



NEWCASTLEBRIDGE

The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

For meeting held Tuesday 12/05/2026

DRAFT



The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	12 May 2026
Chair:	Ken Wilks	Time:	1:30pm
1. Apologies: Jeff Biddlecombe, Jenny Bissett, Kathleen Drew, James Leitch, Peter Peterson.			
2. Minutes of previous meeting dated 14 April 2026			
3. Correspondence 3.1. Email from Neil Best re selling NBC's "Play By Numbers" booklet 3.2. Email from Bridge NSW: State-Wide Pairs 1-7 August			
4. Financials 4.1. P & L to April 2026 4.2. Treasurer's report for May meeting			
5. Business arising from correspondence and previous minutes 5.1. NBC website – update (Ken) 5.2. Honour Boards / Restricted Pairs Honour Board – refer update circulated by Jenny 5.3. Congresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and agree number of scoring booklets to be available at congresses • Procedure to display results on the website as each match is scored • Discuss use of monitor to show results during Novice/Restricted Congress • Prize money for June Congress 			
6. New Business 6.1. Congress dates for 2027 6.2. Report: Beginners Lessons (Neil Best and Greg Archbold) – attached 6.3. Thursday Morning Session Masterpoints Limit			
7. General Business 7.1. Suggestion box 7.2. Notes for future meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review Tuesday night supervised play session ○ Review community notice board trial 			
8. Next meeting: Tuesday 09/06/2026 commencing at 1:30 pm			



The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: May 2026

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	12/05/2026
Chair:	Ken Wilks	Time:	1:30 pm
Attendees:	Les Brien, Julie Butel (minute taker), Ailsa Kearney, Effie Roach, Ken Wilks.		

AGENDA ITEM

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Ken opened the meeting at 1:25 pm.

Apologies: Jeff Biddlecombe, Jenny Bissett, Kathleen Drew, James Leitch, Peter Peterson

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (14/04/2026)

Les moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted and Ailsa seconded the motion which was agreed by all present. Ken then signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

3.1. Email from Neil Best re a request to sell multiple copies of NBC's "Play by Numbers" booklet.

After discussion it was clear that all present were reluctant to agree to this request (Ken advised that Jeff had discussed the matter with him and was also not in favour). The main concern was that the booklet was developed (and updated as needed), as an adjunct to our Beginners' Lessons, not as a resource for other clubs.

Action: Ken to advise Neil of the Committee's decision.

3.2. Email from Bridge NSW re State-Wide Pairs 1-7 August

Ken agreed to canvas the event with Tuesday morning players to gauge if there is any interest in participating.

4. FINANCIALS (Les)

4.1. P & L to April 2026 (see attached)

4.2. Treasurer's report for May meeting (see attached)

Les tabled his report for the 10 months to April 2026 noting a loss of \$4063 compared to a profit of \$5011 for the same period last year. The reason for the result is as reported in previous months – i.e. expenses are up but income is not increasing at the same rate. Major increases in expenses include insurance (\$2567), cleaning (\$1463), non-playing director (\$3600), and depreciation and

AGENDA ITEM

loss on disposal of assets (\$3768). Les reiterated that while we are seeing increases in participation, the rate is still lower than pre-COVID.

Les confirmed that membership fees are covering fees and levies.

Ken moved that the P & L and Treasurer's report be accepted. This was seconded by Effie and agreed by all present.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE / PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1. Newcastle Bridge Website – update

As agreed at the last meeting, Ken approached 2 potential suppliers (Jezweb and Clickk). Feedback from Jezweb was that the website did not need a major overhaul in the short term unless we wanted it. Ken then asked both companies to quote on hosting the website as well as to make any necessary short-term updates. This will allow time to bed down a new hosting provider before making any decisions about major changes.

Quotes have been received from both companies which are comparable to what we are currently being charged.

Action: Ken to make a decision re the next step.

5.2. Update of Honour Boards (including new Restricted Pairs Honour Board)

Jenny advised before the meeting that the updates of the existing boards are completed. Jenny is now waiting on a revised quote for the supply of the Restricted Pairs board and associated update (the first quote was for the wrong board size).

