



NSBC Newsletter



2019 February Vol 3. Issue 2

Editors: Kevin Davies & Kay Moyes

1. Improve Your Slam bidding

1a. Featured Slam hand

November 13 CW Tue 1.00pm Dup-Open					
West			D	V	East
♠ A 7 6 3					♠ 9
♥ A 8 3 2					♥ K Q J 7 5 4
♦ A K Q					♦ 10
♣ 8 3					♣ A K J 9 2
East	6	1	7	2	6
West	6	1	7	2	6

This hand was played at 15 tables in either 5♥, 6♥ or 7♥. **Everybody made 13 tricks**, however EW were punished for not bidding a slam in both forms of scoring.

Scoring by Match points

EW scores				MPs		
Con	T	EW Score	Freq	MPs	%	Note
5♥ W	13	710	x 2	(0x2)+(1x1) = 1	4%	Bottom=
6♥ W	13	1460	x 6	(2x2)+(5x1) = 9	32%	Avr -
7♥ W	13	2210	x 7	(8x2)+(6x1) = 22	79%	Top=
Tables= 15				Max MP = 14x2 = 28		

In MPs scoring – bidding 6♥ only scores 32%

Scoring by IMPs (Swiss Pairs)

EW scores				IMPs		
Contract	Tricks	EW	Freq	Score Diff	IMPs	Note
5♥ W	13	710	x 2	-1000	-14	Bottom=
6♥ W	13	1460	x 6	-250	-6	Ave -
7♥ W	13	2210	x 7	500	11	Top=
Tables= 15				Avr Score = 1710		

In IMPs scoring 7♥ is the only **plus score**.

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Suggested Standard Bidding

West	North	East	South
1NT -15-17 balanced	Pass	2♦ -transfer (♥)	Pass
2♠ -Max (17) + 4 or 5 ♥	Pass	4NT - Keycard (♥)	Pass
5♦ 3 or 0 key cards	Pass	5NT Kings?	Pass
6♦ -♦ K	Pass	7♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

American Standard or 2/1 Bidding

Bid	Notes
W 1NT	15-17 Balanced
E 2♦	Transfer to hearts, 5+ hearts, may be weak
W 2♠	2♠ = cue, max (17) with 4 or 5 hearts Note 1: with minimum and 4/5 hearts, would pre-empt 3♥ Note 2: Normally just accept Transfer with 2 or 3♥
E 4NT	Keycard trump (♥)
W 5♦	3 or 0 Keycards
E 5NT	5♥ is convertible (i.e. pass or bid 6 with 3), 5♠ would ask for ♥ Q, here direct 5NT asks for Kings as opener must have 3 Aces for the 1NT bid (17 HCPs) and my 14 HCPs
W 6♦	♦ K
E 7♥	Stand out bid! Lots of shape with two singletons allowing as many ruffs as may be needed
IMP	7♥ is standard IMP contract. Only possible problem is when there are 3 clubs in West hand without ♣ Q, then ♣ Q must be finessed (70% Grand Slam)
MP	All MP players must reach at least 6♥, most would bid 7♥

The full hand

North		V	
♠	K 8 5		
♥	10 6		
♦	8 7 6 5 3		
♣	10 6 4		

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

South		V	
♠	Q J 10 4 2		
♥	9		
♦	J 9 4 2		
♣	Q 7 5		

HCPs	
3	17 14
6	

The Play:

South's Lead?

♥9 is a standard trump lead against a Grand Slam, alternatively the ♠Q as top of a sequence. **I would lead the ♥9.**

Count your Losers and Winners:

No top losers.

Draw trumps, ruff 3 spades in the East hand, the rest are top tricks. Easy 13 Tricks!

The Play Card by Card

T	Lead	Play in 7♥ by East: 13 tricks
1	S ♥ 9	East wins ♥ J
2	E ♥ 4	West wins ♥ A - drawing all trumps
3	W ♠ A	West wins ♠ A
4	W ♠ 3	East wins ♥ 5 (ruff)
5	E ♦ 10	West wins ♦ A
6	W ♦ K	West cashes diamonds - discards ♣ 2
7	W ♦ Q	West cashes diamonds - discards ♣ 9
8	W ♠ 6	East wins ♥ 7 (ruff)
9	E ♣ A	East cashes ♣
10	E ♣ K	East cashes ♣
11	E ♣ J	West wins ♥ 8 (ruff)
12	W ♠ 7	East cashes ♥ Q (ruff)
13	E ♥ K	West cashes ♥ - making 13 tricks

The only problem is having the **confidence to bid a 7♥ grand slam** contract!

1b. Bidding Challenge

Hand 1, (South is the dealer and Passes)

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

Hand 2

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

Bid these hands with your partner. My solutions later in the newsletter

1c. Play the hand Challenge

North	South
♠ K72	♠ AQJT9
♥ 96	♥ Q
♦ Q754	♦ AK63
♣ AK76	♣ Q83

Standard American or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East	South
P	1 ♣ 3+clubs, 12+ HCPs	P	1 ♠ 4+ spades, 6+ HCPs
P	1NT (12-14 Bal)	P	2 ♣ Checkback
P	2 ♦ 4 diamonds, likely 44xx	P	2 ♠ 5+ spades
P	3 ♠ 3 Support	P	4NT Keycard (♠)
P	5 ♥ (2 key cards, no ♠ Q)	P	6 ♠

You end up in the reasonable 6♠ contract and West leads ♥K.

T	Lead	Play in 6♠ by South, for 12 tricks
1	E ♥ K	All follow
2	E ♥ A	Ruffed by South with the ♠ 9
3	S ♠ 10	North wins ♠ K, both follow
4	S ♠ 2	South wins ♠ Q, both follow
5	S ♠ J	West discards ♥ 7, trumps are drawn

Plan the play?

Losers: 1 heart, already cashed.

Winners: 5♠ + 3♦ + 3♣ = 11, the twelfth trick can come from either minor suit, if they break favourably. How can you improve your chances of making 6♠? **Answer later:**

2 Club News

2a. From the Committee

John Brownie



President

Mike Prescott



Manager

As you would be aware, Mike Prescott recently resigned as Club Manager. However, after a number of constructive discussions, we are delighted to announce that Mike will not be leaving the Club and will be continuing in his role as Club Manager.

We are looking forward to another fantastic year at NSBC.

John Brownie, President

2b. David Beauchamp – Makes the 2019 Australian Mixed Team

David Beauchamp & Jodi Tutty, together with Renee Cooper & Ben Thompson won the right to represent AUS in its mixed team.

They will play in the Mixed Teams **2019 World Teams Championships** and any event that might be a precursor, such as a Zone 7 Mixed Team Playoff should it occur.

Well Done David!



The Team: Jodi, **David**, Renee & Ben

2c. From the Library

New to the Novice section this year are several books written by Joan Butts. Joan is well-known across the country for bridge teacher training. Her books cover the basics for the absolute beginner as well as the rookie level. We have also purchased her slim-line workbooks so students can practise the techniques taught by the books and also by our own wonderful teachers. These

workbooks are excellent if you only want to dip into a book for a few minutes at a time.

Suggested accompaniment: Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc!

2d. From the Management

A recent study of the results of the NSBC teaching program at CW revealed some interesting facts that are probably not known to many of you. The new player section of our club has become extremely significant!

Over 300 of our club members have come through the teaching program. Combining the games in a typical week at CW for the less experienced player, plus the lessons, this less than 20% of the membership provides roughly 50% of the “seats at the table”, with the Open Game making up the other 50%.

