



THE QBA BULLETIN

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From the President



Richard Wallis

THE AGM is coming up, so that means another Gold Coast Congress has come and gone, this one being the 58th, and the first one for which Tim Runtig has been the sole convenor; Therese Tully having

stood down last year after many years at the helm.

I did not envy Tim when he took over as Convener, as Therese was going to be a hard act to follow, but he seems right at home now after co-convening in 2018, and 2019 saw the player numbers increase yet again. Another change was Andy Hung and Liam Milne co-editing the Daily Bulletin, which continued to shine, and this is while Andy and Liam were also playing in the Open Teams with four other players which they won!

Coming soon is another Presidents' Meeting, for all Qld Club Presidents. Notifications will follow the AGM. ■

Gold Coast Congress by Richard Wallis

Open Pairs

THIS year in the Bobby Richman Pairs I played with Craig Francis, no relation to Neville Francis, although he jokingly calls him 'Dad' as Craig is a little younger and far less experienced. Our second qualifying session was just below average, but the first session was far worse, and we finished in section G for the final 3 sessions. Consequently I am going to skip the qualifying and go straight to the final.

We finally hit our straps in the G final, winning comfortably, which was a little embarrassing, as we should have been in a higher section and it was not really fair on the less experienced players. We were not the only experienced pairs to falter in the qualifying though, as section F had 3 pairs who probably expected to make the final, or at least the Plate.

Nevertheless Final G was a very enjoyable event. Everyone was friendly and courteous, and generally enjoyed themselves. Of course in this type of Howell movement you play follow the leader, and the ladies that took our seats for the next round following each move, always asked how we were going and continued to ask when we saw them during the Teams event that followed the Pairs.



2019 Barrier Reef Congress May 3 - 6

Pullman Reef Hotel Casino, Cairns

Contents

From the President.....	1
Gold Coast Congress by Richard Wallis.....	1
Grand Slams by Nik Moore.....	4
Teacher's Corner by Joan Butts.....	6
Manager's Travels by Kim Ellaway	7
Canberra by Nik Moore.....	8
Slow Play by Matthew McManus.....	9
Directors' Corner by Jan Peach	12

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Anzac Day Swiss Teams

Thursday April 25

ENTRY FEE: \$120 per team
TIME: 9.30 AM
ENTRIES CLOSE: noon Monday
22/4/19

W	N	E	S
2C	P	1NT	X
3S	P	2D	2S
		3NT	All pass

2SX would have been a very large negative score, but since obviously


W	N	E	S
P	1S	X	XX
P	2S	3H	4S
All pass			

Surprisingly this was a 75% score, so most NS pairs must have played in a part-score.

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

The full article is on the website.

THIS was the first one without my good friend and long-time partner Tony Jackman. In his honour, and with five of last year's team still present, Meta Goodman, Wynne Webber, Therese Tully, Tim Runting and myself, we called the



**2020
Gold
Coast
Congress**

February 21-29

team Jackman as usual. We asked Craig Francis to fill the vacant spot, and we must have done something right, as with eight wins out of 12 and a maximum win on the final match we finished 24th, our best result for some time.

Meta, Wynne and Therese played as a threesome at our home table, and Craig, Tim and myself played as a threesome at the away table, although Tim's Convener duties limited when he could play. Our second-worst result was against the Fischer team (13) in Match 8, where we lost by 22 IMPs, and this team finished 2nd in the Swiss, making the final series but losing in the semi-final. We had a 2 IMP win against team 9 in Match 10 and then our biggest loss to team 22 in Match 11, 25 IMPs, pushed us back to 55th place, before we sailed home to 24th place.

The winners of the Teams Final included Andy Hung, now residing in WA but a Queenslander at heart. He played in the Coutts team of James Coutts, Shane Harrison, Nabil Edgton, Ellena Moscovsky, Liam Milne and Andy Hung. Liam and Andy also combined playing with co-editing the daily Bulletin. Well done to all of the team.

M 1	♠ J3		
Bd 11	♥ Q109864		
Dlr S	♦ Q94		
Vul None	♣ 32		
♠ K1085		♠ Q9762	
♥ 52		♥ A	
♦ J8		♦ K73	
♣ AKQ109		♣ 8765	
	♠ A4		
	♥ KJ73		
	♦ A10652		
	♣ J4		

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

Craig (West) overcalled 2C and, while I wanted to bid 2S, since it was forcing, I thought that I was not strong enough. Craig and I did not have the agreement that as well as a 5-card suit, I would be strong and/or have club support with a reasonable hand.

Since he had good clubs he could have investigated 3NT with a 3S bid over 3C, but decided to pass and the spade game had been missed. Even though I had a diamond stop, I would have raised to 4S as even if Craig only has 3 spades, 4S should have some play.

