



THE QBA BULLETIN

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From the President



Richard Wallis

SINCE the last newsletter it has been relatively quiet in bridgeworld but the recent drought appeal by Qld Bridge clubs raised a very creditable \$25,000. As indicated at the September Council Meeting the QBA Management Committee has decided to introduce amendments to the QBA Constitution

at the AGM in March to reduce the number of Council meetings from four per year to just two, and also to look at allowing delegates to have voting rights for more than one club. In 2020 the Bridge Association of Western Australia will host an International Conference in Perth on behalf of the ABF and the QBA will be sending two Qld Teams, one from the SE area, and one from the clubs north of Gladstone, details to be finalised early in 2019 by the QBA Tournament Committee.

One final matter concerns theft of people's lunches at congresses, and the QBA advises clubs to be on the alert during congresses, as the number of incidents appears to be rising. ■

Qld Open Pairs by Richard Wallis

THE Northern Suburbs Bridge Club was again the host for the 2018 Queensland Open Pairs and, along with Alan Gibson as director, put on a very good show. As has been the norm for most of the last two decades, numbers were down to below 23 tables, which meant that we were playing a complete round-robin over the event. This creates a lot more work for the club with many more sets of boards required but, from a player's viewpoint, is the fairest way to run it. Forty-two pairs meant 41 3-board matches.

Following our surprise success at last year's Open Pairs in our first game together, Lyn Carter and I fronted up again on October 13 to try for back-to-back victories. We started out well, being in the lead most of Saturday, but late on Saturday afternoon the hiccups started, and they reached a crescendo in the afternoon session on Sunday, during which I do not remember ever making so many careless plays and poor bids.

Richard Ward, having come second in 2016 with his sister Lindy Vincent, and again last year with Therese



2019 Gold Coast Congress

February 16-23

February 15 - Welcome Walk-in Pairs

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Overall winners: Lindy Vincent and Richard Ward

Tully, teamed up with Lindy again this year and they had a convincing win, with consistent scores throughout. Second were Eileen Li and Charlie Lu, with Neville Francis and Magnus Moren in third place, and Ralph Parker and John Mills taking out fourth prize. The best regional pair, in fifth place, was Ian Afflick and Terrence Sheedy.

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|--|
| M 1 | ♠ AJ109 | | |
| Bd 1 | ♥ K | | |
| Dlr N | ♦ QJ1084 | | |
| Vul None | ♣ AJ6 | | |
| ♠ Q | | ♠ K652 | |
| ♥ A106 | | ♥ QJ9543 | |
| ♦ 7 | | ♦ A6 | |
| ♣ KQ1075432 | | ♣ 8 | |
| | | ♠ 8743 | |
| | | ♥ 872 | |
| | | ♦ K9532 | |
| | | ♣ 9 | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|----------|----------------|----|
| 4H | 1D 5D | 1H All pass | 3D |

This was the first hand of the event and I was West. When I looked at my cards I was sure that I would bid my 8-card club suit but, at equal vulnerability and before North had made a bid, I did not know how high that would be!

However, when Lyn overcalled North's 1D opening with 1H, it seemed more appropriate to have a go at 4H, considering my ruffing potential in two suits.

South's 3D response was meant to be weak, but North did not read it like that and bid 5D over 4H expecting it to make. Since we had distributional hands without quick tricks, neither of us bid again, nor did we double!



Second: Eileen Li and Charlie Lu

Lyn led the ♥Q, and North duly lost to our two aces and the ♠K, thus we scored up +50, which seemed poor reward for our likely game. We actually got 68%, because two declarers made 11 tricks in hearts, two made 10, and the other 10 declarers made eight or nine!

| | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|--|
| M 2 | ♠ 643 | | |
| Bd 4 | ♥ J2 | | |
| Dlr W | ♦ AKJ74 | | |
| Vul Both | ♣ J85 | | |
| ♠ QJ1082 | | ♠ AK97 | |
| ♥ Q75 | | ♥ AK8 | |
| ♦ Q | | ♦ 985 | |
| ♣ KQ62 | | ♣ A109 | |
| | | ♠ 5 | |
| | | ♥ 109643 | |
| | | ♦ 10632 | |
| | | ♣ 743 | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|---|----|----------|
| 1S | P | 4C | P |
| 4D | P | 5C | P |
| 5H | P | 6S | All pass |

The bidding was short and sweet, and looked to be going very well for us when West finished in 6S after a simple auction, and I was on lead with an AK!

West has a very poor opening bid, and his Gerber responses showed no aces and one king respectively, but that did not deter East from going on to slam with such poor diamonds! Holding three aces herself, East could identify that the ♦A was missing, and if the ♦K was also missing, slam is likely to be down.



Ray Ellaway, Ian Afflick, Kim Ellaway and Geoff Taylor -
Ian won the Regional with Terrence Sheedy

Sitting North, I confidently led the ♦A, but was set back on my heels when declarer claimed as soon as dummy was placed on the table, as he had an undisclosed singleton diamond!

Looking through the results, 11 out of 21 pairs bid the slam, so we scored only 25% but I am sure most of them did so in the knowledge of the singleton diamond with West.

| | | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|--|
| M 4 | ♠ A6532 | | |
| Bd 10 | ♥ J1095 | | |
| Dlr E | ♦ J53 | | |
| Vul Both | ♣ 9 | | |
| ♠ KJ987 | | ♠ 10 | |
| ♥ K6 | | ♥ Q4 | |
| ♦ AKQ874 | | ♦ 10962 | |
| ♣ — | | ♣ AKQ543 | |
| | | ♠ Q4 | |
| | | ♥ A8732 | |
| | | ♦ — | |
| | | ♣ J108762 | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|---|----------|---------------|
| 3D | P | 3C 5D | P All pass |

Sitting West I had high expectations when I first saw my cards, but this was reduced when Lyn opened 3C as dealer!

Starting at the 3-level, it could be difficult to describe my hand, but Lyn quickly raised my 3D response to game, to which North led the ♣9.

When dummy went down I thought that I could make 12 tricks, so discarded my hearts on the top clubs, intending to lead the ♠10 next,

but I was quickly brought back to earth when North ruffed the ♠K!

However 11 tricks were still there, and we scored up +600, for a 73% result.

Five EWs got to slam, none successful, and two played in 3NT with only one successful, probably because of the difficulty of getting to dummy to cash the clubs and back to hand to cash the diamonds. Interestingly East can make 10 tricks since a heart entry can be preserved, but it was the West declarer in 3NT that made nine tricks!

| | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------|
| M 5 | ♠ KQ65 | |
| Bd 13 | ♥ J8752 | |
| Dlr N | ♦ 953 | |
| Vul Both | ♣ 4 | |
| ♠ 97432 | | ♠ AJ108 |
| ♥ Q1043 | | ♥ A |
| ♦ Q8 | | ♦ AJ10764 |
| ♣ AQ | | ♣ 93 |
| | ♠ — | |
| | ♥ K96 | |
| | ♦ K2 | |
| | ♣ KJ1087652 | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|----------|----|----|
| | P | 1D | 2C |
| X | P | 2S | 3C |
| 4S | P | P | 5C |
| X | All pass | | |

I had a modest hand after Lyn (East) opened 1D, improved by South's 2C overcall and I showed both majors by my negative double.

South repeated his clubs and, pleased with Lyn's choice of major, I jumped to game in spades.

South should have considered that his partner was marked with at least four spades by the bidding and passed, but spurred on by his 8-card suit he bid clubs for the third time and I closed out the auction with a double.

I led the ♦Q and Lyn won the ♦A, cashed the ♥A and returned the ♦J, hoping I would ruff, but South won the ♦K and tried to cash the ♥K, ruffed by Lyn.

A diamond was returned, ruffed and over-ruffed, and I could cash the ♥Q for four off and +1100 and an equal top.