5.3. NBC Congresses

a) Agree number of scoring booklets to be available at congresses

It was agreed to have 1 booklet per player.

Action: As numbers are mostly finalised for the June Congress, Ken agreed to print the booklets very soon so that collating can be organised.

b) Procedure to display results on the website as each match is scored

Ken has the instructions which he has forwarded to Peter Peterson.

c) Discuss use of large screen to show results during the Restricted / Novice Congress

Ken commented that this is fairly standard practice at Congresses (including our Open Congress) and that it is not difficult to do.

Action: Ken to forward the instructions to Peter Peterson.

d) Prize money for June Congress

Suggested:

Pairs: same number of prizes for Pairs as last year

Teams: Open – 1st, 2nd, 3rd Restricted and Novice – 1st (\$200/team)

(NB. Plus best unplaced NBC Pair and Team, as usual)

Action: Ailsa to recommend prize money based on budget

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Congress dates for 2027

The Congress calendars are already being prepared for next year.

AGENDA ITEM

We have been allocated 12/13 June for the Open Congress and 4th April for the Restricted / Novice Congress. The April date is clear of both Easter and school holidays.

6.2. **Beginners Lessons Report (Neil Best and Greg Archbold) - attached**

A report on the most recent course of Beginners Lessons was circulated before the meeting. It was a comprehensive report which included information on the level of participation, revision exercises completed throughout the course, the introduction of card play strategies throughout the course, 3 weeks of supervised lessons and the finances.

It proposed that 80% of the profits from the lessons be retained by the instructors with the remaining 20% to go to the club. All were in favour of accepting this proposal.

The Committee would like to thank Neil and Greg for the excellent manner in which they delivered the lessons and look forward to them continuing to run them. It is acknowledged that the lessons remain the most significant way we have to attract new players to the club.

Feedback: Ken suggested that consideration be given to having a time restriction (e.g. 12 minutes) for the hands being played during the 3 weeks of supervised lessons and to encourage the use of Bridgemates for these sessions. Ken's opinion was that this would help to prepare players for the Supervised Sessions.

6.3. **Thursday Morning Session Masterpoints Limit**

A request was received to increase the number of MPs allowed for the Thursday morning Bridge session. The limit is currently 300 MPs. The reason for considering an increase is that there are a number of players who are close to the current limit and we are at risk of losing them. After discussion, it was agreed by all to increase the limit to be less than 500 MPs, effective immediately. It was felt that it is unlikely that there will be an influx of players to the session as a consequence of this change.

Action: It was agreed that Ken as MP Secretary would send an email to all members advising them of the change.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

7.1. Suggestion Box: A comment was received that members are unsure how to access the annual program (e.g. GNOTs, etc). Also, the difficulty that some members have to access the contact details of other members. The suggestion was made that a booklet including the program and contact details be produced.

Comment: It has previously been agreed not to print a booklet as we used to do in the past. However, it was agreed to:

- *Email all members with information on how to access member contact details using the resources already available (Pianola, Members' section on the website).*
- *Investigate if there is a way to have a summary of key events (e.g. GNOTs, Championship events, NBC Congresses, etc) in the Calendar section of the website. Currently, all events are listed in the Calendar but the search is only possible within a given month (Ken)*

AGENDA ITEM
7.2. Notes for future meetings: <i>June meeting:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Tuesday night Supervised Play session • Review Community Notice Board trial
8. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 9/06/26 commencing at 1:30pm.

The meeting concluded at 2:15pm

CONFIRMED TO BE A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING:

