New South Wales Bridge Association

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♠ ♡ Bulletin ◇ ♣

Editor: Peter Jamieson

Chairman's Corner

We have a new look to the NSWBA Council from this month. Four new Special Councillors will take office at the next meeting.

Trish Carter from Tamworth, Doreen Kjeldsen from Wagga, Colin Mitchell from the Central Coast, and John Brownie from Sydney will represent the perspectives of affiliated clubs across NSW. I look forward to working with them. The Council extends its thanks to the outgoing FABC councillors, Neville Farrell and Ken Storr.

Whatever you think of the Government's 20/20 summit, it is interesting to ask, where is bridge going to be in 12 years time? And what should the NSWBA be doing to help it evolve and grow? Any comments welcome – you can email me at chairman@nswba.com.au.

One thing for sure, a lot of bridge will be played on the internet! Every night you can see plenty of local players on BBO, playing, doing bidding practice, watching Vugraph matches, or just chatting. Hopefully online bridge clubs will soon be able to affiliate and offer masterpoints etc.

Play well. Enjoy!

Bruce Neill

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TEAMS OF THREE

The popular Les Longhurst Teams of Three will again be held at the NSWBA on Sunday, June 1. All players below the rank of Grand Master may enter as a team of three and will be allocated a state, national or international representative as their captain. See paper flyer or visit our web site for details

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NSW TEAM TRIALS

The Open and Women team trials were conducted over the Anzac Day long weekend. After 13 matches of 14 boards (Butler scoring) the successful pairs to represent NSW at the 2008 Interstate Teams are:

Open:
Tony Nunn - Michael Wilkinson
Peter Gill - Nye Griffiths
Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer

Women
Judy Snow - Lynn Kalmin
Judy Mott - Nafi Bashar
Kim Neale - Kinga Moses

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NEW LAWS BEGIN JUNE 1

The 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge will come into effect in Australia and New Zealand on June 1, 2008. The ABF announcement and the Zone 7 interpretation of some of the Laws can be found on the Tournament Regulations page at ABF web site..

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YOUTH PLAYERS

Are you under 28?

Youth players who are interested in applying for the Under 28 and Under 21 teams to go to Beijing in October should submit their applications now. Go to www.abf.com.au for more details.

Also for players under 26, Saturday May 10 is the date for the Youth Team Trials to select the team to represent NSW at the ANC at the Gold Coast in August. Go to www.nswba.com.au to enter or for more information.

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2009 Gold Coast Congress

The 48th Gold Coast Congress will be held:
February 28 - March 7

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MORE ABOUT OPENING TWO CLUBS

Ed – I received some good feedback from several people to the article in the previous NSWBA Bulletin. Of particular interest was an email concerning another new 2C auction. The writer, Matthew Thomson lives in Sydney and is a former Australian Open representative player (five caps between 1995 and 2005). I rate his 2♣ auction (see below) to be more complex - but definitely superior to the one I recently recommended.

"MY 2♣"

By Matthew Thomson

Like you I rarely hold strong hands however when I do, I want to be able to bid them to sensible contracts without significant memory strain.

We can't afford the luxury of having more than one bid for our "strong hands". "Strong hands" contain 22+ HCP or have high trick taking ability, typically with a strong 6 card or longer suit and 19-21 HCP. On this basis we'll have a "strong hand" only about 0.8% of the time. We'll have 22+HCP about 0.4% of the time and 19-21 HCP with a 6+ card suit also about 0.4% of the time. Clearly with such a low likelihood of being dealt a "strong hand" we can only afford to lump them under the one strong bid, 2♣.

Rationale to "MY 2♣"includes:

- Segregation of responder's hand strengths that takes into account the likely strength of their hand. Responder to a "strong hand" will have 0-4 HCP about 33% of the time; 5-8 HCP about 47% of the time; and 9+HCP about 20% of the time. This segregation supports the resolution of: game or stop below game?; which game ?, including sensible Major suit investigation below 3NT; and slam decisions.
- Ability to stop below game in 2NT or in a suit when responder has "zip".
- Strong hand declares more often, especially NT's.
- Engagement of system we already regularly use (Puppet Stayman) when we have balanced hands, reducing memory strain.