After winning the ♠Q at trick 1, the standard safety play of the spade finesse would have ensured 4S, and many made 10 or 11 tricks.

| | | |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| M 9 | ♠ Q72 | |
| Bd 25 | ♥ Q65 | |
| Dlr N | ♦ AQ98642 | |
| Vul EW | ♣ — | |
| ♠ AJ105 | | ♠ K9864 |
| ♥ 10932 | | ♥ 84 |
| ♦ — | | ♦ J73 |
| ♣ 107632 | | ♣ AQJ |
| | ♠ 3 | |
| | ♥ AKJ7 | |
| | ♦ K105 | |
| | ♣ K9854 | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----------|----|---|----|
| | 1D | P | 2C |
| P | 2D | P | 2H |
| P | 3D | P | 5D |
| All pass | | | |

I did not like opening a 3D pre-empt with a void and reasonable 3-card support for both majors, so I resolved to open just 1D and rebid the suit.

Lyn's 2C (game forcing) response was not a good start for my hand, but I marked time with 2D, and Lyn showed her major suit stopper with 2H, and thus doubt about spades.

I have a potential spade stopper, but I like to give a 7-card suit a chance to be trumps, so I bid 3D, which Lyn raised directly to game. This is especially so when the suit is broken as on this hand.

North could deduce Lyn's singleton spade from the bidding, so got off with the lead of the ♦3.

My reservations about my potential spade stopper proved to be well founded, as 3NT has no chance, but 5D was cold and the perfect fitting hands yielded 12 tricks and 68%.



C Section winners: Winnie Chan and Aijun Yang

| | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| M 12 | ♠ J7 | |
| Bd 2 | ♥ Q4 | |
| Dlr E | ♦ KQ8652 | |
| Vul NS | ♣ AJ5 | |
| ♠ Q65432 | | ♠ A1098 |
| ♥ A952 | | ♥ J3 |
| ♦ — | | ♦ 43 |
| ♣ 732 | | ♣ K10984 |
| | ♠ K | |
| | ♥ K10876 | |
| | ♦ AJ1097 | |
| | ♣ Q6 | |

| W | N | E | S |
|---|-----|----------|----|
| | | P | 1H |
| P | 2D | P | 3D |
| P | 3NT | All pass | |

Lyn opened 1H as South so I took a punt at the most logical game of 3NT when Lyn raised my 2D to 3D, hoping Lyn had a stopper. However my hopes were shattered by the sight of dummy when East led the ♠8!

Luckily the ♠K held at trick 1 and I could run eight tricks, putting enormous pressure on EW in finding their discards, especially West who had to find five discards, as I deliberately won the 5th diamond on the table to lead the ♠Q hoping for a reflex cover. East's lead of the ♠8 was not the norm from their holding, the ♠10 would have been my choice, and thus West placed me with better spades and discarded three of their own, thus I should have led a heart off the table for my 9th trick!

However luck was with me when I led the ♥4 after cashing the last diamond and West won the ♥A and returned a spade to East, who was end-played into giving me a club trick at the end and 10 tricks in all for a 90% score.



Plate winners: Mike Stoneman and Ann McGhee

| | |
|----------|----------|
| M 23 | ♠ J |
| Bd 4 | ♥ 1093 |
| Dlr W | ♦ KQJ832 |
| Vul Both | ♣ 986 |
| ♠ A94 | ♠ Q10865 |
| ♥ AKQJ84 | ♥ 76 |
| ♦ 7 | ♦ A106 |
| ♣ J54 | ♣ A32 |
| | ♠ K732 |
| | ♥ 52 |
| | ♦ 954 |
| | ♣ KQ107 |

| | |
|----------|----------|
| M 33 | ♠ K10863 |
| Bd 4 | ♥ K96 |
| Dlr W | ♦ 972 |
| Vul Both | ♣ AK |
| ♠ — | ♠ 972 |
| ♥ A54 | ♥ Q82 |
| ♦ KJ8543 | ♦ A6 |
| ♣ J1042 | ♣ Q9853 |
| | ♠ AQJ54 |
| | ♥ J1073 |
| | ♦ Q10 |
| | ♣ 76 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|---|----|----------|
| 1H | P | 1S | P |
| 3H | P | 4H | All pass |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|-----|----------|-----|
| P | 1S | P | 3D! |
| P! | 3S! | All pass | |

After opening 1H as West I invited game by jumping to 3H following Lyn's 1S response, and Lyn wisely chose 4H, rather than the viable other option of 3NT.

In 3NT, South has a normal lead of the ♣K, which gives up the ♣J as a trick, but even the lead of the ♠Q next does not allow East any more than 11 tricks, since South will not cover.

If North leads the ♠9, 4H can be held to 11 tricks also, but North went for the throat by leading the ♠J, covered in dummy and ducked by South.

Now there were 12 tricks by drawing trumps and giving up a spade, but I had visions of 13 tricks since I was convinced that there were six spades in the dummy.

Thus I only made 11 tricks for +650 and only 30%. Even +680 was only 55%, as five pairs made 13 tricks, probably when South covered the ♠Q.

We were EW and were fixed up by South's ethical considerations! South bid 3D to show a limited hand with 4-card support with the intention of bidding 4S over North's response, since he had a 5th trump. I dare say that most Souths would bid 4S immediately, as would I.

However, North took a long time to rebid 3S, so South felt ethically bound to accept North's bid at face value and passed!

I could have doubled 3D for the lead, but with such a limited hand myself and a spade void, did not want to give anything away. Lyn led the ♠2.

When dummy went down I thought that we were on a hiding to nothing as nine tricks may have been the limit and so it proved.

Seventeen pairs went down in 4S; one made it and three made nine tricks in 3S, so we only scored 10%. ■

The full article is on the website

Cuppaidge's Column



George Cuppaidge

My Best Ideas

WHILE many have been slaving away at the bridge table, most of my efforts in bridge in the last twenty years have been directed at better bidding methods. I must stress here, I hate most conventions; these ideas are not conventions as they go right to the heart of how to bid. Here are some of my favourites. Since there is nothing new under the sun, it is probable that someone else has arrived independently at similar conclusions but from my perspective they are all, essentially, original. At the heart is the simple proposition that you cannot do better than to bid the hand you hold. To waste any bid, especially a low-level bid, for other purposes is suicidal.

Ten is the magic number in bridge, open, overcall or double with 10+ points. Balance of power is an all-important consideration. If you do not enter the bidding with 10 points you will often be unsure of who has it. Knowing your passed partner holds a maximum of nine is just one more of the benefits. Surely, if a hand is worth an overcall, it is worth an opening bid and vice-versa. Passing first, then coming in later helps only two people, your opponents.

We all know that game is often on for both sides. We will not find ours if we do not open the bidding; so much for the archaic 13 point requirement.

Without the requisite 10 points for an overcall, make a jump overcall, even on a good 5-card suit. Weak simple overcalls are a potential big loss when partner raises to an impossible game.

The first two levels are free for the using. Use them if you can, before the opponents do. Do not squander an opportunity to open the bidding. Far more losses result from passing good hands than from opening weak ones.

A corollary is, do not take opener beyond 2S if you are not going to



2019 Barrier Reef Congress

May 3 - 6

Pullman Reef Hotel Casino, Cairns

play in game or have a big fit. It is almost impossible for opponents, even holding huge combined strength, to exact a doubled penalty from your freely bid 2-level suit part-score. Whenever you open 1NT, weak or strong, you miss these valuable spots. The big advantage of strong NT over weak NT is that it comes up less often. To the bidding purist, 1NT is an ugly opening bid. Off-shape 1NT openings deserve a stronger epithet.

Limit your take-out doubles to "double shapes." Bid first and double later with good shapely hands. Simply knowing that your partner's double will not contain a 5-card major and that there will be at least two cards in any unbid suit is powerful. A "double shape" is balanced or three-suited with exceptions allowed for shapes like 1-3-4-5 and 2-2-4-5 when the shortage is in the bid suit and the 5-card suit is a minor. Auctions beginning with a simple overcall and those beginning with a take-out double both become more accurate. Logic decrees that it is best to show your main feature, a long suit, or the lack of one with your first bid. If your first bid mis-describes your hand, by bidding a short suit ahead of a longer one for example, it is impossible to correct your misinformation.

