



NSBC Newsletter



2019 January Vol 3. Issue 1

Editors: Kevin Davies & Kay Moyes

1. Improve Your Slam bidding

This slam was bid 5 times out of 20 tables in the club **Teams event** in Nov 2018. It's very aggressive and somewhat typical of the risks that players will take in **Teams** or **Swiss Pairs**, in order to get that slam/game bonus and win **10-12 IMPs**.

November 15 Mixed Teams Championship - Session 2

Board 13

North		D	V
♠ 8 6 2			
♥ 5			
♦ A K 7 3			
♣ A Q 8 6 5			
West		East	
♠ 9		♠ K J 5	
♥ J 9 4 3		♥ K 7 6 2	
♦ J 10 9 6 5		♦ Q 8 4	
♣ J 3 2		♣ K 10 4	
South			V
♠ A Q 10 7 4 3			
♥ A Q 10 8			
♦ 2			
♣ 9 7			
		HCPs	
		13	
		3 12	
		12	

Con	by	trks	Freq	NS	Diff	NS IMP
6S	S	12	2	1430	810	13
4S	S	12	4	680	60	2
4S	S	11	8	650	30	1
3NT	S	10	1	630	10	0
4S	S	10	2	620	0	0
6S	S	11	3	-100	-720	-13
Tables = 20				Ave score = 620		

Making the vulnerable slam at Swiss Pairs translated to a **+13 IMP** pickup, but it's a **-13 IMP loss** if the slam doesn't make. Five out of the twenty pairs tried for the slam bonus with

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two making 12 tricks and three making only 11. All the other tables bid game (4S or 3NT) and were flat, with only a 1 IMP swing.

American Standard, better minor, 3355, 15-17NT			
West	North	East	South
	1C	Pass	1S
Pass	2S	Pass	4S
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Standard Bidding:

- N: 1♣ unbalanced. - bid longest suit
- S: 1♠ Natural Forcing
- N: 2♣ cannot bid 1NT as unbalanced. Best choice is 2♠ (even with 3 card support)
- S: 4♠ to play

But if East chooses to interfere, N/S could be pushed into a very tight <50% slam:

West	North	East	South
	1C	X	XX
1H	Pass	Pass	1S
Pass	2H	Pass	4NT
Pass	5H	Pass	6S
Pass	Pass	Pass	

N 1♣ unbalanced. - bid longest suit
 E X An aggressive bid with only 4/3 in the majors and a flat hand.
 S XX Strong; 1♠ would be natural and non-forcing, showing 5+spades
 W 1♥ as better major, not promising any HCPs, just getting away from the XX.
 N Pass, Minimum opening
 E Pass Happy with hearts, nothing extra!
 S 1♠ shows 5+spades, forcing for 1 round and 11+ HCPs as we have redoubled previously to show strength.
 W Pass OK
 N 2♥ (Cue) Good raise in spades as has already shown a minimum hand. The heart shortage is gold!
 S 4NT South has control of hearts and diamonds, and is aggressively looking for a good IMP (slam bonus)
 N 5♥ 2 Keycards, no Q♠
 S 6♣ Hoping for good clubs?

Count your winning Tricks:
 2 top hearts on the lead + 3 top minors +2 heart ruffs using dummy's short trumps + a spade finesse (4-5 spades) = about 12 tricks.
Count your losing tricks:
 Likely 1-2 Spades, as must ruff 2 hearts, so can only finesse spades once!

The Play Card by Card
 W: 3♥ South takes K♥ with A♥
 S: 8♥ Ruffed in dummy with 2♠
 N: 6♠ Finesse Q♠ (West follows. phew)
 S: 10♥ Ruffed by 8♠
 N: A♦ All follow
 N: 3♦ Ruffed in hand with 3♠
 S: A♠ East drops the J♠
 S: 4♠ Give East his winner K♠
 E ♦/♥ Win diamond ruff, or ♥ with A♥

Claim remaining tricks with 9♣ being discarded on the K♦. 12 tricks and a well-deserved IMP pickup.

The losing line was to try to ruff 3 hearts in dummy. This means you have to draw trumps from the South hand hoping for a 2-2 break. A couple of tables bid the slam without the helpful double from East, and hence may have chosen this line of play.

Looking at these same 20 bridge results from a **Match Point Pairs** perspective: Rescoring the results using match points instead of IMPs gives the following results table. South is declarer:

Con	by	Trks	Freq	NS	NS MP results	
6S	S	12	2	1430	37	97%
4S	S	12	4	680	31	82%
4S	S	11	8	650	19	50%
3NT	S	10	1	630	10	26%
4S	S	10	2	620	7	18%
6S	S	11	3	-100	2	5%
Tables			20	max MP= 19x2=38		

Play of the hand

Hand repeated for convenience

North: ♠ 8 6 2, ♥ 5, ♦ A K 7 3, ♣ A Q 8 6 5

West: ♠ 9, ♥ J 9 4 3, ♦ J 10 9 6 5, ♣ J 3 2

East: ♠ K J 5, ♥ K 7 6 2, ♦ Q 8 4, ♣ K 10 4

South: ♠ A Q 10 7 4 3, ♥ A Q 10 8, ♦ 2, ♣ 9 7

HCPs: 13, 3, 12, 12

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
North	4	2	2	6	5
South	4	2	2	6	4

West Lead: 3♥ lead (4th best) card would be normal as partner's X promised the majors.

South's Planning

This is a very tight slam, but East has located most of the high cards by his aggressive X. So, I am planning not to take the losing club finesse!

Bidding Challenge Questions

=TOP 6♠ 12 tricks 37 (97%)
 =Good 4♠ 12 tricks 31 (82%)
 =AVR 4♠ 11 tricks 19 (50%)

Poor 3NT 10 tricks 10 (26%)
 Wrong contract, with shortages and missing out on ruffing tricks in the short trump hand.

Very Poor 4♠ 10 tricks 7 (18%)
 Incorrect play, perhaps taking losing club finesse and ruffing 3 hearts, hence 2 spade losers playing out of the South hand.

Bottom 6♠ Down one 2 (5%)
 Must find correct line if you bid 6♠.

At MPs, bidding the risky 6♠ gained 37 **Matchpoints**, whereas bidding 4♠ and making 12 tricks gained 31 MPs; that's a difference of only 6 MPs. However, if you bid the slam and go down 1 you score only 2 MPs, thus losing

29 Matchpoints

Clearly bidding a risky <50% Game or Slam in Matchpoint scoring is not worth the risk. Here the gain is 6 MPs but the loss is 29 MPs.

West	NV	East	D NV
♠ Q J 9 8 5		♠ A K 10	
♥ 8		♥ A K Q J 9	
♦ A 9 8 5		♦ Q	
♣ J 10 2		♣ A K 4 3	

And this hand?

West	V	East	D V
♠ 9		♠ A J 8 6 5 2	
♥ A K Q 10 9 4		♥ J 8 6	
♦ 4 3		♦ K 7	
♣ K J 7 5		♣ A 6	

Answers later...

Top **IMP Swiss Pairs/Teams** players get their winning IMPs from:

- **Bidding risky Games or Slams** to get those slam/game bonus scores which translate to **8-13 IMP**, dependent on vulnerability. It is often said that IMP players "**Bid game/slam on the smell of an oily rag!**"
- Ensuring that whatever contract you are in **you make it**. Never risk your contract for an overtrick. *Overtrick award / risk assessment* (1 overtrick = **+1 IMP** vs going down one trick is costly, between **-5 and -12 IMPs**. So, to make 1 IMP you could be risking **-12, not good odds**.)
- **Good tight defense**, taking every trick they are entitled to
- Even **giving tricks away** if it **creates a chance of getting declarer down**. Here the award / risk is reversed and positive for the defense. For example, gaining 5-12 IMPs vs giving away 1 IMP.

Top **MP Pairs** players get their winning **Match Points** from:

- **Staying with the field**: bidding the 4S contract and not risking the slam.
- **Getting overtricks**: making 12 tricks by good declarer play, or by taking advantage of poor defense.
- **Mostly getting an average**: by making 11 tricks. On a spade lead it is difficult to find 12 tricks and avoid the losing club finesse.
- **Staying out of poor contracts**: staying in 4S and not bidding unnecessary slams.
- **Not giving away unnecessary tricks**: ensuring that in defense you get the tricks you are entitled to; every trick counts.
- **Bidding the right contracts**: Major suit trump contracts when you can make ruffing tricks, else NT contracts, rarely minor suit contracts.

2. Club News

2a. From the Manager



On behalf of all the staff, the committee and myself, I would like to wish you all a very **Happy New Year.**

Introduction to the Club Championship

We have decided to implement a process to determine an annual **Club Champion**. A number of events have been chosen from the 2019 calendar and the first seven places in each event will receive Club Championship points. These CC points will be totaled over the year's events and a Club Champion decided.

