



New South Wales Bridge Association

♠ ♥ Newsletter ♦ ♣

Editor: Steve Hurley

Chairman's corner

Since the last edition of the newsletter a significant change has taken place at the NSWBA. From 1 April we entered an agreement with Sydney Bridge Centre to merge our club duplicates (more details are available on the NSWBA website). This move is intended to revitalize the local club operation and also increase the level of separation between our Club and State activities. We are using the name "Sydney Bridge Centre" for the club and "NSWBA" will now refer solely to the State body. The principals of Sydney Bridge Centre, Will Jenner-O'Shea and Vanessa Brown have joined us and are looking after the club duplicate sessions (now across 3 venues including Goulburn St). Liz and Carrie will continue to run the NSWBA office and it is hoped will now have more time for State activities.

We are shortly about to host our annual regional representatives meeting followed by the popular NSWBA Teams of Three congress. The regional network remains essential to the running of bridge across a large State like NSW and the weekend offers a good opportunity for networking with other regions as well as playing some bridge.

Finally I would like to offer my thanks to John McIlrath who has recently stepped down from the NSWBA Council after many years of service, both as a Special councilor representing the Sydney metropolitan region and as an Ordinary councilor. John has been a driving force for many years in marketing and promoting bridge and is of course well known as a popular congress director. The NSWBA greatly appreciates all his hard work.

Happy bridging

Julian Foster, NSWBA Chairman



NSW State Mixed Pairs

The NSW State Mixed Pairs Championship was held over the weekend of 23-24 May at the NSWBA. Sixty pairs played in the qualifying two rounds on Saturday, splitting into two fourteen pair finals on Sunday, competing for either the NSW Mixed Pairs or the NSW Country Mixed Pairs Championship. Those pairs who were not placed in either of the finals were eligible to play in the Swiss Autumn Pairs on Sunday.

The Pairs event served up more than its fair share of slam hands, many of them in Diamonds. One hand was board 10 of the first final session on Sunday.

First to speak, you hold

♠ AJ8
♥ 9
♦ AK84
♣ KQT65

Opening 1C, partner responds 1H, and with your 17 count, you reverse with 2D. This fires up partner, and after a few more bids you arrive in 6D. The 4C is lead, dummy comes down, and you see

Dummy	You
♠ K62	♠ AJ8
♥ AQT85	♥ 9
♦ Q532	♦ AK84
♣ 2	♣ KQT65

Partner has been sniffing the coffee grinds again and the caffeine has kicked in. The AC is taken on your right, and a low spade is returned. How do you go about making 6D?

First of all, with flimsy values, a bad D break will likely keelhaul the contract so assume that things are breaking.

The C lead is very telling. It is highly unlikely that someone would lead from length to declarer's shown long suit, so it would seem reasonable to place long Cs on your right. That South on your left will have length in one or both majors.

The small S is indicative of an honor so slot the J. This is covered by the Q so you take the K.

If the KH is finesseable, you could discard your losing S, and then play on cross ruff lines. But your D pips on the table are too weak. Something needs to be set up and this looks like the C, even with the expected bad break. So a D to the A and a small C back, trumped. On the small C, South peters playing the 3, suggestive of a doubleton C.

The QD is now played, all following, and another D is played to the K, North discarding a S and South following with the JD. Looking a bit closer, the situation is now ripe for a squeeze. Clubs on your right, expectedly Hearts on your left, if the K Hearts is finesseable.

Here is actual position. Treat this as a double dummy problem. How do you make the remaining tricks?

♠ 97
♥ 64
♦ -
♣ J98

♠ 62
♥ AQT85
♦ -
♣ -

♠ A8
♥ 9
♦ 8
♣ KQT

♠ T5
♥ KJ732
♦ -
♣ -

First play your last D. South lets go a H, dummy a S, and North a H.

Play the KC, South plays a H, dummy a H, North follows with a low C.

Play the QC. South must now protect the H so lets go a S, dummy plays a H, North follows with a low C, setting up the JC.

The remaining cards are

♠ 97
♥ 6
♦ -
♣ J

♠ 6
♥ AQT
♦ -
♣ -

♠ A8
♥ 9
♦ -
♣ T

♠ T
♥ KJ7
♦ -
♣ -

Now play the 9H, South plays low, dummy plays the Q, and North follows.

Now the AH is played. North must play the S to protect the C, and now you let go your losing C.

A S from dummy to your AS drops the remaining spades and your 8 is good. And that's your 12th trick.

Congratulations go to Matthew McManus who directed admirably, juggling the Swiss event with differing timeframes and boards to that of the two finals.

The placings on the day were

NSW State Mixed Pairs Final

- 1st Carola Hoogervorst - Andre Korenhof
- 2nd Jennifer Rothwell - George Bilski
- 3rd Marlene Watts - Michael Prescott

NSW Country Mixed Pairs Final

- 1st Liz Hurley - Steve Hurley
- 2nd Kaylee Lemon - Ronnie Ng
- 3rd Christine Hadaway - Martin Johnson

Autumn Swiss Pairs

- 1st Lavy Libman - Tomer Libman
- 2nd Adam Edgtton - Sue Crompton
- 3rd Rosa Pang - Eric Lam

Steve Hurley

NSW Interstate Teams Selection Finals

The finals of the trials to select the 2015 NSW Open and Women's teams were held over 3 days April 18th, 19th & 26th. After various earlier stages the finals in both events consisted of 12 pairs playing a round robin of 11x14 board matches.

We started very well with 3 good wins although we definitely rode our luck bidding a grand slam on a finesse in the 1st match which worked!

In match 4, vul against v not vul, this decision on a distributional hand swung a lot of imps:

♠ XXX
♥ ATxxx
♦ xxxxx
♣ -

South	West (you)	North	East
Pass	Pass	1C	4S
Pass	Pass	5C	X
Pass	??		

Do you bid?

At the table our opponent chose to pass and -550 was the result after a top spade lead. The only defence to beat 5C is a H for a H ruff. The hand was:

♠ -
♥ KQxx
♦ x
♣ AQT9xxxx

♠ xxx
♥ ATxxx
♦ xxxxx
♣ -

♠ AKJ10xxx
♥ x
♦ AQJx
♣ K

♠ Qxx
♥ Jxx
♦ Kxx
♣ Jxxx

It's worth agreeing what sort of hand partner's X of 5C is now showing – it clearly can't be a standard 4S pre-empt. +550 was 11 imps to us because 5S is making the other way.

