



New South Wales Bridge Association

1st Floor 162 Goulburn St., East Sydney 2010
 Phone: 9264 8111, fax: 9264 6881, ABN 61 000 438 648
 Email: office@nswba.com.au Web Page www.nswba.com.au

♠ ♥ Bulletin ♦ ♣

Editor: Peter Jamieson

Chairman's Corner

Happy New Year. Once again we have an excellent Council. Thanks to the outgoing Councillors, and welcome to Ted Chadwick, Leigh Matheson and Jean Rennick.

With Liz and Carrie in the office, and our great team of directors, we are again well placed for the New Year.

Now that the FABC wind up is complete, clubs should direct applications for financial support for teaching etc via the NSWBA office. We are keen to support development activities, particularly at country clubs.

Our four regional representatives, Trish Carter (Northern Country) Doreen Kjeldsen (South and West), Jean Rennick (outer metropolitan), and John Brownie (inner metro) are always keen to receive suggestions for ways we can help clubs.

With regard to our city premises, we will continue to look out for any opportunities that may arise to find new premises that may offer an improvement on our current location.

Meanwhile, the economy and the environment may be in trouble, but that's just all the more reason to enjoy bridge!

Play well. Be lucky!

Bruce Neill
Chairman

♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on December 17 at 6:30 PM at 162 Goulburn St. Sixteen members attended thus ensuring a quorum. There were no other nominations so Bruce Neill agreed to continue as Chairman of the

NSWBA. Likewise for Kim Neale (Secretary) and Julian Foster (Treasurer). As mentioned in Chairman's Corner, we have three new Councillors. Thanks to outgoing Councillors Judy Mott, Nick Rodwell and Colin Mitchell for their service.

Copies of the annual report were available at the meeting and are also available at the club and on line at our web site. Treasurer Julian Foster reported that the financial position is healthy and also that \$25,000 had been paid of the NSWBA mortgage debt (now down to \$100,000).

Warren Robinson has replaced Doug Lane as our Honorary Solicitor.

CBC Partners, Chartered Accountants, will continue as our auditors.

♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥

Declarer Play Problem for South

Dealer N ♠ K Q 6
Nil Vul ♥ A J 9
Pairs ♦ A 10 3 2
 ♣ K Q 7



South
 ♠ A 9 8 7 3
 ♥ K 10 6 4 2
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ 8

North opens 1♦ and rebids 2NT over South's 1♠ response. South now jumps to 4♥ which North corrects to 4♠ (though a pass of 4♥ would be quite OK). West leads ♦7 and you decide to win ♦A. Next comes ♠K, ♠Q and ♠A. West discards ♣3 on the second spade and ♣5 on ♠A.

What now? Answer page 4.

♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥

2008 NSW Open Pairs

The 2008 NSW Open Pairs finals were conducted on the weekend of November 16-17 at the NSW Bridge Association rooms on level 1, 162 Goulburn St Sydney. The qualifying rounds (match point scoring) were held on the Saturday with 52 pairs contesting for 14 places in final.

The successful pairs who made the final were (in first name alphabetical order) :

Bob Richman - Jane Dawson
David Beauchamp - Marlene Watts
George Bilski - Jennifer Rothwell
Helena Hutton - Tony Hutton
Leslie Varadi - Tom Goodyer
Liz Adams - Tony Nunn
Martin Bloom - Kieran Dyke
Nicole Strasser - Peter Gill
Nye Griffiths - Stephan Winkler
Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer
Peter Jeffrey - Julian Abel
Ross Stuart - Kim Morrison
Sartaj Hans - Catherine Ritter
Tony Leibowitz - Avon Wilsmore

The seven table final was run over two sessions on the Sunday. A Howell movement was used - thus each pair played every other pair (four boards in each round). The top three after the final round were:

- 1= George Bilski – Jennifer Rothwell *
- 1= Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer
- 3 Bob Richman – Jane Dawson

* After tie-breaking procedures were applied Jennifer and George are the State Open Pairs champions for 2008.