Month	W	Ven	NSBC 2019 Club Champion Qualifying Events
Jan - Feb	1x	EL	Blue Ribbon Pairs
	1x	CW	Men's Pairs
	1x	CW	Women's Pairs
Feb - Mar	1x	CW	Mixed Pairs
	1x	EL	Swiss Pairs Congress
Apr	1x	CW	Men's Teams
	1x	CW	Women's Teams
May	2x	CW	GNOT Direct Qualifer
Jun (Fest)	1x	CW	Thursday Swiss Pairs
	1x	CW	Friday teams
	1x	CW	Saturday Swiss Pairs
	2x	CW	Sunday Teams
Aug	1x	EL	Swiss Teams Congress
	2x	CW	Morgan Club Pairs
Sep	1x	CW	Mixed Teams
Oct	1x	EL	Matchpoint Pairs Congress
Nov	2x	CW	Club Teams
Dec	1x	All	Monthly Winners
CC Points Scale			1st=10, 2nd=7, 3rd=5, 4th=4, 5th=3, 6th=2, 7th=1

Club Champion Qualifying Event

The 4 major NSBC events have their **CC Points doubled**. They are the GNOT Direct Qualifier, the Club Teams, the Morgan Club Pairs and Festival Sunday TBIB Teams.

2b. NSBC women Team will be the Australian Team in 2019

During December 2018 the selection playoffs for the Australian 2019 Seniors' and Women's teams were played in Canberra.

A team of NSBC women (the **Pitt** team) won the Grand Final against the top-seeded **Travis** team, and will be representing Australia in 2019.



Winners: Helena, Lorna, Helene, Avril, Giselle and Rena

2c. From Club Willoughby

The Club Willoughby Board would like to wish all NSBC members everything of the best for 2019.

2d. From the East Lindfield Bowling Club

The Lindfield Rollers in 2019

Our newly formed club, which is an amalgamation of Roseville, Northbridge, Gordon and Lindfield Bowlers, has enjoyed a year of "bonding and development" and to this end we are looking forward to a successful New Year. We finished this year with a highlight in winning the Men's Mid-week Pennants in Grade C and have displayed the said Pennant on the Clubhouse wall (for a little while!). Our 2019 Pennant Season will commence in March with Ladies' and Men's teams entered.

Our plans for 2019 are to maintain and improve our Bowling numbers. We have a Strategic planning committee to advise on directions to follow. In December we were advised of our successful application for a State grant to irrigate our 3 greens, which are considered the best in the district. In the New

Year we will commence a landscaping project to improve the environment.

Our club is in a solid financial position and of course to this end we are grateful for our association with the NSBC. We value our partnership with the Bridge players at Lindfield and assure you all we will continue to work together, as we have this year.

A Happy New Year, to you all,
Garth Aston, President

2e. North Shore Bridge Club Personnel



Our editor for the last six months has been **Kevin Davies**, a regular player at NSWBA, Club Willoughby and Congress Events.

MP Rank: Silver Grand Master (3485 MP)
Home Club: 2-006 NSWBA
Purchased a NSWBA perpetual membership as part of buying the clubroom.
Favourite bidding systems: Acol, Precision, 2/1

Main bridge achievements:

Too much time in bridge admin!

Foundation Secretary Central Coast BC,
Central Coast BC Committee – 10 yrs,
Lindfield BC Tournament Committee – 5 yrs,
Federation of Affiliated BCs – 3 yrs,
NSWBA House Committee – 5 yrs,
ABF – Inaugural Spring Nationals Convenor
NSBC – Committee member, now retired,
NSBC – Editor Newsletter Bulletin.

Too little Bridge success

Represented NSW at ANC (Seniors) x 2
Several congress and club events.

Education: Birmingham University.

Career: Telecom Engineer & Business Analyst (Telstra, Vodaphone, Optus).

Last main role: BA on Telco Systems.

Retired December 2012.

North Shore Bridge Club

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2f. US International playing at NSBC



Karen McCallum, a famed international bridge player, has been visiting from the USA. She played in the Xmas teams at the club on Thursday nights in December. She has famously issued 46 bridge rules to live by. Here are a few:

BID MORE ON THE FIRST ROUND.

Whenever possible, “Get it out of your system on the first round of the bidding” while it’s still safe to do so.

DON'T PLAY TO TRICK ONE UNTIL YOU HAVE A PLAN. Applies both to defenders and to declarer. If you don't know what you're playing for, don't play!

NEVER MAKE A PENALTY DOUBLE OF A PART-SCORE WITHOUT FOUR TRUMPS. (That means never!)

GET IN AND OUT EARLY. If you don't find a fit, get out of the bidding.

MAKE THE OPPONENTS MAKE THE LAST GUESS – NOT YOU. On highly competitive deals, bid as high as you are willing to go immediately, then get out and watch them deal with the problem

WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO – DO IT. Don't make partner guess

BID YOUR LONG SUITS – DON'T MAKE A TAKEOUT DOUBLE.

ALWAYS BELIEVE YOUR PARTNER. They are on your side! Trust the information they give you. Always assume that they know what they're doing, even when it looks as if they've lost their mind

We may include more in the Feb bulletin.

2g. From the Readers

We received this feedback from Russell Drake, now a regular player at the NSBC (Lindfield Venue):

"I'm a recent starter at the club and am enjoying the newsletter. Well done.

I'm particularly pleased you include Acol and Precision in your bidding lessons. I have not played at higher levels, but at the East Lindfield Thursday open session there is one Acol pair, and just myself and my partner playing Precision. We get mixed reactions from the others, sometimes a little hostile. So anything that makes me look less of a rogue is welcome.

Re Pat's problem:

In this article, Pat's message is "finessing into the safe hand". As the target audience of this section of the newsletter is the newer players, he has kept the explanation of the finesse simple, so as not to detract from the main point of the article. However, for the more experienced player there is more to this finesse than meets the eye!

Once West goes up with a low diamond to the 2nd diamond trick, North should play the 9♦, not the J♦. West could have 4 diamonds, for example QTxx, so playing the J♦ will promote his Q♦ and the contract goes down. Better still is to cross to the K♦ and lead the 8♦, covering whatever West plays. It matters not if East can beat the 9♦ with the T♦, for then the suit has split 3/2 and the Ace takes the Queen.

Hope you don't mind the feedback."
Russell Drake

Comments by Kevin Davies, Editor:

The Club teaches all our newer players the **Standard American bidding system**. It is a basic system, it works well and is a good place from which to learn bridge. There are many alternate bidding systems that may appear to be a mystery to newer players. They don't know how to bid against them and hence the apparent hostility.

At the NSBC we slowly introduce new concepts as players progress through Beginners, Supervised, Rookie, Restricted and finally into Open sessions of bridge. Our columns try to introduce some alternate bidding system structures. The most effective systems generally lead to the same contracts.

Russell's discussion point shows the impact of the **scoring method** on declarer play.

	North	
	♠ 42	
West	♥ A75	East
♠ QJ3	♦ AJ952	♠ 98765
♥ QJT98	♣ K86	♥ K63
♦ 43		♦ QT7
♣ QT7	South (dealer)	♣ 42
	♠ AKT	
	♥ 42	
	♦ K86	
	♣ AJ953	

Playing **Matchpoint duplicate** rewards **making overtricks**, and the finesse of the J♦ **into the safe hand** (after ducking the heart lead twice) would be the normal **expert declarer play at MPs**. This maximises the chance of making 10 tricks on most card distributions.

On the other hand, Swiss Pairs or **IMPs** scoring rewards **making the contract**. Here Russell's suggested play of the K♦ and then running the 8♦ unless covered, ensures the contract when West has QTxx. **This is the expert line** if you can afford to lose a trick. But it will often lose an **unnecessary trick** that can be costly in Match Points scoring. This play is the best **IMP technical play** to ensure your contract and is often called a **safety play**.

Playing in the EL or CW Open **Match Point sessions**, it does matter when you finesse the 9♦ and lose to the 10♦ as your **MP score will be reduced**. Most of the time everybody who plays J♦ will score better than you. When the cards break badly, you will get a **top score**, as most would then go down. But most declarers will still score an **average minus**; staying with the field at match point scoring. Personally, I think it would be good to have more IMP style events (Teams or Swiss Pairs or Butler Pairs) sessions at NSBC.

NEW IDEAS by Nick Fahrer

Rather than giving us a book review this month, Nick has given us a new bidding gadget to ponder.

“After thirty years hanging around the Sydney bridge scene, you learn who to listen to and whose ideas have merit. Here’s a nifty gadget I picked up from Liam Milne, one of Australia’s leading players – I put it to good use in the Club Mixed Teams Championship.

After you open 2♣ (strong) and partner makes a negative or waiting bid of 2♦, you next bid your longest suit or notrumps if you are balanced. But sometimes a major suit fit is lost if you first show a long strong minor by rebidding 3♣ or 3♦. Liam has tweaked this to cater for hands that have a 4-card major on the side. Here is his rebid structure:

After 2♣-2♦, opener bids:

- 2♥ or 2♠ – strong 5+ card suit
- 2NT – 23+ balanced
- 3♣ – long, strong clubs – may have a side 4 card major
 - 3♦ by responder is Stayman:
 - Opener bids a 4 card Major or otherwise, something else.
- 3♦ – long diamonds, no side 4 card major
- 3♥ – long diamonds with exactly 4 hearts
- 3♠ – long diamonds with exactly 4 spades

Here it is in action in the Mixed Teams:

♠	K	♠	A543
♥	AKJ5	♥	Q742
♦	A	♦	K7643
♣	AK98742	♣	--

West	N	East	S
2♣ (game force)	P	2♦ (waiting)	p
3♣ long clubs	P	3♦ do you have a 4-card Maj	p
3♥ hearts!	P	4NT RKC for hearts	p
5♣ 4 or 1 key cards	P	7♥ (with confidence)	p
Pass	P		

7♥ was bid just three times out of 20 tables.