In match 5 we played the eventual runaway winners Fraser Rew and Nick Rodwell and came down to earth with a bump losing 19.29-0.71. This slam was a large part of the difference:

♠ Txx
♥ K9xx
♦ AQx
♣ Kxx

♠ AQ
♥ ATxx
♦ KJTxx
♣ Ax

Your auction has been uncontested to 6H and LHO leads the C2. How should you play?

Clearly if trumps are 3-2 it's cold (pitch 2 of dummy's spades on your diamonds and ruff a club in hand) so you have to consider what 4-1 breaks you can handle.

At the table I decided the C2 implied length (they were leading 3/5th) which meant LHO was more likely to be short in Hs. So I played a H to the K and a low one back intending to play the 10 but that failed miserably when RHO showed out. LHO had actually started with ♥QJxx and ♣Qxx. My line was probably poor since, unless I take the S finesse, I need to ruff a C in hand. Therefore I can't easily pick up 4 trumps with RHO anyway.

Another suggested line has been low to the H9 on the 1st round – not because that happens to work on the hand but because it allows you to pick up ♥QJxx in either hand. If the 9 loses to the J or Q you play the K next and can pick up 4-1 QJxx with RHO now. In isolation that is definitely a better way of playing the H suit. But the problem is if the 9 loses to the J or Q and RHO returns a S you don't know the trump break and whether you need the finesse or not. Therefore I think the best line is actually to win CK at trick 1 and low to the H10. That loses but now you are protected from a S switch and can play the HA next to find out if LHO has 4 or not. When he does you can take a marked finesse, ruff a C in hand with

your last trump, cross to dummy in Ds to draw the final trump and claim. This line only loses to a singleton HJ or HQ with LHO.

Match 7 was the last match of the first weekend and, unfortunately, my tiredness showed on one of the last boards of the day.

♠ KQT9x
♥ -
♦ AQT9xx
♣ Kx

♠ Jxx
♥ Axxx
♦ Kx
♣ AJ98

You open a weak NT and partner begins with a 2H transfer which RHO doubles. Eventually you land up in 6S on the HJ lead. I won the AH pitching a diamond and started on trumps. They broke 3-2, RHO winning the 2nd round and returning his last one. Now I played DK, DA and RHO showed out. At this point, tired and disappointed that Ds had misbehaved, I thought I had no chance and just conceded a D to the J for 1 off. Unforgivable because, despite the bad D break, you still have excellent chances – RHO could have CQ10 or CQ10x both of which would give you 4 club tricks to go with 4 spades, 3 diamonds and a heart. What's more this is quite likely since he had 3 trumps and has Hs for his double of 2H so could well be shorter in Cs. In fact he just has CQxx but that is still good enough. Simply play off the DQ and the last 2 trumps from dummy discarding your Hs.

♠ -
♥ -
♦ T9
♣ Kx

♠ -
♥ -
♦ -
♣ AJ98

In the endgame dummy has D109 and CKx, your hand has CAJ98. LHO started with DJxxx and C10xxx so he is squeezed – he must hang onto DJ so he has to discard a C. Now after CK and a finesse of the CJ, the A will drop the Q and 10 to give you 4 club tricks and your contract. David Wiltshire found this line at the table, one of only two tables in the Open field where the slam was made. This hand is an excellent lesson in how important the mental aspect of bridge is. Never give up and don't let a disappointing discovery during the play get to you. Exactly the same principle as not letting a bad result affect you – it's history & it isn't going to change, just get on with the next hand.

The final day began with another play problem, this time in 4H:

♠ Axxxx
♥ QTx
♦ xxxx
♣ A

♠ Qx
♥ A87xx
♦ x
♣ KQJTx

The defence lead 2 rounds of Ds and you ruff the 2nd. Now what?

It looks initially as if you have a S loser and a D loser so you need to avoid 2 H losers. The best chance in the H suit in isolation is probably A and another towards the Q10 hoping to guess right. The trouble with that is if they win the HK in either hand they will force you again with a D. Now you will be down to 1 trump in each hand and can only draw trumps ending in dummy so the club blockage means you won't be able to reach your long clubs in hand. I therefore preserved the HA in hand and played a low H up, guessing to play the Q which lost to the K, another D coming back. My next attempt was to cross to the CA and run the H10 hoping that would pin an initial H9x with LHO. That also failed as RHO covered the 10 and, although LHO followed, the 9 did not appear. So you now have 2 H losers.

However all was still not lost! I just ran my club winners from hand discarding dummy's last D and then Ss. RHO was clearly in agony while I was doing

this and here's why. He started with K10x KJ9 AQJx 109x. In the 4 card ending we are down to:

♠ Axx	
♥ 6	
♦ -	
♣ -	
♠ Jxx	♠ Kx
♥ -	♥ 9
♦ K	♦ x
♣ -	♣ -
♠ Qx	
♥ 8	
♦ -	
♣ x	

On the last C I discard a S from dummy and RHO has 4 losing options. He can ruff in and underlead the SK, he can ruff in and give me a ruff/discard with a D, he can discard his last D (in which case I throw him in with a H to lead away from the SK), or he can bare the SK. In the event he chose the 1st option so the SQ became my 10th trick. Interestingly I hadn't remotely foreseen this outcome earlier in the hand – I only worked it out by wondering why RHO was in so much pain discarding. Much easier to say than do of course but if he'd discarded smoothly, would I still have got it right? We'll never know!

Now consider a lead problem. You hold vul against not vul:

♠ T9
♥ Jxxx
♦ AJ
♣ AKTxx

West (You)	North	East	South
1C	Pass	1D ⁽¹⁾	2S
3H	3S	4NT	Pass
5H ⁽²⁾	5S	6H	6S
X	All Pass		

- (1) Showing hearts
- (2) RKCB – 2 w/out QH

Your lead?

CA was selected at the table and dummy comes down. You hold the trick. Next play?

♠ Kxxx
♥ -
♦ Txxx
♣ J8xxx

♠ T9
♥ Jxxx
♦ AJ
♣ AKTxx

The C continuation chosen at the table was good for me as declarer. I held:

♠ AQJxxxx
♥ xxxx
♦ xx
♣ x

Now I could ruff and was able to ruff all 4 of my Hs in dummy, losing just 2 Ds at the end for -300 which was a great save against their +1430. There is a principle suggesting that you should lead trumps against obvious sacrifice bids to minimise the opponents' ruffs. Would have worked well here - an initial trump lead and a 2nd trump when in with a C nets 800, a trump switch after the CA nets 500. No one found that though, surprisingly in the Open the results at the other 5 tables consisted of three tables in 6H making for 1430 and two tables in 5Sx for -100. In the Women's there were two 6H, three 5H and one 5Sx.