Responses to 2♣:

2♢ = 0-4 HCP or 9+HCP (all higher bids show a semi-positive & create a game force, 5-8 HCP)

2♡ = no 5+ card suit headed by one or two of the top 3 honours (5-8 HCP)

2♠/2NT*/3♣/3♢ = 5+ card suit headed by one or two of the top three honours,

(*2NT shows a 5+ card ♡ suit).

Opener's Rebid after 2♢:

2♣ : 2♢

2♡ = Enquiry, creates a game force

2NT = 22-23 HCP balanced, into usual 2NT responding structure.

2♠/3♣/3♢/3♡ = 6 or 7 card suit, responder may pass with zip.

Almost half of the time responder will hold 9+ HCP (when opener has 20-21 HCP) thus slam is possible. I recommend a simple raise **below** game shows 9+HCP, bids of new suits and jump new suits (splinters) are assumed to be 0-4 HCP unless responder later moves on.

After Opener's 2♡ Game Forcing Enquiry:

2♣ : 2♢

2♡ : 2♠ = artificial, 9+HCP, auction is **slam Forcing** (*unless you discover two quick losers and are able to stop –which may be 'too hard' to do*).

Other = all higher bids show 0-4 HCP.

Responder has 9+HCP:

2♣ : 2♢

2♡ : 2♠

2NT = 24+ HCP balanced, into 2NT responding structure. Slam forcing.

Other = natural, assume slam forcing

Responder has 0-4 HCP:

2♣ : 2♢

2♡ : 2NT = 6+cards in ♣ or ♢.

Opener normally bids 3♠ over which responder bids 3♢ (with ♢'s) or bids a fragment (3♡,3♠ or 3NT) with 6+♣'s.

3♣ = balanced or semi-balanced without a 5 card Major - the weak hand **avoids** bidding NT.

Opener responds to 3♣ **as if it is** Puppet Stayman (over 2NT) !

That is: 3♢ = at least one 4 card Major,

3♡/♠ = 5+ card suits.

Since responder is assumed to be balanced (and 0-4 HCP) this allows sensible major suit investigation and often allows opener to declare NTs.

3♢ = transfer to ♡'s *

3♡ = transfer to ♠'s *

Tranfers allow opener to agree the trump suit by accepting the transfer and then to move on with a gigantic hand.

3♠ = 5/5 or better in the minors

(* NB: if opener has no fit in the transfer suit, they'll normally bid 3NT to ensure the strong hand is closed)

After a Semi-positive:
The auction is forcing to game but responder is limited:
2♣ : 2♡
2NT = 22+ HCP balanced, into 2NT responding structure.
Other = natural

2♣ : 2♠/NT/3♣/3♢
Natural continuations, the information that responder has a higher honour (1 or 2) in their suit and 5-8 HCP often simplifies slam decisions.

Bidding Hands with "MY 2♣"
I could include hands showing "my 2♣" working like a dream but that achieves little. However what I have done is bid over 200 "strong hands" using "my 2♣" and I can tell you it bid most of them to sensible contracts, certainly much better than most standard 2♣ bidding structures.

The best way I've found to practice or test any bidding method is to get yourself two logins to ***Bridgebase*** and two computers side-by-side. Log both into ***Bridgebase's*** Partnership Bidding and put constraints on both hands using the Table Options box that pops up. You can now zoom through, bidding many hands that meet your requirements. You can do this by yourself or with your partner. It quickly becomes clear what works and what doesn't.

Finally be aware of the likelihood of any particular hand type you're defining a bid for. It's detrimental to put in effort so you can bid a hand that's only rarely going to be dealt. Use your common sense and experience for this, or if you want to calculate the odds refer to Bridge Odds Complete by Frost.

