

Healthy beginner numbers

Hi everyone,

If this is the first time you are reading this newsletter, welcome! When you joined your club you automatically became a part of the Bridge NSW and ABF communities. At Bridge NSW we help grow the game and support clubs and players, for example, with our comprehensive [beginner materials](#). Please check out [our new website](#), and don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#).

We are currently accepting nominations for a new Bridge NSW Council – nominations close 3rd March. Anyone can be nominated by their clubs. It is a wonderful opportunity to represent your club and contribute to the growth of the bridge community. Every club will get to vote, starting 25th March.

In January, the Online Pairs League Summer season kicked off with record

attendees. It's a short, fun Monday competition where you can play people of a similar skill level. In April, we are launching the Online Teams League for the best of the best. Both leagues are a great way to advance you and your partner's bridge game.

A special congratulations to the organisers of the Central West Festival. They received a community recognition award earlier this month from the local member for Orange. Last year's festival – their first – was a huge success, and this year's is already sold out and certain to be another memorable event. Make a note to book early next year!

In other good news, registrations for beginner courses are up significantly in clubs in Sydney, North Shore, Parramatta, Walcha, Ballina, Oxley and Maitland. Well done to those clubs and any others that are successfully attracting beginners. New players are

vital for our game's long term sustainability.

At the other end of the playing spectrum, events to determine who will represent NSW at the national championships in July are upon us. Finals for the Open team take place 8-9th March, the Women's at the end of March, and the Seniors towards the end of April. Best of luck to everyone involved!

Catherine Chaffey, Chair of Bridge NSW

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People of bridge

Profile: Sachiko Cathcart



How did you come to play bridge?

“My friend asked me to join a beginner’s course at Trump in Mosman. After the course, we didn’t play much because we didn’t know anyone who

played bridge at the time. Just before COVID, I joined the Peninsula Bridge Club. After face-to-face bridge started to return, I discovered more about the game, including congresses and the various tournaments at the club, which changed my bridge experience. Our club is volunteer-run and very friendly. It’s also big enough to have players at various levels.”

What’s your favourite bridge memory? “I received the McCutcheon Award for three consecutive years. I was at the Gold Coast Congress [earlier this month] when there was a presentation for the McCutcheon Award – a special moment for me.”

What area/s of your game do you want to improve? I’d like to improve my defence and bidding, as these are my weaker areas. I’ve been very lucky to play with many skilled players, and I’ve learned so much from them. They’ve also given me some advice. I’m so grateful to everyone who has helped me with my bridge. I enjoy watching bridge videos on YouTube to learn more. I don’t know many professional or highly skilled bridge players, but I’d love to take

private lessons and play with more experienced players. I retired from my job last year, so I will have more time for bridge.”

Are you involved with your local club? “I am a committee member, a Tournament Committee member, and the Masterpoints Secretary. I also direct at the Peninsula Bridge Club, Forestville, and Stepbridge.”

Do you have family members that play bridge? “None of my family members play bridge, but we enjoy playing card games together.”

What is one change or innovation you’d like to see in bridge? “With the MP system, the longer you play, the more points you accumulate, which sometimes doesn’t accurately reflect a player’s current ability. I’d like to see a ranking system or something that reflects the current level of play, similar to golf handicaps.”

What are your other interests/hobbies? “I play golf, which is my number one priority. I’m a single-handicap golfer and a board member of my golf club. Recently, though, bridge has been creeping up and getting very close to golf in terms of my interest.”

What is one bridge dream you have? “I’d like to suggest a club-based tournament, like an inter-club competition. We could have Open, Intermediate, Restricted, and Novice sections, with one team from each division representing each club, making a total of four teams. We could then combine the results of all the teams to determine the winning club.”

Nominations for Council close 3 March

Bridge NSW Council nominations close **Monday 3 March 2025**. A short consultation period will follow when any club, candidate or volunteer can ask nominees questions. Voting then takes place between **24 March 2025 to 13 April 2025**. The elected Council will be announced at Bridge NSW's Annual General Meeting on **6 May 2025**.

This is the first time Bridge NSW has called on clubs to nominate someone for council. No particular skills are required to become a Council member. The key is to have a passion for the bridge community and seeing clubs thrive and be sustainable over the long term.

The Council represents 140 member clubs across the state. It also nominates Board members, approves by-laws and has general oversight powers. The Council meets twice a year formally, and holds informal discussions throughout the year.

To nominate someone from your club, head to [our AGM page](#) to download the form.

Bookkeeper wanted (paid)

Bridge NSW is seeking the help of a bookkeeper for 8-10 hours per week (sometimes more or less), ideally split over two or three days per week. We are open to engaging the bookkeeper as a contractor or employee. You can be located anywhere in New South Wales.

Working closely with the Treasurer and Executive Officer, the bookkeeper's primary responsibilities are the payment of authorised bills, the issuing of invoices and the maintenance of the accounts.

Experience with Xero is an absolute requirement and experience with a community or professional association will be beneficial, as will some familiarity with the operation of bridge clubs, congresses and tournaments. The ability to document procedures to ensure the efficient and accurate payment of bills, issuing of invoicing, and maintenance of tracking codes to provide various management accounts is desirable.

A full job description is currently being prepared and can be obtained from the Executive Officer, Dave Havyatt at eo@bridgensw.com.au or by calling 0477 52 52 52.

Seeking volunteers

Volunteers are an invaluable part of our community. Bridge NSW is currently seeking volunteers in the following areas:

- Board directors (based on skills)
- Committee members (do you have an interest in education, directing, youth, teaching, or governance?)
- IT help
- Event and tournament organisers

If you have any interest in the above or know someone suitable, please get in touch with us at eo@bridgensw.com.au.

Events and results

New league for bridge guns

Bridge NSW is launching a new Online Teams League (OTL) on 7 April for experienced players looking for challenging and competitive weekly play.

The event runs for seven weeks from 7 April to 26 May on Monday nights from 7pm. No need to worry about clashes with Gold Point events as the OTL will always work around them.

Divisions of eight teams will play a round robin format. Each round will be a 24-board match on RealBridge played as two 12-board half matches.

Red masterpoints are on offer as are prizes, including an Annual Team Championship!

FREE entry is available for a team made up of members of the same club. Only one club team qualifies for free entry, and the team must complete the season.