The winners were in hot form. What would you lead against 3NT after a relay auction where you know dummy is going to be a 4234 shape with 11-15?

♠ QJT62
♥ K8
♦ A432
♣ 54

Fraser Rew tried the S6. It worked well when the full spade suit was A954 in dummy, singleton 8 with partner and K73 in hand. Declarer misread the lead, won the 8 with the K and returned the suit hoping they were 3-3.

Here was another:

♠ Kxxx
♥ Txx
♦ Q9
♣ AQJ6

♠ JT
♥ AKQx
♦ Kxxx
♣ xxx

Playing 3NT Fraser received a small C lead to the Q and K. RHO switched to the S8 and his J scored. He next ran the S10 which lost to the Q and RHO reverted to Cs. After cashing the suit he cashed AH, KH and LHO followed with the JH. He crossed to the H10 (LHO discarding a D). He now had 9 tricks but couldn't necessarily get to them as there was no obvious entry to the HQ. He tried DQ from dummy but that was ducked. Fraser read the end position correctly though and exited dummy's last S pitching the HQ. LHO was down to A – AJ – so this endplayed him to give the last trick to the DK.

Lastly, another freak hand:

♠ AKQxxx
♥ -
♦ Q
♣ Kxxxxx

♠ x
♥ AJTx
♦ Axxx
♣ AQxx

At our table North opened 1S and was pleasantly surprised to hear partner respond 2C! They reached 7C easily enough. Amazingly every single table in the Open field did the same which led to something I don't think I've ever seen before – a hand totally flat in a grand slam!

At the end of the event the top 3 pairs form the NSW teams for the ANC which this year is in Fremantle in July. It was perilously close in both events but the final outcomes were:

	Open	Women
1st	Nick Rodwell & Fraser Rew	Giselle Mundell & Avril Zets
2nd	Julian Foster & David Weston	Cathryn Herden & Patsy McCartney
3rd	William Zhang & Michael Wu	Monica Ginsberg & Sybil Hurwitz

Congratulations to all the teams, especially to Nick and Fraser for one of the most comprehensive wins ever seen in the ITS finals, over 2 full matches ahead of everyone else. Particular commiserations must go to Alan Walsh and Barbara McDonald in the Open who clawed their way back from last place after 2 matches to be qualifying for the team right up to the very last board, only to eventually miss out by a sickening 0.41 VPs.

Julian Foster

So how do you value a hand?

Conventional wisdom dictates that there are 40 high card points (HCPs), and the more high card points you have, the stronger your hand is. There are some major exclusions from this simple statement =>

- This is all subject to the hand playing in No-Trumps or everyone following suit in a trump contract.
- The placement of the HCPs has a strong bearing on the ease and play of for the contract.
- High card pips provide often crucial support for honors.

Consider the following hand.

♠ QJ62
♥ KJ5
♦ QJ4
♣ K42

12 count HCPs, with a rebid of 1NT available playing a strong NT. Say partner holds =>

♠ A7
♥ 9532
♦ A94
♣ Q863

You have a combined 22 count, but how many tricks are guaranteed in 1NT? 2 spades, 2 diamonds, and 1 club. This supposes that every defensive card sits well for the opposition. Most of the time, something will work, and on a good day you will make an overtrick. But the point remains: there is no guaranteed tricks to make the contract.

Change the points around ...

♠ KQJT
♥ J5
♦ QT74
♣ QJ2

There's still a 12 count, and there's still a 10 count.

♠ 97
♥ AKQ2
♦ J94
♣ T863

There is a little more distribution, high cards are clumped together, and importantly, there are high pips supporting honors. The hand will likely now make 8 tricks

Finally the most extreme case of a simple 10 count =>

♠ -
♥ AKQJT98765432
♦ -
♣ -

Just the obvious 13 tricks. This hand simply highlights that distribution carries as much weight as HCPs when valuing a hand.

Here is a hand from a recent duplicate session

♠ KQT984
♥ JT87
♦ KT4
♣ -

So how do you value this hand now?

Your right hand opponent (RHO) speaks first and passes. Your bid. Do you bid a weak two, bid 4S, pass, open 1S ...?

Based on high card point, you can open 2S. But you have a long suit hence extra tricks (if they are trumps), and a void. Another way to look at the

hand is because of the void, you have 9 high card points in effectively a 30 point pack, easily more than quarter of the points (which is what is required with a normal balanced hand with 12 HCPs from a 40 point pack). The important proviso is that your trumps are strong enough to ruff the void and draw trumps. This hand could easily be the case. So it would be reasonable to open 1S to reflect the playing strength. As opener, you will still need to make a rebid, where you can easily bid 2S or 2H depending on the bidding, and you have the boss suits to rebid just at the 2 level – not being forced to rebid at the three level.

On the hand, after opening 1S, partner bids to show a 3 card raise and 10 – 12 HCPs. Do you take the invite?

You must remember that you have opened with basically a minimum hand so best not to accept the invite. Partner may have values in clubs which would be of no use to you in your three other suits. On a good day, everything may work; then again, it may not. Just appreciate that after opening you have a minimum hand.

In this case, after you reject the invite, partner still kicks on and bids game, showing 12 HCPs. The two hands are

♠ J62
♥ AK42
♦ 93
♣ A765

♠ KQT984
♥ JT87
♦ KT4
♣ -

After the QC lead, what are your chances? There is a S and D loser, with possibly a H and second D loser. With no obvious discard available, the QC was ruffed in hand, and QS lead. RHO took the AS and returned the QD. Covering with the KD, LHO won the AD and returned a D to LHO's JD. With RHO showing up with KC, AS, QD, and JD, the QH was marked on my left as RHO had passed and would have opened if they had 12 HCPs. The AC could then discard the fourth H in hand if there was a 4-1 heart break.

Some work was required. But the same is typically said for a more balanced hand with 12 HCPs.

So light opening are possible, with

- Strong distribution,
- Long, **quality** suits, and
- A rebid that will not be embarrassing.

And like any hand, high pips in suits are always useful.

If you open light in the minor, chances are the opposition will have the majors and likely some distribution as well. They will usually outbid you, so don't encourage partner to double with your expected opening values, nor should you keep bidding and push them into a game making based on distribution.

One final thought. If you have made a light opening bid, it is still a minimum opening. You have already bid based on your void so don't look at it again and go 'whoopie'. On the last hand, you struggled to make game with partners maximum. If you had accepted the invite and partner had instead only 10 HCPs, you would have likely gone down.

