

♠ ♥ Bridge Inner West ♦ ♣

"Bridge - the game for the rest of your life"

August 2013 Newsletter

What an Exciting first month!

We have had an extremely exciting first month of running Bridge Inner West, mostly because of you, the players! Everyone is so lovely. We can't get over **how nice everyone is**, and how supportive you all are of each other, and **how much you all love your bridge!**

We have made a few small changes here and there, hopefully for the better. If you notice any changes that you like, Vanessa would love to hear them, she has an unlimited capacity for hearing good news ☺. If you notice anything that we could be doing better, then speak to Will.

There are some more changes on the horizon as well. The first thing that you will notice over the next few weeks is that we have **purchased some new chairs**. The blue upholstered chairs were bought by us to use instead of the black folding chairs and we hope you like them.

We are expanding our **lesson schedule** to include an ongoing Wednesday night lesson for intermediate players, a beginners' course on Monday nights and a set of lessons on Tuesday Nights. There are details of all the upcoming lessons inside the newsletter.

Now that we have begun to get settled in, we are also throwing a "**Club Warming Party**" on Monday, September the 9th to get to know you and welcome you to our new club. We have booked the entire Writers' Centre, and there will be food, drinks, bridge and more! **Save the date.**

Our policy of inviting players to **turn up without partners** has been successful. We have paired a few players up into regular partnerships and a lot of players have come on their own and had a fun game of bridge with another club member, or Vanessa or Will. You are never imposing, and very likely to be *solving a problem* by turning up and helping to prevent a sit-out!

Happy bridging. May all your finesses work!

Vanessa & Will

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New announcing regulations – from August 2013 – The 1♣ Opening and the 1NT Opening.

When partner opens 1♣, **you** announce the minimum number of Clubs she holds. You no longer need to alert the 1♣ bid, just tell the opponents immediately how many Clubs she holds. "3 or more Clubs" or "2 or more Clubs". Don't say "better minor" or "could be short". If you play any conventional meaning to the 1♣ opening, then explain that as well.

When partner opens 1NT, you announce the point range, eg "15 to 17".

Bridge Challenges to test your Bidding and Play!

Suit Combination Quiz

How do you play this suit for the most number of tricks?
You can lead from any hand to begin with, and you have entries to both hands.

♣ KQ43 (Dummy)

♣ 87652 (You)

Answers inside.

Bidding Quiz

What do you respond to partner's Double on this hand:

(Opp)	Partner	(Opp)	You
1♦	X	P	??

♠ AJ87

♥ Q763

♦ A63

♣ 62

Answers inside.

Card Play Quiz

How do you play Trump suit (Spades) in the following hand. You are in 4♠, with no opposition bidding, and West leads the ♣K.

How about if East had overcalled 1♦?

How about if East had overcalled 3♦ – a pre-empt?

(Dummy)

♠ AJ92

♥ K54

♦ A53

♣ 873

West: Opening Lead

♣ K

East

♠ KT873

♥ AQ2

♦ 642

♣ A2

(Declarer)

Answers inside.

Tuesday Night Lessons Competitive Bidding 7:30pm – 10pm

Tuesday September 3rd: Support Doubles

Opener can use a Double to differentiate three- and four-card support for responder's suit. Learn when to use these Doubles and how they apply to be a better competitive bidder.

Tuesday September 10th: Using Redoubles

Learn to use the least-used call in the game. Redouble can have a variety of meanings, this lesson describes the most common uses.

Tuesday September 17th: Competitive Raises

To make it hard for your opponents to bid, use Weak Jump Raises in a competitive auction to cut them out. Learn to use Cue-Raises to show stronger hands. Also, adjust your contested bidding when you are the opening or overcalling team.

The lessons will be held in the Judith Wright Room (Front Room) at the New South Wales Writers' Centre, Rozelle.

Space will be limited, so bookings are required.

Please let Vanessa or Will know if you are coming to any or all of the lessons. You don't need a partner to come to the lessons, although the topics do involve partnership bidding.

Costs:

Lessons \$20 each for members or visitors (\$15 Concession)

All Three Lessons for \$50 (\$40 Concession)



Beginner's Course

8 Monday Nights

August 26th – October 14th

7:30pm – 9:30pm

The last beginner's course for 2013 begins on August 26th. If you have any friends who don't yet play bridge, send them our way!

The course is held upstairs at the New South Wales Writers' Centre, Callan Park, Rozelle.

The course runs for 8 weeks and costs \$159, plus textbook (\$17). The teacher, Will Jenner-O'Shea is a very experienced and patient teacher of new players and will guide you through all the basics of bridge.