Otherwise, the entry fee is \$560 per team for 4-8 players. An early bird discount price of \$480 is on offer for teams who **register before 21 March**. Youth get a 50% discount.

Ready to pit yourself against the best of the best on Monday nights? Head to the [My ABF page to register](#).

Gold Coast Congress

The final Gold Coast Congress was held at the start of February with attendee levels almost back to the record level seen in 2020, before the pandemic struck. Eight days of bridge were on offer, and some NSW-based players finished those eight days with their heads above the clouds.

Jessica Brake (Royal Sydney Golf Bridge Club) and her team won the Opens Teams event. Congrats Jessica!



Bridge legends Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer (both Sydney) won the Open Swiss Pairs (NS).



And Mike Morrissey (Turramurra BC) and David Cumming came second in the Restricted Swiss Pairs. Congrats guys!



GC Congress Manager, Kim Ellaway, told Bridge NSW the event was likely to continue, but in a smaller format and probably not on the Gold Coast. You can read more [here](#).

NSW team selection events are underway



It's that time of year when we find out who will be representing NSW at the Australian National Championships in Brisbane in July.

The Opens team held their qualifying round on 22-23 February. From 16 matches, the top 7 pairs in the NS and EW fields qualified for the finals on 8-9 March in Sydney. They are:

North-South qualifiers

MAURITS VAN DER VLUGT / DAGMAR NEUMANN
NICOLETA GIURA / NICK HUGHES
CHARLES MCMAHON / MATT SMITH
ANDREW PEAKE / GISELLE MUNDELL
PETER BUCHEN / BRUCE NEILL
WEI ZHANG / CATHERINE ZHANG
RICHARD MCAULIFFE / LEIGH MATHESON

East-West qualifiers

DAVID BEAUCHAMP / JAMES COUTTS
SIMON ZHANG / YUMIN LI

FRASER REW / DAVID FRYDA
TOMER LIBMAN / LAVY LIBMAN
LORNA ICHILCIK / GEORGE FLEISCHER
MICHAEL COURTNEY / JOAN BUTTS
PATRICK JIANG / HUI LI

You can view the full results [here](#), and all boards played with these kibbitzing links [here](#) and [here](#).

The top three pairs in the finals will go on to represent NSW at the ANC.

Women and Seniors players can still enter their respective events. Both are online using RealBridge, which is easy to use and similar to face to face (F2F) play. Why not test yourself and have a bit of fun in the process?

- Women: 28-30 March - [register now](#)
- Seniors: 25-27 April - [register now](#)

Autumn Nationals – why go to Adelaide?

This year's Autumn Nationals take place at the Adelaide Showgrounds from 1-5 May. The organisers are keen to share reasons to visit Adelaide in May, aside from competitive bridge matches.

CHIHULY IN THE BOTANIC GARDEN

The most spectacular glass sculpture display is being held in the Adelaide Botanic Garden until Tuesday 29th April. By day, the exhibition is free; by night it costs \$25 (\$20 concession).

[Chihuly In The Botanic Garden | Botanic Gardens](#)

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Galloway Hoard is the richest find of rare and unique Viking-age objects that has ever been made in the UK. Buried around AD900, it was only discovered in 2014. **Treasures of the Viking Age: The Galloway Hoard.**

www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/media/galloway-hoard

TASTING AUSTRALIA

Held annually in Adelaide and across South Australia, **Tasting Australia** is a showcase of all things South Australian. Each Autumn, audiences are invited to discover deliciously different experiences that feed their curiosity. Indulgent lunches with friends, boutique beverages served fireside in Town Square and menus created by world-class chefs are just a taste. In 2025, Tasting Australia will be held from 2nd to 11th May.

www.tastingaustralia.com.au

ADELAIDE OVAL TOUR (and/or ROOF CLIMB)

Adelaide Oval Stadium Tours take you behind closed doors where you'll learn about the Oval. Expert ambassadors share captivating tales of the history of the venue, the sporting greats who have competed here, how the iconic heritage blends seamlessly with world-class facilities and the Oval's iconic status in SA.

<https://www.adelaideoval.com.au/tours/>

BRADMAN COLLETION

Whilst at the Oval, take the opportunity to visit the **Bradman Collection** which is on display at Adelaide Oval in a purpose-built museum located in the Riverbank Stand. The collection brings together Bradman's priceless and personal collection of cricket memorabilia spanning from 1927 to 1977. The collection is free for the public to

view, and is open every day, 9am-4pm, except for event days.

RESTAURANTS

Three restaurants in the area were listed in the Top 10 Fine Dining Restaurants for 2024: Windy Point (Adelaide), Maxwell Restaurant (McLaren Vale) and The Line (Hahndorf, Adelaide Hills). Why not indulge in a night out at one of the nation's top restaurants?

WINERIES / DISTILLERIES

South Australia is, of course, known for its wineries. Within two hour drives (many being shorter), you will find the Barossa Valley, Clare, Adelaide Hills, Langhorne Creek and McLaren Vale wineries and, now, gin distilleries. One of the distilleries in McLaren Vale is Never Never Distilling Co, a regular sponsor of bridge events in Adelaide.

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Clubs

Profile: Central Coast Bridge Club



In a new section for Bridging NSW, we profile a club from across the state. First up is the Central Coast Bridge Club and its President David Purkiss.

How many members does your Club have? We have 170 members. The pandemic reduced our member numbers from around 220. Most Clubs suffered a 30% decrease during the pandemic.

How is the current health of your Club? The CCBC has just completed a major redevelopment of our Clubhouse at a cost of \$1 million. In excess of \$500,000 was raised by sponsorship from members. Other funding included a \$1000 ABF loan, \$2000 cash from our bank accounts and \$2000 member debentures repayable in a minimum of three years. Overall, the CCBC is in an extremely sound financial position.

How does your Club appeal to new players? Principally via word of mouth by members and family. We also have a budget for advertising and promotion on our website, for electronic signage on the building facade, and advertising in the local paper and radio. We find general enquiries, word of mouth and advertising in the local paper to be the most successful.



Central Coast BC's new clubhouse

Do you offer beginner lessons? Yes, we offer seven lessons with another seven follow up lessons at least twice a year. Our lessons are free.

