

From: North Shore Bridge Club Inc manager@northshorebridgeclub.com.au
Subject: Monthly Newsletter - April
Date: 2 April 2025 at 9:28 pm
To: Sharon Thompson president@northshorebridgeclub.com.au

MP



Monthly Newsletter

April 2025 | Editor: Russell Spear

Dear Sharon,

Please see below our latest Newsletter for March.

If you have any comments, helpful hints, things you would like to see, in the Newsletter please send an email to news@northshorebridgeclub.com.au (cut and paste this email address to your email account)

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CLUB NOTICES

New Rookie Session at East Lindfield on Wednesday morning.

Starting **April 2nd**, we're launching a brand-new Rookie session alongside our regular Open session at East Lindfield. To celebrate, all Wednesday morning games at East Lindfield during month of April will be **Red Points!**

New to North Shore Bridge Club Pairs Congresses in 2025.

We're excited to announce a change to our Congress events for 2025! Instead of Restricted sections, we're introducing Intermediate sections to encourage more entries and make the events even better for you. All players with under 750 Masterpoints will be eligible to play.

Depending on the level of participation, we hope to offer both Intermediate and Restricted prizes – this will be determined by the number of entries.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea Click [here](#) to get all the information.

Pauline Evans INTERMEDIATE Swiss Pairs Congress Sun, 06 Apr 25, 10:00

Intermediate / Restricted / Rookie congress on Sunday 6th April 10am at East Lindfield - Lunch provided. We have added this section to the Face to Face Congress and have lots of interest please join us to make the event even better. Click [here](#) to enter the event.

Easter Opening Hours

Click [here](#) for all information. Anzac Day Opening Times We will be running the Friday Online Open at 1.30pm with Red Points.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

My, how time flies! It feels like we were just ringing in the new year, and now we're already preparing for the AGM on Saturday, 26th April at 11:30 AM at East Lindfield. Stick around afterwards for lunch, followed by a Red Point Saturday Afternoon session at 1:00 PM—a perfect excuse to play bridge and call it “club business.”

March was fabulous! We had sell-out crowds at John Newman's lessons, and Face-to-Face Br continues to grow compared to last year. Membership is also looking stronger than ever—we signed up more new members and lost far fewer than usual, giving us a net gain of 38 members compared to -47 in the same period last year. A big thank you to everyone who has supported the club!

Exciting Sponsorship News!

A huge thank you to Morgans Financial Services for renewing their sponsorship! Danny Drey has been a long-time member and supporter of NSBC, so if you're in need of financial advice please consider supporting our sponsors first. Danny is always happy to take a call at (02) 81 1700. Thanks, Danny and the team at Morgans!

We're also delighted that Watermark Residences has renewed their sponsorship, supporting silent bidding pads at both venues. Many of their residents are bridge players, and we appreciate their continued commitment to our club.

Whispers About East Lindfield

There's been some chatter about East Lindfield selling off a bowling green. The reality is that Lindfield Rollers are exploring ways to stay viable with rising costs and declining membership. This is just one option they are discussing, and nothing is set in stone. We have a strong partnership with the Rollers, and they are keeping us in the loop. Rest assured, we will be in

close discussions with them as they explore their options. If you'd like more details, their official statement is available [here](#).

Myth Buster: Do Online Players Get More Red Point Events?

A common question I get is why online players seem to have more Red Point events and congresses than Face-to-Face players. So let's break it down:

- In 2024, we ran 660 regular F2F sessions, 11 Congresses & 5 Special Events.
- Online, we ran 773 regular sessions, 37 Championship nights, and 10 Congresses.
- All other Red Points are strategically used—for example, on public holidays to boost attendance or to support new sessions, or to try and keep a session alive.

One example is our April promotion: All Wednesday morning sessions at East Lindfield will offer Red Points to celebrate the launch of our new Rookie session and encourage more Open players to return to our friendly Wednesday morning game.