Ethyl Severe

To squeeze or not to squeeze, that is the question ...

On a rainy Thursday night, sitting west, you pick up =>

♠ J
♥ AKQ87
♦ 97643
♣ 62

With nil vul, North is first to speak and opens 4S, partner doubles (expressing defensive values as well as a good hand; 4NT would be a distributional takeout with less defensive values), and right hand opponent (RHO) passes. Your go.

So how good is your hand? The heart suit should be sound, but the minors are a worry, especially with expected bad breaks given North has long spades. With a more balanced hand and values, pass would be the best bet, but holding a 5/5 shape and points in the one suit, a bid seems more appropriate. 5H was bid and this becomes the final contract.

The KS was lead, dummy comes down, and you see

♠ J	♠ Q85
♥ AKQ87	♥ J54
♦ 97643	♦ AKJ
♣ 62	♣ AKJ7

Looks like you should have passed, but that's history now. On the AS, everyone follows. Then after some thought, the 10S is led. Your go.

North will have the AS for their high opening bid and lead but does not want to set up the QS as a winner. And it is highly unlikely that North has long H as well as 8 expected spades. North just wants to get off the lead. You cover with the QS forcing South to ruff, and without any convenient card to discard, you over-ruff.

With North now showing 8 spades, that leaves 5 cards in all other suits. A minor Q could be on side, but odds are you can expect either or both the QC and QD with South. And there could be a second diamond loser is South has the four diamonds including the Q and 10. So how do you go about losing only one more trick, reducing a possible two losers to one?

You have options. A throw in, a squeeze, ruffing your losing diamonds ... But what is best?

A squeeze typically works when the 'count is rectified'. This means that you lose all the tricks you can afford to lose, then you try and make the rest. You're in 5H and need to make 11 tricks. You have only lost one trick – you will need to lose another to 'rectify the count'. If you shoot for a squeeze, you will reach this end position =>

	♠ K97	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	T93	
♠ -		♠ 8
♥ K		♥ -
♦ 976		♦ J
♣ 62		♣ AKJ7
	♠ -	
	♥ -	
	♦ QT	
	♣ Q854	

Playing the KH, South can easily discard a club, and either way, South scores two more tricks to take you down. And a throw in here does not work either.

Can you lose just one more trick safely to 'rectify the count' while retaining control? Not really; that is fraught with just too much danger.

So like Hamlet, it will have to be sailing away from the 'Sea of Troubles' and taking your chances with 'outrageous fortune'. After winning the second trick, play one round of trumps, and North plays the 10H. This looks like an honest card given North's 8 spades. If you play a second trump now 'playing it safe' and the Diamonds break bad (expectedly), then when South gets in, another H will shoot back removing your diamond ruff. And there is no squeeze now as South still has a spare C to play on any squeeze card.

So you will need to bite the bullet and after the one round of trumps, play the AD, KD, and JD, hoping North has no more trumps. Here is your fortune. North does not ruff, South wins the QD and returns a H which you take in the West hand. You can now ruff a diamond, dropping the 10 and establishing your last diamond. Now ruff the S to hand, draw the last trump, and claim. It's all good.

The full hand was =>

	♠ AKT97432	
	♥ T	
	♦ 2	
	♣ T93	
♠ J		♠ Q85
♥ AKQ87		♥ J54
♦ 97643		♦ AKJ
♣ 62		♣ AKJ7
	♠ 6	
	♥ 9632	
	♦ QT85	
	♣ Q854	

4S doubled is 3 off for 500, but then you miss out on all the fun ...



Steve Hurley

Just for clubs - the Supervised Duplicate

Bill Jacobs from the Victorian Bridge Association has kindly given permission to reproduce the following article.

The transition from social bridge or beginners lessons to playing in club duplicates is a leap that is so challenging that it is best performed in stages.

Club duplicates present two enormous impediments to the novice player:

- the speed of play, typically around 6½ minutes per board, is considerably faster than what they are comfortable with; and
- inevitably novices will encounter real or perceived rude behaviour from their experienced opponents, and this can turn them off for life

The solution is the Supervised Duplicate. These are like ordinary duplicates, but with several essential differences:

- approximately 9 minutes are allocated per board
- players can consult notes or cheat sheets to help them with the bidding
- a supervisor roams, providing advice when requested
- everyone plays essentially the same basic system, no one is an expert (or thinks they are an expert!), and the emphasis is on a friendly game

In short, Supervised Duplicates provide an educational and enjoyable environment for introducing new players to the pleasures of duplicate bridge. Some players never leave.

Here's how to run a supervised session.

Allocate around 2½ hours in total: that is plenty for new players. Your plan is to play 15 boards, which is technically the minimum number required in order to qualify for masterpoints. Masterpoints for supervised are allocated at half the rate of an ordinary duplicate: players can and have reached Graduate Master status (and beyond!) simply by playing in Supervised, and for some people, this is a tremendous attraction.

It's great to have pre-dealt boards and hand records, however they are not essential. Supervised sessions work just fine with hand-dealt boards. If you have pre-dealt boards for your normal duplicates, there's no need to deal a new set for the supervised: you can simply use a set of boards and hand records from a previous session.

If your club uses Bridgemates, then use them for the supervised as well: it is part of the process of introducing newbies to the procedures. They have no problems with them after the initial fear: indeed I find they make fewer data entry mistakes than their more experienced counterparts in the regular duplicate.

Start the session with a short lesson of about 15 minutes duration. A whiteboard is all you need. Keep the subject matter simple: it's worthwhile to repeatedly imprint the basics. You can also call for topics ... "anything anyone would like to talk about?" Don't teach for too long – people want to play bridge – but it's a good way to start, and allows for any stragglers to arrive.

Then on to the bridge. First thing is to pair up the singles, trying to match like with like. Those who are playing in the supervised for the first time are very nervous: it's a good idea to pair them up with someone more experienced who can act as a mentor, showing them the ropes and generally being nice.

It's great to have a multiple of four players, but if not, you can still cope.

If there is one player over (e.g. 21 players), then they cut in at a table, replacing one player for one board, then another for the next and so on. Everyone else will 'lose' at most one board.

If there are two players over, then you have a half-table and a sitout: no problem, as long as your rounds are only 2 or 3 boards. Players don't mind having a break, indeed sometimes they welcome it.

If you are one short of a round number (e.g. 19 players) then the supervisor makes up the table. This is the least desirable setup, but the supervisor can leave after the bidding, and whoever is the dummy plays their cards.