Does your Club have reliable access to teachers and directors? We have access to around four teachers, who provide a variety of lessons. Presently, we have five directors and we would like to encourage more female directors in the future.

What is one change or innovation you'd like to see occur at Bridge NSW?

A concentrated marketing campaign (TV radio, etc.) funded by Bridge NSW seeking to raise the profile of the game of bridge and

the bridge industry among retirees who are seeking leisure activities that stimulate the mind and involve social interaction and fun.

If your club had unlimited resources, what is one thing you would implement to secure its long term future?

I would employ a part-time marketing specialist for 5-10 hours per week with the primary focus on increasing member numbers via campaigns, like one promoting our new Clubhouse building.

Keen for your club to be profiled? Email bridging@bridgensw.com.au.

Healthy beginner course turnouts across state

Bridge is experiencing a resurgence across New South Wales, with clubs seeing record numbers of people attending beginner courses.

North Shore Bridge Club had to cap enrolments at 40 for its Tuesday morning beginner course for the first time since the pandemic, while its Saturday class is at near capacity. The club's supervised sessions are also seeing attendance records broken weekly.

While Sydney Bridge Centre and Parramatta Bridge Club have also recorded healthy beginner levels, the surge in interest in the game is not just city-based. Clubs in Walcha, Ballina, Oxley and Maitland are all

enjoying high levels of interest from beginners.

Oxley Bridge Club, which has 28 members, has 20 people on its beginner course, thanks to its President's marketing efforts.

Maitland Bridge Club has 137 members and 40 beginners on its recent beginners' course. The club will be celebrating its 50th year in April and will use the occasion to attract players to its Congress in May, the club's first since the pandemic. Bridge in New South Wales seems to be on a comeback trail after a post-pandemic lull.

Did you know you can list your club's courses on the Bridge NSW website? Head [here](#) to fill out and submit the form.

Host a state event

Clubs have the opportunity to host a licensed state championship event each year. There are still a number of state events in 2025 without host clubs. To find out more about the process and to apply, head to the [Hosting a State Championship page](#).

Upcoming workshops

Director workshops

Tuesday 11th March: Maitland Bridge Club. Register [here](#).

Friday 14th March: Armidale Bridge Club. Register with Glenda Parmenter (glendaparmenter4@gmail.com, 0414937891)

Directing

Stuffing up the system

By Alan Bustany

Players with multiple partners and those of us with less than perfect memories sometimes don't get our system quite right. There are two basic ways in which we stuff up:

1. Mis-bid – the systemic meaning of our bid is not what we actually hold; and
2. Mis-information – our description, alert, or non-alert of our partner's bid is not systemically correct.

Either type of stuff-up often damages us rather than our opponents but, occasionally, it leads to a great result for our side, at which point the opponents usually call the Director. Nothing seems to upset players more than when the Director says "players are allowed to mis-bid and there is no basis to adjust the score". Basically with a mis-bid you are misleading your partner as much as the opponents and, if you get a good result, you're lucky – you keep your score.

Misinforming your opponents about the systemic meaning of a bid, however, falls foul of Law 21B, and your opponents are entitled to rectification of any damage caused. Players do have to demonstrate that the misinformation caused damage (as they would have bid or played differently), but they often don't see why this sort of damage is treated differently to the situation when there is obvious damage caused by a mis-bid.

So can you ever get relief when the opponents get lucky with a mis-bid?

Basically no BUT the misbidder is not allowed to "wake up" as a result of anything other than legal calls at the table. In particular they should not take account of their partner's alert, failure to alert, or description of their mis-bid – instead they should continue to call as if their mis-bid had the original meaning they thought it had.

Let's use an example from the recent Teams Championship at the Gold Coast Congress. In [Round 12, Board 17](#), the final Match of Qualifying, North opened 1S and East overcalled 2NT which was alerted and correctly described (according to their documented system) as both minors, so West chose to bid 3D as their preferred minor which North overcalled with 3S. You might notice that East had thought that 2NT was natural and strong, so they should ignore West's alert and description. According to EW's methods 3D over a strong 2NT is a transfer to Hearts. East chose to bid 3NT, and the Director was called. East may, of course, make any valid call they like, so the contract was played in 3NT making 9 tricks. Sadly for East their hand is an obvious 4H response to the 3D transfer, the 3NT bid was deemed to be using unauthorised information, and the score was adjusted to 4H going off one.

In this case, far from getting lucky, East's mis-bid cost a 10 IMP swing. Sometimes the Bridge Gods are kind to non-offenders, but don't bank on it, as it will just make you even more upset when the Director fails to adjust a score for an opponent's lucky mis-bid.

Learning & Development

Monthly bidding contest

By Philip Glover

RealBridge runs a monthly bidding competition. Marc Smith, world renowned author of more than 40 books on the game, moderates the competition.



Marc Smith

The bids submitted by the entrants are scored by comparison with bids from over 20 world class experts. Marc Smith allocates scores from 10 to 0. The best scoring entrant is invited to be a future guest panellist.

The bidding system is natural. The system is outlined on the RealBridge website. Nothing fancy! Are you and your partner on the same wavelength?

Consider the hand and auction below.

NS Vul. Dealer East. IMPs.	West	North	East	South
♠ K 9 7 5 4 2			2NT	4♦
♥ J 4	?			
♦ 8				
♣ A K 7 3				

2NT = 20–22 points

What will you bid?

Now, having thought about your answer, compare it with the experts.

Bid	Awarded	Expert no.
5NT	10	6
5♠	9	5
6♠	9	5
5♦	8	3
4♠	5	1
4♥	0	0
4NT	0	0

If you selected 5NT, then you are in good company with Larry Cohen and others. If you did not make the top scoring bid, do not worry, you are not alone! There is always next month to improve.

The experts provide comments on their selection on the website. It is an instructive and rewarding exercise to fine tune your thinking.

To access the competition, go to <https://realbridge.online/bidding-contest>. Get your answers in before the end of each month to have your bidding recognised.

NSBC Australia Day Swiss Pairs 2025

By Rakesh Kumar

This RealBridge online tournament, hosted by the North Shore Bridge Club, was a resounding success for Patrick Jiang & Wieslaw Przewozniak, who won the Open section by a margin of almost 20 VPs! Ranjit & Raj Limaye were second, with Gary Lane & Leo Goorevich in third place. Patrick & Wieslaw won the Penline Open Swiss Pairs at the Sydney Spring Nationals last October, so while each of them has also won assorted other Sydney events with different partners, they are clearly a force to be reckoned with.