On the Sunday, concurrently with the pairs final, NSWBA ran a Swiss Pairs event (IMPs scoring) which attracted 42 pairs. There were seven matches each of 8 boards. The top three were:

- 1 George Finikiotis — Steven Bock
- 2 Garry Clarke — Sally Clarke
- 3 Margaret Gidley-Baird — Timothy Cregan

♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥

Congress Results

Port Stephens November 2nd

- 1 Jean Perkins, Jenny Keegan
Margaret Geddes, Rosalie Broughton
- 2 Eileen Pickles, Ken Wilks
Bernie Adcock Ian Walker
- 3 Pam Robinson, Jennifer Atkinson
Kay Rich Fay Larkin

Parramatta Congress November 2

- 1 Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer,
Peter Gill, Peter Livesey
- 2 Paul Gosney, Marlene Watts,
Frances Lyons, Tony Nunn
- 3 Peter Bamborough, William Zhu.
Neville Nott, Henk Sluyter

Southern Highlands November 8-9

Pairs Championship

- 1st Patricia Phillips – Eric Lindh

Pairs Plate

- 1st Trish Harrison – Geraldine Phillips

Teams Championship

- 1st Perelle Scales, Kerry Butcher, Peter Butcher,
Jane Kidd

Central Coast Almost Summer Teams Nov 23

- 1 Jamie Ebery, Helena Dawson,
Normand Maclaurin, Christine Williams
- 2 Emil Battista , Barbara Hunter, Roger
Yandle, David Monaghan
- 3 Steven Bock, Bill Westwood, Margaret
Foster, Roslyn Howes

Manly Leagues Club November 30

Margaret Smith Memorial Teams

- 1 Martin Bloom, Tony Nunn,
Peter Livesey, Peter Gill
- 2 George Finikiotis, Steven Bock,
Ross Folkard, Berenice Folkard
- 3 Helena Dawson, Jamie Ebery,
David Monaghan, Roger Yandle

♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣

NSWBA Bridge Lessons for Beginners in 2009

Ed Barnes is running these lessons on Tuesdays (choice of day or evening) commencing 17 February at 162 Goulburn St, East Sydney

Details can be found on the NSWBA home page

Visit www.nswba.com.au/

Or phone the office on 02 9264 8111

♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣

MISTAKES I HAVE MADE by NJM

There I was at the bridge table at the NSWBA after a health induced hiatus thinking how relaxing it was to be playing against such pleasant opponents as Cathryn Herden and Judy Mott.

Shortly after we began, as South I picked up :

♠ A 10 9
♥ Q J 8 6
♦ A 10 8
♣ J 3 2

The bidding proceeded thus:

Dealer West, E-W Vul

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT*
All Pass			

* my first mistake: I should have realised North (Steven Bock) was likely to be 5-4 in the rounded suits and bid 3H despite my square hand. Cathryn led ♦7 and I was looking (with regret since 4H was much easier) at:

North (dummy)

♠ K 6
♥ K 9 3 2
♦ 9 3
♣ A Q 9 8 4



South (me)

♠ A 10 9
♥ Q J 8 6
♦ A 10 8
♣ J 3 2

Naturally I ducked Judy's ♦Q and put the 10 on her return of the 5. Cathryn took ♦K and returned the Jack to my Ace.

I looked at her suspiciously but she was the picture of innocence. No doubt she had started with ♦ K J 7 but if not they figured to be 4-4.

So I continued with a small club to the 10 and Queen. It looked as if she had begun with ♣K10 and I could continue with the Ace dropping the Jack and running the suit. But, I thought, suppose she is fooling around with ♣ K10 x.

Surely it was safe to play a heart and clear up my communications.

So I called for a small heart and Cathryn won the Ace and cashed 2 more diamond tricks! One off.

