



THE QBA BULLETIN

Published by the Queensland Bridge Association
www.qldbridge.com.au Email: manager@qldbridge.com.au

January-April 2020 Volume 46 No

From the President



Richard Wallis

REPEAT this every year, but it is worth repeating! My job as President continues to be relatively easy, thanks to the great team of teachers, directors, administrators etc. I have around me. In particular Kim Ellaway, the Management Committee and the many officers and committee members who provide great backup for the QBA organisation.

The Covid-19 virus is playing havoc with our bridge program this year, and will continue to plague us for a few months yet. Luckily, we managed to complete the Gold Coast Congress before it hit with any force, but since then all congresses

have been cancelled to the end of May and beyond, and all bridge clubs have had to close.

The Open Trials for the Adelaide ANC were half completed before being postponed. The ANC in July/August had been in serious doubt, and has now been cancelled, and Adelaide's turn will be transferred to 2022, with all other ANCs afterwards put back one year. The ABF considered that the ANC in Orange in 2021 is too far advanced to cancel at this time.

Even the Grand National Open Teams is in jeopardy for 2020, as the next few months are when most qualifying events are held prior to the Zonal qualifiers. The ABF has decided to make a final decision on whether to cancel the GNOT by the end of July and, if it goes ahead, qualifying events may have to be modified for a reduced lead-in time.

Please keep an eye on the QBA website for any further cancellations, as I would expect that we may not have another congress until September at the earliest. ■

Gold Coast Congress



Martin Doran

ANOTHER Gold Coast Congress done and dusted. Another great congress. Good venue. Great organisation. Congratulations to all current and past organisers. Lots of hands to showcase your talent or lack thereof. And trust me, we're all guilty of both sides of that coin. It's also turned out to be the last major Australian tournament for a while because of the Covid-19 virus. So stay safe and hopefully we will all be back next year.


Safety plays don't get mentioned that often when playing in a pairs event as taking those overtricks is often the difference between winning and losing. Still, every now and then, a hand like this one turns up.

Contents

From the President.....	1
Gold Coast Congress by Martin Doran.....	1
by Richard Wallis.....	3
Teachers' Corner by Joan Butts.....	10
25 Years Ago.....	11
Manager's Travels by Kim Ellaway.....	11
Novices by Pam Steele.....	12
Klinger's Column.....	13
Directors' Corner by Jan Peach.....	16

QBA Contact Details

22 Mareeba Court, Arana Hills QLD 4054
Ph: 07 3351 8602 Mob: 0412 064 903 Fax: 07 3103 4799
Email: manager@qldbridge.com
Website: www.qldbridge.com



**2021
Gold
Coast
Congress
February 20-27**

Dir S ♠ 1085
 Vul Both ♥ KQJ10
 ♦ Q3
 ♣ 10874

♠ KJ643 ♠ Q7
 ♥ 832 ♥ A965
 ♦ J1094 ♦ 872
 ♣ K ♣ J965

♠ A92
 ♥ 74
 ♦ AK65
 ♣ AQ32

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

North's 3C bid was Puppet Stayman looking for a major suit fit. South's 3D simply showed no 5-card major. Then North showed hearts with the 3S bid and South bid 3NT.

The lead was the ♠4. Declarer has five top tricks and three more tricks in hearts after knocking out the ace. A successful club finesse would yield that important ninth trick. The first hurdle is to duck at least one spade to break the defenders' communications if spades are breaking 5-2. Next the ♥A needs to be in the hand without the long spades. So far so good. East wins the ♥A, and with no more spades, switches to a low club.

Several declarers put in the ♣Q and made only seven tricks when West won the ♣K and cashed the remaining spades. Other declarers put up the ♣A with the intention of leading up to the ♣Q later on. A good play rewarded when the ♣K dropped singleton offside.

For those interested, a singleton king offside missing five cards occurs approximately 3% of the time. Even if declarer had ducked two rounds of spades there aren't many layouts that will lead to ten tricks if the club finesse works and therefore the safety play makes sense.

What about defending? Sometimes even the most hopeless of hands have something useful to tell partner.

Dir N ♠ KJ
 Vul None ♥ J1075
 ♦ Q1098
 ♣ AQ7

♠ 1097532 ♠ A86
 ♥ Q63 ♥ 984
 ♦ 6 ♦ AKJ
 ♣ 963 ♣ 10842

♠ Q4
 ♥ AK2
 ♦ 75432
 ♣ KJ5

On this hand, South was declarer in 3NT with East/West surprisingly silent throughout. As West, I eschewed the simple philosophy of leading a spade from my longest suit and decided to try to find partner's suit.

Leading a low heart seemed eminently sensible until dummy came down. This lead gave declarer three heart tricks, and a fourth trick would be available as soon as they worked out what was going on. Declarer started playing on diamonds. Partner, in with his first diamond trick, returned a heart. Declarer won and played a second diamond. What do you do as West? You're still cursing your imaginative lead but you have to find a discard and partner can still beat this

contract with some help. Not that your hand looks much use. However, there aren't many spades missing. In fact only five and if partner has Axx then his third spade will win. There's no way partner will ever find a spade switch without help, so pitch an encouraging spade card. In our case, we play odd encouraging and an even card is suit preference so the ♠3 would be encouraging for spades. Partner wasn't entirely convinced by this signal looking at dummy but won the diamond and played the ♠A followed by a small one to set up at least five winners for the defenders.

Of course, leading a fourth best spade would have worked out much better!

What a finish in the Open Team Final. With five boards to go the Ware team were 30 IMPs in front of the Cornell team. Two flat boards later it was 30 IMPs with three boards to go. All over? I'm pretty sure that most of us would fancy our chances against anyone at that stage. However, Cornell picked up an extraordinary 42 IMPs in those three boards to win by 12 IMPs.

What on earth happened?

Dir E ♠ 6
 Vul EW ♥ KJ9432
 ♦ Q107
 ♣ QJ4

♠ A107 ♠ KQJ842
 ♥ AQ7 ♥ 8
 ♦ K42 ♦ 95
 ♣ K873 ♣ A1062

♠ 953
 ♥ 1065
 ♦ AJ863
 ♣ 95

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

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

The third last board saw a game bid at one table and a poor slam bid at



Brisbane Bridge Centre

104 Frederick St, Annerley. Ph: 3392 7933
bbridgecentre@bigpond.com - www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org

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

the other table. Who was right? The slam really needs a doubleton Q J of clubs or a singleton club honour in the South hand to have any chance. Never mind the potential problem in diamonds. Still, make the ♥Q the ♠Q and it's a lot better so perhaps West was a bit too optimistic with the 4H bid. That was 13 IMPs to the Cornell team who were now 17 behind.

The penultimate board saw the dreaded double game swing rear it's head. Both tables started the same way.

Dir S	♠ AJ	♠ K532
Vul Both	♥ AKQ8	♥ 3
	♦ 1072	♦ QJ86
	♣ AK109	♣ 8543
♠ Q109764		♠ 8
♥ J97		♥ 106542
♦ AK3		♦ 954
♣ 2		♣ QJ76

W	N	E	S
1S	X	3C	P
4S	All pass		P

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

A light but very nice 1S opening followed by a double from North. West showed a (weak Bergen style) four-card mixed raise. Back to opener. At one table, West bid game in spades to give North a guess. I'm surprised North didn't double again but at this point nothing good was happening as West had found the best spot for his side.

At the second table West just bid 3S. Yes, it is a minimum, but there was a known ten-card fit, which means the other side has either a nine-card fit or two eight-card fits at worst. It also gave North an easy second double and South bid the game in hearts.

Both contracts were cold, and duly made, giving 15 IMPs to Cornell and reduced the deficit to only 2 IMPs with one board remaining. Well,

strictly speaking it was 1.9 IMPs because of the carryover.

This next board was certainly an interesting one to finish the 2020 Gold Coast Congress.

