

From: North Shore Bridge Club Inc manager@northshorebridgeclub.com.au
Subject: December Newsletter
Date: 8 December 2024 at 10:08 am
To: Sharon Thompson president@northshorebridgeclub.com.au

MP



Monthly Newsletter

December 2024 | Editor: Russell Spear

Dear Sharon,

To see all our latest news and events, please visit our website which is updated daily. [Click here to visit the website.](#)

In This Issue

[Club Notices](#)

[From the President](#)

[Masters of Bridge](#)

[Extend your Knowledge](#)

[Major Results](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Other Events and News](#)

[Lessons](#)

[Dear Director](#)

[Ask Gary,](#)

[Monthly Winners](#)

[Masterpoint Promotions](#)

[New Members](#)

CLUB NOTICES



Christmas Holiday Opening Times

Christmas Opening Hours

It's nearly business as usual over this Christmas Holiday period. Normal sessions will continue through all of December with the only closure being for Christmas Day. Normal sessions will

continue after Christmas, although on January 1 (Wednesday) there will only be 2 sessions at 1:30 Open on Real Bridge and 2pm Rookie on Real Bridge.
All our sessions and red point days are listed below.

MONDAY 23rd All sessions are as per normal	TUESDAY 24th All sessions are as per normal	WEDNESDAY 25th No Sessions, all venues Closed	
THURSDAY 26th 1:00pm EL Open* 1:30pm RB Open* 2pm RB Rookie* 7pm RB Sum Pairs	FRIDAY 27th All sessions are as per normal	SATURDAY 28th All sessions are as per normal	
MONDAY 30th All sessions are as per normal	TUESDAY 31st All sessions are as per normal	WEDNESDAY 1st Jan 1:30pm RB Open* 2pm RB Rookie*	THURSDAY 2nd Jan All sessions are as per normal *

EL = East Lindfield
RB = Realbridge Online
*** = Red Point Games**

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Morning Sessions On Real Bridge Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 starting Tuesday Janu 7th

At the end of December Kings and Queens Bridge Club in the Eastern Suburbs will close their doors after many years. Many Kings and Queens members already play with us, having joined during Covid. This is a great opportunity to put back a couple of morning sessions to accommodate and attract players from that club to join us on Real Bridge. Of course we would like existing members to also support this initiative and meet new members joining the club

ONLINE MORNINGS are BACK

MON TUE WED

STARTING 6TH JANUARY 2025 @ 10AM

2025 Membership Renewals

As the year ends, it is time to prepare for your 2025 membership renewal. **To renew your membership** - there is nothing you need to do except ensure your PP account has sufficient funds to cover the renewal fee. **To cancel your membership** - please let us know by completing this [quick form](#)

Thank you for being part of our community, and we look forward to another great year together!

NB. If we do not hear from you - we will renew your membership automatically.

Your Old Phone Could Save a Life

In a great community initiative North Shore Bridge Club, in partnership with Bendigo Bank and Rotary, is collecting unused phones to support victims of domestic violence. These phones will be professionally wiped to remove all data and then regifted, providing a safe means of communication for those in need. The initiative will make a real difference, and we encourage you to donate any unused phones. Drop them off at either The Willis or Eats Lindfield, and we will ensure they are donated to this worthy cause. Thank you for your generosity!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wishing You a Joyful and Connected Holiday Season

As the holiday season approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. Whether you're celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, another tradition, or simply enjoying some well-deserved downtime, I hope this season brings moments of joy and connection.

At the North Shore Bridge Club, we're proud to be part of a community that values inclusion and friendship. For some, this time of year can be challenging, and it's important to remember that a kind gesture or shared moment can mean a lot. Let's look out for one another and ensure all bridge partners feel included and supported during the festive season.

This is also a perfect time to acknowledge the incredible people who keep our club thriving throughout the year:

- **Josh**, who takes care of all our dealing and keeps things running smoothly behind the scenes.
- **Sue**, whose boundless enthusiasm and frantic energy keep us all fed, organised, and feeling well looked after.
- **Mike**, who works tirelessly to ensure everything runs like clockwork.
- **Gary**, who keeps us clicking away online and having fun in the digital space.
- Our **amazing Directors**, who guide us with patience and reminders to be nice, welcome our opponents, announce our 1 club bids, and clarify our 1NT strength.
- Our **supportive and encouraging Teachers**, who teach the next generation of bridge players.

players.

- To our many **volunteers**, you know who you are — thank you for your time, energy, and passion.