Treat your partner's third hand opener with respect. Make no action which will take the partnership beyond 2S without a big fit or big shape. A 2NT response in its old-fashioned sense is out of the question but it may be used effectively to show a big fit. Lead the suit bid. Very often partner has opened for that reason alone.

Do not invite game. With invitational values, pass. If you are not going to play in game, stay as low as you can. They may push you to the 3-level but don't do it to yourself. There are so many downsides to playing in 2NT or three of a major that they are not worth enumerating here. The tactical value of having strength to spare when opponents balance is squandered whenever you invite. The only upside in inviting game is the occasional marginal game which you bid and make. Haven't you noticed how rarely successful players invite game? Tim Seres never did.

Open 1C, not 1D, when you hold a balanced hand, 4-4-3-2 or 4-3-3-3, outside the range for your 1NT. This way, your 1D opener will have some character, a 5-card suit unless specifically 4-4-4-1. All your balanced garbage is introduced at the lowest possible level, ensuring that a fit in no suit, especially clubs, is missed. Better minor is probably the worst convention in bridge. The shape of a 1NT response to 1C is 3-3-3-4, to 1D it could contain a 7+ card club suit and a major-suit void. Is that helpful? Use double as your game-forcing action when your partner's 1NT is overcalled. The time to introduce your suit in competitive situations is now, not when the opponents have raised the level uncomfortably high over your ridiculous Lebensohl. Big fits make game, even opposite a near Yarborough but first you must find them. Once your double has announced game values, the path to your best game becomes as simple as it can possibly be.

Do not waste a good bid playing negative double. Simply pass if you have no satisfactory bid when in the 6-11 point range. By making a negative double with these hands you not only say nothing in particular but you deprive partner of this, the most useful of all re-opening bids. Save your double for something meaningful, to show a good hand. Any hand containing one or two small cards in the opposing suit and two or more cards in the unbid suits is a mandatory re-opening double. You will not be passed out when it matters and you will not rescue your opponents in a situation where no one can make anything.

A similar approach is equally simple

and effective following a one-over one beginning and intervention. Double creates a game-force, all suit bids are competitive, from opener or responder.

Find a better way to limit the strength of your balanced opening hand after a two-over-one response. The invogue scheme is to rebid 2NT with up to 14 points and to jump to 3NT with 18-19. This scheme requires that you open 1NT showing 15-17 with some extreme off-shapes.

This is the suggestion. Opener rebids 2NT on a balanced or near balanced hand of any strength in the opening bid range. It will contain no 6-card suit, no 4-card suit biddable at the 2-level and no second 5+ card suit. 3C asks the range with the replies of 3D, 3H, 3S and 3NT showing 10-12, 13-14, 15-17 and 18-19 respectively. No longer need you conceal a 5-card major, a feature so valuable in its own right, by opening 1NT holding one. The point count is at its most effective with balanced hands. Accurate bidding dies when opener must rebid 3NT to show strong balanced. ■

GEORGE was a prominent player in Queensland throughout the 70s and 80s, winning a number of State titles, representing Qld at the National Championships and convening the Gold Coast Congress back in the days when it was held at the Chevron Hotel. He has recently returned to Australia after a long absence but his interest in bridge has continued, especially with respect to the development of bidding systems. In this article he provides a number of his favourite bidding ideas which he has found useful over the years.

■ Richard Ward



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Play Sessions

| | | |
|-----------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Monday | 9.30 am | Duplicate |
| Tuesday | 9.30 am | Duplicate |
| | 7.15 pm | Duplicate & S'vised |
| Wednesday | 9.30 am | Duplicate |
| Thursday | 9.30 am | Supervised |
| Friday | 10.00 am | Duplicate (Mini Lesson at 9.45 am) |
| Saturday | 1.00 pm | Duplicate |

Teacher's Corner



Joan Butts

THE QBA held the annual ABF Education Programme in November as usual, and a number of people have now achieved accreditation.

Congratulations to Rebecca Knight (Dalby), Jan Ralph (Surfers Paradise), Ming Yang Su (Toowong), Dawn Benes (Arana) and Janet Loosmore (Sunnybank) who have recently become accredited.

This year we saw Far North Queensland produce its first accredited bridge teacher, May Maidment. As the bridge teacher at Atherton this makes the Tablelands Bridge Club the most northern, and probably the most remote, ABF-accredited bridge club in Australia.



May Maidment

The Tablelands Bridge Club is about 1700kms north of Brisbane. Despite the distance, May obtained her accreditation by managing to attend CPD Days thousands of kilometres away in Townsville, Brisbane and the Gold Coast, as well as completing both the online exams and regularly submitting her work as a bridge teacher.

Also accredited this year is Barbara Rydon, head of teaching at the Surfers Paradise Club. She has

encouraged many players to come along to teacher training days. There's a great teaching team at the club now.



Barbara Rydon

Although accredited teachers may not all be in a position to start teaching at their clubs, they are ready! It's good for them to at least start with Help with Play sessions, or to assist the main teacher, if there is no immediate opening for teaching, or they could try with a small group of friends. Some (larger) clubs now have teaching teams, who have all trained in the same way, and can take over when required.

Accreditation doesn't mean you're an experienced teacher necessarily, it means that you have participated in and observed modern methods of teaching and spent time learning more about content-based teaching

modules which may improve your understanding of the game.

This year has seen a significant increase in Queensland's accredited teachers, and here is the group now.

Arana Bridge Club: Jim Taylor and Dawn Benes

Dalby Bridge Club: Rebecca Knight

Gold Coast Bridge Club: Lynley Jenkins

Goondiwindi Bridge Club: Paula Lennon

Redland Bridge Club: Deirdre Giles and John Dunne

Surfers Paradise Bridge Club: Birgitt Bingham, Kay Watkinson, Michael Witham, Barbara Rydon and Jan Ralph

Sunnybank Bridge Club: Laurelle McDonnell and Janet Loosmore

Tablelands Bridge Club: May Maidment

Tamborine Mountain Bridge Club: John Youngman and Denise Merrin

Toowong Bridge Club: Sandra Mulcahy, Sue Eix, Ming Yang, Malcolm Carter and Lyn Carter

In November I introduced new Modules for Teaching, called Teacher Resource Packs, containing everything a teacher needs to present a series of lessons to their class.



Rebecca Knight (Dalby), Jan Ralph (Surfers Paradise) Janet Loosmore (Sunnybank) Ming Shu Yang (Toowong), Dawn Benes (Arana)

The first, available now is Competitive Bidding, and consists of five lessons each containing teaching plans, student notes, deal records, hands analysis, quizzes, links to matching videos, a certificate for students and feedback forms.

The lessons are: Overcalls & Responses, Two-Suited Overcalls, Overcalls over the Opponent's

1NT, Doubles, Responding to Doubles.

The ABF has agreed to subsidise these packs for any club or teacher who is involved in Accreditation. Completion of lessons using this material will offer 10 Accreditation points per module. For more information go to: www.abf.com.au/education/teacher-resources/ ■

Manager's Travels



**Kim
Ellaway**

A PART from travelling to Biloela for the obvious reason of visiting our beautiful granddaughter Zeraya Marion Klease, we have done minimal travel and minimal bridge. Ray still struggles to play two sessions in one day so we just don't. We did play in the QCBC Pairs Championship which was two sessions. However, as Ray is the President he felt he should, and our results showed it was a mistake.

One board on which we got a top, which surprised me, was the following.

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Dir N | ♠ A8743 |
| Vul Both | ♥ AQ53 |
| | ♦ AJ5 |
| | ♣ A |
| ♠ Q105 | ♠ KJ2 |
| ♥ 62 | ♥ J9874 |
| ♦ 1094 | ♦ Q |
| ♣ K10843 | ♣ 9765 |
| | ♠ 96 |
| | ♥ K10 |
| | ♦ K87632 |
| | ♣ QJ2 |

| | | | |
|---|----|----------|----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | 1C | P | 2D |
| P | 2S | P | 3D |
| P | 6D | All pass | |

We play Precision and one of the advantages is that it finds the minor slams a little more easily. Ray was North.