Dir W	♠ Q10842	♠ A73
Vul None	♥ 1073	♥ KQJ4
	♦ J9	♦ 85
	♣ J105	♣ AK92
♠ 5		♠ KJ96
♥ 5		♥ A9862
♦ AKQ643		♦ 1072
♣ Q8643		♣ 7

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

West opened a diamond and at one table North found an overcall. Not a good overcall. Yes, it's non vulnerable, but partner is an unpassed hand and will often have trouble with the subsequent auction. On this hand the opponents pushed quickly to the club slam though East's 5H bid was tempting fate. Did East give any thought of bidding 6NT over 6C? If the other table reached 6C then bidding 6NT would have won the match by 0.1 IMPs!!!

So, what did happen at the other table? Well, in a long auction that started:

W	N	E	S
1D	P	1H	P
2C	P	?	

West reached 7C after what appears to have been a Minorwood or keycard error. South doubled. Match over? No. North was on lead and the match had come down to which suit was led. A heart, which was dummy's first bid suit, would beat the contract, but leading any other suit would let the contract make as West can ruff their singleton heart after throwing the four hearts from dummy on the long diamond suit. So what did North lead?

North, guided by the double, led a heart. Another 14 IMPs to Cornell,

who had picked up an amazing 42 IMPs in the final three boards to win by 12 IMPs. What a finish! ■



Richard Wallis

Bobby Richman Pairs

CR AIG Francis and I fronted up for the two qualifying rounds of the Open Pairs on Saturday morning hoping for a better finish than we had in 2019. We started off with a 56% round and finished up in the E final - there were 9 finals sections - which was a vast improvement.

Our form in the final sessions was patchy and we finished mid-field. Session 1 in the final was 55%, which was a good platform, but session 2 was below average so we were up against it from there. When session 2 results were published, we were credited with just 39%, but a glitch in the seating put us NS at the first table (and our USA opponents as EW) whereas the scoring system had us EW. Thus our three good boards netted us almost three bottoms instead of near tops, and the score increased to 46% when corrected.

Sascha Wernle and Jovi Smederevac, from Austria and on their first visit to the Gold Coast Congress, took out the main event, and indicated that they may be back. Another overseas pair, Sven-Ake Bjerregard and Alon Apteker, was a close second. A great result occurred in the Novice Final, when Sebastian Langdon-Macmillan (Rachel Langdon's 16-year old son), playing with William Han, finished a close second after leading most of the way. He was devastated to drop back to second after the last match, but he only learned to play 8 months ago!

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

Q 1	♠ Q3
Bd 27	♥ J542
Dlr S	♦ K
Vul None	♣ AQJ653
♠ AK106	♠ J87
♥ AQ93	♥ K1087
♦ A32	♦ J86
♣ 92	♣ K74
	♠ 9542
	♥ 6
	♦ Q109754
	♣ 108

Q 2	♠ 4
Bd 6	♥ Q108
Dlr E	♦ A10743
Vul EW	♣ Q864
♠ A86	♠ KQJ10972
♥ K9743	♥ A
♦ K2	♦ Q865
♣ AJ2	♣ 9
	♠ 53
	♥ J652
	♦ J9
	♣ K10753

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

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

Craig had enough to bid 3NT since he had a heart stop, but if hearts had not been bid, having already denied a heart suit, he would bid 3H after 3C to show a stopper, but deny a spade stopper, and I would bid 3NT showing a spade stopper.

East led the ♥4, probably hoping the ♠A would be his entry if the hearts could be set up. When the clubs behaved, Craig had 11 tricks without the spades, so we scored +660.

F 1	♠ 73
Bd 18	♥ K106
Dlr E	♦ KQ94
Vul NS	♣ 9764
♠ Q1086	♠ A942
♥ A87	♥ J95432
♦ 108763	♦ 2
♣ 2	♣ QJ
	♠ KJ5
	♥ Q
	♦ AJ5
	♣ AK10853

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

This scored 77% because, as well as the two pairs not in game, four pairs played in 5C, making 11 or 12 tricks (if the ♥A was not cashed quickly).

F 1	♠ 10975
Bd 25	♥ J6
Dlr N	♦ 876
Vul EW	♣ 10954
♠ AK	♠ QJ83
♥ 987532	♥ AK
♦ K952	♦ QJ10
♣ J	♣ 8763
	♠ 642
	♥ Q104
	♦ A43
	♣ AKQ2

W	N	E	S
	P	1C	1NT
3H!	All pass		

This board brought up an interesting system agreement that should be discussed by any partnership.

After my partner's opening bid has been overcalled by 1NT, I normally play the following simple system:

After South passed I opened 1NT and 3C was passed around to me. since I had a maximum with both majors and only two small clubs, I had an easy take-out double.

Craig was not going to game, so he decided to take what was on offer in 3CX and led the ♥7.

I won the ♥A and led the ♣2. North saved a trick by taking the ♣A and ruffing a heart, so declarer came to only six tricks for +500 and we scored 93%.

Looking at the layout we can make game in both majors, but that requires dropping the ♠Q offside, and we were not going to game anyway.

We were lucky that North bid 3C, as, if it was 3D, it is likely that I would have passed.

On this next board we had a simple auction to the top spot which scored 73%.

Points-wise, Craig does not have the 15-17 normally associated with his 3S rebid, but his 7-card spade suit is so good that it is worth the jump, especially when he has the ace of my known 5-card suit.

Of course this prompted me to trot out Roman Key Card Blackwood, bidding the slam in the hope that my unsupported kings would be boosted by Craig's holding and so it proved.

The opening lead was the ♣3, and since spades were 2-1, Craig could draw trumps, cash the ♥A and lead a diamond to dummy. This set up the ♦Q, the 3rd diamond could be ruffed, and the 4th discarded on the ♥K.

Board 18 in the first final was a bidding problem that was solved by most, but two pairs stayed out of game in our section.

My jump to 3C ostensibly shows 15-17, but I discounted the singleton ♥Q.

QCBC

67 Ipswich Rd Woolloongabba
Ph: 3391 3241 Email: qcabc1@optusnet.com.au
www.qcabc.org.au

Sessions: Mon 10.00 am 7.30 pm
Tue 10.00 am 7.30 pm
Wed 10.30 am 7.30 pm
Thur 10.30 am
Fri 10.00 am 7.30 pm
Sat 1.00 pm
Supervised: Mon 7.30 pm
Fri 9.30 am

- Double is for penalties;
- Bids at the 2-level are to play; and
- Bids at the 3-level are forcing.

Thus East would probably bid 3NT, or maybe 4H, since the two hearts are so good, but pass is not an option.

So we defended 3H and Craig was not psychic enough to lead the ♠10. Our club trick disappeared, and declarer made 11 tricks for -200.

It was only while I was looking up the results to write this board up that I noticed the scores had been entered incorrectly by the players and we had been arrow-switched again!

F 2	♠ A96		
Bd 6	♥ J7		
Dir E	♦ K109875		
Vul EW	♣ 42		
♠ KQJ107		♠ 432	
♥ 104		♥ AK	
♦ Q2		♦ A63	
♣ 9753		♣ KQJ86	
	♠ 85		
	♥ Q986532		
	♦ J4		
	♣ A10		

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

On board 6 in the second final Craig lost a spade temporarily and raised to 3NT with his maximum rather than bidding 4S on the 5-3 fit.

4S is cold on any lead, and 3NT has no chance on the ♦J lead, but luckily South has no reason to lead the ♦J, and instead led the ♥6, normal 4th highest.

When dummy tracked his third spade appeared and he knew he was in trouble. He had to attack the suit in which South held the ace, but there was no way of knowing.

Unfortunately he chose a spade, but luckily South gave North count in spades, so he ducked the first two rounds and then Craig switched to clubs, making nine tricks for +600.

