



THE QBA BULLETIN

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From the President



Richard Ward

FOR decades academics have been researching and analysing the health and cognitive benefits of our game of bridge. These studies fall into two core categories: 1 the well-being of players, especially with regards to ageing; and 2 the skills and strategies required to become an above-average competitor.

1. Following twenty-year-old data from the University of California, USA Polish scientist Nicolas Copernicus started research on how playing bridge can delay the onset of dementia and particularly, Alzheimer's Disease. The basic premise was that playing bridge keeps us in fine mental shape with the mind's resistance to brain damage increasing when we play bridge. One

report tells us that playing bridge lowers the chance of Alzheimer's by as much as 75%, perhaps more. The researchers compared the reasoning capacities of two groups of 60+ year-old Alzheimer's patients – the first included bridge lessons in their regular therapy program whilst the second did not. After one year, the first group's overall cognitive ability was more than two times greater than that in the other group. That was impressive but apparently insufficiently statistically significant to be conclusive. More research is being done. ¹

2. There is no doubt that bridge is a challenging, multi-faceted and fascinating game. "The findings reveal that playing bridge at the highest level requires an ability to read people and scenarios strategically, to respond with discipline to changing and sometimes demoralising situations, and to nurture a trusting and supportively silent relationship (at the table) with one's partner. The research provides evidence that skills such as strategic planning, flexibility in problem-solving, concentration and focus can be developed at the bridge table.

In addition to analytical thinking, elite players learn and practice interpersonal skills, resilience and emotional self-control. They put personal feelings aside in order to get the best for the partnership, and they keep calm in the face of setbacks (their own mistakes and their partner's) ... Elite bridge players are displaying the capacity to make crucial gameplay decisions based on incomplete information At the same time they need to be able to control their irritation with their own failings or those of their partner so as not to give their opponents an advantage."²

To summarise, my advice to self for partnership harmony and optimal results is to keep quiet - say nothing - remain expressionless. The time for discussion and even for venting is over a glass or two of wine at the end of the day. Happy bridging!

In these continuing uncertain COVID-19 times there have been some signs of life in the 2021 Calendar:

- Qld Open Selection Trials 28 February & 7, 13-14, 20-21 March
- Qld Women's & Seniors Selection Trials 27-28 March & 10-11 April
- 25th Anniversary Barrier Reef Congress [ABF Gold Point event] Mackay 30 April – 3 May

Queenslanders were delighted to hear that Diana Dick was the posthumous recipient of a Medal of the Order of Australia for 'service to bridge' in the Australia Day 2021 Honours List. Diana's extensive contributions occurred over a lengthy period at Northern Suburbs. QCBC and Toowong.

¹ International Bridge Press Association January Bulletin;

² Punch S, and Snellgrove, M (2020); Playing your Life: Developing Strategies and Managing Impressions in the Game of Bridge. ■

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QBA Contact Details

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

IBPA Column Service

Dir N	♠ AK952
Vul EW	♥ K62
	♦ 2
	♣ A874
♠ Q8743	♠ J10
♥ 5	♥ AQ7
♦ 8753	♦ KQJ1096
♣ KQ3	♣ 105
	♠ 6
	♥ J109843
	♦ A4
	♣ J962

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

West led the five of diamonds to the nine and ace. Declarer could see four potential losers. He considered trying to maximise his chances for one loser in the trump suit by cashing dummy's ace and king of spades to discard his remaining diamond. (If he played a trump immediately and West had queen-third of trumps, the defence could ensure a second trump trick by winning the ace of trumps and tapping dummy with a diamond.) However, he rejected this approach because it could create entry problems if trumps were 3-1 and East had both the ace and queen: East could duck the first round of trumps and prevent declarer from developing clubs optimally.

So, declarer ran the jack of trumps at trick two. East won with the queen and continued with the ace and seven. Declarer cashed the ace and king of spades to shed his remaining diamond from hand. South could have cashed the ace of clubs, hoping for a doubleton king-queen in the suit (the entries were no longer there to cater for a singleton king or queen with West). Instead, he played for East to have a singleton or doubleton ten of clubs, or a doubleton honour-ten, since East was marked with at least two spades along with three trumps and, based on the lead, a minimum of six diamonds.