Matthew Thomson, April 2008

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Ed : here are three recent 2C Openings from NSWBA

Vul : EW
Dealer South

	♠ 1082 ♡ 4 ♢ KQ73 ♣ KQ954	
West ♠AQ743 ♡5 ♢J952 ♣1032		**East** ♠96 ♡10983 ♢864 ♣J876
	South ♠KJ5 ♡AKQJ762 ♢A10 ♣A	

Looks like an easy, boring to bid slam? Wrong –six of the 18 pairs that session played in game. Using the Thomson 2♣ it could go:
2C 2D
2H 2S
4H* 5C
6NT Pass
As auction is slam forcing opener can jump to 4H setting hearts as trumps. 5C here is a cue bid denying spade control.

Here is Board 6 same set:
Vul: EW
Dealer : East

	♠ 108 ♡ 5 ♢ K109543 ♣ Q763	
West ♠KQ ♡Q10742 ♢QJ76 ♣84		**East** ♠ AJ32 ♡ AK ♢ A8 ♣ AKJ92
	South ♠97654 ♡J9863 ♢2 ♣105	

On this deal, <u>seven</u> of the 18 East West pairs stopped in game. 6NT is a fair spot. In Thomson 2♣ it goes smoothly.
— 2C
2D 2H
2S 2NT *now into partnership's agreed strong 2NT structure with proviso the auction is slam forcing.*

Interestingly on this board, four declarers in 6NT went down. Would you have timed it right?

One more deal - this one is from February 13.

Dealer :	Responder
♠ A K Q J 3	♠ 10 6
♡ A J 3	♡ K 9
♢ 7	♢ Q J 9 8 3
♣ K Q J 6	♣ A 9 8 4

(*this was board 8, directions changed*)

This is on borderline for 2♣. . . and after 2C – 2D : opener should probably bid 2S non forcing rather than 2H.Now East bids 3S (better than showing diamonds) plus is now showing 9+ HCP. West bids 4NT, discovers missing ace and then 6S probably.
♢ ♠ ♡ ♣ ♢ ♠ ♡ ♢ ♠ ♡ ♣ ♢ ♠ ♡

TWO TOO WEAK WEAK TWOS

Contributed by Rakesh Kumar

A colourful NSWBA bridge identity, who shall remain nameless, has a fondness for opening weak two-bids. Sometimes he does so on hands that many of us simply would not consider. Would you, for example, open a multi-2D on this West hand with nil vulnerable?

	♠K J 97 ♥J 10 ♦K 5 ♣J 9 5 3 2	
♠4 ♥K 9 8 4 3 2 ♦9 8 7 6 2 ♣8		♠A Q 10 6 5 3 ♥A 5 ♦3 ♣A K 8 6
	♠8 2 ♥Q 7 6 ♦A Q J 10 4 ♣Q 7 4	

Allowing for opener's "tendencies", E-W were playing a 2NT inquiry sequence in which a rebid of 3C/D showed a normal weak two opening while 3H/S showed a subminimum hand. But when West rebid 3H, East added insult to injury by raising to 4H! There was nothing that partner and I could do apart from watching 10 imps go down the gurgler.

However, just to prove that the aggressive weak two can be a two-edged sword, witness the turn of events on the following hand. Nil vulnerable, with North-South playing a forcing pass system, South passed. Subscribing to the notion that interference after a forcing pass was almost mandatory, our colourful West opened a weak 2S showing 5+ spades and 4+ minor. By his standards this was really quite a good weak two bid. North, however, made a negative double and South passed again. So N-S were indeed talked out of their cold contract of 6S (which was reached by just over half the field) but 1700 beats 980 any day ….

	♠2 ♥7 5 4 ♦10 8 7 6 3 ♣A K J 5	
♠K 8 7 6 5 ♥J 102 ♦Q J 5 2 ♣8		♠- ♥9 8 6 3 ♦K 9 4 ♣9 7 6 4 3 2
	♠A Q J 10 9 4 3 ♥A K Q ♦A ♣Q 10	

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NSWBA Partnership Matchmaking Service

Visit our web site to access this new service. Maybe you will find a terrific new bridge partner !