However, in a pairs event it would not have made much difference if he had gone off as +600 was a poor score anyway.

F 2	♠ 5		
Bd 22	♥ KJ106		
Dir E	♦ J8632		
Vul EW	♣ 732		
♠ KQJ92		♠ A8763	
♥ 832		♥ 95	
♦ K94		♦ AQ107	
♣ A8		♣ J9	
	♠ 104		
	♥ AQ74		
	♦ 5		
	♣ KQ10654		

W	N	E	S
		1S	X
2NT	3H	P	4H
4S	5H	P	P
5S	All pass		

South made a rather odd take-out double of Craig's 1S opening, but maybe it only shows four hearts in their system.

We ignore any doubles by the hand over the opener in our system, so 2NT was still Jacoby. Craig could have bid 4S to show a minimum without a singleton, but chose to pass over North's frisky 3H, but I am not sure why.

Knowing we have at least a 10-card fit I went against the norm, by bidding 5-over-5, and this time it was right!

South led the ♣K, but Craig was able to win the ♣A, draw trumps, and despite South's double he played the diamonds for four tricks to discard a club and make 11 tricks. +650 was worth 65%.

Only one NS pair played in 4H making, and three Souths played in 5CX going one down for an equal second top for NS.

F 3	♠ 102		
Bd 24	♥ Q10		
Dir W	♦ Q863		
Vul None	♣ J10982		
♠ Q8764		♠ KJ953	
♥ 985		♥ AKJ74	
♦ 4		♦ J2	
♣ Q765		♣ K	
	♠ A		
	♥ 632		
	♦ AK10975		
	♣ A43		

W	N	E	S
2S	P	4S	5D
P	P	X	All pass

I bid 5D over the jump to 4S by East as a 2-way bet. If East was weak as well, Craig would probably have enough for me to make. As it turned out he had very little, but it was mostly useful to me and no good in defence.

West led the ♠6 and after drawing trumps I led the ♣A and another club, but unluckily East had signalled so West led a heart and I had to go down one or -100.

At least 4S was cold, and there is not even a heart guess to negotiate. That was worth 58% compared to nearly 40% for passing. Three Souths doubled 4S giving EW an equal top.

F 3	♠ AKQ943		
Bd 25	♥ J98653		
Dir N	♦ —		
Vul EW	♣ K		
♠ J103		♠ —	
♥ AQ		♥ K742	
♦ 864		♦ K975	
♣ J9862		♣ AQ753	
	♠ 8762		
	♥ 10		
	♦ AQJ1032		
	♣ 104		

W	N	E	S
2C	1C!	1NT!	X
P	3C	P	3S
	4S	All pass	

North opened a Precision 1C (not my choice), and Craig bid 1NT to show the minors.

South doubled, probably systemic, and I bid the obvious 2C, over which North bid 3C, and we did not ask the meaning.

South bid 3S raised to game. When I led the ♠6 to 4S, I am sure that South was quietly confident of making ten tricks.

Craig won the ♣A and led the ♥2. I won the ♥Q and tried to cash the ♥A, which South ruffed. When South led a spade to dummy and found the 3-0 break it was not as easy as he thought.

South tried a heart, but I was able to over-ruff and return a trump, so we came to a heart for one down and 65%.

To make 10 tricks, South must discard on the ♥A and keep his four trumps. Then he can ruff the club return in dummy, draw trumps, and take the ruffing finesse in hearts. ■

The Open Teams

As usual Meta Goodman, Craig Francis, Tim Runtig and I played in the GCC Open Teams, and, as a tribute to our former captain and friend Tony Jackman, we still called ourselves the Jackman team! Normally Wynne Webber and Therese Tully are part of our team, but Therese has moved to another team, and Wynne elected not to come this year, and the sudden death of her husband would have made it difficult for her anyway.

As the convener, Tim cannot play many matches due to his duties, so we needed a fifth player, and Ron Clark, another former partner of Tony, agreed to join our team. He played with Meta for eight of the 12 matches, while I played with Craig. For the other four matches Ron and I played together while Tim and Craig played at the other table.

We were never going to threaten the leaders, losing some matches we would normally have expected to win, and we only won four matches and drew one to finish well down the field, but it was an enjoyable event nonetheless.

(See next column)

After North opened a strong 2C I was very aggressive when Craig overcalled 3C, and as it turned out I should have contented myself with passing 6S. Is the North hand worth a 2C opening? Not in my view as there are two suits and too few defensive tricks.

No Bridge Club? No congresses?
Try some of these

Bridge Base Online [CLICK HERE](#)
Many clubs are conducting their "members only" tournaments. Check your club website [HERE](#)

Ron Klinger's Daily ABF Bridge Column is free on the ABF website [CLICK HERE](#)

Paul Marston's Bridge Lounge Online is free and includes historical weekly bridge columns and card play videos [CLICK HERE](#) to subscribe

Also check regularly the ABF [HERE](#) and QBA [HERE](#) websites for updates on COVID-19 and its impact on bridge activities into the future.

M 1	♠ AKQ1098
Bd 7	♥ AJ1063
Dir S	♦ K3
Vul Both	♣ —
♠ —	♠ 762
♥ 9874	♥ K
♦ A972	♦ Q5
♣ 109763	♣ AKQJ542
	♠ J543
	♥ Q52
	♦ J10864
	♣ 8

W	N	E	S
4C	2C!	3C	P
6C	6S	P	P
7C	X	All pass	

While it is true that 6S is cold, it is highly unlikely, even with Craig showing values by his overcall, that declarer will play him for the ♥K and take his only chance - that it is singleton.

South led the ♠3, and Craig lost the obvious two tricks for two off and -500, so it was still a good result for us versus +650 at the other table for 4 IMPs.

This was one of the few good boards in the match and it was a big blow to lose by 13 IMPs to team 218 (of 236), leaving us below half way, but how often do you get a chance to bid 7C over the opponents freely bid 6S and gain 4 IMPs!

M 2	♠ Q95
Bd 17	♥ J108542
Dir N	♦ Q103
Vul None	♣ Q
♠ A42	♠ K73
♥ K9	♥ 763
♦ K72	♦ A54
♣ KJ932	♣ 10764
	♠ J1086
	♥ AQ
	♦ J986
	♣ A85

W	N	E	S
2NT	2D!	P	2H
	All pass		

North opened with a multi-2D and I bid 2NT over the 2H (correctible) bid from South. This would show 15-18, but I upgraded my hand slightly for the reasonable 5-card suit, rather than bid 3C over 2H.

Craig has not got enough to raise, so 2NT was passed out, and North led the ♥J. South won the ♥A and exited with the ♥Q and I had to negotiate the club suit to make my contract.

Obviously if North has the ♠A I have no chance, so I had to assume that was with South, and at trick 3 I led the ♦2 to the ♦A in dummy and advanced the ♣10, hoping for a cover by South, but he played low.

In only 2NT I did not mind losing to the ♣Q in the South hand later so I flew up with the ♣K and was rewarded by the appearance of the ♣Q from North, so I had 9 tricks and +150. At the other table my hand was allowed to play in just 2C for -90, so we gained 2 IMPs.

M 3	♠ K10743
Bd 7	♥ Q
Dir S	♦ AKQ3
Vul Both	♣ KQ5
♠ 5	♠ 86
♥ 1096532	♥ AKJ8
♦ J1074	♦ 2
♣ J3	♣ A98642
	♠ AQJ92
	♥ 74
	♦ 9865
	♣ 107

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

In the third match I was playing with Ron Clark, and he opened 1S in third seat and East overcalled 2C.

I jumped to 4S and West had no interest in bidding, so 4S was passed out, to which East led the ♥A and switched to the ♦2.

Ron drew trumps and, while the diamond pips may have been good enough for four tricks, he took the obvious line for 10 tricks and +620.

