

Sydney Bridge Centre

December 2013 Newsletter

Derek and Anthony win the 2013 Championship Double!



**2013 Pairs Championship Winners:
Anthony Ruello & Derek Bolton.**

On Monday the 18th and 25th of November, we ran the **2013 Sydney Bridge Centre Pairs Championship**. The best two scores from the four qualifying sessions were crowned the winners, and Anthony and Derek (pictured above) averaged 68.75% from their two top scores. The Runners Up, and winners on Ratings, were James & Carolyn Roxburgh who averaged 67.3% from their two games. There were a few other notable finishes – Martin Jones & Lyall Kennedy and Howard & Brenda Rees also averaged over 60% from their top two sessions.

With less than two weeks to go until we close for the year, we would like to thank everyone for making the year so much fun. We are putting on two Christmas parties. **Day time** on Monday December 16th and **Night time** on Thursday December 19th. We close on December 19th and re-open on Monday January 6th.

Vanessa & Will

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The **2013 Sydney Bridge Centre Teams Championships** was held on Thursday Night, November 28th. After a four-round Swiss, the leading team on 84 VPs was the **Bolton Team** of Derek Bolton, Anthony Ruello, Archie Fraser & Peter Campbell. Close behind, and undefeated were the **Brown Team** of Vanessa Brown, Ric Lazar, John Bennett, John Harvey on 81 VPs.

The final Teams game for 2013 was also one of the biggest for the year, with 14 teams entering. *We hold a Teams game on the last Thursday of each month. There is no Teams game in December, but Teams resumes on Thursday January 30th.*



**2013 Teams Championship Winners:
Derek Bolton, Anthony Ruello,
Archie Fraser & Peter Campbell.**

Sydney Bridge Centre. Good News!

New session in 2014

Starting on Thursday January 9th we will be running a Thursday Afternoon open Duplicate game from 1:30 – 4:30pm at the NSW Writers' Centre, Rozelle.

New Beginners' Courses in 2014

The first Beginners' Course for the year commences on Saturday Morning, February 15th and runs for 8 weeks at Henley. The next Beginners' Course is Monday Nights at the NSW Writers' Centre, Rozelle, and begins on Monday April 28th. For more details, see Will, Vanessa or the website.

Structured Lesson Plan for 2014 with more lessons

We have been able to negotiate the use of the bridge room before all of the evening sessions, so there are plenty of time slots for lessons in the new year. Stay tuned for a schedule of all the topics and dates in the near future.

Regular Membership fees to stay same in 2014

Regular membership will be the same in 2014 as it was in 2013, \$85. Memberships are calculated on the Calendar year, so membership forms will be available in December. We don't charge a joining or re-joining fee.

Concession Memberships Reduced

Centrelink card holders who join Sydney Bridge Centre as members just pay \$50 for 2014 Membership. As a Concession Member you are entitled to a reduced table fee of \$8 per session. *Note that the Concession Table Fee rate only applies to Concession Members.*

Table Fees Begin 2014 at the same rate.

The Table Fees begin 2014 the same as they finished 2013. Table fees are \$10 for Members, Concession Members are \$8 and Visitors to our club pay \$13. As a welcome, we give first time Visitors to our club a game at member's rates.

We have been asked to sponsor an event at the Spring Nationals again.

After the hugely successful Hallowe'en Pairs at the Sydney Spring Nationals, Sydney Bridge Centre has been invited to sponsor an event at the 2014 Nationals. The dates don't fall on Hallowe'en, so anyone dressed as a witch might stand out! The theme is likely to be 'Oaks Race Day' – fashionista's get ready!

Sydney Bridge Centre. Bad News.

We are closed for around two weeks for Christmas!

Our last session for 2013 is Thursday Night December 19th. Our first session for 2014 is Monday January 6th. If you are desperate for a bridge game in between, I can highly recommend the Trumps Festival of Bridge which runs between Christmas and New Years and into January. See www.trumps.net.au for more information.

Parking

Apparently, the Sydney College of the Arts has told the Writers' Centre that no-one is allowed to use the University carpark without a permit. This seems silly, but **apparently they will book people parking there, even at nights.** Please use the Writers' Centre car park.