How would you and your favourite partner bid these two hands?”

North Shore Bridge Club

Manager: Mike Prescott Phone: 0435 528 872
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Comment by Kevin Davies, editor:

A useful bidding tool that manages 6m/4M shapes well. The bidding is typical of the aggressive IMP style bridge, looking for the slam bonus. Taking the results from the 20 Tables in the NSBC Mixed teams where this hand was played, and rescoring by both **Match Points** and Swiss pairs **IMPs**:

Fequ	Con	D	T	Score	NS - Match Point Score		
2	7♥	S	13	1510	37	97%	TOP=
2	6♥	N	13	1010	33	87%	Good
5	6♥	N	12	980	26	68%	Good
1	4♥	N	12	480	20	53%	Avr
3	5♣	S	11	400	16	42%	Avr-
3	6♣	S	11	-50	7	18%	Poor
1	6NT	S	11	-50	7	18%	Poor
1	5♦	S	9	-100	2	5%	Bot=
1	6NT	S	10	-100	2	5%	Bot=
1	7♥	S	11	-100	2	5%	Bot=
20					Max MP = (19x2) 38		

At Match Point scoring you gained only 4 MPs (**10%**) for bidding the Grand Slam vs the Small Slam results. **Just staying in 6♥ gets a good MP score (26-33 MPs - 68-87%)** Bidding 7♥ wins **+10%** but risks losing **-82%**.

Fequ	Con	D	T	Score	NS - IMP score		
					Diff	IMP	
2	7♥	S	13	1510	1030	14	Good
2	6♥	N	13	1010	530	11	Good
5	6♥	N	12	980	500	11	Good
1	4♥	N	12	480	0	0	Avr
3	5♣	S	11	400	-80	-2	Fair
3	6♣	S	11	-50	-530	-11	Poor
1	6NT	S	11	-50	-530	-11	Poor
1	5♦	S	9	-100	-580	-11	Poor
1	6NT	S	10	-100	-580	-11	Poor
1	7♥	S	11	-100	-580	-11	Poor
20					Average score = 480		

At IMPs scoring you gain 11 - 14 IMPs for the slam bonuses, but lose significantly (**-11 IMPs**) for going down. Better reward / risk at IMPs. Bidding 7♥ wins **+14 IMPs** but could lose **-11 IMPs**.

The scoring **difference** is determined by comparing your score against the **average score**. Here the average score was 4♥=480. At IMPs scoring **you need to make your contract** (going **minus** loses lots of IMPs).

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3. Club Events in December 2018

Christmas Parties

2018 Christmas Party @ East Lindfield		
Pos	EL Open NS (23 Tables)	%
1	Janet Crocker & June Straw	62.48%
2	Michael Clarey & Penny Clarey	61.44%
Pos	EL Open EW (23 Tables)	%
1	Vivienne Kissane & Rosalind Hayden	58.43%
2	Susi Burn & Brian Burn	55.53%



2018 Christmas Party @ Club Willoughby		
Pos	CW Open NS (36 Tables)	%
1	Judy Osie & David Osie	64.53%
2	Les Varadi & Tom Goodyer	63.38%
Pos	CW Open EW (36 Tables)	%
1	Alicia Mercer & Judy Twigg	60.70%
2	Marlaine Gahan & Ming Li	58.36%



XMAS daytime Teams @ Club Willoughby			
Pos	CW Open Daytime Teams	VP	W-L-D
1	David Smee, Derek Maltz, Edward Truscott, Alexis Ngan	98.58	5-1-0
2	Peter Marshall, Mark Moscow, Sunny Pang, Margaret Owen, Peter Bendelstein (sub)	80.95	4-0-2



**Winners: Ed, David, Derek, Alexis
CW Xmas Teams (daytime)**

East Lindfield UHMP Congress

UHMP Congress @ East Lindfield			
Pos	Cat	Congress Outright Winners (2 Sessions)	%
1	B	Owen Aubrey & John Bartrop	120.7%
2	A	Paulina Martin & Ming Li	114.3%
3	A	Martin Brown & Gail McKenzie	111.9%

UHMP Congress @ East Lindfield (State wide Hands 1 Session only)			
Pos	A	<100-50 MP section	%
2	A	Owen Aubrey & John Bartrop	60.4%
Pos	B	<50-25 MP section	%
1	B	Paulina Martin & Ming Li	66.4%
Pos	C	<25-10 MP section	%
Best	C	Susan Eason & Sandy Carter	53.0%
Pos	D	<10 MP section	%
Best	D	Felix Shteyman & Simon Vinson	44.9%



Winners: Owen & John



Second outright: Ming & Paulina

2018 Under 100MP Results

The results for the 2018 Under 100MP Championships have been finalised. Congratulations to **Paulina Martin - Ming Li** from North Shore Bridge Club @ Lindfield who were the **NSW Champions** on handicap

XMAS Teams Championship

Xmas Teams Championship @ Club Willoughby			
Pos	CW Open Thursday Night Teams	VP	W-L-D
1	Giselle Mundell - Avril Zets - Judy Osie - Witold Chylewski (Jun) - Hymie Osie(sub) - David Osie (sub)	88.49	5-1-0
2	Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill - Karen McCallum - Axel Johannsson	86.63	4-0-2
3	Colin Thomas, Alicia Mercer (sub), George Finikiotis , Kevin Davies, Leo Goorevich	73.13	4-0-2



Winners: Avril, Judy, Withold, Giselle



Runners up: Liz, Karen, Peter, Axel

Public Holiday – Red Point Events

Boxing Day - Red Point Events			%
EL 9:30am	NS	Ian Hoschke & Sylvia Billingham	61.61%
	EW	Pam Koroknay & Kim Black	58.47%
EL 1:00pm	NS	Chris Duggin & Jocelyn Bertram	66.07%
	EW	Catherine Else & Jenny Barnes	56.88%
CW 1:00pm	NS	Judy Osie & Hymie Osie	61.16%
	EW	Lynleigh Evans & Mary Carter	59.67%

December 2018 Monthly Winners

2018 Club Monthly Comp		2018 December Winners at East Lindfield
Mon	Open 9:30am	Mary Harrington & Don Mullineux
	Open 1pm	John Bartrop & Owen Aubrey
Tue	Open 10am	Fran Campbell & Sallie Quarles
	S'vised 2pm	Jill Hawker & Anna Smit
	Rookie 2pm	David de Carle & Fleur de Carle
	S'vised 7pm	N/Q
Wed	Open 10pm	Jan Wilson & Esther Lee
Thu	Open 1pm	Lois Chambers & Rushi Sheth
Fri	Open 10am	Ed Truscott & Alexis Ngan
Sat	Open 1pm	Margot Lander & Judy Sharp

2018 Club Monthly Comp		2018 December Winners at Club Willoughby
Mon	Open 10am	Maurice Loomes & Rachael Loomes
	Restr 10am	Robyn Rogers & John Leathart
	S'vised 2pm	Christine Roberts & Caroline Needham
	Rookie 2pm	Louise Reid & Anne Galbraith
	Open 7:30pm	Anna Kohler & Hubert Dittrich
Tue	S'vised 10am	Catherine McReady & Doug Leigh
	Rookie 10am	Penelope Lanser & Sally Mitchell
	Open 1pm	Malcolm Clift & Kathy Clift
	Open 7:30pm	John Heike & Wendy Whalley
	S'vised 7:30pm	
	Rookie 7:30pm	Len Quilter & Lyn Quilter
Wed	Open 10am	Hymie Osie & Liz Wilkinson
	Restr 10am	Helen Pavli & Jeetha Withana
	S'vised 2pm	N/Q
	Rookie 2pm	Christina Pender & David Goodliffe
	Open 7:30pm	Mark Moskow & Peter Bendelstein
Thu	Open 10am	Neil Perry & John Mottram
	Rookie 2pm	N/Q
Fri	Open 10am	Ian Bailey & Esther Lee
	Restr 10am	Brett SLATER & David Goodliffe
Sat	Open 1pm	Maurice Loomes & Rachael Loomes
Sun	Open 1pm	N/Q

Upcoming Events in January

The Australia Day holiday is on **Monday 28th January**, for more **RED point** events!

East Lindfield is open for normal session times (9:30 and 1:00) and both will be **RED point** duplicate games.

Club Willoughby is also open for a **RED point** duplicate game at 1pm.



Australia Day Australia Day Australia Day Australia Day

Australia Day Pairs

Club Willoughby

1 Monday Day Session: 1:00pm
28th January

Red Points

Normal Table Fees

Australia Day Australia Day Australia Day Australia Day



Australia Day Australia Day Australia Day Australia Day

Australia Day Pairs

East Lindfield

28th January
9:30am
and/or
1:00pm

Red Points

Normal Table Fees

Australia Day Australia Day Australia Day Australia Day

Canberra Match Point Pairs

As the Canberra Summer Nationals are early this year, the first Club Willoughby Thursday night championship event of the year is a 2/3 "Canberra Matchpoint Pairs".

In this event you can play in any of the three sessions, but to win the championship event you will need to play in at least two sessions, with your best two scores counting.

- Warm-up for Canberra on the 3rd Jan,
- Missing Seniors / Women – play on 10th,
- Missing the Open teams – play on the 17th.