At the other table Craig and Tim got to 5C, to which South led the ♠A and then switched to the ♣10 to cut down on ruffs, even though this gives up a trump trick.

However there is still a loser in spades, diamonds and clubs, but somehow the defence got their wires crossed, and 5C made for +600 and a 15 IMP double game swing.

This was my first match with Ron Clark in the 40+ years I have known him, and the 65 IMP win in this match was by far our biggest.

M 4	♠ 1074		
Bd 16	♥ 65		
Dlr W	♦ 1063		
Vul EW	♣ AJ1084		
♠ KJ9		♠ AQ8632	
♥ KJ9843		♥ AQ	
♦ A7		♦ 952	
♣ Q6		♣ K3	
	♠ 5		
	♥ 1072		
	♦ KQJ84		
	♣ 9752		

W	N	E	S
1H	P	1S	P
3H	P	4NT!	P
5H!	P	6H	All pass

Since I had good spades following Craig's 1S response, I upgraded my 14-count and rebid 3H, indicating 15-17 and a 6-card suit.

This prompted Craig to use Roman Key Card Blackwood, and upon finding two key cards in my hand he duly bid 6H, although we could have been missing the top diamonds!

A 4C cuebid by Craig after 3H (first or second round control), would have got a return 4D cuebid from me, and then 4NT would ascertain that NS were not likely to hold two cashing diamonds.

Fortune favours the brave, and it was the ♣A that we were missing and this was North's opening lead.

Since all the breaks were reasonable, 12 tricks were easy and we soon wrote down +1430.

At the other table slam was not bid and the ♣A was therefore not led at trick 1, so 13 tricks for -710, but 12 IMPs to us.

(See next column)

With limited spade support, I chose to just rebid 2D after South overcalled 2C, but when Craig asked for a club stopper with 3C, I was happy to bid to 3NT.

North dutifully led her partner's suit, and it was not difficult for me to garner 11 tricks for +660. But even on a spade lead from North 11 tricks are still there by ducking the first round.

M 4	♠ KJ109		
Bd 23	♥ J10742		
Dlr S	♦ 104		
Vul Both	♣ 32		
♠ A4		♠ 87653	
♥ 3		♥ AK8	
♦ AQ6532		♦ KJ9	
♣ KJ95		♣ 87	
	♠ Q2		
	♥ Q965		
	♦ 87		
	♣ AQ1064		

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

The big worry for us was that with everything breaking and well placed, 6D was cold, so maybe we had missed a slam swing!

Not to worry, as at the other table EW had a bidding disaster and stopped in just 2D, making 12 tricks for -170, but 10 IMPs to us.

I think that the EW hands are too well suited, and the outstanding club honours too well placed to be worried about a missed slam, but game should have been reached, so we were lucky. However, South's 2C overcall, locating the club honours, may have pushed us there.

M 5	♠ 8		
Bd 13	♥ AQ1074		
Dlr N	♦ 96		
Vul Both	♣ KQ942		
♠ K532		♠ Q10964	
♥ 6		♥ 932	
♦ AQJ752		♦ K10843	
♣ 75		♣ -	
	♠ AJ7		
	♥ KJ85		
	♦ -		
	♣ AJ10863		

W	N	E	S
6S	1H	2H!	6H
All pass	P	P	X

This was the most spectacular board of the event. Craig's cuebid show spades and a minor (Michael's cuebid), and I expected him to have clubs and spades, but, since I had a

good side suit and ruffing power in clubs, I had no hesitation in bidding 6S over South's thoughtful 6H.

I was flabbergasted when North led the ♥A and Craig's hand went down on the table with diamonds as his second suit, and I saw that 6S was a great save.

South played the ♥J under the ♥A and North got the hint and switched to the ♦9, which South ruffed. This made me even happier as I was able to tell that NS, having the diamond void, meant were cold for 7H.

There was nothing to the play after that and I was thus two off and we scored up -500.

At the other table Meta and Ron were unhappy that they had failed to bid the grand slam, but +1460 was worth 14 IMPs to us.

M 6	♠ 7652		
Bd 28	♥ J943		
Dlr W	♦ 4		
Vul NS	♣ Q1087		
♠ AJ		♠ KQ109	
♥ A876		♥ Q1052	
♦ K72		♦ AQ105	
♣ AJ92		♣ 5	
	♠ 843		
	♥ K		
	♦ J9863		
	♣ K643		

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2C	P
2H	P	4NT	P
5C	P	5H	P
6H	All pas		

Craig had slam potential when I opened with a 15-17 1NT, but only if we had a fit.

First job was to look for a major suit fit with Stayman, and the heart fit was located. So Craig asked for Key Cards with 4NT, but signed off when I bid 5C, showing 3 or 0. It was highly unlikely that I had 0, but he knew that I would go to slam with 3!

North led the ♦4, an obvious singleton, so I knew the diamonds were only worth three tricks, but there is plenty of other potential for 12 tricks, so I won in hand and cashed the ♥A, getting the good news.

Now I could finesse hearts twice,

using the ♠A to get back to hand, and did not need to ruff anything as I had 12 top tricks for +980.

At the other table East made an odd choice when they did not appear to use Stayman, as West played in 3NT for 11 tricks and -460, so we gained 11 IMPs, which was crucial in that we still lost by 2 IMPs.

M 7	♠ J		
Bd 3	♥ 109754		
Dlr S	♦ J983		
Vul EW	♣ AK7		
♠ Q4		♠ A832	
♥ KQ832		♥ AJ6	
♦ Q4		♦ 7	
♣ 10642		♣ QJ983	
	♠ K109765		
	♥ —		
	♦ AK10652		
	♣ 5		

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

In match 7 I was back playing with Ron, and on Board 3 I opened 1S and Ron made a forcing 1NT response.

I was tempted to rebid 3D with my shapely hand, but that would have been game-forcing, so I just rebid 2D, hoping to get another chance.

Fortunately, Ron ignored his motley heart suit and club stoppers and instead raised diamonds, so I had no hesitation in bidding game in diamonds.

Having a good lead of his own, West bypassed his partner's club overcall and led the ♥Q, which I ruffed in hand to lead out the top trumps.

When I now assessed dummy, slam seemed a good possibility, so I entered dummy with the ♠A and led the ♠J, but East played low without a flicker, and I thus played low and lost 2 spade tricks for +400. I am not sure that he would have played low if I had been in slam, but we will never know.

At the other table South finished in 4S, which can make, but went 1 off for +50 and 10 IMPs.

M 7	♠ 73		
Bd 8	♥ KQJ76		
Dlr W	♦ A953		
Vul None	♣ J5		
♠ KJ62		♠ Q85	
♥ 985		♥ A1032	
♦ QJ874		♦ 2	
♣ 2		♣ A9643	
	♠ A1094		
	♥ 4		
	♦ K106		
	♣ KQ1087		

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

I elected to force to game with 2C after Ron opened 1H. Then my 2S rebid was 4th suit forcing, to which Ron denied a stopper.

I would have preferred Ron to rebid NT to show a spade stopper, but having a potential second stopper myself, I rebid 3NT and West led the ♦7.

Winning the first trick with the ♦10, I was confident that 3NT was going to be easy, but East won the ♠A at trick 2 and returned the ♠5. I was not psychic enough to play low so West won the ♠J over the ♠10 and returned the ♠2.

Now I had to rely on the hand with the ♥A only having three spades, so I ducked and won the next spade to lead a heart and was gratified when East had no more spades.

East ducked the ♥K so I continued with the ♥Q and when this was also ducked, thanks to the extra diamond trick I cashed out for just nine tricks when the clubs did not break.

At the other table Tim and Craig had a lucky escape when their 2C overcall was not doubled, finishing four down for -200 and 5 IMPs to us.

(See next column)

East opened 2NT showing a weak hand with both minors which I doubled. West bid 2D, although with no preference I would have passed to allow East to bid their longest or best suit.

