

EBC NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026

Vale

It is with great sadness that I announced the passing of our much-loved Life member and Foundation member, Helen Van Dam. Helen was an important part of the club's history and her friendship, contribution and dedication to the EBC will be fondly remembered by all who knew her. Our sincere condolences go to Helen's family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

Novice Cup

The past month has been an extremely busy period for Easts Bridge Club, with the running of the Inaugural Novice Cup. This idea was first discussed with myself and several members by a very generous Tuesday player that wishes to remain anonymous, we thank her very much. Her enthusiasm and sponsorship through the Pallas Group allowed us to Purchase Trophies and a \$1000 in prize money (\$250 to each of the winning pair), and a 2-month subscription to Paul Dalleys Bridgechampions.com.au

The event was held over 2 consecutive Tuesdays and Directed by Nick Hughes under tournament conditions. To enter the eligibility criteria was you had to be a member of EBC and you had to have under 50 masterpoints. I congratulate the winning pairs

Nth/Sth Sonia Onshow & Terry Simmons

Est/Wst Kirsten Walla & Jim Thomson

Bridge NSW and Sydney Bridge Club has just announced they shall now also be hosting a Starter Congress, Novice competition on Saturday 27th February 2027 , 10am at SBC. Enter as a pair via my ABF. This event is designed to introduce novice players to congress conditions and IMP scoring.

NSW State Pairs

The state pairs qualifications shall be held over the next 3 consecutive Mondays 17,24,31 August with the regional finals Saturday/ Sunday 26/27 September.

Best 2 results out of 3

Red masterpoints at state championship level

No Substitutions allowed

The Australia wide pairs

The AWP were held on Wednesday 5th August

Congratulations to the club winners on the day

Thomas & Piroozi

Leigh and Pat

We are awaiting the official results nationally, currently

Leigh Foran & Pat Walker are in 10th place

And

Hoa Tang & Jeff Zhang have jumped up to 35th

Christmas in July

Our Christmas in July celebration was a fantastic success, with approximately 110 members joining us for a wonderful evening of friendship, laughter and fun.

Members enjoyed a delicious 3 course meal, fabulous entertainment from a lively 20 piece rock n roll ukulele band along with an amazing world class magician. There were plenty of prizes raffles and giveaways. Everyone present received a lucky Easts Bridge carry bag filled with goodies such as EBC key rings, a free game voucher and a \$10 Olive and Oak voucher. The committee wanted to give back to Easts Leagues Club for their generous support of our bridge club.

I sincerely thank all the sponsors and club members that contributed and donated prizes for the night.

Next Beginners Course

Our Beginners course starts this Tuesday at 1pm and it's the perfect opportunity to introduce a friend or relative to the wonderful game of bridge. We're encouraging all members to help grow our friendly club and as a special thank you any member who introduces a friend or relative who joins the course will receive a free game voucher. Spread the word. Bring someone along and help us introduce a new generation of players to bridge.

Monday Nights

We are delighted to extend a very warm welcome to Diane Glanville and the members of Monday Night Social Bridge Club, who have now amalgamated and joined Easts Bridge Club

A benefit of joining is you will now pay only \$10 per session as opposed to your current \$15 table money, each member will now be signed up to the ABF and allocated an ABF number and you will now start accumulating ABF masterpoints. Each member shall be issued with an EBC name badge and ABF No.

It's wonderful to have you joining our growing bridge community, and we look forward to sharing many enjoyable sessions of cards, friendship, laughter and good competition together. We hope you quickly feel at home and become an important part of the Easts Bridge family.

Social Bridge

Have you tried Friday Social Bridge, it's a fun relaxed atmosphere, no competition, in a happy environment amongst friends. Please note you don't need a partner one can be arranged, however it's also a great way of trialling a new partner where we can freely talk and ask questions immediately after the board has been played. For those wishing to come along it's usually hosted in either the Bondi room or Arties bar, we have been averaging 5/6 tables each week. Once a month we have a casual guest talk and lessons from Nicoleta or Theo. We look forward to seeing you there and remember there's NO COST to attend.

Bridge Cruises

Helene K is hosting 4 bridge cruises in 2027 on the luxurious Celebrity Edge. Each cruise has a set bridge program on sea days with Red and Green point events.

New Zealand 18 Feb – 2 March From \$3699 pp

Barrier Reef 2 March – 13 March From \$3199 pp

South Pacific 24 March – 7 April From \$3399 pp

Wine & Bridge 7 April – 16 April From \$3300 pp

My wife and I have already booked so please join us and other members from our club and from bridge clubs around Australia, for more information or a detailed brochure please see myself or contact Helene 0404 083913

Etiquette

Good bridge is about more than just playing cards well. Bridge NSW and the Australian Bridge Federation emphasise that players should always be polite, courteous and respectful towards their partner, opponents and officials, and avoid remarks or actions that may embarrass, annoy or interfere with another player's enjoyment of the game.

Please greet your opponents warmly, **avoid criticising your partner or discussing mistakes at the table, keep conversation and noise to a reasonable level**, and play at a considerable pace. During bidding and play, avoid gestures, changes in tone or unnecessary comments that could convey information to your partner.

If a problem or disagreement arises, politely call the director and allow them to make the ruling, there is no need for players to argue the matter themselves. Most importantly, remember that bridge should be friendly, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone, particularly our beginners and newer player.

A/C

Please note the Club has been having issues with the AC and a new compressor unit has been ordered. Please dress accordingly, if you forget to bring a jacket, the committee has a variety of shawls available on the trolley to borrow.

Library

Unfortunately, we currently have a few books missing from our Bridge Club Library collection. If you have inadvertently borrowed a book without recording your name in the library register, we kindly ask that you return it as soon as possible so that other members can also enjoy it. Our library is there for everyone to share, and your cooperation in keeping the collection complete is greatly appreciated. Our Committee member and Librarian Sonia is designing a new system for signing books in and out. Whilst we await a display cabinet all books shall remain in the storeroom and a list of available books will be pinned to the noticeboard in the coming days.

Storeroom

I ask all members to refrain from entering the storeroom and grabbing bridge supplies unless asked to assist by a committee member.

Rules & House Keeping

Please turn up minimum 10 min and be seated prior to the session commencing, several players are starting to arrive on the dot of 1pm, this will no longer be acceptable as the directors are having issues with setting the boards and table movements.

If you want a coffee or hot chocolate please arrive early as the machine will be turned off at 1pm. If you are in the queue at 1pm you will miss out, so arrive early.

Please please please put your coffee and water cups in the bin as soon as you have finished. DO NOT leave them on the stools.

At the completion of Wednesday session please assist the committee in packing up the room, all tablecloths need to be folded and put away, along with bidding boxes, bridgemates etc, **“Many hands make light work”**

Until next time, may the cards be kind, the company be wonderful, and the bridge always enjoyable

Warm regards,

Terry Simmons

President

Easts Bridge Club