

Pre-Event Bulletin

Friday October 17th

2026 Spring Nationals From The Convenor

🌸 Welcome to the 38th Spring Nationals!

We're so glad you're here.

Whether you've travelled across the country or just across town, thank you for being part of this special celebration of bridge, community, and connection. The Spring Nationals are more than just a tournament—they're a chance to share stories, make memories, and enjoy the game we all love. Over the coming days, we hope you'll feel the buzz of great competition, the warmth of old friendships, and the joy of new ones. From the first deal to the final handshake, we're here to make sure you feel right at home.

💬 Have a question or need a hand? Swing by the Convenor Corner—we're here to help with anything from schedules to smiles.

🛍️ And when you have a little time, please check out our vendor tables and take a moment to read about the trophy namesakes—each one tells a story worth remembering.

Let's make this one unforgettable. **Welcome to SN25!**

Shannon
Queree

Shannon celebrating reaching 100 Masterpoints with sweet treats in the shape of 100!

This should be a compulsory tradition for all Masterpoint rank graduations.



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Some Details

We will be producing some Bulletins, but not every day. They will come out on the evenings of **Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday** and will contain all the results of the events at those stages.

If you have any interesting stories or hands that you want to pass on, see Will Jenner-O'Shea (or text 0415 181 901)



There are 18 different events, for players of all levels. Entries are still open for the events later in the week, or contact the organisers to enter or offer to be a fill-in.

 This venue is cash free.

  Free self-serve tea and coffee facility will be available in the playing area. Free water fountains also in the playing area.

 Lunch may be ordered, with three menu options rotating daily. In addition, a cafeteria will be open for the purchase of pies, sausage rolls, cakes and espresso coffee. However, you are able to bring your own.

 Play will finish around 5:30pm on the first Saturday and Sunday (18th & 19th) and around 6pm on each other day.

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About the Convenor – Shannon Queree

I'm a proud member of Parramatta Bridge Club and currently a Bronze National Master—slowly but surely inching toward Silver after nearly 30 years as a “novice”! My bridge journey began in the early 1990s under Fay Mansfield, and I was lucky to be mentored by Olive Grant from Penrith. Olive also partnered me in my very first congress—an experience so intense it gave me my only sporting injury: a sprained hand from clutching the cards too tightly!

Life, work, and raising a family meant my bridge was on-again, off-again for many years. But recently, I've been playing more regularly and loving the congress scene. My first big congress was the Gold Coast before COVID—an unforgettable experience with our team “Bridge Wars,” where I played as Hearts Solo alongside Chewclubba, Darth Spader, and Obi Wan kNT. We just missed the Novice finals, but it remains a highlight.

Now, I find myself leading the Sydney Spring Nationals 2025 as Tournament Organiser. What started as an offer to help with “a bit of admin” has turned into coordinating a fantastic team to deliver this event. I'm especially passionate about making restricted and novice players feel welcome and supported.

Professionally, I've spent over three decades in records and information management across government, utilities, and education. I currently serve as Manager, Records Management at the NSW Department of Education.

I grew up in Blacktown in Sydney's western suburbs and spent many years in scouts and guides. I've been married for 30 years to a very reasonable husband who lets me play as much bridge as I want, and we have three adult children. I enjoy reading, family history, and binge-watching crime shows. I'm not big on birthdays, but my family loves celebrating my bridge milestones—especially when I level up in rank. I've taken the directors course twice, completed teacher training with Joan Butts, and I'm proud to be part of this vibrant, welcoming bridge community.



Don't forget to stop and say hello, and I look forward to welcoming everyone to Spring Nationals. Whether you're a seasoned competitor or attending your very first congress, I hope you find the event enjoyable, friendly, and full of great memories. Let's make it a celebration of everything we love about bridge—competition, camaraderie, and community.