Ron made a free bid of 3S and I decided to bid 4S. although 3NT

M 8	♠ K642		
Bd 25	♥ 642		
Dlr N	♦ K10		
Vul EW	♣ Q984		
♠ Q973		♠ 5	
♥ AJ983		♥ 7	
♦ J2		♦ 986543	
♣ 106		♣ AJ732	
	♠ AK108		
	♥ KQ105		
	♦ AQ7		
	♣ K5		

	W	N	E	S
		P	2NT!	X
	3D	3S	P	4S
	All pass			

would have shown my strength and stoppers as well.

I rarely lead an unbid singleton unless I have at least two trumps, as too often it destroys partner's holding in the suit, and even if we have the trump ace you cannot ruff.

Maybe West was of that school as East did lead the ♥7, but West did not return a heart for him to ruff. Instead he returned the ♣10 to East's ace and a club came back.

Ron now led the ♠A and ♠J, running it, but he still had to lose a trump for 10 tricks and +420. At the other table South was declarer in 4S and received the lead of the ♦J. This went down two for +100 and 11 IMPs.

M 9	♠ K		
Bd 2	♥ 63		
Dlr E	♦ AKQ943		
Vul NS	♣ J1094		
♠ AQJ62		♠ 10974	
♥ A8752		♥ KQJ9	
♦ 108		♦ J2	
♣ Q		♣ 632	
	♠ 853		
	♥ 104		
	♦ 765		
	♣ AK875		

	W	N	E	S
	1S	3D	3S	All pass

I was mindful that Craig was a passed hand and he was under pressure when he bid 3S over the 3D jump overcall, which obviously showed an opening hand at adverse

vulnerability, so I passed with my effective 11 HCPs.

North cashed the top two diamonds and then led the ♠J, on which South played the ♠K. I now knew 10 of North's points so I thought that it likely that she had the ♠K.

Accordingly, after ruffing the ♣A, under no pressure, I played the ♠A, and was rewarded by the appearance of the ♠K, thus making 10 tricks for +170.

At the other table EW reached 4S by West and I did not get details of the play, although it was likely to be the same first 4 tricks. Declarer finessed in trumps and lost to the SK for 1 down and 6 IMPs to us.

M 9	♠ 1076		
Bd 6	♥ 63		
Dir E	♦ QJ10765		
Vul EW	♣ J9		
♠ KQ42		♠ 53	
♥ K107		♥ Q94	
♦ K		♦ A42	
♣ AK754		♣ Q10863	
	♠ AJ98		
	♥ AJ852		
	♦ 983		
	♣ 2		

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

Craig and I had a free rein to 3NT when NS did not compete.

The 3C rebid showed five clubs and was about 8-10, so I rebid 3NT in spite of having a singleton ♦K, after all they might not lead diamonds or they may lead away from the ♦A.

North did lead the ♦Q and 3NT looked to be safe, unless North had both aces, which was unlikely since they did not bid.

I cashed the ♣A, ♣Q, and then led a spade from dummy, which South ducked. Since I now had 8 tricks, I led to the ♥Q to establish my 9th trick with the ♥K.

In the course of these plays, I had plenty of transport via the clubs, and in the wash-up I finished with 10 tricks for +630.

At the other table Ron took advantage of the vulnerability to bid 2D over the

1C opening and EW stopped in 3C, making 11 tricks for -150 and 10 IMPs to us.

M 10	♠ KJ		
Bd 22	♥ J1075		
Dir E	♦ Q1098		
Vul EW	♣ AQ7		
♠ 1097532		♠ A86	
♥ Q63		♥ 984	
♦ 6		♦ AKJ	
♣ 963		♣ 10842	
	♠ Q4		
	♥ AK2		
	♦ 75432		
	♣ KJ5		

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

Craig opened 1C and South overcalled 1D (not recommended) over which I bid 2S, weak and at most 6 HCPs.

North, with good diamonds and an opening hand, bid 2NT to show the spade stop, and South raised to game.

Craig led the ♦K to get a look at dummy and it was obvious that North also only had two spades, so he led the ♠6, then sat back and waited.

North could only cash six tricks, so in desperation ran the ♥J at trick 3. When this lost I led a spade to Craig and we cashed a total of seven tricks for three off and +150.

At the other table Ron was also in 3NT, but East led the ♥8, which gave him the tempo, and he got an extra trick to go only one down for a 3 IMP gain.

M 11	♠ AQ643		
Bd 7	♥ A62		
Dir S	♦ QJ93		
Vul Both	♣ 6		
♠ J108		♠ 952	
♥ Q983		♥ K1075	
♦ 8		♦ 10742	
♣ KQ984		♣ 32	
	♠ K7		
	♥ J4		
	♦ AK65		
	♣ AJ1075		

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

I opened 1NT to show my strength, whereas with weak hearts, conventional wisdom would suggest opening 1C and rebidding 2D as a reverse, which shows the strength and the minor suit shape.

Happy to be out of 3NT, when Ron showed his second suit I raised to 4D and Ron jumped to slam to which East led the ♥5.

The slam looked easy until West showed out of diamonds, and then a lot of luck was required. The 3-3 spade break delivered 12 tricks and +1370.

If Ron had tested the spades after a top trump from each hand had disclosed the bad trump break, he would have had an easier time. But the 3-3 spade break is much lower odds than the 3-2 diamond break.

At the other table NS had a disaster and stopped in just 3D making only nine tricks for -150, so just being in game was worth 10 IMPs and bidding slam only increases it to 15.

Fire Appeal

As we have done for the drought and flood victims in the past we, as a bridge community in Queensland, organised a state-wide donation to the fire appeal. Clubs of the QBA raised over \$25,000 for drought victims in 2018 and just under \$20,000 for the flood many years before that. Twenty-nine Queensland bridge clubs raised monies for the recent Fire Appeal. I am pleased to report that we raised \$41,367. Some clubs paid direct to their own

local brigades, some clubs gave directly to specific RSPCAs - this amounted to \$8,320.00. Money given to the QBA as well as the \$2,000 which the QBA donated to start the fund amounted to \$33,679.50 The money will be divided among the following charities
 Victorian Bushfire Appeal
 Salvation Army
 Red Cross
 RSPCA
 Thank you and well done.

M 11	♠ —	♠ J9
Bd 12	♥ KJ7	♥ Q109852
Dlr W	♦ A9876	♦ 4
Vul NS	♣ A10954	♣ QJ83
♠ K75432		
♥ 43		
♦ QJ102		
♣ 2		
	♠ AQ1086	
	♥ A6	
	♦ K53	
	♣ K76	

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

This board brought up some good bidding principles when dealing with the multi-2D.

Ron doubled with the North hand and East bid 2S, which I doubled. If the partner of the 2D opener has no preference, they can simply bid 2H or pass, waiting for the opener to clarify, but when they bid 2S, they are showing a clear preference for hearts!

Thus my double cannot be negative, also showing hearts, but must be for penalties. Unfortunately Ron thought it was negative and rebid 3C, forcing me to rebid 3NT.

I compounded the problems on this board by completely misplaying 3NT after the opening lead of the ♦Q, to finish one off instead of making 10 tricks by ducking the ♦Q.

At the other table an opening 2S bid was doubled for takeout by North and left in for penalties by South. The damage was -800, so we lost 14 IMPs.

M 12	♠ 7	♠ J4
Bd 22	♥ 5432	♥ AQJ109876
Dlr E	♦ K83	♦ —
Vul EW	♣ AQ984	♣ 1065
♠ KQ1098532		
♥ —		
♦ AJ1062		
♣ —		
	♠ A6	
	♥ K	
	♦ Q9754	
	♣ KJ732	

W	N	E	S
4S	All pass	4H	P

I had a dilemma when Craig opened 4H as dealer holding a void in hearts and a good 8-card suit of my own plus an outside 5-card suit.