<i>Moved by:</i>		
<i>Seconded by:</i>		
<i>Signed by:</i>		<i>Date:</i>

Newcastle Bridge Club

12 Young Road Broadmeadow 2292

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2025 To April 2026

	This Year	Last Year	TY - LY
	TY	LY	
Income			
Competitions			
Congress	\$2,765.00	\$3,500.00	(\$735.00)
Weekend Club Events	\$1,210.00	\$1,274.00	(\$64.00)
Hosting Events	\$470.00	\$470.00	\$0.00
Memberships			
Subscriptions	\$13,345.00	\$11,180.00	\$2,165.00
Table Fees			
Monday Supervised Play	\$9,700.00	\$8,324.00	\$1,376.00
Monday Afternoon	\$5,130.00	\$8,094.00	(\$2,964.00)
Tuesday Morning	\$21,808.00	\$19,254.00	\$2,554.00
Tuesday Night	\$6,274.00	\$7,162.00	(\$888.00)
Tuesday Night Supervised	\$174.00	\$0.00	\$174.00
Wednesday	\$5,798.00	\$5,660.00	\$138.00
Wednesday Supervised Play	\$6,092.00	\$1,092.00	\$5,000.00
Thursday Supervised Play	\$0.00	\$428.00	(\$428.00)
Thursday Morning	\$18,910.00	\$18,392.00	\$518.00
Friday	\$8,910.00	\$9,260.00	(\$350.00)
Saturday	\$9,404.00	\$9,874.00	(\$470.00)
Total Table Fees	\$92,200.00	\$87,540.00	\$4,660.00
Board Dealing	\$2,777.00	\$1,808.00	\$969.00
Hall Hire	\$70.00	\$160.00	(\$90.00)
Lessons	\$1,479.30	\$100.00	\$1,379.30
Sundry Receipts	\$14.09	\$680.00	(\$665.91)
Total Income	\$114,330.39	\$106,712.00	\$7,618.39
Expenses			
Accounting Fees	\$990.00	\$935.00	\$55.00
Card Dealing	\$1,696.00	\$1,528.00	\$168.00
Cleaning	\$14,190.00	\$12,727.00	\$1,463.00
Consumables	\$5,622.13	\$5,702.18	(\$80.05)
Insurance	\$10,363.99	\$7,796.38	\$2,567.61
General Expense	\$57.00	\$136.00	(\$79.00)
Misc Equipment < \$400	\$38.90	\$0.00	\$38.90
Printing, Stationery & Postage	\$5,119.50	\$4,275.45	\$844.05
Prize Money	\$3,756.00	\$4,484.00	(\$728.00)
Refreshments	\$4,280.05	\$3,882.99	\$397.06
Socials	\$2,313.93	\$2,565.02	(\$251.09)
Competitions			
Congress	\$2,053.75	\$1,950.76	\$102.99
Other Competitions	\$1,887.40	\$2,034.81	(\$147.41)
Employment Expenses			
Wages			
Office Staff	\$11,463.16	\$10,557.03	\$906.13
Superannuation	\$2,657.24	\$2,045.95	\$611.29
Non Playing Director	\$12,800.00	\$9,200.00	\$3,600.00
Fees & Levies			
Affiliation (NSWBA)	\$5,720.00	\$5,300.00	\$420.00

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2025 To April 2026

	This Year		Last Year	TY - LY
	TY		LY	
Capitation (ABF)	\$7,538.55		\$6,245.10	\$1,293.45
Masterpoints	\$2,912.75		\$2,166.85	\$745.90
Repairs & Mtce				
R&M Air Conditioning	\$220.00		\$163.64	\$56.36
R&M Building	\$795.00		\$319.94	\$475.06
R&M Equipment	\$1,146.48		\$1,124.77	\$21.71
R&M Grounds	\$363.00		\$562.00	(\$199.00)
Utilities				
Electricity	\$1,482.98		\$1,893.95	(\$410.97)
Rates - Land / Water	\$10,282.12		\$10,178.55	\$103.57
Telecommunications	\$2,621.14		\$2,562.80	\$58.34
Computer Systems				
Events Calendar	\$170.50		\$170.50	\$0.00
Microsoft 365	\$179.00		\$179.00	\$0.00
MYOB Essentials	\$126.00		\$120.00	\$6.00
Pianola	\$600.00		\$600.00	\$0.00
Depreciation	\$7,500.00		\$4,815.00	\$2,685.00
Loss on disposal of NC assets	\$2,500.00		\$1,416.67	\$1,083.33
Total Expenses	\$123,446.57		\$107,639.34	\$15,807.23
Operating Profit/(Loss)	\$9,116.18		\$927.34	\$8,188.84
Other Income				
Interest Income	\$5,053.11		\$5,938.63	(\$885.52)
Total Other Income	\$5,053.11		\$5,938.63	(\$885.52)
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$4,063.07)		\$5,011.29	(\$9,074.36)