To enrol in this course, or for more information, please call Vanessa on 0414 529 031 or email her at vanessabrownv8@bigpond.com

Bidding Quiz ANSWERS:

What do you respond to partner's Double on this hand:

(Opp)	Partner	(Opp)	You
1♦	X	P	??
			♠ AJ87
			♥ Q763
			♦ A63
			♣ 62

In most situations you should take the bidding slowly, investigate a fit and then decide on the level.

When responding to a takeout Double, the situation is not quite the same, because you usually know which suit is your best fit immediately. Also, you are obligated to respond to a Double, so partner can't assume anything about your hand when you make your responding bid.

On this hand, the bids to avoid are 1♥, 1♠ and 1NT.

If you bid any of these, partner will assume that you were forced to bid, and that your hand is awful (less than 10 points).

To invite partner to game after a Double, you need to **jump the bidding**.

On this hand 2♥, 2♠ or 2NT are all good bids.

They show about 10 – 12 points and partner can make a sensible decision about how high we should go.

The only problem with bidding 2♥ or 2♠ is that you might choose partner's worst Major, and be in the wrong suit.

I think that the best bid here is 2♦ – a cue bid of the opponent's suit. A cue bid here says: "I have a good hand, I am interested in game, but I need some help from you to choose trumps".

Partner will bid her best suit (probably 2♥ or 2♠) and then you can raise her suit.

Competitive Bidding Tip:

In the middle of most contested auctions, a cue-bid of the opponent's suit says: "I am looking for game, but I don't know exactly where we are going. I don't have a clear bid to make." Partner responds naturally, and the bidding continues.



Bridge Refresher Days

Monday Afternoon

August 26th, 2pm – 4pm

or

Two Wednesday Nights

August 21st & 28th, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

We are running three consolidation lessons to cover all the basic topics of bridge. **These lessons are aimed at supervised players who have played for less than two years, or people who haven't played for a while and are looking to get back into bridge.**

We will cover the basics of Bidding, including: Opening, Responding, Game Bidding, Overcalls, and Doubles. We will also discuss various aspects of card play in Suit contracts and No-Trumps, and Defending.

The lessons are very practical and there will be notes and tips provided.

The lessons will be held in the New South Wales Writers' Centre, Rozelle.

Costs:

\$10 each for members or visitors (\$8 Concession)

New Session on Wednesday Night!

In July we started a Wednesday Morning Lesson from 10am – 11am. Then from 11am – 1pm there is a Supervised game for Intermediate level-players. The session has been very well received. We have managed to book the bridge room from 6pm, so starting on Wednesday August 7th we will be repeating the lesson at 6pm.

The lesson format is very practical, four set hands on a topic, everyone plays the hands at the same time, then we analyse the hands as a group. There are notes and tips provided.

This Month's Lesson Topics:

August 7th Finesses
August 14th Ruffing in the 'Short Trump Hand'
August 21st Entries
August 28th Establishing long suits

Costs:

Lesson only, 10am – 11am: \$10 members
(\$13 Visitors, \$8 Concession, \$5 Students)

Duplicate, 11am – 1pm: \$10 members
(\$13 Visitors, \$8 Concession, \$5 Students)

Both (Lesson and Duplicate): \$15 members

(\$19 Visitors, \$12 Concession, \$7 Students)

New Members of Bridge Inner West:

The following players became members of Bridge Inner West in July. If you see them around, please make them feel welcome.

- ◆ Terry Anthony
- ◆ Audrey Belt
- ◆ Heather Birch
- ◆ Warwick Birch
- ◆ Peter Campbell
- ◆ Viv Cooper
- ◆ Ian Hunter
- ◆ Gwen Rafferty
- ◆ Jennie Redfern
- ◆ Greg Redfern
- ◆ Pauline Waugh

Vanessa and Will would like to encourage all Bridge Inner West players to enter the **Hunters Hill Bridge Club Teams Congress** on Sunday September 8th. Enter as a team of four. Entry for the day is \$120/team.

Refreshments provided, BYO lunch.

Henley Community Centre, Henley.

Prizes! Red Points!

Support our nearest bridge club.

Enter online at www.nswba.com.au or via Austin Driscoll (austin4701@gmail.com)

Suit Combination Quiz ANSWERS:

How do you play this suit for the most number of tricks? You can lead from any hand.

♣ KQ43 (Dummy)

♣ 87652 (You)

This one is very commonly misplayed – especially if the lead starts in Dummy. If the four missing Clubs split 2-2 then you will only lose a trick to the Ace. **If they split 3-1 or 4-0 then you at risk of losing more than one trick.** You can handle poor breaks a bit easier if the Ace doesn't capture your King or Queen. Lead a low Club from your hand towards the King. If the King wins, then West probably has the Ace, so return to your hand *with a different suit* and lead towards the Queen.