As a supervisor, when called to the table during the bidding, if it has totally gone off the rails, then get them to 'start again', as long as the auction is not too far advanced. The beauty of supervised bridge is that you are not completely bound by the laws!

One crucial aspect to conducting a Supervised Duplicate is that of safety. That means avoiding embarrassing the players. You should never criticise, instead concentrate on using positive language: "another option for you would have been to bid 1NT" or "were there any other possibilities – did you think about making a takeout double?" (It often takes a long time to recognise takeout double opportunities.)

Supervisors need not be advanced players – in the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king – but they do need to have empathy and an understanding of what it is like to be a beginner. Moreover they should know their customers. For example, if a bidding problem can be solved with a negative double, there's no point advising this to someone straight out of the lessons. However it might be appropriate for a more experienced player.

And if on a deal, the correct contract is 4♠ making 11 tricks, and a pair actually reach 2♠ making 9 tricks, then they are pleased, and I am pleased, even though the auction and the play were wrong.

Above all else, beginners like to make their contracts: they have not yet learned the concept of going down for a good score. That sort of insight comes later.

In summary, the Supervised Duplicate is the mechanism by which beginners can be encouraged to join the club. There is absolutely no point in running Beginners Lessons if you do not have a Supervised as the follow-up.

Postscript from the NSWBA Teacher

The New South Wales Bridge Association Council, with input from many of Sydney's most prominent teachers and Joan Butts (the ABF National Teaching Coordinator) sent out a Resources Kit to teachers last year which included suggestions for running supervised sessions. Cath Whiddon, the current NSWBA Councillor responsible for supporting & liaising with bridge teachers across NSW would love to hear from teachers about their use of Supervised Sessions (email Cath at education@nswba.com.au).

The Teams of Three

The NSWBA marked the end of autumn with the Les Longhurst Teams of Three, an annual fun and friendly 6-round Swiss Teams event. The idea of a Teams of Three is that 3 players below the rank of Grand Master (usually players with limited experience of serious tournament bridge) play with a "captain" selected via a random draw. The captain, who is a more experienced and higher-ranked player, must play 2 matches as partner of each of the other team members, using simple bidding systems only, and always occupying the South seat. The enticing flier for the event claimed that "your captain will be either a state, national or international representative". However, the event is very popular and it wasn't feasible to find that many representatives as captains when there were 47 entries! You could tell that the NSWBA was getting desperate when Liz Fanos asked me to help out ...

On the day, 9 teams were allocated to the Novice section, with the remaining 38 in the Open section. Everyone had a *lot* of fun. There were a few horror stories you wouldn't want to tell your children, while occasionally there was some really good bridge!

It's interesting being a captain. The main requirements seem to have less to do with bridge skills and a lot to do with being constructive and helping to maintain a positive attitude. I gave my teammates only two pieces of advice (1) don't try to be too clever e.g. if there is a choice between a master bid and a bid partner will surely understand, make the straightforward bid (2) whenever you are in doubt, bid one more!

In round 1, however, my partner ignored me & came up with a creative bid that worked very well indeed.

Board 7	♠KQT5		
Dealer S	♥K		
Vul Both	♦K62		
	♣AKQT8		
♠A98		♠J	
♥765		♥QJ932	
♦T85		♦QJ9743	
♣J532		♣9	
	♠76432		
	♥AT84		
	♦A		
	♣764		

After P-P-1C-P-1S-P, North wanted to go slam-hunting and didn't think any level of spade raise was good enough. So my partner (who deserves to be congratulated, but Cheryl has asked me not to name her) fabricated a reverse into 2D! I thought this was worth a 3NT response and partner then bid 4NT, which became RKCB in diamonds. We thus ended in 6NT, the only pair in the room to play this particular contract, which turned out to be cold after cashing the ♣AK marks the finesse for the jack. There were 7 pairs in 6S, but 24 played in 4S making overtricks.

That was good fun, but we lost the match anyway. We muddled along and were about mid-field at lunchtime. One of the highlights of the day was in fact the lunch, which was absolutely first class. It was so good, however, that I think one or two of my teammates lost their way in a post-prandial haze ... ah well. One consequence was that I got to see a bit of bridge from another galaxy on this hand:

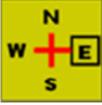
Board 4	♠A		
Dealer W	♥AK		
Vul Both	♦AQ832		
	♣AQ964		
♠T9542		♠KQ3	
♥QT2		♥8754	
♦T5		♦J974	
♣J53		♣82	
	♠J876		
	♥J963		
	♦K6		
	♣KT7		

Partner quite rightly opened her hand 2C. Several misunderstandings and misbids later, I found myself as declarer in 4H. Yes, we carefully managed to avoid the cold 7C, and hadn't even found our way to 6C because the suit had been bid but had never been raised. On a spade lead, things didn't look too promising, but I played the ♥AK and the ♦AKQ, West ruffing the third diamond with ♥Q. She pondered briefly, but then led ... a club! So I drew trumps and claimed 12 tricks, figuring this was still at least 12 IMPs to the opponents.

But no ... across the field, only 12 pairs reached slam. We actually gained on the board, but only 1 IMP because our opponents played in 3NT rather than 5C.

The next round highlighted my earlier advice about bidding 1 more when in doubt. First this hand:

Board 10 ♠AKQJ97
 Dealer E ♥
 Vul Both ♦KQT75
 ♣J4

♠T		♠52
♥J763		♥AKT9542
♦AJ4		♦3
♣QT873		♣A92

♠8643
 ♥Q8
 ♦9862
 ♣K65

EW competed to 5H over our 4S, and when I went on to 5S, East then bid 6H! This went one off, but at the other table NS played in a spade contract and 11 IMPs changed hands. In fact 5S can be beaten on the lead of the singleton diamond. Across the room, 12 NS pairs successfully scored up a game in spades and 12 EW pairs made 11 tricks in hearts.

Then two boards later came this:

Board 12 ♠2
 Dealer W ♥QT852
 Vul N-S ♦7
 ♣AQT983

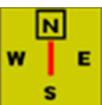
♠AQJT8		♠96543
♥7		♥63
♦A9632		♦KJT84
♣54		♣J

♠K7
 ♥AKJ94
 ♦Q5
 ♣K762

Deep Finesse assures us that NS can make 11 tricks in either of the rounded suits and EW can make 11 tricks in either of the pointy suits. In our match, both things happened, both against us, for 16 IMPs away when 5S was doubled. Ouch. Across the room, 10 NS pairs scored a game, as did 17 EW pairs. Quite a hand!

