



# THE QBA BULLETIN

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# 2

## From the President



**Richard Ward**

THERE is a group called “Bridge: A mind sport for all” [BAMSA] which, in association with the University of Stirling in Scotland, has been doing research into many aspects of our game. They recently held a four-day online conference involving over 400 participants from more than 55 countries. Click [HERE] to view. A wide range of papers was presented on matters such as

- ‘Pandemic Bridge’ and the irrevocable changes it has made to the bridge world;
- ‘Cheating’ – the good, the bad and the ugly;
- ‘Sexism’ and the women’s game: to keep it or get rid of it;
- How to foster ‘community cohesion’ and to combat isolationism; and
- Marketing, education and mind-sports.

to name just a few.

Peter Cox, the Head of Marketing for the Australian Bridge Federation presented an online paper [HERE] which reviewed membership statistics in Australia and elsewhere whilst

providing advice on how to best try to reverse recent pandemic-related, negative trends. Membership Australia-wide has dropped by 9% during COVID-19 but he estimates that about 50% of Australian bridge players have now reconnected with their bridge clubs while a further 30% are planning to wait until all restrictions are lifted with 16% waiting until the vaccination roll-out is complete.

Since the early 2000s, bridge around the world has been struggling to maintain player numbers with an aging cohort, growing attrition, a competitive leisure market, declining numbers of volunteers, low retention rates and poor behaviour the most prominent causes. In 2018 the English Bridge Union had begun a concentrated campaign for attracting new members and had seen significantly positive outcomes until the pandemic hit and these gains were wiped out. In the USA, the ACBL has been losing nearly one percent of members each year since 2002 and the number of clubs has also been in decline.

In Queensland 2019-2021, club membership has dropped by 10% but some clubs, notably the Gold Coast Bridge Club, has increased by 10% during this time whilst many others have been holding steady. The quest to encourage previous players to return whilst attracting new ones has never been so important.

With regards to new players, Peter Cox remarks:

- Classroom to clubroom can be a tough problem;
- New players are generally more

social than competitive in attitude; and

- Clubs may have to change existing attitudes by shifting towards greater friendliness and tolerance towards novices.

Peter Cox [marketing@abf.com.au] has a number of recommended membership strategies and is an excellent source of advice for clubs experiencing difficulties.

There have been a few changes of personnel since the AGM was held in May. Long-standing Management Committee member, former Gold Coast Congress convenor and international, national and state representative, Therese Tully, has stepped down. The subsequent vacancy has been filled by Jan Peach, National Level 1 director, who has also taken on the role of Tournament Committee chair. This in turn has triggered a change in the position of the person responsible for Director Accreditation, very kindly filled by Chris Snook, National Level 3 director. We thank all of those people who give so generously of their time to the administration of bridge in Queensland. ■

## Sunshine Coast June Congress

THE Sunshine Coast June Congress had the ‘house full’ sign up very early and director Peter Busch took the opportunity to successfully trial MYABF for entries. The number of tables permitted in the Buderim clubhouse under COVID-19 restrictions had been reduced from the usual 32 to just 26. Special guests and No. 1 seeds in both the teams and the pairs were Toni Bardon and Jim Wallis who were recording their 32nd consecutive year at this congress, and one at which they have, more often than not, scooped the winners pool. This year they had to be content to win the teams only, with Patrick Bugler and Neville Francis.

## Contents

From the President by Richard Ward .....	1
Sunshine Coast June Congress by Anon .....	1
They haven’t got what they said they did – will the Director help us? by Matthew McManus .....	2
IBPA Column Service by Tim Bourke.....	4
Queensland Mixed Pairs by Geoff Toon .....	6
Gold Coast Graded Pairs by Nik Moore .....	10
Teacher’s Corner by Joan Butts.....	14

Dir S	♠ A2	♠ KJ3
Vul NS	♥ 4	♥ KQ109765
	♦ AK65432	♦ 10
	♣ K73	♣ 104
♠ Q10965		
♥ AJ83		
♦ –		
♣ AJ98		
	♠ 874	
	♥ 2	
	♦ QJ987	
	♣ Q652	

W	N	E	S
L Martin	J Wallis	J Martin	T Bardon
1S	2D	2S	4D
4H	4S	5H	6D
6H	X	All pass	

Distributional hands like these are notoriously difficult to judge and here Lyn and Jim Martin were just an opening lead away from gaining 12 IMPs. Such is bridge. The spotlight was on Jim Wallis, North, who settled unerringly on a low club: 3 - 4 - Q - ace. Any other suit choice would have been a disaster for North-South. Well done them!