She had started with:

♠ Q J 8 5 3
♥ A
♦ K J 7 6 2
♣ K 10

and continuing with clubs would have squeezed her out of a trick in the pointed suits.

So much for trusting innocent young ladies – I prefer the older crafty looking ones. At least you know what to expect!!

Contributed by Neville Moses

♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥

THREE SLAMS FROM HOBART

(Ed) I flew down to Hobart in early October to play in the Australian Swiss pairs with Axel Johannsson from Sydney. The event was won in convincing style by Sydney based Ed Barnes and David Wilshire. Scores were entered using electronic remote input units and this meant that you could go on line and look at any deal and see what the contract was, which pair was sitting North-South or East-West and the result. Being a gold masterpoint event there was a quite a large field (54 tables). Here are three slams from the tournament – would you and your favourite partner have bid them?

Dealer W

Nil Vul

IMPs

North

♠ 5 4
♥ 10 6 5 4
♦ 10 7 3
♣ Q 10 4 3

West

♠ A K Q J 8 7 3
♥ —
♦ Q J 9 4
♣ K 5

East

♠ 9 6
♥ A J 9 2
♦ K 8 6 2
♣ A 8 6

South

♠ 10 2
♥ K Q 8 7 3
♦ A 5
♣ J 9 7 2

With a three loser hand, some people might open their game force bid - usually 2♣. If East makes a waiting bid and West jumps to 3♠ (setting the suit), then 6♠ should be reached. Since West's point count is only 16, some people might choose to open 1♠. If East responds 2♦, West could rebid 3♠ (forcing), then East shows the club control with 4♣. West cue bids 4♥ (denying ♦A). East may feel nervous about an opening diamond lead but should just leap to 6♠. Other choices over a 2♦ response include a splinter

in hearts or 4♦ "Minorwood". The statistics on this board were: 22 pairs bid 6S, 26 were in 4S or 5S, 1 in 6D, 1 in 3NT. Four pairs reached slam in NT- all failing.

The winners reached 6D via the following auction:

West	North	East	South
Wiltshire		Barnes	
1♠	Pass	2♦	2♥
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

*grand slam force

Slam No.2

Dealer E
All Vul
IMPs

North
♠ A 7 4
♥ A 5
♦ J 6 5 4
♣ A Q 7 4

West

♠ 3
♥ Q J 10 3
♦ K Q 10 7
♣ 10 8 3 2

East

♠ J 5 2
♥ 8 7 2
♦ A 8 3 2
♣ J 6 5

South

♠ K Q 10 9 8 6
♥ K 9 6 4
♦ 9
♣ K 9

Everyone sitting South will open 1♠, North bids 2♣ and South usually rebids 2♠ (though 2♥ is an option). If 2♣ was game forcing (as in the 2/1 game force method) then North can bid 3♠ – forcing and stronger than a leap to 4♠ (which in most systems= fast arrival). The spotlight is now on South – a slam move is clearly warranted but with no ace to cue the choices are 4♣ control (but not shortage) or since doubleton ♣K of partners suit is an excellent holding - just ask for aces and bash it? Some North players might choose to respond to 1♠ with 2NT Jacoby (agreeing spades – though for most people this bid promises 4+ spade support) –then South bids 3D (=shortage) and North might jump to 5S asking South to bid six if the spade quality is good. The stats on the board were 6S x 9 and the rest in 4S or 5S. Here is the Barnes –Wiltshire auction :

West	North	East	South
	Wiltshire		Barnes
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣**	Pass	6♣

All Pass * doubleton ♣K is excellent after partner's 2C response and this plus second round control both red suits and six good trumps was enough for Barnes to ask for aces.