I heard a story from another match in the last round that illustrated my point about not trying to be too clever. Here's the hand:

Board 21 ♠AKJ732
 Dealer N ♥J73
 Vul N-S ♦93
 ♣T7

♠954		♠8
♥KQ96		♥8542
♦A7		♦J654
♣9852		♣K643

♠QT6
 ♥AT
 ♦KQT82
 ♣AQJ

At both tables, NS had agreed to play a multi-2D opening. At one table, North's opening elicited a 2NT inquiry and the partnership duly settled in 4S, making an overtrick. At the other, South (who shall remain nameless) bid 4H correctable. North didn't quite figure this out. They played in 4H ...

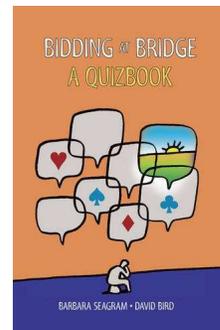
The eventual winners of the Open section were Will Jenner-O'Shea (C) - Catherine Whiddon - Vivien Eldridge - Alan Davies, with the Novice section won by Richard McAuliffe (C) - John Russell - Judith Parsons - Gerry Hanna. Congratulations to all!

Books

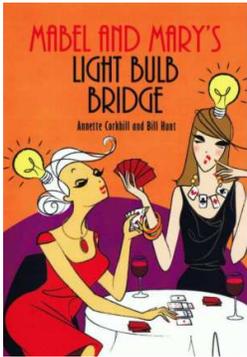
From time to time, the newsletter will cover recently published books.

Bidding at Bridge – A Quizbook (Barbara Seagram and David Bird)

The same authors' previous book, 'Declarer Play at Bridge: a Quizbook', was named the 2013 Book of the Year by the American Bridge Teachers' Association. Building on the success of that title, this book gives the near-beginner a chance to practice the principles on which sound bidding is based, from the opening bid onward. This is not just a series of problems, however. Each section contains a brief introduction to its topic, and the ideas are reinforced with carefully explained solutions and helpful tips throughout.



Mabel and Mary's Light Bulb Bridge
(Annette Corkhill and Bill Hunt)

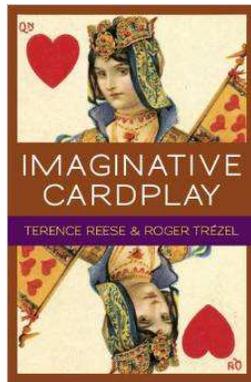


Mabel and Mary's Light Bulb Bridge is a hilarious novel for advancing players. It satirises the entire bridge scene and is a fun read, though its intent is serious. An enthralling tale of bridge crooks and light bulbs, it will not only entertain you but also teach you constructive bidding, play and defence.

Contact Annette at the QBA for further information.

Imaginative Cardplay
(Terence Reese and Roger Trezel)

In the 1970s, two of the best bridge writers of all time collaborated on a series of eight small books on aspects of card play at bridge. These books have long been out of print, and are being republished now in two combined volumes, edited and updated by Bridge Magazine editor



Mark Horton. Imaginative Card Play is the second of these two books, and comprises the following titles from the original series: Master the Odds in Bridge; Snares and Swindles in Bridge; Those Extra Chances in Bridge; The Art of Defence in Bridge.

More grist for the mill

Sitting East, you pick up

♠ AJT76
♥ T4
♦ Q3
♣ AQ62

.... and the bidding proceeds ...

South	West	North	East
1D	P	1S	P
1NT	P	2NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

Traditionally, a double of 3NT asks partner to lead dummy's first bid suit, Spades. This would normally show VERY good cards in dummy's suit, say AKQT or KQJT – it sets the lead for the defense. A spade lead here could work, but it could give the game away too if declare was after some spade tricks. At the table, 3NT was passed out.

Partner leads 5H, seemingly 4th highest from an honor. Dummy comes down.

♠ KQ42
♥ Q7
♦ K942
♣ T85
(Dummy)

♠ AJT76
♥ T4
♦ Q3
♣ AQ62
(You)

Dummy plays the 7H, you contribute the TH, and declarer plays the AH. A Spade is lead to KS, which you take with the AS.

Your go. The QH is sitting out on its own. And the JS will draw the QS setting up the Spade suit, getting in with the AC. Perhaps a Club? All these options... What do you play back?

Now have a look at the full hand

♠ KQ42
♥ Q7
♦ K942
♣ T85

♠ 95
♥ J96532
♦ T6
♣ K93

♠ AJT76
♥ T4
♦ Q3
♣ AQ62

♠ 83
♥ AK8
♦ AJ875
♣ J74

If you chose the Club, well done.

So why did declarer play this way, potentially blocking the Heart trick? This was a small ploy to take the focus away from his vulnerability, the Club suit.

Declarer could only count only 8 top tricks even if the QD can be located. The 9th needed to come from a Spade trick. So a S led to the KS and East wins with the AS, declarer wanted to entice anything but a Club. And if West has the AS, you still want to slip a Spade trick by him before launching on to the Diamonds. Or at least West may rise with the AS and think pushing a H to East's hoped for KH.

For declarer, the Diamonds could be used as transport to unravel the 9 tricks, get to the QH and then back again to the last Diamond and the Heart.

As declarer, you might not see the necessary tricks for your game, but for the defenders, they may not be able to see how they should take you off. So try something different and who knows.

There are two points to this hand =>

1. Firstly, if declarer had Axx or Kxx, the correct play is the Q from dummy so South can still protect the H suit if West is on lead. So even a short analysis will show East or West that there is something fishy with the play of the Heart suit.
2. Secondly, if declarer runs the Diamond suit now and get the 8 tricks first, the defense has time to signal and will likely establish that they can take Club tricks, 4 of them in this case. So as declarer, if you short of a trick, you should always try to pinch that extra trick early, usually at trick 2, before the defense gets set.

Steve Hurley

Around the State

Clubs across NSW are strongly encouraged to submit articles to the editor to promote activities, events, successes, etc, in their club. Please send articles to editor@nswba.com.au.

Central Coast



HAWKS NEST BRIDGE CLUB celebrates 20th anniversary

Bridge for Brains this year took on a new dimension as the competition, played on Friday 1st May, coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Inaugural Meeting of Hawks Nest Bridge Club held at the Golf Club on 1st May 1995.

Six of the original members still playing regularly at the club featured in the activities, delivering speeches, cutting the three anniversary cakes and drawing the raffles.