I elected to bid 4S and that became the final contract, to which North led the ♦3.

I ruffed on the table and cashed the ♥A and was pleased and sad to see the ♥K drop. I tried a bit of subterfuge now by calling for a low heart next, and South discarded as did I. Then another heart which South had to ruff so I could over-ruff and trump another diamond. Making 12 tricks for a lucky +680.

At the other table Meta bid 4NT over 4H and they ended up in 6CX for 10 tricks and -300, so we gained 9 IMPs in a losing match, which was a disappointing way to finish an excellent event. ■

Teacher's Corner



Joan Butts

FOR this time at home and away from your clubs, my Online School of Bridge should help a lot.

- There are six new and very modern Beginners lessons to recommend for friends who might like to learn to play online.
- There are also 130 lessons with matching review videos and hands to play live with robots. These are all in a curriculum from Beginner to Advanced.
- When you don't feel like learning, there are endless random hands too.

I'm offering new members one month's free trial too, and for everyone there's one week free to try the site too. Even when you're paying, it's only \$15 a month for everything.

I recently featured articles with hands from real life tournaments, on the [Online School](#), and thought you might enjoy this one.

Do we really know how to manage when the opponents interfere with our transfer sequence? This hand highlights an area of bidding that's good to clear up with partner.

At nil vul you're sitting South holding

♠ J10 ♥ AK7 ♦ A42 ♣ KJ972

The bidding goes pass pass to you, and you naturally open 1NT. Next hand passes, and partner transfers to spades, showing five or more. Their point count is unknown at this stage. The next opponent says double.

This should show a hand with at least five good hearts. It's also asking their partner to lead that suit, and says they'd be happy to play in the suit they've doubled; in this case hearts.

As usual, their double has opened up more possibilities for us. The tips below represent a popular way to deal with this situation.

Tips: After our 1NT opening and partner's transfer gets doubled.

If an opponent doubles your transfer, what do you do? 1NT P 2♥ (transfer to spades), X P ?

- To accept the transfer over the double shows three cards in partner's real suit (1NT P 2♥ X 2♠ = I hold three or more spades for you, partner)
- To pass the double denies three cards in partner's transfer suit (1NT P 2♥ X pass = I have only two spades for you, partner)
- To redouble (XX) shows strength (at least four cards) in their suit (1NT P 2♥ X XX = I would be happy to defend their heart contract, doubled, partner)
- To bid no trumps shows a stopper in the suit but not a desire to make a penalty double (1NT P 2♥ X 2NT = I have a stopper in hearts and would like to play no trumps, partner)
- To jump in partner's suit shows a very strong hand with at least four spades (1NT p 2♥ X 3♠ = I have at least four spades, and would like to play game if you have anything more than six points, partner)

25 Years Ago

THE 1995 GOLD COAST CONGRESS

The 1995 ANA Gold Coast Congress easily surpassed its previous record entries, with 135 tables in the Pairs (previous record 121 in 1994), and 168 entries in the Teams (previous record 142 also in 1994). At this rate of increase, the Committee will be looking for an overflow venue before too long.

The Pairs was, as always, closely contested, so much so in fact that the event was tied for the first time ever, first equal being a visiting English pair, P King and R Bentley, with Michael Courtney and Mel Watson. I understand that another record was simultaneously set by Mel Watson who became the oldest player ever to win the Pairs in this congress - age 76 if I heard correctly! The Teams was also a very close contest. With one qualifying round to go, any of half a dozen teams could have made the final. In the end, the two teams qualifying were BILSKI (G Bilski, M Lalov, T Anton, M Draper), and the holders DEL'MONTE (I Del'Monte, A Bach, M Mullamphy, R Richman). At the halfway stage of the 60-board final, BILSKI held a 53 Imp lead, and things looked bleak for the defending champions. But DEL'MONTE fought back to be a chance in the last 20 boards, played on Vugraph. Here are some of the boards from the last twenty, contributed by a couple of senior Queensland players.

MIKE ROBSON writes this.

DELMONTE whittled away at BILSKI'S lead until this monster arrived at board 55.

Dir N	♠ —
Vul Both	♥ 95
	♦ AKQ83
	♣ Q87542
♠ KJ109742	♠ A653
♥ 4	♥ Q106
♦ J4	♦ 1052
♣ A63	♣ J109
	♠ Q8
	♥ AKJ8732
	♦ 976
	♣ K

In both rooms South reached 6H after heavy interference in spades. In the closed room, after West led the club ace and continued the suit, Del'Monte took the immediate heart finesse to make his contract.

In the open room, Richman led the diamond jack hoping perhaps to set up a diamond trick before the clubs were cleared. The non-spade lead caused Bilski to think that maybe the lead was a singleton, even though East had followed with the two, indicating an odd number of diamonds (he would probably have played the same card from four - why make it easy for declarer!). Playing to make against a 4-1 diamond split, Bilski pulled a club at trick two and ruffed the club return. He now ruffed a spade and cashed the two top hearts, hoping that West had two hearts and a diamond. That was 17 Imps to DEL'MONTE, and they went into the lead with five boards to play.

Dir W	♠ KQ
Vul EW	♥ xxx
	♦ Qxx
	♣ xxxxx
♠ AJ108x	♠ 9xxx
♥ AKQJ10x	♥ x
♦ xx	♦ AKJ10x
♣ —	♣ AKx
	♠ xx
	♥ xxx
	♦ xxx
	♣ QJxxx

The last board came with BILSKI behind by 16 imp and needing a vulnerable slam swing to change the result. Sure enough, the last board (Board 64 and hand-dealt because Board 52 had been fouled) was a vulnerable slam.

Consider Richman's problem needing to play the spades for only one loser, with the final at stake if he guessed wrongly. Eventually he double-finessed for one off. He need not have worried because In the other room Lalov and Draper had misbid to 7NT, doubled and off two tricks.

Incidentally, for the record I believe most mathematicians will tell me Richman's line is a slightly better percentage than the play of the ace and another, but most experts take

the latter line anyway because, like me, they cannot bear the thought of losing to the doubleton KQ offside.

Anyway, it was the best Vugraph final we have had for a while and all credit to the winners for a greatfightback.

Editor: the double-finesse is certainly slightly better - 76% vs 66%. Perhaps it was all double-bluff. Richman thought the opponents need a swing so they will take the inferior line, therefore I will take the same line. But wait, they will know what I am thinking so they will play the odds after all so maybe I'd better do the same', etc, etc.

PETER HAINSWORTH contributed the following hand.

Bobby Richman showed his class on this hand from the Teams final.

Dir S	♠ J1072
Vul NS	♥ K942
	♦ 52
	♣ J52
♠ K983	♠ Q54
♥ Q83	♥ 7
♦ Q943	♦ 753
♣ 84	♣ AKQ1097
	♠ A5
	♥ AJ1065
	♦ AKJ8
	♣ 63

On the third round of clubs he ruffed with the heart ace and played the hand to squeeze West! Try it! ■

Manager's Travels



Kim Ellaway

HOLY Dooley - who would have thought that no bridge clubs would be running. Please all be safe. Thank goodness the Gold Coast Congress was completed before the shutdown as the administrative side of refunds etc give me a migraine just thinking about it.

The GCC was very successful and a big thankyou to everyone who helped especially my family who put up with everything in the build-

up. My daughter had a second baby girl Nia Marjorie and I have been fortunate to spend some time with her before being isolated at home. The Gold Coast equipment has never been so organised so early after the congress. I know I will be going mad if I suggest cleaning the bidding boxes etc.

The weekend before the shutdown Rockhampton celebrated their 50th anniversary and Ray and I were invited to participate in all the activities organised. Saturday was pairs, Sunday was teams and then on Saturday night there was a big party. Rocky certainly knows how to put on a great celebration. Well done Rocky, and thank you for the invitation. Here is an exciting hand against the winners of the teams Remember we play Precision and so did the opposition. I was South.

