



Monthly Newsletter

December 2025 | Editor: Russell Spear

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CLUB NOTICES

Never Worry About Low PP Balances Again!

Say goodbye to overdrafts and low balance alerts! With Automatic Top Up, your PP account works just like an e-Tag: when your balance drops below your chosen threshold, a top-up of your chosen amount is automatically taken from your saved payment method.

Quick & Easy Setup – takes just 4 minutes!

Have your credit or debit card handy and give us a call:

- Sue: **0416 290 867**
- Shaz: **0422 613 530**

We'll set it up for you over the phone—simple, secure, and once it's done, you'll never need to think about your PP balance again. Total peace of mind, zero fuss.

MyAccount

This system gives you a view of your charges and deposits on our PrePay System - we have put you in charge. If you are one of the 350 members on Auto Top up - we love you, this makes our lives so much simpler.

To access go to www.myaccountnsbc.com - don't know your password.

Click "forgot my password" and follow prompts.

This system is Step 1 in automation and the only place we know of left to trim costs. So if you have not logged in, please do so and familiarise yourself with it all.

Customise your notifications or even better set up an Auto Top Up.

If technology is not your thing?

Call Sue on **0416 290 867** and she will set you up in less than a minute.

Share the love of Bridge - next beginner class starts soon.

Our beginner bridge programs get rave reviews, please encourage your friends to take up the game or at least give it a go.

Please pick up a flyer at The Willis or East Lindfield or forward on these details.

Our next Class with Garry Viner starts on:
 Saturday 14th February
 East Lindfield
 Starts 9:30am – Finishes around 11:30am

[Click here to find out more](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 2025

As we wrap up 2025, I'm about to disappear to the ends of the earth – literally. Chile and Antarctica are calling, which means I'll soon be so far off the grid that not even the MyAccount system could track me down. My husband may even remember what it's like to have me around... poor bloke.

This will be my final note for the year, and what a year it's been. With fingers firmly crossed, the upcoming vote at the Bowling Club will (hopefully!) see the merger approved – a once-in-a-lifetime milestone for NSBC. But whatever the outcome, the sheer amount of work that's gone into getting us to this point has been enormous.

Not just from the Project Team, but from every person who has helped, advised, spotted typos, sat in meetings, or provided moral support and caffeine.

That said... the Project Team deserves a very special shout-out.

Terry, Jo, and Peter – you've been phenomenal. We absolutely could not have done this without you. Thank you for every hour, every spreadsheet, every negotiation, and every "just one more review".

This year we also welcomed **four new sponsors**, which is a massive boost for the club, thank you to Jenny Madden and her team of Sponsorship Warriors.

We launched the **Education Hub**, which has taken off like a rocket. It's now providing affordable, high-quality lessons to clubs across Australia – big, small, and everything in between. We're incredibly proud to share something that lifts the whole bridge community. A huge thank you to **Will**, whose passion and care have

shaped such a strong program.

And then there's **Jo - my wing woman**. I'd need another whole newsletter to list everything she does. Her financial wizardry is second to none, and because of her volunteering her time we've been able to keep memberships, table fees, and lesson prices steady - despite rising costs happening all around us. Please, when you see her, give her the loudest and warmest thank you.

We do, sadly, have to farewell the coffee machine. For reasons we will diplomatically leave unspoken, it was costing us more than \$200 a month. I'll simply say: never underestimate the financial impact of a "free" flat white.

Russell has kept us wonderfully entertained and informed through the newsletter - the member stories have become a real highlight. Thank you, Russell, for bringing the club to life in every issue.

MyAccount continues to be a hit, with more than 66% of members logged in and around 400 enjoying the bliss of automated top-ups. Our overdrawn accounts are lower than ever, but we still have a few stragglers. Now that you can see your balance in real time, going into the red really isn't on. If technology scares you, **Sue** can sort you out in under a minute. Truly - no excuses.