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The Events, Formats and Times

Saturday 18 Oct and Sunday 19 Oct

- 10am & 2pm: TBIB Open Teams Qualifying
- 10am & 2pm: Intermediate, Restricted, Novice Teams

Monday 20 Oct

Later Start Time Mon-Fri

- 9am: Mini Monday
- 10:30am & 2:30pm: TBIB Open Teams events all streams
- 10:30am & 2:30pm: Over and Under 300 Matchpoint Pairs

Tuesday 21 Oct

- 10:30am & 2:30pm: TBIB Open Teams events all streams
- 10:30am & 2:30pm: Over and Under 300 Matchpoint Pairs

Wednesday 22 Oct

- 10:30am & 2:30pm: TBIB Open events all streams
- 10:30am & 2:30pm: Over and Under 300 Matchpoint Pairs

Thursday 23 Oct

- 9:30am & 2pm: TBIB Open Championship Final
- 10:30am & 2:30pm: Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams
- 10:30am & 2:30pm: Butler Swiss Pairs: Open, Intermediate, Restricted, Novice

Friday 24 Oct

- 10:30am & 2:30pm: Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams
- 10:30am & 2:30pm: Butler Swiss Pairs – Open, Intermediate, Restricted, Novice

Saturday 25 Oct

Earlier Start Time: 10am

- 9:30am & 2pm: Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams – Semi-Final
- 10am & 2pm: Dick Cummings Open Pairs (Gerda Stern Mixed Pairs)
- 10am & 2pm: Intermediate. Restricted, Novice Matchpoint Pairs

Sunday 26 Oct

- 9:30am & 2pm: Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams – Final
- 10am & 2pm: Dick Cummings Open Pairs (Gerda Stern Mixed Pairs)
- 10am & 2pm: Intermediate. Restricted, Novice Matchpoint Pairs



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The New Teams Format for the Open Teams

Day 1 – Qualifying

The teams have been seeded into eight pools of six teams, and will play a Round Robin of 5 matches of 12 boards. At the end of Day 1 **all teams move into the Double Knockout Stage**, the **Top 2** teams in each pool (16 total) go in with **No Losses**, all other teams go into Day two with **One-loss**.

Sunday is 5 matches of 12 boards.

Each subsequent day is either 28 board matches (2 x 14) in the Championship and Plate, or longer 56 board matches for the top of the Championship.

If you want a 'change of scenery', you could decide to play the other pair after 14 boards of a 28-board match.

Day 2 – The Knockouts begin

All teams play two 28-board matches (2 sets of 14) against another team. If you win, you continue onwards towards winning the **Championship**.

Once you lose twice (remember that some teams “lost” once on Day 1), you drop from the **Championship** into the **Plate**.

Day 3 (Monday – **Reminder 10:30am start!**)

Four **No-Loss** teams start today, and they continue to play each other over two 28 board matches. By the end of Day 3, there will be one undefeated team who earns themselves a day off on Tuesday – they qualify straight into the Semi Final! The last team who loses goes into the Quarterfinal.

Teams who start today with **One-Loss** will continue to play other teams with One-Loss and at the end of today, there will be five teams with only **One-loss** and they will all move on to the **Quarter Finals**.

*Once a team has their second loss on Day 2 or 3, they drop into the **Plate**. The Plate has a further Knockout or Round Robin starting after lunch on Day 2, and running through Day 3.*

*The **Shield** begins on Monday after lunch and is a Swiss Teams of 14 board matches that losing teams drop into after other matches finish.*

The Shield is a 14-board Swiss Teams event.



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The New Teams Format for the Open Teams, continued ...

Day 4 (Tuesday) Quarter Finals for the Championship

The last undefeated team has Tuesday off – the forecast is nice beach weather. There will be 6 teams playing each other in a day-long 56 board match to determine three teams moving into the Semi-Finals, joined by the undefeated team from Day 3. The last knocked out team can choose their opponent, and the others are drawn randomly.

*A collection of 16 teams (5 knocked out of the Championship, 7 from the Plate KO rounds and 4 from the Plate Round Robin) form the **Plate Round of 16** and play a 28-board match in the morning. The winners play the **Plate Quarterfinal** in the afternoon (28 boards) and the rest join the **Shield** Swiss teams.*

Day 5 (Wednesday) Semi Finals for the Championship

The 4 remaining teams in the Championship play off in a 56 board Semi-Final, with the only undefeated team choosing their opponents – they will also be fresh from their day off of at the beach.

*There are 4 teams left in the **Plate** who play a **Semi-Final**, and then a **Final** and a **Third/Fourth playoff**.*

*All other teams are trying to win the **Shield**.*

Day 6 (Thursday) Final of the Championship

Two teams play each other to determine the first winner of the new format Double-Knockout Spring National Open Teams.

The rest of the field can watch them on battle it out on vugraph, but are also playing in a variety of new events that start on Thursday (The Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams, or a Butler Swiss Pairs at one of four masterpoint levels, Open, Intermediate, Restricted, or Novice).