Then there was this hand:

Dir E	♠ J94	♠ K107
Vul NS	♥ A1087	♥ KQJ
	♦ Q874	♦ AK632
	♣ K5	♣ J2
♠ Q3		
♥ 9654		
♦ 5		
♣ AQ10943		
	♠ A8652	
	♥ 32	
	♦ J109	
	♣ 876	

Also against Bardon-Wallis, Verna Brookes and Ken Dawson reached 3NT played by East on the lead of a low spade won by the 10. The jack of clubs won the next trick with Wallis ducking smoothly. Not having x-ray vision, the finesse was repeated and that was the end of the club suit for declarer who eventually wound up down one. Of those pairs who reached 3NT, sixteen were successful and only three were defeated, presumably when their opponents (David Christian / Richard Trollope and Persephone Lobb / Althea Crowley) also ducked

the first club. Tony Hutton reported that he too ducked the club finesse but, against him, Anne Young next played the club ace (!) and wound up with 11 tricks. Great intuition there.

SUNSHINE COAST PAIRS: 1 Tony Hutton / Richard Ward; 2 Patrick Bugler / Neville Francis; 3 Randall Rusk / Andrew Dunlop; B 1 John Kenny / Brian Cordiner; 2 Julie Scott / Elizabeth van Vugt; 3 Anna Bell / Anne Nothling; TEAMS: A 1 Toni Bardon / Jim Wallis / Patrick Bugler / Neville Francis; 2 Tony Walford / Randall Rusk / Ryan Touton / Richard Touton; 3 Tim Ridley / Phillipa Barnett / Rosemary Green / David Harris B 1 Judy & Don Scown / Tony Davidson / Noreen Weyling; 2 Diana Banks / John Gill / Prunella Adams / Syl Thiebaud; 3 Margaret & Don Robertson / Julie Scott / Elizabeth van Vugt. ■



Matthew  
McManus

They haven't got what they said they did – will the director help us?

One of the times you hear a plaintive cry for the director is when it turns out that the opponents don't have what the auction suggested they should have. It could be that a player only has four hearts when he should have five. They may have shown 15-17 high card points and they only have 12. They may have shown 6-10 points and they have 13. Or it may be the case that they have something absolutely different to what you expected them to hold.

So, how did your expectations arise? It may be because you read the opponents' system card. Or because you asked a question during the auction and were told something that turns out to be wrong. Or there were no alerts at all and a player turns up with something totally unexpected.

If you get a bad score because they didn't have what you expected, will the director help? The answer to that is, it depends. In general, there are three different scenarios which the

director might need to consider. I will look at each of these in turn in the next three articles.

1. The explanation which you received was according to the oppositions' agreements, but the player has deliberately chosen to deviate from the system.

2. The explanation which you received was according to the oppositions' agreements, but the player has accidentally deviated from the system.

3. The explanation which you received was different from the systemic agreement.

The Laws require that the opponents get a correct explanation of your systemic agreements. If this has been done, then, on the face of it, there is no infraction and so there is no room for the award of an adjusted score. So generally in Case 1 the answer to the original question is "no". However, the director does need to do a little more digging before leaving it at that... to be investigated further below.

#### CASE 1 – A deliberate deviation from the system

This occurs when a player consciously chooses to depart from the agreed system. The most important factor connected with this is that his partner must be just as much "in the dark" as the opponents. Typically, although not always, this occurs when a player makes what is known as a psychic call or a "psyche". The Laws define a psyche as "a deliberate and gross misstatement of honour strength and/or of suit length." Thus a call which just shades the expected high cards by a couple of points would not be classified as a psyche.