So, declarer continued by leading a low club from dummy to the five, six and king. After ruffing the diamond return, declarer led the jack of clubs from hand. West played low, as did dummy. After East followed with the ten of clubs, declarer claimed ten tricks.

Dir S	♠ A983
Vul NS	♥ 542
	♦ —
	♣ AQ9743
♠ Q764	♠ KJ
♥ 1073	♥ KJ96
♦ Q982	♦ AJ10764
♣ 65	♣ 2
	♠ 1052
	♥ AQ8
	♦ K53
	♣ KJ108

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

West found the best lead of the three of hearts. The contract was a poor one, with three potential major suit losers. Declarer realized that the only real chance to make 11 tricks was to hope that East had begun with two honours doubleton in spades. So, after taking East's jack of hearts with the queen, declarer ruffed a diamond, then cashed the ace of spades, noting the fall of East's jack (the king might have been a better play).

After crossing back to hand with a trump to his king, declarer ruffed a second diamond in dummy. Next, declarer led a trump toward his hand, giving East a problem: if East discarded from a red suit, he would likely be endplayed to concede a ruff and discard. Accordingly, East threw the king of spades in the hope that West had both the queen and ten of spades along with the distribution to cash them.

After winning the trump with the king, declarer led the ten of spades to West's queen, establishing the nine and eight of spades as winners. The heart return proved to be no trouble, for declarer was able to discard his heart loser on a spade.

Had East not discarded a spade on the second round of trumps, he'd have been endplayed to concede a ruff-and-sluff.

Dir S	♠ 542
Vul EW	♥ 2
	♦ AQJ9762
	♣ 104
♠ 109	♠ 8763
♥ K1095	♥ QJ873
♦ K1084	♦ 53
♣ Q53	♣ J9
	♠ AKQJ
	♥ A64
	♦ —
	♣ AK8762

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

North decided that he needed a good score to remain in contention and so leapt to four spades, provoking South's leap to six. West led the ten of trumps. To have any hope of 12 tricks, declarer needed clubs to be three-two and trumps to be no worse than four-two.

Declarer saw the danger of trying to ruff a club in dummy. The play would have to go: heart ruff, the ace of diamonds to shed a heart from hand, the ace-king of clubs and a club ruff in dummy. This would fail when the trumps were four-two; the defender with the four trumps would keep his length intact. Then the only way back to hand would have been with a diamond ruff. This would cause declarer to lose trump control and the contract.

Instead, declarer found a better plan that was deceptively simple; he relied on the most likely division of the black suits, that neither defender had a singleton in either suit. So, at trick two, he played a low club from both hands. After winning East's trump return, declarer ruffed a heart in dummy, discarded his remaining heart on the ace of diamonds, returned to hand with a club to the ace and drew the outstanding trumps for his contract.

Dir S	♠ KQ
Vul Both	♥ 65
	♦ KJ532
	♣ Q943
♠ 10854	♠ J972
♥ J1097	♥ Q8432
♦ Q1086	♦ 9
♣ K	♣ AJ2
	♠ A63
	♥ AK
	♦ A74
	♣ 108765

W	N	E	S
P	3NT	All pass	1NT

West led the jack of hearts from his better major suit. Declarer counted seven top tricks, so he would need two more tricks, and really the only viable source of those was the diamond suit. Declarer saw that he could play the diamond suit for five tricks by cashing the ace and finessing the jack. If diamonds were three-two and the finesse won he would make ten tricks.

However, this declarer was a little more cautious than most and decided to aim for nine rather than ten tricks.

After winning the first trick with the king of hearts, his next move was to cash dummy's king and queen of spades. Then he led a low diamond to his ace then played a second diamond. When West played a crafty queen of diamonds, declarer made sure of his contract by calling for a low diamond from dummy – if he had taken the queen with the king he would have been restricted to three diamond tricks and the contract would have failed.

West exited with the ten of hearts, which was taken by declarer's ace. After cashing the ace of spades, declarer claimed three diamond tricks. He made three spades, two hearts and four diamonds for nine tricks and his contract.

