



From the Editor

Addition to the Founders List

In the June issue of the Newsletter, we listed the founding members of the club who are still members. We unfortunately omitted Beverley Walker. Bev has not played at the club since the disruption caused by COVID. However, she has maintained her membership and still takes a keen interest in news from the club.

Errata

The editor neglected to include Carolyn Githens in the list of people to be thanked for the migration to MyABF for session payments.

Contributions

This month, we have received wonderful contributions from members. Grant Cowen has his first 'A Hand at the Club' column, and you are reminded to ask him about hands you would like to see included. Rob Kinloch has provided a report on the most recent Hi-Lo, and Paul Lavings has written a wonderful column about two club members under the heading 'Two Aces'.

Marie Pickering requested we include the Laws relevant to last issue's column on etiquette. We've included a copy of the Club Code of Conduct, which concludes by noting that members should be aware of their obligations under Laws 73 and 74.

Rilla England has kindly volunteered to coordinate a section of the newsletter to tell us more about the members of the club. She will be approaching members and asking if they would mind penning a few lines about themselves or providing time for Rilla to talk to them and draft something for them. Many members have requested that the newsletter include some personal bridge stories as well as just bridge analysis and results.

Management Committee

The Management Committee met on 9 August. As Marie said that day, they had a long meeting, but there was nothing to announce.

The Committee received the Congress Convenor's report for the very successful Chris Diment Congress. The Committee considered several items from Wollongong City Council relating to the Hall. Lorna O'Leary is filling the role of Assistant Secretary (but not on the Committee) to manage these communications, a task which has relieved the Secretary of some particularly onerous work.

The Committee has agreed to hire the Filipino hall for Tuesday night lessons to avoid disrupting the supervised play sessions.

Bridge NSW has advised that our applications for our Congresses next year have been successful. The IBA Swiss Pairs will be on 15 February, and the Chris Diment will be on 13 and 14 June.

Results

Past Presidents Cup and Shield

The event was held over two Wednesdays, 25 June and 2 July. It was again played as two single-winner sessions with the Cup awarded to the first-placed pair, Liz and Steve Hurley, and the Shield awarded to the second-placed pair, Pranati Basu and Michael Turner.



Congratulations to both pairs. Next year, the Tournament Committee will conduct the event. After the first week, the field will be divided into two divisions, and the second week will feature playoffs for the Cup and Shield in these divisions.

- 1st Steve Hurley, Liz Hurley
- 2nd Pranati Basu, Michael Turner
- 3rd Ian Lisle, Vicky Lisle
- 4th= Paul Lavings, Helen Lavings
- 4th= Sue Bochan, Lorna O'Leary

Tuesday Championship

Our Tuesday afternoon players held their championship on 22 and 29 July.

- 1st Jeff Carberry, Kaye Hart
- 2nd Martin Bunder, Bill Fotheringham
- 3rd Lyn Soldi, Ken Soldi

GNOT Qualifying

The GNOT Qualifying was played over two days – 26 July and 2 August, with 14 teams contesting. This is a great turnout and means we qualify for seven teams at the Regional Final on 31 August.

- 1st Paula Corbett, Sue Bochan, Martin Bunder, Bill Fotheringham
- 2nd Paul Lavings, Helen Lavings, Jeff Carberry, Kaye Hart, Dave Havyatt, Maggie Havyatt, Robert Kinloch
- 3rd Steve Szatmary, Grant Cowen, Liz Hurley, Stephen Hurley
- 4th Betty Pieters, Larry Regterschot, Philip Barker, Ngaire Meehan
- 5th Carol Kerr, Malcolm Kerr, Steve Dynan, Peter Graham
- 6th Manuel Lopes, B Rewers, Michael Turner, Pranati Basu
- 7th Sue Southern, David Higgins, Lynne Soldi, Ken Soldi, Erica Gray

ABF Knockout Teams

We have two teams competing in the Knockout teams. This event is played once a month, starting on 22 July. Our Under 50 Masterpoint team of Paula Corbett, Annette Lopez, Don Clark, and Julie Rollinson has got off to a flying start with two good wins. With only six entries, the director decided to play this as a round robin over the whole five weeks allocated for the event, playing each opponent twice over 12 boards.