We are closed for Easter 2014 (Saturday & Monday)

There will be no sessions on Saturday April 19th or Monday April 21st. We will be close for all of Easter. There are Congresses on Good Friday and Easter Sunday at Trumps Bridge Centre, and regular games on Easter Saturday and Monday if you are desperate for a game!

We are open on the other Monday Public Holidays in 2014. (Monday 27th January – Australia Day. Monday 9th June – Queens Birthday. Monday 6th October – Labour Day).

If we get much busier, then we'll need to use the Veranda

Outside bridge is not as fun as it sounds, as you spend half your time chasing cards that are flying off the table! See the photo of "kitchen bridge" at Sydney Bridge Centre!

Bridge Challenges to test your Bidding and Play!

Bidding Quiz

You are the dealer and this is your hand, what do you bid?

(Your Hand)

- ♠ 6
- ♥ AKQJ7
- ♦ AKQT5
- ♣ 86

You could open 2♣, or just simply 1♥ and then plan to show the Diamonds next.

My partner opened 2♣, I responded 2♦, now what?

A simple 2♥ bid now is perfect. It is forcing for at least one round.

Partner bids 3♥, now what?

Answers inside.

Card Play Quiz

You open 1♥ and your LHO bids 2NT, which is alerted and described as the Unusual 2NT, showing 5/5 in the minors and 6 – 10 points. Your partner bids 3♥, passed to you, what do you bid next?

Partner might have stretched to bid 3♥ over the 2NT bid, and might not have 11-12 points. Passing is an option, especially if you play Cue Raises – where partner could have bid 3♣ (their suit) to show a good hand with Hearts and 10+ points.

You play in 3♥ and they lead the ♣Q, plan the play.

Clue: The Hearts split 2-2, and the finesse works!

(Partner's hand – Dummy)

- ♠ 7642
- ♥ QJT2
- ♦ J85
- ♣ K6

Lead:

♣Q

- ♠ AQ53
- ♥ A8763
- ♦ A9
- ♣ T2

(Your hand – Declarer)

Answers inside.



Have you done your Christmas shopping yet?

How about purchasing a gift voucher of a [Learn To Play Bridge Beginners' Course](#) for 2014 for any of your non-bridge playing friends!

The course costs \$159 for 8 weeks, and any member who purchases a course as a present also receives a [free copy of the textbook valued at \\$17](#).

The first course for 2014 begins on Saturday morning February 15th at Henley.

The next course is Monday Nights starting on April 28th at Rozelle.

For more information, see Will or Vanessa.



**Learn to Play
Bridge**



Beginners' Course
8 Saturday Mornings
February 15th – April 5th, 2014
10am – 12:15pm

Bridge is the most fascinating card game in the world. It is a very social activity, while being constantly mentally stimulating.

To be held at the Henley Community Centre, off Crown St, Henley. 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 vanessa@sydneybridgecentre.com

For more details you can check out our website: www.sydneybridgecentre.com



Pairs Championship Scorecard

Here are the top 15 Pairs from the combined Pairs Championships. Some pairs played more than twice, so dropped their lowest score (underlined).

Place	Names	<u>(Underlined Scores Dropped)</u>		Monday 18th		Monday 25th		Score
		Morn	Night	Morn	Night			
1 st	Anthony Ruello & Derek Bolton		<u>50</u>	70.8	66.7			137.5
2 nd	Carolyn Roxburgh & James Roxburgh	69.3		65.3				134.6
3 rd	Martyn Jones & Lyall Kennedy	64.6		59.8	<u>39</u>			124.4
4 th	Brenda Rees & Howard Rees		64		58.3			122.3
5 th	Judith Davis & Patricia Sparks	55.7		62.8				118.5
6 th	Sally Graham & Faye Morris		58.3		58.6			116.9
7 th	Helen Carmody & Jean Schroeter	54.8		60.6				115.4
8 th	Anita Moen & David Pearce	61.3		49.7				111.0
9 th	Pauline Odonoghue & Shirley Zions	64.3		44.8				109.1
=10 th	Diane Connors & Vanessa Brown		53.6		55.1			108.7
=10 th	John Russell & Judy Parsons		55.4	<u>51.5</u>	53.3			108.7
12 th	Mike Edwards & Robin Devries		61.6	43.9				105.5
13 th	Beth Haggerty & Sari Larsen		46.7		58			104.7
14 th	Alan Young & Enn Tohver	50.9		51.2				102.1
15 th	Grethe Mercer & Neil Morris	52.1		48				100.1

Teams Championship Scorecard

Here is the full scoresheet from our Teams Championships.