The ABF marketing plan addresses the vexed issue of retention of beginners and suggests that typically clubs retain 25 – 35% of all new starters, measured by those that are club members a year later. It is therefore very pleasing to note that of the 128 new player enrolments at CW in 2018, 57 are paid up members for 2019, that's a **45%** retention.

To what can we attribute this success?

- Success breeds success; word of mouth brings in most of the new students and improving players.
- The NSBC offers more choice of games for improving players than the smaller clubs, so that even if players learn elsewhere, they come to us to develop their bridge.
- The short talk before each session is, we believe, an attraction.
- The Eddie Kantar material, purchased by the club, has made a valuable contribution to our advanced teaching.
- And finally, there are our teachers and new player directors. A Rookie player recently told us that having tried bridge at another club and failed, at CW she had found “unparalleled teaching, support and encouragement”. She now plays several times a week.

Well done to the new player team!

2e. Beginners Courses start in February:

Continuing the subject of new players, know anyone who would like to learn this fascinating game of ours? "Introduction to Bridge" is a 6-week course, run at both Club Willoughby and at East Lindfield, for the new player. There are still some vacancies at both venues, so **last-minute entries will be accepted.**

Liz Wilkinson
02 9411 3527



Teacher

Want to start a bridge beginner course?

February at Club Willoughby?

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.**

Ed Barnes
02 9411 3527



Teacher

Want to start a bridge beginner course?

March at East Lindfield?

Call Sue Crompton on
0416 290 867

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.**

3. Club Events

3a. Completed events

Canberra Matchpoint pairs

	Pos	Canberra Matchpoint Pairs	%
	1	Mischa Solar & Gary Lane	114%
		Session Winners	
1st week	1	Bulent Kaytaz & Peter Boulton	55%
2nd week	1	Axel Johannsson & Arthur Ramer	72%
3rd week	1	Mischa Solar & Gary Lane	61%

New Year's Day RED Point events

New Years Day - Red Point Events			%
EL 1:00pm	NS	Loraine Neville & Chris Duggan	66.46%
	EW	John Anderson & Susan Feeney	63.70%
CW 1:00pm	NS	Lyn Smith & Jocelyn Bertram	58.80%
	EW	Maurice Loomes & Rachael Loomes	61.34%

Australia Day Holiday RED Point events

Australia Day (Holiday) - Red Point Events			%
EL 9:30am	NS	Rosey Powers & Adele Pailthorpe	62%
	EW	Sandra MacGregor & Sandy MacGregor	60%
EL 1:00pm	NS	Jenny Barnes & June Straw	64%
	EW	Judy Sharp & Barbara Woodfield	62%
CW Open 1:00pm	NS	Janice Harris & Alicia Mercer	66%
	EW	Lynn Kalmin & Hymie Osie	68%
CW Res 1:00pm	NS	Michael Morris & Tien Chey	68%
	EW	Liz Kelly & Libbie Kelly	56%

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

January 2018 Monthly Winners

Monthly Comp			2019 January Winners at Club Willoughby
Mon	Open	10am	Maurice Loomes & Rachael Loomes
	Restr	10am	Robyn Rogers & John Leathart
	S'vised	2pm	Sue Rutkowski & Judy Winning
	Rookie	2pm	Marc Lombard & Paul Ritchie
	Open	7:30pm	Adele Pailthorpe & Janet Krawitz
Tue	S'vised	10am	Catherine McReady & Doug Leigh
	Rookie	10am	Penelope Lanser & Sally Mitchell
	Open	1pm	Franci Fong & Pieter Kliffen
	Open	7:30pm	Adele Pailthorpe & Janet Krawitz
	S'vised	7:30pm	N/Q
	Rookie	7:30pm	Robyn Satill & Ian Satill
Wed	Open	10am	Hymie Osie & Liz Wilkinson
	Restr	10am	Wendy Fine & Bev Fisher
	S'vised	2pm	Sally-Ann Lucas & Sally Hay
	Rookie	2pm	Pam Ranney & Geoff West
	Open	7:30pm	Tony Carsley & Clive Mills
Thu	Open	10am	Peter Langer & Judy Murray
	Rookie	2pm	N/Q
Fri	Open	10am	William Westwood & Tom Goodyer
	Restr	10am	John Colyer & Peter Langer
Sat	Open	1pm	Maurice Loomes & Rachael Loomes
Sun	Open	1pm	Guy Jarvi & Peter Koorey

Monthly Comp			2019 January Winners at East Lindfield
Mon	Open	9:30am	Barbara Woodfield & Lois Chambers
	Open	1pm	Marion Stewart & John Heike
Tue	Open	10am	Graham McMahon & Yu-Shiun Chen
	S'vised	2pm	Kerrie Haig & Beverley Coleman
	Rookie	2pm	Gerald Holder & Anne Holder
	S'vised	7pm	Jane Van-Roekel & Chris Berry
Wed	Open	10pm	Jan Wilson & Esther Lee
Thu	Open	1pm	John Rabong & Marlaine Gahan
Fri	Open	10am	Janet Crocker & June Straw
Sat	Open	1pm	Sandra MacGregor & Sandy MacGregor

ABF Masterpoint scheme

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, or Control & Click, and explore!

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

3b. Upcoming NSBC Tournament Events

CW - Tournament Events (Feb/APR)			
Thursday Championship nights @ 7:30pm			
Date		Event Details	Status
24/Jan	1/4	Men's & Women's Pairs Championship	In Progress
31/Jan	2/4		
7/Feb	3/4		
14/Feb	4/4		
21/Feb	Gold Coast Week no session		
28/Feb	1/4	Club Mixed Pairs Championship (+State qualifying)	Bookings required website
7/Mar	2/4		
14/Mar	3/4		
21/Mar	4/4		
28/Mar	1/4	Men's & Women's Teams Championship	Bookings required
4/Apr	2/4		
11/Apr	3/4		
18/Apr	4/4		
25/Apr	No Night Session - ANZAC Day Holliday		

EL - Tournament Events (Feb/Apr)			
EL - Tuesday Championship Night @ 7:30			
Date		Event Details	Status
5-Mar	1/3	EL Mixed Pairs Championship (Qual State Mixed)	bookings Required website
12-Mar	2/3		
19-Mar	3/3		
26-Mar			
2-Apr	1/3	EL GNOT (Teams) Metro Qualifier <u>Gold point event</u>	bookings Required website
9-Apr	2/3		
16-Apr	3/3		
22/Apr		Easter Monday EL 9:30am Red point Bridge	
22/Apr		Easter Monday EL 1:00pm Red point Bridge	
25/Apr		ANZAC Day Holiday EL 1:00pm Red point Bridge	

6/Apr	Club AGM (11:30am) @ CW
6/Apr	Red point Saturday Bridge @ CW

Norther Suburbs Interclub Teams Challenge		
10/03/2019 Sunday 2 sessions from 10am @ Trumps Mosman	Represent NSBC at the Interclub Teams challenge	Bookings required - 4 grades, Max 8 Teams
NSBC Congress at EL		
17/03/2019 Sunday 2 sessions from 10am	NSBC Congress Swiss Pairs	Bookings required website (max 34 tables)

Club Mixed Championship Pairs

This is the 2nd of 12 events counting towards the **2019 Club champion**.

Club Champion Qualifying Event

The **RED Point NSBC Mixed Pairs Championship** event starts on 28th February and runs for four Thursday nights. The winners will be requested to represent NSBC in the State Mixed Pairs finals at the NSWBA on 25/26th May 2019. The format will be a two-session qualifying, followed by a Grand Final and a Consolation Final, structure dependent on entries. Last year's winners were:

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

This is the **32nd 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?**



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

East Lindfield Swiss Pairs Congress

This is the 3rd of 12 events counting towards the **2019 Club champion**.