As I've mentioned before, Swiss Pairs rewards aggressive bidding, putting the defenders to the test. Conversely, it also rewards careful defence, which is the focus of this column. So to the problems ...

Firstly, the opponents are vulnerable and you are not. Your RHO opens 1C (2+ cards) and you pass. Your LHO raises to 3C, promising 6-9 hcp and 5+ clubs. RHO now converts to 3NT and you are on lead with this hand:

♠ K98
♥ 854
♦ AT74
♣ Q42

On inquiry you are told that RHO is likely to hold a balanced 18-19 hcp. What's your choice?

Secondly, with both sides vulnerable, partner opens 1D, RHO overcalls 1S, you raise

pre-emptively to 3D and LHO bids 3S, passed out. You lead a diamond and are greeted by this dummy:

	♠ 643
	♥ K8432
	♦ -
	♣ QJ643
♠ J52	
♥ 97	
♦ T9732	
♣ AT8	

Declarer ruffs the opening lead as partner plays ♦A, clearly signalling for hearts and presumably showing ♥AQ. Now a small club is led from the table to declarer's king. You win with the ace. What next?

And thirdly, once again with only the opponents vulnerable, RHO opens 1H. LHO responds 1S, RHO rebids 2D and LHO jumps to 3NT. Partner leads ♣K, dummy plays a low card and it's your turn. What will you do?

♠ J8	
♥ AT732	
♦ AQ92	
♣ 63	
	♠ 97
	♥ KJ86
	♦ 74
	♣ T9874

On the first problem, obviously you are not going to lead a club. A low spade might just find declarer with the ace-queen so you need to choose a red suit. As a lead away from ♦A might also be a gift to declarer, a lead such as ♥8 could have less risk. And so it was – the full deal is below. You are East.

BD: 9 **Dir: N**
Vul: E-W

♠ QT43
♥ AQJ3
♦ K2
♣ AK3

♠ AJ62
♥ T762
♦ J953
♣ 8

♠ K98
♥ 854
♦ AT74
♣ Q42

♠ 75
♥ K9
♦ Q86
♣ JT9765

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	3	1	2	1	2	19
S	3	-	2	1	2	6 9
E	-	-	-	-	-	6
W	-	-	-	-	-	

On a diamond lead, which was the usual choice, 3NT rolled home. On a passive heart lead it can be defeated, because this gives declarer nothing that wasn't his already. However, only one defender led a top-of-nothing heart. Note that the unappealing spade lead can also beat the contract, provided East can then find the shift to a diamond.

Paying attention to partner's signals and then following them is an important component of successful defence. However, signals provide information and are suggestions about possible lines of defence – they are not commands. Sometimes it's a good idea to think first, then do what ought to be to your side's greatest advantage rather than just obeying the signal. Ask yourself – where are declarer's tricks coming from? He must have at least one more diamond, probably two, so cutting

down on ruffs in dummy should take priority over trying to get a ruff yourself – lead a trump! This was the full deal:

BD: 10 **Dir: E**
Vul: All

♠ 643
♥ K8432
♦
♣ QJ643

♠ J52
♥ 97
♦ T9732
♣ AT8

♠ Q8
♥ AQT5
♦ AKQJ4
♣ 52

♠ AKT97
♥ J6
♦ 865
♣ K97

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	2	-	-	1	-	6
S	2	-	-	1	-	5 18
E	-	4	-	-	3	11
W	-	4	-	-	3	

It's possible to beat the contract after a heart to partner's queen, but only if partner now switches to a trump. Otherwise after cashing ♥A, if he gives you a ruff rather than returning ♠Q, that's the end of the story – trumps can be drawn in two rounds, then dummy's clubs and the heart king are winners. Again, only one defender found the trump shift against a spade contract – most declarers made 9 tricks. Note that it's very difficult for East to bid to 4D in this auction, while the double-dummy result of two down in 3S requires West not to lead a diamond.

And so to the third problem. Partner has led the unbid suit, hoping to find you with length. He presumably has ♣Q, while

declarer is likely to have the ace. The important question is – who has ♣J? You can't tell, but it's your job to let partner know what you have. So your card to trick 1 should be ♣10, promising ♣9 but denying the jack. Partner will now switch. Otherwise when declarer ducks the opening lead, he might continue clubs into declarer's ♣AJ. That will be that, as this was the full deal, now in its correct orientation:

BD: 48 ♠97 **Dir: W**
 ♥KJ86 **Vul: E-W**
 ♦74
 ♣T9874

♠J8	N	♠KT432
♥AT732	W	♥Q4
♦AQ92	E	♦KJT
♣63	S	♣AJ2

♠AQ65
 ♥95
 ♦8653
 ♣KQ5

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	1	-	-	-	-	4
S	1	-	-	-	-	11 14
E	-	3	2	2	2	11
W	-	2	2	2	2	

There's a good reason they say that defence is the hardest part of the game!

Avoiding a suicide squeeze

By Alan Stoneham (Youth)

The deal below comes from Round 8 of the recent South West Pacific Teams (SWPT). I am South playing with Mitch Dowling as

North and the hand demonstrates the need to look after one's self when playing bridge. We hold the following:

- ♠ KT73
- ♥ T43
- ♦ KQ64
- ♣ Q6

West is dealer with all vulnerable and opens 1♠. Partner overcalls 2♣, so they should have a decent hand, East passes and we have an easy 2NT bid. West has no more to say and passes, partner bids 3♠, East passes and we bid 3NT ending the auction.

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♣	Pass	2NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3♠ ⁽²⁾	Pass	3NT ⁽³⁾
All Pass			

(1) 10-12 balanced with a spade stopper.

(2) Are you sure? (3) Yes.

I wasn't entirely sure what the 3♠ bid meant, but at the table I interpreted it as some kind of quality check of my stopper. With king-ten-four and the spade bidder on lead, I was very happy to play 3NT. Otherwise, if partner really was interested in slam, I'm sure they could conjure up another bid. The ♠5 is led from West and dummy is tabled:

- ♠ 86
- ♥ KQ6
- ♦ T
- ♣ AKJ8753

- ♠ KT73
- ♥ T43
- ♦ KQ64
- ♣ Q6

Despite 23HCP, 3NT looks quite comfortable with seven club tricks and a spade trick

from the lead, leaving us with needing to build just one more trick, which easily could come from either red suit, or potentially a second spade. We just need to be careful not to let the opponents score two red aces and three (or more) spades.