Championship Nights – A Special Part of Our Club Offering

Championship Nights are not just another special event—they are a prestigious, high-calibre event that attracts some of Australia's best players. These nights provide an incredible opportunity for aspiring bridge players to test their skills at an elite level.

Before COVID, these events were held Face-to-Face, but we have found that offering them online is both more cost-effective and allows wider participation. If you're a regular F2F player and would like to compete in these top-tier events, our wonderful Online Manager, Gary, is always happy to help you get set up on RealBridge so you can join in!

In summary, we always strive to balance opportunities across both face-to-face and online players—our goal is to keep as many sessions viable, enjoyable, and inclusive as possible!

The bottom line: Excluding Championship Nights, which are a unique event targeted at our Elite Players, we actually have more face-to-face Congresses than online.

Additionally, we run five special red-point events that are only played face-to-face, including:

- Christmas Lunches
- Melbourne Cup
- Biggest Morning Tea
- AGM Day Pairs

The remaining red-point allocations will be used for public holidays and promotional events. Our priority is to ensure fairness while maximising participation and enjoyment for all members!

How Red Points Are Allocated

The Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) allocates a limited number of Red Point events to each club, based on the number of Green Points issued in the previous year. Some Red Point events, such as State Championships, do not count towards our allocation. While you might not see the behind-the-scenes details, rest assured that Gary and Mike work hard to distribute non-state

Red Point sessions as fairly as possible across all formats—so everyone gets a fair go at earning those lovely shiny red points!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the tables soon! 😊


What are Swiss Pairs?

In my opinion, Swiss Pairs is one of the most inclusive and exciting bridge formats! The first round is a random draw, so yes, you might get the top guns in your division... but don't worry! After that, the winners play winners and the lower-ranked pairs play each other. As you do well, you move up the field, always facing pairs with a similar score.

Why is this great? You always have a chance to win a match—and winning a match means MASTERPOINTS! It's a fantastic way to compete, improve, and leave feeling like a winner.

We are absolutely thrilled with the overwhelming support for our Intermediate, Rookie & Restricted section at the Pauline Evans Swiss Pairs. In fact, we now have more pairs in this section than in the Open! Now, we need to boost our Open field, so if you're an experienced player, come and support us!

 **Sunday, 6th April**
 **East Lindfield, 10:00 AM**

 Register here: [Pauline Evans Swiss Pairs](#)
♠ Two sections, two sessions – all welcome!

Let's make this a fantastic event!

MASTERS OF BRIDGE

A Summary of some of the thoughts made in interviews with leading Bridge Players

Thoughts on Bidding and Conventions by our Masters Of Bridge

On Being Good Bridge Player

Try to keep things simple so you never confuse your partner. Have good agreements and always make time to discuss different things that come up in each session you play.

Conventions to be Used

Rookie players should be looking at adding new things to their system as they progress. Restricted players much the same but adding in more advanced tocs

their system as they are getting ready to try out Open sessions.

Play transfer responses over 1 Club, and a Variant of Michael's Cue Bid. Keep relatively simple

(I) use lots of conventions but they are an aid and aren't a substitute for bidding judgement. A common mistake for players is to take on too many conventions and not understand how they work

I don't play a lot of conventions but I am a big advocate for 2/1 GF (Game Force). Depending on the partner I also like transfer responses over 1C. Two-way checkback is another good one that I use with most of my regular partners

Of the conventions I play I recommend:

"Multi-Landy" defence to 1NT

Drury 2C by passed hand over 1H/1S

'Scrambling 2NT' when responding to a takeout double

'Good Raise 2NT' when partner opens or over calls a major and the auction gets competitive, 2NT shows a good raise with at least 4 trumps.

EXTEND YOUR BRIDGE KNOWLEDGE

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

Takeout Doubles

The idea of using a double for takeout instead of penalties was developed early in the 20th century, before the First World War. At that time it was called an "informatory" double. One of the early users was Bryant McCampbell who was responsible for creating the 4-3-2-1 point count system still in use today.