Due to tiredness Ray bid 6D over my 3D but 3H is better. I will bid 3NT and now a 6D diamond bid is excellent.

We were the only ones in the contract giving us all the matchpoints. Seems unfair to the opposition when the contract is cold.

Standard bidding would go 1S - 1NT; 3H - 3NT, and the beautiful diamond fit is not found. ■

**JOAN BUTTS
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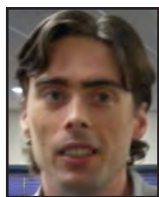
Gold membership costs \$15 Australian a month.
Discounted six month and annual plans are also available.



Anzac Day Swiss Teams Thursday April 25

ENTRY FEE: \$120 per team TIME: 9.30 AM
ENTRIES CLOSE: noon Monday 22/4/19
DIRECTOR: Jan Peach
ENQUIRIES: Toni at QCBC – 3391 3241

Declarer Play



Nikolas
Moore

THIS slam hand from a teams event at the Brisbane Bridge Centre is a good example of managing entries to set up a side suit in dummy.

| | | | |
|---------|----------|---|---------|
| Dlr W | ♠ Q862 | | |
| Vul NS | ♥ 874 | | |
| | ♦ AJ1095 | | |
| | ♣ 8 | | |
| ♠ AK753 | | N | ♠ 94 |
| ♥ A102 | | W | ♥ KQJ65 |
| ♦ 432 | | E | ♦ K4 |
| ♣ AQ9 | | S | ♣ K654 |
| | ♠ J10 | | |
| | ♥ 93 | | |
| | ♦ Q876 | | |
| | ♣ J10732 | | |

| W | N | E | S |
|-----|----------|----|---|
| 1S | P | 2H | P |
| 3H | P | 4H | P |
| 4NT | P | 5D | P |
| 6H | All pass | | |

After I (East) showed a game force response with 2H opposite partner's 1S opening, partner bid via RCKB to 6H. With the hands fitting well this has decent prospects despite no extra values in my hand.

South led the ♣J which I won with dummy's ace to avoid blocking the suit. There are three potential losers in the minor suits and the only realistic way to get rid of them is to set up dummy's spade suit for discards. Therefore I played the ♠AK and trumped a spade high, preventing South from overtrumping. I crossed back to dummy's ♥10, trumped another spade high then drew trumps and crossed to dummy's ♣Q, North discarding. I discarded my losing club on dummy's good spade and led a diamond to the king, which held for +980 and 11 IMPs in.

With spades 4-2 it is important not to draw all the trumps immediately because an entry in the trump suit

is needed to trump dummy's fourth spade. It is also important to cross to dummy in trumps at this point, and not clubs, because with the suit 5-1, North will ruff.

Also, I should have played the ♥AK before playing on spades, because if hearts are 5-0 I cannot afford to trump any spades in hand and have to hope that clubs are 3-3 and the diamond finesse wins. If hearts are 4-1, I can only trump one spade in hand and hope that suit is 3-3.

This next hand from the ANC Consolation Pairs is an example of both the Lebensohl Convention and counting the hand.

| | | | |
|--------|----------|---|--------|
| Dlr N | ♠ 9642 | | |
| Vul EW | ♥ Q9 | | |
| | ♦ 62 | | |
| | ♣ J10765 | | |
| ♠ K853 | | N | ♠ A107 |
| ♥ J5 | | W | ♥ 1084 |
| ♦ KJ10 | | E | ♦ AQ84 |
| ♣ K932 | | S | ♣ AQ4 |
| | ♠ QJ | | |
| | ♥ AK7632 | | |
| | ♦ 9753 | | |
| | ♣ 8 | | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|----------|-----|----|
| 3H | P | 1NT | 2H |
| 5D | All pass | 4D | P |

Partner's 3H bid asks if I have four spades, and also denies a stopper in the opponents' suit; if he held a heart stopper he would first bid 2NT (Lebensohl). Without spades or a stopper, I was forced to bid my 4-card minor. Partner could try 4S at this point implying four spades and only three diamonds; indeed 4S is, in theory, the only game that can legitimately make.

To beat 5D South either needs to lead a trump immediately to prevent me ruffing a heart in dummy, or lead a club at trick 1 or 2 and then duck a heart to North to receive a club ruff. Not unreasonably, South began with three rounds of hearts. Dummy trumped the third round as North discarded a club, I cashed dummy's remaining trumps, crossed to the ♠A and drew the remaining trumps, North and dummy discarding spades. Prospects looked bleak

when South discarded on the second round of clubs, but when I crossed to dummy's ♠K, the jack appeared from South.

Normally using the Principle of Restricted Choice it would be the percentage play to finesse North for the ♠Q. However, South has shown up with six hearts, four diamonds and a singleton club, so he must have another spade. A spade to the ace dropped the queen for +600 and a gain of 9 IMPs.

Interestingly, if North did hold a spade honour, she would be squeezed when I play the last trump, unable to guard both black suits.

Finally a hand from the Toowong Club Pairs Championship that Larry Moses and I won this year highlighting some differences between the strategy of IMPs and Matchpoints.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|---|----------|
| Dlr E | ♠ 54 | | |
| Vul Both | ♥ K62 | | |
| | ♦ K98765 | | |
| | ♣ J3 | | |
| ♠ AKQJ8 | | N | ♠ 72 |
| ♥ 54 | | W | ♥ AJ1087 |
| ♦ A4 | | E | ♦ QJ10 |
| ♣ A982 | | S | ♣ Q107 |
| | ♠ 10953 | | |
| | ♥ Q93 | | |
| | ♦ 32 | | |
| | ♣ K654 | | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|---|-----|----------|
| 1S | P | 2H | P |
| 3C | P | 3NT | All pass |

South led the unbid diamond suit, ducked to my queen. As this was Matchpoints I opted to cross to dummy in spades and try a heart to the jack. South won, knocked out the ♦A and I played a heart to the ten. This risks the contract when South has both missing heart honours but that would be unlucky, and playing on hearts like this often produces four tricks as was the case here due to a 3-3 break, making 12 altogether for +690 and a 90% score. Playing on clubs is safer and therefore correct at IMPs, but would produce only three tricks for +660 and 60% at Matchpoints.

Similarly, North ducking the

diamond lead would be correct at IMPs as it preserves South's entry in diamonds, which is the best chance of beating the contract. At Matchpoints, North would do better to play the king to ensure that it makes a trick and holds the contract to 11 tricks, as 3NT is unlikely to fail given that the dummy (West) is very strong and East's 2H bid shows 10+ points. ■

Toowoomba



Richard Ward

THE "house full" sign went up for the annual Toowoomba Pairs and Teams Congress at the end of September, held at the same time as the popular Carnival of Flowers. Director, Chris Snook, ran a flawless congress and the Toowoomba Bridge Club members worked tirelessly and successfully with some fabulous catering.

Winners of the Pairs were Pamela and Jim Evans ahead of Murray Perrin and Neville Francis. B Grade went to Jacqui Fardoulis and Yolande Coroneo whilst C Grade was won by Warren Males and Aijun Yang.

In the teams there was the tightest of finishes with FRANCIS (Neville Francis, Murray Perrin, Tim Runtig and Patrick Bugler) just edging out HUTTON (Tony Hutton, Malcom Carter, Therese Tully and Richard Ward) by less than 1 victory point. Although there would have been any number of hands which could have reversed the result, Murray Perrin's insightful bidding in the critical match could arguably be seen as the reason for his team's win.

In second position, vul v not, he held

♠AK3 ♥AQ3 ♦AK32 ♣654

and heard his right hand opponent open 3H. Most people would bid an automatic 3NT, but Murray went for the more flexible option of double and hit gold!

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Dlr E | ♠ J97642 |
| Vul NS | ♥ 102 |
| | ♦ Q |
| | ♣ AK32 |
| ♠ 1085 | ♠ Q |
| ♥ 95 | ♥ KJ8764 |
| ♦ J98764 | ♦ 105 |
| ♣ Q7 | ♣ J1098 |
| | ♠ AK3 |
| | ♥ AQ3 |
| | ♦ AK32 |
| | ♣ 654 |

| W | N | E | S |
|---|----|----------|-----|
| | | 3H | X |
| P | 4S | P | 4NT |
| P | 5D | P | 5H |
| P | 6S | All pass | |

5H asked for the trump queen and, because of the 6th spade, North showed that he held that card.