We call for a low spade from dummy and the jack pops up on the right. Ducking this is nonsensical, so we win and start thinking about what to do next. Set up a red king? Run some clubs?

The opponents have 17HCP, and we can place West with at least 11 of them, so there is room for East to have a red ace. If they do have a red ace and another spade, it could be all over, so we try to run some clubs looking for helpful discards. Maybe West will discard two spades, or East will discard their last spade. The ♣Q hits the table as both opponents chuckle and sigh at the imminent torture of finding discards.

We play five rounds of clubs discarding from hand the two red 4s and the ♦6, West discarding the ♠4, ♥7, ♦9 and ♥2, and East discarding the ♠2 and ♥5.

The cards remaining are:

- ♠ 8
- ♥ KQ6
- ♦ T
- ♣ 53

- ♠ T73
- ♥ T3
- ♦ KQ
- ♣ -

The sight of East discarding their last spade is very welcome and the contract is safe, but I hope you weren't thinking of running any many more clubs!

If we play one more club, what will we discard? A spade or a diamond is out of the question, which leaves us with a heart discard. However, discarding a heart means we will have no entry to dummy after knocking out the ♥A! Even worse is playing both remaining clubs and discarding two hearts since the next heart trick will squeeze us in spades and diamonds!

So we show some foresight and call for the ♥K to set up our ninth trick without squeezing ourselves. If this is ducked by the opponents, we can just take our clubs. On the actual hand, West won the ace, cashed out their two top spades and ♦A but then had to let us back in. With a heart still in our hand, we have more top cards than tricks available. Meanwhile, our teammates, for some reason, were in 3♥E-1 for +11 IMPs!

The full deal is below:

SWPT R8 Board: 20 Dir: W Vul: All	♠ 86 ♥ KQ6 ♦ T ♣ AKJ8753										
♠ AQ954 ♥ A72 ♦ AJ95 ♣ 4	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J2 ♥ J985 ♦ 8732 ♣ T92
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ KT73 ♥ T43 ♦ KQ64 ♣ Q6										

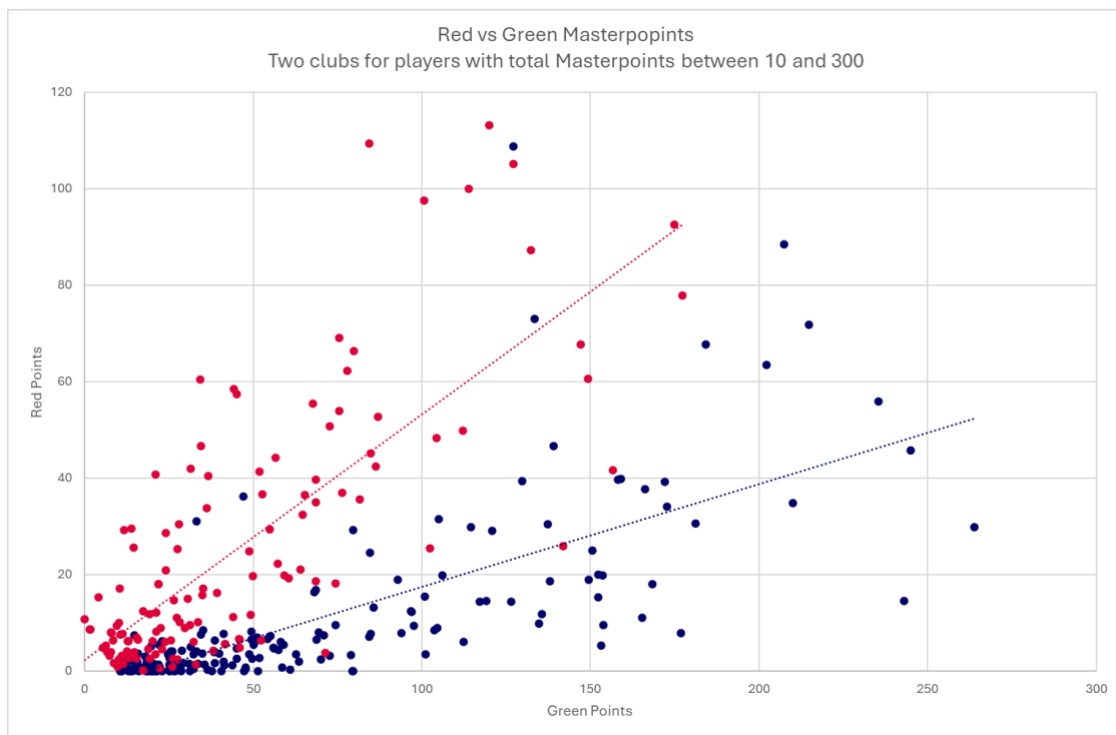
It turns out that we can just set up a red king at trick two since West has both red aces, but it doesn't hurt to run some clubs first and possibly get that reassuring spade discard from East so long as you look after yourself.

Those elusive red points

By Dave Havyatt

Have you ever wondered why it is that some people have a lot more red points compared to their green points than others? One reason is the opportunities provided by clubs for their members to earn red points at sessions run by the club.

