

Sydney Bridge Centre

November 2013 Newsletter

Sydney Bridge Centre members shine at the Spring Nationals Championships!

Sydney Bridge Centre members Mike Edwards and Kathryn Hawke won the 20-team Restricted Teams Championships by just 1 VP!

Two other all SBC members finished in the top 8 places! Archie Fraser, Greta Davis, Sally Graham and Diane Connors came 5th and Catherine Chaffey, Andrew Goodchild, Liz Jacka and Libby Tonkin came 7th.



**Restricted Teams Winners:
Allan Pike, Kathryn Hawke
Mike Edwards, Edward Truscott**

Well done to the Pike team, and to all the Sydney Bridge Centre Teams.

Sydney Bridge Centre member Sarah Carradine came second in the Restricted Pairs. She and her partner Michael Young had a maximum win in the last round, and only lost by 1 VP to talented 14 year-old Tomer Libman and his father. There were 60 entries and 12 matches over two full days.

Other notable finishes were Mike Edwards and Edward Truscott who were 8th, Sally and Richard Lazar finished 9th and Jean Schroeter and Cheryl Barrett finished 12th.



**Restricted Pairs Runners-Up:
Sarah Carradine, Marilyn Chadwick handing
out the prizes, and Michael Young.**

October was a big month, with Sydney hosting a nine day National event, the Spring Nationals Championships held at the Canterbury Racecourse. There were seven events at the Spring Nationals, the final event was the Hallowe'en Pairs, sponsored by Sydney Bridge Centre. There is a report of that event and lots of photos of Sydney Bridge Club members inside the newsletter.

As the year draws to a close, we have our daytime Christmas party on Monday December 16th and our evening Christmas party on Thursday night December 19th. There are more details inside. Also the Wednesday Lessons will be continuing until the end of December. The topic for November is handling strong hands, details on the back page.

Vanessa & Will

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Bridge Challenges to test your Bidding and Play!

Bidding Quiz

Your partner opens 1♦ and this is your hand, what do you bid?

(Your hand)

- ♠ AKQ5
- ♥ J6
- ♦ KT54
- ♣ KT3

I would simply respond 1♠ for now. Partner rebids 2♣, now what?

Answers inside.

Card Play Quiz

How do you play 2♠ by South, with West leading the ♥K at trick one? Your goal is to make as many tricks as possible.

(Partner's hand – Dummy)

- ♠ K82
- ♥ 654
- ♦ KQ7
- ♣ T432

Lead:

♥K

- ♠ Q7543
- ♥ AJ32
- ♦ A
- ♣ K97

(Your hand – Declarer)

Answers inside.



Have you done your Christmas shopping yet?

How about 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 anyone who purchases a course as a present also receives a free copy of the textbook. The first course for 2014 begins on Saturday morning February 15th at Henley. For more information, see Will or Vanessa.



October Teams Winners – The Lazar Team
Rod Dunn, Sally Lazar
Richard Lazar, Tim Stewart

Richard won the September Teams last month as well.

Sally and Richard played in the Hallowe'en Pairs all day, and then came back to Rozelle to play in the Teams that night. They won both events! Well done Sally and Richard!

On the last Thursday night of each month we hold a Teams night. Playing as a team of four, you compare scores only against one other team, not everyone in the room.

Teams scoring is slightly different as well, using IMPs rather than normal percentages. With IMPs you get large scores for making games and slams that the opposition miss, and also large scores for defeating their contracts, whereas overtricks are not as important.

Most club bridge in Australia is played like we normally do, Pairs with matchpoints and percentages. Most National events in Australia are played with Teams of four using IMPs.

If you haven't played Teams bridge before, then you should! Arrange a foursome, or contact Will or Vanessa to arrange a partner or team for you.

As well as being lots of fun, the winners also receive a prize, and a photo opportunity – it could be you, what are you waiting for!!

The next Teams game is on Thursday November 28th. This is also the 2013 SBC Teams Championships!



Best Dressed: Kim McMurchy



Best Dressed: Jenny Montagna

The Hallowe'en Pairs had a dress-up element, and all of the following Sydney Bridge Centre members won prizes for their fancy dress. I didn't recognise most of these players as they entered the room. Vanessa recognised Archie from his ear alone, and it wasn't until Kim laughed out loud that I guessed who it was under those black dreadlocks!



**Youngest Witches in the Field:
Lauren Travis and Vanessa Brown**



**Best Dressed Skeleton: Archie Fraser
with Greta Davis**



**Most Glamorous
Witch:
Shirley Zions**

New Members of Sydney Bridge Centre:

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

- ◆ Debbie Arvanitis
- ◆ Paul Arvanitis
- ◆ Geoff Brodie
- ◆ Paul Houlihan
- ◆ Richard Lazar
- ◆ Sally Lazar
- ◆ Franco Pomare
- ◆ Lidia Pomare
- ◆ Elizabeth Rowe
- ◆ Carolyn Vote
- ◆ Geraldine Wegner
- ◆ Peter Wegner

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!