Club Champion Qualifying Event

The NSBC Swiss Pairs Congress is being held on Sunday March 17th at our East Lindfield venue.

It is an ideal opportunity to come and taste Swiss Pairs (IMP/VP Scoring). The format will depend on entries.

In 2018 it was played as a single field over 7 matches.

Last year's winners were:

2018 EL SWISS PAIRS Congress	
1st	Gary & Sally Clarke



Let's Play Bridge!

East Lindfield Swiss Pairs Congress

Sunday: 17th March
1 Day, 2 Session Event

Session 1: 10:00am Start
(Lunch orders taken before Session 1)

\$35 Table Fees

Let's Play Bridge!

EL Mixed Pairs Championship (Night time qualifying for State Mixed))

The **EL Mixed Pairs Championship** is run over 3 sessions on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm at East Lindfield, starting on 5th March. Format: Sum of 3 sessions percentages to determine the winners.

This is a **RED Point Event** at EL. 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 EL Mixed Pairs Championship (State Qual) Winners	
1st	Sheena Arora & Bijan Assae

This year is the **4th Year** that this event has been run at East Lindfield. **Will you get your names added to our honour boards?**



**State Mixed Pairs
Qualifying
East Lindfield**

**Tuesday Nights: 7:30pm
3 Sessions**

**5th March
12th March
19th March**

Red Point Event

**\$45 Members
\$60 Non Members**



Northern Suburbs Inter-club Teams Challenge



**Margaret Smale 2019
Metro North InterClub
Teams Challenge**

B5j Event!

Sunday 10 March
9.45am for 10am start
Played at Trumps Bridge Centre
66 Spit Road, Mosman 2088
ph: 9969 5959

The Margaret Smale Northern Suburbs interclub team challenge is to be held at the Trumps Bridge Centre on March 10th.

Trumps won last year and we at the NSBC do not want this to happen again! We need eight good teams to represent the NSBC at the interclub event all grades. If we win the event, we can host it in 2020.

- Join the fun and enjoy the challenge.
- The NSBC will enter 8 teams and will pay team entry fees.
- At least 1 team will be reserved for an East Lindfield team.
- Entry includes a light lunch and nibbles.
- The 2019 Director is Nick Hughes.
- Venue: Trumps Bridge Centre at Mosman - 9:45 for 10am start, finish about 5pm.
- All teams will be graded from Novice to Open and allocated to sections:
 - 2 open teams,
 - 2 with < 750 MPs,
 - 2 with < 300 MPs and
 - 2 with < 100 MPs.
- Teams will play within these sections, so you will **play against teams of equal grade**. IMPs teams scoring will be used.
- The 2018 competition had 4 graded sections, this is dependent on club entries.
- All section results will have equal weight in tallying the eventual Club Winner.
- The "Margaret Smale" Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the winning club.
- The winning club will usually host the next 2020 inter-club teams' event. At an NSBC venue we hope!

4 Our Game of Bridge

4a. From the Director

In August last year, the new Laws of Bridge came into force in Australia. In many cases, the variations are of little practical effect. I have summarised some of the more significant changes that players may notice and need to know about. This summary is not intended as a complete description of the relevant laws.

Unintended calls

The opportunities to change an unintended call have been significantly reduced. An error which arises because of the player's loss of concentration as to the level of the auction can no longer be changed. This is the case even though the call may not be one which the player ever intended to make.

For example, with spades agreed as trumps, West bids 4NT, Blackwood. East responds 5♥ (two without the queen). West starts thinking about whether to bid the slam or sign off at the five level. Eventually, he decides that 5♠ is enough, but this decision comes out as Pass. Even though he never intended to pass, he can no longer change the call to the bid of 5♠ he intended. (The same restriction will apply in other similar situations: for example, when a player passes an artificial Bergen-style raise.)

The same principle now also applies in regard to declarer's call of a card from dummy. Effectively, only legitimate slips of the tongue can now be changed. Loss of concentration or changes of mind are not viable excuses to correct. For instance, saying "small, I mean ace" will now mean that no change is allowed. The director can allow a change if he is satisfied that it was just a slip of the tongue.

Potential allowable examples:

- 1) "king of hearts, I mean king of diamonds"
- 2) "small spade" while declarer is pointing at dummy's clubs

Calling the Director

It has always been a requirement in the Laws that the director be called whenever there is an irregularity. This has been reinforced in the new laws. It may become particularly relevant if, at the end of the auction, the declaring side reveals that there has been incorrect information given about their bidding. If the players fail to call the director at the time and it turns out that the director could have done something to rectify it had he been called, then both sides are liable to get their worst possible score on the board. The new law specifically states that ignorance of the law is no excuse.

Calls out of turn

Under the old laws, the penalties arising due to calls out of rotation could be very harsh. Often times, a player's partner was barred from bidding for the whole auction. Under the new laws, the partner can make his normal call. Depending on the action now taken by the player who originally called out of turn, the auction will either continue without penalty or the player's partner will have to pass for one round. The director will make a determination on a case by case basis using the guidelines in the laws regarding "comparable calls".

Claims

Previously when there was a claim, play stopped. If there was any dispute it was decided by the director. Now, play may be continued at the request of the non-claiming side provided all four players at the table agree. The result obtained at the table will stand.



Matthew

Matthew McManus has been the Chief Director of the NSWBA since 1995. He officiates at a number of events here & in NZ in his capacity as a National Director. He is a very occasional bridge player.

4b. Useful Bidding Tools

Inverted Minors	
A raise from 1 of a minor to 2 of a minor is a strong GF raise with a 5+ suit and no interest in a major contract. If your 1♦ opening shows 4 diamonds, then 2♦ = GF with a 4+ suit. Opener's rebids are shown below. The 2-level bids are an attempt to get to a makeable 3NT. A raise to 3 of the minor just agrees the suit in a GF situation. A jump bid shows a minor fit and a shortage in the bid suit (Splinter).	
1♣ (2+clubs)	2♣ (GF values, 5+ clubs, no 4-card major)
Opener's rebids	Meaning
2♦	♦ Stopper - H/S Problem for NT
2♥	♥ Stopper - D/S Problem for NT
2♠	♠ Stopper - D/H Problem for NT
2NT	Bal 12-14, Something in D/H/S
3♣	Agrees ♣ (Already in GF)
3♦	Splinter Agrees ♣ Shortage in ♦
3♥	Splinter Agrees ♣ Shortage in ♥
3♠	Splinter Agrees ♣ Shortage in ♠
3NT	Bal 18-19, likely 2♣ only - as this is slam territory

Minorwood	
A strong GF raise to 4 of a minor is Keycard (minor). The 4 Aces + K♣ are Keycards. Saves bidding space as responses are lower, giving chance to stop in 5 of the minor if needed.	
4♣	Minorwood (♣)
4♦	1 or 4 Keycards
4♥	3 or 0 Keycards
4♠	2 or 5 Keycards + No Q♣
4NT	2 or 5 Keycards + Q♣

Using these two tools to bid this slam:

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

HCPs		
6	13	18
3		

Possible contracts from Pianola

East	7	1	3	5	7
West	7	1	3	5	7

Standard American or 2/1 Bidding			
West	N	East	S
	p	1♣ 2+c (better than 1NT)	p
2♣ GF Inverted minor	p	3♣ GF Sets suit	p
3NT Flat - play here?	p	4♣ minorwood	p
4NT 2 + ♣ Q	p	5♦ Kings?	p
5♥ - ♥ K	p	5♠ Anything?	p
6♣ nothing extra	p	6NT	p

Most of the field will stop in 6♣ or 6NT.

