intentioned advice can lead to mass confusion.

Coming Soon to a Club Near You

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- ♣ Tue, 4th November – Melbourne Cup (\$15) – Entries Closed.
 - ♣ Tue, 11th November – Remembrance Day Pairs – Red Points
 - ♣ Wed, 12th November – Interclub Teams CCBC – 9:30 start
 - ♣ Sat, 6th December – Summer Teams - 12:30 start

From the Directors Chair – by John McIlrath - Chair - Directing Committee, Bridge NSW



Sydney Spring Nationals has just finished. This nine-day Festival held 20 different events covering all levels of bridge playing abilities, from Novice up to Emerald Masters. Whilst being a huge success, from a director's view we had loads of different types of calls to which to attend. From the "lower" end of the field comes this article.

What does stand out is the question "how well do you know your system"? So this article talks about the "unusual 2NT"

1. Over 1C, how do you, your partnership, play a 2NT overcall? Supplementary question is, does it matter if the 1C is announced as 2+ or 3+, or even 1+? In some circumstances it may be natural or it may be 5 / 5 in the lower two suits or the other minor and a major? What do you play? The problem for the Director is to decide on a mistaken bid or an mis-explanation?

2. When your opponent opens a weak two and your partner bids 2NT. Is this the unusual 2NT? Modern practice is that over a weak two bid, the 2NT bid now shows a "normal" 1NT opening bid. Again it makes it difficult for the Director if you have no agreements.

Session Clarification

With the retirement of Christine the following change applies. Donelle Foate will now take on the Wednesday afternoon session and Kevin Hughes (formerly a part time director) will take on the Monday afternoon session.

The following applies to Monday and Friday mornings

Monday morning sessions:

- ♣ 9.30-11.30
- ♣ Lesson – currently intermediate level.
- ♣ \$5.00 per session per person
- ♣ no sessions in December and January
- ♣ last session for 2025 will be 24th November
- ♣ first session for 2026 will be 02 February – newbies starting from scratch

Friday morning sessions:

- ♣ 9.30-12.30
- ♣ no session 26th December, 2025
- ♣ \$5.00 per session per person
- ♣ no partner needed
- ♣ supervised duplicate play but all standards welcome

Bridge Movements (Mitchell or Howell) – by Sylvia Foster Chief Director

When choosing a movement for a session the Director has to give consideration to -

- ♣ The number of players, pairs and tables.
- ♣ The number of boards to play.
- ♣ Ensuring that no pair repeats previous opponents or boards.
- ♣ Minimise sit-out time.
- ♣ Length of the session.
- ♣ Whether one winner is required (Club Championship and Red Point events).
- ♣ Mobility of players.
- ♣ Fairness and allocation of master points.
- ♣ Club policy (avoid 4 board sit-outs).

Please keep in mind Directors need to be up to date on the rules of bridge and their application when called to the table. They also need sound IT skills to manage the bridge mates and the computer. If you require a stationary seat please inform the Director before the start of the session.

Results - Club Special Events

♦ Labour Day Pairs (4th October)

A field of 15 pairs took part. The winners and runners-up were –

1 st	Martin Johnson and Christine Hadaway	67.59%
2 nd	Donelle Foate and Matt Raj Mal	62.50%
3 rd	Karen Ody and Jim Routledge	61.46%



♦ Individual Championship (7th October)

In a very close finish, the eventual winner and runners-up were -

1 st	Robin Vaughan	62.86%
2 nd	Carolynne Mucharsky	62.50%
3 rd	Jorgen Boettiger	61.43%



♦ Spring Pairs (15th October)

A field of 15 pairs took part. The winners and runners-up were -

1 st	John Drew and Beryl Lowry	63.23%
2 nd	Meg McGregor and Hilary Owen	56.88%
3 rd	Anne Birt and Marilyn Reid	55.29%



♦ Teams of 3 (27th October)

12 teams took part in this event, in which 3 novice/intermediate players are joined by a more experienced 'captain'. The winners and runners-up were -

1 st	Wulff -	(John Aldersley, Beryl Lowry, Kevin Hughes, Judy Wulff)	53.2 VP
2 nd	Adams -	(Edith Marshall, Robyn Serra, Frankie Craven, David Adams)	48.59 VP
3 rd	Foster -	(Carolyn Harper, Marilyn Reid, Pamela Lumby, Sylvia Foster)	34.68 VP

Away Special Events

♦ Tomaree Congress (27th – 29th September)

A few of our members competed and achieved notable results –

♣ In the pairs event, Sally Clarke and Sharon Mayo finished 2nd (out of 64 pairs), Stephanie Mathews and Gary Heyting 9th, and Di Coats and Jan Clarke 10th.

♣ In the teams Sally Clarke and Sharon Mayo played in the winning team.