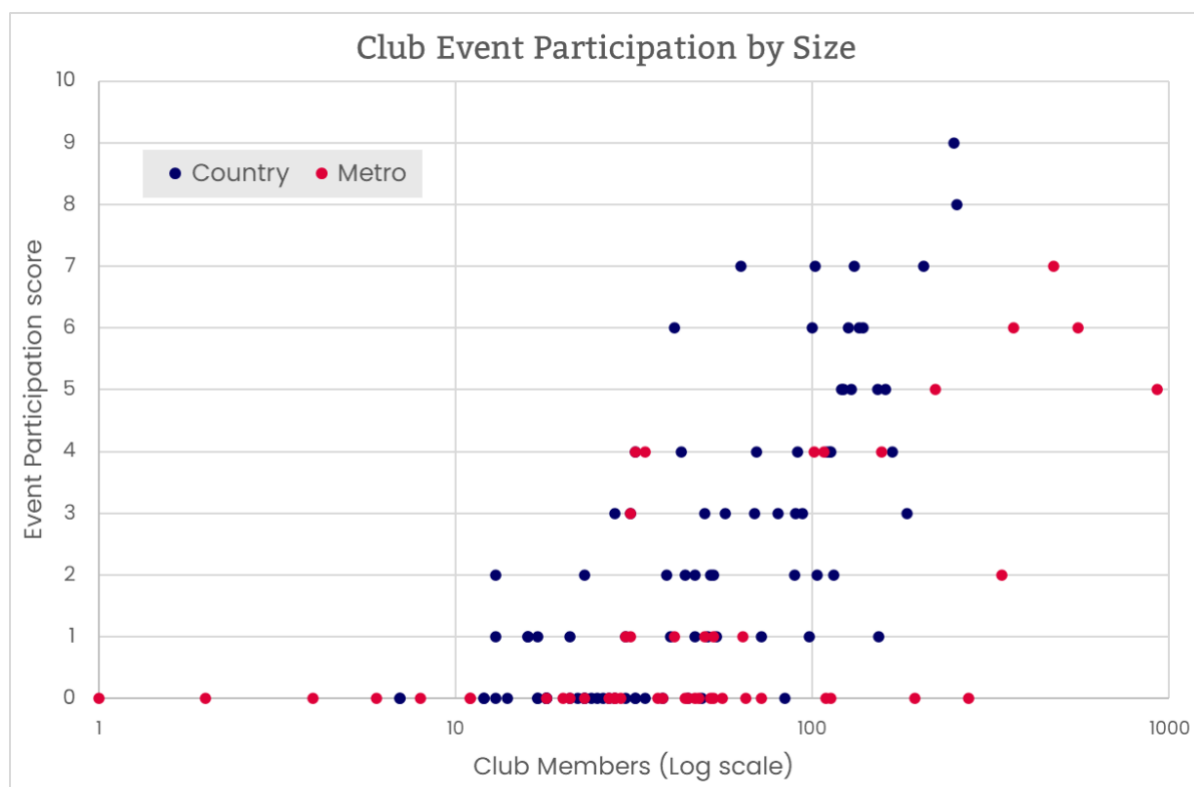
The chart below shows the relationship between red and green points for members of two clubs, with the two colours distinguishing the members of the two clubs. These are players with total masterpoints between 10 and 300. The players at the club shown by the red dots generally have more red points per green point than the club shown by the blue dots. You see this more clearly looking at the trend lines that have been included.



Both clubs have about the same number of B4c sessions they can run. The big difference is club participation in events that provide for the award of red points for sessions played at the club.

The extent to which clubs participate in these events is shown in the next chart. This chart shows an "event participation score" for each club and the clubs have been mapped by club size (number of home club members) on a logarithmic scale (to unbunch the smaller clubs). The colour of the dot shows whether this is a country or a metropolitan club.

One immediate observation is that country clubs participate far more than city clubs. The second is that bigger clubs do participate in more events but there are many quite sizeable clubs not giving their members opportunities to play in additional competitions. The two clubs chosen for the chart above are one from the highest participation levels and the other with no participation.



The club participation score awards one point for each of the following club activities;

1. A point if the [club hosts a congress](#)
2. A point if the club participates in any of the fortnightly [Nationwide Pairs](#) events
3. A point if the club participated in at least one of the [Australia Wide Pairs](#) events
4. A point if the club participated in the Statewide Pairs event
5. A point if the club held a qualifying event for the [State Mixed Pairs](#)
6. A point if the club held a qualifying event for the [State Open Pairs \(incorporating Country Pairs\)](#)
7. A point if the club held a qualifying event for the [State Open Teams \(incorporating Country Teams\)](#)
8. A point if the club participated in the Under a Hundred Masterpoints (UHMP) event
9. A point if the club participated in the [GNOT](#) (either a qualifying event or sending a team to the regional final)
10. A point if the club had any team play in the National Teams Knockout

Clubs have just been invited to participate in the State Mixed Pairs, State Open Pairs, and State Open Teams. Even if your club has already developed its schedule, any of the State

Championship Club Qualifying Events can substitute for ordinary duplicate sessions (IMPs pairs can be used to qualify for the teams).

If you are interested in having any of these events played at your club speak to your committee. If you are on a club committee or a club tournament committee and are after assistance in running a qualifying event just contact Bridge NSW at office@bridgensw.com.au or by phone to 0477 52 52 52.

Other news (advertorial)

End of an era: The Bridge Shop closes

After more than five decades serving the Australian bridge community, [The Bridge Shop](#) will soon close its doors for the last time. Owner Nick Fahrer has made the bittersweet decision to retire, bringing an end to an iconic retailing institution on Sydney's North Shore.

Since 1974, The Bridge Shop has been the go-to place for bridge players across Australia. When Nick took over in 1998, it was a welcome sea change from corporate life - an opportunity to turn his passion into a profession.

"It's been a real privilege to work in an area and within a community that I love," Nick says.

For many years The Bridge Shop has been a valued sponsor of congresses across Australia and supplied book prizes and gift vouchers to winners.

The good news for bridge players is that the game will go on, and so will access to quality bridge supplies. Nick has arranged for other local retailers to take over his stock, ensuring players across NSW and beyond can still find everything they need.

Already a treasure trove of books and bridge essentials, [Paul Lavings Bridgegear](#) will soon offer an even wider range. Meanwhile, [Duplimate Australia](#) will continue selling The Bridge Shop's popular boards and playing cards.

As a parting gift, The Bridge Shop is offering massive discounts before closing, including 40-75% off books, software, and the largest range of bridge-themed giftware you've ever seen. But hurry—the sale ends March 31! Visit [The Bridge Shop](#) online.

As for Nick? Expect to see more of him at the bridge table - or perhaps on the pickleball court, where his latest passion (obsession?) is keeping him on his toes.

Upcoming events

The following pages are flyers for forthcoming events and courses. The deadline for flyers to be received is the **second last Friday of each month**. Flyers must be a single A4 page and should be for events and courses in the following two months. To have your flyer included in the next issue, please send it to bridging@bridgensw.com.au.



BRIDGE DIRECTING WORKSHOP **11th March, Maitland BC**

Want to become a director or update your directing skills?