As the Under 100 category had a disappointingly low registration, the Under 300 teams are playing with them in a round robin of 17 4-board matches. Our team of Shala Vogl, Phil Barker, Jill Macrae, and Julie Cowling are going to face some stiff opposition. In the first round, they played six matches, winning one and drawing one.

You can find the dates they are playing and a link to the results on MyABF here

<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/2905>

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Club Events

IBA Pairs Championship 23 and 30 August

Australia Wide Open Pairs 27 August

Wednesday Pairs Championship and State Open Pairs Qualifying 17 and 24 September

HI LO Report

By Rob Kinloch

A very successful HI LO was held on Saturday, 28 June. Congratulations to Jill MacRae, who did a wonderful job in pairing players to ensure all enjoyed their game.

HI-LOs were introduced many years ago as a means of encouraging newer players from supervised play and introductory lessons into the "big time". The abbreviations are supposed to differentiate those with High Masterpoints and those with Low (sometimes nil!) Masterpoints – the logic being that those with higher MPS are more experienced in the world of bridge and can offer the inexperienced some guidance.

The event was never really seen as a teaching tool where the HIs would lecture the LOs. It is intended as a way for newer members to see that those playing opposite them and against them were people like them! They loved the game of bridge!

Bridge can be a very intense and competitive game, but a bridge club can offer people so much more. I have always found that the Illawarra Bridge Association affords people a haven for hours of learning, enjoyment, mental stimulation, socialising, as well as an avenue for personal development, whether it be in mentoring, companionship, leadership, or a myriad of other roles.

So, I was particularly heartened to see so many of our better players deeply involved in the HI-LO event. The HI-LO is obviously not an event of intense competition, the environment in which the better players thrive. That they were willing to give up their time to help inexperienced players speaks volumes for them. We mere mortals often see them as a bridge too far (sorry for the awful pun). However, they once were in a similar position to the LOs – wondering where their next trick was coming from or which way to finesse! As a club, we are stronger because of our players' involvement in our wonderful game, and the IBA must be doing something right to entice them to join and continue playing.

It was also great to see players who not so long ago were on the LO side of the table now taking a mentoring role as a HI. While a bridge club can glory in the exploits of the mighty, it is the average player trying to better their last effort who is the heart and soul of bridge clubs – AND the IBA has a huge heart and soul!

WELL DONE EVERYBODY!

PS To all the "Newbies": I hope you enjoy your time at the IBA as much as I have!

Rob

The game of contract bridge creates more arguments than any other card game in history. I believe this is part of the game's fascination.

Charles Goren

Two Aces: Steve Hurley and Steve Szatmary

By Paul Lavings

IBA has some good players, but you may be surprised by just how good they are. We have at least two who figure prominently in the history of bridge in Australia.

Steve Hurley started bridge in the ACT as a junior and won five national youth titles in the 1980s. His partnership with Richard Hills was famous. They played the Solar System featuring Forcing Pass, where opening the bidding with a pass showed 14+ HCP. They used "Relays" where the stronger hand just bid one step higher, a relay, and partner described their whole hand bid by bid - their shape and after that, where their aces and kings were.

They played for ACT five times in the Youth at the Australian National Championships, spearheading ACT to wins in 1987, 1988 and 1989. The annual Australian National Championships (ANC) is many players' favourite event, since it gives them a chance to represent their state or territory against the other states. Nowadays, there are four categories: Open, Women, Senior and Youth (Under 25).

Steve and Richard Hills later donated the Hills-Hurley Trophy, which is awarded to encourage talented youth bridge players to form long-standing partnerships and to reward successful pairs.

