

EBC Newsletter June 2026

Welcome to winter. Together we make Easts Bridge Club a welcoming place for all levels of bridge, where we enjoy a strong standard of Bridge in a warm and friendly environment. I thank you for being a part of our wonderful bridge family. Remember the committee has agreed to award one player each week who best represents the SPIRIT OF THE CLUB. This award is

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The club championship was run over a 3 week period in May. I would like to congratulate our winners :-

1st Place - Theo Mangos and Brian Bedkober
2nd Place- Hillary and Kamala Valliappan
3rd Place - Leigh Foran and Pat Walker
4th Place -Dianne and Eddie Mullin

Novice Cup

I am excited to announce that I have received a donation from an anonymous donor, whose idea is to run a competition for our Tuesday novice players. \$1000 has been donated to the club.

The committee has decided to run the competition over a 2 week period:

Tuesday 28th July

Tuesday 4th August

Each winning pair will receive \$250 per person plus a trophy for each pair

The entry criteria for the competition is you must be :-

- Financial member of EBC
- Each individual player must have less than 50 ABF masterpoints
- Unfortunately players over 50 will not be allowed to play on these respective Tuesdays.

AWNP (Australia Wide Novice Pairs)

On Tuesday the 26th May, our Tuesday players competed in this Australia wide competition.

Congratulations to all players that competed.

At time of newsletter publication, Easts Bridge has 5 pairs in the top 50 out of nearly 2000 pairs across Australia. Piroozi and John are currently 16th, Louise and Eliane 36th, Michael and Geoff 47th.

Our Club winners on the day were :-

Nth/Sth	Morris Rosenberg and Joe Ben Major	Score 68.1
Est/Wst	Sonia Onshow and Terry Simmons	Score 70.9

Overall (Australia-wide) top rankers

4th	Jane Satterford & Steve Mitchell	70.6%
14th	Piroozi Desai & John Temple	67.2%
19th	Sonia Onshow & Terry Simmons	66.1%

GNOT

This year we have scheduled the GNOT competition over 3 weeks
10th, 17th, 24th June.

GOLD masterpoints. This year we will run the GNOT as a Pairs event (with IMP scoring), with the top pairs to form a team to represent the club in the Metropolitan final on 22-23 August.

Tuesday Supervised

Our Chief director Nick has said the contract can now be displayed on the top of the Board. This will not be allowed in the Monday or Wednesday session.

The club has currently been awarding a prize of a free game voucher for the highest rated pair on Monday and Wednesday, the new committee has agreed to also award a free game voucher for the winning pair on Tuesdays. Anyone being mentored or asking questions during play to the director may not be eligible for the voucher, this shall be at the directors' discretion whether it is awarded to the next in line (pair coming 2nd).

So top pairs (NS & EW) where neither member of the pair has asked a question. The Director will need to keep track and cross pairs off as they ask questions.

Relocation of Bridge - Tuesday 23rd June

East's have prebooked the Bondi room for an all day function

Proposed new venue - COA

25 Rowe St, Woolahra (we are waiting confirmation, so please check with us the week before)

Suggestion Box

The ideas coming through the suggestion box have been great, Each and everyone has been discussed and debated by the committee. We had a complaint that some suggestions were not making it to the committee, as some members were seen reading them before and after sessions and apparently some were going missing. For the above reason we have placed a padlock on the box and it shall be opened by the Secretary at each Committee meeting. Suggestions can be anonymous, however they carry more weight with the committee if you put your name to it, that way we can also give you the committee's feedback.

The committee is looking at ways to decorate and warm up the ambience of our room and environment, so any thoughts?

Place it in the suggestion box.

Library

Our Little Library has been very popular since its launch a few months ago with about 40 books available at the moment. We will be adding some more books regularly - please keep checking. For the smooth running of the Little Library, please follow some of these guidelines as it is self-serve and relies on borrower's diligence and honesty to be successful:

- 1- Please only borrow **one book at a time**.
- 2- Items can be borrowed for a **duration of 3 weeks**.
- 3 - Very important: **please fill in the Little Library Borrower's book** (on the trolley) when you borrow a book, and also **please tick when you return** the book.
- 4 - If any books need repairs, please notify Sonia or Max, your friendly librarians.