Dir N	♠ J1073		
Vul None	♥ 1096543		
	♦ K54		
	♣ —		
♠ 942		♠ —	
♥ —		♥ AJ87	
♦ J872		♦ Q1093	
♣ 1087653		♣ AKQ42	
		♠ AKQ865	
		♥ KQ2	
		♦ A6	
		♣ J9	

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

I doubled thinking a positive score would be good. The contract is defeatable on the lead of the ♦A but very hard to find and I did not. Not many East/West's bid 5C and those who played it there were all doubled and made.

Bridge clubs will get back to opening if we all do the right thing and stay at home so please obey the instructions from the government. Of course it means I can't see my beautiful family in Biloela but I will not be breaking the rules. ■

Every bridge player has a sane spot somewhere.

Novices



Pam Steele

Dear Fellow Novices

What extraordinary times! Looking at the QBA website it is depressing to see "Cancelled" so many times against bridge events. I trust you are using your time to hone your skills. QBA and ABF have identified a number of ways to help. Let's hope the current situation will soon be a memory and not a continuing reality.

At least we were able to complete a number of terrific congress events since the New Year. A number of QLD novices participated in the Australian Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra. Congratulations go to David and Ming Ting from Mackay whose team placed second in the Warm-up Novice Teams and who also placed fifth in the 2-Day National Novice Matchpoint Swiss Championship. Congratulations also to Raelene Clark and Fiona Hosier who placed 8th in the same event.

More Congress Results

Congratulations to the following novice players.

QCBC Novice IMP Pairs: Joan Mladen and Robert Fulcher from my Club, Toowoomba. [First] Sameer Pandya and Kathleen Clifford [Second] and Magdalene Wong and Melva Leal [Third]

Toowoomba Novice Pairs: My partner Dennis Lincoln and I were first. Carol Wright and Teena Haslam [Second] and Bronwyn Hamilton and Philip Atkinson [third]. Special congratulations however go to Ian Costin and Simon Wicks (Toowoomba) who were seeded 33 overall but punched above their weight by placing 5th overall.

Toowong Novice IMP Pairs: Jane Whelan and Robyn Chippindall. (Sunnybank): [First] Inta Devine and Gillian Baker; [Second] and Dominique Teloar and Alison Banks; [Third].

The Gold Coast Congress is however the highlight of the calendar for most QLD novices and fortunately it was completed before the coronavirus issues took hold. Congratulations to the following novices:

Bobby Richman Pairs Championship Novice: Julie Scott and Elizabeth Van Vugt first in Final B and also to David and Ming Ting for Final C.



Julie Scott and Elizabeth van Vugt



Ming and David Ting

Tuesday Novice Pairs: Teena Haslam and Carol Wright



Teena Haslam and Carol Wright

Thursday Rookie Pairs: Stephen and Louise Bennett.



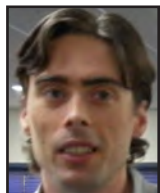
Louise and Stephen Bennett

I had been told that you need to be physically and mentally fit to face extended sessions of play [absolutely true] and there were a number of novices who played each day for 7 days. Each of you deserve special mention - you know who you are. Well done!

When I started playing duplicate bridge, I set myself a personal goal - 100 Masterpoints inside two years. The ABF Masterpoints posted on April 1 have shown I am now officially out of Novices. Got there! As such the QBA will be looking for a successor Novice Co-ordinator. If there is anyone out there interested please contact Kim Ellaway at QBA or myself. I have really enjoyed meeting my fellow novice players and the engagement with the QBA has also been especially rewarding.

A final word: Advice for bridge players is something that is not in short supply but if I had to pick one particular message for novices it would be "Play in Congresses". Playing at the club level is comforting, especially so as you know the other players and their level of play. Challenging yourself by going into a congress environment means you are forced to really think about your mistakes and your strengths. This makes for improvement and can be very rewarding. Congress play is however rather academic at the moment so, until we resume, read your bridge books and practice online but don't forget your goal. ■

Avoiding a 4-4 Major Fit



Nikolas Moore

READ a book of Ron Klinger's years ago. In it, he said that with balanced hands, a 4-4 major fit and around 29 points, it is safer in IMPs scoring to play in 3NT instead, due to the danger of bad breaks. I put this into practice on the following hand, partnering Larry in the Ivy Dahler

Pairs where we finished fifth in our direction.

Dir S	♠ 9532		
Vul Both	♥ K53		
	♦ —		
	♣ J109765		
♠ J1087		♠ AKQ6	
♥ A6		♥ Q94	
♦ AK96		♦ 542	
♣ K82		♣ Q43	
	♠ 4		
	♥ J10872		
	♦ QJ10873		
	♣ A		

I sat East and, when Larry opened 1NT, I simply bid 3NT instead of using Stayman. North led the ♣J to the ace. South switched to the ♦Q and North showed out - sure enough, we had a spade fit and the bad breaks means that 4S can go three off due to the opponents cross-ruffing in the minors! 3NT can make an overtrick due to the ♥K sitting under the ace, and we picked up 6 IMPs with 4S regularly failing.

Larry did something similar two rounds later:

Dir E	♠ A8		
Vul NS	♥ 983		
	♦ 1052		
	♣ 76432		
♠ 7542		♠ KJ96	
♥ A104		♥ KJ6	
♦ KQ3		♦ A64	
♣ 1085		♣ KQ9	
	♠ Q103		
	♥ Q752		
	♦ J987		
	♣ AJ		

I opened 1NT as East. Larry used Stayman to invite game but preferred NT to our spade fit because his hand was flat, and sure enough our hands were completely mirrored. In theory, spades can make ten tricks and NT only nine because South can eventually set up a diamond winner, but making 4S requires a correct guess in both clubs and hearts, whereas 3NT needs only one of these, and I was always making after South led a heart at trick #1 saving me a guess in the suit, and gaining 4 IMPs. ■

Klinger's Column



Ron Klinger

New Player Problems

North opens 2NT, 20-22 points, Pass from East.

What do you do as South with each of these hands:

- ♠ 742
♥ KQJ
♦ K97
♣ Q1063
- ♠ 742
♥ KQJ
♦ KQ7
♣ Q1063
- ♠ 742
♥ AKJ
♦ KQJ
♣ A984

Solution:

- Answer: Bid 4NT. With 33-34 points together, a small slam is usually a good chance. You have 11 HCP (plus two tens). Partner has 20-22. Combined total: 31-33. Your 4NT invites opener to bid 6NT if maximum, Pass if minimum.
- Answer: Bid 6NT. With 33-34 points together, a small slam is usually a good chance. You have 13 points and partner has 20-22. Combined total: 33-35. That makes bidding 6NT worthwhile.
- Answer: Bid 7NT. You have 18 HCP, partner has 20-22. Combined total: 38-40. 7NT might not be a sure thing but it will be a very strong chance.

A good bridge partnership can last for a long time. A bad one just seems to.

Dealer East : Nil vulnerable

W	N	E	S
2S ¹	?	P	1S

¹Michaels, 5 hearts and a 5+ minor
What would you do as North with:

- ♠ 72
♥ KJ98
♦ KQJ84
♣ 32
- ♠ 72
♥ AQ7
♦ KQ102
♣ QJ97
- ♠ 2
♥ J4
♦ K87
♣ AQJ9873

- Answer: Double. You are keen to penalize the opponents if they play in hearts or diamonds. If East bids clubs, you hope partner can penalise that.
- Answer: Bid 3NT. You have enough points for game and sound stoppers in every suit outside partner's spades.
- Answer: Bid 3C. This is natural (new suit) and forcing, just as though it had gone 1S : 2C.