Let us also not forget your **Committee — Ian, Jo, Terry, Robyn, and Jake** — who are constantly beaver away behind the scenes, looking to the future, setting goals and targets, exploring new opportunities, assessing your feedback from the survey, and working hard to make our better for all of you.

Looking ahead, **budgets are complete, and we are excited for a positive 2025**. We're also busy finalising a **staff incentive program** designed to reward those who go "above and beyond" in contributing to the success of the club. This initiative is one of many ways we aim to keep improving and growing together.

A heartfelt thank you to our **sponsors — Two Men and A Truck, Hyegrove, TBIB, Fixed Income Solutions, and Morgans**. Sponsorship plays a vital role in attracting new players to events with the lure of great prizes. If you or someone you know might be interested in supporting our club, **we have many sponsorship opportunities available for 2025**. Please contact Ian MacLaren on **0418 680 879** to learn more.

Thank you all for being such an integral part of the North Shore Bridge Club. Here's to a holistic season filled with good games, warm connections, and plenty of smiles.

Warmest wishes

Shaz

MASTERS OF BRIDGE

An interview with leading Bridge Players

	Giselle Mundell
How Long have you been Playing Bridge	I started playing in 1982 (42 years as a player)
How Many Master Points have you earned	Gold – 2295, Red – 1117, Green - 454
While you have a lot of Master Points you have more Red and Gold Points than Green – why is that?	I mainly enter state and National events and it takes longer to earn Green Points
In which tournaments have you had the most success in last 5 years. Which events have you represented Club/State/Australia	In October this year I was successful in the inaugural Ge Stein Mixed Pairs event at the Spring Nationals with Andrew Peake and my team made the final of the Open Teams category. I represented Australia's women's team at the World Championships in 2019 and again in 2021. My team was runner-up in the Grand National Open Teams (GNO) final in 2023. Won the Victor Champions Cup (VCC) Mixed Pairs in 2023 with Andrew Peake

What Conventions do you use when Bidding over and above the 5 Standard Conventions	Play transfer responses over 1 Club, and a Variant of Michael's Cue Bid. Overall my system is reasonably simple.
WRT Bidding which approach would you suggest for players with less than 300 MP's	Honestly I would recommend to both groups to keep it simple.
Defense is about 50% of the game what tips would give to players to handle this part of the game	Defense is very important and getting a feel for the point count and distribution in each hand will take you a long way.
What Conventions do you use for Defense/How do you approach defense	I listen to the bidding very carefully. The weaker my hand the more aggressively I lead. The stronger my hand the more passive my lead.
For New, Rookie and Restricted Players what errors do you most commonly see. How should they correct them.	Most importantly do not bid your hand twice. Partner see your bid and hopefully will respond accordingly. Very important to remember which cards have already been played.
What do you see as the best ways for players to improve their game	Read as many bridge books as you can and try to watch good players on BBO
Do you try to work out what cards your opponents have a. During Bidding b. After the first lead How do you do that	Yes, I do both, and as the hand progresses I gain further information to better recognise the cards and points each player has. I do this by concentration and memory – training myself over the years has led me to be successful in this area
Any other thoughts/questions you would add?	The hardest part of the game is to find a partner you can trust and gel. Mutual respect is vital for success.

EXTEND YOUR BRIDGE KNOWLEDGE

EXTENDING ON THE FIVE ESSENTIAL CONVENTIONS - Stayman, Transfers, Strong 2 Clubs, Blackwood and Pre-Empts

Splinter Bids - Dorothy Truscott is usually credited with having developed the idea of Splinter Bids in the 60's. She was a winner of four World Championships and the top ranked woman internationally for many years. Many years prior to that time however Lt. Col. Beasley playing England in the first World Championship in 1933 against the Ely Culbertson's American team made a bid unlike the modern splinter bid eventually reaching Slam on a combined 22 point

A splinter bid gives partner some additional information about a good hand. It also uses a bid which is not used for anything else, a double jump in a new suit over a major suit opening by partner.

For example:

Opener 1S Response (Partner) 4C, 4D, 4H

or

Opener 1H Response (Partner) 3S 4C, 4D

Each of these Responses are Splinter bids. They show a game force raised in partner's major as well as a singleton or void in the suit bid by you, as partner.

To make a Splinter bid you need to have the following type of hand:

- a) You have at least 4 card support for partners bid suit
- b) You have 13-15 points (including distribution points)
- c) You have a void or singleton in the suit you have bid

Splinter bids are particularly useful in ensuring you, at least get to game, but also the possibility of bidding to slam with fewer points than normal based on a precise knowledge of distribution. If you opened with a minimum points hand or a hand with a number of low value cards you can sign off in 4 of the agreed suit.