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The 2009 Summer Festival

2009 Summer Festival of Bridge Canberra, Jan. 14-26. All events at the 2009 Summer Festival of Bridge will be held at the National Convention Centre in the centre of Canberra City. More details coming in the ABF Newsletter

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Emailing ABF System Cards

Some readers may not be familiar with how to send an ABF system card from one computer to another. The system card is stored as two files on your PC, one file for the outside and one for the inside. They both have an extension of .0a2 and are located in the Austr2 directory under the directory in which you installed the System Card Editor (usually in Program Files directory. Most* would be at:
C:\Program Files\ABF Convention Card Program\Austr2
That is where you go to get the system cards using the "Insert" function after creating your email.

(*Do a search for *.0a2 if you can't locate the files by the above method).

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De Bortoli is one of NSWBA's sponsors

Bridge Decisions

This bridge article courtesy of
www.ronklingerbridge.com

Defence problem:

How would you defend as East here:

North
84
Q106
AK98
AQ52

East
[redacted]
Q7532
AK95
10
J106

South opens 2H (weak with 5 hearts, 4+ minor) and North raises to 4H. West leads the SA and continues with the SJ to South's king. Declarer plays the H2 to dummy's queen and your king. What do you do now?

Fatal Attraction

What is it about aces that make them so attractive to lead against trump contracts? Leading from an A-K suit is an excellent start, but to lead an unsupported ace against a trump contract is the riskiest of leads, the one most likely to give a trick away. Before leading an unsupported ace, check your reasoning. You should be convinced beyond reasonable doubt that this is the right choice. If there is any doubt, review the auction once more and try to find some other lead.

These thoughts came to mind on perusing this deal from the final of a national teams event:

Vul: EW
Dealer South

	♠ 84 ♡ Q106 ◇ AK98 ♣ AQ52	
West ♠AJ109 ♡7 ◇6543 ♣K984		**East** ♠Q7532 ♡AK95 ◇10 ♣J106
	South ♠K6 ♡J8432 ◇QJ72 ♣73	

West	North	East	South
---	---	---	2H (1)
Pass	4H	All pass	

(1) Weak, 5 hearts, 4+ minor
Lead: SA??

With no long suit advertised in dummy, there is no urgency to make an attacking lead. If you fear that dummy *might* have long diamonds, then a club lead would be your next choice. It is far safer to lead from a king-high suit than an ace-high suit.

A diamond or a club lead can take 4H several off. Even the unappealing singleton trump lead can produce the same result.

After the SA lead one table continued with a spade. South won and played a heart to the queen and king. With great wishful thinking East shifted to the D10. How was East expecting to put partner in for the diamond ruff?

Declarer took this in dummy and led the H10, ducked by East. The H6 came next. East won and played the SQ, ruffed by South, who drew East's last trump. After three more rounds of diamonds the club finesse saw declarer home for +420.

This was poor defence by East. Granted West has made a rotten lead, but you can still recover. East should recognise that declarer is unlikely to have a minor suit loser and if there is one, where will it go? East can also tell that a forcing defence will work. After winning the HQ, East should continue with the SQ. When next on lead, continue spades. This will create a third trump trick for East.

At the other table West switched to a club at trick 2. Now there was no defence as declarer had no problem with trump control. The CQ won trick 2, followed by the H10, taken by the king. East won and played a spade to South's king. A heart went to the queen and ace, and East played a third spade. South ruffed, crossed to dummy and finessed the H8 to draw trumps. +420 and no swing.

There are no friends at bridge or in politics.

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Congress Results

Armidale Pairs March 8-9

Final

1st Qin Li - Daoping Nie
2nd Ian Price - Bruce Tier
3rd = Arthur Anlezark - Margaret Thorn
3rd = Ann Pettigrew - Adrienne Stephens

Consolation

1st Robert Stewart - Edward Hahn
2nd Jane Fenwicke - Tim Fenwicke
3rd Elizabeth Campbell - Robin Coupland

Batemans Bay Congress March 14-16

Pairs

1 Ken Colbert, Eric Glass
2 Jeanette Grahame, Denis Grahame
=3 John Brockwell, Peter Kahler
=3 John Bentley, Di Woolford
=3 Delma Evans, Inge Legge