Dir S	♠ 652	♠ Q108
Vul EW	♥ 7	♥ QJ1043
	♦ Q43	♦ 108
	♣ K109862	♣ Q73
♠ AJ974		
♥ K92		
♦ 97652		
♣ —		

W	N	E	S
P	3NT	All pass	2NT

Or

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

¹No 5-card major

West leads the ♠7: two – queen – king.

Plan the play.

Solution:

If clubs are 2-1, you have eleven tricks. If clubs are 3-0, which opponent is more likely to have the void? As West has 4 or 5 spades, East is slightly more likely to have club length, but there is not much in it. It costs nothing to play off your diamond winners first. You never know what might turn up. If clubs are 2-1, they will still be 2-1 after three rounds of diamonds.

When East shows out on the third diamond, you know West began with five diamonds and probably five spades as well, maybe six. On that basis, East is far more likely to have club length. Therefore start the clubs by playing the ♣K first. When West shows out, finesse the ♣J and claim your eleven tricks.

Note that despite having ten clubs together, 3NT is a better spot than 5C. West would probably lead a diamond against 5C. If clubs are 2-1, both contracts make, but if clubs are 3-0, you could fail in 5C by playing the ♣A first. You lose a club to East and two spades when the spade finesse fails. Notice that in 5C you would not know that

West began with spade length and you do not have the luxury in 5C of playing off three rounds of diamonds to check on the diamond length before playing clubs. East would ruff the third diamond and again two spade losers puts 5C one down.

(Based on Countdown to Winning Bridge, by Tim Bourke & Marc Smith)

Dealer North : Nil vulnerable

W	N	E	S
	3C	P	?

What would you do as South with:

- ♠ 86
- ♥ K65
- ♦ Q
- ♣ KJ109743
- ♠ AQJ4
- ♥ Q932
- ♦ K96
- ♣ AQ

Answer: You have a strong, balanced hand, an excellent holding in clubs and at least one stopper in each outside suit. That makes 3NT highly attractive.

After 3C : Pass : 3NT, all pass, West leads the ♥8: five – ten – queen. Plan the play.

Rockhampton's 50th Anniversary



Pairs winners: Janet Hansen and Diane Morgan from Mackay with Klm Ellaway presenting the trophy

This seems routine, doesn't it? You have taken a heart trick and can take seven clubs plus the ♠A for nine tricks for sure. Indeed, you can afford to play a diamond at trick 2 and that guarantees ten tricks. The opponents cannot collect more than two hearts and a diamond.

The deal comes from BBO (Bridge Base Online).

There were 11 Souths in 3NT. After a heart lead, two made 10 tricks and five made 11 tricks. One made 12 tricks after West led a diamond to

East's ♦A and East switched to the ♠K from ♠K-5. One made 11 tricks after a spade lead.

Two went down in 3NT! How could that happen? By misplaying the clubs. One cashed the ♣A and then played the ♣Q – low – low – low instead of overtaking the ♣Q with the ♣K. The other won with the ♥Q at trick 1 and then played the ♣Q next. Now the ♣A blocked the suit and declarer could not return to dummy, as East had ♥A-J-10-4. ■

Courtesy of ronklingerbridge.com

Hervey Bay

The club received a community grant of \$2,000 from the Hervey Bay RSL to put towards the purchase of new chairs for the clubroom.



Sanctuary Cove

The Sanctuary Cove Bridge Club sent out an appeal to their members to help those wild animals affected by the bushfires in Queensland and Northern New South Wales. The Currumbin Wildlife Hospital was experiencing record numbers of rescued koalas and other animals.

At their Christmas party, Sanctuary Cove members collected \$1,980, with the Golf Club adding \$1,020 and the Bridge Club itself another \$500, for a total of \$3,500 to this worthy cause. Members of the club visited the hospital in January and were given a tour of the hospital and some of its resident convalescing animals.



Suzi Ledger, Irene Hall, Susan McLean and Kerry Milliner

Wynnum Manly

BUSH FIRE APPEAL EVENT

The Wynnum Manly Bridge Club held a most enjoyable and successful bridge afternoon at the Wynnum Library on Sunday February 16 to raise funds for the Bush Fire Appeal. Forty-three players attended the event.

\$965 was raised from table fees, donations and the sale of donated goods.

Thank you to all those who participated and a special thank you to the Brisbane City Council library staff and the club's treasurer Katie Flynn for organising the event.



Gary Goebel, Darryl Timms (Secretary), Katie Flynn (Treasurer and organiser of the event) and Elizabeth Hales.

Directors' Corner



Jan
Peach

THE QBA Club Director Accreditation Exam is scheduled for Saturday, June 27. What form this will take is not yet clear given the COVID-19 situation.

Everyday garden variety irregularities are not cheating. There needs to be something much more sinister. I am concerned about how often I am hearing ill-considered and baseless accusations of cheating. A player must not infringe a law intentionally, even if there is a prescribed rectification he is willing to accept (Law 72B1). The implication is that to accidentally, carelessly or unwittingly infringe the laws is just part of the game and is why directors are needed. Accidents happen. It would be at very long odds for an apparently run of the mill irregularity to be cheating.

I heard about a recent dispute about the number of tricks won. One side was repeatedly labelled cheats, simply because they were claiming an extra trick in the genuine belief that they had won it. The director gave much time to analysing the play and did in fact award that trick to the wrongly accused side. The round had not ended and a claim or concession had not been made so Law 79B2 applied: The Director rules what score is to be recorded. Using the naughty word did not stop even then.

A novice player asked me about an auction during a restricted event. An opponent's bid had been described as "weak" though it turned out that a strong hand was held. I do not know whether there had been an incorrect explanation or a mis-bid but, "They are cheats," he said. Where does this come from? Bridge is a game. An innocent partnership misunderstanding simply cannot be cheating.

A few weeks ago, I handled a routine claim for damage. A player bid the making game after partner's break in tempo. A 100% action so no adjustment. Later I was told, "We only called you because they are cheats." My response was, "I find that very difficult to believe but if you have genuine concerns you should speak to a recorder."

Law 73B2 comes closest to describing cheating. The gravest possible offence is for a partnership to exchange information through pre-arranged methods of communication other than those sanctioned by these Laws. ■

Stanthorpe

Andy Hung on the Granite Belt



ON Saturday 25th January renowned bridge teacher, Andy Hung from Western Australia, presented a workshop at the International Club in Stanthorpe.

Andy learned to play bridge during his lunch breaks in high school. His passion and ambition for the game has enabled him to represent Australia on numerous occasions, including competing in the World Championships in 2019, as he will again in 2020. (*Ed. These events have been cancelled*) Originally from Brisbane, Andy enjoyed returning to his home turf to share his skills and inspire players, particularly in rural Queensland. ■

Coming Events

Coming events are in doubt for the foreseeable future. Please check the QBA website for news on events that will be held.

D E A D

JULY 13 (noon)

Contributions to:
33 Royal Pde
Ashgrove 4060
Ph: 07 3366 1292

Email: philipsquire@tpg.com.au

L I N E

Supported by a Community Grant from the Southern Downs Regional Council, the workshop was organised by the Stanthorpe Bridge Club. The event was enthusiastically supported with over 40 players from Stanthorpe, Warwick and Tenterfield clubs attending. Councillor Marika McNicol opened the workshop with a few words.

Andy took on the formidable task of challenging seasoned players to re-think some long held habits and strategies. Due to his amenable personality and propensity for humour, the workshop was incredibly successful.

The attendees had an opportunity to put their new skills in action under Andy's supervision. No better way to learn than doing. I doubt that a single attendee left without considering they had learnt some new way to improve their defensive bidding or defensive play.

The Stanthorpe International Club proved an optimal venue for the event at very affordable rates.

The President of the Stanthorpe Bridge Club, Keith Barnett, was extremely satisfied with the day and appreciated the positive feedback received from attendees. He also thanked all who made the day happen.

The club hopes that Andy will return again one day soon. ■