IMPs: Most of the field will stop in 6♣ or 6NT. 7♣ or 7NT requires clubs to break and you find the ♥ Q (50% either way finesse).

MPs: A 31/32 HCP slam. **Most of the field will stop in 6NT** at Matchpoints (**better score**). None should risk 7 level, but some may even stay out of slam.

6NT by West: Notes on the play of the hand:

North would probably lead ♠9.

West's plan:

If the clubs break, 5♣ + 1♦ + 2♥ + 4♠ = 12 tricks. If the clubs don't break, a heart finesse is required. You must test the clubs before playing hearts.

The NSBC Pre-Paid System

Join the North Shore Bridge Club Pre-Paid system (PP) and enjoy the benefits:

- 5% discount on table money,
- no need to find cash at the table
- a free game in your birthday month.

You will receive a monthly statement by email, and reminders when your balance is low. You can top up your balance with the director at the club, or via the NSBC website.

PP system is a club member only benefit.

4c. Bidding Challenge Solutions: Hand 1

North		V	
♠	6 2		
♥	K 8 7 2		
♦	Q 7 2		
♣	8 7 6 4		

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

South		D V	
♠	A 10 5		
♥	J 10 9 4		
♦	10 9 8 4		
♣	10 3		

HCPs	5	17	13	5
------	---	----	----	---

East	6	3	2	6	4
West	6	4	2	6	6

Standard American or 2/1 Bidding			
West	N	East	S
			P
1 ♣ 2+C (unbal 17+, open 5-card, reverse)	P	1 ♦ 4+D bid lower ranked suit as strong	P
2 ♠ 5/4, reverse 17+	P	4 NT Keycard (♠)	P
5 ♥ - 2 KCs, no Q ♠	P	6 ♠ or 6NT	P
Pass	P		
Most of the field will stop in 6 ♠ or 6NT.			
IMPs: 6 ♠ would be the Standard contract at IMPs, partner has some shape (5/4) and ♣ Q is likely a good card			
MPs: Some will stay in 6 ♠, some will try 6NT (looking for a top score); but some may stop in 4 ♠ as only 30-31 HCPs			
Best Lead: 6S by West: North should lead a trump			
6NT by East: South would lead the J ♥ (top of sequence) & defeat the contract			
Play: 6S by West: draw trumps, make 5C+2D+1H+ 2S+ (2 ruffs) =12 tricks			
6NT by West: the ♥ J lead forces a heart loser & they have ♠ A as an entry .. No play.			
But Played by East a Q ♦ finesse allows 6NT to make			

Bidding Notes:

W: 17HCPs, 5♣/4♠ shape. Start with 1♣ and then reverse into 2♠ to show strength.

E: strong – bid suits up the line (1♦ first)

E: can smell a slam coming, with 13 in hand and 17+ from partner 2♠ bid, a spade fit – so uses RKCB to ask for Keycards in spades.

Play Notes in 6♠ by West

North Lead: ♠6 – likely safest lead.

West's Plan:

Losers – ♠A cannot avoid

Winners – 5♣+2♦+1♥+2♠+2x ruffs=12 tricks

Claim or play quickly

Play: card by card

T	Lead	Play in 6♠ by West: 12 tricks
1 N	♠6	South ducks and West wins ♠9
2 W	♠K	South wins ♠A
3 S	♥J	West tries ♥Q, North covers, East takes ♥A
4 E	♠Q	North pitches a heart, last trump drawn
5 E	♠Q	♠2 is pitched
6 E	♠9	♠A wins
7 W	♠K	Pitching: ♥5
8 W	♠J	Pitching: ♥3
9 W	♠5	Pitching: ♦3
10 W	♥6	Ruff by East with the last trump ♠8
11 E	♦5	West wins ♦K
12 W	♦6	♦A wins
13 E	♦J	Ruff by West with last trump ♠J

4d. Bidding Challenge Solutions: Hand 2

North		V	
♠	4 3		
♥	K 7 5 3 2		
♦	4		
♣	K J 9 5 3		

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

South		V	
♠	K 9 7 6		
♥	10 6 4		
♦	10 9 8		
♣	8 7 6		

HCPs	7	21	9	3
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East	2	6	2	5	5
West	3	6	2	5	5

Standard American or 2/1 Bidding			
West	N	East	S
2NT (20-21 Bal)	P	3♥ - Tfr, 5+ spades	P
3♠ Accept	P	4♦ - 4+D slammish	P
4NT Keycard (♦)	P	5♣ - 1 or 4	P
6♦ or 6NT	P	Pass, nothing extra	P
Standard or 2/1 has a similar action. But most will stop in 6♦ or 6NT			
IMPs: All of the field will stop in 6♦ or 6NT.			
MPs: A 31/32 HCP slam. Most of the field will stop in 6NT at MPs (looking for a better score). Some may stay out of slam.			
Best leads: 6D by East: the ♦ T is a safe lead for South 6NT by W: North does not want to lead away from the ♠ K, so probably ♦ 4 is best			
Play: With all the H/C Kings poorly placed 6NT should go down. However, 6♦ can make, as an early spade finesse, followed by ruffing ♠ K finesse can bring 6♦ home, pitching two clubs on the long spades			

Bidding Notes:

W: Strong 20/21 HCPs, balanced hand.

E: 3♥, transfers to 3♠

W: Accepts transfer (may be zero points)

E: Then bids 4♦, second suit, strong.

W: Keycard in last bid suit (♦)

Contract 6NT by West, North's Best Lead:

♦4. Sitting above the strong balanced hand, must not lead away from a King.

West's Plan in 6NT:

Losers – Likely ♠K unless South is short?

Winners – 4♠+1♥+5♦+1♣=11 – one short.

Needs the heart or club finesse to work, but both fail, 6NT is down.

Contract 6D by East: South's best lead:

♦10. No reason to lead a rag club or heart.

East's plan in 6♦

Losers: Possible losers ♠K, ♥K, ♣K

Winners: 5♦ +1♥+1♣+1♠ – try long spades first

Play: card by card

T	Lead	Play in 6♦ by East: 12 tricks
1	S ♦ 10	Win ♦ J in West hand
2	W ♦ 7	Win ♦ Q in East hand (note 3/1 diamond break)
3	E ♠ Q	Finesse ♠ K - South ducks so East wins
4	E ♠ 5	Cross to the ♠ A, West wins, North follows
5	W ♦ 6	Play the ♦ A, drawing the last trump (note kept ♦ 2 as entry back to the East hand)
6	E ♠ J	South covers ♠ K, ruff with ♦ K
7	W ♦ 2	West leads ♦ 2 to East's ♦ 5
8	E ♠ 10	Cash high spade, pitching ♣ 4 from East. South drops ♠ 9.
9	E ♠ 8	Cash high spade, pitching ♣ Q from East
10	E ♥ 9	♥ Q finesse, loses to the ♥ K
11	N ♥ x	West wins ♥ J
12	W ♥ A	Cash out
13	W ♣ A	Cash out for 12 tricks!

But West hand is high for 12 tricks.

4e. Playing Hand Challenge Solution

You end up in the reasonable 6♠ Contract

T	Lead	Play in 6♠ by South: for 12 tricks
1	E ♥ K	All follow
2	E ♥ A	Ruffed by South ♠ 9
3	N ♠ 10	North wins ♠ K Both follow
4	S ♠ 2	South wins ♠ Q Both follow
5	S ♠ J	West discards ♥ 7, Trumps are drawn

Winners, 5♠ + 3♦ + 3♣ = 11. The twelfth trick can come from either minor suit, if either of them break favorably. How can you improve your chances of making 6♠?