Takeout Doubles today are such a very basic part of bidding that they rarely require agreement with partner as to their meaning.

Your opponents have opened the bidding with a 1C opening. You want to call but don't have a card suit to call but you have opening points – what to do? – and the answer is as simple as a cross on a scorecard or if playing online clicking on the double sign.

How do you know that cross is Takeout Double rather than a Penalty Double?

There are three simple rules that apply

Bidding is at a low level, below game

Partner has not made a call other than pass

Opponents have bid a suit and not NT (A double of an Opening 1NT bid is taken as a penalty bid)

What is needed to make a "cross"/takeout double?

- A hand worth at least an opening bid
- Adequate trump support for all unbid suits
- Shortness in the opponents called suit

What is the expected response to a "cross"/takeout double?

When partner has made a takeout double, you must respond unless there is an intervening bid which lets you off the hook.

You must bid your best/"favourite" unbid suit even if you have no points. Why? If elect to pass you are committing to defend a contract in which you know your partner has few cards - and that could lead to a disaster score

The following rules can be used

- 0 – 8 points – bid best suit at the cheapest level
- 9-11 points bid your best suit at one level higher than necessary (this shows your p range)
- 12+ points force to game

For more information on Takeout Doubles take the next lesson at NSBC when Takeout Doubles are advertised

MAJOR RESULTS

The Three Week Summer Teams Event was concluded in early March

Congratulations to the Winners

The Winning Team was: Team Mundell with Giselle Mundell, Andrew Peake, Tania Lloyd and Hugh Grosvenor

Runners Up: Team Ward with Rob Ward, Peter Gill, Cevat Emul and Catherine Zhang

Third: Team Ginsberg with Monica Ginsburg, Sybil Hurwitz, Nazife Bashar and Kingqa Moses

Congratulations to the winners and placegetters and thank you to all participants



The Fixed Income Stratified Pairs contest has been run and won.
This event was a first in it's kind. and a new conceent for the Club.

How was it different? The event was run over 5 consecutive weeks both F2F and online. In the event both the F2F Pairs and the online Pairs played exactly the same boards at the same time a great new concept. The event was split into 4 different divisions: Open, Intermediate, Restricted and Rookie with significant prize money available, underscored by support from F Income.

The Prize Money was: \$200 Winner Pair
\$150 Second Place Pair
\$100 Third Place Pair
and paid to all four divisions in the event

The event has now been completed and the Winners were:

Division	Winners	Second Place	Third Place
Open	Judy Osie / David Osie	Marlaine Gahan / Helen Steward	Phil Gue / Anthony Bu
Intermediate	Alessandro Gado / Alex Kemeny	Jenny Barnes / Fiona Fawcett	David Hagley / Jillian Hagley
Restricted	Lesley Morris / Felicity Wolf	Monika Nilsson / Barbara Wood	Sharon Thompson / Ampherlaw
Rookie	Liz Davis / Anita Jordon	Annie Wolf / Sylvan Wolf	Michelle Meyer / Ma Kery

UPCOMING EVENTS

GNOT Teams Dirfect Qualifier

Thursday, 3rd April, 17th April (Weeks 3 & 4)
NSBC Thursday Nights | Teams | Online | [Gold Masterpoints](#)
[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Pauline Evans Swiss Pairs - Open

Sunday, 6th April 10:00 start
NSBC Sunday | Pairs | F2F | [Red Masterpoints](#)
[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Pauline Evans Swiss Pairs - Rookie, Restricted, Intermediate

Sunday 6th April
NSBC Thursday Nights | Pairs | F2F | [Red Masterpoints](#)
[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Morgans Swiss Pairs Rookie, Restricted, Intermediate Championship

Thursday nights 1900 (Week 1) 24th April, (2) 8th May, (3) 15th May, (4) 22nd May
NSBC Thursday Nights | Pairs | Online | [Red Masterpoints](#)
[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Morgans Swiss Pairs Open Championship