There was nothing to the play and the 12 IMPs (against 3NT making 13 tricks at the other table) was well-deserved.

B Grade was won by KING (Lorraine King, Helen Standfast, Helen Clayton, Cathy Males). C Grade went to MALES (Warren Males, Aijun Yang, Susan Sharp and Andrew Sharp) ■

All About Alerts

ALERTING is about drawing the opponents' attention to your side's unusual bidding. It is controlled by a set of regulations issued by the Australian Bridge Federation. That document runs for 11 pages (!) so I'll save you some reading here.

With written bidding you alert your

partner's unusual bid by circling it and saying "Alert". Don't explain anything: wait to be asked.

If using bidding boxes, say "Alert" and optionally fish around in the box in the hope of finding the Alert card.

The definition of an "unusual bid" is somewhat opaque, but the general principle is that, if a bid's meaning is not what it sounds like, then it should be alerted. Usually this involves bidding a suit that does not show length in that suit, or bidding no-trumps when it does not indicate a desire to play in no-trumps. It also includes bids that have an unexpected HCP range. Examples of alertable bids:

Transfer bids

Unusual No-trump or Lebensohl

Multi 2D opening

'Pass or correct' bids

Weak jump responses

Inverted minor raises

Self-alerting bids

Some bids are defined as self-alerting, meaning they do not require an actual alert as they are "obviously unusual". These are:

Doubles and redoubles

All bids above 3NT (except unusual high level opening, eg NAMYATS)

Cue bid of opponents' suit

2C response to a 1NT opening bid

Asking

You can ask about any alerted bid, or un-alerted bid for that matter, but only at your turn to bid or play. Most people only ask if the answer may affect their upcoming bid or play, but it is entirely up to you whether or not you ask.

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 Fri 9.30 am

When asking, ask in general terms, not using leading questions. So say: "what does 2C mean?", not "does 2C show clubs?" (which could be interpreted as code for 'I have clubs'). At the end of an auction that had multiple alerts, if on lead you should say: "explain the auction please", rather than asking about one specific alerted bid. If not on lead, wait until partner has led face-down and then ask your question.

Answering

You are required to explain your partnership agreements, nothing more. If you're not sure what partner's bid means or have forgotten your agreements, try not to guess. Just say: "I don't know" or "I don't remember". (The director will adjust the result if your opponents are damaged by this failure of memory.)

If you haven't discussed a bid, say: "it is undiscussed". Again, do not offer a possible explanation, or how you are going to take it.

Partner fails to alert, or mis-alerts, or mis-explains.

Happens all the time right? You must stay shtum for the moment. Then ...

At auction's end, with your side declaring

Before the opening lead, draw your opponents' attention to the problem. Explain what you think went wrong.

If your side ends up defending

You can say nothing until the end of play, at which point you should identify the issue.

Pre-alerting

At the start of each round, you should pre-alert your opponents to any unusual convention that they may need to arrange a defence against. Main examples are:

- Switched responses to 1C
- Very unusual 2-level openings (eg 2NT for the minors) ... the Multi scheme does not need a pre-alert, as it's so relevant
- A system other than some form of Standard American: eg Precision, Acol.

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Brisbane Zone Interclub Teams



Richard Wallis

As usual in the Brisbane Zone, we had an interclub teams competition, this year on Sunday 18th November, hosted by Toowong BC and directed by Chris Snook. This is meant to be a fun day, and each club in the Zone is entitled to send a team in A, B, C and D grades. We had 8 clubs participating this year, QCBC, Toowong, BBC, Northern Suburbs, Redlands, Sunnybank, Kenmore and Redcliffe, each grade therefore playing 7 matches in a complete round-robin.

QCBC won the A grade (Open), winning all matches. BBC won the B grade (up to 400MPs) and D grade (up to 10MPs), and Sunnybank won the C grade (up to 100MPs). This resulted in the Brisbane Bridge Centre winning the Marion Cooke Trophy for overall performance, with QCBC second.

I had the pleasure of playing with Julie Jeffries (the Brisbane Zone

secretary), John Kelly and Peter Evans. Our B grade team comprised Peter Burke, Nanette Hinsch, Elaine Jonsberg and Chris Larter. C grade was Lynn Kelly, Marie Buckley and Judy and Neil Hansen. D grade was Christina and Paul Murray, Rob Swann and Philip Argyris.

Toowong were great hosts and we look forward to 2019 when the Interclub Teams will be hosted by Northern Suburbs.

M 1 ♠ Q87653
Bd 1 ♥ —
Dir N ♦ 1064
Vul None ♣ A962
♠ AJ ♠ K9
♥ A843 ♥ 7
♦ KQ987 ♦ AJ532
♣ QJ ♣ K10853
♠ 1042
♥ KQJ109652
♦ —
♣ 74

| W | N | E | S |
|----------|----|-----|----|
| 5D | 2S | 3D! | 3S |
| All pass | | | |

As North I opened with a weak-two spades (not recommended for the squeamish), and Julie had a dilemma, in whether to support spades, a known 6-3 fit, or bid her self-supporting 8-card suit! Either could be right, especially since

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she has fewer values than I was expected to have.

East took the bull by the horns and overcalled 3D, a bid that may not occur to many players, but hit the jackpot when West quickly raised to game. The lead of the ♥K defeats 6D, although 6D by West is cold against any lead, but difficult to arrange unless East makes an even more unlikely take-out double.

At the other table EW did not get involved, and South bid 4H (as would I) which is easily one off so we lost nine IMPs for an inauspicious start.

The rest of the match was catch-up which we did, just, to run out winners by 3 IMPs.

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|--|
| M 3 | ♠ 83 | | |
| Bd 18 | ♥ AQ | | |
| Dlr E | ♦ J842 | | |
| Vul NS | ♣ A5432 | | |
| ♠ AQJ654 | | ♠ K10972 | |
| ♥ J3 | | ♥ K62 | |
| ♦ 3 | | ♦ Q7 | |
| ♣ KQ107 | | ♣ J96 | |
| | ♠ — | | |
| | ♥ 1098754 | | |
| | ♦ AK10965 | | |
| | ♣ 8 | | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|----------|----|-----|
| 2S | P! | P | 2H! |
| 4S | All pass | 3S | P! |

Julie was South and had a difficult hand to bid, great distribution but below minimum values, and adverse vulnerability.

It is a great hand if you are playing Multi-twos, but is the heart suit good enough to open 2H when the diamond suit is so much better?

I would rather open 1H than pass, but under current QBA regulations you need a minimum of 8 HCPs for an opening bid, otherwise it may be treated as a psyche.

Thus you are left with a 2H opening bid, but, if you go that far, it is imperative that you follow it through by bidding the diamond suit next, and then it would be up to me as North to bid 5D or 5H.

I was pretty wimpish in not even bidding 3H, but at the other table NS did not leave anything to chance,

finishing in 5DX, making 12 tricks for –950, to go with the –420 from our table and 16 IMPs away.

| | | | |
|----------|------------|---------|--|
| M 4 | ♠ AQJ10874 | | |
| Bd 28 | ♥ 9 | | |
| Dlr W | ♦ A73 | | |
| Vul NS | ♣ 103 | | |
| ♠ 6 | | ♠ 95 | |
| ♥ AK1062 | | ♥ Q8743 | |
| ♦ 1095 | | ♦ KJ82 | |
| ♣ KJ95 | | ♣ Q2 | |
| | ♠ K32 | | |
| | ♥ J5 | | |
| | ♦ Q64 | | |
| | ♣ A8764 | | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|-----|----|----------|
| 1H | 1S! | 4H | All pass |

West opened 1H and I overcalled 1S with the expectation that I would bid the suit again on the next round. If my suit had not been spades, I would have jumped the first time around, but since I had the boss suit, I thought that I would go slowly.

However, when East jumped to 4H, Julie did not know whether to bid 4S or pass, and took some time to think about it before passing.