Steve represented ACT at the ANC in the Open in 2000 and 2003. In 1996, he and Liz Hurley won the ACT Mixed Pairs. They also won the national Sitmar Pairs in the early 90s and came second in both the Swan River Swiss pairs and the Australian Mixed Teams.

The Hurleys moved to Brisbane in 1991, and Steve made the Queensland team with Bill Hunt in 1993. In 2013, he and Brad Coles represented NSW at the ANC.

They moved to the Illawarra in 2006. In 2025, Steve and Liz won the NSW Mixed Pairs, played over a weekend at the Sydney Bridge Centre. Steve has also served as an editor for the NSWBA Newsletter.

Recently, Steve had to play 4♠ as South at an IBA event:

Bd:	♠ 972	
Dlr::	♥ void	
Vul:	♦ QT9732	
	♣ AQ105	
♠ A105		♠ J4
♥ Q8762		♥ AKJ96
♦ J5		♦ J8
♣ K987		♣ J632
	♠ KQ863	
	♥ 10742	
	♦ AK5	
	♣ 4	

East opened 1♥, and Steve at South overcalled 1♠. West raised to 2♥, and Liz and Steve bid on to 4♠.

West led ♥3, and Steve saw that he would have to ruff. Then, with only two spades in dummy, leading a spade wouldn't work because of all his heart losers. So, he decided to ruff his hearts in dummy. After ruffing the heart lead, he crossed to ♦A, ruffed a heart, crossed to ♦K (pew) and ruffed a third heart.

Next, Steve played ♣A and ruffed a club to reach this position:

Bd: ♠ void
 Dlr: ♥ void
 Vul: ♦ QT 9 2
 ♣ Q 10

♠ A10 5 ♠ J 4
 ♥ Q ♥ K J
 ♦ void ♦ void
 ♣ K 9 ♣ J 6

 ♠ K Q 8 6
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 5
 ♣ void

Steve now played ♠K and West won ♠A and led ♥Q, overtaken, and East played the fifth heart. Steve ruffed low, and West overruffed. Now West had to play a club, and Steve ruffed and drew the two outstanding trumps with ♠Q to lose just two spades and a heart. Brilliantly played!



I first met Steve Szatmary in 1972 at the NSWBA in Elizabeth St, Sydney. Steve and his father, Les, were one of the top partnerships on a very strong Sydney scene. There were around 50 bridge clubs in Sydney, and most of them had a Sunday congress each year. They played in nearly all these congresses, consistently finishing first or second.

In 1982, Les and Steve made the NSW team for the ANC and outclassed South Australia on home ground in the final by 75 imps. They also made the NSW team in 1984, just missing out on the finals.

Steve was treasurer of NSWBA for 15 years in the 1970s and 80s, and his name is on the Honour Board for Life Members in the middle of the room:



Steve turned up at IBA around 6 years ago, and he and Grant Cowen have formed a formidable partnership.

Steve plays a mean game. Let's say you hold:

♠ 4
 ♥ AK 9 5 3
 ♦ AK Q 9 8
 ♣ J 9

Your LHO opens 2♠, indicating 5 spades and 4+ minor, and it goes pass-pass around to you. They are vulnerable, and you are not. What do you do?

Steve could see the vulnerability, and visualising the possibility that his partner had a spade stack, he doubled. Grant passed and 2♠X yielded 800, which was a 9 IMP gain compared to 3NT making at the other table. The full hand:

Dlr: S ♠ Q 8
 Vul: NS ♥ Q J 10 7 2
 ♦ 7 4 3 2
 ♣ 8 4
 ♠ A J 10 9 3 ♠ 4
 ♥ 8 ♥ A K 9 5 3
 ♦ 10 6 ♦ A K Q 9 8
 ♣ K 10 6 5 2 ♣ J 9
 ♠ K 7 6 5 2
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ J 5
 ♣ A Q 7 3

Most players would prefer to bid a Michaels 3♠ over 2♠, showing 5 hearts and 5+ minor or 3♥, but Steve's experience pointed him to the double. A great bid!