Teams

1 Tim Wise, Tony Marinos, Peter Kahler, John Brockwell
2 Tony Jowett, George Stockman, Ken Colbert, Eric Glass
3 Daniel Geromboux, Christy Geromboux, Mark Abraham, Sebastian Yeun

Best Local Team: Judy Turner, Ray Turner, Barbara Jenkins, Tony Jenkins

Pairs Plate:

1 Harriet Champain - Lydia Adams
2 Robin Whalley - Val Carmody

Central Coast Super Congress March 14-16

Swiss Pairs

1 Ron Lorraway - Jan Dooner
2 Daniel Krochmalik - Paul Gosney
3 Milan Durovic - Witold Chylewski

Teams

1 T Nunn S Hans P Gosney N Griffiths
2 L Varadi P McGrath J Mottram E Quittner
3 C Dibley, J Gleeson N Cowen W Smith

Trumps Good Friday Pairs March 21

Final:

1. Mike Wu and William Zhang
2. Jean Williams and Margaret Wear
3. Nick Fahrer and Michael Wilkinson

Plate winners: Rakesh Kumar and Stephen Bock
Consolation: Tina Strickland and Ceiny Maybury

Trumps Easter Teams March 23

1. Andrew Markovics, John Newman, Josh Wyner, Derrick Browne
2. Marlene Watts, Ted Chadwick, Peter Livesey, Peter Gill
3. Cathy Mill, Nicoleta Giura, Marilyn Chadwick, Toni Sharp

Brisbane Waters Super Congress April 4-6

Swiss Pairs

1 Nye Griffiths – Paul Gosney
2 Sharon Mayo – Greg Mayo
3 Tony Nunn – Elizabeth Adams

Teams

=1 Kieran Dyke, Jane Dawson, Andrew Morcombe, Nathan Howard
=1 Liz Fanos, George Finikiotis, Michael Courtney, Linden Raymond
3 Toni Sharp, Marilyn Chadwick, Marlene Watts, Ted Chadwick

Hawkesbury Congress April 12-13

1 David Priol, Elaine Pugh, Anthony Wells, Jeffrey Pugh
2 Tania Lloyd, Christine Boylson, Stephen Burgess, Michael Wilkinson
3 Liz Fanos, George Finikiotis, Steven Bock, Kevin Davies

Maitland Teams Congress April 12-13

1 Emil Battista, Barbara Hunter, Roger Vandle, David Monahan
2 Eileen Pickles, Ken Wilks, Ian Walker, Bernie Adcock
3 Michael Hannigan, Patricia Grigson, Ruth Littler Jenny Cominos

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North Shore Bridge Club – April 25-27

Anzac Day Teams

1 Don Smith, Derek Maltz, Marika Pogany, Les Varadi
2 Steven Bock, George Finikiotis, Les Grewcock, Alex Yezerski
3 Steven Burgess, Christine Boylson, Kathy Buchen, Peter Buchen

Anzac Swiss Pairs

1 Mischa Solar & Angela Boulton
2 Jane Dawson & Tania Lloyd
3 Andrew Barany & Peter Livesey

Gallipoli Teams

1 G. Finikiotis, C Emul, E Fanos, S Bock
2 D Wurth, P Livesey, S Burgess, C Boylson

Book Review: *How good is your Bridge*?

Written by Danny Roth, a bridge writer and teacher based in London, this book was published in 2007 by Master Point Press of Toronto, Canada. An instructional card play book of 200 pages aimed at intermediate players, it is divided 50/50 between declarer play and defence. The method of instruction is 'bridge problems' which are presented in the optimal way of only showing you dummy and your hand plus the bidding and lead (and where appropriate the play to the first few tricks). Then when the solutions are given you get the whole deal. Unlike some bridge quiz books, the solution is always a page or two further on from the problem.

Pages 1-59 comprise 24 declarer play problems focusing on several basic themes such as avoidance play, drawing trumps (or not), ducking the opening lead and so on. As you go through the answers, Roth lets you award yourself points for getting it right plus there are sometimes bonus points for handling a suit in a certain way (as part of the correct solution). Then comes six chapters of four problems each where some of the earlier themes are tested but to keep you on your toes some new themes are presented. Having groups of four problem deals is a commendable approach as you can work through the material in bite sized chunks. Some bridge books with say 100 problems in a row can seem a bit intimidating to some people.