**Exciting Kitchen News:
New Canisters for Tea, Coffee, Sugar, etc**

Card Play Quiz – ANSWER

You are in 2♠ and they lead the ♥K and here is the full hand.

(Partner's hand – Dummy)

♠ K82
♥ 654
♦ KQ7
♣ T432

Lead:

♥K

♠ Q7543
♥ AJ32
♦ A
♣ K97

(Your hand – Declarer)

It looks like the ♥K and ♥Q are both with the opening leader. A clever play on this layout of cards is to duck the first lead, and hope they continue playing Hearts (establishing your ♥J as a winner). This play is older than Bridge! It comes from Whist, played in Bath in England, and is called the **Bath Coup** (holding AJ and ducking the King when it is lead in the hope to win two tricks).

Let's say they fall for it and lead the ♥Q next. You win you ♥A, now what?

You lead a trump, from your hand, LHO plays low, and you play the ♠K from dummy, which wins.

Who has the ♠A?

Almost certainly LHO. Your RHO would have taken the ♠A over the ♠K almost certainly. To keep drawing trumps, you lead a Spade back, RHO plays the ♠J and you play the ... ???

Small one!

If the ♠A is on your left, then playing the ♠Q can't help (you don't have the ♠J or ♠T to back it up).

Duck and hope that their Ace is now a singleton and must be played.

The bidding on this hand was rather interesting. You open 1♠, your partner raises to 2♠ and this is your hand, what do you bid next?

(Your hand)

♠ Q7543
♥ AJ32
♦ A
♣ K97

I would pass. You have 14 HCP, and a singleton, so 17 TOTAL points, but there are a few negative features about your hand.

Firstly, your trumps are terrible. If your partner only has three trumps (likely) then you might be in trouble trying to draw trumps.

You don't really have a side suit to set up, since you Hearts are not very strong.

The goal here was to stop as low as possible.

Bidding Quiz – ANSWER

Your partner opens 1♦ and this is your hand, what do you bid?

(Your hand)

- ♠ AKQ5
- ♥ J6
- ♦ KT54
- ♣ KT3

I would simply respond 1♠ for now. Partner rebids 2♣, now what?

You could bid 3NT, **but after bidding three suits, you should have a stopper in the only unbid suit to bid 3NT, since they will tend to lead that suit.**

A good option here is to bid 2♥, **fourth suit game forcing**. This is notionally asking for a stopper in the fourth suit, and also asks partner to describe her hand in more detail.

Partner bids 2♠, now what??

For this bid you know that she only has 3 Spades, she would have raised you with four of them earlier.

If you are going for game now, I recommend 4♠, *even though it is a 4-3 fit*.

If you make 4♠, you will outscore those in 5♦.

If you bid 5♦ that would be the safest game, and outscore those in 3NT (going down).

Did you realise that partner has a singleton or void in Hearts?

She has shown 5+♦, 4+♣ and 3♠. That leaves at most one Heart.

Realising that, perhaps Diamonds is the better contract, but in slam!

We have almost all of the points in the other three suits, and a singleton in Hearts, with no wasted points there.

The option here is to ask for Aces, partner shows 2 Aces (or 2 Keycards for Spades). And then 6♦.

Note: In Game, I would risk the 4-3 premium Major suit fit and play 4♠. In slam I would opt for the safest contract and bid 6♦.

Here is the full hand:

(Your hand)

- ♠ AKQ5
- ♥ J6
- ♦ KT54
- ♣ KT3

♠ J86

♥ 8

♦ AQ932

♣ AQ98

(Partner's hand – Declarer)

Drawing trumps, running all your winners. Making 12 easy tricks.



Best Rookie Novice Pairs:
Holly and Guy Dillon who are regular Sydney Bridge Centre players.



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 **Night Christmas Party on Thursday Night December 19th**.

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

We will be taking bookings for the Christmas parties a bit closer to the dates.

We will reopen in 2014 on Monday January 6th with Morning and Night sessions on that day as usual.

Hallowe'en Pairs Recap!

On Thursday October 31st Sydney Bridge Centre hosted the Hallowe'en Pairs at the Sydney Spring Nationals Festival. There were 17 tables, and half of the players were members of the Sydney Bridge Centre. **Vanessa and Will would like to thank all of you for supporting our event, and we hope you all had a great day out!**

The morning session was won by Theo Mangos & Subhash Gupta, with Sally & Richard Lazar coming second. The afternoon session was won by Val Biltoft & Joan Touyz, with Brett Jobson & David Burton coming second. We combined the morning and afternoon scores to produce outright results.