Steve Hurley and Steve Szatmary are teammates in many local events, and the team of Hurley-Hurley, Cowen-Szatmary nearly always finish on top.

Sydney Spring Nationals

The Sydney Spring Nationals at Canterbury Racecourse start on 18 October – full details at <https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/2592>. Check with your favourite partners or teammates and see if we can get a good contingent from IBA to our local Gold Point event. Competitions for all skill levels and formats.

There are three one-day (not Gold Point) events for Restricted Players.

	Sat 18	Sun 19	Mon 20	Tue 21	Wed 22	Thu 23	Fri 24	Sat 25	Sun 26
Open events	Open Teams Championship (Trophy)					Championship Final			
	Knockout to: Open Teams Plate Open Teams Shield					Gumby-Lazer Mix Teams Qualifying	GL Mix Teams Semi	GL Mix Teams Final	
	Open Event TBA					Open Butler Pairs	Dick Cummings Open Pairs		
Intermediate events (under 750)	Intermediate Teams		Pairs over 300 (1 day)	Pairs over 300 (1 day)	Pairs over 300 (1 day)	Intermediate Butler Pairs	Intermediate MatchPoint Pairs		
Restricted events (under 300)	Restricted Teams		Pairs under 300 (1 day)	Pairs under 300 (1 day)	Pairs under 300 (1 day)	Restricted Butler Pairs	Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs		
Novice events (under 100)	Novice Teams					Novice Butler Pairs	Novice MatchPoint Pairs		

Ethical standards

We all know about hesitation in bidding, but did you know that bidding too fast can also mean you aren't bidding in tempo? A situation of bidding too fast is described in Kate McCallum's column in the August issue of *Bridging NSW*. This is the Newsletter of Bridge NSW, and you can find old copies and sign up to receive it in your mailbox on the Bridge NSW website at <https://bridgensw.com.au/newsletter/>

A Hand at the Club

By Grant Cowen

Our first hand comes from the first week of the Karhof Cup (Saturday 9 August), where several members all asked about the same hand. They wanted to know how they missed slam, and how they should bid it.

Bd: 3	♠ J9764	
Dlr: S	♥ 108	
Vul: EW	♦ 1093	
	♣ 982	
♠ K1053		♠ void
♥ 764		♥ AKQJ5
♦ J82		♦ AKQ6
♣ KQ10		♣ AJ74
	♠ AQ82	
	♥ 932	
	♦ 754	
	♣ 653	

The Board was played 15 times & only 3 pairs managed to bid a small slam. So you are not alone if you didn't bid it. Slam bidding is a specialised area and can be intimidating.

All Pass before East's turn to call. We should treat the East hand as a gameforce (GF) – telling partner the auction cannot stop below the level of game, e.g., either 3NT OR 4 of a Major OR 5 of a Minor. Therefore, we should start with our strongest system bid – 2♣.

When responding to an opening 2♣ bid, you are not usually blessed with much in the way of HCP (High Card points). Here, you are gifted 9HCP. My first reaction would be 'Are we bidding Slam OR looking for Grand Slam?'

An artificial bid of 2♦ by responder is either a temporising bid (waiting) or initially a negative bid showing less than 7HCP. A good positive response would consist of at

least 7 HCP (e.g. AK or better) in a hand that contained a 5+ Card Major or a 6+ Card Minor.

In this case, W does have greater than 7HCP, but lacks a 5+Card length suit, so a 2♦ bid is recommended. East, knowing W cannot pass until at least game has been reached, now starts to describe their hand naturally. Here they start with a bid of 2♥, ONLY promising a minimum of a 5 Card suit. They may have a secondary suit to show, OR in this example, two other suits, one of which may be the final choice. With 3 Card suit support, W should raise the Heart suit, but to what level?

Again, because the partnership is in a GF we can raise to 3♥. Paradoxically, this shows a stronger hand than a bid to 4♥, WHICH would show a weaker hand because it consumes so much bidding space, thus denying the strong hand the ability to Cuebid below the level of game. So, jumping to 4♥ says to partner 'I have no interest in Slam'.