Founding members pictured left to right: Adrian Ryan, Beth Williams, Pauline Cole, Shirley Pearson, Dawn Dale, Rex Dale, Carolyn Seymour Jean Ryan

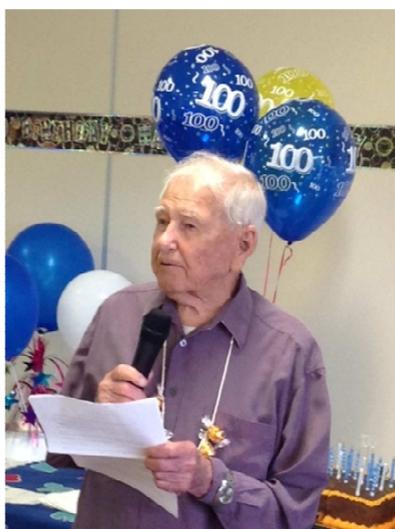
As Founding President, Ron Young, was unable to attend Beth Williams, Founding Handicapper and President 1997-1999, read his speech at the break for afternoon tea telling of the early years in the club. Beth also described the early days of playing social bridge at Winda Woppa. Adrian Ryan, Founding Vice-President and President 1999-2001 and 2003-2009, gave his response and also talked about the present as well as looking to the future. Members were then invited to add their reflections which added to the entertainment.

When the final rounds of bridge concluded everyone enjoyed a celebratory drink from the bar as the anniversary function was held at the Hawks Nest Golf Club.

Members were again generous in their donations to Bridge for Brain Research (NeuRA) and the club, as usual, donated the table fees for that day, with the total breaking all previous records.

Still at the Hawks Nest Bridge Club ...

Allan Stewart's 100th birthday bash.



Who else do you know who has four, yes four degrees, the latest of which was awarded in 2007? And who has "starred" on Chinese TV.

It's hard to top congratulatory messages from the Queen, Prime Ministers, Governors General, Opposition Leaders, State Premiers ... but we at Hawks Nest Bridge Club did our best. Any negative portents associated with Friday the 13th were cast out by 50 players singing Happy Birthday. This was followed by a veritable feast cooked and baked by Members and accompanied by champagne.

Allan gave a loudly applauded speech extolling the brain and social benefits of bridge. Talk about living proof!

Western Slopes



Griffith Bridge Club

Griffith's annual congress was held on the weekend of 28 February - 1 March. Although table numbers were slightly down on previous years there were enough players, both local and visiting, to produce an enjoyable weekend of bridge for everyone – 17 tables for both the Pairs on Saturday and the Teams on Sunday. The event was directed by Martin Wilcox.

Results were:

Saturday - Wine Country Pairs - FINAL

- 1st Phillip Williams and Michael Ross (Leeton)
- 2nd Eric and Helen Taylor (Leeton)
- 3rd Wendy Bennett and Denise Biron (Griffith)

Pairs Winners -
Phillip Williams
and Michael Ross



Saturday – CONSOLATION – North South

- 1st Joyce Morgan and Nev Sheil (Griffith)
- 2nd Bev Furner and Ray Tomlinson (Griffith)
- 3rd Jenny Henderson, Rosa Mackenzie (Griffith)



Consolation - 1st NS -
Joyce Morgan and Nev
Sheil

Saturday – CONSOLATION – East West

- 1st Mary Hulme and Bill Armstrong (Leeton)
- 2nd= Patricia Protheroe and Pam Lonnie (Leeton)
- 2nd= John and Val Brockwell (Canberra)

Sunday - Wine Country Swiss Teams

- 1st Jan Rava and David Brennan (Wagga Wagga), Vince Kelly (Leeton), Tori Horder (Griffith)
- 2nd John and Val Brockwell (Canberra), Michael Ross and Phillip Williams (Leeton)
- 3rd Margaret Perosin and Leonie Evans (Griffith), Patricia Phillips and Eric Lindh (Bowral)

Teams

Winners -

Jan Rava and David Brennan, Vince Kelly and Tori Horder



The organisers would love to welcome new faces to bolster our congress numbers, so if you are a bridge player from another part of the State and would like to sample what Griffith has to offer in terms of foods, wines and hospitality generally please add us to the list of congresses you will aim to attend next year.

South Coast



Nowra Bridge Club

On Sunday, 15th March this year we celebrated our 40th birthday. A wonderful day was had by all and many stories were told. And an interesting speech was given by Kath Kean.

Some of our longest serving members Joan Murphy, Kath Kean, Dorothy Fry (inaugural/life member) and



Maggie Elderfield cutting the birthday cake.

On Sunday, 19th April, we hosted the South Coast Autumn Teams event with 14 teams in all entered from Nowra, Illawarra, Kiama and Batemans Bay. A great day and a very hard fought finish saw Nowra win by 0.18 points from Illawarra, followed closely by Kiama. Jeff Carberry, from Illawarra, was our very efficient Director, who did an excellent job for us.

Each year, our Club holds the John Fry Individual event - started by Dorothy Fry's husband - which is always well supported by both new and experienced players. The results are sometimes quite surprising. This year's event is on Monday, 25th May and we expect about 12 tables.

At 9 am on Friday, 29th May, we take part in the Australia Wide Novice Pairs arranged by ABF. We think it will be good encouragement for our newer players who have attended our lessons and who are now taking part in our normal club sessions. The teachers were Lydia Adams, our President, and Terry Crockford, our Vice President. We now also have an interactive 'Ask a Guru' site for answers to problems from experienced players.

See more about our club and visit our site [here](#).

Sydney



Peninsula Bridge Club

[Peninsula Bridge Club](#) the largest club on the Northern Beaches, is expanding its evening duplicate with a Wednesday session commencing on May 27 and a Monday later in the year.

This session will be brown sticker friendly and everyone who turns up is guaranteed a game, although if you're really unlucky you may have to play with the Director.

What makes Peninsula different and worth a visit?

- We have a large room dedicated to bridge with no set up required.
- We use bidding boxes, pre dealt hands and Bridge Mates,
- Tea and coffee are provided for free
- Members only pay \$5 per game, with winners getting a free game. If you're good enough you need never pay for bridge again!

If you have a friend who wants to learn bridge Peninsula has a unique feature –STAR Magic! Peninsula Bridge Club is honored that its Director of Bridge Education, Cath Whiddon, has been recognised as a Star Teacher by the Australian Bridge Federation. Cath is the 1st teacher in NSW, & indeed, Australia, to receive the Star Teacher Accreditation.