Now I knew that she had some values, and though I did not need spade support, felt that I could not bid 4S given the pause.

Thus I passed, and compounded the problem by trying to cash a second spade instead of the ♦A and another diamond. Since my ♣10 dropped, 4H now made, and coupled with the 4S bid at the other table, we lost a double-game swing for 14 IMPs out.

At another table, after a similar auction North did bid 4S and the director adjusted it to 4H one off after EW queried the auction.

| | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|--|
| M 5 | ♠ A4 | | |
| Bd 6 | ♥ QJ32 | | |
| Dlr E | ♦ KQ1053 | | |
| Vul EW | ♣ 104 | | |
| ♠ Q986 | | ♠ 52 | |
| ♥ AK964 | | ♥ 108 | |
| ♦ 62 | | ♦ J94 | |
| ♣ AJ | | ♣ Q87653 | |
| | ♠ KJ1073 | | |
| | ♥ 75 | | |
| | ♦ A87 | | |
| | ♣ K92 | | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|------|----------|----|
| 2H | 2NT! | P | 1S |
| | | All pass | |

I was a bit too conservative when I invited game with a simple 2NT over West's 2H overcall.

True I have the 10-12 I showed, but I have a good 5-card suit, and my heart holding is likely to be worth two tricks! I also have the ace of partner's opening bid suit.

East led the ♥10 and I won the second round and took the spade finesse for safety, since this protects the ♠K from attack, and, if it loses, I have 9 tricks as the spades now break.

When West won the ♠Q and did not cash the ♣A, I had 10 tricks after winning the next heart for +180.

We got lucky because at the other table South stopped in 2S, just making for –110, so we gained a modest 2 IMPs.

Changes to the Bulletin

As of next year, there will be only two council meetings per annum, subject to the constitution being changed at the AGM in March. This means that whilst there will still be four Bulletins per year, only the April and October issues will be printed as hard copies.

Only the electronic copy will be published in July and January. If you would like to be informed when these are available on the website, please make sure that Kim Ellaway has your email address.

Expressions of Interest

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| | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| M 6 | ♠ — | ♠ AK10653 |
| Bd 14 | ♥ K942 | ♥ J103 |
| Dlr E | ♦ AQ10853 | ♦ 9 |
| Vul None | ♣ K84 | ♣ J62 |
| ♠ 872 | | ♠ QJ94 |
| ♥ A85 | | ♥ Q76 |
| ♦ J742 | | ♦ K6 |
| ♣ A107 | | ♣ Q953 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|----|----------|---|
| P! | 3D | 2S | P |
| | | All pass | |

The bidding at our table was quite tame after East opened a weak 2S, and I was passed out in 3D, to which East led the ♠A.

When dummy tracked it looked like I had only 8 tricks, whereas 2S was going down and Julie may have passed if I had doubled instead of bidding 3D.

However when the diamonds broke 4-1, I had a lot of problems and in endeavouring to make 9 tricks I went 2 off for -100.

If I had played the ♦A before entering dummy with the ♦K, I could have led a heart off the table after discovering the 4-1 break making it easier to come to 8 or maybe 9 tricks.

At the other table Peter (West) quite reasonably raised 2S to 3S and South passed the subsequent take-out double. This went 2 off for -300 and a 9 IMP loss.

| | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|
| M 7 | ♠ AQJ108432 | ♠ K96 |
| Bd 18 | ♥ 109 | ♥ AJ642 |
| Dlr E | ♦ Q | ♦ 8 |
| Vul NS | ♣ K8 | ♣ AQ72 |
| ♠ — | | ♠ 75 |
| ♥ 873 | | ♥ KQ5 |
| ♦ KJ107654 | | ♦ A932 |
| ♣ 1064 | | ♣ J953 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----------|----|----|---|
| 2H | 5S | 1H | P |
| All pass | | 5H | X |

I bid my 8-card suit to the limit over West's 2H raise, and this provoked East into taking the save, over which Julie had no trouble in doubling for penalties.

East ruffed the spade lead on the table and took the successful club finesse to ruff another spade before giving Julie her club trick, but now I was able to ruff the next club and we still had 2 trumps and the ♦A to come for 3 off and +500.

At the other table the bidding was similar, except South did not double so that was only -150 and 8 IMPs.

The problem for EW comes from West's 2H raise and East's lack of fit in diamonds and poor suit.



Kim Ellaway

SUNDAY November 18 saw the Brisbane Zone conducting its annual Interclub Teams at BBC. Teams from most Brisbane clubs were represented. Ray and I had the privilege of representing QCBC and teaming up with good friends Robyn Clark and Robin Steinhardt in the A Grade Section. Ray does not play two sessions of bridge these days due to the medication he is on. However, how could we pass up this offer - I knew the afternoon session would be exciting as Ray gets so tired.

All clubs entering four teams are eligible to win the Marion Cooke Trophy which I proudly present at the end of the day. Both Sunnybank and QCBC in their respective grades were undefeated.

One hand which picked us up some IMPs was the following hand. Ray and I have an understanding that if we pick up a weak hand with six cards in the majors and five cards in the minors, we give preference to the weak-2 bid rather than the 2-suited hand of 5/5. I picked up

♠ — ♥ 1098754 ♦ AK10965 ♣ 8

As I teach my students, you never rebid weak hands unless forced, but look at the hand.

| | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| Dlr E | ♠ 83 | ♠ K10972 |
| Vul NS | ♥ AQ | ♥ K62 |
| | ♦ J842 | ♦ Q7 |
| | ♣ A5432 | ♣ J96 |
| ♠ AQJ654 | | ♠ — |
| ♥ J3 | | ♥ 1098754 |
| ♦ 3 | | ♦ AK10965 |
| ♣ KQ107 | | ♣ 8 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|----|----|----------|
| 2S | 3C | P | 2H |
| 4S | 5D | 3S | 4D! |
| | | X | All pass |

East passed and I chose to bid 2H showing a weak 2-suiter with hearts. West bid 2S, Ray now bid 3C which is pass-or-correct and shows diamonds otherwise he would just compete in hearts. East bid 3S and I now put a bid of 4D on the pad which is against everything I teach. 4S came from West and Ray had no hesitation in bidding 5D because he knew there was something strange about my hand for me to rebid my weak hand. This was doubled and of course, as you can see, it easily made 12 tricks, as did 6H.



Kim presenting the Marion Cooke Trophy to the President of BBC, Peter Burke

25 Years Ago

The Open Teams

THE Queensland Open Teams was played at the Toowong clubrooms on the traditional last weekend in September (Grand Final weekend, unhappily). Thirty teams

fronted up, and there should have been more but, unfortunately, the defending champions had a mix-up where everyone thought someone else was doing the entry. Bad luck.

Still, competition was fierce, and there was no easy ride - the winning team lost three of eight matches, one substantially.

In the last round, STONE faced BAGCHI, needing a 21-9 victory, and managed a 22-8. Meanwhile KENT could have done it with a 19-11 over ATHERTON, but lost 14-16 to slip to 3rd.

A couple of contrasting moments from the event: in round one, Trish and I (part of the STONE team) are facing Wood and Ambor from the Sunshine Coast when Board 13 arrived.

| | |
|---------|----------|
| ♠ Q2 | ♠ AKJ763 |
| ♥ AQ | ♥ 98 |
| ♦ J542 | ♦ A3 |
| ♣ QJ532 | ♣ AK7 |

| W | N | E | S |
|------------------|---|------------------|----------|
| 2NT ¹ | P | 2S | P |
| 4S | P | 3S | P |
| 5H | P | 5C ² | P |
| 6S ⁴ | P | 5NT ³ | P |
| | | 7S | All pass |

¹ A positive response showing clubs

² Cue bid

³ Grand slam force

⁴ One of the top three

Before the opening lead I was asked to explain the bids, and told opponents that West had a club suit, the ♠Q, and first-round heart control. A diamond was led, trumps drawn, ♣A and claim the rest. Mrs Ambor, on the receiving end, was all smiles and good sportsmanship, "What lovely bidding," she said.