These are **RED Point Events**.

Last year's winners were:

2018 - Canberra Pairs Champions	
1st	Arthur Ramer & Axel Johannsson



BRIDGE BRIDGE

Canberra Matchpoint Pairs

Club Willoughby

Thursday Nights: 7:30pm

3 Sessions:
3rd January
10th January
17th January

Red Point Event

\$15/Session for Members
\$20/Session for Non Members

BRIDGE BRIDGE

NSBC Men's and Women's Pairs Championships

These are the first and second of 12 events counting towards the **2019 Club champion**.

Club Champion Qualifying Event

Run over four Thursday nights at Club Willoughby, starting on 24th January at 7:30 pm, these are **RED Point events**.
Format: Two separate fields of Women's and Men's pairs; the structure will be dependent on entries.

Last year's winners were:

2018 Men's Pairs Champions	
1st	George Finikiotis & Cevat Emul
2018 Women's Pairs Champions	
1st	Giselle Mundell & Rena Kaplan

This year is the **56th year** that this event has been run, initially at Lindfield and then continued by the NSBC. **Will you get your names added to our honour boards?**



Men's & Women's Pairs
Club Willoughby

4 Thursday Night Sessions: 7:30pm

24th January
31st January
7th February
14th February

Red Point Event

\$60 Members
\$80 Non Members



Blue Ribbon Pairs

This is the third of 12 events counting towards the **2019 Club champion**.

Club Champion Qualifying Event

The "Blue Ribbon Pairs" is the **premiere East Lindfield pairs championship**. It is run over three sessions on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm at East Lindfield, starting on 29th January. Likely format: sum of three sessions' percentages to determine the winner.

This is a **RED Point event**.

Last year's winners were:

2018 - EL Blue Ribbon Pairs Champions	
1st	Leo Goorevich & Kevin Davies

This year is the **2nd year** that this event has been run at East Lindfield **Will you get your names added to our honour boards?**



BLUE RIBBON
Pairs Championship

East Lindfield

3 Tuesday Night Sessions: 7:30pm

29 January
05 February
12 February

Red Points

\$45 Members
\$60 Non Members



CW State Mixed Pairs (day time qualifying)

The State Mixed Pairs (day time) qualifying will be run over 3 sessions on Tuesdays at 1pm at Club Willoughby, starting on 29th January. Format: Sum of 3 sessions percentages to determine the winners. This is a **RED Point Event**.

The winners will be requested to represent NSBC in the State Mixed Pairs finals at the NSWBA on 25/26th May 2019.

Last year's winners were:

2018 CW State Mixed Pairs (Day time) Winners	
1st	Angie Boulton & Peter Boulton



Mixed State Pairs
Club Willoughby

3 Tuesday Daytime Sessions: 1:00pm

29th January
5th February
12th February

Red Point Event

\$45 Members
\$60 Non Members



You can find **your current Masterpoint ranking** at the **ABF Masterpoint Centre** by either your Name or ABF Number: Type this link into your browser and explore the site!

<http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/myawards.asp>

Club Mixed Championship Pairs

This is the fourth of 12 events counting towards the **2019 Club champion**.

Club Champion Qualifying Event

Run over 4 Thursday nights at Club Willoughby, starting on 28th February at 7:30 pm, this is a **RED Point event**. The winners will represent the NSBC in the State Mixed Pairs finals at the NSWBA on 25/26th May. Format: Two session qualifying followed by a Grand Final and a Consolation Final, structure dependent on entries. Last year's winners:

2018 NSBC Mixed Pairs Champions	
1st	Liz Wilkinson & Patrick Neary

This year is the **32nd year** that this event has been run, initially at Lindfield and then continued by the NSBC. **Will your names be added to our honour boards?**



State Mixed Pairs
Qualifying
Club Willoughby

4 Night Sessions
Thursday :7:30pm

28th February
7th March
14th March
21st March

Red Point Event

\$60 Members
\$80 Non Members



3d. NSBC Events Calendar


JANUARY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
		EL - 1pm CW - 1pm All Red Points NEW YEARS DAY	1	2	CW - Canberra Matchpoint Pairs 7.30pm 1/3	3	4	5
	7	8	Summer Festival	9	CW - Canberra Matchpoint Pairs 7.30pm 2/3 Summer Festival	10	Summer Festival	11
	Summer Festival	14	Summer Festival	15	Summer Festival	16	Summer Festival	17
					CW - Canberra Matchpoint Pairs 7.30pm 3/3	18	Summer Festival	19
					CW - Men's & Women's Pairs 7.30pm 1/4	24		25
							Australia Day	26
	EL-9.30am & 1pm CW-1pm All Redpoints Australia Day (holiday)	28	EL-Pairs Blue Ribbon Pairs 7.30pm 1/3 CW-State Mixed Pairs 1pm 1/3	29	30	CW - Men's & Women's Pairs 7.30pm 2/4		31

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2	3
4	EL-Pairs Blue Ribbon Pairs 7.30pm 1/3 CW-State Mixed Pairs 1pm 1/3	5	6	CW - Men's & Women's Pairs 7.30pm 3/4	8	9	10
11	EL-Pairs Blue Ribbon Pairs 7.30pm 1/3 CW-State Mixed Pairs 1pm 1/3	12	13	CW - Men's & Women's Pairs 7.30pm 4/4	Gold Coast Congress	15	Gold Coast Congress
Gold Coast Congress	18	Gold Coast Congress	19	Gold Coast Congress	20	Gold Coast Congress	21
				No Night Session			
				Gold Coast Congress	22	Gold Coast Congress	23
25	26	27	28	CW - State Mixed Pairs Qualifying 7.30pm 1/4			

FEBRUARY

“**Australian Bridge**” is the 6-issue bridge magazine focused on the Australian bridge scene. Copies are held in our Library along with other magazines. The online Novice edition is a recent idea.


AB Website images: www.australianbridge.com.



Welcome to the December issue of Australian Bridge magazine. This month Sartaj Hans reports on his team's huge win in the Open Playoff, and David Morgan gives his annual report on the best books of the year.

There are also regular columns from David Bird, Kim Frazer, Tim Bourke and Andrew Robson.

Not a subscriber? Click [here](#) to sign up now.




NOVICE EDITION
For less experienced players, maybe you'd prefer our new Novice magazine. The Novice edition is an ONLINE magazine. Existing novice subscribers log in [here](#), or click [here](#) to subscribe now.

Contact us

Phone: 0412 335 840

Email: mail@australianbridge.com

Post: PO Box 7251
Greenway ACT 2900



4. Our Game of Bridge

Ethics of our game

Be a good sport

We all play bridge because we love it. Help make the game fun for everyone by observing the few simple proprieties that make bridge fair and enjoyable.

Play tough but fair

Play tough, be competitive, but be a good sport.

- Be pleasant to the opponents (and partner!). Welcome new opponents to your table. Don't conduct lengthy post-mortems.
- Don't stare at opponents, their cards, or where in their hand they play a card from.
- If you think an experienced opponent may have done something inappropriate, speak privately to the official recorder.
- Slow players – make the effort to catch up; it's not fair to use more than your share of the clock, and finishing late disrupts the schedule. Claim if it's clear.

Make beginners welcome

New players are the future of the game we love.

- Make a special effort to explain your bidding fully to less experienced players, and remember they may not know the methods and conventions you are using.
- When claiming, state your line clearly and explain it if required. Less experienced players may not see it as quickly as you.
- If opponents don't yet know the bridge code of behaviour, explain (politely!) – even better, refer them to this code.

Tell the opponents what they need to know about your system

Your opponents are entitled to know as much about your system and style as your partner does ... the only secret in bridge is what cards you hold.

- Provide two fully completed system cards

- Make every effort through alerts and explanations to tell your opponents what they need to know about your system.

No trickery, no tip-offs

You must not try to help your partner or fool your opponents by anything but the bids you make and cards you play ... bridge is not poker!

- Don't tip partner off – and ignore partner's tips. Ethical players will try to avoid revealing mannerisms, and make a point of ignoring any information they accidentally get from partner's hesitations or mannerisms.
- Don't deceive the opponents by hesitations or mannerisms. If you accidentally hesitate without a problem, apologise: "sorry – I didn't have any reason to hesitate. I was asleep!"

Correct misexplanations as soon as you can

If partner accidentally misinforms the opponents, you can't give a correction during the bidding (because you mustn't tell partner the correct explanation).

- If your side becomes declarer, you **must** give the correct explanation **before** the opponents make their opening lead.
- If your side ends up defending, apologise and give the correct explanation at the end of the hand. Call the director if opponents may have been damaged – that's why they are there!

Hesitations

You are allowed to think!

- But if you do take a long time over something, it shows you had other choices. Your partner must not use that information to influence what they do later.
- If partner hesitates, you can still pass, double or bid whatever you want (but without – even subconsciously – using the knowledge that partner apparently had other options).

Extract from NSWBA website

5. Bidding Challenge Solutions

First Hand:

West	NV	East	D	NV
♠ Q J 9 8 5		♠ A K 10		
♥ 8		♥ A K Q J 9		
♦ A 9 8 5		♦ Q		
♣ J 10 2		♣ A K 4 3		

This hand should be bid to 6♣ by all players (MP or IMP) and even to 7♠ by IMP players.