North led the ♦4 and Craig played low in dummy so 11 tricks were made for +150.

At the other table East did bid 2S and was quickly raised to game, making 11 tricks for -450 and 7 IMPs away.

M 1	♠ 8		
Bd 14	♥ K98632		
Dlr E	♦ A3		
Vul None	♣ 10842		
♠ AJ102		♠ 6543	
♥ AQ		♥ J10	
♦ 542		♦ KQJ7	
♣ AQ76		♣ KJ5	
	♠ KQ97		
	♥ 754		
	♦ 10986		
	♣ 93		

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	P	P
2S	P	2C	4S All pass

Craig opened with a 15-17 1NT after I had passed as dealer and Stayman showed the spade fit. We were quickly in 4S, to which North led the ♥6.

The hand looks easy for 11 tricks after this lead, and that is when declarer should think about possible bad trump breaks. If North has K Q of spades, nothing can be done, but if it is South or the honours are split, then a double-finesse in spades will limit the losers to just one.

Obviously if North has the singleton king or queen, then laying down the ♠A will pick this up, and also limit the trump losers to just 1, but that is a smaller percentage chance than the double-finesse.

Thus win the ♥Q and lead a diamond to dummy then lead a small trump, putting in the ♠10 when South plays low. If this loses, back to dummy with a club and repeat the finesse.

When the ♠10 wins, back to dummy with a club to lead another spade and this time win the ♠A over the

queen and back to dummy with a club to lead another spade, losing just 2 tricks, +450. East was declarer at the other table and went 1 off for 11 IMPs to us.

M 2	♠ K		
Bd 15	♥ AKQ1032		
Dlr S	♦ J3		
Vul NS	♣ J654		
♠ A8765		♠ QJ93	
♥ 874		♥ 6	
♦ A105		♦ KQ864	
♣ Q10		♣ A93	
	♠ 1042		
	♥ J95		
	♦ 972		
	♣ K872		

W	N	E	S
P	1H	X	P
2S	All pass		

On this board Craig showed interest in game with his jump to 2S after my double, but I was very mindful that he was a passed hand, so did not even make a game try with 3S.

From Craig's point of view he has maximum points for 2S (8-10), but he has 2 aces and a 5-card suit, so 3S would have been more encouraging.

North led the ♥A and switched to the ♣4. South won the ♣K and forced dummy with a heart.

Craig ruffed and led the ♠Q through instinct and then stopped to take stock! North had opened and South had shown up with the ♠K so it was unlikely that South had the ♠A as well thus he rose with the ♠A felling the stiff ♠K.

He still had a spade to lose and made 10 tricks for +170, which seemed like a game swing out. However at the other table EW allowed Therese to play in 2H making 8 tricks for +110 and 7 IMPs.



**QLD
GRADED
PAIRS**

Saturday August 31

A: Open B: <750 mp C: <150 mp

\$60 per pair

M 2	♠ Q854
Bd 21	♥ A105
Dlr N	♦ 5
Vul NS	♣ AJ842
♠ K6	♠ A1032
♥ KQJ2	♥ 6
♦ KJ109	♦ A87632
♣ K65	♣ 103
	♠ J97
	♥ 98743
	♦ Q4
	♣ Q97

W	N	E	S
	1C	2D	P
3NT	All pass		

M 3	♠ AK3
Bd 5	♥ K3
Dlr N	♦ KQ8642
Vul NS	♣ J9
♠ Q10872	♠ 964
♥ A87	♥ J10952
♦ 97	♦ AJ3
♣ K52	♣ 83
	♠ J5
	♥ Q64
	♦ 105
	♣ AQ10764

W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	3NT
All pass			

M 4	♠ J83
Bd 17	♥ AJ8
Dlr N	♦ KJ72
Vul None	♣ 432
♠ 652	♠ AQ10974
♥ KQ65	♥ —
♦ 53	♦ A10864
♣ K975	♣ 86
	♠ K
	♥ 1097432
	♦ Q9
	♣ AQJ10

W	N	E	S
	P	1S	2H
2S	3H	4S	All pass

I was East and made a weak jump overall of 2D and found Craig with a good hand and diamond support. He had a hard decision but went for the maximum result, hoping I had at least the ♦A.

After North led the ♣4 his optimism was rewarded when I had probably the best hand for him from the bidding and he had free choice to guess a possible 3-0 diamond split, and absolutely no problem if diamonds were 2-1.

When diamonds behaved he had nine tricks, but no real possibility for a 10th as North had four clubs to cash if she won the ♥A.