There is a [video link here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj4_09Ya8v4) to Liam Milne and Pete Hollands discussing the new format.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj4_09Ya8v4

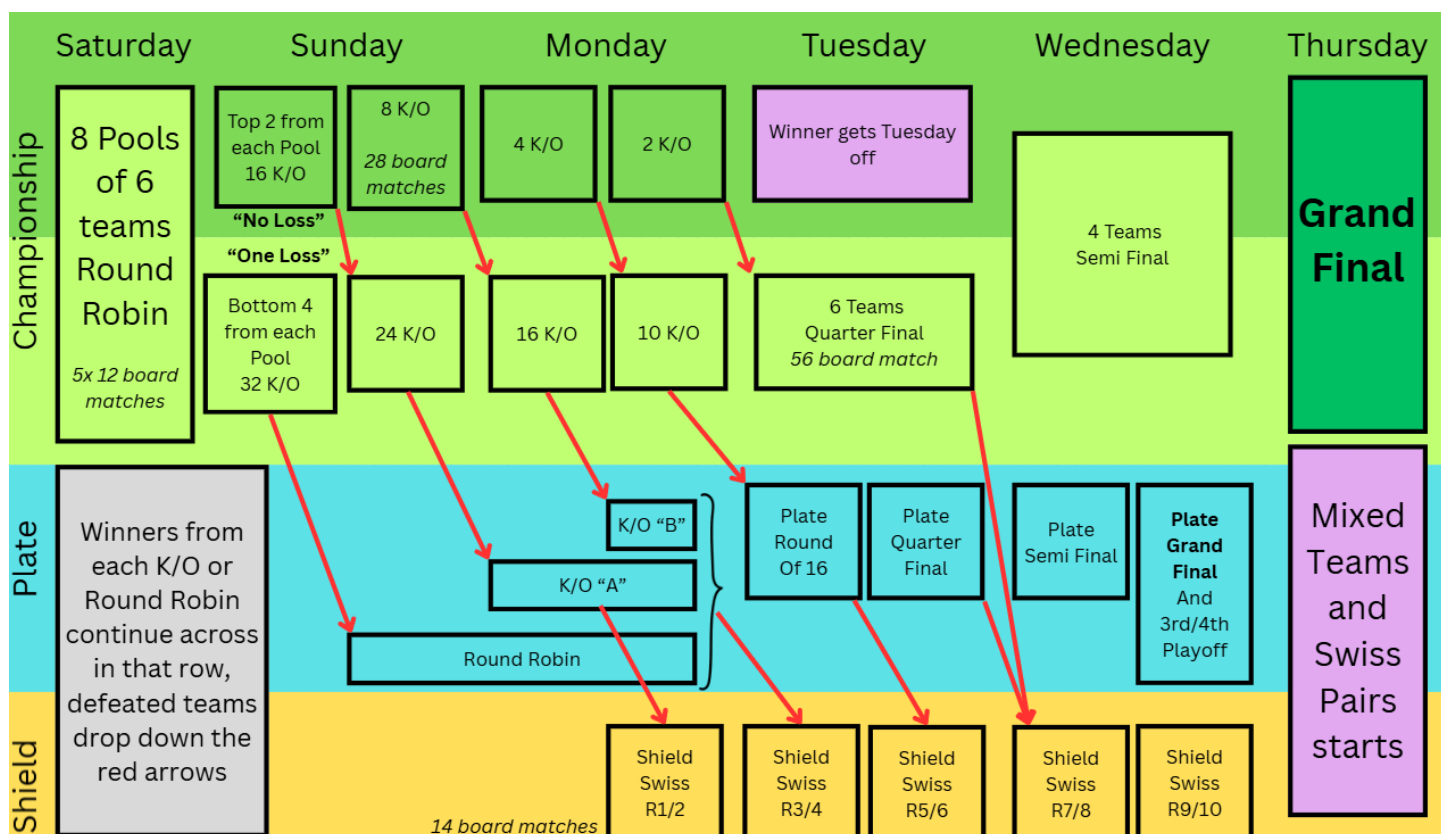
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Teams Pools for the TBIB Open Teams (Round Robin 5 x 12 board matches on Day 1)

#	Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
1	HUNG	MILL	KOZAKOS	GUMBY
2	BLOOM	TRAVIS	FOSTER	COX
3	COATS	CLIFFORD	CRANSBERG	RENNIE
4	CENDRAWASIH	HOFFMAN	ROCKS	HUGHES
5	KROCHMALIK	WATTS	LEIBO	EDGINTON
6	BARTOLI	SHARP	ASKEW	BODYCOTE