At another table NSWBA Office Manager Liz Fanos partnered by George Finikiotis bid thus:

West	North	East	South
	Finikiotis		Fanos
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♦ ²
Pass	4NT ³	Pass	5♦ ⁴
Pass	5♥ ⁵	Pass	6♣ ⁶
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

1 Modified Jacoby – usually 16+HCP, agrees spades and flags immediate slam ambitions

2 Shortage in diamonds

3. RKCB on spades

4. One keycard

5. Asks for trump queen

6. I have it and this is my cheapest king.

Slam No.3

Dealer W
All Vul
IMPs

North
♠ 8 4
♥ K J
♦ A J 10 8 7
♣ A K 6 2

West

♠ 9 6 3
♥ 10 2
♦ 9 6 3
♣ Q J 9 8 4

East

♠ K Q J 10 7 5 2
♥ 9 4
♦ 2
♣ 7 5 3

South

♠ A
♥ A Q 8 7 6 5 3
♦ K Q 5 4
♣ 10

North will open 1♦ in most methods (except for strong 1♣ systems or people who choose to open 1NT off shape) and the spotlight now is on East. At this vulnerability with partner having passed as dealer there is a temptation to be cautious and bid 2♠ or (some might try 1♠ or even pass!) – however a red blooded 3♠ or 4♠ overcall will take away more bidding space from the opponents. South will probably launch an ace ask with diamonds (the last suit bid by their side) as the indicated trump suit. If playing Keycard Blackwood, North shows two aces but no ♦Q. South might now bid 6♦ but if hoping for more, the correct move is to ask for kings (thus promising that all aces are held plus ♦Q or compensating ♦ suit length). Now North can tell that a grand slam is a good chance and should bid 7♦. Axel and I missed slam on the first two deals- I shall draw a veil over our auctions. On the third board, I opened 1♦ (Acol system), East bid 2♠ (weak). Axel bid 3♥, I raised to 4♥ , now Axel trotted out RKCB on hearts and discovering I had ♥K, ♦A and ♣A he then bid 7NT. Since this was Swiss pairs there was no difference in IMPs between bidding 7D, 7H or 7NT -

but in no trump the possibility of the defence scoring a ruff at trick one was eliminated.

Stats on the board were 7NTx2, 7Dx2, 7Hx11, 6Hx13, 6Dx11, 4Hx11, 5Dx1, 3♠Dbled x1 and 4♠Dbled x 1.

The tournament winners bid to 7♥ thus:

West	North Wiltshire	East	South Barnes
Pass	1NT	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Barnes selected 7H rather than 7NT in case a diamond ruff is available/needed for the 13th trick.

If you are curious as to who did bid a grand slam on this last deal, this is what you do:- Visit ABF web site and select Events, then Roger Penny Swiss Pairs and Australian Swiss Pairs, then select 2008 Entries and Results, then Australian Swiss Pairs, then E Barnes, D Wiltshire, (*the round 10 result should display*) then click on Board 20 — and you can see the details of the contracts at all 54 tables.

♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥

Answer to Declarer Play Problem

With a spade, a diamond and a club to lose you must avoid losing a heart. Since West started with a singleton spade there is more room there for heart length. The correct play is ♥10 at trick 5. Then play a heart to the jack. East can take ♠J any time but you are in control. At the table South played too quickly by playing ♥2 to ♥J at trick 5 and now ♥Q became the setting trick for the defence. Interestingly as the cards lie, 11 tricks can be made in 4H. Most people acknowledge that speed kills on the roads – but this was an example at the bridge table where speed was not required and the result was ☺.