Card Play Quiz ANSWERS:

Plan the Spade suit. ♠ AJ92 (Dummy)

You are in 4♠ ♥ K54

◆ A53

♣ 873

West: Opening Lead

East

♣ K

♠ KT873

♥ AQ2

◆ 642

♣ A2

(Declarer)

Answer: With no opposition bidding I would just play the ♠A and ♠K playing for the Queen to drop.

With a nine-card fit missing the Queen, the drop is more likely than a finesse, although not by much.

Answer: With East overcalling 1♦, I would assume that East has the ♠Q to make up her required points for an overcall. I think West has the ♣KQJ to lead one, rather than lead her partner's overcalled suit. That doesn't leave many points for East, so I think she must have the ♦KQJ and the ♠Q and probably the ♥J.

If there has been a bid against you, try to count the outstanding points! The bidder probably has 12+ for an opening and 10+ for an overcall.

If East has the Queen of Spades (my guess) then I would play the ♠A and then finesse to the ♠T.

Answer: With East pre-empting 3♦, I would assume that West has the ♠Q. East has 7 Diamonds – West has no Diamonds. This leaves only 6 non-Diamond cards for East, and 13 non-Diamond cards for West. East easily has enough points to pre-empt, even with only the ♦KQJ, she doesn't need any more points.

If a person is known to have a lot of cards in one suit (a pre-empt, or they have rebid a suit), they are far less likely to hold a specific card in another suit.

If West has the Queen of Spades (my guess) then I would play the ♠K and then finesse to the ♠J.

Results Recap for July:

The "Average of best 3 scores" is calculated by taking the average of your three best sessions played with the same partner in the same session over the month. If a session has 4 or 5 weeks, then you get to drop one or two of your scores in the calculations. The Ratings score is calculated over 3, 4 or 5 weeks and is a handicap style system of comparing results. More information to come in the next month or two!

Monday Morning

Average of best 3 scores: [Geoffrey & Kathy Lawson](#) 60.33%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Jenny & Garry Ferguson](#) +0.80

Monday Night

Average of best 3 scores: [Maryann Campbell & Teresa Wilson](#) 65.30%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Maryann Campbell & Teresa Wilson](#) +0.67

Wednesday Morning

Average of best 3 scores: [Jo Morgan & Orsolina Aroney](#) 64.43%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Peter Brooke & Leonie Star](#) +0.52

Wednesday Night Supervised

Average of best 3 scores: [Claire & Robert Stammel](#) 52.23%
Not enough pairs were Rated to produce results, but will be in a month or two!

Thursday Night Pairs

Average of best 2 scores: [Tony Ruello & Derek Bolton](#) 60.65%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Annie Cooney & Philip Haddock](#) +0.43

Thursday Night Teams

1st [Grethe Mercer, Charles Manning, Arch Fraser and Peter Campbell](#) 78 VPs
2nd [Vicky Cahill, John Moen, Tony Ruello and Derek Bolton](#) 77 VPs

Saturday Afternoon

Average of best 3 scores: [Geoffrey & Kathy Lawson](#) 59.71%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Geoffrey & Kathy Lawson](#) +0.61

Most Improved Player of the Month:

This is calculated by taking your Rating at the start and end of the month and seeing whose has improved the most.

Most Improved for July: [Heather Birch](#) +0.94

Outstanding Player(s) of the Month:

This is calculated by taking every score from every session played at Bridge Inner West and comparing your best 6 sessions, with any partner. We then calculate your average score to determine the Outstanding Player of the Month.

Tied for first place: [Tony Ruello & Derek Bolton](#) Averaged 62%

Since Tony and Derek were inseparable this month, they both win the Outstanding Player of the Month for July!

Upcoming Events Summary (more details inside):

- ◆ Wednesday Morning Lessons for August: **Card Play for Declarer.**
- ◆ **Wednesday Night Lessons** 6pm, the 10am lesson will be repeated for evening players!
- ◆ Monday Afternoon August 26th, Wednesday Night August 21st & 28th: **Bridge Refresher Day**
- ◆ Monday Nights **Beginner's Course**, Eight weeks, starts August 26th
- ◆ Thursday Night August 29th **Australia Wide Pairs. Red Points.** Entry is normal table fees +\$5 and includes booklet.
We won't be holding a Teams night in August, replacing it with the Australia Wide Pairs.
- ◆ **Tuesday Night Lessons** on September 3rd, 10th & 17th: **Competitive Bidding Topics.** Space is limited, so bookings are required.
- ◆ **"Club Warming Party"!** Monday Night September 9th. Food, Drinks, Bridge.
Bookings preferred for catering purposes.
Drinks and Food from 6pm, Duplicate bridge from 7:30.

If you can recommend a local caterer for this event, Vanessa would be grateful.