



RESEARCH PROGRAM

2014 SFOB FEEDBACK – SUPER NOVICE PLAYERS (< 20 Masterpoints)

A survey was provided to participants of the Super Novice event and 10 responses were received¹. This represents a statistically valid number for research purposes (approx. 40%).

Average age – 65 years

Place of Birth

1 x New Zealand

5 x Australia

1 x England

Started Playing – Average age when learnt was 56 years

Masterpoints – Average of 11.5

Occupational status

1x Retired OH&S Manager

1 x Retired secretary

1 x Part-time work

2 x Retired educators

1 x Employed

Why they joined their bridge club?

- To keep dementia at bay
- To progress in my bridge
- Love of bridge
- To play with a friend

What they like about their club?

- Close and friendly
- I can walk there

¹ Not everyone answered all questions.

- Friendly, encouraging and supporting
- Friendship/comraderie
- Friendly atmosphere and cheap

How their club could improve their enjoyment of the sport?

- More lessons
- Less intimidating players
- Nothing required
- They are doing a good job developing the skills and expertise of novice players
- Always have a section for under 150 masterpoints

How they met their regular partner

1. At first training session
2. At a hotel (drinking)
3. Church
4. At bridge lessons
5. At club
6. At a social club

Were they satisfied with beginner classes

- No. That is why I am trying to improve the administrative system at my club.
- 2 x Yes
- They were satisfactory
- No

How could they be improved ?

- Less technical information at start
- Employ competent bridge instructor
- Make them less complicated

What other training they have received – 3 x Nothing

Would they be interested in on-line bridge lessons

- 2 x No
- 3 x Yes
- 1 x Not sure

Would they be interested in on-line newsletters with hand discussions

- 2 x No
- 3 x Yes
- 1 x Probably

How often they play at their club

- 2 x 3 times weekly
- 2 x twice a week
- 2 x 4 times a week

Do they play day or night sessions – 6 x Day – 1 both

Do they play on-line – 6 x Yes (5 on Funbridge and 1 Bridge Baron)

Are they on Facebook – 4 x Yes – 2 x No

Are they on Twitter – 6 x No

Communication channels used to learn about bridge

- Google and ABF website
- ABF Newsletter
- Club website/ABF site/NSW Newsletter
- People at bridge club

How could the ABF encourage more novice players to compete in competitions?

- By making the competition less intimidating.
- Advertise you will receive lessons and that a free courtesy bus is available before you arrive.
- Issue personal invitations
- Improve teaching?
- More practise hands on the same point
- Tell them they represent 75% of ABF
- Encourage more clubs to hold novice congresses and provide development opportunities for novice players and introductory lessons.
- Have 20 masterpoints limit
- Tell them they can play in large congress without being intimidated by stronger players

How can clubs better transition players from supervised to *open* play

- Provide mentoring sessions with an experienced player and novice sessions within the club program.
- Get competent players to partner novice players

How can teaching be improved

- Train more people in teaching at the relevant level for the audience
- Invite competent teachers to give sessions
- Get competent teachers and materials

How can the ABF attract more people to the sport?

- Advertise

- Go into schools and teach students
- We need to look outside each club and advertise at grass roots to our individual communities – other sporting clubs, high schools, social clubs and business clubs (Apex, Lions etc).

What have you enjoyed about SFOB

- 2 x the friendly people
- Coming to Canberra
- Meeting new people
- Competing against players of a similar standard for the first time.
- Atmosphere good
- Having the chance to compete in a congress at suitable level – not to be too intimidated
- Joan Butts gave great lessons – really worthwhile – helped with bidding – will definitely be back!
- Felt really special
- Playing against people of my standard. Enjoy a short holiday with good friends.
- 2 x Joan Butts' lessons prior to each day made me more enthusiastic to try new conventions.

What could be done better?

- 2 x Need to advise ALL super novice players there is a cocktail party on the Tuesday night otherwise they do not hear about the lessons before play.
- Assume we know nothing.
- 2 x Improve air conditioning.
- Tell us where toilet facilities are located, how to order coffee at the table, the fact that everyone needs a system card, how to use bidding boxes
- Housekeeping announcement – prior to play would have made locating toilets easier. Explain the role of the caddies.