Note that if declarer had played on simple lines by winning the heart and immediately playing ace and another diamond to the jack, he would not have been able to unscramble his winners.

Dir N	♠ K52
Vul Both	♥ A1092
	♦ K63
	♣ 652
♠ 109864	♠ AQ7
♥ 8	♥ K76
♦ 1082	♦ J975
♣ 9843	♣ QJ10
	♠ J3
	♥ QJ543
	♦ AQ4
	♣ AK7

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

West led the two of diamonds, which declarer placed as either a third-highest lead or a singleton. Declarer was a little chagrined about the final contract, since the obvious advance (he thought) on the North hand was three notrump rather than two clubs: there would have been nine easy tricks in notrump, just as there were in hearts. Declarer's problem was to conjure a tenth trick and that could only come from spades. Furthermore, spades had to be worked on before the defenders attacked clubs.

Declarer decided to play East for four diamonds in a balanced hand. If that were the case, East should have at least 12 high card points – almost all of those outstanding, including the ace and queen of spades. So, declarer took the opening lead in hand with the ace of diamonds, led a heart to dummy's ace and then a low spade toward his hand. East rose with the queen of spades and shifted to the queen of clubs, taken by declarer with the ace.

Declarer continued with the jack of spades to East's ace and took the club return with his king. After crossing to dummy with a low diamond to the king, declarer threw his remaining club on the king of spades. When this passed off successfully, declarer led a trump from dummy. East rose with the king of trumps and tried to cash a club. However, declarer ruffed this with his jack of trumps and claimed ten tricks: a spade, four trumps, three diamonds and two clubs.

Dir N	♠ Q74
Vul EW	♥ J65
	♦ 964
	♣ K1053
♠ J1085	♠ 3
♥ KQ10	♥ 87432
♦ K3	♦ AQ752
♣ J974	♣ 62
	♠ AK962
	♥ A9
	♦ J108
	♣ AQ8

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

North made what turned out to be a winning decision when he bid three spades over two notrump, for three notrump would have failed on the normal lead of the five of diamonds.

West led the king of hearts against the final contract. If trumps had been three-two, declarer would have needed four tricks in clubs to make the contract. What if trumps were four-one? The only hope would have been if he could have cashed four clubs to discard a heart, then taken a couple of heart ruffs in hand.

That possibility was firmly in mind when declarer won the opening lead with the ace and cashed the ace-king of trumps. When East discarded a heart on the second trump, declarer put his reserve plan into action, playing the ace, queen and another club. When West followed with three low clubs, declarer saw that a three-three club break would not help his cause since West would ruff the fourth club and cash three red-suit winners. So, declarer finessed the ten of clubs. East discarded an encouraging diamond, but it was too late. Declarer played the king of clubs and threw the nine of hearts from hand. After ruffing dummy's low heart in hand, declarer returned to dummy with a trump to the queen to ruff the jack of hearts. When this was not overruffed, declarer had ten tricks: five trumps, a heart and four clubs. ■

MACKAY CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

PRESENTS

25th BARRIER REEF CONGRESS 2021

30 APRIL - 03 MAY 2021



VENUE: 500 PAVILION, THE SHOWGROUNDS
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Celebrating
— 25 YEARS —

Nothing to Think About



Matthew
McManus

YOU are defending 4S. Declarer wins the opening lead and draws trumps. He then plays on diamonds by leading the jack from his hand toward dummy's:

K732

You

J

I will now give you a number of different diamond holdings. Your job is to: (A) decide which card to play; and (B) rate how difficult your decision was (1 = easy, 2 = moderately hard, 3 = very hard).

- 1) ♠A654
- 2) ♠Q54
- 3) ♠654
- 4) ♠4

1. There is no right answer – either the ♠A or the ♠4 might be right. So if you thought that this was a tough decision you were right to rate it 3 – very hard. If declarer has the singleton jack, then the ace is probably right. With just one diamond, declarer is odds on to rise with the ♠K if you play small, thereby losing no diamond tricks. But say declarer's diamonds are J10. Then he has to guess whether to play you or partner for the queen in order to lose only one trick in the suit.