Thursday nights 1900 (Week 1) 24th April, (2) 8th May, (3) 15th May, (4) 22nd May
NSBC Thursday Nights | Pairs | Online | [Red Masterpoints](#)
[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea

Wednesday 7th May 0945

NSBC Wednesday Morning Tea | Pairs | F2F | [Red Masterpoints](#)

[Just turn up to enjoy a great morning](#)

Mother's Day Swiss Pairs (Rookie, Restricted & Intermediate)

Sunday, 11th May 10:00

NSBC Sunday | Pairs | Online | [Red Masterpoints](#)

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Mother's Day Swiss Pairs Open

Sunday, 11 May 10:00

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

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

LESSONS

Unlock the Secrets of Bridge with Anita Curtis' Intermediate Online Lessons

Thursday, 3 April 9:30 – 11:30am

Are you looking to take your bridge game to the next level? Anita Curtis' Intermediate bridge lessons are just what you need! Anita, a highly qualified teacher, has an extraordinary talent breaking down even the most complex bridge conventions and strategies into simple, understandable steps. Whether you're a Rookie player eager to improve or a Restricted player preparing to step into Open play, these lessons are perfect for you.

- **Registration:** Email Anita at ac210927@bigpond.net.au. (Copy and paste this email address to your email account). Be sure to register by the night before to receive your Zoom link in time

Improve Your Competitive Bidding with Will Jenner-O'Shea

Revise and Improve Your Competitive Bidding. Improve your knowledge of Overcalls and Doubles. How to Respond to Overcalls and Doubles. Improve Your Competitive Bidding Judgement. Discussion and understanding of how Matchpoints scoring works.

Friday, May 9, 2025, 10:00 AM

[Register Here](#)

DEAR DIRECTOR

My tip for the week. When partner does something you think is totally insane make sure you keep a poker face. As soon as you react it gets partner stressed and they may not play well for the rest of the session. It's much better to have a chat about it after the game finishes. Then

the rest of the session, it's much better to have a chat about it after the game finishes. Then maybe partner will need to buy you a very expensive drink!

Board 8 Stratified Pairs. Week 1, 1st March

On this hand North have a game-force hand with only 3 potential losers and 18 Points. So open 2 Clubs, Partner is quite excited as they 15 HCP and 5 Hearts.

I know some of you think you need to always respond 2 Diamonds (waiting) and usually you have hardly any points when partner opens a game force. But in this instance you have 5 Hearts and 15 HCP and so South responds 2H indicating a strong suit and points to support. Opener is very happy with the 2 Heart call. If partner has the Ace of Spades you should be making 7 Hearts. If you ask for Aces now and partner only has one you won't know which one. A better bid is 3 Hearts.

Now South is in control of the auction. South can happily ask for Aces by calling 4NT. North replies 5 Hearts (I have 2 Keycards without the Q of trumps). South now knows you have all the keycards and the Queen of trumps (also you have a 10 card fit so you would not worried about the Queen of trumps). Now you bid 5NT this says partner we have all the key cards. How do you feel about 7H. Now North with the wonderful side suit of Clubs and knows we have all the keycards should happily bid 7NT.

On this hand 7 Clubs, 7 Hearts and 7 No Trumps makes. Only about half the field got to a grand slam.

North NV	
♠ 6	
♥ A K J 9 7	
♦	
♣ A K Q J 10 5 4	

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

South NV	HCPs
♠ A K 9 7	18
♥ Q 5 4 3 2	2 5
♦ A Q 10	15
♣ 2	

Board 13 F2F Wed 10.00am 19th March

On this hand I have 11 HCP and 5 Diamonds, with an Ace (Clubs). I happened to be playing with someone that wouldn't get cross about my opening bid!

My partner called 1 Heart.

I really didn't like my hand at all. I just called 1NT.