This year we raised **over \$9,000** for the Cancer Council, partnered with Bendigo Bank to recycle glasses and phones, and collected winter clothing for people who needed a bit of extra warmth. Giving back is woven into who we are, and I'm so grateful to everyone who contributed.

Membership continues to grow, and we're hoping retention stays as strong as it was at the start of the year.

To all our volunteers - you absolute legends - thank you. We simply wouldn't be the club we are without you. And finally, to **Mike and his team**, Staff and Directors - thank you for everything you do. Your work keeps the club running smoothly, warmly, and proudly.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, and restful holiday season. Keep playing, keep smiling, and I'll see you on the other side of Antarctica, if I survive my Polar Plunge! Brrrrrrrr....

OUR MEMBERS, OUR CLUB

OUR MEMBERS

Welcome to this month's conversation with an NSBC member or in this case two members – Michele Watts and Michelle Bloxham – I knew I was going to have a conversation with two women who had a wonderful story to tell but had a concern that writing up the conversation for others to read would be a bit more complicated by both ladies having the same first name, although spelt slightly differently

Our conversation started with the usual conversation introductions initially to Michele Watts (Michele W). I knew Michele was blind – and it intrigued me how she could play Bridge being blind, but she is also a Golf player. I play a pretty average game of golf but I can see very well – how does a blind person cope?



Michele W told me she had become blind about 10 years ago – she had played both Bridge and Golf prior to becoming blind (See Footnote 1, below). Michele W was born with Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy (LHON) - LHON is an inherited mitochondrial disorder resulting in vision loss usually to males and rarely to females (up to 9:1 ratio). Photo at right -Michele Watts (front) and Michelle Bloxham (back)

When Michele W first noticed the issue of vision impairment she did not react to the potential of her vision disorder to LHON as it was very unusual for it to

affect women. However, the disorder did suddenly impact her life, much later than expected and she now has no central vision, some blurred peripheral vision and is classified as being within the required limitations of a B3 rating (see Blind categories below) to play golf.

Michele W doesn't wear glasses, as there can be no improvement in her sight given by glasses - what is affected is the optic nerve, which carries the message from eyes to the brain - it doesn't matter how much you change the refraction of your eye it won't improve the message.

Michele W had played golf prior to her vision loss and had been a member at Chatswood Golf Club. She knew about Blind Golf as there had been a lady playing at Chatswood who was blind but who participated in the weekly competitions. She had macular degeneration and the other golfing ladies helped find her ball.

To be a registered Blind Golf Australia player, you need to follow the same qualifying process as any other golfer - put in 3 cards, to determine your handicap if you don't have a current GA from a Golf Club.



Having completed the process, I was then able to compete in tournaments, but I also needed a caddy, someone to guide me around the course.

Cards for a Blind person

Initially I had a man to caddy for me, Bob Grant and off I went to Royal Sydney - I had never played there and there were 127 bunkers but Bob steered me out of those and we won. Bob was thrilled because although he had caddied for many other blind persons, he had never won a big tournament like the Australian Open.

So how does it work? - it's a conversation you have with

the caddy- if it's a par 5 it becomes reasonably easy to start with – obviously you want to hit the ball on the fairway and the caddy will advise the slope of the fairway and whether there are bunkers or other hazards. How do you hit the ball? - the caddy lines me up, with the club head behind the ball and then directs where I stand to hit the ball and then adjusts me a little bit left or right, to where I should be aiming.

At this point Michelle Bloxham (Michelle B) comes into the picture, as the caddy I'm the eyes, we have a brief conversation about where to hit and with which club and then Michele W lines up, and I may make small changes to her set-up. It's very important on the Par 3 holes to agree on the line up as they need the most accuracy.

Michelle B's first big gig with Michele W was going to Rome to play in the 2018 Italian Blind Golf Open and World Championships, Michelle B shared responsibilities with another friend Jan Freed as caddy on alternative days. The outcome was fantastic with Michele Watts coming out the overall Net Winner in the Italian Open and the Ladies Winner in the World Championship.