- **With John McIlrath, a National Grade 1 Director & Chair of Directing Cmte, Bridge NSW**
- **Tuesday 11th March, Maitland Bridge Club, 12-16 Wallace Street, South Maitland**
- **10am - 3:30pm (arrive 9:45am)**
- **Fee: \$20 per person (incl morning tea and light lunch)**

Register and pay by 4 March.
Add your name to Maitland BC's Director Training Whiteboard [HERE](#)

Curriculum for training (available for purchase on the day)

Laws 1: Common laws, which a Director should be able to do without opening the law book: Lead out of turn, Revoke, Insufficient bid, Law definitions - Played cards (declarer, defenders, dummy), Comparable Calls, Unintended calls, Calls out of rotation, Duties of the director, Penalty cards, Missing cards and incorrect number of cards, Play of wrong board Dummy's rights and obligations.

Movements 1: Mitchell movements – Odd tables, Even tables with skip (including Revenge rounds), Even tables, bye-stand and share, Howell Movements - Full Howells, Three quarter (reduced)

Scoring and Technology 1: Scoring & Bridgemates

The Armidale Bridge Club Pairs Congress 2025

Saturday 15 March

10.00am Registration

10:15am First session

Lunch provided

Second session

Sunday 16 March

9.00am Third Session

Lunch provided

Fourth session

4:30pm Presentation of prizes, light snacks,
& drinks at the end of play

Entries close 12th March 2025

Maximum tables = 18

Matchpoint scoring with Swiss movement.

No yellow systems.

... [Click here for online entries](#) ...

For enquiries or more information contact
Ian Price 0432 153 294 or priceshdc@gmail.com

Entry Fee:

\$110 per person

Payment Options:

Payment by EFT is preferred. However, payment by card or cash will be available on the day.

EFT details:

BSB: 637 000

Account Number: 718 449 871

Reference: Surname + ABF number,
e.g. Smith55396

Cheques should be made payable to
'The Armidale Bridge Club'

Prizes

Prizes will depend on the number of entries. If sufficient entries, cash prizes will be awarded to place getters and there will be Restricted and Novice categories. Wine prizes are also usually provided.



<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/2299>

Ian Price: 0432153294 or priceshdc@gmail.com.



**Bridge
NSW**



**Armidale
BRIDGE CLUB**

BRIDGE DIRECTING WORKSHOP 14th March @ Armidale BC

Want to become a director or update your directing skills?



- **With John McIlrath, a National Grade 1 Director & Chair of Directing Cmte, Bridge NSW**
- **Friday 14th March, Armidale Bridge Club, 12 Rockvale Road**
- **10am - 2pm (arrive 9:45am)**
- **FREE entry (morning tea and light lunch will be provided)**

Register by 7th March

By contacting Glenda Parmenter

(glendaparmenter4@gmail.com, 0414 937 891)

Curriculum for training (available for purchase on the day)

Laws 1: Common laws, which a Director should be able to do without opening the law book: Lead out of turn, Revoke, Insufficient bid, Law definitions - Played cards (declarer, defenders, dummy), Comparable Calls, Unintended calls, Calls out of rotation, Duties of the director, Penalty cards, Missing cards and incorrect number of cards, Play of wrong board Dummy's rights and obligations.

Movements 1: Mitchell movements – Odd tables, Even tables with skip (including Revenge rounds), Even tables, bye-stand and share, Howell Movements - Full Howells, Three quarter (reduced)

Scoring and Technology 1: Scoring & Bridgemates

MANY MANY DOUBLES

Improving with

John Newman



MANY MANY DOUBLES

Winning players use takeout doubles all the time. They're flexible and they help you locate major suit fits when bidding space is cramped.



PENALTY OR TAKEOUT?

Which doubles are penalty? We will answer these questions. Your partnership can adopt simple rules to clarify which doubles are for penalty.

SHOULD YOU DOUBLE?

When is it more practical to bid a suit rather than double? Learn some new takeout doubles spots to make your auctions simpler.



1PM - 3PM
East Lindfield
Visitors welcome
Book via website



CENTRAL COAST BRIDGE CLUB LONG JETTY

INVITES YOU TO OUR

49TH ANNUAL SUPER CONGRESS

22ND & 23RD March 2025



Saturday 22nd March 2025

8.30am for 9.30am start

Swiss Pairs	Three Divisions	\$60 per person
PRIZES (dependent on entry numbers)		
OPEN	First \$300 2 ND \$200 3 RD \$100	
RESTRICTED	First \$250 2 ND \$150 3 RD \$100	
NOVICE	First \$200 2 ND \$100 3 RD \$50	

Sunday 23rd March 2025

8.30am for 9.30am start

Swiss Teams	Three Divisions	\$240 per team
PRIZES (dependent on entry numbers)		
OPEN	First \$600 2 ND \$300 3 RD \$200	
RESTRICTED	First \$500 2 ND \$300 3 RD \$200	
NOVICE	First \$400 2 ND \$200 3 RD \$100	

REGISTRATION via myABF, PAYMENT by EFTPOS and Credit Card on the day

Drinks and presentation of cash prizes at the end of each day.

[DELICIOUS LIGHT LUNCH WITH FRUIT PLATTER \(PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS\)](#)

Tea, coffee, water and snacks available all day.

All players are subject to the NSWBA's Congress Disciplinary Regulations. The event is conducted under the auspices of the NSW Bridge Association. The ABF has approved the issue of Red Masterpoints Level B4. Novice players must have less than 100 Master Points, Restricted players less than 300 Master Points, as of 28 February 2025. (No yellow systems are permitted and brown systems are permitted but not when playing against Novice players)

Director: Alan Bustany

Convenor Maree Kelly 0490048962

Email ccbridgeclub@gmail.com

Long Jetty Bridge Club, 415 The Entrance Rd , Long Jetty NSW 2261

Variety of choices for accommodation and restaurants that surround our beautiful waterway.