Opps hadn't bid spades so I thought - give it a go.

My partner (we had no system agreements iust bid 6 Hearts). Fortune favours the brave at

North D V	
♠ 8 7 4	
♥ Q 2	
♦ K Q 10 8 5	
♣ A 7 5	

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

South V	HCPs
♠ A 1 6 5	11

Bridge!

Often I hear people say "I will leave it up to my partner" or "Oh I didn't like to go to game".

My view is have a go (you don't need to be too crazy) and if you don't make it the sun will still come up tomorrow!

♥ A K J 10 9 5 3
♦ A
♣ 4

4	8
17	

ASK GARY

Tips for Pauline Evans Swiss Pairs First Timers

Swiss movements differ significantly from regular Mitchells and Howells. Typically, fewer rounds are played, with more boards per round, and events often extending throughout the day. Generally, there are 6 rounds of 9 boards each, with 3 rounds before lunch and 3 rounds after lunch.

The scoring system is different, and longer rounds help ensure that one poor board does not impact the entire round too much. In Swiss, masterpoints are awarded for each of the 6 matches played during the day, making it an effective way to accumulate red masterpoints even if you don't make the top half.

In duplicate bridge, scores are based on percentages calculated from the board scores earned. In Swiss, only board scores are used, so game (400, 600, 620 etc) and slam scores (990, 1430) have a greater impact on the round. Overtricks are less significant than in duplicate bridge; the primary goal is to bid and make games and slams. Don't risk making a game just to score an overtrick. Doubling opponents' contracts is generally not recommended unless there is strong certainty they can be defeated.

In Swiss IMP/VP scoring, the board scores are first converted to IMPs and then the match scores are converted to VPs, resulting in an overall score from 0 to 20 for each round. If a match results in a low score (close to a zero) don't worry as it is still possible to recover and perform well in subsequent rounds. At the end of each round, after converting scores to IMPs and then VPs, pairs will be ranked based on their accumulated VPs. The draw for the next round will pair individuals who have similar performance so far.

My Swiss strategies:

- Bid games and slams if they seem likely to succeed.
- Focus on making your contract, not overtricks.
- Avoid sacrificing when vulnerable; it's too risky.
- In general, don't double the opponents; it's risky, if they succeed.
- Lead or return your partner's suit bid in the auction.
- Aim to defeat opponents' contracts (one down is usually a great score for you)
- Enjoy the game! Every pair usually gains some masterpoints during the day.

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 - Kathryn Stewart / Ian Lincoln
East Lindfield Monday 7.00 PM Supervised - Aledis Kedwell / David Kedwell
East Lindfield Tuesday 1.30 PM Rookie - Judy Chapple / Noni Glew
East Lindfield Wednesday 10.00 AM Open - Stephen Sharp / Janet Crocker
East Lindfield Thursday 10.00 AM Rookie - Jill Johnson / Jenny Clarke
East Lindfield Thursday 10.00 AM Supervised - Robyn Chapman / Karen Murphy
East Lindfield Thursday 1.00 PM Open - Garry Viner / Peter Marshall
East Lindfield Saturday 1.00 PM Open - Alessandro Gado / Alex Kemeny
East Lindfield Saturday 1.00 PM Supervised - Karen Slee / Craig Goulding
The Willis Monday 1.30 PM Rookie - Cameron Webb / Graham Markey
The Willis Tuesday 12.30 PM Open - Graham McMahon / Yu-Shiun Chen
The Willis Wednesday 12.30 PM Open - Ian Maclaren / Malcolm Martin
Online Mon 10.00 am Open - Marilyn Grass / Barbara Madeley
Online Mon 1.30 pm Open - Gary Lane / Leo Goorevich
Online Mon 2.00 pm Rookie - Linda Cunningham / Ian Newton
Online Tue 1.30 pm Open - Barry Shine / Keith Walker
Online Tue 2.00 pm Rookie - Donald Chisholm / Chris Lewis
Online Tue 7.00 pm Restricted - Patrick Horsley / Louise Horsley
Online Wed 1.30 pm Open - Judy Osie / Lynn Kalmin
Online Wed 2.00 pm Rookie - Peter Cassin / Margaret Parker
Online Wed 7.00 pm Open - David Osie / Judy Osie
Online Thu 1.30 pm Open - Judy Osie / Rena Kaplan
Online Thu 1.30 pm Restricted - Denise Reilly / David Boyle
Online Fri 1.30 pm Open - Alicia Mercer / Carol McMurray
Online Sat 1.30 pm Open - Judy Osie / David Osie

MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following members on their promotions.

Warren Dobes to Grand Master
Fiona Lavery to Life Master
Alessandro Gado to Life Master
David Osie to Bronze State Master
Ilia Vilensky to Bronze Regional Master
Jane Loveday to Bronze Regional Master
Noni Glew to Bronze Regional Master
Ivan Kerdic to Bronze Regional Master
Peter Messinesi to Bronze Regional Master
Maria Rowe to Bronze Regional Master
Helen Douglas to Regional Master
Bob Gallagher to Regional Master

Jane Lurie to Regional Master
Liz Sharratt to Silver Local Master
Peter Cassin to Silver Local Master
Jan Krone to Silver Local Master
Adrian Lang to Bronze Local Master
Beth Morton to Bronze Local Master
Anne Bissaker to Bronze Local Master
Margaret Kelly to Bronze Local Master
Anne Beaumont to Local Master
Haitao Chen to Local Master
Peter Poon to Club Master
Ben Poon to Club Master
Michael Richards to Club Master
Dianne White to Graduate Master
Cameron Webb to Graduate Master
Judith Dutton to Graduate Master
Andrew Briscoe to Graduate Master
Alison Briscoe to Graduate Master
Wendy Carver to Graduate Master
Elizabeth Ramsay to Graduate Master
Sally Magrath to Graduate Master
Neale Fraser to Graduate Master
Margriet Shaw-Taylor to Graduate Master
Miri Gold to Graduate Master

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members this month.

Charles Barclay - East Lindfield
Veronica Barclay - East Lindfield
Michael Barlow - St Ives
Michelle Beach - Kurraba Point
Sharon Billingham - Waverton
Graham Blackman - Davidson
Susi Bottger - Northbridge
Paul Burges - Northbridge
Vanessa Burges - Northbridge
Jeanette Cao - North Sydney
Noelene Chandler - Northbridge
Alison Coulsen - Canmeray
Catherine Crouch - Northbridge
Paul Dillon - Roseville
Linda Farrell - Cremorne Point
Kay Fell - Killarney Heights
Roger Grinter - Castlecrag
Stephanie Harley - Galston
Roz Harvey - Hardys Bay
Sue Holmes - Pymble
Genevieve Hunter - East Lindfield

Sarah Hunter - East Lindfield
Rodney Hyman - Mosman
Denise Kavnat - North Bondi
Colleen Kelly - Dee Why
Jan Krone - Forestville
Kristen Leijer - East Lindfield
Carole Love - North Epping
Andrew Mackenzie - Roseville
Patricia Mackenzie - Roseville
Christine McElhone - Roseville
Kate Nicholls - Lindfield
Elizabeth Niven - Narrabeen
Tim North - Naremburn
Triona O'Donoghue - Naremburn
Steve Rawnsley - Turramurra
Karen Rose - Davidson
Timothy Rose - Davidson
Sophie Sanchez - Frenchs Forest
Jason Searle - Middle Cove
Sam Sheriff - Killara
Seetha Sheriff - Killara
Colleen Sullivan - Turramurra
Maria Summerfield - Castle Cove
Sally Sweeney - Lindfield
Pit Trent - Petersham
Peter Wall - East Lindfield



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Smart tools for bridge clubs

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