Of course, the trip is not only golf but having a holiday somewhere exciting at the same time and between them, the two Michelle's have become firm friends and now travel to quite a number of tournaments in both Australia and overseas. The latest excursion overseas was in August to the Canadian Blind Golf Open Championship where Michele W was the overall Net Champion in the Canadian Open and Ladies B3 winner in the World Blind Golf competition guided by Michelle B (guide is the international term for caddy)

Both ladies see the outcome of these competitions as the result of close teamwork between them – an affinity on the part of both, to understand the needs of the player.

The analogy with bridge is clear to see – the teamwork between two players to co-ordinate their bidding such that both are able “to see” what the partner has in her hand. Michele W plays bridge with a very large screen when online and maneuvers around the screen to be able to at least partially see her hand and when playing face to face plays with cards with large numbers, letters

and symbols representing the suit.

I could only come away from our conversation thinking that playing either golf or bridge in that manner would give me a headache such is the intensity of focus and concentration required, and I was full of admiration for the teamwork that has built between the two Michelle's.

Footnote: Blindness for games such as golf is measured at four levels, B1, B2, B3 and B4. B1 is defined as having no light perception in either eye, B2 is being able to recognise the shape of a hand up to a visual acuity of 2/60 or a visual field of less than 5 degrees. B3 a visual acuity above 20/60, up to a visual acuity of 6/60 and/or visual field of above 5 degrees and less than 20 degrees. B4 is a visual acuity of 6/60 up to an acuity of 6/46



Winning the Canadian Blind Golf Open 2025



Representing Australia

OUR CLUB

MONDAY
22nd
All sessions are as per normal

TUESDAY
23rd
All sessions are as per normal

WEDNESDAY
24th
All sessions are as per normal

THURSDAY
25th
CLOSED

FRIDAY
26th
1:30pm RB Open (Red Points)

SATURDAY
27th
All sessions are as per normal

MONDAY
29th
All sessions are as per normal

TUESDAY
30th
All sessions are as per normal

WEDNESDAY
31st
All sessions are as per normal

THURSDAY
1st Jan
All sessions are open with Red Points

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

**CHRISTMAS
OPENING
TIMES**

To all our Club members we hope you have a wonderful Christmas and Festive season, stay healthy, stay safe and enjoy the whole holiday season - and of course play Bridge whenever you are able.

Please note a special call out at the elevation of both **James Coutts** and **Liam Milne** to **Gold Master** with over 5000 Master Points - fantastic effort

MAJOR RESULTS

True Mixed Teams Event

Congratulations to the Mundell Team who won this years event. This the same team which won the same Event in 2023 and 2024

1st: Team Mundell

Tania Lloyd, Hugh Grosvener, Andrew Peake, Giselle Mundell

2nd: Team Bloom

Liz Adams, Tony Nunn, Liz Sylvester, Peter Gill, Martin Bloom

3rd: Team Emul

Wei Zhang, Cevat Emul, Catherine Zhang, William Zhang

State Daytime Championship

The State Daytime Championship was this year hosted by NSBC on behalf of Bridge NSW. The event concluded on Friday 21 November 2025

Winners: Wayne Zhu/Bob Sebesfi

Second: Anthony Burke/Phil Gue

Third: Andrew Peake/Ron Speiser

The current leaders in the 2025 John Brownie Club Championship are:

Rank	Player	CC Points to 21 Nov	Events
1	Peter GILL	96	19
2	Patrick JIANG	88	15
3	ANDREW PEAKE	81	12
4	NIGEL ROSENDORFF	66	9
5=	Catherine ZHANG	64	13
5=	GISELLE MUNDELL	64	9
7=	Cevat EMUL	60	12
7=	KELSEY CHEN	60	8
7=	Sherlock SHAO	60	9
10	ELLIOTT KAPLAN	59	9