This was +400 to go with -200 at the other table where Wynne had to soldier on in 2H when it is EW that can make 7 tricks in hearts.

3NT is the only making game for EW unless they can contrive for West to be declarer in 5D as a club lead beats 5D by East.

NS had a straight-forward auction to 3NT and I had a safe lead of the ♥J.

Double-dummy a spade lead is better for the defence, but the ♥J gives nothing away.

North won the ♥K and deceptively led the ♣9, ducked all around as I gave reverse count.

The ♣J came next and Tim could win this and exit with the ♦9. I won the ♦A over the ♦K and led the ♥10, which declarer now covered, allowing Tim to win and return a heart for me to cash out the hearts.

A spade signal from Tim brought forward the ♠6 next from me and declarer seemed to panic and cashed the top spades and ♦K making only 5 tricks for +400.

At the other table West led the ♠2, won in dummy, and at trick 2 South led the ♣J from the North hand and West took the ♣K, thus Meta had no trouble making 10 tricks for +630 and 14 IMPs.

Sitting East I had minimal points but great shape so I had no hesitation in jumping to game after Craig gave me support.

South led the ♥10 and dummy's hearts were a big surprise, especially when North produced the ♥A and was known from the lead to have the ♥J as well!

It seemed to me that if South overcalled with such poor hearts he is more likely to hold the ♠K, so I played the ♠A and was duly rewarded.

A club towards dummy forced South to play the ♣A and ♣Q. I took a diamond pitch before taking the trump finesse and then played ♦A and ♦6. NS had no defence.

If South wins I can ruff a diamond in dummy while if North overtakes to play a trump, my ♦10 becomes good.

At the other table the same contract was played to the same opening lead but declarer went 1 off for +50 and 10 IMPs to us. ■

The full article is on the website

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Fri 10.00 am 7.30 pm
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Fri 9.30 am

Grand Slams



Nikolas Moore

BIDDING to make all thirteen tricks in a contract is not particularly common and very satisfying - if it comes off.

Dlr E	♠ —
Vul NS	♥ 72
	♦ 97
	♣ KQJ1096532
♠ A103	♠ J86
♥ J93	♥ AKQ8654
♦ Q10832	♦ AKJ
♣ A4	♣ —
	♠ KQ97542
	♥ 10
	♦ 654
	♣ 87

W	N	E	S
2D	P	2C	P
4H	P	2H	P
4NT	P	4H	P
5D	P	5C	P
7H	All pass	6D	P

This hand is from the Toowong IMP Pairs in February. My bidding showed all the missing key cards plus the ♥Q and ♦K, allowing Richard Fox to bid the excellent grand. Unfortunately, opening leader had all seven missing spades - only a 1 in 200 chance - and the spade lead sunk the contract so we lost 13 IMPs instead of gaining that many. We did not have enough information to bid 7NT, which is impervious to bad breaks. Only one other pair bid the grand slam and suffered the same fate.

At this year's Gold Coast Congress, I ended up in grand slam twice. The first was from the Teams when I partnered Larry Moses with Alan Currie and Greg Lee as our team-mates, where

we had a great run finishing 18th out of 212 and getting as high as 2nd just after the halfway mark.

Dlr N	♠ AKQJ2
Vul EW	♥ KQ7543
	♦ —
	♣ J9
♠ 85	♠ 9743
♥ J96	♥ 10
♦ Q10975	♦ K643
♣ 732	♣ 10864
	♠ 106
	♥ A82
	♦ AJ82
	♣ AKQ5

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

My hand has only three losers but I decided not to open 2C because it makes it very difficult to efficiently show my shape. By opening one in suit, I had room to reverse and show a 5-6 after Larry's fourth-suit forcing. When I showed the missing key cards in spades plus the queen, Larry had heard enough to bid the grand slam, which I should have converted to 7NT because my hand is even stronger than I showed, and it is a safer slam, as 7H fails if the opponents get a ruff at trick 1, or if hearts are 4-0. This time everything behaved and +1510 scored us 10 IMPs as the opponents at the other table stopped in 6NT.

I partnered Bastian Bolt in the Ivy Dahler Pairs. This was less successful than the teams, despite this hand.

Dlr S	♠ K762
Vul NS	♥ K752
	♦ Q9
	♣ K102
♠ Q843	♠ J
♥ J983	♥ 1064
♦ 87542	♦ 6
♣ —	♣ QJ987654
	♠ A1095
	♥ AQ
	♦ AKJ103
	♣ A3

W	N	E	S
			2C
P	2NT	P	3NT
P	6NT	P	7NT
All pass			

My 2NT response showed 3 controls and partner punted a grand slam to compensate for some bad boards. We had avoided our spade fit, where there is a sure loser, and our hands fit very well, but there are only 12 top tricks. East led the ♣Q and West discarded a spade: an 8-0 break! It was good news this time because it meant West probably had length in the majors and could be squeezed.