The psychic call is part of the game of bridge and it is not permitted to make special regulations prohibiting the use of such bids. My experience at congresses in NSW is that they are not that common and have never caused any real issues. I have, however, heard of some clubs where a particular pair or player delights in psyching, causing a fairly high level of disquiet amongst the other players. What follows is relevant for dealing with such players:

i) The Laws permit that regulations be made which prevent the psyching of conventional bids. For instance, the ABF systems regulations outlaw the psyching of strong conventional calls. (So, for example, you can't psyche a strong 2♣ opening or Precision players cannot psyche 1♣.)

ii) A pattern of psyching in particular circumstances builds up what is known as an implied partnership understanding. This means that it is considered to be part of the partnership's system and therefore needs to be alerted. Furthermore, once there is deemed to be an implied partnership understanding it may also mean that the agreement falls outside of the allowed systems. For example, consider a player who opens the bidding with 6 points. Thus, although in the first instance, there is no immediate issue with such an action, once a pair does it a couple of times, it would now become illegal.

iii) A player who randomises the results by the overuse of psyching is in breach of the Laws. Thus, it would be possible for a club to make a regulation which, for instance, limits the number of psychic calls to a partnership to, say, two per session.

#### **Advice to the director when a psyche/shaded call is drawn to his attention....**

1. Enquire of the pair as to whether this has happened before in the same or similar circumstances. If the answer is "yes", then you need to tell them that they are now considered to have an implied partnership agreement which needs to be alerted. For example, "officially" the pair plays that a 1NT opening is 16-18. However, this player has opened with 14 points on this occasion and has done it before. Therefore the explanation which his partner must give AT ALL TIMES in the future is, "16-18 but it may be a couple of points less". If the bid which has been made falls into a category of calls which would not normally be permitted under the systems regulations in place (eg opening at the one level with 6 HCP), then the director should advise the pair that, if it happens again, they will

be awarded a maximum score of average minus on the board. Note that all this is contingent on the director establishing that there has been a pattern which would constitute an implied partnership understanding. Just because it has happened once is not grounds to make such proclamations.

2. Investigate the actions of the partner of the player who has psyched/shaded his call. Remember the principle that the partner must be just as much in the dark as the opponents. If the player has made any allowance for his partner not having his bid, then he is considered to have "fielded the psyche". This is a very serious infraction and should be met with the full punishment of the Law. If the director determines that a player has taken some unusual action allowing for his partner not to have his bid, then he should consider awarding an adjusted score. To do this, he makes a judgement as to what would likely have happened in the auction if the psycher's partner had taken the normal action on his hand. If this would have resulted in a worse result for the pair than what was obtained at the table, the score is adjusted accordingly. (One caution – the player is allowed to take into account the actions of the opponents when judging whether or not his partner may have the expected holding for his call. For example – with North the dealer, the auction starts off Pass-Pass-1♥. EW then bid all the way to 3NT. North holds 9 points, so it would seem that this is unlikely to make if partner has an opening hand and a double would not be unreasonable. However, the fact that EW have shown so much strength and also that South has opened in third seat – where it is not uncommon for a player to open light – is sufficient for South to judge that perhaps partner is not at full strength. This determination would not be considered "fielding".

Advice to the players to protect yourselves from potential psychic/light calls...

1. Believe your partner! The auction goes (1♦) – X – (2NT\*) – ?. You ask what 2NT means and are told that it shows 11+ points with diamond

support. You are looking at 13 HCP in your hand. It doesn't compute: the opening bidder showed 11/12+, partner's double showed 11/12+, 2NT showed 11+, you have 13...that adds up to at least 45 if everyone is absolutely minimum. There are only 40 points in the deck – someone is telling a "porkey". You need to bid game or at least extract the maximum penalty from them. If you fail to do so, you are unlikely to get any joy from the director even if it is one of them who has psyched. If it's your partner who has been lying, well that's something for you and him to have out after the session.....

The Laws define a psyche as "a deliberate and gross misstatement of honour strength and/or of suit length.