Place	Team Name	Win	Draw	Loss	VPs	MPs
1 st	Bolton	3	0	1	84	0.56
2 nd	Brown	4	0	0	81	0.39
=3 rd	Edwards	2	2	0	67	0.23
=3 rd	Wilson	1	1	2	67	0.23
5 th	Davis	2	0	2	65	0.14
6 th	Joseph	2	1	1	62	
7 th	Graham	2	1	1	61	
8 th	Mercer	2	0	2	57	
9 th	Lawrance	2	1	1	56	
10 th	Sparks	1	0	3	53	
11 th	Parsons	2	0	2	52	
12 th	Rafferty	1	0	3	50	
13 th	Zions	1	0	3	48	
14 th	Turner	0	0	4	37	



The 2013 Sydney Bridge Centre Champions Trophy that everyone was competing for!
 Congratulations to Derek, Anthony, Archie and Peter.

New Members of Sydney Bridge Centre:

The following players became members of Sydney Bridge Centre in November. If you see them around, please make them feel welcome.

- ◆ Dave Bloodworth
- ◆ Susie Crowe
- ◆ Jane Page
- ◆ Tony Page
- ◆ Valerie Whimp

Feel free to turn up without a partner to all sessions or lessons at Sydney Bridge Centre.

At Sydney Bridge Centre we always welcome players to come without partners.

At most of our sessions we have players turn up without partners, and usually Vanessa and Will are both available to fill in if required.

We also have a few players looking for partners regularly or temporarily while their partners are away on holidays.

Always feel free to turn up without a partner, you are very likely to be solving a sit-out, and we would love to see you!

Kitchen News for November:

Julie Cottrell-Dormer made some delicious Bridge shortbread. The morning and evening Bridge players ate every last one. Thanks Julie!!



Julie's Delicious Bridge Shortbread!

'Kitchen Bridge'

Even more exciting kitchen news! On Monday November 25th we had so many tables for the morning game that we had to set up an extra table *in the kitchen!*

Card Play Quiz – ANSWER

You open 1♥ and your LHO bids 2NT, partner raises to 3♥ which ends the auction. They lead the ♣Q and here is the full hand.

(Partner's hand – Dummy)

♠ 7642

♥ QJT2

♦ J85

♣ K6

Lead:

♣Q

♠ AQ53

♥ A8763

♦ A9

♣ T2

(Your hand – Declarer)

You cover the first trick with the King, and they win the Ace and return another Club. West now switches to a Heart(!?) – you play the Queen, covered by the King and you win the Ace, and play a second round of Hearts, they both follow suit.

How do you play the Spade suit?

Card Play Tip: Whenever there is a pre-empt or a Michaels Cue Bid or Unusual 2NT, you know more than half of that player's cards, try to count the rest of their hand.

West has shown at least 5/5 in the minors, and now 2 Hearts. That only leaves at most one Spade.

That sounds very suspicious to me, since he never lead a Spade!

Card Play Tip: A defender who doesn't lead a singleton, doesn't have a singleton!

I think that West has no Spades at all, and has 6/5 in the minors. There is one other explanation though – which was that West was dealt a singleton King, and was reluctant to lead it.

The best play in the Spades is to play the Ace first, *just in case they have a singleton King*. And then cross back and lead a Spade towards the Queen. This rather unusual way of playing Spades gets you two tricks, and two losers, no matter if West has a singleton or void in Spades

Note that two winners and two losers is the best that you can hope for with these Spades if they split 4-1 or 5-0:

♠ 7642

♠ AQ53



Bidding Quiz – ANSWER

You are the dealer and this is your hand, what do you bid?