[ENJOY A WONDERFUL EVENT AT OUR NEW BEAUTIFUL CLUB HOUSE](#)

www.facebook.com/CentralCoastBridgeClub



REVERSES & AWKWARD BIDS

with Jamie Thompson

Australian representative and NSBC Director

REVERSES

Never heard of it! Don't know when to use it, learn how and when in the lesson



AWKWARD

1C Pass 1H Pass and now what do you say? You don't like lying to partner, but



AKx
X
KQxx
Kxxxx

FRIDAY



1PM - 3PM
East Lindfield
Visitors welcome
Book via website



Stratified Pairs

5 x Saturdays in March

Just turn up and play

your best 3 out of 5 scores will count
4 Divisions, everyone's invited!

Played over 2 venues

Prizes for 4 Divisions

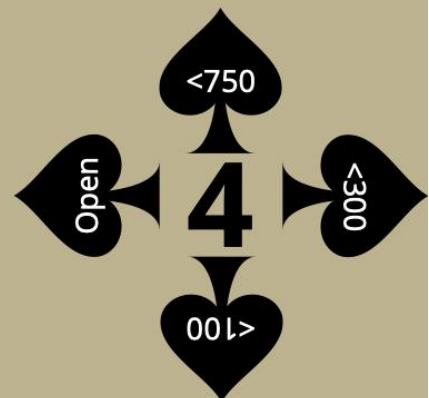
East Lindfield

Starts at 1pm

or

Online

Starts at 1:30pm



BROADEN YOUR GAME

with Anita Curtis

BIDDING

Improve your bidding judgement.

13th Feb at 9:30am

DEFENCE

Get some easy tip that will make a huge difference to your defence.

20th Feb at 9:30am

4TH SUIT FORCING

Practise 4SF including inferences that will help your bidding

27th Feb at 9:30am

HAND ANALYSIS

8 hands to bid, play and defend. All levels

6th Mar at 9:30am

STEP UP OVER THEIR 1NT

How to show both majors after Opps open 1NT

13th Mar at 9:30am

PLAY WITH FINESSE

fine tune your finessing technique at intermediate level.

27th Mar at 9:30am

**Online 2 hour lessons + Notes + Recording
\$17 - Members | \$20 Visitors | Booking Essential
Email Anita to book : ac210927@bigpond.net.au**

Sunday 6th April 2025
@ East Lindfield
2 x sessions 10am Start

THE PAULINE EVANS CONGRESS

Swiss Pairs

**\$55 per
person
Incl. Lunch
& Snacks**

**SCAN
ME!**





CWF

FREE BRIDGE LAWS DISCUSSION **Friday 11th April, Central West Festival**

Learn more about player laws and improve your game and results!



- **With John McIlrath, a National Grade 1 Director & Chair of Directing Cmte, Bridge NSW**
- **Friday 11th April, Orange Ex Services Club, 231-243 Anson St, Orange**
- **Lunchtime (between matches 9 and 10)**
- **FREE entry**

Topics will include (time permitting):

- Effective use of Penalty cards
- Insufficient bids
- When is a card played?
- Revokes
- Withdrawn Calls
- Correction of wrong explanations
- Dummy's rights and duties
- Playing from the wrong hand
- Opening leads (and preventing them)



Visit Adelaide for the
2025 Autumn Nationals

Thursday 1st May - Monday 5th May 2025

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

**Gold Masterpoints awarded
PQPs in Open and Mixed events**

David Lusk Rookie Butler Swiss Pairs

Butler Swiss Pairs (Open, Mixed, Under Life, Under Grand)

Swiss Teams (Open, Under Life, Under Grand)

Final only on Monday - no Consolation

Tournament Organiser: Barbara Travis


Phone: 0437 919 928 | **Email:** anot@sabf.asn.au

To enter or for more information, see MyABF





Peninsula Bridge Club
9/5 Vuko place
Warriewood

Peninsula  Special  Congress
Saturday 3rd May - Swiss Pairs
Sunday 4th May - Teams

- Director – Ronnie Ng.
- Enquiries to the Convener - Vivien Eldridge-0407 206 105,
- Entry PER EVENT - \$50 per person
- Includes morning tea, lunch and anytime tea and coffee plus wine/beer at the end of the day.
- Enter on MYABF.
- Masterpoints are as at 1st April 2025 and are PER PLAYER.



Saturday Pairs Congress

- **OPEN – SWISS PAIRS**
 - 2 Sessions, 7 matches
 - No yellow systems permitted
 - PRIZES – 1st \$200, 2nd \$100.
- **RESTRICTED - SWISS PAIRS**
 - Under 300mps
 - 2 Sessions – 7 matches
 - Green and Red systems only
 - PRIZES – 1st \$100. 1st <100mp \$100.



Sunday Teams Congress

- **OPEN**
 - 2 Sessions, 7 matches
 - No yellow systems permitted
 - PRIZES – 1st \$400, 2nd \$200.
- **RESTRICTED – UNDER 300**
 - Under 300mps
 - 2 Sessions – 7 matches
 - Green and Red systems only
 - PRIZES – 1st \$200, 2nd \$100.

Parking is available in Vuko Place. The B1 B-line and 199 bus stop is 5 minutes walk.

If you have special needs in accessing the clubhouse, please contact the convener as we can arrange for level access.

Conducted under the auspices of the NSW Bridge Association. The Australian Bridge Federation has approved the issue of red masterpoints at level B4. All players are subject to the NSWBA's Congress Disciplinary Regulations

MORGANS FINANCIAL

Open Swiss Pairs



THURSDAY NIGHTS AT 7PM

- **Substitutes permitted**
- **Runs for 5 weeks**
- **Online using Realbridge**
- **Visitors welcome**



SCAN ME

MORGANS FINANCIAL

Intermediate Swiss Pairs



THURSDAY NIGHTS AT 7PM

- **Substitutes permitted**
- **Runs for 5 weeks**
- **Online using Realbridge**
- **Visitors welcome**
- **Prizes for best Rookie Pair**
- **Prizes for best Restricted Pair**
- **Prizes for overall winners**



SCAN ME



Invites you to the
46th Annual Congress
at Wagga Wagga RSL Club
30 Dobbs St, Wagga Wagga ♠ 026923700
on
Saturday and Sunday 24th-25th May 2025

Director: Daryl Whitfield

Convenor: John Currie
jcurrie1947@gmail.com; 0418694751

Online entry: www.myabf.com.au/go/wwcong

♣ Entries close: 20th May ♣

Congress conducted under the auspices of Bridge NSW with that body's terms and conditions to apply.

Please bring your system card. No yellow system permitted.