



## Editorial

Happy New Year to all of our club members and readers. May 2026 bring you health and happiness, and much enjoyable bridge.

We plan to continue with our usual newsletter format, with club news and results for special events, as well as discussion of interesting bridge hands. We would also like to try a new feature where we will try to answer questions from readers. A prize will be awarded to the best judged question each month. Submissions may be sent to Jaan (j.oitmaa@unsw.edu.au).

## President & Vice President attend Bridge NSW event at Maitland BC



The Maitland Bridge Club was the venue for the the eleventh Bridge NSW Presidents' Day. The Chair of the Clubs and Community Committee, Glenda Parmenter, chaired the meeting.



Topics raised and discussed by the group were:

- ♦ Consider payment for Directors at the club level.
- ♦ Bridge education - joint efforts between clubs on teaching bridge were discussed.
- ♦ Problems with club management and dealing with disagreements were discussed.
- ♦ General communication and collaboration between local clubs was seen as a positive step.

All participants felt the day was worthwhile and appreciated the opportunity to meet and network with their counterparts from local clubs.

## Player Promotions

Last month 5 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
Mathews, Stephanie	Silver Life	606.67
Aldersley, John	National	168.30
Lambkin, Judith	Silver Local	35.16
Anderson, Kerry	Local	15.32
Edwards, Denise	Graduate	2.04

## From the Directors Chair – by Kevin Hughes



### X-IMP Monday

BWBC's Club Championship for Swiss Pairs is being held on Mondays 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February. In preparation for the Swiss Pairs, next Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the usual Matchpoint scored duplicate bridge will be scored using Cross International Match Points (X-IMPs), the same scoring method that will be used for the Swiss Pairs.

The benefits of X-IMP scoring include:

- ♦ It makes you play contracts in the safest way possible;
- ♦ A safe minor game can score just as well as a risky 3NT;
- ♦ You are forced to be more disciplined in your bidding;
- ♦ Overtricks are of little consequence; and
- ♦ If you are playing against good defenders, and others in your direction are playing against weak defenders, you will not be penalised as you would be in Matchpoint scoring. Monday's Director will give a very short (5 minutes) talk, with handouts, on the DOs and DON'Ts of playing bridge using X-IMP scoring, starting at 12:10 pm. Be there!

## Where's Jorgen? Episode One – By Deb Guthrie

You know George is away for nearly six months. On a boat. So he's feeding us tender little bits of news just so we don't miss him too much.

So far, he's sailed from Los Angeles to Hawaii for the obligatory helicopter ride over Pearl Harbour (that was a long time ago: 1941?), on to Borra Borra in French Polynesian, Cook Islands for three days and then on to New Zealand.

Now he's sailing west and gently nudging Australia before scooting off again to Bali and Capetown. See next episode.

On board when the boat is at sea his numbers change according to where he docks but at the moment he has 20 beginning bridge players who he teaches in the morning from his excellent bridge book. The afternoons on these balmy days he has a combination of 8 tables of supervised and intermediate players.

Oh, Brisbane Waters would love these captive numbers! Just ask Daryll Knowles when you run into him next: that's where he ran into George on board a previous gig. Such fun George! We miss you!

## Email



This newsletter is emailed to those members and non-members in our contacts list. We also make 10 hard copies available at the club. If you know of someone our system is failing please let us know so we can make adjustments.



## Coming Attractions at BWBC

- ♦ Club Championship for Swiss Pairs – Mondays, 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Feb – 12:30 start. Pre-entry required. Enter online or see club noticeboard.
- ♦ Valentine's Day Pairs – Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> February – Walk in event (No pre-entry)

## Coming Attractions at Nearby Clubs

- ♦ Club Championship for Mixed Pairs at Gosford – Tuesdays, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- ♦ Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) at Long Jetty – Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March.