I won the lead in dummy and ran five diamond tricks, discarding two spades and a club from hand as East threw clubs, then I unblocked the ♥AQ and crossed to the ♣K, at which point West cannot keep both major suits guarded. If he discards a heart, my fourth heart becomes a winner. He discarded a second spade making dummy's spades all winners, for +2220 and a gain of 14 IMPs.

Note that with East having a singleton spade honour I could also make 13 by finessing West on the second round, but a squeeze was more satisfying, especially as nobody else bid and made the grand. ■



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IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE WITH THE ABF'S DAILY COLUMN

I don't think anyone in this tournament can bid diamonds to show diamonds. We lost the club suit in the 1950s. Now diamonds are gone and hearts are sinking fast.

Teacher's Corner



Joan Butts

ONE of the considerations for teachers when presenting bridge in a modern way is how to teach major suit raises, one of the most important areas of all.

Point count differences for new students are NOT important at first, but what is important is when to introduce the fact that weak hands with very good fits for partner should bid game regardless of points.

Eg 1H-pass-4H

What should we teach for this point range for beginners and novice players?

Should it be 13+ points and three or more trumps, or should it be 0-5 points and five trumps?

Partner opens 1H, next passes, and you hold:

♠ A3
♥ KQ106
♦ A54
♣ 10863

Should this be a raise to game?

Or should this?

♠ 3
♥ KQ1065
♦ 543
♣ 10863

I've always wondered about which philosophy to suggest from the outset, and although I was tempted to start with the weak long trump suit, for my newly updated beginners book (Play Bridge 1), I chose the following:

1H pass pass (0 – 5)

1H pass 2H (6-10)

1H pass 3H (11,12)

1H pass 4H (13+)

Although the examples I used in the book mostly had four trumps, I didn't go into the difference between three

and four or even five trumps. Too much for beginners.

But I believe students should be shown from the outset that if dummy has four trumps, you'll take more tricks when declarer has losers in dummy's short suit than if there are only three trumps.

I made the limit raise 11, 12 instead of 10 – 12, because when responder decides to jump in trumps to the three level ie 1H pass 3H, opener should be taught they don't need much to bid game. Too many students jump on poor 10 counts with three trumps.

So, in later lessons, certainly not in beginners courses, students will benefit in looking at when a 10-point hand is a good one and when it is not. I believe you can educate students from the outset to appreciate longer trump support.

Eg.

Compare these two 10 HCP hands. Opener has started with 1H and the next hand passes;

Hand A

♠ K73
♥ K106
♦ QJ54
♣ J108

Hand B

♠ 73
♥ Q1098
♦ A542
♣ A109

On hand A, it's a raise only to 2H for sure; flat 4-3-3-3 shape, no aces, and queens and jacks.

But Hand B values a lot more highly than Hand A.

Four trumps, two aces, a doubleton and 10s and 9s.

So if from early days, you show students that having aces means first round controls of the suit, and holding an extra trump means more chance to trump opener's shortages, I'm sure they will get it.

So when do you introduce the weak jump to game with

♠ 3
♥ KQ1065
♦ 543
♣ 10863

and the Jacoby 2NT convention for this?

♠ A3
♥ KQ106
♦ A54
♣ 10863

Answer: No particular time, just when you feel your class will be able to manage the difference!

I believe we need to show students a lot more hands on the table and discuss with them, just asking what they *like* about a hand and what they *don't like*.

Even beginners will have an opinion! ■

THE final ABF Teacher Training workshops for 2018 were held at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club in November. This weekend saw a number of teachers gain their ABF Accreditation, but the efforts didn't stop there. Since November, seven Queensland bridge teachers have gained their accreditation.

Dawn Benes, Arana
Jennifer Hollingworth, Gympie
Rebecca Knight, Dalby
Janet Loosmore, Sunnybank
Jan Ralph, Surfers Paradise
Ming Yang, Toowong
John Wilson, Surfers Paradise

Teachers at the GCC



Ron Klinger and Joan Butts



Tim Runting and Kim Fraser



Rebecca Knight, Jan Ralph, Janette Loosmore, Ming Yang and Dawn Benes

Manager's Travels



Kim
Ellaway

THREE months prior to the Gold Coast Congress, I am office bound. However, my good friend Toni Bardon was without a partner and agreed to play with me. We had a lot of fun but both of us had our minds on other things like the Gold Coast, and did not shine. This was a hand that troubled me.