At the moment, we have several books out on loan which have not been recorded. If you have borrowed them, please come and fill the Borrower's Book so we are able to keep track of our books. Thank you and enjoy the read!

Nick has more books now available for purchase which follow on from the beginners series written by Derrick Browne. I have purchased them all and found them to be great for my development as a player. They follow a logical sequence as you progress out of the beginners group and slowly into the mainstream Tuesday supervised session, and then more advanced conventions which are being used by the Monday and Wednesday players.

Sydney Bridge Centre - Novice & Restricted Pairs Competition

Next weekend

Sydney Bridge Club Saturday 6th June 2026

Venue Level 1 162 Goulburn St Surry Hills

Entry Fee \$65 per player

RED masterpoints

Come join Sonia and I, let's fly the flag for Easts BC. Please let me know if you are attending and I will bring your name tags.

Please sign up using **MyABF** or call tournament organiser **Wing** on PH 92646884.

Bridge NSW - State wide Pairs 1-7 August 2026

EBC will be running this event for players interested on Wednesday 5th August 2026

Personal Bidding Boxes

The Directors have suggested we phase out the personnel bidding boxes. Everyone's ABF numbers are now printed on your Name Badges. This saves everyone searching frantically through the tubs for their own bidding box, particularly for those that sit East/West and they move to the next table. The committee has agreed to compensate anyone that hands back their personal box and receive a free one off game voucher.

Social Bridge Fridays

It has been great to see the social Friday sessions grow to 6 full tables - please make an effort to come along. Remember there is NO scoring, no competition, and best of all NO cost, just a great way to play, learn and have fun. I'm seeing people forming new partnerships; this is the environment where you can grow as a pair or find someone new. You are free to stay with your partner or move around the room. We have players from all levels and we have been lucky that Nicoleta has been giving a brief lesson once a month. If you are struggling to find regular partner with Theo or our Matchmaking App, come along.

Last Friday, the club manager at Easts was excited to see the numbers growing and us giving back to the club in a social environment.

Drag Bingo Saturday 6th June 7-9pm Bondi Room

Yes that's right, Easts are hosting bingo (free to play), so I'd like to encourage our members, spouses, partners and friends to come along and have a great night of fun bingo and laughter. Let me know if you're interested and I can book a few tables (or half the room) . I would like to see lots of tables of Bridge Club Members. My wife and I played last time it was at Easts, it was a hoot, so much fun and lots of prizes. You can order dinner there in the bingo room from Olive and Oak or dine earlier at O/Oak. **It's our way of supporting the club for all they do for us at Easts Bridge.**

Scoring on Mondays

With the introduction of 2 sections on Monday, allowing stronger competition amongst similarly rated players, our chief Director Nick has recommended integrating the results across the field of both sections.

Mobile Telephones

The committee is upset with phones continuously going off, despite numerous warnings. Only last wednesday our Vice President Theo made an announcement prior to play starting for everyone to check and place their phones on silent, we still had 3 phones go off, this is not acceptable, so unfortunately the committee has agreed to penalise anyone who's Mb Ph goes off and interrupts the session.

The offender will be penalized with a score of 40/60 (unless their score was already less than 40 percent. This rule shall be enforced by the directors in all sessions.

Australian Champion - Paul Dalley

Paul gave an informative talk on Tuesday 19th May, on defending and playing 5 card suits. I apologise to Paul and the members as the Wifi was playing up so his presentation was a little interrupted. I have spoken to the Manager of Easts and this shall be corrected for future presentations. So far Paul has spoken to our Monday and Tuesday Sessions and I am grateful he has accepted my offer to speak again to our Wednesday cohort.

17th June Save the Date

Paul will be doing a presentation on Wednesday 17th June for our Wednesday players.

BridgeChampions.com by Paul Dalley

Consider this auction:

N	E	S	W
	1 ♠	X	4 ♠
X	P	?	

South hand: ♠ 2 ♥ KQ104 ♦ A1032 ♣ A942

Paul's 1st rule about doubles: When the opponent's bid and raise a suit, double should not mean "penalty" in the classical sense, where we have a lot of their suit. It is much more useful and frequent to play it as takeout oriented.