Table fees to -		Weeks to	Wkly Avge	Est for Yr
July	11014.00	5	2203	114546
August	20326.00	9	2258	117439
September	31384.00	13	2414	125536
October	39624.00	18	2201	114469
November	48310.00	22	2196	114187
December	57038.00	27	2113	109851
January	65262.00	31	2105	109472
February	74040.00	35	2115	110002
March	82298.00	39	2110	109731
April	92200.00	44	2095	108964
May				
June				
NB Total table fees for the year ended 30th June 2025				104159

Membership at		March 26	June 2025	April 2024
Home members		278	274	255
Alternate members		37	33	38
Total		315	307	293
June 2025 includes 6 life members				

Newcastle Bridge Club – Treasurer’s Report for May 2026 meeting

P&L for 10 months to April 2026 shows a result of \$4063 loss compared to a profit of \$5011 last year. See excel file P&L months of 26 year, sheet APR 26. In relation to expenses, the major increases over last year are cleaning (\$1463); insurance (\$2567); non playing director (\$3600); depreciation and loss on disposal of NC assets (\$3768); and decreases are prize money (\$728 and electricity (\$411).

An estimate has been made for depreciation at the rate of \$750 per month allowing for the new solar panels and battery installation and likely purchase of new chairs. An allowance has also been made for the loss on disposal of the old solar panels at the rate of \$250 per month. The actual amounts will be processed by the Accountants at year end. There are also some explanations noted in the spreadsheet.

Also see **Table Fees** exercise showing table fees to end of the month; a weekly average; and an estimate for the year. Table fees are up by 5%.

Funds at end of April – cheque account \$3214 Online saver account \$25 Greater Bank business access account \$800.

Greater Bank Deposit \$64642 for 6 months at 4.15% pa(matures 10th July 2026); \$95217 for 6 months at 4.15% pa(matures 29th June 2026); and \$5000 for 3 months at 3.75% pa (matures 26th May 2026).

The President
Newcastle Bridge Club

Beginners' Lessons, February 2026

Dear Jeff,

I'd like to submit the following report of the Beginning Bridge Lessons for February 2026 to you and the Newcastle Bridge Club Committee.

Participation

- A total of 65 people contacted the Club to participate.
- 18 applied from U3A. (10 participated, of which 3 had also applied to the Club. 5 did not respond to an introductory email. 3 responded but withdrew).
- 11 people did not attend the first lesson. All received follow up emails as a result.
- 8 participants did not attend after the first two / three lessons.
- 46 completed the course. This included 6 people who were unable to attend the last two sessions because of illness or other reasons, but I have included them in the numbers because all 6 demonstrated playing competence including 3 who had learnt on other occasions.
- Four participants were repeating the course from 2025 lessons.
- An additional 3 Club members attended an occasional session. One of these was Committee member Kathleen Drew who assisted us on four evening sessions. This was much appreciated.
- Debbie Hamilton was also extremely helpful in several sessions that she attended, guiding and explaining protocols and basic bidding.

Preparation

- The PowerPoint presentation used in the lessons was reviewed and some minor editing changes made.
- Greg and I made a concentrated effort to introduce card play strategies into the lessons. This included additional exercises into the Revision Exercises in areas such as *Drawing Trumps*, *Establishing Winners*, *Playing Honours in the Short Hand*, *Maintaining Entries*, *Finessing Winners*, *Ruffing Losers*

Learning Sessions

- Greg and I conducted 8 lessons on both Thursday afternoon and Wednesday evening. Ken Wilks also conducted a session at the completion of the 8 lessons.
- Many participants who could not attend the Thursday session attended the following Wednesday.
- Two participants had "catch-up" lessons to make up for absences.
- With up to 35 players on a Thursday afternoon, club members volunteered to help. We would like to thank Michael and Kay Deacon, Margaret Pearson, Trish Gleeson, Annie Geddes, Margaret Moulston, Kath Daniel, Terry Charlton, Aldo and Mary Russo, and Jan Rowan for their assistance. Others offered to help too.