Suggested Standard Bidding			
West	N	East	S
		2♣ - GF	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠ - GF	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT - Keycard (♠)	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦ - Q♠?	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Suggested Standard Bidding		
Bid	Notes	
E 2♣	Strong 3 loser hand	
W 2♦	Waiting, need AK to bid	
E 2♥	5+ ♥	
W 2♠	5+ ♠ some values, else 2NT	
E 3♠	GF raise sets ♠ as trumps	
W 4♦	Cue = good raise, 4♠ = poor raise, signoff	
E 4NT	Keycard (♠)	
W 5♣	4 or 1 Keycards in ♠	
E 5♦	do you have Q♠?	
W 6♠	yes, but no King to cue!	
E Pass	Should be a good spot	
IMPs	An IMP (teams bidder) may push on to 7♠ looking for the grand slam bonus . It is good odds: 60% with 2 clubs needing ruffing, spades no worse than 3-2 and the fifth heart has to stand up. Or a high cross ruff line, if the opponents don't lead a trump.	
MPs	A PAIRS player would normally settle for 6♠ (stay with the field)	

Second Hand:

West	V	East	D	V
♠ 9		♠ A J 8 6 5 2		
♥ A K Q 10 9 4		♥ J 8 6		
♦ 4 3		♦ K 7		
♣ K J 7 5		♣ A 6		

This hand should be bid to 4♥ by all players (MPs and IMPs), but a few IMPs players will try for the slam bonus.

Suggested Standard Bidding			
West	N	East	S
		1♠	Pass
2♥ - 5+ H	Pass	3♥ - Support min	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Suggested Standard Bidding			
West	N	East	S
		1♠	Pass
2♥ - 5+ H	Pass	3♥ - Support min	Pass
4♣ - Cue	Pass	4♦ - Cue	Pass
4NT (♥)	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Suggested Standard Bidding		
Bid	Notes	
E 1♠	5+ ♠ Opening hand	
W 2♥	5+ ♥ Forcing in Std, GF in 2/1	
E 3♥	3+ ♥ Support min STD, GF Agrees suit 2/1	
W 4♥	Signoff 4♥ (Matchpoints)	
E Pass		
MP	In MP PAIRS West should settle for 4♥ & look for Overtricks to get a good score	
Bid	extra bidding Notes (IMPS)	
W 4♣	Cue or Suit - Slam try (IMPS)	
E 4♦	Cue Feature in ♦	
W 4NT	keycard (♥)	
E 5♥	5H= 2 Keycards - but no Q♥	
W 6♥	Should be a good spot?	
IMP	The suggested bidding to 6♥ is an aggressive IMPS bid . It is a poor final 50% contract with the K♦ exposed on opening lead. Needs the A♦ to be onside!	

A poor slam (50%) with the K♦ exposed to the opening lead. Likely requires the A♦ onside, or if a diamond is not led, then A♣, finesse the Q♣, discard East's 7♦ on the K♣.

6. Teaching Corner

Pat O'Connor Bridge Problem

Provided by Pat from his excellent series of books:

North
 ♠ AJ76
 ♥ A986
 ♦ 43
 ♣ KQ6

South
 ♠ K54
 ♥ KJ753
 ♦ A95
 ♣ T7

You are sitting South. The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
3♦	X	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West opens 3♦. This is a pre-emptive bid showing a hand with seven diamonds and less than an opening bid. Your partner doubles showing a good opening hand with a shortage in diamonds and support for the other suits. You have close to an opening hand with five hearts so you jump to 4♥ which becomes the final contract.

West leads the ♦K. How will you play the hand?

Initial Analysis

You have one loser in spades, two in diamonds, one in clubs and a possible loser in hearts. That's too many! One diamond loser can be ruffed in dummy, so you would like to avoid losing a trick in trumps.

How should you play this hand? Read on for the solution.

Want to keep learning?
 Call Anita Curtis on 0405 449 767
 or email ac210927@bigpond.net.au

Keep learning with Anita Curtis

Build on the Basics introduces new ideas, together with play analysis and techniques.

BUILD ON THE BASICS with Anita Curtis @ CW 2hr sessions Wednesday @ 7:30pm & Thursdays @ 10:30am		
Wed Jan 2 & Thur Jan 3, 2019	Hand Analysis 3 & consolidation	Hand Analysis 3 & consolidation
Wed Jan 9 & Thur Jan 10, 2019	Hello - is anyone there? (with Liz Wilkinson)	Stayman over 1NT, 2NT & 1NT overcalls
No Lessons on January 16th & 17th		
Wed Jan 23 & Thur Jan 24, 2019	I am NOT playing this contract!	Major suit Transfers over 1NT, 2NT & 1NT Overcalls
Wed Jan 30 & Thur Jan 31, 2019	Hand Analysis & consolidation	Final Hand Analysis
Restart of Build on Basics Course		
Wed Feb 6 & Thur Feb 7, 2019	NT delight	1NT & 2NT openings; ways to make your contract
Wed Feb 13 & Thur Feb 14, 2019	I prefer a suit	When to take opener out of 1NT into a suit
Wed Feb 20 & Thur Feb 21, 2019	I don't have the right number of points to open 1NT! (with Liz Wilkinson)	NT rebids
Wed Feb 27 & Thur Feb 28, 2019	Focus on Defence in NTs	Focus on Defence in No Trumps

Develop Your Skills further develops bidding and play skills, to bring players up to an intermediate level.

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS with Anita Curtis @ CW (2hr Sessions Thursdays @ 2pm)		
Thur Jan 3, 2019	Do you know how to play this NT contract?	Declarer play
No Lessons on January 10th & 17th		
Thur Jan 24, 2019	Do you know how to play this SUIT contract?	Declarer play
Thur Jan 31, 2019	DYS Hand Analysis - all skills	Hand Analysis
Thur 7 Feb, 2019	DYS Hand Analysis	Hand Analysis
Thur 14 Feb, 2019	Build on the Basics Hand Analysis	Hand Analysis

Broaden Your Game for intermediate players with typically 3 years of Bridge experience will recommence Friday 1st February, 2019.

BROADEN YOUR GAME / INTERMEDIATE with Anita Curtis @ CW (2hr Sessions @ 2pm)		
No lessons scheduled for Jan 2019; restarts in February 2019		
Fri 1 Feb, 2019	Hand Analysis	Eddie Kantar Thinking Bridge - all skills
Fri 8 Feb, 2019	Win the bidding in competition using Cue Raises	Invitational or pre-emptive raise? Get the best of both worlds in the bidding. Then play some Eddie Kantar hands
Fri 15 Feb, 2019	Competitive bidding after a Takeout X	Responding to a takeout X might seem easy but Eddie Kantar will challenge you!
Fri 22 Feb, 2019	No Lessons	

Short Classes at East Lindfield:

On Friday mornings at East Lindfield at 9:30am, our manager Mike Prescott gives a free half-hour lesson aimed at all levels of player.

Do then stay on to enjoy the facilities and play in the 10am Open game.

Opportunities to play:

Supervised sessions at Club Willoughby:

- Monday afternoons at 2pm with Sue,
- Tuesday mornings at 10am with Kim,
- Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm with John,
- Wednesday afternoons at 2pm with Liz.

Supervised sessions at East Lindfield:

- Tuesday afternoons at 2pm with Sue,
- Tuesday evenings at 7pm with Sue.

Rookie sessions at Club Willoughby:

- Monday afternoons at 2pm with Sue,
- Tuesday mornings at 10am with Kim,
- Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm with John,
- Wednesday afternoons at 2pm with Liz,
- Thursday afternoons at 2pm with Johnno.

Rookie sessions at East Lindfield:

- Tuesday afternoons at 2pm with Sue.

Restricted sessions at Club Willoughby:

- Monday mornings at 10am,
- Wednesday mornings at 10am,
- Friday mornings at 10am.

Note that there is a 15-minute talk on a bidding or play topic, before both the Supervised and Rookie sessions.

Want to play in these sessions?

Just come along,
with or without a partner.

Ready for even more challenges?

Both the ABF Summer Nationals in Canberra and the ABF Gold Coast congress are offering multiple events for the newer player. There are plenty of you who are ready to make this major step forward!

ABF Summer Nationals

You've still got time to enter the **ABF Summer Nationals** bridge festival in **Canberra**

1. 1-day **Novice TEAMS** (<100 MP) on Wednesday 9th January at 10am. \$200/team, prizes for various grades.
2. 2-day National Novice (<100MP) **Match Point Swiss Pairs** on 10-11 January. **\$220/Pair**. Prizes for various grades.
3. 2-day Novice (<100MP) **IMP Swiss Pairs** on the weekend 12-13 January. **\$250/Pair** Category prizes for various grades.

For full details, follow this link to their website:

<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/not/2019/docs/2019SFOBEventsForNovicePairs.pdf>

ABF Gold Coast Congress

The **ABF Gold Coast Congress** Bridge Festival is held in Broadbeach Queensland, the week beginning Sunday 17th February. This year it is offering several events for the newer players:

1. Rookie pairs: 0 – 10 Masterpoints
2. 0 – 50 Masterpoint Pairs
3. Friday Novice Pairs (0 – 100 Masterpoints)
4. Novice Pairs Championships (0 – 100 Masterpoints)
5. Novice Teams (0 – 100 Masterpoints)

For full details, follow this link to their website:

<https://www.qldbridge.com.au/gcc/2019/noviceEvents.pdf>

Some thoughts on becoming a bridge player, from a newer player

Caroline Needham started in the Beginners class with Liz Wilkinson in February 2018. Here are her thoughts on getting into this enthralling game of ours.