Think about it, in the given auction the opponent's often have 9-10 card fit, how many spades can we really have? The double is a very important bid, assigning it as a strict "penalty" is too inflexible.

However, does that mean we have to bid since partner has made a takeout double?

Paul's 2nd rule: It's easier to defend a 4 level contract than to make a 5 level contract.

It's often at least fine to defend on the 4 level when your side has the majority of the points, especially when the alternative is to move to the 5 level. On this hand I do not expect partner to have a penalty hand, I'm expecting say 2 spades in partner's hand. Yet, I'll leave the double in and try to make 4+ tricks rather than 11 tricks I need on the 5 level.

I would bid rather declare than defend if I had a void in spades.

Let's change the auction slightly (Problem 31)

Auction:

N	E	S	W
	3♥	X	4♥
X	P	?	

South hand (first hand): ♠ J7642 ♥ 2 ♦ AK104 ♣ AK4

Here there is the option of defending on the 4 level or playing on the 4 level (not the 5 level). This becomes a more serious consideration, with an appropriate hand, it can certainly be right to just declare (a singleton in their suit is a good reason to declare).

Let's change the hand slightly, same auction

Auction:

N	E	S	W
	3♥	X	4♥
X	P	?	

South hand: ♠ KQ10 ♥ K10 ♦ A1043 ♣ Q1092

Compare that with having a bit more length/strength in their suit, and all of a sudden its much more appealing to defend

An overall summary- When deciding whether to bid or defend on the 4 level, look at your holding in the opponent's suit, if you have points in their suit, its often correct to defend, if you have a singleton or void in their suit, its often correct to declare. But you generally need a void to make it worth your while going to the 5 level.

Please come checkout BridgeChampions.com

Members of Easts Bridge Club can get 1 month free trial with Code "Easts"

Christmas in July 21st July

Don't forget to save the date for Christmas in July! Put it in your calendar NOW: the biggest function hosted by Easts Bridge Club in years.

We are planning a sit down fully catered meal with live music, entertainment, raffles and giveaways.

Article By Chief Director - Nick Hughes

When you want to bid -- When you have to bid

Take a simple opening hand like this

	West	East
A54	1H	2H
KQJ65	?	
K53		
62		

You have an easy pass with your 14 TP opposite partner's 6-10. No chance of game.

If you were to bid 3H, partner would take you for 16-18 TP. With 9-10 TP (a maximum), responder would bid on to 4H. Not what you want!

Let's change the auction:

	West	North	East	South
A54	1H	1S	2H	2S
KQJ65	?			
K53				
62				

You still have no interest in game but it's a good idea to bid 3H nevertheless. This time you are bidding to compete for the partscore. If you pass and they make eight tricks, you will score -110, which will be a bad score.

Even if they go down, you still won't score well. Why? Because your +50 or +100 won't be a good score if - as seems likely - you could have made +110 or +140 in 2H.

You should bid 3H, which will be fine if you make it. Even if you fail, you will still get a decent score whenever they could have made 2S, which seems likely.

Partner needs to be aware that you are bidding 3H because you have to, not because you want to. You don't want partner thinking you have 16-18 TP.

So what do you do if you actually want to invite game? You might just bid game yourself, a slight overbid. Or you might try bidding a different suit as a trial for game.

Bidding 3C or 3D over their 2S says "I'm interested in game. Feel free to bid 4H if you think you have a maximum for your raise."

Monthly winners

May winners from best 3 scores

Monday

Judy Cochrane & Jane Westmacott 62.9%

Tuesday

Ann Bernfield & Harry Bernfield 62.3%

Wednesday (includes Club Championship)

Theo Mangos & Brian Bedkober

Most Improved Rating

Judy Cochrane +1.19

ABF Masterpoint Promotions - May

To Graduate

Kahn, Rona

Steinberg, Carolyn

Club

Eggleton, Geoffrey

Local

Matin, Nick

Nathan, David

Bronze Local

Taitz, Riva

Bronze National

Davidson, Line

Warm Regards

Terry Simmons

President

East's Bridge Club

Wishing you good cards, good company and many enjoyable games ahead