Dealer N	North	East
Nil Vul	♠ K Q 6	♠ J 10 4 2
Match Points	♥ A J 9	♥ 3
	♦ A 10 3 2	♦ K 8 4
	♣ K Q 7	♣ J10 9 5 3
West	South	
♠ 5	♠ A 9 8 7 3	
♥ Q 8 7 5	♥ K 10 6 4 2	
♦ J 9 7 6	♦ Q 5	
♣ A 6 4 2	♣ 8	

♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥

GNOT FINALS 2008

Banora Point NSW (located just south of Coolangatta airport) was once again the venue for the Grand National Open Teams Finals. Qualifying events were held throughout Australia earlier this year and 60 teams turned up in Banora Point to battle for the top positions. The strongest teams hailed as usual from capital cities and some of them had a bye in the first knock out round. Losing teams from the KO went into a Swiss format repechage which would allow two teams to 're-enter' the main event. The ABF Newsletter will cover the event in more detail – but here is a high level look at the results with Sydney teams dominating the latter stages. Four teams went into the finals series from the KO :

- SYDNEY 6** : Gabriella Bremner-Moore, Ishmael Del'Monte, Kieran Dyke, Paul Gosney, Bob Richman
- ADELAIDE 1**: Paul Hudson, Mark Jappe, Chris Lorimer, John Maddison, Greg Sargent, David Smyth
- SYDNEY 5**: Edward Barnes, Sartaj Hans, Matthew McManus, Catherine Ritter
- SYDNEY 2**: Julian Foster, Kim Morrison, Ross Stuart, David Weston

And two teams came through from the Repechage

- SYDNEY 3**: Murray Green, Pauline Gumby, Richard Jedrychowski, Warren Lazer, Bruce Neill, Andrew Peake
- CANBERRA 1**: Richard Brightling, Arjuna De Livera, David Lilley, Peter Reynolds, Ian Robinson, Ian Thomson (this team had won the GNOT in 2006 and 2007)

SYDNEY 1 had tied with CANBERRA 1 in the Repechage but lost the 2 board playoff. SYDNEY 1 comprised Nye Griffiths, Nicholas Rodwell, Michael Wilkinson, Stephan Winkler.

In the Repechage the best performing non capital city teams were:

- NORTHERN RIVERS** (NSW) : Eric Hurley, Janet Brown, Marjorie Askew, William Powell (5th)
- SUNSHINE COAST** (QLD) : Rosemary Crowley, Adrian Myers, Verna Brookes, Stephen Brooks (7th)
- BLUE MOUNTAINS** (NSW) : Machteld Baljet, Marcel Hoevenaars, Andrew Milne, Terence Palmer (9th)

SEMI FINAL:

SYDNEY 6 beat SYDNEY 3
SYDNEY 2 beat ADELAIDE 1

FINAL: SYDNEY 6 beat SYDNEY 2

♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥

LETTER FROM SYDNEY

The author of this letter likes living in Sydney and plans to continue playing here – so prefers to remain anonymous.

Hello all,

I'm having a wonderful time in Australia. And, I've found some nice bridge clubs. But, I've noticed one very strange thing. A popular bid here is the '1NT ask'. It is very specific, and can be useful for all at the table.

When an opponent opens one no trump, asking 'How strong is your one no trump?' describes a hand that is 12-14 High card Points, and flat. No actual bid can accurately be made to describe this hand after RHO opens 1NT. Partner of the enquirer now can bid with a 5 plus card suit, knowing that partner has a flat opening hand.

In a recent club game in Sydney, the bidding went:

Dealer W, E/W Vul

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	1NT Enquiry	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Dummy was tabled and had the expected opening values, and reasonable trumps; declarer's hand was to say the least somewhat anemic.

West	East
♠ A 7 6 2	♠ 6 5 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 5 4	♥ A J
♦ 3	♦ K J 8 5
♣ 7 3	♣ K J 10 2

In fact I have seen players bid 2♥ after partner's 'NT question' with much less eg ♥ Q 9 7 6 4, and no other points - best not be vulnerable when you are that weak ! This 2 Heart contract could have been made but Declarer misplayed the hand to go one off. I was North and my hand was:

♠ Q 10 3
♥ Q 2
♦ A Q 9 4 2
♣ A Q 6

We were satisfied with +100 and did not complain to the director. 1NT would be a difficult contract to make, even with a minor suit lead. 'Cheats never prosper', we thought to ourselves.