#	Pool E	Pool F	Pool G	Pool H
1	DALLEY	JACOB	MCCALLUM	MILNE
2	MUNDELL	BRIGHTLING	WILKINSON	WATKINS
3	3NT W/O STOPPER	SQUEEZE MY HAND	BOLT	CAMERON
4	MILWARD	CUSACK	GEDDES	SCUDDER
5	DEMARCO	ASSAEE	ELICH	IMMIGRATED
6	BUGEIA	DOWLING	TOBIN	6NT MAKING



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Last Years Results (2024)

Penline Swiss Pairs – Open: Wieslaw Przewozniak / Patrick Jiang

Penline Swiss Pairs – Intermediate: Rosemary Millar / Margaret Prentice

Penline Swiss Pairs – Restricted And Novice: Kathryn Stewart / Susan Feeney

Spring National Mixed Teams: Ashley Bach – Arlene Dalley – Paul Dalley – Barbara Travis

Gerda Stern Mixed Pairs: Giselle Mundell / Andrew Peake

Spring Nationals Matchpoint Pairs – Open: Daniela Von Arnim – Geeske Joel

Spring Nationals Matchpoint Pairs – Under 500: Richard Carter – Jay Novak

Bridgegear Intermediate Teams: Jenny Barnes – Kerry Rymer – Kit Meyers – Fiona Fawcett

Two Men And A Truck Restricted Teams: Julie Hamilton – John Fitzpatrick – Orsolina Aroney – Robyn Rogers

Dick Cummings Open Pairs: Nick Jacob / Paul Gosney

Spring National Intermediate Pairs: David De Bellis / Rodney Macey

Spring Nationals Novice Pairs: Julie Hamilton / John Fitzpatrick

TBIB Open Teams: Joachim Haffer – David Wiltshire – Sophie Ashton – Philip Markey

This team won the Spring Nationals Teams convincingly, and then less than a month later, won the Australian Teams Playoffs and was the Australian Open Team who represented Australia in the Bermuda Bowl in Denmark this year.

This pic is after their Playoffs win.



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Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams

Newly named in honour of bridge legends, Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer, running across four days.

Beloved multi-time Australian representatives Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer tick one more achievement off their list as the Sydney Spring Nationals hosts the inaugural Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams event.

Bridge NSW's Spring National Mixed Teams Event will from now on be called the Spring Nationals Gumby Lazer Mixed Teams event, in honour of Pauline Gumby's and Warren Lazer's decades of service to the bridge community.

The pair have lifetime free entry to their event, and were given \$500 each to go towards entry fees in 2025 as part of Bridge NSW's celebration of their service.

The acknowledgement was made at an ABF event in Canberra last night celebrating Pauline Gumby's achievement of becoming Australia's first Diamond Grand Master with over 15,000 masterpoints.

Warren, an Emerald Grand Master, is second to Pauline on the national all-time masterpoint list with nearly 13,600 MPs.

Decades of service

Both members of the Sydney Bridge Centre club have committed countless of volunteer hours to the NSW Bridge Association and Bridge NSW over the decades.

Pauline did an invaluable job running the old NSW Bridge Association website to perfection for 25 years. As calendar coordinator, she ensured the fair and equitable distribution of congresses and championships for decades. Another achievement was her co-creation with Matthew McManus of results presentation software that is still in use today.



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Warren initially joined the NSW Events/Tournament Committee and went on to chair it for many years. It was a momentous effort, with NSW events like Monday nights running like clockwork under Warren's watch. Warren also had a leadership role on the NSWBA Council.

Without their efforts and passion, bridge in NSW and Australia would not be what it is today.

Both Pauline and Warren oversaw the Bridge NSW transition from NSWBA. While they are no longer directly involved with Bridge NSW, they remain a treasured part of the Bridge NSW family.

Pauline started playing bridge in 1968 and qualified for her first Australian National Championships (ANC) in the Women's team in 1973.



Warren, a former NSW junior chess champion, started playing while studying at the University of Sydney and partnered with Peter Gill through the late eighties, representing the NSW team for the first time in 1987.

Their first tournament together was the ANC Butler Pairs in Brisbane in 1992. The partnership remained firm from 1995 onwards.