“Long ago, working as a young lawyer in Vancouver, an older friend and avid bridge player told me with a smile “Never take up bridge or golf before the age of 55, Caroline, or you will achieve nothing in your career”.

Later, after returning to Sydney, I asked my parents to teach me bridge. Both were very able players, however it seemed they had different views on how to teach me, and I clearly had no aptitude. My mother bought me the Beginners Guide by Ron Klinger and suggested that might be the best way for me to learn...but I didn't.

Fast forward a few decades to four years ago, when ill health brought my career to a sudden stop. I had a chance conversation with a nice woman who happened to be sitting next to me in a Mosman cafe. She was sympathetic to my circumstances and told me how much she enjoyed her bridge. She suggested that if I wanted to learn, the Willoughby Club was a very pleasant place to go. What good advice that was.

Remembering our chat, earlier this year, when I felt well enough, I started in Liz's beginners' course at Club Willoughby. The experience exceeded expectations. One could not have a more enjoyable introduction to the game, or a more engaging and delightful teacher. With Kay assisting and quietly guiding and encouraging, they somehow managed to instill confidence where none was justified.

Another happy coincidence, and I met someone in the beginners' course to play with. We have continued to learn and play together in the supervised sessions. We were thrilled

to be among the early recipients of the monthly prize in our supervised game!

Without such a happy and supportive environment, would I have persevered? I was lucky to find the Club and finally make a start. I now have a wonderful new interest.

Thank you to all.” **From Caroline Needham**

I made my 5C contract, so why does the Bridgemate say we got 0%?

This is a question that is often asked in the Supervised and Rookie games, and indeed it does seem very unfair!

You need to remember that your score is being compared to the score of all the other pairs who have played this hand. If others were in 3NT making 9 tricks they would have equaled you. If they were in 3NT making 10 or 11 tricks they would have beaten you. If they were in 5C making 12 tricks they would have beaten you. If they were in 6C making 12 tricks – well, they deserved a top board!!

Or say you are in a competitive auction with a heart fit for your side and a spade fit for the opponents; you have to decide how high you should bid. It's very disappointing if you get to 3H and go 1 down for 50 to the bad guys, only to find that at other tables the contract was left at 2S by them, and they were also 1 down, for 50 to you! If they can make their 2S contract though, that's 110 to them. Now if your 3H goes 1 down and you aren't vulnerable, giving them only 50 – it's a good result. Even if you're vulnerable it's still OK. But if you're 2 down? Now vulnerability is relevant, as is doubling for penalties . . . but that's a whole other story! Bridge is not an exact science!

To understand why this happens, you need to understand the scoring system, so see the bridge scoring summary (next page) as a reminder of how it works.

Which are our favourite contracts? Our favourite game contracts are the majors, followed by NTs, followed by the minors. And the scoring is one of the key reasons.

Why the majors as first choice?

You need 10 tricks to get the game bonus. That's 1 trick more than a 3NT contract BUT with an 8-card (or better) trump fit you can usually make at least one extra trick by ruffing.

Why 3NT as your second choice?

You only need 9 tricks to get the game bonus, it's the least number of tricks needed for game, and the scoring is the best because of that 40 for the first trick. But it's always risky; if the opponents can establish a long suit that you can't stop, you are in trouble!

Why are the minors your last choice?

They have nothing going for them! You need 11 tricks to get the game bonus, that's a lot! And they score the lowest at only 20 a trick. But sometimes **they are the correct – and only – choice**, and then you must close your eyes and hope that the defenders don't take the first 3 tricks!

Effects of Match Point Scoring:

The bridge scores above are all ranked and converted into match points by the duplicate bridge scoring program. Remember.

- 2 points for each score you better
- 1 point for each score you equal
- 0 point where they better your score

These match points are usually expressed as **percentages** in the **Bridgemates** and in Pianola. Now, back to your problem: **5C making** but low percentage board score in the Bridgemate. A typical situation:

Freq	Con	T	Score	MP	%	Comment
1	3NT	11	460	10	100%	TOP
2	3NT	10	430	7	70%	Good
2	4S	10	420	3	30%	Fair
1	5C	11	400	0	0%	Bottom
Tables=6				Max MP =5x2 = 10		

You played well and made 11 tricks, but still **got a bottom score!** Hope this helps you to understand the impact of the MP scoring. You must **choose a high scoring contract** if you want to do well!

The SCORING SYSTEM

Bonuses and “undertricks”: Bid and make a part score contract and receive a bonus of **50**. Bid and make game and receive a bonus of **300** not vulnerable, and **500** vulnerable. When you go down, it costs **50** a trick not vulnerable, and **100** a trick vulnerable.

Successful Major suit contracts: Each trick over 6 scores you 30:

2S making 8 tricks scores $(2 \times 30) + 50 = 110$.
2S making 10 tricks scores $(4 \times 30) + 50 = 170$.

So, making 10 tricks instead of 8 (2 overtricks) scores 170 instead of 110, but as you didn't bid the game you only get the part-score bonus. If you bid game:

4S making 10 tricks, **not vulnerable**, scores $(4 \times 30) + 300 = 420$.

Successful NT contracts: The first trick over 6 scores 40, extra tricks score 30:

1NT making 7 tricks scores $40 + 50 = 90$.
1NT making 9 tricks gets $40 + (2 \times 30) + 50 = 150$.

So, making 9 tricks instead of 7 scores 150 instead of 90, but as you didn't bid the game you only get the part-score bonus. If you bid game:

3NT making 9 tricks, **vulnerable**, scores $40 + (2 \times 30) + 500 = 600$.

Successful Minor suit contracts: Each trick over 6 scores you only 20:

2D making 11 tricks scores $(5 \times 20) + 50 = 150$.

So, making 11 tricks instead of 8 scores 150 instead of 90, but as you didn't bid the game you only get the part-score bonus. If you bid the game:

5D making 11 tricks, **not vulnerable**, scores $(5 \times 20) + 300 = 400$.

5D making 11 tricks, **vulnerable**, scores $(5 \times 20) + 500 = 600$.

The Solution to Pat's Problem

You win the A ♦ in your hand, East following suit. There is no reason to postpone drawing trumps, so you lead the 3♥ to the Ace, both opponents following suit, and lead the 6♥ from dummy. East follows with the T♥. Which card do you play from your hand – the King or the Jack?

The full deal:

	North	
	♠ AJ76	
West	♥ A986	East
♠ 93	♦ 43	♠ QT82
♥ 4	♣ KQ6	♥ QT2
♦ KQJT862		♦ 7
♣ J98	South (dealer)	♣ A5432
	♠ K54	
	♥ KJ753	
	♦ A95	
	♣ T7	

There is an old bridge adage “eight ever, nine never”. This means that with **eight** cards missing the Queen you should always finesse but with **nine** cards you should play for the drop. Playing for the drop here means cashing the Ace and then the King, hoping that the Queen will fall.

The “eight ever” part is generally true but the “nine never” is a big exaggeration. With nine cards missing the Queen, the odds slightly favour the drop but it is still close to even money.

Here you know that West started with seven diamonds and, because you and dummy have five between you, East must have started with only one. East has much more room in their hand for the Q ♥ than West so you should assume that East has the Q ♥ and play the Jack from your hand. The Jack wins and you then draw the Queen with the King.

Now you can lead a club from your hand towards the King and Queen in dummy. If West has the Ace (very unlikely after the pre-empt), you can discard your spade loser on a club.

That doesn't work here, so try the spade finesse. Play the K♠, then lead a small one towards dummy and insert the Jack. This also fails here but you are still able to ruff a diamond in dummy and make ten tricks.

KEY Point

In a 9-card suit missing the Queen, it is usual to play the Ace and King, but the odds change dramatically after an opponent pre-empts in another suit.

Have you heard this new definition of the 8-ever, 9-never rule? It's the status quo whenever you raise 2NT to 3NT . . .

Guidelines for Announcing:

The two bids that must be “announced” are 1♣ and 1NT. Why do we do this?

Because most of us have learnt the Standard American bidding system, we know what the opponents mean when they open 1♣ or 1NT. However, as you move up through the levels of game, you will play against people who use different bidding systems such as Acol or Precision. In these systems, 1♣ and 1NT openings mean something quite different.

One of the basic tenets of bidding in bridge is that the other pair are entitled to know what your bids mean. So rather than you having to ask what their 1♣ and 1NT openings mean, the bidder's partner must immediately **tell** you as an “announcement”. Note that it is the bidder's **partner** who does the announcing.

What does that mean in practice?

Be on the alert, so that when your partner opens the bidding with 1♣ or 1NT, you immediately say words to the effect “that's a minimum of 3” or “that's 15 to 17”.

In the Rookie game we are slack about this, but it's an important habit to get into, especially if you ever intend to move up the ranks!

Guidelines for Alerting next time.

Beginners Courses next in 2019:

Liz Wilkinson
02 9411 3527



Teacher

Ed Barnes
02 9411 3527



Teacher

Introduction to Bridge, is a 6-week course, run at both Club Willoughby and at East Lindfield, for the new players.