Once E hears W raise to 3♥, two things occur. NOW the partnership has a KNOWN FIT E can re-evaluate their hand. My 24 HCP becomes 29HCP as I can add on my spade shortage VOID to the partnership's assets. Secondly, my heart rate has just gone up & maybe I can get my name in the Grand Slam box for the end-of-month raffle!

East should bid a new Suit. This says to partner that I know we agreed to Hearts, but I have greater aspirations than game, and I am looking for more. Here E could try 3♠ showing 1st round control (i.e. either the Ace or a Void). If W comes to the party and bids 4♣ showing either 1ST OR 2nd round

control in Clubs, SLAM will certainly be reached with East confidently bidding 6♥.

Our suggested bidding sequence is:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			P
P	P	2C	P
2D	P	2H	P
3H	P	3S	P
4C	P	6H	

NB - To reach GS (Grand Slam), ideally, we need to locate either Club Shortage with Partner & extra trump length or both the Club K & Q OR specific Spade holdings

At this stage of our development, reaching a slam would be more than rewarding and a ticket in that monthly raffle not far away.

More on etiquette

As a follow-up to the column on etiquette, I thought members might like to read the full Laws referred to. Members can ask Directors to look at the Law book at any time, or online through the Regulations page on the Bridge NSW website <https://bridgensw.com.au/event-regulations/>

Law 74 – Conduct and Etiquette

A. *Proper Attitude*

1. A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.
2. A player should avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.
3. Every player should follow uniform and correct procedure in calling and playing.

B. *Etiquette*

As a matter of courtesy a player should refrain from:

1. Paying insufficient attention to the game.
2. Making gratuitous comments during the auction during the auction and play.
3. ***Detaching a card before it is their turn to play.***
4. *Prolonging play unnecessarily for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.*
5. *Summoning and addressing the Director in a manner discourteous to them or other contestants.*

Law 7 – Control of Board and Cards

B. 3. During play each player retains possession of their own cards, not permitting them to be mixed with those of any other player. **No player shall touch any cards other than their own** (but declarer may play dummy's cards in accordance with Law 45) **during or after play except by permission of an opponent or the director.**

Law 45 – Card play

F. *Dummy Indicates Card*

After dummy's hand is faced, **dummy may not touch or indicate any card without instruction from declarer.**



Illawarra Bridge Association

CODE OF CONDUCT

May 2018

The Illawarra Bridge Association, in line with bridge clubs around the world and in particular with the NSWBA and the ABF is of the belief that an actively ethical player contributes to the enjoyment of all bridge players by continuously striving to maintain a courteous manner toward both partner and the opponents by avoiding any behaviour that would make any player uncomfortable.

Good ethics and etiquette are fundamental to bridge.

The IBA insists that players are treated with respect and dignity and is committed to providing a friendly atmosphere in its club rooms



IBA members should:

- ♠ **B**e polite and courteous at all times
- ♥ **R**espect other people's rights to have different opinions or ways of thinking
- ♣ **C**onduct their game in a proper, mature and inoffensive manner
- ♦ **A**ssist new members and guests and try to show patience and understanding
- ♠ **A**t all times abide by this Code of Conduct as well as the rules of the IBA, NSWBA and the Australian Bridge Federation

In addition members should be aware of their obligations under Laws 73 and 74 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge

Promotions

Congratulations to the following members on their recent promotions

June 2025

Grade	Name
Club	Mohan Chinnappan
Local	Philip Boehme
	Christopher Fergusson
	Annette Lopez
Bronze Local	Don Clark
	Paul Tuckerman
Silver Local	Lucy Cowen
	Piyal Kitulagodage
Bronze Life	Marie Pickering

July 2025

Grade	Name
Graduate	Tony Nicholls
	Ernst Nowotny
Local	Trikk iYoung
Bronze Local	Julie Carbonara
Silver Local	Peter Gard
Gold Life	Stuart Cutsforth

Most Improved Player

The ABF Masterpoints Centre calculates a 'most improved player' for each club using a formula based on points at the start of the year and points earned over the year. The details can be found at <https://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/mostimproved.asp?filter=c&id=68>

Don Clark is currently leading, closely followed by Paula Corbett. The gold points they are earning from the ABF Club Knockout will help them both!