UPCOMING EVENTS

Extraordinary General Meeting

Vote to Merge with Lindfield Rollers Wednesday, 3rd December 09:00

NSBC Wednesday East Lindfield - All members invited, Bridge after meeting

[Click here to Register](#)

Second Christmas Lunch for Members

Friday, 5th December 10:00

NSBC East Lindfield, Bridge prior to Lunch

Fully Booked

Christmas Teams Championship

Thursday, 11th December & 18th December 7:00pm

NSBC Thursday Nights | Teams | Online | **Red**

Masterpoints

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Festive Season Intermediate, Restricted, Rookie Swiss Pairs Congress

Saturday, 13th December 10:00, 1300 All Day

NSBC Saturday All Day | Pairs | Online | **Red**

Masterpoints

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Festive Season Open Swiss Pairs Congress

Saturday, 13th December 10:00 1300

NSBC Saturday All Day | Pairs | Online | **Red**

Masterpoints

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Festive Season Intermediate, Restricted, Rookie Teams Congress

Sunday, 14th December 10:00 13:00

NSBC Sunday All Day | Teams | Online | **Red**

Masterpoints

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Festive Season Open Teams Congress

Sunday, 14th December 10:00 13:00

NSBC Sunday All Day | Teams | Online | **Red**

Masterpoints

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Intermediate, Restricted and Rookies Summer Pairs Championship

Thursday, 1st January, & 8th January 2026 19:00

NSBC Thursday Nights | Pairs | Online | **Red**

Masterpoints

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Open Summer Pairs Championship

Thursday, 1st January & 8th January 2026 19:00

NSBC Thursday Nights | Pairs | Online | **Red**

Masterpoints

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Summer Teams Congress - Open

Sunday, 4th January All Day 10:00

NSBC Sunday All Day | Teams | Online | **Red**

Masterpoints

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Australia Day Weekend Open Swiss Pairs Congress

Sunday, 25th January 10:00

NSBC Sunday All Day | Pairs | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Australia Day Weekend Intermediate, Restricted, Rookies, Swiss Pairs Congress

Sunday, 25th January 10:00

NSBC Sunday All Day | Pairs | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Summer Teams Championship

Thursday Nights 19:00, 20th February, 27th February & 6th March 2026

NSBC Thursday Nights | Teams | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Intermediate, Restricted, Rookie Summer Swiss Pairs Congress

Sunday, 15th February All Day 2026

NSBC Sunday All Day | Pairs | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Open Summer Swiss Pairs Congress

Sunday, 15th February, All Day 2026

NSBC Sunday All Day | Pairs | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

LESSONS

The Stopper Asking Cue Bid

4th December @ 09:30am online with Will Jenner-O'Shea

How to get to No-Trumps in a competitive auction. How to ask if partner has a stopper in the opponent's suit. Using a Cue Bid to get to the best game.

Price \$17 per lesson charged to your PP Account on the day that the lesson takes place.

What's included:
Recorded Video Lesson
Down Loadable Notes
Practice Hands
Register for this Event
[Click Here](#)

Fourth Suit Forcing

11th December at 0930 online with Will Jenner-O'Shea

How to get to No-Trumps, the best game or the best slam. Making sure that everything is covered before bidding No-Trumps. Finding the best fit, while making sure your partner doesn't pass along the way.

Price \$17 per lesson charged to your PP Account on the day that the lesson takes place.

What's included:
Recorded Video Lesson
Down Loadable Notes
Practice Hands

Register for this Event
[Click Here](#)

Extend Your Bridge Knowledge - with Will Jenner-

O'Shea

Friday 12th December at East Lindfield at 10:00

Clever Continuations and Extensions of Stayman and Transfers. Defining Strong Hands Better using 2C and 2NT. Finding the Best Contract. Revision and Practice Reverses and Showing Stoppers

To Register for this Event
[Click Here](#)

The Gambling 3NT Opening

Friday 18th December at 0930 online - with Will Jenner-O'Shea

A Fun and useful opening bid to play 3NT with a long minor suit. Knowing how the Gambling 3NT convention works, and what to do next.