2. Consider making adjustments to your system to deal with the opponents. Answer this question – what would a double of 1♠ mean in this sequence: (1♥) – X – (1♠) – ? Perhaps you have an agreement that all doubles below 3♠ are for takeout. To play double here as takeout is dangerous. The sequence which starts off (1♥) – X – (1♠) is probably the most common psychic manoeuvre. There is a chance that the 1♠ bidder doesn't have spades at all. Instead they have a weak hand with hearts support and are trying to confuse you out of bidding game or to your best spot. When partner has already shown the suit which the opponents bid, or if he has inferred that he has that suit (eg. by the takeout double of 1♥), then your double should be for penalties. That is, you say to your partner, "I would have bid spades if he hadn't". Similarly any spade bids that you make should also be natural. If you feel the need for a cue-bid, use the opponents first suit (here, hearts), the one that partner has said he doesn't have. As well as dealing with any out-and-out psyches, you will also be able to cope with an honest spade bid by the opponent. For example, in the same auction, you have something like:

---

*Forgive your enemies, but not until you have beaten them hollow.*

---

♠ AJT64  
♥ 642  
♦ Q5  
♣ KQ8

When partner doubles, you probably think that 4♣ is the likely best contract for your side. Give partner a fairly normal takeout double like

♠ K952  
♥ J7  
♦ A84  
♣ A654

and 4♣ will be your best spot even if the spades are breaking 4-0.

There are a number of similar sequences where playing the double as penalty and bids of the opponent's suit as natural will greatly simplify your auctions. It would be advisable to have the discussion with your partner. ....to be continued.

Courtesy: The NSWBA

## IBPA Column Service

Dir S	♠ K632		
Vul EW	♥ 842		
	♦ 832		
	♣ K63		
♠ 94		♠ 87	
♥ KJ76		♥ Q1095	
♦ 97		♦ K1064	
♣ QJ1094		♣ A82	
	♠ AQJ105		
	♥ A3		
	♦ AQJ5		
	♣ 75		

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

This deal requires declarer to show a modicum of technique. West led the queen of clubs. Declarer called for a low club from dummy and, after the queen held, West continued with the jack of clubs. When that also held the trick and West played a third club, declarer ruffed East's ace of clubs with the ten of trumps.

Declarer next cashed the ace of trumps and then led the queen of trumps to dummy's king, pleased to see that the outstanding trumps were two-two. A low diamond was

led to the queen and, when that held, declarer played his carefully preserved five of trumps to dummy's six. After repeating the diamond finesse with a diamond to the jack, declarer cashed his ace of diamonds then ruffed a diamond to bring his total of tricks to eight. The ace of hearts would be his ninth trick and the jack of spades his tenth.

The main lesson for intermediate players is to unblock trumps (by ruffing the third club with the ten) if there is no danger of creating a trump loser, especially if it may clear up some entry problems in the process. In this case, doing so paved the way to take advantage of the two-two break in trumps when East began with at least three cards in diamonds headed by the king.

Dir S	♠ KQ9643		
Vul Both	♥ 9		
	♦ Q93		
	♣ A72		
♠ J852		♠ 10	
♥ 63		♥ KQ108742	
♦ 8742		♦ 65	
♣ 1098		♣ QJ3	
	♠ A7		
	♥ AJ5		
	♦ AKJ10		
	♣ K654		

	W	N	E	S
				2NT <sup>1</sup>
	P	4H <sup>2</sup>	X	XX <sup>3</sup>
	P	4NT <sup>4</sup>	P	5C <sup>5</sup>
	P	5NT <sup>6</sup>	P	6C <sup>7</sup>
	P	6D <sup>8</sup>	P	7S
	All pass			

<sup>1</sup> 20-21 points

<sup>2</sup> Transfer to spades

<sup>3</sup> Promises the ace of hearts

<sup>4</sup> RKCB

<sup>5</sup> 0 or 3 key cards

<sup>6</sup> Grand-slam try; asks for specific kings

<sup>7</sup> King of clubs

<sup>8</sup> Asks for king of diamonds

West duly led a heart. When dummy went down, declarer counted 13 tricks so long as trumps were three-two. Declarer took the first trick with the ace of hearts then cashed the ace and king of spades. The bad news was that trumps were four-one, but the good news was that East's singleton was the ten.

Declarer's first requirement to make the contract was that he could cash all of his diamonds without West ruffing. Also, he had to reduce dummy's trumps twice by ruffing hearts (to have a chance of coupling West's trumps). So, he played a diamond to his ace and ruffed a heart low in dummy. Declarer then cashed the queen and king of diamonds and then led the jack of diamonds, hoping that West would follow suit. When he did, declarer discarded a club from dummy, then led the jack of hearts. West discarded a club and declarer ruffed it with a low trump in dummy. Next, declarer cashed the ace and king of clubs (West was by now marked with an original 4=2=4=3 shape), reducing everyone to two cards. Declarer led one of his clubs to capture West's jack-eight of trumps with dummy's queen-nine.