2. Again, no right answer, but this time, the ♠Q is probably the right play. I would rate this one 2 – moderately hard.

You will solve declarer's guess if he has ♠J10, but if you don't play the queen and he has ♠J6, he will have pulled a "swifty" and made a diamond trick when he has no right to.

3. The right answer is either the ♠6 (if you are playing reverse count) or the ♠4 if you play natural count or you don't play count signals. This one rates an easy 1 on the difficulty scale.

4. No prizes for the right answer here – you only have one card to play. Hopefully everyone gave this a 1.

In particular, I want to talk about problems 3 and 4. In both these circumstances, you have an easy decision as to what to play. The Laws require you to play in normal tempo. You are not allowed to try to bamboozle the opposition by means of the speed with which you play a card. If you have no legitimate bridge reason for thinking about what card you are going to play and the opponent may be deceived by it, the director can award an adjusted score. That means if you get a good score because of the deception, the director will take it away.

The great majority of players are not guilty of any deliberate trickery here. However, under the laws of bridge even if you accidentally lead the opponent astray by an unwarranted slow play, the director will award an adjusted score. Let's assume that in # 4 above (holding the singleton four), the time comes to play it. If you do play it slowly, consider what it looks like from declarer's point of view. You "obviously" have choice of cards to play and have eventually decided on the ♠4. Now it may be the case that you may have got yourself momentarily distracted and so delayed playing the four. You may have been thinking about what to play next, or wondering about why your partner didn't take his ace at Trick 1, or you may be thinking about how hungry you are and wouldn't be good if the director called the lunch break now! In none of these cases are you trying to deliberately deceive declarer. However because of your behaviour, declarer is led to think that you had a difficult decision. If he goes astray and there is the possibility that he may have done better, the director will probably change the score. There is no suggestion that you were intentionally trying to fool declarer. If the director does award an adjusted score, you should accept it with good grace and be more careful in future. All players should know to be particularly careful to play in tempo when holding a singleton.

So, is there anything you can do to

alleviate matters if you find yourself in such a situation? The answer is Yes. Look at these two scenarios...

1) You don't have a significant choice of what card to play to this trick, but you are worried about how the hand might play out in a few tricks time and so would like to think about it now. Place the card you intend to play to this trick face down on the table and announce that you would just like to think about the hand. In this way, the opposition are not misled about your play to this trick – you just turn it over when you are ready.

2) You suddenly realise that you have delayed the play of a card and you haven't had any reason to do so. It may be that you were thinking about another trick. Or it could be that you thought you were about to discard and suddenly unexpectedly find a card of the suit led. Or you might be going to take a card from your hand and you fumbled about so that it appears that you are making a choice of which card to play. Or it could have been that you were looking out the window and not concentrating, and everyone thought you were mulling over what to play. By making a comment along the lines of, "Sorry, I didn't have anything to think about", you can lessen your unintended swindle. In some cases, this will give the opponent a clue as to how to play the hand, but that is the consequence of your previous action.

Perhaps the most important message to be learnt is that if the opponents do call the director and he does award an adjusted score, there is no suggestion that anyone is cheating. An innocent player has been innocently deceived by the careless actions of another. The purpose of the Laws is to try to put things right in such a situation. ■

Online Bridge with the ABF

Matchpoint game 6.30 pm Friday evenings and 1.30 pm Sunday afternoon - to play in these events you need to click on this link and follow the prompts - <https://www.abf.com.au/abf-online-games-on-bbo/>

Please note the the times on the website are estimated so be aware of this.



Mackay Contract Bridge Club is proud to present the 25th Barrier Reef Congress, being held on the May Day Long weekend - April 30th to May 3rd.

2020 was a year that no one will forget. So, with the easing of restrictions, it is time to "kick up our heels " and play Bridge !! Join us for the only Gold Point Congress in Qld for 2021.