Healthier Illawarra Men

By Kaye Hart

I recently came across this initiative based in the Illawarra to support men's health. I am sure that when you read about the work that they are doing locally, you will agree with me that we should support this group with the proceeds of our Movember charity bridge session.

Healthier Illawarra Men (HIM) is a locally founded community initiative focused on improving the well-being of men and boys in our region. HIM brings together leaders from health, education, sport, business and the wider community to tackle some of the big issues affecting men, including mental health, loneliness, domestic violence, and access to support services.

Through awareness campaigns, events like our annual International Men's Day lunch, and partnerships with organisations such as Tomorrow Man, HIM is helping to shift attitudes, challenge stigma, and create real opportunities for connection, support and change. Every dollar raised goes directly towards programs and initiatives that strengthen local men and their families.

Read more about HIM on their website (<https://healthierillawarramen.org.au/>) and let committee members know your thoughts on the proposal to support them through our Movember bridge session.

What are the odds?

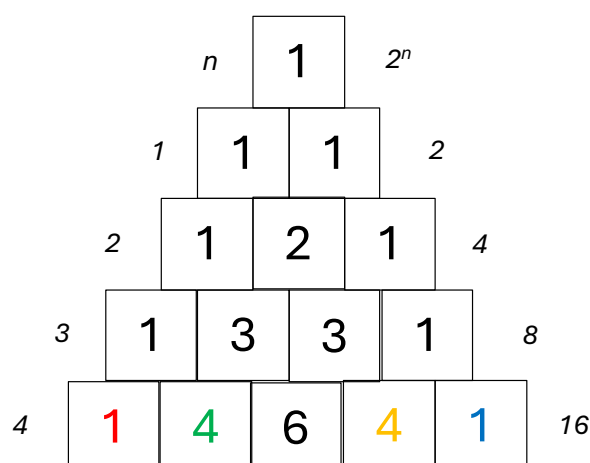
In his lessons on card play last year, Paul Lavings described finesses as taking a bet on the placement of the cards. This year, Steve Geddes taught us how to use the bidding to help locate the cards to improve our odds with finesses and other parts of declarer play.

But sometimes you don't have much more information than the simple odds based on probability theory. This caused a discussion with my opponent when his play of the A and K of trumps successfully had the Q drop. When I noted the luck of this, he claimed there was a greater than 50% chance the cards would split 2-2 when he had a 6-3 holding (I don't recall the exact number). I disputed this, and after a while, my opponent agreed. I have to admit my opponent was right about the odds of the Q dropping, but not the odds on the 2-2 split.

Blaise Pascal developed probability theory through correspondence with Pierre de Fermat to answer questions about gambling posed to him by a friend (for the historically inclined, you can find out more about the story here

https://www.ms.uky.edu/~dmu228/ma320/pascal_invention_probability.pdf)

Pascal's triangle (pictured below) is a convenient way for determining what mathematicians call *binomial coefficients*. For our purposes, it represents the ways a given number of cards (n) can be distributed between two hands. The triangle itself is built by creating an additional row of numbers offset from the previous row by half, putting a one on each end and otherwise filling each space with the sum of the numbers above it.



For our purposes, Pascal's Triangle can be read as the number of ways our Left Hand Opponent (LHO) can hold a certain number of cards. If declarer and dummy have nine cards in a suit, we are missing four cards in that suit. The last line is the case for opponents having four cards between them; it reads 1,4,6,4,1.