Solution:

There is an additional possibility that a single defender holds **both 4 card minors**, if so, they can be squeezed out of their trick.

To affect a **simple squeeze** on a target opponent's hand the following "BLUE" conditions should exist:

- They must hold **Both** potential winners in the two suits
- The **Loser** count must be 1
- You must have at least one threat card positioned over the target (**Upper** hand).
- You must have an **Entry** to the squeezed winner.

Looking at the full hand:

North		East	
West (D)	♠ K72	♠ 654	
	♥ 96	♥ J1085432	
	♦ Q754	♦ T	
	♣ AK76	♣ 92	
	South		
♠ 83	♠ AQJT9		
♥ AK7	♥ Q		
♦ J984	♦ AK63		
♣ JT54	♣ Q83		

Here:

1. West holds J984 and JT54 in **both** minors
2. We have 11 tricks, and have already lost ♥A, thus the **loser** count is correct =1.
3. Here the ♣7 and ♦6 are our threat cards, one (♣7) is in the **upper hand** over West
4. Adequate **entries** to both threat cards with **AKQ** in each suit.

Note: you must cash your last outside winner before playing the minors, else West will just follow suit.

So, on trick 6, South cashes the last spade, throwing ♦4 from the North hand. We have kept **4 diamonds** in the South hand and **4 clubs** in the North hand.

An expert declarer would do this automatically without thinking too much as it should improve his overall chances. This play automatically **squeezes West** on the layout, who has to reduce to 7 minor cards, and he must choose to let a minor card go.

Note: the same play would also squeeze East if he had both minors as we have threat cards in each hand! (♦6 being an upper threat against East)

We will then play out the diamond tricks (Q, A, K), **carefully counting** the diamond discards. If the ♦6 is high, we cash it + 3 top clubs for 12 tricks. Else if not, we will play on the Clubs (Q, K, A) and hopefully the final 6♣ will be high. **And it is...**

Play: card by card for improving players:

T		Lead	Play in 6♠ by South, for 12 tricks
1	E	♥ K	All follow
2	E	♥ A	Ruffed by South with the ♠ 9
3	S	♠ 10	North wins ♠ K, both follow
4	S	♠ 2	South wins ♠ Q, both follow
5	S	♠ J	West discards ♥ 7, trumps are drawn

Just before trick 6 west now holds:

West (D)	
♠	
♥	
♦	J984
♣	JT54

6	S	♠ Q	South cashes the last free winner ♠Q, North discards ♦4, let's assume West who is squeezed lets the ♣4 go
---	---	-----	--

7	W	♦ Q	Cash ♦ winner
8	W	♦ A	Cash ♦ winner
9	W	♦ K	Cash ♦ winner, we are counting diamond discards, so know our ♦6 is not high!
10	W	♣ Q	Cash ♣ winner
11	E	♣ A	Cash ♣ winner
12	W	♣ K	Cash ♣ winner
13	E	♣ 7	The last ♣7 is high for 12 tricks!

Squeeze Technique

For a simple squeeze to work, **BLUE** conditions must exist.

- **B**oth - Someone has both your suits covered
- **L**osers – You're down to 1 loser
- **U**pper – You have a threat card over the target opponent
- **E**ntries – you can reach your extra winner after the squeeze works
- You must cash all your **outside winners** before testing the critical suits.

You will then sometimes be rewarded when a squeeze has promoted a small card for your top score!

5. Teaching Corner

5a. Pat O'Connor Bridge Problem

North

♠ T87
♥ 932
♦ AKQ76
♣ 73

South

♠ A43
♥ A87
♦ 32
♣ A6542

The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
	Pass	Pass	Pass

Sitting South, you have a balanced hand with 12 HCPs so you open 1♣. North responds 1♦. You show your balanced shape and minimum strength opening hand with a 1NT rebid. North now knows there is no chance of game and is happy with NT, so passes.

Despite your opening bid of 1♣, West leads the ♠K. How do you plan to take 7 tricks?

Initial Analysis

You have six winners, so you need to find one more. From the opening lead it seems that clubs are not splitting 3-3, so the diamond suit is the only possible source of extra tricks. Note that there are no entries outside diamonds to dummy. That is the problem!

You can play the ♦AKQ, and if the diamonds split 3-3 you will make five diamond tricks and eight tricks in all. However, if they do not split evenly you will only make three diamond tricks and six in all. The chance of a 3-3 split is only 36%.

Can you do better? How will you proceed?

North Shore Bridge Club

Manager: Mike Prescott Phone: 0435 528 872
Editor: Kevin Davies Phone: 040 301 8979

5b. The start of Anita's 2019 Semester 1

Build on the Basics continues to introduce new ideas, together with play analysis and techniques.

BUILD ON THE BASICS with Anita Curtis @ CW 2hr sessions Wednesday @ 7:30pm & Thursdays @ 10:30am		
Restart of Build on Basics Course		
Wed Feb 6 & Thur Feb 7	NT delight	1NT & 2NT openings; ways to make your contract
Wed Feb 13 & Thur Feb 14	I prefer a suit	When to take opener out of 1NT into a suit
Wed Feb 20 & Thur Feb 21	I don't have the right number of points to open 1NT! (with Liz)	NT rebids
Wed Feb 27 & Thur Feb 28	Focus on Defence in NTs	Focus on Defence in No Trumps
Wed Mar 6 & Thur Mar 7	Supporting partner	Supporting partner
Wed Mar 13 & Thur Mar 14	Now what do I do?	Responder's priorities & Opener's rebids; ruffing & trumping in the short hand & dummy
Wed Mar 20 & Thur Mar 21	Oh no – I'm in the wrong hand! (with Liz)	Plan ahead and untangle entries
Wed Mar 27 & Thur Mar 28	Sorry, partner – I can't support you!	Opener's rebids with 2 suited hands

Develop Your Skills provides further development of bidding and play to bring players up to an intermediate level.

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS with Anita Curtis @ CW (2hr Sessions Thursdays @ 2pm)	
Thur 7 Feb, 2019	DYS Hand Analysis
Thur 14 Feb, 2019	Build on the Basics Hand Analysis
Thur 7 Feb, 2019	DYS Hand Analysis
Thur 14 Feb, 2019	Build on the Basics Hand Analysis

Broaden Your Skills is for intermediate players with typically 3 years of Bridge experience.

BROADEN YOUR GAME / INTERMEDIATE with Anita Curtis @ CW (2hr Sessions @ 2pm)		
Fri, 1 Feb	Hand Analysis	Eddie Kantar Thinking Bridge - all skills
Fri, 8 Feb	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	Competitive bidding after a Takeout X	Responding to a takeout X might seem easy but Eddie Kantar will challenge you!
NO LESSON ON 22 FEB		
Fri, 1 Mar	Hand Analysis	Eddie Kantar Thinking Bridge - all skills
Fri, 8 Mar	Competitive bidding using Power Xs	Enter the bidding with hands too strong to overcall. A bidding only session
Fri, 15 Mar	Eddie's tips on No Trump play	Eddie Kantar - declarer play
Fri, 22 Mar	Eddie's tips on Commonsense Defence	Eddie Kantar - defence
Fri, 29 Mar	Hand Analysis	Eddie Kantar Thinking Bridge - all skills

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

5c. Short Classes at East Lindfield

On Friday mornings at East Lindfield at **9:30am**, there is a free half-hour lesson with Mike Prescott, aimed at players from the Rookie level and up.