Dir S	♠ —
Vul EW	♥ K952
	♦ J653
	♣ KJ975
♠ Q1097	♠ AK85432
♥ Q83	♥ 6
♦ K87	♦ Q10
♣ Q42	♣ 1083
	♠ J6
	♥ AJ1074
	♦ A942
	♣ A6

Toni and I are known for our aggressive bidding so the two of us partnering up always saw action.

I opened 1H, West passed, Toni bid 2C (we had not discussed whether 2S showed this hand). East bid 2S, I bid 3D, West bid 4S and Toni bid 6H seeing we had two large fits.

I naturally got a spade lead and then stupidly went to trump a second spade which meant I went one down. 6H can make even without taking the heart finesse.

Ray and I are off to the Barrier Reef and it will be a real test for him but I am looking forward to it.

I will also over the next two years be trying to visit all Queensland clubs so I will have lots to say in my column. ■

"I decided I was a good bridge player when I found out that people whose names I had heard all my life, people I respected, did the same dumb things I did." (Edgar Kaplan)



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Canberra



Nikolas
Moore

Summer Festival of Bridge

THIS year at the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra, I partnered Richard Fox and having placed 55th in the Pairs, we teamed up with Terrence Sheedy and Errol Miller in the Teams and performed respectably against many strong teams with 6 wins, 4 draws and 2 losses to finish 33rd.

Dlr N	♠ QJ9862		
Vul None	♥ K		
	♦ K764		
	♣ 43		
♠ AK104		♠ 5	
♥ AQ74		♥ 10852	
♦ A53		♦ 982	
♣ 106		♣ AQJ82	
	♠ 73		
	♥ J963		
	♦ QJ10		
	♣ K975		

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	P	P
4H	2S	X	P
	4H	All pass	

This hand was from the Pairs and a very good time to be playing take-out doubles when the opponents bid over our 1NT opening, allowing us to reach a thin heart game. It was also a good time to make a safety play in the trump suit, as I have limited entries to dummy and usually have at least one heart loser anyway.

North led a spade, which I won and led the trump ace, dropping his king. This made the rest of the play fairly easy. After running the ♠10 to South's king, I won the diamond return and pitched my diamond losers on dummy's clubs as South had to follow suit. I carelessly allowed South a spade ruff to go with his trump trick, but +420 was still 9 IMPs in.

Dlr E	♠ 973		
Vul NS	♥ A7542		
	♦ A8		
	♣ 753		
♠ QJ1086		♠ AK	
♥ K93		♥ QJ	
♦ Q92		♦ KJ10743	
♣ 64		♣ KQ8	
	♠ 542		
	♥ 1086		
	♦ 65		
	♣ AJ1092		

W	N	E	S
3H	P	2NT	P
3NT	P	3S	P
		4S	All pass

I sat East in the Teams. Being semi-balanced I decided to open this hand 2NT. Although I only have two spades, I preferred to play in partner's major with such a good doubleton and a weakness in the heart suit, also being worried about being able to reach partner's hand in no trumps.

This turned out to be the right decision for a different reason: 3NT is two off on a club lead, so we gained 11 IMPs. This was a bit lucky, because if diamonds do not break, a ruff in that suit will beat 4S, whereas 3NT makes on a non-club lead or if North holds the ♣A. Indeed, the opponents began with two rounds of diamonds and each wondered why their partner did not give them a ruff!

Dlr W	♠ J764		
Vul Both	♥ Q		
	♦ 754		
	♣ Q7532		
♠ K9853		♠ Q	
♥ J4		♥ AK7653	
♦ AKJ63		♦ 1092	
♣ 8		♣ AKJ	
	♠ A102		
	♥ 10982		
	♦ Q8		
	♣ 10964		

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

Partner's 3D promises either 5-5 in the pointy suits or (if only 5-4) 16+HCP.

When I found out we were missing a key card and the ♦Q, I opted for 6NT, which turns out to be a terrible slam that is beatable despite both minor suit queens onside, while 6D can make.

North found the best lead of a club, removing an entry to dummy, otherwise declarer can untangle the hearts and make three tricks in that suit.

Richard played this hand very well. First of all he finessed the club, ran the ♦10 and then led the ♠Q, which South guessed incorrectly to duck. This allowed Richard to run his minor suit winners and South was forced to keep three hearts and the A♠. After a heart to the ace and another to the jack, Richard threw South in with a spade, forcing him to concede the last trick to dummy's ♥K, for +1440 and a gain of 17 IMPs, as our team-mates defeated 5H.