Bring your partner and family, take a few extra days or weeks, and get a glimpse of what we have to offer - along with a fabulous weekend of Bridge. Our city is pulling out all the stops for you. Flight and accommodation packages are available along with a range of day trips to tempt nonplaying partners – see the links for full details. Whether it is relaxation, adventure or natural experiences, Mackay is the perfect getaway. You may not know it, but we boast Australia's largest sub-tropical rainforest in Eungella National Park where platypus spotting is "must do". Perhaps you can make time to see wallabies on the beach at sunrise - as seen in the Qantas promos. Oh, and did we mention, Mackay is the gateway to the fabulous Whitsunday Islands?

Discover Mackay

Whilst you are here take the time to visit some of these beautiful locations.
Click the link below for further information:
<https://www.mackayregion.com/>

Book your travel package

Helloworld Travel Mackay has prepared a range of flight, accommodation and tour packages, just click on the link for details. If you are coming from a different destination, Johanna will be happy to prepare similar options for you. For enquires on all you travel needs, please contact Johanna Wood at Helloworld Travel Mackay:

Phone: 07 4969 3680 or Email: johanna.mackay@helloworld.com.au

Click the link below for further information:
<https://www.qldbridge.com.au/brc/mackay/packages.pdf>

Visit our website

See our Barrier Reef Congress website for congress information and lectures :

Click the link below for further information:
<https://www.qldbridge.com.au/brc/mackay/index.php>

Be part of the Silver Anniversary BRC 2021

We look forward to welcoming you to Mackay.

Teacher's Corner



Joan Butts

Strong Balanced Hands

High card points are the main thing to consider with balanced hands (4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2, 5-3-3-2), as there's not much shape to develop long suits and to trump shortages. Now the number of points you show partner must be accurate because they will add theirs to yours and decide whether a slam is possible. Slams in no trumps require a full 33 points for the small slam (6NT) and 37 for the grand slam (7NT). Because there are no long suits, you really need plenty of points.

So when a balanced hand is too strong to open at the one-level, because you wouldn't like partner to pass with fewer than six points, open either 2NT or 2♣ and follow that up with a bid of no trumps. Most people have only one bid to describe their game forcing hands, and that's 2♣. The hand may or may not contain clubs.

So, for strong balanced hands

20-21: Open 2NT

22-24: Open 2♣ planning to rebid 2NT

25 +: Open 2♣ planning to rebid 3NT
Going to 6NT (or 7NT) will depend on the combined high card points because neither hand will have a long suit. Blackwood is not used here; instead, quantitative bids ask whether the strong hand is minimum or maximum. NB: 2NT P 4NT is NOT the Blackwood convention. It is a quantitative raise, asking partner to bid 6NT if maximum, and to pass 4NT if minimum.

Responder:

2NT opening by partner is not forcing. You can pass with fewer than 5 points, because you know game is unlikely. (20 + 4 is not enough)

But, a 2♣ bid is forcing. Unless

responder holds a good five+ card suit with at least an ace and a king (a "positive"), they make a waiting response of 2♦. This leaves room for opener to describe their hand. Positive bids (2♥, 2♠, 3♣, 3♦) promise five+ card suits with two of the top three honours. 2NT or 3NT shows 8-10, or 11+ points, without a five-card suit. It's better to bid 2♦ on any hand without a clear suit, because 2♣ p 3NT (showing 11+ points) wastes a lot of your own bidding space. Better to conserve it to find out what the strong hand holds. After responder has described their hand, opener will bid no trumps to describe their exact number of points and to show the balanced shape.

Summary: 2NT openings with balanced responding hands.

2NT P P P (Responder has fewer than five points).

2NT P 3NT (Responder has enough for game opposite 20,21)

2NT P 4NT (Responder is inviting 6NT if opener is maximum).

2NT P 6NT (Responder has enough for slam opposite 20,21, i.e. 13+)

Examples.

Dlr N	♠ A74	♠ 1098
Vul None	♥ AKQ	♥ 9543
	♦ Q63	♦ K1074
	♣ AKQ4	♣ 109
♠ KQ52		♠ J63
♥ 862		♥ J107
♦ 92		♦ AJ85
♣ J872		♣ 653

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

North has 24 pts so opens 2♣ which is forcing. South has a balanced 7 pts so responds the waiting 2♦ to hear what type of hand North has. When North bids 2NT showing 23-24 balanced South has enough to bid 3NT.