(Your Hand)

♠ 6
♥ AKQJ7
♦ AKQT5
♣ 86

You could open 2♣, or just simply 1♥ and then plan to show the Diamonds next.

My partner opened 2♣, I responded 2♦, now what?

A simple 2♥ bid now is perfect. It is forcing for at least one round.

Partner bids 3♥, now what?

If partner has an Ace, then you might make a slam. You could bid 4NT to ask for Keycards, but on the hand, partner has no Aces and you end up in 5♥. Here is the full hand.

(Partner's Hand – Dummy)

♠ KT95
♥ T43
♦ 9
♣ JT972

♠ 6
♥ AKQJ7
♦ AKQT5
♣ 86

(Your Hand – Declarer)

Unfortunately, even 5♥ is too high! You will probably go one off in 5♥.

One solution would have been to use Gerber, but that is not a very useful convention.

A better solution, especially with a suit with two quick losers, is to bid 4♦ as a Control Bid.

Bidding Tip – Control Bids: After a suit is agreed, a bid in a new suit can be used to say 'I am interested in slam, and I have first round Control of this suit (Ace, or a void).

Over your 4♦ bid, partner can sign off in 4♥ with no Aces. This is great news, as you stop one level lower than bidding 4NT!

If partner has the Ace of Spades, they will bid 4♠. If partner has the Ace of Clubs they can bid 5♣.

Control Bidding is a very useful convention for slam bidding. It suggests which suits you have controlled and can be used at a lower level than Keycard or Blackwood.

New Session in 2014

Starting from January 9th we will be running a regular Thursday Afternoon Game every week from 1:30 – 4:30.

We have managed to secure a regular booking at the New South Writers' Centre, Rozelle, on Thursday Afternoon every week in 2014.

As with all of our sessions, you are welcome to come without a partner, you don't need to book and there will be a short talk before the game.

If you are interested in playing, just turn up, and if you are looking for a regular partner for this session please speak to Will or Vanessa.



Christmas and New Years Trading Hours for Sydney Bridge Centre

We will be running sessions as normal up to Thursday Night December 19th, which will be our final session for 2013.

We are holding our **Daytime Christmas Party on Monday Morning December 16th**.

We are holding our **Night Christmas Party on Thursday Night December 19th**.

You are welcome to come to either or both the parties, and you don't need a partner, just turn up!

We will reopen in 2014 on Monday January 6th with Morning and Night sessions on that day as usual. Please note the new Thursday Afternoon session in 2014!



Upcoming Events Summary (more details inside):

◆ Wednesday Morning (10am) and Night (6pm) Lessons for December: **Various Topics**

December 4th: **Good & Bad Leads.**

December 11th: **Competitive Bidding Judgement.**

December 18th: **Handling Interference.**

◆ Our first **Beginners' Course** for 2014 will be held on Saturday Morning, 10am, February 5th – April 15th, at Henley.

◆ Our second **Beginners' Course** for 2014 will be held on Monday Night, 7:30pm, April 28th – June 16th, at the Writers' Centre, Rozelle.

◆ **Day Christmas Party Monday December 16th.**

◆ **Night Christmas Party (and final session for 2013) Thursday Night December 19th.**

◆ ◆ **Sydney Bridge Centre Reopens in 2014** on Monday January 6th ◆ ◆

How do you play these two suits for the most number of tricks, and fewest losers.

◆ AKJT9 (Dummy)

♣ AKJ (Dummy)

◆ 65432 (You)

♣ 432 (You)

With so many cards between you, best play is play the Ace, and if they both follow then play the King (playing for the Queen to drop).

Here the Queen is unlikely to drop, so you should lead the 2 and finesse to the Jack. Perhaps play the Ace first to catch a stray singleton Queen occasionally.

Guide for knowing when to finesse:

This is a handy rule that gives you a rough approximation of whether to finesse or not. There might be other clues that you can use from the bidding or play.

Step 1: Count how many cards the defenders have between them

Step 2: In your head, divide the outstanding cards as evenly as possible.

Step 3: Mentally place the missing card into the longer holding.

Step 4: See what happens when you play your honours from the top. Do you capture the missing card or not? If you capture it, then you should not finesse. Otherwise you should finesse.