I have witnessed this bidding so many times here that I have come to accept the 'no trump ask' as a standard convention Down Under The '1NT Ask' can

be useful to the one no trump opener when playing the contract because there is now a reliable point count for the defence hands. You also know that both defence hands are flat. If partner of the questioner had a biddable suit, then surely they would have bid.

Of course, declarer has to take into account the knowledge of the rules of bridge and the ethical level of the opponents. But, it is not simply a matter of ethics.

Because this 'no trump ask' has become so standard of late, nobody seems to doubt that it is a valid question. I have seen the most ethical bridge players innocently ask this question and then reveal as dummy or defence the expected flat 12-14 points.

I also know that if I were to call the director to the table over such a question and bidding sequence, my opponents would be outraged and think I was trying to take an unfair advantage. It's very different from what I was taught when I learned the game. We were told that the best way to protect yourself as defenders against a one no trump opening is to establish what your opponents are playing before you look at your cards. Then you never need to ask.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from **Anonymous**

Ed The above letter is just a journalistic device to attract your attention. The 'NT ASK' happens all too frequently as does the '1C ASK' which occurs when next player pauses after a 1C opening and inspects that partnership's system card, asks a question and then passes. If you play regular tournament bridge it behooves you to know and practice the ABF alerting regulations. For the purposes of this article the most important is:-

3.1 Pre-alerts

3.1.1 At the start of a round or match, pairs should acquaint each other with their basic system, length of their one level openings and the strength and style of their opening 1NT. Subsequent questions about these, whilst legal, may be regarded as unauthorised information.

The 'NT ASK' IS BAD PRACTICE, but it happens all too frequently as does the '1C ASK'.

Ed. In the USA the rule is that if 1NT is the opening bid, their partner must immediately announce the NT range plus any special features eg '15-17 and can contain 5 card major'. In my view it would be good if the ABF adopted the same procedure.

♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥

Scrambling to Minor Fit

This bridge article courtesy of www.ronklingerbridge.com

An opponent opens with a weak two, partner makes a takeout double, third hand passes and the spotlight is on you. What methods do you have here? With no methods a 3-level reply can be anything from 0 to 10 points. The Lebensohl 2NT reply is designed to distinguish decent hands (7-10 points, or so – bid your suit at the three-level) from rotten hands (0-6 points – bid 2NT, asking opener to bid 3C, which you pass or remove to your real suit).

A common problem here is that the double can be 4-3 or even 5-3 in the minors. When the advancer is 4-4 or 4-3 in the minors, one can land in the wrong trump suit easily enough. To avoid this, some pairs play 2NT 'Scramble'. Primarily it asks partner to name their longer minor, bidding 3C with equal length. Advancer might pass this or remove to a new suit to show a weak hand when the new suit is lower ranking than opener's suit. Bidding 2NT and continuing with a bid of the enemy suit (no stopper) or 3NT (promises a stopper) shows 4 cards in the unbid major.

The 2NT Scramble might have been useful on this deal from the final of a national championship:

Bd. 14 : East dealer : Nil vulnerable

Dealer E	North		
Both Vul	♠ Q 5		
IMPs	♥ 9 6 4 2		
	♦ K Q J 2		
	♣ A K J		
West		East	
♠ K J 9 6 3		♠ A 8 3	
♥ Q 7 5		♥ A 10 8	
♦ 4 3		♦ 10 9 7 5	
♣ Q 8 3		♣ 10 9 2	
	South		
	♠ 10 4 2		
	♥ K J 3		
	♦ A 8 6		
	♣ 7 6 5 4		

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Lead: S3

Declarer lost five spades and the HA for one down.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♠ ¹	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(¹) Weak two

Lead: D4

Declarer took the lead in dummy and led a heart. East rose with the ace and returned a diamond. Again declarer won in dummy and played a heart to the jack and queen. West shifted to the SK and another spade. East won and gave West a diamond ruff. West continued with a heart and declarer had the rest for –50. No swing.