Bridge bore: A player who talks about his hands when you want him to listen to your hands.

Dlr E	♠ A3	♠ 752
Vul NS	♥ 973	♥ J1084
	♦ J107	♦ 96543
	♣ AKJ107	♣ 2
♠ 10986		♠ KQJ4
♥ K52		♥ AQ6
♦ K82		♦ AQ
♣ 854		♣ Q963

W	N	E	S
P	6NT	All pass	2NT

Holding a 20-21 pt balanced hand South opens 2NT. South has 13 pts and a 5-card suit so can bid 6NT, confident that there aren't two aces outstanding.

Dlr S	♠ 643	♠ Q2
Vul EW	♥ 10954	♥ Q862
	♦ J742	♦ Q862
	♣ 82	♣ Q109
♠ 109875		♠ AKJ
♥ J73		♥ AK
♦ K9		♦ A105
♣ J76		♣ AK543

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

South has 26 pts so opens 2C. North, with virtually nothing, responds 2♦ and South rebids 3NT. North has nothing more to say.

Courtesy: joanbuttsbridge.com

Online Bridge QCBC

7.00 pm Wednesday Nights and
1.00 pm Thursday Afternoon -
contact Kim if interested and I will
send your bbo username to QCBC.

BBC

Thursday at 9.45 am - contact Kim
if interested and I will send your
bbo username to BBC.

Every bridge player has a sane spot somewhere.

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:

1.

♠ 742
♥ KQJ
♦ K107
♣ Q1063

2.

♠ 742
♥ KQJ
♦ KQ7
♣ Q1063

3.

♠ 742
♥ AKJ
♦ KQJ
♣ A984

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

How many points do each of the following hands contain? Remember to count Length Points (+1 for a 5-card suit and +2 for a 6-card suit). What would you do with each of these hands as dealer? See next column.

If a player's bridge prowess is to be abused, there's nobody like a partner to do it.

What is your rebid if partner responds with the cheapest bid?

1.

♠ KJ5
♥ A9852
♦ 9862
♣ A

2.

♠ 108
♥ Q92
♦ AJ
♣ AKJ762

3.

♠ AK97
♥ QJ7
♦ 53
♣ KQ84

1. With 13 points (1 LP), open 1H. After 1H : 1S, bid 2H, a more attractive choice than 2D or 1NT.

2. Answer: 17 points (2 LP), open 1C (not 1NT, as the hand is not balanced). After 1C : 1D, rebid 3C, showing 6+ clubs, no second suit and about 16-18 points.

3. Answer: 15 points, open 1NT. After 1NT : 2C (Stayman), bid 2S.

Courtesy: ronklingerbridge.com

Bridge wins ABC Brisbane Radio Award

ANNE Russell has won the ABC Radio Brisbane Award (Community in Social Media Category) for the Kenmore Bridge Club. Starting with two club members, which grew into three full-time volunteers, they organised 240 members whom each were given an hour of personalised training to play online on BBO during COVID-19. They ran beginners classes, and learned to teach bridge using BBO with Zoom video and audio. Zoom enabled members to have social interaction and brought in new members from clubs that were not providing online bridge. Kenmore organises social bridge each weekday for players with or without partners, runs tournaments four days a week, and a team's competition for 16 teams one evening each week. Lessons for improvers are provided twice a week, beginners are taught four times a week and Therese Tully, one of Australia's top players, offers a Zoom discussion each week to discuss hands. ■



Online Bridge QBA

Red point imp scoring QBA Game 1.00 pm every Saturday - you need to be on the QBA list which means contacting me with your usernames or email me.

CAIRNS

7.00 pm Monday Nights and 2.00 pm Tuesday nights - contact me if interested and I will send your bbo username to Cairns.

CASUAL BRIDGE CLUB - our newest bridge club

Casual Bridge Club holds real deal bridge and special sessions are intended during lockdown especially 1.00 pm on Sunday. If you are interested - contact Val Roland on 0413177633 and she will send you the details about Real Deal Bridge or email me and I will email you the documentation. You can actually hear your partner.