Want to start a bridge beginner course?

Call Sue Crompton on 0416 290 867

The **2019 semesters** with **Liz Wilkinson** are scheduled to start at Club Willoughby on:

- Mondays at 7pm, from 4th February and
- Tuesdays at 10:30am from 5th February.

The **2019 semesters** with **Ed Barnes** are scheduled to start at East Lindfield on:

- Tuesdays at 2pm, from 5th March and
- Tuesdays at 7pm from 5th March.

Word-of-mouth is the best recommendation!

Do you know anyone who would like to learn Bridge?

If you do, get them to call Sue on 0416 290 867

Learn To Play Bridge

With leading teacher, Ed Barnes

Tuesday March 5th 2019 2pm or 7pm
(2 hours)
at East Lindfield 2B Carlyle Road

6 lessons \$99

Whether you're seeking a positive outlet for your competitive spirit, or you're simply looking for a great way to make new friends and keep your mind active, bridge is your game. Ed has decades of experience with new players and a gentle touch that makes learning the game fun and easy

Bookings

scrompton67@hotmail.com
www.learnbridgeinsydney.com.au
or Sue Crompton 0416 290 867



Learn To Play Bridge

With leading teacher, Liz Wilkinson

Monday 4th February at 7pm (2hrs)
or Tues 5th February at 10:30am (2hrs)

at Club Willoughby 20-26 Crabbes avenue

6 lessons \$99

Whether you're seeking a positive outlet for your competitive spirit, or you're simply looking for a great way to make new friends and keep your mind active, bridge is your game. Liz has the experience and the touch to help you get the best out of your new passion.

Bookings

scrompton67@hotmail.com
www.learnbridgeinsydney.com.au
or Sue Crompton 0416 290 867



7. Focus on Partnerships

For Better and For Worse

BY SIMON COCHEME

Cartoons by Bill Buttle
An extract from the September 2018 Bridge Bulletin



"I don't give them two years! She's 2/1, and he's Standard American!"

For Better

Forming partnerships is a bit like dating in the good old days. You decide you would like to get together with someone, and you ask them for a game. If you are going to be on the receiving end of such requests, you need to have some stock answers ready in case you want to decline.

Don't say, "I haven't got my calendar with me." That just gives the questioner some hope. Far better is the bland, "I'm pretty busy with my regular partners." No offense has been given, and no hope either.

I was impressed when I heard this one being used: "I wouldn't want to spoil our friendship by actually playing together." Try it. By the time your suitor has come to grips with the mixed messages, you are at the other end of the room.

Or you can go whole hog and say, "I'd love a game. I'll get my agent to send you my rate card, and I'll ask her to give you a discount for the first session." By the time they have processed all that, you will be out of the room and halfway home. (By the way, if you are ever taken up on the last one, I would like a 10% commission for suggesting it to you.)

So, you've agreed to play and you've set the date. The next item on the agenda is discussing and agreeing on a system. One tactic is for the more assertive half of the prospective partnership to email a convention card to his victim, saying, "This is what I play." Slightly better is, "This is what I **like** to play. You can make up to two changes." Still not really a discussion, is it? The problem with many conventions is that they can't be agreed with a single word or phrase. They nearly all need further clarification:

- "Fourth suit forcing? Great!" (but how far is it forcing?).
- "Yes, I can do cue bids," (but is that Aces only, or first and second round controls?).
- "Jacoby 2NT? My favourite!" (but is a 3-level rebid a club suit, a singleton or a minimum?).
- "Roman key card Blackwood? Of course." (but does a 5C bid show 0/3 or 1/4?). Did you hear about the new pair who hadn't agreed on their responses to 4NT? They bid a slam and came within an Ace of making it!

If you are discussing your system just before playing, don't spend too much time on esoteric things, the bidding bling beloved by so many. Go to the end of the card fairly quickly and talk about leads and signals. You are likely to be defending in about half the boards, and the chance of an opening 4NT bid cropping up is significantly less than that.

Now you're at the table. The bidding is over and, like it or not, partner is declarer and your fate is out of your hands. Laying out the dummy is your last chance to help partner. Here is some advice for you to consider:

Put down the suit led last; you want to ensure that partner looks at the whole hand.

If you are in no-trump, don't put a suit bid by partner down on your right. You don't want to confuse him. I am sure you remember Burn's Second Law: "You can't make 3NT on a cross ruff."

Partners like to have the good news first, so lay out your better suits before the less-than-welcome three-small or four-small. There is a

temptation to put down the bad suits and then end with a flourish and a "Ta-dah!" as you display your KQ to five holding in trumps.

Resist it. The sight of your weaker suits can cause a depression from which partner may not recover in time.

The rules say that dummy should be laid out sorted into suits, with the suits sorted by rank. The rules don't mention it, but it is a good idea to arrange the cards neatly, in alternating colours. Having partner fiddle around tidying up the dummy will not help him plan.

The worst crime of all (perhaps only the second worst; the worst is showing the world that you don't have your bids) is holding back honour cards. Putting down a suit of 7-5, then the three other suits, and then adding the Ace- King to the 7-5 is not a good idea, as well as being very tiresome.

There is a wonderful Victor Mollo story where the Rueful Rabbit (RR) played quickly from two small cards in dummy, before his partner added the ace to the suit. Since RR had a singleton in the suit, it is absolutely certain that he would have played the Ace if he had seen it in time. As you would expect, Mollo has constructed a deal where playing low from A-x-x in dummy, with a singleton in hand, is the only successful line! Such good fortune is unlikely to come your way in the real world, so don't do it.

And what happens after dummy has been displayed? Declarer says, "Thank you, partner." There is an art to this. You should sound pleased and positive but not effusive - effusive doesn't fool anybody. Or maybe it does. I have heard of a player calling the director and claiming he had mis-defended because declarer had sounded so confident when thanking dummy. The defender said he had been led to believe the contract was making.

An alternative, is to express a degree of disappointment when dummy is tabled. I like this one: "I'm sure our opponents will join me in saying 'Thank you.'" The occasional "Where's the hand you held during the bidding?" can cause the defenders to relax

and take their eyes off the ball. It's gamesmanship, but only of the mildest kind.

Declarer is now on his own. The only three things dummy can say are:

- "Having none?" when declarer ruffs in hand.
- "You're in dummy" or "You're in your hand" when it looks as though partner is about to play from the wrong hand, and only before the card has been played, mind you. Dummy can try to prevent an infraction but cannot correct one.
- "Would you like a drink?" With this last one, you need to know your partner's mean time between first sip and loss of bridge judgment. I have one partner where the gap is six minutes. No, not coffee, silly.

A partnership will show its true colours when the 13th trick has been played, and the score is being entered. Alfred Sheinwold said that because the average person's small supply of politeness must last him all his life, he can't afford to waste it on bridge partners. That was certainly the attitude before the ACBL's Zero Tolerance was introduced. In olden times, it was common for a player to berate his or her partner for an error, genuine or perceived. The fear was that if you left it until after the session, the guilty party could claim to have forgotten the bidding or deny he held a particular card.

With the availability of hand records after most sessions, it shouldn't be necessary to get into a discussion or heated debate. The only reason to mention anything would be to query some systemic disagreement that may crop up again.

Telling partner that the x in dummy was a winner isn't going to make him play the next hand any better. Indeed, it might make him play it worse. On the other hand, saying that you had thought you were playing reverse attitude discards could prevent another disaster

And next month, **For Worse**

8. Congress News

8a. ABF News & events

2019 Australian Youth Championships Canberra, January 5-11
2019 Summer Festival of Bridge Canberra, January 9-20
2019 Australian Mixed Team Playoff Sydney, January 25-28
2019 Gold Coast Congress Broadbeach, February 15-23
2019 Yokohama Bridge Festival Yokohama, February 19-24
2019 Tasmanian Festival of Bridge Hobart, March 28-31
2019 APBF Youth Team Championships Bangkok, April 5-11

2018 GNOT

Congratulations to **Johnno Newman**, one of our directors, who was part of the Sydney 2 Neill team that won the 2018 GNOT final at Tweed Heads.



Winners: Warren, Pauline, Nye, Bruce, Avinash, and Johnno

ABF 2018 GNOT Team Grand Final		IMPS
Canberra 2	George Kozakos, Arjuna De Livera, Jodi Tutty, Stephen Fischer	123
Sydney 2	Bruce Neill, Avinash Kanetkar, Johnno Newman, Nye Griffiths, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer	159

ABF 2018 GNOT Semi Finals Team Final		IMPS
Sydney 1	Peter Buchen, Terry Brown, Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Kim Morrison, Matthew Thomson	66
Canberra 2	George Kozakos, Arjuna De Livera, Jodi Tutty, Stephen Fischer	70
Sydney 2	Bruce Neill, Avinash Kanetkar, Johnno Newman, Nye Griffiths, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer	106
Sydney 6	Nico Ranson, John McMahon, Lavy Libman, Tomer Libman	55

North Shore Bridge Club

Manager: Mike Prescott Phone: 0435 528 872
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Our **NSBC GNOT Direct team** (Sydney 3 Korenhof team) was eliminated in Round 4 of the knockout and eventually finished 8th in the Swiss event.

While the GNOT finals were being played, the remaining pairs optionally played a GNOT Swiss pairs competition.