Come with or without a partner, and do stay on to enjoy the facilities and play in the **10am Open game**.

5d. Ready for even more challenges?

ABF Gold Coast Congress

There are several events for the newer player at the **ABF Gold Coast Congress** bridge festival, held in Broadbeach Queensland, the week beginning Sunday 17th February. For full details, follow this link to their website:

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

NSW Novice & Restricted Pairs State Championship

There is an event for the newer players, held at the **Orange Bridge Club**, the weekend of 23rd – 24th March. Novices have less than 100 MPs and Restricted have less than 300 MPs. For full details, follow this link:

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2019&E=srp>

The Director is **John McIlrath** (our NSBC Chief Tournament Director).

Finals: First \$200 plus medal, second \$160, third \$120

Plates: First \$160, second \$120.

Australian Bridge Federation Grant.

The Restricted Winners will receive free entry to the Restricted Butler Pairs at the Australian National Championships in Melbourne (July 20-21) and an associated travel / accommodation subsidy courtesy of the ABF.

5e. Guidelines for Alerting

In the last issue we talked about “announcing” the meanings of our 1♣ (3+ clubs) and 1NT (15 – 17 HCPs) opening bids, to ensure that our opponents are clear about our bids.

Similarly, whenever we make a bid that isn’t “natural”, that is we have bid a suit, but we don’t mean that we have that suit, we must “alert” the bid. The classic “artificial” bids are:

1. **The opening bid of 2♣**, our “game-force opening bid. It doesn’t mean that you have clubs.
2. **The 2♦ response to the 2♣ opening**. It doesn’t mean that you have diamonds, it is “negative or waiting”.
3. After a 1NT opening, if you are using “**Transfers**”, the 2♦, 2♥, 2♠ and 3♣ responses are all bids that mean that you have the higher ranked suit.
4. After a 1NT opening, if you are using “**Stayman**”, 2♣ doesn’t mean that you hold clubs.
5. **The 2♦ response to the Stayman 2♣ bid**. It doesn’t mean you have diamonds.

What does that mean in practice?

PARTNER must immediately circle your artificial bid saying “Alert”, if possible before their RHO has made their bid. Neither you, nor your partner, may say anything else unless asked. However, if the opponents ask you why you have alerted your partner’s bid you must give a clear explanation. Don’t just say “it’s Stayman”, your opponents may not know what this means. Say “my partner is asking if I have a 4-card major”.

BUT! There is always a BUT! The ABF decided that since all experienced players use Stayman, **when the 2♣ response to 1NT means Stayman, it shouldn’t be alerted**.

You do not alert any bids over 3NT.

5f. The Solution to Pat's Problem

The contract is 1NT, ♠K led, the full deal:

	North	
	♠ T87	
West	♥ 932	East
♠ K92	♦ AKQ76	♠ QJ65
♥ T654	♣ 73	♥ KQJ
♦ 84		♦ JT95
♣ KQJT	South (D)	♣ 98
	♠ A43	
	♥ A87	
	♦ 32	
	♣ A6542	

The first thing to decide is whether to duck the first trick. It is normal to duck the first trick or two in notrumps because West has probably led from a long suit, and in that case ducking will exhaust East in that suit.

However, in this situation you should not duck, because they may switch to another suit in which you have fewer cards. In any case you can afford for clubs to be split 5-1.

So, take the ♠A and then play on diamonds. The correct way is to play the ♦2 from your hand and ♦6 from dummy. The opponents will win the trick, but you will still have an entry to the remaining diamonds in dummy.

This way if the diamonds are split 3-3 **or** 4-2 you will make four diamond tricks and your contract. The chance that the diamonds are split 3-3 is 36% so if you are greedy and hope for that split you will be disappointed most of the time. The chance that the diamonds are split 4-2 is 48%, so the chance of a 3-3 or 4-2 split is 36% + 48% = 84%.

There are 6 Cards outstanding		
Break	%	Ducking Success
3-3	36%	
4-2	48%	36%+48% = 84%
5-1	15%	
6-0	1%	

Here the opponents will cash three club tricks when they win the first diamond, but you will make your contract. If the diamonds were split 5-1 or 6-0 there was nothing you could have done about it anyway.

Pat's Key Point?

Don't be afraid to give up a trick early, It may be the only way to make your contract.

5g. Your playing opportunities

Sue Crompton 0416 290 867	Kim Neale 02 9411 3527	John Scottford 02 9411 3527	Allan Pike 02 9411 3527
			
Director	Director	Director	Director
Kay Moyes 0416 002 701	Johnno Newman 02 9411 3527	Liz Wilkinson 0433 389 952	
			
Director	Director	Teacher	

Venue		Supervised Sessions
CW	Monday	afternoons at 2pm with Sue & Allan
CW	Tuesday	mornings at 10am with Kim & Kay
CW	Tuesday	evenings at 7:30pm with John
EL	Tuesday	afternoons at 2pm with Sue
EL	Tuesday	evenings at 7pm with Sue
CW	Wednesday	afternoons at 2pm with Liz & Kay
Venue		Rookie Sessions
CW	Monday	afternoons at 2pm with Sue & Allan
CW	Tuesday	mornings at 10am with Kim & Kay
EL	Tuesday	afternoons at 2pm with Sue & Alan
CW	Wednesday	afternoons at 2pm with Liz & Kay
CW	Thursday	afternoons at 2pm with Johnno

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

Venue	Restricted Sessions
CW	Monday morning at 10am
CW	Wednesday mornings at 10am
CW	Friday mornings at 10am

6. Partnerships (continued)

For Better and For Worse: The second instalment.

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!"

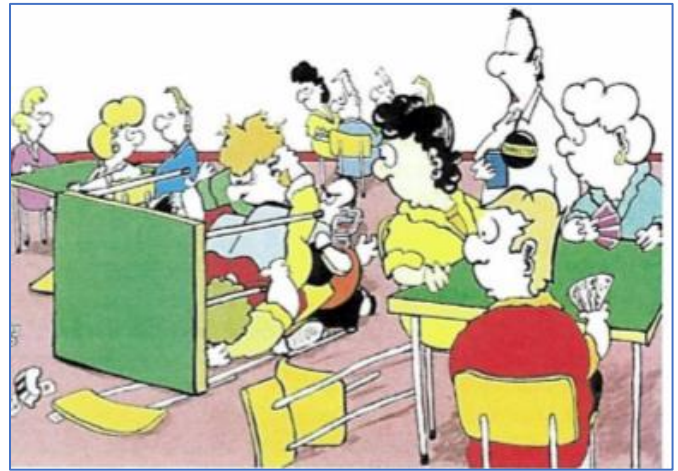
For Worse

Why is it that so many players still feel they have to discuss the bidding or play after every hand? The rudeness to opponents has certainly decreased in recent years, but the need for an exchange of views, often acrimonious, still seems almost irresistible.

It was much worse in the old days, of course. Rixi Markus was notoriously difficult to play with, and I remember watching her in the first part of a mixed pairs event at the Juan-les-Pins Congress in the mid-1980s. She was partnering a young German international, and by the end of the 10th board, he was in tears. Another time, Rixi was playing with Martin Hoffman, and they were arguing so fiercely that a kibitzer assumed they must be married! Are married couples worse than other partnerships? Are they bringing

extraneous baggage to the table? ("I would have made 3NT if you had remembered to ring the plumber!"). I have certainly seen players who were so rude to each other they just had to be a married couple - they certainly weren't a Civil Partnership. Definition of a bridge game: the only time a husband wants to do his wife's bidding.