For an excellent example of a Splinter Bid please review the Dear Director section in this month's Newsletter

For more information on Splinter bids please consult the North Shore Bridge Club library or books from NSBC which cover this topic.

MAJOR RESULTS

NSBC -Member (Sophie Ashton) - Makes the 2025 Australian Open Team

Congratulations to the MARKEY team, Phil Markey, Joe Haffer, Sophie Ashton and David Wiltshire, the winners of the 2025 Australian Open Team Playoff, defeating the GUE team of Gue, Stephen Burgess, Jonathon Free, Ron Cooper, Michael Courtney, Chris Depasquale in the Final (247.1 to 236)

With the addition of a third pair yet to be decided the Markey Team will represent Australia at the Bermuda Bowl in Hemming, Denmark in August 2025

NSBC - Club Championship 2024

The Club Champion of NSBC in 2024 has a very tight leaderboard.

There are only 3 events between now and the end of the year. So who will be the winner and outright champion bridge player for this year?

Rank	Player	CC Points to 28 Nov	Events
1=	Andrew PEAKE	84	10
1=	Giselle MUNDELL	84	11
3	Peter JEFFERY	82	15

4	Colin CLIFFORD	76	17
5	Witold CHYLEWSKI (JUN)	74	16
6	Yumin LI	71	13
7	Wieslaw PRZEWOZNIAK	66	13
8	AVRIL ZETS	57	11
9=	JOAN BUTTS	54	4
9=	MICHAEL COURTNEY	54	5
11	HUGH GROSVENOR	45	9

Giselle Mundell and Andrew Peake are the current leaders on 84 CC Points while hot on their heels is Peter Jeffrey, who was Club Champion last year, and a high place-getter previous to 1990. At this stage it is probably anyone's guess as to who will win from those three. I am sure however, Colin Clifford who is 8 points behind Giselle and Peter also hasn't given up either. Good luck to the four leaders and of course there could be someone come from behind, so good luck to all.

UPCOMING EVENTS

XMAS Open Teams Championship

Thursday, 05 December, 12 December & 19 December each at 1900

[NSBC Thursday Nights](#) | Teams | Online | [Red Masterpoints](#)

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Festive Season OPEN Pairs Congress

Saturday, 14 December at 1000

[NSBC Congress](#) | Club Championships | Pairs | Online | [Red Masterpoints](#)

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Festive Season RESTRICTED Pairs Congress

Saturday, 14 December at 1000

[NSBC Congress](#) | Club Championships | Pairs | Online | [Red Masterpoints](#)

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Festive Season OPEN Teams Congress

Sunday, 15 December at 1000

[NSBC Congress](#) | Club Championships | Teams | Online | [Red Masterpoints](#)

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Summer OPEN Pairs Championship

Thursday 24 December and Thursday 02 January at 1900

[NSBC Congress](#) | Club Championships | Pairs | Online | [Red Masterpoints](#)

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

OTHER EVENTS AND NEWS

Christmas Bridge Function Games and Luncheon

Over the last few weeks we have held our annual Christmas Festival games. Due to the contingent of players the event has been held over 2 days, initially for Open Players and on December 6 for Rookie/Restricted players and Open players unable to go to the previous session. Both days were undoubted successes with very large turnouts.

After enjoyable bridge sessions the management team, ably led in this instance by chief caterer extraordinaire Sue Crompton and team put on a great lunch.

Pictured below are the winners from each section of Bridge on the respective days being presented with their prizes by President Shaz Thompson

Winners of the Open Section of the first Christmas Function - held Nov 29 North - South David & Jill Hagley



Winners Open Section November 29 East West Alicia Mercer & Carol McMurray



Winners of the Restricted Section of Christmas Function Dec 6 - North South Stuart Ball & Brian Osborne



Winners of the Restricted Section Dec 6 - East West Helen Freeman & Beth Morton



Winners of the Open Section of Christmas Function Dec 6 - North South George Finikiotis



Winners of the Open Section of Christmas Function Dec 6 - East West Angela Boulton & Peter



LESSONS

While there are not many Lessons programmed for the December, January Holiday period this is a very exciting and to be well attended session led by outstanding Trainer Will Jenner-O'Shea

Practice cue raises, Checkback, and Doubling 1NT.

Plenty of bidding and defense tips.