If playing bridge for free excites you, (because I know you're good enough) and you're at a loose end why don't you try out our new

Wednesday evening duplicate session or one of our other popular times and join in the fun

St. George Budapest Bridge Club

The St. George Budapest Bridge Club took part in the "Bridge for Brain Research Challenge" by hosting a Duplicate Bridge Fundraising Event on Tuesday May 5th 2015.



The well attended session commenced at 6.45 pm at the Southside Bridge Centre located at Oatley Village Square, Unit C4, 1st Floor, 47-67 Mulga Road, Oatley West NSW 2223.

The Club was able to raise \$328 from the sale of Raffle Tickets and in addition donated the Table Money received from the 13 tables that participated in this event.

Coming up

Bathurst and District Bridge Club

Invite you to compete in the inaugural

Central West Novice Bridge Tournament

**For players with 35 MP's or less
30 October & 1 November 2015**

Programme

Saturday 30 October: Pairs

Sunday 1 November: Teams

**Great prizes awarded in
0-10 MP and 10-35 MP Categories**

**For more information please contact
bill.kierath@bigpond.com**

"Get ready for the SFOB in January"

Heard from somewhere down the room ...

After a year away from the table, Joe and his wife were playing together when his mate went by and asked if he wanted a beer. Joe replied "No thanks, Bill. I never drink alcohol while playing bridge. It interferes with my suffering."

Congress Results

Port Macquarie-Hastings Congress

Swiss Pairs: Greg Mayo, Sharon Mayo

Twin Towns Birthday Teams

Eric Hurley, Janet Brown, Anne Jackson, Maureen Baker

NSWBA Autumn Swiss Pairs

Lavy Libman, Tomer Libman

Strathfield Teams

Witold Chylewski, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Warren Dobes

Leeton Congress

Swiss Pairs:

=1st Phil Glover, Bal Krishan

=1st Tori Horder, David Brennan

Teams: Pam Lonnie, Vince Kelly, Eric Taylor, Helen Taylor

Coffs Harbour Teams

Eric Hurley, Janet Brown, Bill Powell, Marjorie Askew

Maitland Teams

Paul Weaver, Terry Bodycote, Titus Ling, Yumin Li

Yamba Swiss Pairs

Mary Goodall, Ellen Watson

Bathurst Congress

Pairs: Richard and Michael McAuliffe

Teams: Keiran Crowe-Mai, David Weston, Julian Foster, Matthew McManus

Peninsula Teams

Giza Fletcher, Sandra Milner, Judy Perl, Helen Borman

Tilligerry Swiss Pairs

Ann and David Harrison

Tweed Teams

Patricia Powis, George Powis, John Verdickt, Lea Verdickt

Tamworth Teams

Sharon Mayo, Greg Mayo, Rosalie Broughton, Ken Wilks

Hawkesbury Congress

Pairs: Dennis Raymond, Glenn Pritchard

Teams: Les Grewcock, Helen Milward, Robert Sebesfi, Wayne Zhu

Trumps Easter Teams

Julian Foster, Jenna Gibbons, Helena Dawson, Richard Douglas

Trumps Good Friday Pairs

Nicky Strasser, Adam Edgton

Taree Swiss Pairs

David McAdam, Jenny Michael

Double Bay Autumn Swiss Pairs

Helen Lowry, Jane Beeby

Inverell Delvyn Annual Congress Pairs

Michael Johnson, Rachel Rich

Central Coast Super Congress

Open Swiss Pairs: Marlene Watts, Michael Prescott

Restricted Swiss Pairs: John Russell, Judith Parsons

Best Novice Pair: Anne Hele, Donna Harpham

Open Teams: Berenice Folkard, Ross Folkard, Gary

Heyting, Helen Milward

Best Restricted Team: Roy Cotton, Nola Daly, Pamela Leathley, Forde Leathley

Ballina Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

Marjorie Askew, Bill Powell

Kiama Restricted Pairs

J Rayani, P Rayani

Trumps Autumn Teams

Sue Ingham, George Bilski, Griff Ware, Michael Wilkinson

Wellington Congress

Swiss Pairs: Peter Reed, Michele Kerin

Teams: John Brockwell, Peter Kahler, Janet Kahler, Val Brockwell

Kings and Queens Autumn Swiss Pairs

Ishmael Del'Monte, Paul Ehrlich

Bateman's Bay Congress

Walk-In: NS: Ian Wright, Imogen Von Muenchhausen,

EW: Marjorie Thomas, Pieter Kliffen

Swiss Pairs: Lisa Ma, Emlyn Williams

Teams: Anne Powell, Margaret Bourke, Elizabeth Havas, Arjuna De Livera

Forbes Swiss Pairs

Peter Perry, Carole King

Griffith ex-Servicemen's Congress

See article above.

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The New Harbord Diggers with Seniors Living

After more than three years of intensive planning and community consultation, the Harbord Diggers redevelopment will allow the destination to transition into a truly intergenerational community hub, with construction to begin in late 2015.

The new Harbord Diggers won't just be 'Grandad's RSL club', but a modern precinct with multiple uses that serves an entire community. It will be a venue that combines entertainment, living, fitness, dining, wellbeing, childcare and enjoyment all in one place.

The site will include the development of a quality seniors' living village - Watermark Freshwater, a childcare facility, fitness and aquatic centre.

Harbord Diggers have partnered with award winning retirement operator Watermark Living to operate the unique seniors living residences. Watermark Freshwater will be a vibrant, secure and caring community unlike any facility seen before.

Situated on a spectacular headland, overlooking the Northern Beaches' most beautiful coastlines, Watermark Freshwater, will encapsulate retirement living at its luxurious best.

Only 96 one to three bedroom contemporary apartments will be available. With panoramic ocean views, a resident's garden area, secure parking, 24 hour concierge and emergency service, there will be no better place to retire in Sydney.

Watermark Sales Manager, Carolyn Tillotson said the enthusiasm from the community about the new club and apartment opportunities has been exciting.

"The exclusivity of Northern Beaches living has seen us experience unprecedented demand in the community registering their interest to be a part of this unique seniors residential village.



"Members, locals and people from far and wide have been waiting for an opportunity like this to arise in Freshwater and we have received genuine interest in people wanting to embrace the lifestyle that Watermark Freshwater will offer - secure, low maintenance and luxurious living with direct access to state of the art fitness facilities, club programs, entertainment and dining.

"With over 20 years experience in the industry I undoubtedly believe that this will be an opportunity to make your home in a development which will be unsurpassed in Australia," concluded Carolyn.

WATERMARK
freshwater

For more information phone 1800 550 327 | newharborddiggers.com.au