The material on defence play is presented in the same format of 24 instructional deals of problems and solutions followed by 24 defence problems in groups of four followed by the solutions. The writing is very smooth and conversational and is interlaced with interesting comments about bidding and card play technique. If you have been playing for a few years and have read several card play books then you will recognize several of the themes explored in this book. Some problems may seem relatively easy but to get maximum marks you often have to do more than just spot the basic solution –so be forewarned!

Danny Roth is the author of more than a dozen previous bridge books. This book is a good read (even for 'experts') and is available now at The Bridge Shop for $32.95 (just Google *their name to easily get to their web site*). Other bridge book specialists will either stock it or order it in for you.

Reviewed by Peter Jamieson

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Fundraising Events

There are so many good causes seeking funding that sometimes it's hard to choose which ones to support. Some individuals may choose one that has relevance to their lives, for example, a friend or family member has died as a result of a particular disease, or, in the case of Corporations it may be based on the image the company wants to portray to the community.

For the last 4 years the Australian bridge community has participated in the popular Bridge for Brains event in May which raises money for The Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute for research into Alzheimer's and Dementia.

Additionally for the last 2 years, the NSWBA has added a second event to their calendar, a fundraiser for the Stroke Recovery Association which is held during Stroke Awareness Week in September. One of the founders of this Association in 1977 was a Sydney bridge player Anita Rosenberg who suffered a stroke in her early thirties.

The work that both these organisations perform will have relevance to the average bridge player as most of us would know someone who has dementia or suffered from a stroke and are both are deserving of our support as are many other charities that benefit from individual club's charity event days.

This year the NSWBA would like to encourage clubs to hold a fundraising day in September for the Stroke Recovery Association. Many clubs have already indicated their interest and have requested more information about the Association and this event. If your club has not done so and would like to, please ring or email Liz, the NSWBA office manager on office@nswba.com.au or 02 9264 8111. An event's kit will be sent to clubs in June, but in the meantime for more information regarding the Stroke Recovery Association go to www.strokensw.org.au

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to view their catalogue.

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
May 17-18	Coffs Harbour	Teams	Robyn Bingham	6651 7845
May 17-18	Inverell	Delvyn Pairs	D Learmonth	6722 5503
May 18	Strathfield	Teams	Peter Douglas	0402 110932
May 23-25	Mudgee	Fri: Walk In Pairs Sat : Pairs Sun : Teams	Val Heferen	6372 3383
May 25	North Shore	Swiss Pairs	John McIlrath	1300 772337
May 24-25	Leeton Soldiers	Sat: Pairs Sun : Teams	Jim Thomas	6953 8255
May 25	Trumps	Autumn Teams	Derrick Browne	9969 9959
May 25	Tweed	May Madness Butler Pairs	Robert Noble	55761186
June 1	NSWBA	Teams of Three	Office	9264 8111
June 13	North Shore	Black Friday Teams	John McIlrath	1300 772337
June 14-15	Newcastle	Sat : Pairs Sun: Teams	Graham Rummey	4961 3633
June 14-15	Illawarra Master Builders	Sat : Open Pairs Sun: Open Teams	Chris Diment	42272799
June 15	Wollstonecraft	Teams	Bev Clarke	9436 2191
June 22	Tweed	Wintersun Teams	Robert Noble	55761186
June 27,28,29	North Shore **Super Congress**	Friday : Swiss Teams Fri Evening : Pairs Sat : Swiss Pairs Sun: Swiss Teams	John McIlrath	1300 772337
June 24	Tweed	Wintersun Teams	June Cross	5576 2005
June 28-29	Tamworth	Swiss Pairs	Jean Wellwood	6765 9961
July 4-6	Sapphire Coast	Sat : Teams Sun: Teams	Garry Riddell	6495 0666
July 6	Trumps	Winter Teams	Derrick Browne	9969 9959