A summary of all the suggested conventions that were looked at in 2024, improved judgement and evaluation. This workshop is suitable for players of all levels, from Supervised to Open and is destined to improve your bridge playing. Tips for players at all levels. It doesn't matter if you didn't attend any of the previous workshops, you will gain significant insight into Bridge options through attendance at this session. To register for this course click [here](#)

WILL JENNER-O'SHEA
WORKSHOP
SUMMARY, REVIEW & PRACTICE

CUE RAISES
How to get your partner's attention - bid the Opps suit!
CHECK BACK
Does my partner have 4 or 5 of the major, how can I check?
DOUBLING 1NT
When to be brave, how many points? What does it mean?
BIDDING & DEFENCE
Plenty of bidding & defence practice and tips

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 10AM -
East Lindfield Bowling Club
\$60pp (incl morning tea and lunch)
Visitors are very welcome
Booking essential
Bookings via website

DEAR DIRECTOR

Just a quick reminder of another etiquette required when playing Face to Face Bridge. When you are going to lead, don't pull out a card and then pop it back in your hand and pick a different card. Now even though the opponents can't see the original card, you are giving information to partner, that you have two choices of leads. Also remember when you have decided and pull the card out, keep it face down so no-one else can see the card, in case it is your lead.

I have identified several boards which are worth a closer look as the outcomes achieved against what was possible with better calling would have led to higher value outcomes for the declarer/dummy partnership

Board 5 Thursday Open Face to Face East Lindfield 21st November

On this hand North opened 1 Club, opposition over called 2 Hearts. South bid 2 Spades. North bid 3 Spades and the contract finished in 4 Spades.
A better bid by North is to bid 4 Hearts - a

Board 5Travelle

North **D V**
♠ J 9 4
♥ 4
♦ A Q 2

Splinter bid. If South has a weak hand they could sign off in 4 Spades.

But the South hand is strong, and you have support for partner's first bid suit. The only thing North may be worried about is the opposition cashing 2 Heart tricks. With the 4 Heart bid by partner you should be very excited about looking for slam. You have a very easy 12 tricks. No one got to slam on this hand.

The bidding on this hand should have been North 1C - East (Overcall) 2H

South 2S - West Pass

North 4H - East Pass

The bid by North indicates a shortage in the bid suit - a Splinter bid

South 4NT (asking for Aces) etc.

No one bid a Small Slam on this hand but it was eminently achievable

Board 3 Thursday Open Face to Face East Lindfield 21st November

This hand also caused a lot of problems. The only pair that reached bidding slam had a bidding misunderstanding.

North should open 1 Spade and South should respond 1NT.

North can now show their hearts, bidding 2H's. South should respond with a raise in Hearts (having 4 cards in that suit).

Once North sees the Heart fit, North should realise they need very little from Partner to make Slam and should then proceed down the track of seeking Aces from partner to make a final call.

		♣ A K 6 5 4 2			
West		NV		East	
♠ 8 5 3 ♥ Q 10 7 3 ♦ J 9 6 3 ♣ 10 9				♠ 10 6 ♥ A K 9 8 6 2 ♦ 10 8 5 4 ♣ J	
		South		V	
		♠ A K Q 7 2 ♥ J 5 ♦ K 7 ♣ Q 8 7 3			
				HCPs	
				14	
				3	8
				15	

Board 3

Travelle

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

HCPs

20
7 5
8

Ask Gary

Hello Bridge tragics, I am adding a new column to the NSBC newsletter that will offer help with all things bridge, especially with RealBridge. Please email me with any questions you may have and I will select a few to answer each month as best I can!

My tips for being a good partner

Act as the partner you would like to have. Exhibit friendliness, politeness, respect, and understanding, particularly when situations become challenging. Bridge involves both social interaction and game play, so it is essential to greet partners and opponents and engage with them inclusively.

Bridge partnerships require dedication. While poor game results may be quickly forgotten, poor behavior can leave a lasting impression. Players who frequently display negative attitudes at table may develop a reputation that discourages others from wanting to ever play with them.

To maintain a lasting partnership, put effort into it. If a hand goes poorly, note the board number to discuss post-session. Conduct postmortems after the match, in private, and definitely not during or between rounds.

During club bridge, stay positive and take bad boards in stride. A simple "sorry partner" for mistakes should suffice. Discuss what went wrong after the session to improve your partnership.

It may be an ad-hoc game for the day or the beginning of a potential long-term partnership. Regardless of the situation, it is advisable to follow the principle of "Keep It Simple." Begin by playing the basic standard system. Special conventions can be introduced into a new partnership at a later date when both parties are comfortable with each other's approach to game.