Declarer might have made 3C, but if you were playing 2NT Scramble, South could reply 2NT to the double and North would bid 3D. That is no significant improvement here, but it might be much better if North's shape were 1-4-5-3.

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

More Congress Results

ARMIDALE SWISS PAIRS Nov 29

- 1 Ann Pettigrew - Adrienne Stephens
- 2 Christine Birch - Judi Wright
- 3 Qin Li - Daoping Nie

Pairs Plate

- 1 Colin Tolley - Mike Siford
- =2 David Tucker - Glenda Parmenter
- =2 Meg and David Featherstone

ARMIDALE SWISS TEAMS Nov 30

- 1 Arthur Anlezark, Margaret Thorn, Frank Campbell, Heather Grant
- 2 Ben Raaphorst, Magda Kiraly, Pam Jones, Doug O'Meara
- 3 Barbara Gates, Imre Bokor, Qin Li, Daoping Nie

Pairs Plate

- 1 Meg Featherstone, Janet Dyson, David Featherstone, David McIntyre
- 2 Philip Houlton, Bambi Houlton, Liz Quinn, Jenny Strickland

English Bridge Union Ladies Trials

Congratulations to Fiona Brown (who grew up and learnt her bridge in Ballina) and Susan Stockdale. They recently won the English Ladies Trials. They'll be representing England at the Lady Milne event in Ireland in April 2009 and will be joined by two other pairs, yet to be selected.

♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠

DIARY OF UPCOMING CONGRESSES IN NSW

NOTE: visit NSWBA web site and select *Congresses in NSW*, to send email to the convenor or enter the Congress online or, where available, view PDF of advertising brochure.

Date	Club	Event	Contact	Phone
Dec 21	Double Bay	Teams	Mike Prescott	0439 443102
Dec 26 to Jan 4 —Trumps Bridge Festival This popular festival provides different forms of tournament bridge every day and some evenings. Visit the NSWBA web site and go to the Congress Calendar for details and the on-line entry facility. You can also see who has already entered on line. Look out also for the congress brochure in the usual places.			Derrick Browne	9969 9959
Jan 11	NSWBA	Summer Teams	NSWBA	9264 8111
Feb 1	North Shore	Summer No Frills Teams	John McIlrath	0437 274 343
Feb 7-8	Inverell Delvyn	Congress Pairs	D Learmonth	6722 5503
Feb 13	North Shore	Black Friday Match Point pairs	John McIlrath	0437 274 343
Feb 15	Ballina	Congress Pairs	M Goodall	6681 5533
Feb 15	Trumps	Summer Teams	Derrick Browne	9969 5959
Feb 21-22	Great Lakes	Teams	Daphne Yarnold	6554 5692
March 1	Forbes	Autumn Swiss Pairs	Elizabeth Gelbart	6852 3347

2008 John Arkinstall NSW State Teams Championship

These six teams gathered at 162 Goulburn St on the weekend of December 12-14. They had earned the right to play by their efforts in various qualifying events.

Louise Leibowitz – Liz Adams – Val Cummings – Ted Chadwick – David Beauchamp

Peter Berzins – Dorothy Berzins – Di Coates – Peter Coates

Jane Dawson – Peter Gill – Bob Richman – Martin Bloom – Kieran Dyke

Steven Bock – Kevin Davies – George Finikiotis – Alex Yezerski – Les Grewcock

Andrew Peake – Bruce Neill – Paul Gosney – Tony Nunn

Richard Waszyrowski – Qin Wen – Andrew Wu – Adam Adamszewski

Session scores can be viewed at the NSWBA web site –see under results. Following the round robin qualifying phase the BOCK and PEAKE teams contested the 56 board final on the Sunday with PEAKE the winners by 165 to 63 IMPs.