Dlr E	♠ KQ972		
Vul None	♥ 983		
	♦ K96		
	♣ 84		
♠ 8		♠ 6	
♥ K64		♥ QJ752	
♦ Q872		♦ 5	
♣ J10972		♣ AKQ653	
	♠ AJ10543		
	♥ A10		
	♦ AJ1043		
	♣ —		

W	N	E	S
3C	3S	1C	X
P	P	5C	6S
All pass		7C	7S

On an earlier hand, I had opened a 5-card major ahead of a 6-card minor and it worked out poorly, so this time I opened the minor, planning to reverse as I had only four losers, thus we located a big club fit.

Bidding over the opponents' slams had not paid off for me in the past, but on this occasion I had no defence and plenty of offence. 7Cx is a good sacrifice (−500), but South chose to bid on, with decent prospects of making a grand slam on only 22 combined HCPs.

To avoid giving declarer any clues about the position, I led a high club,

and partner and I discarded clubs at every opportunity. Declarer went with the odds and led the ♦K on the first round of the suit, thus losing a diamond for +50 to us and a gain of 11 IMPs when our team-mates made 12 tricks in 5S.

Against a small slam I might have tried a heart lead, which beats it if declarer misguesses the diamonds, but also gives away information, making declarer more likely to guess the diamonds right.



*Winners of the CBC Veterans' Cup:
Mike Pemberton and
Graham Wakefield*

Slow Play

SO you think you're a fast player? Try this quick quiz...

The major complaint that directors have to deal with is slow play (although air-conditioning does come a close second). Whether it's because there's no time to play all the boards, whether it's players waiting for a table to finish so they can move there or because most of the players are hanging around for tables to finish play so the director can make the draw for the next round, slow play is the main cause of discontent for most players. So, if you are brave enough to take it, here is a quiz to see if you are one of those players who cause dissatisfaction...are you ready to start?

Q 1. Are you ready to start?

One of the very obvious things that I observe is that players who are notorious for their slow play are also typically those who, when the round or match is starting, are making a cup of tea, chatting with friends, arguing with their partner or team mates - anything but being ready to commence play. If you do have

a reputation as a slow player, how about trying the effect of sitting at the table before the director hands out the boards, all set to start play immediately? Those extra couple of minutes will make a difference.

Q 2. Are you carrying too much weight?

No, I am not being personal, but like a racehorse which is handicapped to slow it down by having to carry additional weight, a lot of slow players add to the delay by what they have to transport when they get up to move to the next table. A coat or jumper, a bag, a book or magazine, a score book, a pen, a glass of water or cup of tea, and various other paraphernalia. Why not try the effect of travelling light? Put as much as you can away in a corner before the start of the session.

Q 3. Are you guilty of "scoring on the green"?

Golfers will know that one of the big no-no's is scoring on the green. That is, filling in your scorecard immediately after putting out, rather than moving off the green so that the group following can hit up. Bridge has its own version of this. It can be the players who are running late filling in personal scorecards before moving on. But there are other instances. Looking at the travelling score sheet to see what others have done, or inspecting the Bridgmate to see your percentage on the board is a privilege, not a right. If you are running late and other players are waiting to come to the table, you have lost that entitlement. The director, if he is on the ball and able to do so, should take responsibility for entering the score on the traveller/Bridgmate, so that EW can move on and NS can start play in the next round. (Of course,

playing directors are unlikely to be in a position to do this – one of the reasons why it is even more difficult for playing directors to keep track of slow play.) Similarly, spending too much time poring over the results at the end of a hand, and engaging in lengthy post mortems with partner, is a significant cause of slow play.

Furthermore, there can be similar problems during the play of the hand. Some easy directions: if you are on opening lead, NEVER fill in your personal scoresheet until after you have made the lead. If you are dummy, ALWAYS put your cards down on the table immediately after the opening lead is faced. If play is being delayed by having to enter the data in the Bridgmate, try this procedure: after dummy's hand goes down, give the Bridgmate to dummy, who can then enter the board number, the contract, the declarer and, if recorded, the opening lead, before handing the unit back to North or South. At the end of the hand, it is then a simple matter of entering the number of tricks and having the score confirmed by the opponents. Finally, at the end of the hand, after the number of tricks is agreed, the very first thing you should do is to put the cards back into the board. If the director does need to move the board on, it will greatly speed things up.

Q 4. Do you feel bad/remorseful when the director says "take an average"?

If I had a dollar for every time I've been told, "it wasn't our fault", I wouldn't be directing, I'd be living in the lap of luxury on the Riviera!

There are two possibilities: one – it really wasn't your fault. In that case, it will be a very rare occurrence for the



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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

director to say, "Take an average". As it is so uncommon, it will hardly make a difference to you, and you will understand that what the director is doing is for the benefit of the game, keeping it moving and making things better for everyone. However, if it is happening to you a lot, you need to ask the question, "why?"