Often I have heard players mention that they are using such-and-such a convention, and when things in application of the convention I also hear "Well, this is how I always play it with my old partner." Even when familiar with a convention such as Bergen, many people have slight variations in their interpretation, and some may not be fully aware of the entire Bergen system due to its complexity. For new partnerships, it is recommended to avoid using Bergen and other special conventions, as they might hinder performance rather than improve it. Focus on the basic version of the standard system first, as playing it well will give you good results.

At the end of the match, when reviewing the game, address only the most serious issues and avoid focusing on every detail. Prioritize your concerns, acknowledging that bridge is a challenging game to master and requires time and effort, which ultimately makes the learning process rewarding.

Send any questions you may have by sending an email to online@northshorebridgeclub.com

MONTHLY WINNERS

Congratulations to the following players who were the overall Monthly Winners for their sessions:

East Lindfield Monday 10.00 AM Rookie - Haitao Chen / Anne Beaumont
East Lindfield Monday 1.00 PM Open - Roslyn Howes / Tony Howes
East Lindfield Monday 7.00 PM Supervised - Margaret Beck / Michael Beck
East Lindfield Tuesday 1.30 PM Rookie - Jenny Burchfield / Marie Westgarth
East Lindfield Wednesday 10.00 AM Open - Maureen Evers / Judy De Flamingh
East Lindfield Thursday 10.00 AM Rookie - Julie Travers / Pamela Sleep
East Lindfield Thursday 10.00 AM Supervised - Anita Van Den Bogaardt / Pat Quirke-Parry
East Lindfield Thursday 1.00 PM Open - David Hagley / Jillian Hagley
East Lindfield Saturday 1.00 PM Open - Marlaine Gahan / Helen Stewart
The Willis Monday 1.15 PM Rookie - Jane Loveday / Pauline Beckton
The Willis Tuesday 12.30 PM Open - Helen Stewart / Lydia Gibbs
The Willis Wednesday 12.30 PM Open - Ceiny Maybury / Tina Strickland
Online Mon 10.00 am Open - Monica Ginsberg / Nazife Bashar
Online Mon 1.30 pm Open - Helen Lowry / Helen Milward
Online Mon 2.00 pm Rookie - Anne Lancaster / Debbie Irwin
Online Tue 1.30 pm Open - Bernard Edelstein / Peter Cox
Online Tue 2.00 pm Rookie - Chris Lewis / Donald Chisholm
Online Tue 7.00 pm Restricted - Jack Abrams / Leesa Abrams
Online Wed 1.30 pm Open - Phil Gue / Anthony Burke
Online Wed 2.00 pm Rookie - Harley Mchutchison / Greg White
Online Wed 7.00 pm Open - David Osie / Judy Osie
Online Thu 1.30 pm Open - Peter Livesey / Kevin Davies
Online Thu 1.30 pm Restricted - David Boyle / Denise Reilly
Online Fri 1.30 pm Open - Tom Kiss / Alasdair Beck
Online Sat 1.30 pm Open - George Bilski / Nicole Strasser

MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following members on their promotions.

Tess Mulveney to Graduate Master
Pamela Sleep to Graduate Master
David Rieser to Club Master
Steve Murphy to Local Master
Tony Sheehan to Local Master
John Lawrance to Club Master
Patrick Lockley to Club Master
Geoffrey Lyons to Club Master
Julie Travers to Club Master
Lorna Ichilcik to Silver Grand Master
Thomas Fischer to Bronze State Master
Geoff McRae to Bronze Regional Master
Mary Ann Irvin to Regional Master
Ashleigh Gallagher to Regional Master
Anne Craig to Silver Local Master
Kate Mallett to Bronze Local Master
Mike Dowling to Local Master
Christine Grech to Local Master

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members this month.

David Bavin - Mollymook
Anne Beaumont - Pymble
Belinda Bennet - Newcastle
Val Bennett - Lindfield
Haitao Chen - Gordon
Ben Hyde - Roseville
Bricet Klore - Canberra
Catharina Muller - Hornsby



pianola
Smart tools for bridge clubs

This message was sent using Pianola

North Shore Bridge Club Inc, 2B Carlyle Rd, East Lindfield NSW 2070, 325A Eastern Valley Way, Middle Cove NSW 2068, NSW

If you would like to unsubscribe immediately and **stop receiving emails from North Shore Bridge Club Inc** [click here](#).