I was at the table when Italy played England in the final of the Olympiad in Beijing in 2008, and I was surprised that Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace, an established partnership, seemed to have something to say after every board, lowering their heads to communicate under the screen.



"Somebody need a ruling?"

They were speaking Italian, so maybe they weren't talking about the bridge. "Shall we go back to that Smooth Duck restaurant again tonight, Lorenzo?" and "Wasn't it great, Napoli beating Juventus last night?", **but I doubt it.**

The rules say that all conversation at the bridge table should be in English, unless the opponents agree that you can use another language, so Lauria and Versace shouldn't have been talking in Italian.

I am reminded of the story of a heavily-accented Scottish player who was asked

by his opponents to use English, and was aggrieved to have to tell them that he was speaking English!

Silence can be golden. Another Italian pair, Pietro Forquet and Guglielmo Siniscalco, had a disaster on an early board of a match against France in 1956, running from a making 7H, doubled, to 7NT, doubled and down six. Not a word was said at the end of the hand; the Italians just got on with the next deal. It was their opponents, unnerved by the lack of recriminations, who were affected by the incident, and who quickly conceded their advantage and went on to lose the match.

Misunderstandings should be discussed and resolved after the session, away from the table. Even then, instant tinkering with the system, based on one poor result, is not necessarily a good idea. You'll be creating a system to cope with the last problem, not one that will work for the best in the long run.

Assuming a fledgling partnership survives its first game or two, it should be able to develop its system. There will be quite a few agreements and enhancements to conventions that need to be discussed and agreed on. I'm sure you'll recognize the need for these:

- "When my 1NT is overcalled, is your double for penalty or takeout?"
- "When you open 1C and they overcall 1D, does my double promise 4-4 in the majors, or could I be 3-4?"
- "What does a 2NT response to one of a major mean on a passed hand? It can't still be Jacoby, can it?"
- "We agreed to play 2NT as Ogust opposite a weak two, but what if there has been an overcall - what does 2NT

mean then?"

As well as ironing out what certain bids mean, a new pair will be developing a style, or at least an understanding, of where their natural styles differ:

"I would never open a weak two-bid with a four-card major (even a weak one) on the side."

"I thought your second-seat vulnerable three bid would be stronger than that!"

"I was surprised when you opened 1NT with doubletons in both majors."

Lastly, the pair needs to address behavioral aspects that affect the partnership. What does your partner do that annoys or distracts you? And vice-versa. At the top level, this may be the sort of thing that a sports psychologist can help with, but some of it is just common sense.

Punctuality is very important to some players. They will not perform well if their partner regularly arrives less than a minute before the start time, complaining about the traffic. Again.

The way your partner plays his cards can become irritating: flicking them as he takes them from his hand, or snapping them as she puts them on the table.

Those little comments, that seemed so droll the first time he said them, aren't really amusing when used every session.

If your partner feels time pressure, don't waste time looking at all the results on the electronic scorer. ("Look, three pairs made 4S "). After the session is over, sitting with the hand records and a glass of wine, is the time to decide if and how you should have bid to 4S.

Don't even start to discuss complex alternative lines of play. That just wastes mental energy and may distract the brain from concentrating on the next deal.

And so, the partnership moves into the stable phase. Bidding misunderstandings are few and far between (cue soft lighting and gentle mood music), the chemistry is working, you are consistently above average and the masterpoints are rolling in. Good pairs are inviting you to play in team events. Life is beautiful.

Or - back to reality - the partnership starts to decline. One of you wants to tinker with the system; to try 2/1, to experiment with odd-even discards, and to add leaping Michaels and Rubensohl. The other is regularly making a mess of puppet Stayman and things that are already on your card. Then it gets worse. You find you are having competitive auctions, even when the opponents are passing throughout. You used to be playing against two people: LHO (left-hand opponent) and RHO; now it seems to be three - CHO (centre hand opponent) has joined the fray. Both of you are wondering if it wouldn't be more fun to play with someone else. It's time to implement the "part" part of partnership; the "ship" has run aground.

Did you notice? Nearly every time I used the word "partnership," you could substitute the word "marriage" and much of the advice would still apply. Playing with the electronic scorer is a reference to mobile phones; irritating behaviour is just as annoying in life as it is in bridge; as is punctuality and time pressure. As for experimenting with the 2/1 and leaping Michaels, I'll leave that to your imagination!

For Better and For Worse: The second instalment, by **Simon Cocheme**.

7. Congress News

7a. ABF News & Coming Events

Gold Coast Congress – Broadbeach	February 15-23
Yokohama Bridge Festival	February 19-24
Tasmanian Festival of Bridge – Hobart	March 28-31
APBF Youth Team Championships – Bangkok	April 5-11
Autumn Nationals – Adelaide	May 2-6
Barrier Reef Congress – Cairns	May 3-6
Western Senior Pairs – Perth	May 18-19
Victor Champion Cup – Melbourne	June 6-10

Canberra – Summer Nationals results

ABF Summer Festival of Bridge (Canberra)			
Pos	Penline One-Day Swiss Pairs	VPS	W-D-L
1	Joan Butts & Leo Tislevoll	89	5-1-0
2	Bob Cox & Sue La Peyre	80	5-0-1
4th	Mark Guthrie & Julie Guthrie	77	5-0-1

Pos	One Day Novice Teams	VPS	W-D-L
1	Eugene Pereira, Rex Meadowcroft, Vesna Markovic, Voyko Markovic	80	6-0-0
2	Melissa Ardern, Stephen Smith, Claire Hughes, Cathi Bywater	73	4-0-2

Pos	National Women's Teams Championship (Qual)	VP	WLD
1	Barbara Travis, Candice Ginsberg, Karen McCallum, Vanessa Brown	126	8-0-1
2	Jodi Tutty, Susan Humphries, Jessica Brake, Marianne Bookallil	113	4-2-3
3	Helen Lowry, Berri Folkard, Frances Lyons, Heather Cusworth	117	7-0-2
4	Carol Richardson, Andi Boughey, Christine Gibbons, Jenna Gibbons	99	4-2-3

Semi Finals		Grand Final	
Travis	176	Travis	155
Lowry	163		
Tutty	111	Tutty	104
Richardson	109		

Pos	National Red Plum Life Masters Teams Championship	VPS	W-D-L
1	Terrence Sheedy, Keith Blinco, Eric Baker, Chris Stead	144	8-1-0
2	Ian Dalziel, Trevor Berenger, Terry Heming, John Donovan	123	7-1-1

Pos	National Pianola Plus Non-Life Masters Teams Championship	VPS	W-D-L
1	Andrew Grace, Gary Kembrey, Michael Brassil, Louise Brassil	123	6-2-0
2	Genevieve Dooley, Phil Creaser, Rosemary Follett, Geraldine O'Brien, Bricet Kloten	91	5-0-3

	National Senior's Teams Championship (qualifying)	IMP	WLD
1	Avinash Kantkar, Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumbey, Warren Lazer, Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna De Livera	134	7-1-1
2	Russel Harms, Jeff Travis, Judy Hocking, Kevin Lange	122	6-1-2
3	George Smolanko, Nigel Rosendorff, Simon Hinge, Stephen Lester, Zolly Nagy, David Lilley	119	6-1-2
4	Attilio De Luca, John Zollo, Riger Januszke, Phil Gue, Peter Chan, Jon Hunt	118	7-0-2

Semi Finals		Grand Final	
Kanetkar	113	De Luca	121
De Luca	121		
Smolanko	129	Smolanko	129
Harms	82		