The standard amount of time allowed per board is about 7 minutes. That means, each player has about 2 minutes per hand to consider his bids and plays. (The reason it doesn't quite add up is that dummy doesn't need any thinking time during the play period.) Of course, occasionally there will be particularly difficult problems when you may need to take extra time. That is not an issue. However, if you are consistently taking more than your fair share, that is a big problem. Apart from being discourteous to the opponents - and anyone who has to wait for you to finish - it is a significant breach of the proprieties of the game. In tournament chess, a player who exceeds the time limit automatically loses the match. The penalties usually imposed in bridge (on the rare occasions that they are implemented) are usually of far less significance - often just getting average minus on a board.

Experienced directors know who the slow players are. Apart from having to consistently hurry them up, directors regularly receive complaints about having to play against "so and so, who is so slow". When the same names keep coming up, the pattern and the truth is pretty well established. When these players react with comments like "we weren't slow" or "it wasn't me", either they are being disingenuous, or are unacceptably unaware of their behaviour. In either case, clearly something needs to change for the good of the game and the enjoyment of all.

Q 5. Are we done yet?

The fact that all the boards have been played is not a good indication that play has been timely. The biggest grumbles that the opponents of slow players have involve being pressured to rush through the last couple of boards because of the amount of time that has been used up earlier. A far better test of whether you are slow is to monitor where you are midway

through the round. When the director says, "we have reached the half-way point, you should have finished ____ boards", have you completed at least half your boards? If the answer to this is "no" more than 25% of the time, you cannot keep blaming your opponents - you are a slow player.

How did you go? I expect you passed. But maybe you may know of someone else for whom this article might be useful? Your partner perhaps? Remember that saying, "It's not me, it's my partner" is not really an excuse. Bridge is a partnership game. If your partner is to blame for making the game less pleasant for others, then at some point you have to take responsibility as well. ■

■ Matthew McManus

Reprinted from the ABDA Bulletin

Club News

Roma

IN 2018 the Roma Bridge Club was successful in obtaining a Grant of \$8,358.00 from the Community Gambling Benefit Fund for the purchase of equipment. The equipment included a Dealer 4+ along with a computer and printer, and 8 Bridgemates.



President Fay Donoghue and MP Secretary Barry Braithwaite learning to master the new equipment

Other successful grant applicants were Arana \$11,300, Caboolture \$15,000, Cleveland \$24,600 and Sunnybank \$20,000

Noosa Charity Day

ONCE again a big thank you to all members for their generosity.

We raised \$2,250 for the Farmers Drought Appeal and \$1,500 for the RSPCA Charity Day. That brings our 2018 fund raising total to \$8,190.

State News



Individual winner: Murray Perrin

The Gold Coast Congress was once again a great success. It would not be a success if it was not for the players who attend, the surrounding clubs who provide house pairs, substitutes, the sponsors and of course the wonderful staff of the Gold Coast Congress. There are too many to name but they know who they are.

Congratulations to Pele Rankin for making the National Mixed Team.

Winners of the Seniors Teams

Neville Francis, Tony Hutton, Lyn Carter and Malcolm Carter.

Changes to the Bulletin

As of this year, there will be only two council meetings per annum, subject to the constitution having been 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.

More Articles



Richard Wallis

Richard has written articles on:

2018 Teams of Three and Kenmore Graded Teams

Both articles are on the website



QLD BUTLER PAIRS

**Saturday & Sunday
June 8 & 9**

ENTRY FEE: \$120 per pair
This event incorporates: Qld
Butler Pairs, Qld Women's Pairs
and Qld Men's Pairs

QLD GRADED TEAMS

Sunday July 7

A: Open B: <750 mp C: <150 mp
ENTRY FEE: \$120 per team
All enquires and entries to QCBC:
3391 3241 - qcbc1@optusnet.
com.au Details on the website:
www.qcbc.org.au