♦ Sydney Spring Nationals (18th – 26th October)

This is a major event on the bridge calendar, held at Canterbury Racecourse in Sydney. The competition is as tough as it gets. A rather small number of local players took part. The main event is for teams, with a qualifying day followed by knockout rounds and consolation events. The Coats team (Di Coats, Jan Clarke, Sally Clarke, Sharon Mayo) did well to reach the round of 16 in the consolation Plate event.

In the pairs events, on different days, top third finishers were

- ♣ Monday: Richard Carter and Peter Wong 1st (of 22)
Margaret Regan and Robyn Rogers 6th
- ♣ Wednesday: Margaret Regan and Robyn Rogers 7th (of 22)
- ♣ Thurs./Fri. Caroline Nichols and Carolynne Mucharsky 8th (of 22)
in the Novice/Restricted section
- ♣ Weekend: Richard Carter and Jay Novak 2nd (of 20) in the
Intermediate section.

At the Bridge Table – By Jaan

Here are a couple of tricky hands from the recent Gosford (CCLCBC) Congress, from match 3 in the pairs event. When the trumps split badly, as occurred with these hands, extra care is needed to avoid losing control of the hand.

In the first hand, you are sitting North and are declarer in a contract of 4 spades. You get the diamond King lead, win in dummy with the Ace and lead a small trump, to find the bad split. You win with the Ace. Things look bad. If you continue playing trumps, at some point East will win and lead another club, which you will be forced to ruff. East will now have more trumps than you, and the contract cannot be made.

BOARD 20						
BD: 20		♠ AKQ32			Dir: W Vul: ALL	
		♥ QT543				
		♦ A9				
		♣ T				
♠					♠ J9854	
♥ KJ97					♥ 6	
♦ JT8654					♦ Q73	
♣ J65					♣ KQ82	
		♠ T76				
		♥ A82				
		♦ K2				
		♣ A9743				

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT			
N	2		4	4	3		15	
S	3		4	4	4	6		8
E		2					11	
W	2							

The way to succeed is to make use of your side suit, hearts. Lead a heart to the Ace, and back towards the Queen. West will take the King and continue with another club (their best return). You can ruff with a small trump. Then play the established heart Queen. East can ruff this, but, whatever they return, you will be able to ruff another club in hand and a heart in dummy, for 10 tricks.

The statistics are interesting. In the Open section, 11 pairs played in 4 spades, 10 making, while 2 tried and failed in 6 spades. The most popular lead was as the club King (6 times), while 4 defenders led the singleton heart 6 and 3 led a diamond. In the Restricted/Novice section 8 declarers tried 4 spades, with 4 making. Everyone led the singleton. New players are taught that a singleton is a good lead. Sometimes it is, and sometimes it is not, and sometimes it makes no difference. However, when you are defending with a strong trump holding, as here, it is usually not a good idea to look for ruffs.

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BOARD 27									
BD: 27		♠ A97542				Dir: S Vul: None			
		♥ AJT84							
		♦							
		♣ K8							
♠ 6						♠ KJ83			
♥ Q7						♥ K5			
♦ AKJ98762						♦ QT			
♣ 96						♣ T7432			
		♠ QT							
		♥ 9632							
		♦ 543							
		♣ AQJ5							

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT				
N			5	4		12			
S			5	4		10		9	
E		3			1	9			
W		3			1				

Here is board 27, from the same match. Again, you are sitting North in a 4 spade contract. Hearts is more comfortable, but not easy to find when West starts with a 4 diamond pre-empt. The opening lead is, not surprisingly, the diamond Queen, which you ruff. To start drawing trumps, you lead small towards the Queen. East takes her King and leads another diamond, which you again ruff. You then lead a trump to the Queen, and West shows out. Although you started out with 6 trumps, to East's 4, you now only have 2 trumps each (you have A,9 while East has J,8). To make this contract, you need to set up some heart tricks and a lot of luck. So you cash the heart Ace and lead another heart, which East wins with her King.

Fortunately, East has only spades and clubs left, and is forced to return a club, which you run to the King. You then take 3 more club tricks in dummy, discarding hearts. At this point, you have won 8 tricks and the opponents 2. The lead is in dummy. You then lead one of dummy's remaining hearts, and East can only win one more trick, giving you your contract. Some other sequences also work, but the basic ending is the same.

The statistics are again interesting. In the Open section 6 pairs were in 4 spades, with 4 pairs making, while 8 pairs were in 4 or 5 hearts, mostly making. In the Restricted/Novice section no-one was in 4 spades, and the hand was mostly played by West in a diamond contract. If West opens 3 diamonds it is easy for N/S to find the better heart contract. Likewise, if West decides to bid 5 diamonds over 4 spades, North can bid 5 hearts which South will happily pass.

Stay safe out there – Cheers Barry and Jaan ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