At the end of the event, in contrast, Trish was on the verandah, unaware that we even had a chance of winning. Someone approached her with congratulations, and a person close by, overhearing this, said loudly, "You dealt the hands again, did you?"

There will be no further remarks of this nature. The QBA can find someone to hand-deal all finals.

But enough of complaints. Here is the board from the final round which probably swung the match STONE's way.

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Dlr S | ♠ Q97 |
| Vul Both | ♥ 5 |
| | ♦ J654 |
| | ♣ AK943 |
| ♠ 1062 | ♠ AJ5 |
| ♥ AKQ10843 | ♥ 62 |
| ♦ 10 | ♦ KQ972 |
| ♣ 85 | ♣ Q76 |
| | ♠ K843 |
| | ♥ J97 |
| | ♦ A83 |
| | ♣ J102 |

At our table the bidding was: 3H-4H going one off.

Not so with Bill Hunt and Colin Stone. Bill opened 4C (SA Texas) and Gary Malinas showed his club suit by doubling. Presumably NS had not discussed their defence to the convention, and probably Gary didn't mind if Khokan thought it was takeout anyway. Khokan, in the event, bid 4S.

This contract is always two down, but EW contrived two ruffs apiece to hit it for six and a 12 IMP swing. It's amazing how one board can turn a match with no one doing anything especially clever, and no one doing anything especially stupid either.

■ Frank White

Toowoomba



Jim Evans

THE Toowoomba congress started on Saturday 29 with the Swiss Matchpoint Pairs.

This is my preferred method of scoring; tops or bottoms!

You can go for 800 or 1100 and get it back the very next hand with one overtrick more than the other pairs. Of course, these days I try not to go for these phone numbers.

The teams runs over the next two days. If you want a nice weekend away this is a pleasant place.

The Carnival of flowers is at its peak.

The event was directed by Chris Snook with his usual efficiency.

The members were all very friendly and welcoming and there was ample good food available all day. The pairs starts at 10am, this had been a trap for Neville Francis and me for a few years.

We both like to get to a congress early, so I turned up at 8.45 for a 9.30am start, wondering where everyone else is and Neville said, "You didn't look at the start time either."

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| M 6 | ♠ AQ10 |
| Bd 5 | ♥ J8 |
| Dlr N | ♦ K1096 |
| Vul NS | ♣ KJ75 |
| ♠ J2 | ♠ K87643 |
| ♥ 9 | ♥ 1043 |
| ♦ AJ853 | ♦ Q42 |
| ♣ AQ632 | ♣ 9 |
| | ♠ 95 |
| | ♥ AKQ7652 |
| | ♦ 7 |
| | ♣ 1084 |

| W | N | E | S |
|----|-----|----------|----|
| 4S | 1D | 2S | 4H |
| | 4NT | All pass | |

After my 1D opening everyone got into the bidding.

Being vulnerable I decided 4NT had a better chance of making than 5H. Doubling 4S was probably not going to make us rich, on a diamond lead it goes off two. Jacqui Fardoulis made the excellent lead of a small heart. This was the least helpful lead she could have made for me.

I have eight tricks so I need too make two more. The correct play here is to win in dummy and lead the ♠10 hoping West has the ♠Q, this seems reasonable as East has four points at most in spades. As it happens West has the ♠A and ♠Q, so this is the best line of play. West should rise with the ♠A and then send the ♠J through declarer. But, because I am holding the ♠10, this gives me 10 tricks without any concerns over the diamonds. Jacqui and Yolande played well all day, they were leading the event on three separate occasions and were always in the top four tables. The heart lead demonstrates why. ■

Thinking Bridge

Responding to 2♣. Key card Blackwood. Long-suit establishment.

| | | | |
|----------|------------|---------|--|
| Dlr S | ♠ K98 | | |
| Vul Both | ♥ 65432 | | |
| | ♦ J105 | | |
| | ♣ KJ | | |
| ♠ 6 | | ♠ 54 | |
| ♥ K98 | | ♥ AQJ10 | |
| ♦ Q732 | | ♦ 986 | |
| ♣ 109843 | | ♣ 7652 | |
| | ♠ AQJ10732 | | |
| | ♥ 7 | | |
| | ♦ AK4 | | |
| | ♣ AQ | | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----------|----|---|-----|
| | | | 2C |
| P | 2D | P | 2S |
| P | 3S | P | 4NT |
| P | 5D | P | 6S |
| All pass | | | |

Opening lead: ♠10

Bidding commentary

As North, you have the strength for a positive response in hearts, but the ugliness of your suit should deter you. A "waiting" response of 2D is better. The raise to 3♠ is positive, typically showing at least two working cards (two kings, for example) or one working card plus a side-suit singleton. A jump raise to 4♠ is weak, denying an ace, a king or a singleton. With an in-between raise, hedge by bidding 2NT and then spades. North-South were using key card Blackwood (KCB). In this version of responses, much like regular Blackwood responses, the king of the agreed suit counts as an ace, thus the 5♦ response. Nowadays, most play Roman key card Blackwood (RKCB). In this version, both the king and queen of the agreed suit can be shown.

Play commentary

As South, you have a heart loser with a diamond finesse available as a last resort. What other chances are there? Do you see that "beautiful" 5-card heart suit staring you in the face? It's your salvation. If hearts are divided a civilized 4-3 (nearly 63%), you have the dummy entries to establish dummy's fifth heart for a diamond discard! No diamond finesse will be needed. First, long-suit establishment, and

if that doesn't work, fall back on a finesse is the normal order of business.

Play commentary #2

Win the ♠A, retaining the ♠K as a later dummy entry, and lead a heart (key play). Say East wins and returns a diamond to your ace. Cross to the ♠8, ruff a heart high, back to the ♠9, and ruff another heart high. Assuming the opponents have each followed to three rounds of hearts, one high heart remains at large. You are counting hearts, of course. Say you are even

if you aren't! Cross to the ♠K and ruff a third heart, setting up dummy's last heart. Enter dummy with the ♠K and discard your losing diamond on that tiny fifth heart you have worked so hard to set up. The trick to long-suit establishment is to start the long suit early while dummy still has side-suit and trump entries. ■

■ Eddie Kantar

Reprinted from the Daily Bulletin of the North American Bridge Championships

Bridge Directing

If you are interested in bridge directing there are now 3 levels of assessment available:

An ABF Proficiency

Assessment for Club Directors

Aspiring Directors are now able to complete this assessment to assist them in handling of regular Club Duplicate Games.

The assessment will cover:

A. The most common laws

Calls out of rotation and Comparable Calls

Insufficient bids

Opening, as well as other, leads out of turn, by defenders, declarer and dummy

Penalty Cards and lead restrictions

Revokes and resultant automatic trick adjustments

B. Movements

Mitchell, Howells & Teams, and variants

C. Scoring

Principles involved, especially if you need to score by hand.

NB It is an open book assessment. Further information and contact details are:-

National Director Development Officer (NDDO), John McIlraith,
email: nddo@abf.com.au;
mobile: 0437 274 343

2. A QBA Club Director's Accreditation exam (see QBA website for details);

3. A QBA Congress Director's Exam. While it is not mandatory for club directors to undertake the ABF Proficiency Exam it is a recommended option. It is also possible for people to go straight to Step 2 without having completed Step 1.



OPEN + NOVICE IMP PAIRS

Sunday January 13

Novice Event for Players with fewer than 100 MPs as at 30/9/2018
Sponsored by



ENTRY FEE: \$60 per pair
ENTRIES CLOSE: Thursday 10 January
DIRECTOR: Alan Gibson
SYSTEMS: Novice (<100mp): Green, Blue
Open: Green, Blue, Red plus Brown Sticker
START: 9.30 am
ENTRIES & ENQUIRIES: 3391 3241 qbc1@optusnet.com.au
CASH PRIZES - BYO LUNCH - MORNING & AFTERNOON TEA

IBPA Column Service

| | | | | | |
|------------|------------|---------|--|--|--|
| Dlr S | ♠ 732 | | | | |
| Vul None | ♥ 98754 | | | | |
| | ♦ K75 | | | | |
| | ♣ 72 | | | | |
| ♠ K106 | | ♠ J984 | | | |
| ♥ — | | ♥ 3 | | | |
| ♦ AJ108643 | | ♦ Q92 | | | |
| ♣ 1095 | | ♣ QJ862 | | | |
| | ♠ AQ5 | | | | |
| | ♥ AKQJ1062 | | | | |
| | ♦ — | | | | |
| | ♣ AK4 | | | | |

| W | N | E | S |
|----------|----|---|----|
| 3D | P | P | 2C |
| P | 4D | P | 3H |
| All pass | | | 6H |

Since North's cue-bid of four diamonds suggested a good raise to four hearts, South just bid what he thought he could make.