Note that the fall of the ten of trumps did not establish a restricted choice position: East could have played the ten from jack-ten alone or any jack-ten-low.

Dir W	♠ 763		
Vul None	♥ 65		
	♦ 53		
	♣ QJ10873		
♠ KJ985		♠ 1042	
♥ J8		♥ Q10974	
♦ QJ762		♦ 108	
♣ 2		♣ K96	
	♠ AQ		
	♥ AK32		
	♦ AK94		
	♣ A54		

	W	N	E	S
	2S <sup>1</sup>	P	P	3NT
	All pass			

<sup>1</sup> 6-9 points, exactly five spades and a side four+ card minor

South shrewdly judged that, if he doubled two spades, North was likely to bid a Lebensohl two notrump to deny invitational values, thereby wrong-siding the likely contract of three notrump. Instead South opted for a practical leap to the notrump game.

West led a fourth-highest six of diamonds and declarer took East's ten with the king because he did not want a spade shift at trick two.

Declarer had to decide how to tackle the club suit on the assumption that West's minor was diamonds. As any play would work if clubs were two-two or if there were a singleton king, declarer turned his attention to what to do if East had three clubs to the king.

Accordingly, declarer led a low club to the ten at trick two, which held the trick. Declarer continued by calling for dummy's queen of clubs. When East followed with a low club, declarer went with the odds by playing low from hand. After West discarded a spade, declarer was in with a chance as he now had eight sure tricks (five tricks in the minors, two in hearts and one in spades).

The ninth trick would have to come from an endplay against West. Declarer saw that this would be possible if West had begun with 5=2=5=1 shape. So, he cashed the ace of clubs, followed by the ace-king of hearts to remove West's hoped-for doubleton in that suit. Then declarer played the ace and nine of diamonds. West cashed three diamond winners but then had to lead a spade. The queen of spades was declarer's ninth trick.

Dir S	♠ J982		
Vul EW	♥ K753		
	♦ A72		
	♣ Q6		
♠ 5		♠ 76	
♥ QJ108		♥ A964	
♦ J865		♦ 109	
♣ K754		♣ J10832	
	♠ AKQ1043		
	♥ 2		
	♦ KQ43		
	♣ A9		

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

1. Limit raise with four or more spades
2. RKCB
3. 1 or 4 key cards

West led the queen of hearts, advertising that East held the ace of hearts; declarer played low from dummy. West continued with

the jack of hearts and declarer played low from dummy a second time. After ruffing in with the ace of trumps, declarer led his ten of trumps to dummy's jack to lead dummy's seven of hearts, in the hope that East had begun with ace-third of hearts. When East followed with a low heart declarer ruffed with the king of trumps.

As the ace of hearts had not appeared, declarer had only ten tricks. It appeared that he needed diamonds to be three-three so that he could discard a club from dummy on the thirteenth diamond (his eleventh tricks) and eventually ruff a club in dummy for his contract.

However, this declarer was not content to rely on just that rather poor option. Instead, he looked for

a way to improve his chances over the three-three break in diamonds. Putting his plan into action, declarer crossed to dummy with a low trump to the eight to lead the king of hearts. When East produced the ace of hearts, declarer ruffed this with his queen of trumps, bringing his total sure tricks to eleven. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs in hand before crossing to dummy with his last trump to the nine. Finally, he played the two of trumps and threw the nine of clubs from hand.

West could see that parting with the king of clubs would be fatal, and so threw a diamond. As the king of clubs had not appeared, declarer cashed the ace, king and queen of diamonds and the the four of diamonds was the twelfth trick. ■

### QBA Novice Pairs Congress

On Sunday 2nd May, Sunnybank Bridge Club again had the pleasure of hosting the QBA Novice Pairs Congress. The entrants ranged from those with years of experience to new players who had never competed in a major competition before.