Directors' Corner



Jan
Peach

MOST know that when answering a question about the meaning of partner's call we say what the call means, not give its name. Convention XYZ may have the original meaning, perhaps back in the dawn of bridge time, any number of modified meanings, reverse meanings and modern treatments. Opposing pairs will often have different understandings about Convention XYZ.

The terms "relay" and "puppet" may be misused or misunderstood and therefore also best not used. According to the ABF Alerting Regulations clause 2.5.2. a puppet bid is an artificial bid, which requires a particular response by partner, but does not promise a holding in the suit of the forced response.

According to Wikipedia, a puppet bid requests partner to make the cheapest bid regardless of his hand. It also describes a "marionette" bid as being similar to a puppet bid except that it allows responses other than the cheapest bid with certain uncommon hand types. Thus, a marionette bid is technically a relay bid but with the cheapest bid expected most of the time.

1NT 2♣ 2NT (lebensohl)

2NT is a puppet bid requesting opener to bid 3♣ regardless of his hand.

2♣ X Pass 2NT (lebensohl)

2NT also requests partner to bid 3♣ but should partner not want to risk being left to play in 3♣ he does have the option of bidding something else. So, while this 2NT might start out as a puppet bid, "Please bid 3♣," it also has elements of a relay bid, saying very little about its own hand other than being safe at the three level, and carries the rider, "but by all means bid something else if you have an unusual hand."

So, let's pin down "relay". A relay bid is an artificial bid that usually has little or no descriptive meaning of its own but requests partner to make a descriptive bid in response. A relay is often the cheapest bid available but need not be.

2♣ Pass 2♦

2♦ is a relay bid if it truly says nothing about responder's hand and asks opener to describe his hand further.

2♦ used to show a minimum point count, perhaps 0-7, is not a relay, even though it allows opener to describe his hand further.

Law 32 confirms that the Law 29A right to accept a call out of rotation applies to doubles or redoubles provided that the conditions of Law 19A1 and Law 19B1 respectively are satisfied viz that it is a double of an opponent's bid or a redouble of an opponent's double with no call other than pass in between. If not accepted, it may be very difficult and quite likely impossible to think of a call comparable to a withdrawn double and in particular to a withdrawn redouble.

This is not a new theme. Bridge is usually a timed game and following correct procedure saves time. Calling the director for a faced opening lead by the wrong player

uses up time. Make a resolution to place the opening lead face down and wait for partner to confirm he has no questions. This increases the likelihood of someone noticing that the wrong defender is trying to lead.

Paying attention to the game saves time, by reducing the number of calls to the director. Paying insufficient attention breaches the etiquette laws, see Law 74B1, and is often the cause of the little mistakes, like insufficient bids and revokes, which take time to resolve.

Recently I noticed a table waiting for a player to return from a comfort stop. A few minutes passed, no problem. If one has to go one has to go. I'm sure my eyes rolled when no sooner had that person returned to the table when another left to get a cup of coffee. Unsurprisingly, one board could not be played.

My regular partners are encouraged to keep things moving if I am called away. I like it to be my turn to do something when I get back to the table and not have to wait for three other people, who have just been sitting there chatting, to now start counting their cards. I also like everyone at the table to help with the chores. The person doing the scoring doesn't need to be the person removing the old board and setting up the new one. Bank time to use later. ■

BBC

On November 8, 2020 the Brisbane Bridge Centre celebrated a major refurbishment project financed and managed by the Brisbane City Council's Access and Inclusion Branch. The project resulted in a vastly more accessible building, including:

- two fully wheelchair accessible PWD toilets, one upstairs and one downstairs;
- two accessible car parks and one maxi-taxi drop-off car park;
- wider pathways between carpark and building;
- main doors widened;
- upgraded outside balustrades;
- flood-lighting at the entrance;
- completely refurbished men and women's facilities;
- a new roof;
- painting of the upstairs veranda area.



Rajendra Padhee (BCC Access and Inclusion Branch), Elaine Jonsberg (BBC President)

DEAD

APR 19 (noon)

Contributions to:
Philip Squire
Ph: 07 3366 1292
0490 456 575

Email: philipsquire@tpg.com.au

LINE