Pos	Two Day National Novice "Matchpoints" Swiss Pairs Championship	VPS	W-D-L
1	Judith Foreman & John Royle	98	6-0-1
2	Ross Cunningham & Sara Lynch	94	5-0-2
3	Rex Meadowcraft & Eugene Pereira	91	6-0-1
NSBC			

Pos	Chris Diment Matchpoints Swiss Pairs	VPS	W-D-L
1	William Zhang & Tom Kiss	120	7-0-1
2	Shane Harrison & Liam Milne	112	5-0-3
3	Geoff Chettle & Greg Lewin	106	6-0-2
NSBC	Terry Bodycote & Paul Weaver	102	6-0-2

Pos	TBIB National Open Swiss Pairs Championship	VPS	W-D-L
1	Andy Hung & Liam Milne	151	8-1-2
2	Neil Ewart & David Beckett	148	8-1-2
3	Mini Packer & Jonathan Free	148	8-0-3
4	David Skipper & Glen Coult	145	8-2-1
Best	Peter Jeffery & Julian Abel	137	8-0-3

Pos	Penline 500 Swiss Pairs Championship (for players under 500 MPs)	VPS	W-D-L
1	Nico Ranson & David Ranson	145	8-0-3
2	Lindsay Scandrett & Donna Crossan-Peacock	142	9-0-2
Best	Kit Myers & Kerry Rymer	122	6-2-3

Pos	Novice Swiss Pairs Championship	VPS	W-D-L
1	Dan Craine & Ruth Frydman	137	7-2-2
2	Clare Hughes & Cathi Bywater	137	7-2-2
Best			

Pos	South-West Pacific Open Teams Championship (Qual)	VPS	W-D-L
1	Liam Milne, Andy Hung, James Coutts, Sophie Ashton, Shane Harrison, Sartaj Hans	172	9-2-1
2	Peter Buchen, Terry Brown, George Smolanko, Nigel Rosendorff, George Kozakos, Ian Robinson	164	9-1-2
3	Avinash Kanetkar, Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumbey, Warren Lazer, Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna De Livera	163	8-3-1
4	David Appleton, Stephen Fischer, Joachim Haffer, Howard Melbourne, David Morgan, Peter Reynolds	161	9-0-3
5	Tony Leibowitz, Peter Gill, Mike Cornell, Ashley Bach, Michael Whibley, Matthew Brown	160	8-1-3
6	David Weston, Julian Foster, Kim Morrison, Chris Hughes	153	8-1-3
7	David Wurth, Nick Fahrer, David Fryda, Michael Cartmell	152	7-2-3
8	Neil Ewart, David Beckett, Simon Henbest, Dee Harley	151	8-1-3

Quarterfinals		Semi Finals		Grand Final	
Team	IMP	Team	IMP	Team	IMP
Milne	142	Milne	139	Milne	125
Wurth	112				
Buchen	162	Buchen	137		
Ewart	63				
Kanetkar	153	Kanetkar	115	Leibowitz	152
Weston	114				
Appleton	129	Leibowitz	131		
Leibowitz	207				

Pos	Canberra Rex Under 750/300 MP Teams Championship	VPS	W-D-L
1	David Ranson, Susan McMahon, Ken McMahon, Nico Ranson, Charles McMahon	133	7-0-2
2	Neil Williams, Kevin Murray, Jane Biscoe, John Rogers	112	6-0-3

Pos	NEURA Swiss Pairs	VPS	W-D-L
1	Colin Bale & Ruth Neild	103	5-1-2
2	Susan McMahon & Ken McMahon	99	3-0-2

2019 Australian MIXED Team Selection

Pos	ABF Australian MIXED Team Selection Qualifying (24 Teams)	VPS	WLD
1	Leigh Gold, Kitty Muntz, Jamie Ebery, Kim Frazer	133	6-0-4
2	Marina Darling, Justin Mill, Annette Maluish, Andrew Mill	125	8-0-2
3	Hugh Grosvenor, Viv Wood, Simon Hinge, Ann Paton	123	7-0-3
4	Jodi Tutty, David Beauchamp, Renee Cooper, Ben Thompson	117	7-0-3

Semi Finals		Grand Final	
Team	IMP	Team	IMP
Gold	153	Gold	93
Darling	75		
Grosvenor	87		
Tutty	175	Tutty	240

Pos	Trumps - Swiss Teams (NYD)	VP	W-L-D
1	Jane Dawson , Susan Humphries, Liam Milne, Jane Beeby	89.94	6-0-0
2	Marcia Scudder, Kinga Moses, John Scudder, Neville Moses	75.21	4-0-2
3	Ashley Bach, Arlene Dalley, Paul Dalley, William Zhang	71.80	4-0-2

Pos	NSWBA Summer Teams	VP	W-L-D
1	Pauline Gumby , Warren Lazer , Peter Livesey, Peter Gill	85.04	5-0-1
2	Martin Bloom , Les Grewcock, Peter Jeffery, Wayne Zhu	76.57	4-0-2
3	Fraser Rew, Nick Rodwell, Kim Morrison, David Weston	73.15	4-0-2

Pos	Matchpointed Swiss Pairs	VP	W-L-D
1	Lavy Libman - Tomer Libman	105	6-1-0
2	Ella Pattison - Jamie Thompson	103	7-0-0
3	Therese Tully - Richard Ward	96	5-2-0

7b. NSWBA and Congress Events



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

NSW Congress Calendar		
February, 2019		
Kings and Queens Sydney	<i>Swiss Pairs</i>	Feb 3 (Sun)
Great Lakes Bridge Club	<i>Teams</i>	Feb 9 (Sat) - 10 (Sun)
Gold Coast Congress	<i>ABF Multi Events</i>	Feb 15 (Fri) - 23 (Sat)
March, 2019		
Griffith Ex-Servicemens Bridge Club Wine Country Congress	<i>Swiss Pairs & Teams</i>	Mar 2 (Sat); Mar 3 (Sun)
Forbes Bridge Club	<i>Swiss Pairs</i>	Mar 3 (Sun)
Trumps Bridge Centre	<i>Teams</i>	Mar 3 (Sun)
Batemans Bay Bridge Club	<i>Pairs, Swiss Pairs, Teams</i>	Mar 8 (Fri); Mar 9 (Sat); Mar 10 (Sun)
Armidale Bridge Club	<i>Swiss Pairs</i>	Mar 9 (Sat) - 10 (Sun)
Wellington Bridge Club Annual Congress	<i>Matchpointed Pairs, Teams</i>	Mar 9 (Sat), Mar 10 (Sun)
Trumps Bridge Centre	Northern Suburbs Inter Club Teams Challenge	Mar 10 (Sun)
Ballina Bridge Club	<i>Swiss Pairs & Teams</i>	Mar 16 (Sat); Mar 17 (Sun)
Port Macquarie-Hastings Bridge Assoc	<i>Swiss Pairs & Teams</i>	Mar 16 (Sat); Mar 17 (Sun)
Kiama and District Bridge Club	<i>Novice Matchpoint Pairs</i>	Mar 17 (Sun)
NSBC - East Lindfield	<i>Swiss Pairs</i>	Mar 17 (Sun)
Inverell Delvyn Bridge Club	<i>Matchpointed Pairs</i>	Mar 23 (Sat) - 24 (Sun)
State Championships @ Orange bridge club	Novice and Restricted Matchpointed Pairs	Mar 23 (Sat) - 24 (Sun)
Tasmanian Festival of Bridge	<i>ABF Multi Events</i>	Mar 28 (Thu) - 31 (Sun)
Tamworth Bridge Club	<i>Teams</i>	Mar 30 (Sat) - 31 (Sun)