Pauline, who goes under the nickname of "Gumdrops", represented Australia twice in the Venice Cup and the Olympiad, and the formidable partnership donned on the green and gold for the

Bermuda Bowl and the Mixed World Championships. Last year, they won the national senior's championship (ANC) in Orange.

Both received lifetime membership of NSWBA (the former Bridge NSW): Warren in 1997 and Pauline in 2014. With the creation of Bridge NSW, lifetime memberships are now recognised in an Honour Roll.



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Congress brochure for new players

<https://bridgensw.com.au/congress-brochure-for-new-players/>

Bridge NSW has created a brand-new **Congress Tips Brochure** to help players who are new to congress play.

The foldable, pocket-sized brochure explains what to expect, how to prepare, and how to get the most out of your first congress. It's designed for players taking that exciting step from club sessions to state-level play – and for clubs to share with members who might be ready to give a congress a go.

Download the brochure by [clicking here](#).

Mini Monday

For the first time in the congress' history, a **Mini Monday** event is being held for players new to congresses to help demystify the congress experience.

It features a talk by Joan Butts, 28 boards of matches, lunch and expert review of play with John McIlrath – all for \$30 a head.

Vugrapgh

There will be BridgeBase Online Vugraph of the **Semi Final**, and the **Final** of the **Open Teams**. These will be played on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd.

There will also be Vugraph of the new **Gumby-Lazer Mixed Teams Semi Final** and **Final** on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th.

We are looking for Vugraph operators for those days, if you are interested or know anyone who would be, let us know.

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The Team

Chief Tournament Director: Matthew McManus

Floor Manager: John McIlrath

Directors: Ronnie Ng, John McIlrath, Jeff Carberry, Alan Bustany

Trainee Directors: Kelly Barber, Dave Havyatt, Bricet Kloren

Board Dealer: Ian Lisle

Mini Monday Speaker: Joan Butts

Bulletin: Will Jenner-O'Shea (prefer text 0415 181 901)

Reviewer: Laurie Kelso

Review Consultants: Stephen Fischer, Shane Harrison

On-site Rep: Liam Milne

Recorders: Dagmar Neumann. Marcia Scudder

BridgeNSW: Accounts team, Ben Falkenmire, Mitch Dowling, Jake Andrew

Special thanks: Kim Ellaway, Barbara Travis, David Fryda, Murray Paterson for helping with questions and process.

Lunch Order desk: Paul Weaver (Sun -Wed) **Wanted for Thu 23 – Sun 26**

Vugraph operators: **Needed on Wed 22, Thu 23, Sat 25, Sun 26**

House Teams and Pairs: **Are you free?**

Any days/session, let us know.

**Could this
be you?**

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Useful Conventions With Will

This article is aimed at less experienced tournament players, or club players who don't yet use this competitive bidding idea. The articles that will appear in the later Bulletins are for players of all levels.

Almost every player in the Open Events will already use a Jump raise of partner's suit in a competitive auction as some sort of **Weak Jump Raise** and not an invitational bid.

Here is an example auction:

W	N	E	S
1♥	(1♠)	3♥	

Here, East's 3♥ bid shows 4 trumps and is not inviting game. Some people play that it shows 5 – 9 points, some use a slightly different range, but everyone uses this bid to show 4+ trumps, and if you are Vulnerable, some shape.

The purpose of a **Weak Jump Raise** is to get in the way.

If South has a Spade fit, then will need to bid 3♠ just to compete. If they want to bid a new suit, the auction is already at the four-level. North-South have found their nine+ card fit, and are likely to win the

auction right away, and they have made it very hard if the opponent's do want to compete.

The obvious question then is how would East bid if they actually did want to invite game. The answer is to use **Cue Raises**.

If the Responder, or the Responder to an Overcaller cue bids the opponent's suit, it shows a fit and at least invitational points.

Here is an example Cue Raise auction:

W	N	E	S
1♥	(1♠)	2♠	

East's 2♠ bid is a cue bid of North's 1♠ overcall, and shows 3+ Hearts and 11+ points. It could be more than just an invite.

In response to the Cue Raise, West typically bids 3♥ to reject the invitation, or 4♥ and try to make it. Rarely, they will go looking for a slam, but sometimes they do have an incredible hand.

Note that even though 2♠ is an artificial convention, you don't alert any Cue bid.

Sydney Spring Nationals Sponsors



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ANC 2026



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Tasmanian Bridge Association Inc.

Robert Thompson