The top 10 overall combined scores were:

Place	Names	Total
1 st	Sally LAZAR - Richard LAZAR	124.19
2 nd	Helene JACOBSON - Joan POLIVNICK	123.73
3 rd	Pauline GUMBY - Bina KASSAM	119.91
4 th	Val BILTOFT - Joan TOUYZ	118.98
5 th	Theo MANGOS - Sub GUPTA	116.55
6 th	Faye MORRIS - Arthur CHUNG	116.2
7 th	Vanessa BROWN - Lauren TRAVIS	114.35
8 th	Brett JOBSON - David BURTON	109.95
9 th	Warren ROBINSON - Catherine ELSE	108.1
10 th	Teresa WILSON - Maryann CAMPBELL	106.71



**Best Restricted Pair (under 100 MPs):
Brett Jobson and David Burton**



**Hallowe'en Pairs winners:
Richard and Sally Lazar**



**Best Novice Pair (Under 50 MPs):
Dorothea Hasley and Bendicte Zurstrassen**



**Hallowe'en Pairs Runners Up:
Helene Jacobson and Joan Polivnick**



**Finishing "Middlest" (Closest to 50%):
Maryann Campbell and Teresa Wilson**



**Finishing Unlucky 13th:
Margaret Hagar and Gwen Rafferty**

Two Upcoming Club Championship Events.

Thursday Night November 28th.

The 2013 Sydney Bridge Centre Teams Championship.

4 round, 6-board, Swiss Teams with IMPs scoring, same as the usual Teams night. The top team with at least 50% SBC members will be crowned 2013 Club Teams Champions!! **Bookings Preferred, enter online or at the Club.**

Monday Morning & Night, November 18th and 25th

The 2013 Sydney Bridge Centre Pairs Championship.

There are 4 sessions, and players can play in as many or few as they like. The **best two scores** with the same partner count towards the championship. If you play in 3 or 4 sessions, you can drop your worst score or two. If you play in 2 sessions, then they both count. If you play in just one session, then you won't be eligible to win the Championship, but I'm sure you will have fun anyway!

Both sessions on November 25th will be Red Masterpoints. Bookings not required.



Hallowe'en Dressups



Witches Playing Bridge

*"Double, Double, Toil and Trouble.
Fire burn and Penalty Double."*

*- William Shakespeare, Macbeth
(Modified for bridge)*



Hallowe'en Witches

These photos were supplied by Jenny Montagna and Kim McMurchy. Thanks girls, you looked amazing!

Kim had to race off from the racecourse as soon as play was finished to go to a family dinner for her mother's birthday, still dressed as a witch!

Results Recap for October:

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: [Kim McMurchy & Julie Cottrell-Dormer](#) 64.00%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Kim McMurchy & Julie Cottrell-Dormer](#) +0.93

Monday Night

Average of best 3 scores: [Maryann Campbell & Teresa Wilson](#) 58.87%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Charles Manning & Orsolina Aroney](#) +0.59

Wednesday Morning Supervised

Average of best 2 scores: [Elizabeth Rowe & Gwen Rafferty](#) 64.50%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Elizabeth Rowe & Gwen Rafferty](#) +0.12

Wednesday Night Supervised

Average of best 3 scores: [Paul Roach & Collette Joseph](#) 62.50%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Paul Roach & Collette Joseph](#) +0.97

Thursday Night Pairs

Average of best 3 scores: [Vicky Cahill & John Moen](#) 58.50%
Best scores based on Ratings: [John Russell & Judy Parsons](#) +0.44

Thursday Night Teams

1st [Richard & Sally Lazar, Rod Dunn & Tim Stewart](#) 81 VPs
2nd [Kerrie Taylor, Peter Brooke, Patricia Sparks, Lorraine Hecker](#) 67 VPs

Saturday Afternoon

Average of best 3 scores: [Geoffrey & Kathy Lawson](#) 60.87%
Best scores based on Ratings: [Geoffrey & Kathy Lawson](#) +0.67

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: [Libby Tonkin](#) +1.87

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.

Outstanding Player: [Geoffrey Lawson](#) Averaged 62.5%

Upcoming Events Summary (more details inside):

◆ Wednesday Morning (10am) and Night (6pm) Lessons for November: **Strong Hands and Slam Bidding.**

November 6th: **Opening Strong Hands.**

November 13th: **Slam Bidding.**

November 20th: **Game Forcing Cue Bid.**

November 27th: **Reverses.**

◆ Thursday Night November 28th **November Teams & 2013 SBC Teams Championship.** Start time 7:30pm. Bookings required.

◆ **2013 SBC Pairs Championships.** Monday November 18th and 25th. Play Morning and/or Night. Play up to 4 sessions. Best 2 scores with the same partner count. **Red points** on both sessions on November 25th. Winners are the 2013 Club Pairs Champions.

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

◆ **Final Bridge for 2013. 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** ◆ ◆