This tells us there is exactly one distribution where LHO holds zero cards (They are void and our RHO holds four cards), there are four distributions that they can hold one card as it can be any one of the four missing cards, there are six distributions that they hold two, four distributions that they hold three (missing any one of four cards), and only one distribution that they can hold all four.

We can see that from looking at the possible combinations if we are missing the Q432: The possible combinations of our opponents' two hands (LHO-RHO) are:

Q432-void, Q-432, 4-Q32, 3-Q42, 2-Q43
 Q4-32, Q3-42, Q2-43, 43-Q2, 42-Q3, 32-Q4
 432-Q, Q32-4, Q42-3, Q43-2, void-Q432.

We first assume that these distributions are equally likely. For example, this means that

the probability of holding one card only is 4/16 or 25%.

The probability of the number of cards held by each opponent is therefore:

$$4-0 \quad 1/16 = 6.25\%$$

$$3-1 \quad 4/16 = 25.00\%$$

$$2-2 \quad 6/16 = 37.50\%$$

$$1-3 \quad 4/16 = 25.00\%$$

$$0-4 \quad 1/16 = 6.25\%$$

Now, let's narrow the question to whether the Q would drop in the first two tricks. We know it will when the cards split 2-2 (6 chances out of 16), and it will also in each case where one of my opponents has a singleton and it is the Q (two lots of one chance in 16). Therefore, the total cases where the Q will drop are 6+1+1, which, divided by 16, gives us 50%. On the raw probabilities from Pascal's triangle without any additional knowledge from the bidding, the odds are even that the Q will drop.

A rather dense book *The Mathematical Theory of Bridge* by Émile Borel and André Chéron, takes the analysis a stage further. Their calculations reflect the fact that all the cards have to be distributed between four hands, and this creates a slight change in what they call the 'division of a residue between two hidden hands.' For the case of 4 cards, they give the probabilities (Table 51) as:

$$3-1 \text{ or } 1-3 \quad 49.739\%$$

$$2-2 \quad 40.696\%$$

$$4-0 \text{ or } 0-4 \quad 9.565\%$$

These probabilities only apply before ANY card has been played by either of the unseen hands. We can see that by realising that one

One bridge hand can be composed 635,013,359,600 different ways.

A whole deal of four hands can be composed in 53,644,737,765,488,792,839,237,440,000 different ways.

combination, that the hand playing the card had a void, is immediately ruled out if they play a suit in that card.

This distribution does not depend on how the nine other cards in that suit are distributed between declarer and dummy. Later, they give a table (Table 52) of the probabilities for the placement of a given card in one of the hands among a residue of cards – in this case, our Q in a residue of 4. But we can calculate them in this case from the first table.

The hand holding the Q will have it

Void	0%
Singleton	12.43% (49.739 /4)
Doubleton	40.70% (split 2-2)
One of three	37.30% (49.739 *3/4)
One of four	9.57%

That is, when declarer and dummy have a nine-card suit (no matter how distributed) headed by the AK but missing the Q, the odds that the Q will drop on the first two tricks are 12.43% + 40.70% = 53.13%.

So, hence the phrase 'eight ever, nine never' about trying to finesse the Q when you have the A and K, unless, of course, you have additional information from the bidding.

I will put a copy of the complete Tables on the documents part of the website for any interested members.

In the next issue, a short look at how information from the play can change the probabilities.



Bridge
NSW



Sydney Spring Nationals

 **Saturday 18 – Sunday 26 October 2025**

 **Canterbury Park Racecourse**

 **Events for players of all levels**



18 gold point events

New Open teams format

All player levels welcome!

♥ Play every day. Many Novice, Restricted, Intermediate and Open events.

♥ New format 5-day Open teams double elimination knockout with 28 board matches

♥ New Gumby-Lazer trophy for the mixed teams event

♥ New to congresses? Try *Mini Monday* – pre-talk, half-day red point play and expert review on Monday 20 October.

Information and register on MyABF

Discounts for bookings before 30 August

Organiser: Shannon Queree

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