Outright	GNOT - Swiss Pairs Championships	VP	W-L-D
1	Simon Brayshaw, Chris Mulley	102.04	6-1-0
2	Marnie Leybourne, Nick Cantatore	91.71	6-1-0
3	Di Coats, Jan Clarke	91.24	6-1-0
Metro	GNOT - Swiss Pairs Championships		
Best	Wayne Zhu & Yixiang Zhang		
Provincial	GNOT - Swiss Pairs Championships		
Best	Micheal Simes & Paul McGraph		
Country	GNOT - Swiss Pairs Championships		
Best	Di Coats, Jan Clarke		

The results of all the Sydney teams are summarised:

Team name	GNOT - NSW Teams Performance (60 Team knockout)	Knock out	Swiss
Sydney 1	Peter Buchen, Terry Brown, Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Kim Morrison, Matthew Thomson	Semi	N/A
Sydney 2	Bruce Neill, Avi Kanetkar, Johnno Newman, Nye Griffiths, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer	WINNER	
Sydney 4	Robert Krochmalik, Daniel Krochmalik, Robert Grynberg, David Stern, Tom Moss, Michael Wilkinson	R4	2nd
Sydney 3 (NSBC GNOT Direct)	Andre Korenhof, David Beauchamp, Mike Hughes, Peter Fordham, Maurits van der Vlugt, Carola Hoogervorst	R4	8th
Sydney 5	David Weston, Julian Foster, Martin Bloom, Tony Nunn	R3	10th
Sydney 6	Nicholas Ranson, John McMahon, Lavy Libman, Tomer Libman	R5	Semo
Sydney 7	William Zhang, Yumin Li, Wayne Zhu, Yixiang Zhang, Paul Dalley	R4	6th
Central Coast	Di Coats, Chris Hannan, Lorraine Lindsay, Helen Milward, Jan Clarke	R1	20th

2019 Australian Seniors' Team Selection

The Neill team will be the **2019 Australian seniors' team** (Bruce Neill, Avinash Kanetkar, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna De Livera).



Winners: Andrew, Warren, Pauline, Bruce, Avinash and Arjuna

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ABF Australian Seniors' Team Selection Grand Final		128 B IMPS
Grand Final	Bruce Neill , Avinah Kanetkar, Pauline Gumby , Warren Lazer , Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna De Livera	177
	Paul Lavings , Robert Krochmalik, Kim Morrison, Paul Wyer, David Beauchamp , Mike Hughes	160

Also doing well was David Beauchamp, who reached the Grand Final and was in the losing Seniors' **Lavings** Team.

Seniors' Semi Finals

ABF Australian Seniors Teams Semi Finals		128 B IMPS
SF1	Bruce Neill , Avinah Kanetkar, Pauline Gumby , Warren Lazer , Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna De Livera	181
	George Smolanko , Nigel Rosendorff, Ron Cooper, Phil Gue	171
SF2	Peter Buchen , Terry Brown, Ron Klinger, Ian Thompson, Ian Robinson, George Kozakos	194
	Paul Lavings , Robert Krochmalik, Kim Morrison, Paul Wyer, David Beauchamp , Mike Hughes	219

2019 Australian Women's Team Selection

A team of NSBC women (the **Pitt** team) won the grand Final against the top-seeded **Travis** team.

The 2019 Australian Women's team will be Helene Pitt, Helena Dawson, Giselle Mundell, Avril Zets, Lorna Ichilcik and Rena Kaplan



Winners: Helena, Lorna, Helene, Avril, Giselle and Rena

ABF Australian Women Team Selection		128 B IMPS
Grand Final	Barbara Travis , Candice Ginsberg, Margaret Bourke, Jane Reynolds, Marianne Bookallil, Jodi Tutty	214
	Helene Pitt , Helena Dawson, Giselle Mundell, Avril Zets, Lorna Ichilcik, Rena Kaplan	236

Women's Semi-Finals

ABF Australian Women Teams Semi Finals		128 B IMPS
SF1	Barbara Travis , Candice Ginsberg, Margaret Bourke, Jane Reynolds, Marianne Bookallil, Jodi Tutty	321
	Sheila Bird , Karen Creet, Cathryn Herden , Judy Mott , Anita Curtis , Pele Rankin	215
SF2	Sue Lusk , Viv Wood, Paula McLeish, Di Smart, Sophie Ashton, Laura Ginnan	267
	Helene Pitt , Helena Dawson, Giselle Mundell, Avril Zets, Lorna Ichilcik, Rena Kaplan	294

Congratulations to Anita Curtis (one of our teachers), Judy Mott and Cathryn Herden who reached the semi-finals in the Bird team.

Women's Qualification

ABF Australian Women Teams Qualifying		128 B IMPS
QF1	Sue Lusk , Viv Wood, Paula McLeish, Di Smart, Sophie Ashton, Laura Ginnan	375
	Cynthia Belonogoff , Deana Wilson, Pauline Collett, Joan Prince	173
QF2	Helene Pitt , Helena Dawson, Giselle Mundell, Avril Zets, Lorna Ichilcik, Rena Kaplan	369
	(Peter Gill NPC) Greer Tucker, Liz Sylvester , Anna St Clair, Jeanette Reitzer , Therese Demarco, Susan Emerson	198
QF3	Sheila Bird , Karen Creet, Cathryn Herden , Judy Mott , Anita Curtis , Pele Rankin	285
	Susan Humphries , Jessica Blake, Renee Cooper, Ella Pattison	276

8b. NSWBA & Congress Pairs Events



Keep up with the Congress scene by subscribing to the NSWBA's [eCongress Newsletter](#)

NSWBA Schaufelberger Teams		
Pos	Monday Nights @ NSWBA	VP
1	Andrew Peake, Julian Foster , Jessica Brake (sub), Dave Weston, Liz Adams	310
2	Nico Ranson , John McMahon, Maurits Van Der Vlugt, Andre Korenhof, Lakshmi Sunderasan	296



Winners of the 2018 John Arkinstall State Open Teams
Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumbly, Peter Gill, Tony Nunn,
Martin Bloom (absent)

NSWBA John Arkinstall State Open Teams		
Pos	State Open Team Final	IMP
1	Martin Bloom, Tony Nunn, Peter Gill, Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumbly	185
2	Nicoleta Giura, Nick Hughes, Helena Dawson, Tony Ong	94
John Arkinstall - Country Final Playoff		IMP
1	Eric Hurley, Gary Lynn, Marjorie Askew, William Powell	124
2	Chris Dibley, Michael Seldon, Greg Mayo, Sharon Mayo	97

Pos	Trumps - Boxing Day Swiss Pairs	VP	W-L-D
1	Jane Dawson & Peter Gill	92.61	5-0-1
2	Jane Beeby & Philip Beeby	85.74	5-1-0
3	Helen Lowry & Tony Sharp	78.56	5-0-1

Pos	Trumps - Festival Matchpoint Pairs	%
1	Frances Lyons & Julianne Rocks	160
2	Peter Jeffery & Wayne Zhu	159
3	Liam Milne & James Coutts	144

Pos	Trumps - Aus Bridge Swiss Teams	VP	W-L-D
1	Chris Dibley, Peter Livesey, Tom Kiss, William Zhang	89.85	4-1-1
2	Ellena Moskovsky, Christo Moskovsky, Matthew McManus, James	84.43	4-1-1
3	Mischa Solar, George Bilski, Elliott Kaplan, Nigel Rosendorff	78.97	5-0-1

Pos	Trumps - OPEN MP Pairs	MP
1	Peter Livesey & Peter Gill	118.60
2	Karen McCullum & Axel Johannsson	117.40
3	Cath Whidden & Shane Harrison	115.90

December Congress Results

Pos	NSWBA Summer Swiss Pairs	VP	W-L-D
1	Axel Johannsson & Arthur Ramer	95.40	5-1-1
2	George Fleischer & Mathew Vadas	94.00	4-1-2
3	Jane Beeby & Michael Wilkinson	92.31	5-1-1



Winners Summer Swiss: Axel & Arthur

Upcoming Congress Events (NSWBA Calendar)

NSW Congress Calendar		
January, 2019		
NSWBA	Teams	Jan 6 (Sun)
Summer Festival of Bridge (Canberra)	ABF Multi Events	Jan 9 (Wed) - 20 (Sun)
NSWBA	Matchpoint Swiss Pairs	Jan 27 (Sun)
February, 2019		
Kings and Queens Sydney	Swiss Pairs	Feb 3 (Sun)
Great Lakes Bridge Club	Teams	Feb 9 (Sat) - 10 (Sun)
Gold Coast Congress	ABF Multi Events	Feb 15 (Fri) - 23 (Sat)

Pos	Wollstonecraft Swiss Pairs	VP	W-L-D
1	George Fleischer & Tony Ong	82.43	5-1-0
2	Bina Kassam & Ken Storr	80.95	5-1-0
3	David Wurth & Nick Fahrer	78.92	4-2-0

Pos	Central Coast Summer Teams	VP	W-L-D
1	Jan Clarke, Di Coats, Pauline Evans, Helen Milward	92.20	6-0-0
2	Ranjit Limaye, Titus Ling, Linda Aubusson, Steven Bock	82.47	5-0-1
3	Warren Dobes, Witold Chylewski, Chris Dibley, Mark Kolodziejczyk	79.44	4-0-2