Revision Exercises

- Revision Exercises were completed on a regular basis by participants.
- I continued to receive questions via emails about the exercises throughout the course.
- Note additions to Revision Exercises as explained above.

Overall Evaluation

- The overall attendance by participants once they commenced was high.
- The overall "tone" of the lessons was positive. Comments from the club members who participated were positive, and emails from participants were very encouraging.
- As mentioned above, Greg and I continued to provide more detailed advice / instruction on card play techniques. (eg counting winners or losers, using card playing techniques like finessing etc)

- We did not run a specific evaluation sessions, but we did invite participants to send an email if they wished to make a comment. These comments are included below. It was also suggested that participants email Jeff Biddlecombe if they were reluctant to direct anonymous comments to us.
- Nine participants took the trouble to make comments at the conclusion of the course.
Suggestions for change:
 - A review of the first lesson to add another example of bidding and play.
 - The addition of a set board at the beginning of the supervised play, the board to incorporate aspects of declarer card play.
- We have encouraged participants to play at one or both supervised sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Tuesday and to take advantage of the Mentor Program. At this stage it is not possible to comment on the total number of participants planning to access Club sessions or the Mentoring Program, but during the first week after the completion of the Thursday session 12 lesson participants had joined a session. Six participants had indicated a desire to join the mentor program by 6th May.

Three Week Supervised Lessons.

- Numbers for the Thursday and Wednesday sessions held up quite well in comparison to 2025.
- Participants played boards from previous sessions. They played at their own pace, not moving tables, and with assistance when required. This assistance included examples of “Weak Two Openings” and “Opening a Strong Two”, topics to be covered later in the year. Most tables were able to play boards at around 10 to 11 minutes by the end of the third session. (Jeff reported that the five new participants on Monday 4th May and the new players on Wednesday afternoon 6th May kept up with the play.)
- Bridgemates were not used to score, but participants recorded contracts and tricks taken, and a summary sheet of results was emailed after the game to all participants, with encouragement to check the website on how players at the normal sessions had bid and played the boards.

Finances

- A detailed financial statement is attached below. Please note that the printing costs are based on costs that we encountered when printing revision Sheets and Hand Records at Officeworks. The \$10 lesson fee for new participants, and \$5 fee for returning participants were set in previous years.
- Fees for the Supervised Play sessions and paid to the Club are as follows:

• Thursday 1: \$185	Wednesday 1: \$120
• Thursday 2: \$175	Wednesday 2: \$90
• Thursday 3: \$180	Wednesday 3: \$95

Total: \$845

Share of Profits:

Total Profit from the Lessons run by us = \$2451.33

We would propose that 80% of the final profits (\$1960.00) be retained by us, with the remainder (\$491.33) to be paid to the Club.

Total money to Club:

Club Fees (\$10 per lesson) - \$160

Supervised Play Sessions - \$845

Share of Course Profits - \$491.33

Total: \$1496.33

Your advice as to the adoption of this proposal would be appreciated.