Price \$17 per lesson charged to your PP Account on the day that the lesson takes place.

What's included:
Recorded Video Lesson
Down Loadable Notes
Practice Hands
To Register for this Event
[Click Here](#)

DEAR DIRECTOR

My tip for this month is please refrain from telling your partner we have got a top board! But if the opps do well, congratulate them.

On this hand North opens
1 Spade and East overcalls
2 Hearts. South passes and
West calls 3 Hearts.

Note they could have called 2 Spades a good raise in hearts but they didn't.

Now as North, I thought well let's give partner another option and I called 4 Clubs. West decided to call 4 Hearts. They have a nice hand and a singleton spade. Now it's my call, I thought well I definitely have 2 Spade tricks and I would be able to give my partner a ruff and I had some other good cards, so I doubled. Dummy comes down and my partner and Opps have a singleton spade!

On the hand we managed to take the Opps down by 2 tricks, for a great outcome. Some other pairs decided to fall in love with the spades and keep bidding them. This did not go well for them!

8	N undefined	W	N	E	S
	♠ AK1032 ♥ KJ4 ♦ KQ1065 ♣ KQ1065	P	1♠	2♥	P
W undefined	♠ Q98654 ♥ K972 ♦ 10 ♣ J9	3♥	4♣	4♥	P
		P	X	P	P
		P			
	S undefined				
	♠ J ♥ J854 ♦ Q7653 ♣ 432				
		E undefined			
		♠ 7 ♥ AQ1063 ♦ A982 ♣ A87			
		4♥x E			NS: 0 EW: 0

On this hand I had a lot of thoughts on what to bid. West should open 1 No trump. North will pass and now what should East do? They have 8 HCP and a 7 card diamond suit and King of Hearts. If you are not playing transfers to the minors just call 3NT. Yes, you don't have 10 HCP but you have two honors in the suit and your partner will have at least two diamonds and you have an outside King. Quite a few pairs did not get to 3NT some played in 5 Diamonds if you make it,

8	N undefined	W	N	E	S
	♠ 932 ♥ A9432 ♦ 3 ♣ Q965	1NT	P	3NT	P
W undefined	♠ AQ84 ♥ J65 ♦ AJ7 ♣ AJ8	P	P		
	S undefined				
	♠ KJ5 ♥ Q107 ♦ 62 ♣ K10743				
		E undefined			
		♠ 1076 ♥ K8 ♦ KQ109854 ♣ 2			
		3NT W			NS: 0 EW: 0

it's not a great score. You should always make at 3NT whatever lead you get.

ASK GARY

Trends in World Bridge Championship Systems

How Top Players' Preferences Are Shaping the Modern Game

Each time a world bridge championship rolls around, I make a point of analysing the system cards to get a sense of what the top professionals from around the globe are choosing to play. Over the past few years, a clear trend has emerged: Green systems such as Standard with 2-over-1 continuations appear to be the most popular choice. Meanwhile, Blue systems like Precision are becoming less common with each passing year.

Bridge teaching methods also vary significantly by region. For example, in Australia and the USA, players typically learn Standard, while in the UK and New Zealand, ACOL is the standard fare. In China and across much of Asia, Precision is often preferred. Despite these regional differences, there is a noticeable shift at the world championship level towards a convergence, with Standard and 2-over-1 continuations increasingly becoming the dominant playing system. Multi-twos still make an appearance at the highest levels of competition, but they often look quite different from the versions commonly played in local clubs. General weak two bids in diamonds, hearts, and spades are widespread among elite players, with the main exception being the occasional use of two diamonds to indicate both majors weak—a strategy I have experimented with myself, though with limited success.