Here are some examples:

♠ AKJT6

We have 8 cards, therefore the defenders have 5.
Dividing 5 as evenly as possible gives us: 3 – 2

♠ 987

Place the missing card (♠Q) into the longer hand: Qxx – xx

If we play the Ace and King, then the Queen will not fall, therefore **take the finesse.**

(Lead the ♠9 and play low from Dummy. If it wins, then the Queen is on your left. Repeat)

♥ AQJ8743

We have 9 cards, therefore the defenders have 4.

Dividing 4 evenly gives us: 2 – 2

♥ 95

Place the missing card (♥K) into the longer hand: Kx – xx

If we play the Ace, then the King will not fall, therefore **take the finesse.**

(Play the ♥5 to the ♥Q and if it wins, cross back to your hand and repeat it)

◆ AKQT9

We have 7 cards, therefore the defenders have 6.

Dividing 6 evenly gives us: 3 – 3

◆ 32

Place the missing card (◆J) into the longer hand: Jxx – xxx

Playing the Ace, King and Queen, should make the Jack fall, therefore **play for the drop.**

(Don't finesse – lead the ◆A, ◆K and then ◆Q and hope the ◆J drops).

♣ KQT9

Ignore the Ace (the opponents will win that regardless). We are only interested in the Jack.
We have 6 cards, therefore the defenders have 7.

♣ 32

The most even split is: 4 – 3

Place the missing card (♣J) into the longer hand: Jxxx – xxx

Playing the King and Queen, won't drop the Jack, therefore **finesse.**

(Play the ♣3 to the ♣T, and repeat the finesse if the Jack is on your left hand side).

Results Recap for November:

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. If a session only has 3 weeks, then we take the best 2 scores. The Ratings score is calculated over 3, 4 or 5 weeks and is a handicap style system of comparing results.

Monday Morning

Average of best 3 scores: [Martyn Jones & Lyall Kennedy](#) 60.23%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Jan Steele & Lynn Patterson](#) +0.21

Monday Night

Average of best 3 scores: [Howard & Brenda Rees](#) 60.43%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Peter Brooke & John Moen](#) +0.63

Wednesday Morning Supervised

Average of best 3 scores: [Audrey Belt & Margaret Hagar](#) 60.87%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Audrey Belt & Margaret Hagar](#) 0.36

Wednesday Night Supervised

Average of best 3 scores: [Paul Roach & Collette Joseph](#) 71.40%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Paul Roach & Collette Joseph](#) +1.18

Thursday Night Pairs

Average of best 2 scores: [Bill Taylor & Anne Phillips](#) 61.10%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Bill Taylor & Anne Phillips](#) 0.69

Saturday Afternoon

Average of best 3 scores: [Vanessa Brown & Richard Wulff](#) 62.90%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Bill Taylor & Anne Phillips](#) +0.54

2013 Sydney Bridge Centre Pairs Championship

The 2013 Pairs Championship was based on four Sessions. The winners were calculated by taking the best two scores with the same partner.

Winners [Derek Bolton & Tony Ruello](#) Averaged 68.75%
Runners-Up [James & Carolyn Roxburgh](#) Averaged 67.3%
Best Pair on Ratings [James & Carolyn Roxburgh](#) +0.54



2013 Sydney Bridge Centre Teams Championship

The 2013 Teams Championships were played on Thursday Night November 28th.

We played a four-round Swiss event of six-board matches.

1st [Derek Bolton, Tony Ruello, Archie Fraser, Peter Campbell](#) 84 VPs
2nd [Vanessa Brown, Ric Lazar, John Bennett, John Harvey](#) 81 VPs
=3rd [Mike Edwards, Ed Truscott, Sarah Carradine, Michael Young](#) 67 VPs
=3rd [Teresa Wilson, John Moen, Jean Schroeter, Cheryl Barrett](#) 67 VPs



There are more details of the Championships on the front page and a final scorecard inside the Newsletter.

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: [Peter Brooke](#) +1.65

Outstanding Player of the Month:

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

We had a Tie for Outstanding Player of the Month, since they were inseparable!

Outstanding Player: [Paul Roach & Collette Joseph](#) Averaged 62.46%