Neil Best and Greg Archbold

May 2026

BRIDGE LESSONS FEBRUARY 2026

INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Booklets (40 printed / 12 from 2025) Lesson 1 Thursday 20 x 25 = 500 Lesson 1 Wednesday 14 x 25 = 350 Lesson 2 Thursday 8 x 25 = 200 Lesson 2 Wednesday 1 x 25. = 25 Lesson 4 Thursday 1 x 25. = 25 Lesson 6 Thursday 1 x 25 = 25 Via J Biddlecombe 1 x 25. = 25 BOOKLETS (46 x 25). \$1150.00 1 Booklet given away 12/3/26 5 unsold Lessons Lesson 1 Thursday (27) – 225 Lesson 1 Wednesday (20) – 170 Lesson 2 Thursday (33) - 365 Lesson 2 Wednesday (16) 160 Lesson 3 Thursday (25). 245 Lesson 3 Wednesday (23). 245 Lesson 4 Thursday (23). 180 Lesson 4 Wednesday (19). 170 Lesson 5 Thursday (25). 235 Lesson 5 Wednesday (17). 155 Lesson 6 Thursday (26). 255 Lesson 6 Wednesday (18). 150 Lesson 7 Thursday (23). 240 Lesson 7 Wednesday (14). 115 Lesson 8 Thursday (20). 190 Lesson 8 Wednesday (16). 145 TOTAL LESSONS \$3245.00 TOTAL INCOME: \$4395.00	Booklet Printing (40) 887.20 Name Tags (20) 22.00 Club Fees. 160.00 Cheat Sheets (30) 146.20 Coupon Laminating. 2.20 TOTAL: \$1217.60 <i>Lesson Printing & Tokens</i> Lesson 1 Hands (Officeworks 2x 55) 55.00 Lesson 1 Revision (Officeworks 4 x 55). 24.20 Lesson 1 Vocabulary. (Officeworks) 6.05 Lesson 2 Hands (Officeworks – 2 x 50). 50.00 Lesson 2 Revision (Officeworks 4 x 55). 24.20 Lesson 3 Token (N Best). 8.00 Lesson 3 Hands (Officeworks 2 x 47). 47.00 Lesson 3 Revision (Officeworks 4 x 55) 24.20 Lesson 4 Tokens (N Best). 16.00 Lesson 4 Hands (Officeworks 2 x 52). 52.00 Lesson 4 Revision (Officeworks 5 x 55. 24.20 Lesson 4 Summary Sheet (N Best x 50). 5.50 Lesson 5 Hands (Officeworks 2 x 40). 40.00 Lesson 5 Revision (Officeworks 6 x 50). 29.70 Lesson 5 Tokens (N. Best) 16.00 Lesson 6.1 Hands (Officeworks 40 x 2). 40.00 Lesson 6.2 Hands (Officeworks 20 x 2). 20.00 Lesson 6 Revision (Officeworks 50 x 4) 22.00 Lesson 6 Summary Sheet (Officeworks 50). 5.50 Lesson 6 Tokens (N. Best) 16.00 Lesson 7 Revision (Officeworks 46 x 4). 20.68 Lesson 7.1 Hands (Officeworks 2 x 30). 30.00 Lesson 7.2 Hands (Office works 2 x 30). 30.00 Lesson 7 Tokens (N. Best) 16.00 Lesson 8 Revision (Officeworks 48 x 3). 15.84 Lesson 8.1 Hands (Officeworks 40 x 2). 40.00 Lesson 8.2 Hands (Officeworks 40 x 2) 40.00 Lesson 8 Token (N Best) 8.00 TOTAL (Printing & Tokens): \$726.07 TOTAL EXPENDITURE: \$1943.67 FINAL PROFIT: \$2,451.33
Comment: The increased profit for this February Beginners Course as compared to the two courses in 2025 is due to the sale of booklets which were printed last year and included in the July 25 costs. There were increased numbers in this course and a lower withdrawal rate compared to the two courses last year.	

Evaluation Comments from Participants

Also a HUGE thank you to you and Greg for your sensible, straightforward and concise delivery of the classes.

Sooooooooo much more enjoyable than when I was learning Acol 30 years ago.

Thankyou Neil and Greg for running an excellent Beginner's bridge course. Explanations were clear, informative and engaging. Thank you for encouraging and supporting me in my understanding of beginning to play bridge. I am so happy that I have completed an enrolment form to become a member of Newcastle Bridge club and will bring the membership form and membership fee when I attend Wednesday afternoon bridge in a few weeks.

I would like to thank Greg and yourself for conducting a terrific course. It has greatly helped my understanding of bridge.

The attributes that stood out to me over the course I did at Toronto are:

- The length of each session was of the right size to enable me to remember the specific aspect. Toronto had a three hour session which included one hour of playing.*
- The handbook was great. A handbook was not provided at Toronto, just notes after each lesson so it was not possible to read up on the subject beforehand.*
- The homework was very helpful to enable me to see if I had grasped the subject matter. Again this was not provided at Toronto.*

I don't think there is anything that Greg and you need to do to improve the course.

As you mentioned a separate course on "Card Play" would be beneficial. Ken's presentation on this, to my mind was not enough.