Interestingly, Bergen raises are now almost never seen at the world level. While Bergen was originally developed to address certain challenges in the Standard system, it seems to introduce new complications when

used within 2-over-1 frameworks which is becoming increasingly popular. My own experience with conventions like multi-twos and Bergen has been enjoyable, but as I delve deeper into expert commentary and the nuances of these methods, I am increasingly convinced that a natural bidding system remains the most effective approach.

MONTHLY WINNERS

Congratulations to the following players who were the overall Monthly Winners for their session.

East Lindfield Monday 10.00 AM Rookie - GEOFF LYONS
/ LES OWEN

East Lindfield Monday 1.00 PM Open - SUNNY PANG /
MARGARET OWEN

East Lindfield Monday 7.00 PM Rookie - CAMERON
WEBB / DAVID BRAZIER

East Lindfield Tuesday 1.30 PM Rookie - DAVID DALLEY /
DALE DALLEY

East Lindfield Wednesday 10.00 AM Open - DAVID
CRAIG / FELIX SHTEYMAN

East Lindfield Thursday 9.45 AM Rookie - MARK LAKOTA
/ DAVID BRAZIER

East Lindfield Thursday 9.45 AM Supervised - MANISHA
DIAS / NADIA LORENZUTTA

East Lindfield Thursday 1.00 PM Open - JAKE LIN / KEVIN
WU

East Lindfield Saturday 9.30am Supervised - JEANETTE

CAO / SUE HOLMES

East Lindfield Saturday 1.00 PM Open - JOHN

ACKERMAN / BOB LYGO

The Willis Monday 1.30 PM Rookie - JUDY REDDY /

PAULINE BECKTON

The Willis Tuesday 12.30 PM Open - GWEN CORDINGLEY

/ LIDIA PUNTURIERO

The Willis Wednesday 9.30 AM Supervised - ANDREW

ROUGHAN / KALI LAWRIE

The Willis Wednesday 12.30 PM Open - JULIE

MANSFIELD / IAN PLUMMER

Online Mon 10.00 am Open - ROBBIE FEYDER /

MARGARET FOSTER

Online Mon 1.30 pm Open - ROSLYN HOWES / TONY

HOWES

Online Mon 2.00 pm Rookie - TRICIA HIGGINS / RENUKA

PATEL

Online Tue 1.30 pm Open - ALEX YEZERSKI / LES

GREWCOCK

Online Tue 2.00 pm Rookie - HELVE BEALE / IAN

NEWTON

Online Tue 7.00 pm Restricted - ROSEMARY MAYES /

JANN PAMMER

Online Wed 1.30 pm Open - ANTHONY BURKE / PHIL

GUE

Online Wed 2.00 pm Rookie - NONI GLEW / JUDY

CHAPPLE

Online Wed 7.00 pm Open - JUDY OSIE / DAVID OSIE

Online Thu 1.30 pm Open - SYBIL HURWITZ / DEREK

MALTZ

Online Thu 1.30 pm Restricted - LORNA DAVIES / OWEN
AUBREY

Online Fri 1.30 pm Open - TOM KISS / ALASDAIR BECK

Online Sat 1.30 pm Open - LIZ WILKINSON / PATRICK
NEARY

MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following members on their promotions.

James Coutts to Gold Grand

Liam Milne to Gold Grand

Ian Hoschke to Silver Life

Tony Abbott to Bronze Life

Bricet Kloren to National

Lisa Evans to State

Felicity Wolf to Bronze Regional

Barbara Edwards to Regional

Ron Hicks to Bronze Local

Cathie Ahern to Bronze Local

Gail Woodley to Bronze Local

Les Owen to Local

Michael Gallagher to Local

Peter Poon, to Local

Ben Poon to Local

John Ackerman to Club
Maureen Shaw to Club
Sally Sweeney to Graduate

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members this month.

Marian Carey -Crows Nest
Gail Dainton -Roseville
Louise Francis -Rozelle
Anita Holmberg -Fairlight
Jenny Rose -Rosebay
Helen Smith -Willoughby
Jan Wilson -East Lindfield