West led the ten of clubs. After a little thought, declarer formed the plan of endplaying West on the third round of diamonds. Declarer won the first trick with the ace of clubs, crossed to dummy by playing the two of trumps to the four(!) and ruffed a diamond high. Declarer cashed the king of clubs and returned to dummy with a club ruff, eliminating that suit. Next, he ruffed dummy's remaining low diamond with another high trump. South returned to dummy by playing his six of trumps to dummy's seven. Declarer continued with the king of diamonds, discarding the spade five from his hand. West won the trick with the ace of diamonds and had no good return.

West counted declarer for 3-7-0-3 shape, with the ace of spades. So, if he played a fourth round of diamonds declarer would ruff in the dummy and discard his spade loser from hand. When, instead, West exited with a low spade, declarer was able to win the trick with the queen of spades and claim. He made two spades, seven hearts, two clubs and a club ruff for a total of 12 tricks.

■ Tim Bourke

Redland



Cr. Wendy Boglary, Redland City Council, Michael Souter - President, Redland Bridge Club, Cr. Paul Golle and Cr. Lance Hewlett (Deputy Mayor)

Club News

Affiliated clubs Roma, Tamborine were successful with the Gambling Community Benefit Funding and non affiliated clubs – Buderim and Northern Beaches also successful. All obtained funding for equipment.

Noosa

Members generously raised a total of \$8,190 for charity this year.

Recipients included Katie Rose Cottage Ltd, View Club of Noosaville, RSPCA, Bridge for Brain and the Farmers Drought Appeal.

Kenmore

THIS month Joan Branthwaite chose to play bridge at KBC on her 94th birthday. Bridge friends bought biscuits and a cake with candles. On that day Paddy Taylor, Theresa Tully's 12-year-old grand-nephew, played bridge with Margaret Mobbs. It is a joy to see the diversity of our players sharing a game across the table and across four generations. We have the enthusiasm and capacity to cater for all age groups.



Paddy Taylor and Joan Branthwaite

Redland Bridge Club Local Council Grant

A WHILE ago, after much deliberation, the Committee of Management of the Redland Bridge Club approved the purchase of a defibrillator for the clubhouse. It was suggested that the club seek a grant from the Redland City Council to subsidise the cost of the unit. Club Vice-president, Molly O'Donohue, prepared a grant application and recently Council advised that a \$2000 grant had been approved.

The total cost of the unit and training is expected to be \$2545.

Early in October, Club President Michael Souter visited the council chambers and was presented with a cheque for \$2000. We thank our local councillors, especially Councillor Paul Golle, for approving the grant out of their allocation of grant money.

Sometime in the near future, the Committee will arrange a briefing for members on how to use the defibrillator. The Committee is mindful that some members may not wish to be resuscitated if they have a heart attack at the club, and so the Committee will set up a register of such members.

State News

Winners of the Senior Pairs were:

Mike Pemberton - John Gough, Lois Steinwedel - Kathy Johnson and Roger Weathered - Lou Tillotson

Directors' Corner



Jan
Peach

WHENEVER a director considers awarding an artificial adjusted score in a teams' event he needs to immediately consider Law 86B1. It's a good idea to avoid any mention of an artificial adjusted score until the director knows what has happened at the other table.

If an artificial adjusted score is required but one side obtained a clearly favourable score at the other table then the director awards an assigned adjusted score, quite possibly a weighted score. Note there is no distinction between an offending team and a non-offending team. 68B1 says, "a clearly favourable score to one side". A pair who thought +3 imp a possibility may be unhappy to find they end up with -7 IMPs. Best not to mention average plus prematurely.

Unless the board has already been played at the other table it should be cancelled. If the board has been started at the other table it is completed.

When an artificial adjusted score looms because of slow play at a table, the director could postpone boards at the other table to avoid single results being obtained.

A number of laws refer the director to Law 86B:

- Law 12A - adjusted score in team play
- Law 13D - hand completed with, for example, a 14/12
- Law 16D2(d) - too much accidental extraneous information.
- Law 15B - wrong board discovered during the auction or play.

Other laws lack a reference to Law 86 though it clearly applies because of the over-arching Law 12A:

- Law 15A3 - when a contestant made a call holding a hand from a different board and cannot repeat the call when he later plays that other board.

How does the director determine what constitutes "a clearly favourable score"? We await clarification from the WBF Laws Committee. A result that is not likely to be replicated is the best suggestion I have heard so far. Once a number of tables get a top score it becomes more likely that the problem table could also have obtained that result. Others set the bar much lower for a result to be clearly favourable.

Law 86B2 applies when multiple boards cannot be compared as well as for a single fouled board at teams. Usually neither contestant is at fault for a fouled board so unless the director allows a substitute board to be played (only if neither contestant knows the match result on the other boards) we have a simple +3 imp to both sides via Law 12C2.

When only one contestant is at fault the director needs to calculate whether an assigned adjusted score would be more favourable to the non-offenders than average plus. Either way the offenders receive the complement, -3 IMPs at best.

Finally, for both sides offending there is average minus to both sides.

Regulating Authorities may have different regulations under Law 86B3 to handle multiple board losses. If regulations are silent then Law 86B2 is applied to each board that cannot be compared. QBA has a regulation for multiple board losses through an official's error for example after wrong boards have been distributed to some tables playing teams. ■

Q B A

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DEAD

MAR 11 (noon)

Contributions to:

33 Royal Pde

Ashgrove 4060

Ph: 07 3366 1292

Email: philipsquire@tpg.com.au

LINE

Coming Events

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Jan 5 | QBA Tournament Committee |
| Jan 6 | Gold Coast Teams |
| Jan 12-20 | ABF Summer Festival of Bridge |
| Jan 13 | QCBC Open and Novice Imp Pairs |
| Jan 20 | Northern Suburbs Teams |
| Jan 26-28 | Townsville Australia Day Pairs and Teams |
| Jan 27-28 | Kenmore Graded Pairs and Teams |
| Feb 2-3 | QBA Senior Teams - Sunshine Coast |
| Feb 3 | Toowoomba Novice Matchpoint Pairs |
| Feb 3 | Toowong Imp Pairs |
| Feb 10 | Arana Teams |
| Feb 15-23 | 2019 Gold Coast Congress |
| Mar 2 | Stanthorpe Imp Swiss Pairs |
| Mar 9-10 | QBA Mixed Teams - Noosa |
| Mar 9-10 | Dalby Swiss Matchpoint Pairs and Teams |
| Mar 10 | Toowong Novice Imp Pairs |
| Mar 16-17 | QBA Open Selection Trials |
| Mar 16-17 | Rockhampton Imp Pairs and Teams |
| Mar 23-24 | QBA Open Selection Trials |
| Mar 24 | Sunshine Coast Graded Teams |
| Mar 24 | Gold Coast Restricted and Novice Pairs |
| Mar 28-31 | ABF Tasmanian Festival of Bridge |
| Mar 28 | QBA Council Meeting |
| Mar 30-31 | QBA Open Selection Trials |
| Apr 6 | Surfers Paradise Novice Matchpoint Pairs |
| Apr 6-7 | QBA Womens / Seniors Selection Trials |
| Apr 6 | Mackay Swiss Matchpoint Pairs |
| Apr 6 | Townsville Matchpoint Pairs |
| Apr 7 | Toowoomba Imp Pairs |
| Apr 7 | Redland Novice Teams and Restricted Teams |