Expressions of Interest

**Novice Co-ordinator
Must be a Novice**

Please contact Kim Ellaway for
more details

Email: manager@qldbridge.com.au

Phone: 07 3351 8602

Mobile: 0412 064 903

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Coming Events

Apr 6	Surfers Paradise Novice Matchpoint Pairs
Apr 6	Townsville Matchpoint Pairs
Apr 6-7	QBA Womens/Seniors Selection Trials
Apr 7	Toowoomba Imp Pairs
Apr 7	Redland Novice and Restricted Teams
Apr 13-14	QBA Womens/Seniors Selection Trials
Apr 13-14	Gympie Imp Pairs and Teams
Apr 21-22	BBC Graded Matchpoint Pairs and Graded Teams
Apr 25	Anzac Day Teams - QCBC
Apr 25-28	Cleveland Bay Diggers Congress
Apr 27-28	Caloundra Graded Pairs and Graded Teams
Apr 28	Warwick Swiss Imp Pairs
May 1-7	Bridge for Brain Research
May 2-6	ABF Autumn Nationals
May 3-6	Barrier Reef Congress Cairns
May 4-5	Hervey Bay Cross Imp Pairs and Teams
May 5	QBA Novice Matchpoint Pairs - Sunnybank
May 11	Townsville Novice Matchpoint Pairs
May 11	Surfers Paradise Teams
May 18-19	QBA Mixed Matchpoint Pairs - Toowong
May 19	Novice Matchpoint Pairs - Toowong
May 26	BBC Graded Butler Pairs
May 26	Cairns Novice Matchpoint Pairs
Jun 1-2	Arana Imp Pairs and Teams
Jun 2	Darling Downs Teams
Jun 8-9	QBA Butler Pairs - QCBC
Jun 13	Noosa Cross Imp Swiss Pairs
Jun 14-16	Sunshine Coast Imp Pairs and Teams and Walk-ins
Jun 15-16	Gold Coast Imp Graded Pairs and Graded Teams
Jun 15	Townsville Teams
Jun 22-23	Goondiwindi Swiss Matchpoint Pairs
Jun 22	QBA Club Directors Exam
Jun 23	Cleveland Bay Graded Matchpoint Pairs
Jun 27	QBA Council Meeting
Jun 29	QBA ANC Participants Day
Jun 29-30	Townsville Imp Pairs and Teams
Jun 30	Toowong Imp Pairs with R'stricted Section <150mps
Jun 30	GNOT Final - Wide Bay
Jul 7	QBA Graded Swiss Teams

Directors' Corner



Jan
Peach

I AM concerned about the widespread practice of dummy being left to, even expected to, choose cards to be played from the dummy. Declarer leads a card yet he says and does nothing further. Dummy picks up the card he thinks appropriate. Dummy is taking part in the play contrary to Law 43A1(c).

Dummy displays 12 of his cards. He retains his singleton in the suit led and puts it in the played position. Declarer remains silent. What is the next defender supposed to do? This is the time declarer may take some time to plan his play without any particular inference being drawn. Is he oblivious to the requirement to name the card to be played from the dummy? Is he ready to play on? Has he finished thinking? If one asks, there may be a snappy response, "Of course it's played. We are waiting for you...."

Harmless? Maybe, until something goes wrong.

Law 57C2: A defender is not subject to rectification for playing before his partner if dummy has of his own volition prematurely selected a card before his RHO or has illegally suggested that one be played.

The QBA Director Proficiency test is pitched to fairly new directors who may be just starting to direct within a club though of course anyone may sit the test. It may be found on the QBA website: <http://qldbridge.com.au/director/dirProficiency.php>

The WBF Commentary on the 2017 Laws has also been published. This may be found at: <http://qldbridge.com.au/director/laws/2017LawsCommentaryA.pdf>

My detailed notes are at: <http://qldbridge.com.au/director/laws/2017detailedNotesFeb2019.pdf>

Directors should not be too hasty to award an artificial adjusted score (60% 50% 40%) when called to a table to find the auction or the play has started with one player having 14 cards and another having 12 cards.

The director strives to have the board played with no change of call, standing by to award an adjusted score should that prove necessary. Law 13B sends the director to "assigned adjusted score". The only way he gets to "artificial adjusted score" is if the possibilities are numerous or not obvious.

Perhaps the auction would not have been identical with the correct hands but the exercise is more about whether the table got to a "normal" contract rather than how they got there. An auction or indeed the play that has been skewed is more likely to lead to the table score being replaced by an adjusted score.

A concept that some found difficult to grasp at the get-together during the Gold Coast Congress is that any call shows a subset of the hands that may be held when the meaning attributed to an insufficient bid is nothing at all. Say that again? North opens a strong forcing 2C. East overcalls 2H and South bids 2D, not accepted. 2C (2H) 2D. Without the overcall, the NS agreement is that 2D says nothing about South's hand. It is a forced response made with every single hand South could possibly hold. Therefore, should the replacement call describe some hands, then it is comparable. "Some hands" form a subset of the set of "every possible hand".

1NT (Pass) 2D (2S); 2H.... insufficient bid not accepted. If this pair does not super-accept and 2H is the only possible response to the transfer without the interference, then any replacement call is comparable if "says nothing" is the meaning attributed to 2H. A sufficient 2H would convey no additional information about the 1NT hand had RHO passed instead of bidding 2S. ■

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 McIlrath, 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.

D E A D

JUNE 10 (noon)

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