## Results - BWBC Special Events

### ♦ New Year Pairs – 1st January

A smallish field of 14 pairs played in our first session, and red-point event, of 2026. Winners and runners-up were

1 <sup>st</sup>	Di Coats and Jan Clarke	59.88%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Judy Wulff and David Adams	58.02%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Susan McCall and Pamela Joseph	53.70%

### ♦ Australia Day Pairs – 26th January

A great day was had, complete with lamingtons. 17 pairs took part and the final results were very tight, with 1.5% separating the top three pairs. The winners and placegetters were

1st	DonelleFoate and Christine Hadaway	60.71%
2nd	Barry Foster and Chris Hasemore	60.05%
3rd	Karen Ody and Jim Routledge	59.26%

## Results – Away Events

### ♦ Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge (14th – 25th Jan.)

This is one of Australia's premier bridge congresses, with around 1000 players, in many different events at both open and restricted/novice levels. Participation by our club members was less than in years past, but a few who did travel to Canberra came back with some gold points. Particularly notable achievements were

- ♣ The Coats team (Di Coats, Jan Clarke, Sally Clarke, Sharon Mayo) finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the tough National Womens' Team event.
- ♣ Chris Hasemore, playing with Canberra player Peter Lardy, finished 13<sup>th</sup> (of 96) in the Fixed Income Solutions sponsored one-day Swiss Pairs event.
- ♣ Pauline Caust and Alan Bustany finished 14<sup>th</sup> (of 34) in TBIB u750 weekend Swiss Pairs.

Others came back richer for the experience.



## At the Bridge Table — By Jaan

BOARD 26									
BD: 26		♠ Q92				Dir: E  Vul: ALL			
		♥ 986							
		♦ A9652							
		♣ KT							
♠ AKT6543						♠ 87			
♥ JT3						♥ 742			
♦ J						♦ 73			
♣ 96						♣ J87542			
		♠ J							
		♥ AKQ5							
		♦ KQT84							
		♣ AQ3							
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT			
N	2	6	6	1	5			9	
S	2	6	6	1	5		9		1
E								21	
W									

Here is an interesting bidding problem, from a recent club event, which has generated some discussion.

You are sitting South, and pick up this nice hand. East, on your right, passes and you have to decide what to open. If you are using standard methods, there are two options – 1-diamond (natural) or 2-clubs (strong). There are pros and cons for either choice. At the table you can't spend too long thinking about this, so you make a choice. I confess I would have opened 1-diamond but, after reflection, I think 2-clubs is better.

It may be of interest, particularly to newer players, to consider the merits of each. Apart from anything else, it shows that bidding is not always

straight forward and there is often no 'right' answer.

The arguments for 1-diamond go along the following lines. It keeps the bidding lower, giving room for more information to be exchanged with partner, and makes it easier to find the best final contract, which may be in diamonds, hearts or even in notrumps if partner has a suitable hand. Matchpoint scoring does not favour minor-suit contracts. The downside is that it makes it easier for the opponents to interfere, and the singleton spade is a worrying sign.

A 2-club opening gets your values across to partner at once, and makes interference from the opponents less likely, though not impossible. However, partner knows less about the shape of your hand and it may be more difficult to find the best contract, perhaps in hearts. The follow-up to a 2-club opening depends on system details, and there are several common approaches.

Let's look at the actual hands. If South opens 1-diamond then West will almost certainly come in with 2 or probably 3 spades. This puts North in a difficult spot. North cannot assume that partner has any more than 4 diamonds and 13+ points. What is North to do? They might raise diamonds to the lowest level, or double to show some values or even pass, as they are vulnerable and South will have another chance to compete if they are strong. A double from North would likely result in South playing in 4-hearts. This is not a great contract, although 12 tricks are there as the cards lie. If South opens 2-clubs, the diamond slam could be reached, one way or another.

The hand was played 7 times

- ♣ 3 times in 5-diamond, by South, making 12 tricks
- ♣ once in 4-diamonds (wimp!) by South, making 12 tricks



- ♣ twice in 4-hearts (11 tricks by South, 12 tricks by North)
- ♣ once in 2-spades (undoubled!!) by West, making 6 tricks.
- ♣ Nobody found the cold diamond slam.

## Dish Washer

From time to time we have broken glasses/cups. Sometimes it's not obvious so keep an eye out. Looks like paying the lowest possible price is not a good criterion for glass purchases.



## Don't Forget

### Club Championship for Swiss Pairs

- ♥ Held over 2 Mondays – 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- ♥ Enter online or noticeboard    ♥ No side-game.
- ♥ 12:30 start please be seated by 12:20
- ♥ Cost: \$15

*Valentine's Day*  
2026

*Red Points*



**Saturday, 14th February**  
**Usual Time and place**  
**Cost - \$10, Visitors \$12**



## Winners of the New Years Cup



## Winners of the Australia Day Pairs



*Stay safe out there – Cheers Barry and Jaan*