Again, thank you very much for providing such a great course and the additional notes you sent me.

Thanks to you and Greg for the Bridge lessons. The two of you made them an enjoyable experience.

Things that I found helpful:

The workbook of the lessons

The logical step-by-step format of the PowerPoint lessons

Your openness to questions

The homework to consolidate the lessons

Your willingness to provide email answers to queries

The jokes (albeit a bit corny ... looking at you Greg 😊)

The cheat sheets and notes on the whiteboard.

I did find Ken a little intimidating – I was scared to ask questions.

So in conclusion, thank you so much for!!

I am very happy with the beginners course. It was helped by the fact that you two are both (good) teachers. I was helped by the homework and the thorough explanations. Also of help was the catchup lesson on Wed nights. It would be hard as a beginner to miss more than one lesson. The true beginners like ... and myself were challenged. It is a credit to you two that you held your audience of older brains for over an hour most times. It was also good to have other club members there to help.

I can see why it takes at least two years to conquer the basic strategies. It is a complex game. But we are happy to continue by enrolling in the Wed supervised play sessions.

Enjoy your trip. What a reward after all that teaching. The bridge club are lucky to have you two.

I think you and Greg did an outstanding job on the beginners bridge course. It was very enjoyable, informative and fun!

Only suggestion I have is that on the first day of the practise session (first of three) you have an unofficial competition with first prize say 1 Tin Tam or something like that.

What I was thinking of was that you set up for all tables the same hand and they play that hand. Then you conduct a walkthrough of the hand on what contract you should be in, how to get the contract, how to defeat the contract illustrating the basic principles of finessing, holding back etc.

I would like to thank Neil and Greg for the extra time they took to help me understand some of the rules of bridge.

The lessons were set out clearly with plenty of time to ask questions, and practice the lesson we had learnt.

I have enjoyed the 3 sessions of playing bridge with a 'supervisor' available, this is my learning style, and has helped me begin to consolidate what I have learnt.

I have not played card games at all prior to this course, which I decided to do because both my mother and grandmother have enjoyed playing so much.

I had no idea how bridge was played at all when I started the course.

The course was challenging and really well presented.

The booklet of notes and your cheat sheets are terrific for reference and review.

Bridge is such a complicated game and there is so much to cover just to get the basics across, which you both did in such a friendly and clear manner.

Questions were answered patiently and clearly. I very much appreciated the safe and encouraging learning environment you created.

If there was one thing that may have made things a bit easier right at the beginning for me, it would perhaps have been to have had more of an idea of how the game was played out, so that I could then understand the bidding process better.

However, I realise you have to start somewhere and I think you did a great job teaching raw beginners.

Thank you both for running the beginners bridge session.

- I appreciated that you both gave your personal insights into playing bridge. You were only too happy to say that you had 'a bad hand', 'poor concentration this week', 'made mistakes' or had 'the best hand ever in 12 years of playing'! These personal insights enabled me to realise that learning bridge is going to take a lot of time, practice and mistakes to become a better player. These insights often humorously relayed showed me that the 'experts teaching the course' were once 'students'! When I was struggling with a concept this kept me wanting to continue learning. Please continue doing this in future classes.*
- It was very evident to me that your teaching skills used during your professional teaching careers shone out in the classes. Using examples from the previous week to revise the concepts at the beginning of the next lesson worked very well.*
- I love that the booklet is in landscape orientation as it enhances the use of the tables across the page. In portrait I think the tables would be more crowded and harder to read. Also loved the larger font style!*
- I appreciated the detailed explanations in the weekly answer's sheets. This helped me enormously at times when I was struggling to work out a concept.*
- When I missed a week there was no hesitation from you both when I asked if you would help catch me up. I was very appreciative of your time, and it enabled me to keep going.*
- It was good to have other bridge players helping us beginners. It was good to hear about their experiences playing bridge too.*

I am going to continue with supervised bridge. Part of the reason for me to continue is because I have been made to feel very welcome and have enjoyed meeting other beginners who were struggling at times like me to remember all the rules. All mistakes turn out to be learning experiences!