The Congress was officially opened by Jim Evans, QBA Vice President. The event was particularly exciting this year, with the QBA offering the winners the wonderful prize of

- two economy return air tickets from (capital departure city) to Perth PLUS
- \$250 for each player to help with other expenses. PLUS
- paid entry into the ANC Restricted Butler Pairs event held during the ANC

This year, it was more challenging

hosting the event, thanks to COVID restrictions. However, the club's protocols were adhered to, and a delightful lunch was provided, together with drinks and nibbles during the prizegiving.

The day ran very smoothly and we received numerous positive comments and compliments. Many thanks are owed to the director, Julie Jeffries, who ensured that the play stayed on time and that any calls of 'Director please' were dealt with promptly and efficiently. Thanks also to Jim Evans, who stayed throughout the day, providing assistance to Julie, and awarded the trophy and prizes at the end of play.

Congratulations to the overall winners and QBA Novice Champions, Dianne Hiles and Richard Booth.

Well done to all the Novices who participated!! ■



*Sunnybank President, Doug Matthew, with the winners Dianne Hiles and Richard Booth, and QBA VP Jim Evans.*

## Queensland Mixed Pairs

An interesting hand came up in the Mixed Pairs at the weekend on the first morning.

Dir N	♠ K87		
Vul EW	♥ K1064		
	♦ K762		
	♣ K2		
♠ A9543		♠ 10	
♥ 972		♥ Q853	
♦ 1093		♦ J854	
♣ 106		♣ QJ43	
	♠ QJ62		
	♥ AJ		
	♦ AQ		
	♣ A9875		

W	N	E	S
	1D	P	1S
P	2S <sup>1</sup>	P	2NT <sup>2</sup>
P	3S <sup>3</sup>	P	6NT
All pass			

<sup>1</sup> Three+ card support

<sup>2</sup> Three or four?

<sup>3</sup> Three

To protect his red suit holdings, South decided the destination needed to be a NT contract; however, he liked his long club suit, and decided to go slamming rather than settle for a safe game so finished the auction with a bold 6NT.

West led the ♠4 to the 7, ten, and declarer took the jack. Declarer immediately led the ♠2 and finessed against the ♠9, with East discarding

a small club. Next came a small heart for a successful finesse against the queen, and the ♥A was cashed along with the two top diamonds. This was now the position.

	K	
	K10	
	K7	
	K2	
A95	—	
9	Q8	
10	J8	
106	QJ4	
	Q6	
	—	
	—	
	A9875	

East has already discarded one club, shown up with only one spade, so likely he held the extra red cards. South now led his small spade, West rose with his ♠A, but poor old East is helpless.

He has to find a discard on the spade trick, and is crushed. If he discards a red card, dummy plays both red cards in whichever red suit he has shed and the second card in that suit squeezes him again. To continue to protect against the threat of dummy's red suits, he chose to give up another small club, reducing his club holding to two cards. West exited with a small red card, declarer discarding a

small club. Dummy won with the red king, and cashed the other red king. Declarer then finished with the ♠K, led the small club to the ♠A which drew all the outstanding clubs, and declarer's ♠Q and ♠9 took the last two tricks.

Some might think that if West exited with a small spade to declarer's ♠Q instead of a red card, then dummy would be squeezed; unfortunately, East cannot guard three suits, and the third spade trick had already caused him to give up one of his guards. Declarer can still enter dummy with a small club to the ♠K, cash the red kings to see if an outstanding red honour appears, and then finish off the contract with winning clubs.

It is rare for a squeeze to operate as early as the 7th trick, but the distribution here gave East no good choice of discard; whatever he decided to shed gave declarer the extra trick he needed to make his contract. It is also interesting to note that if West chose to duck his ♠A and allowed the ♠K to take the trick, the squeeze against East still operates and now South can take the rest of the tricks with two red kings (throwing the ♠Q) and run the clubs for an overtrick!

■ Geoff Toon



Winners: Jill Magee  
and Terry Strong

## T B I B

Recently the QBA President met with Steve Weil of TBIB Insurance Brokers, one of our sponsors for many years and supplier of insurance needs to the QBA, the ABF and many clubs and members. We all know TBIB through the ABF Travel Insurance policies they provide, but it is also interesting to learn of the many other ways TBIB can assist. These include:

- Club Insurance
- Home & Contents insurance
- Investment Property Insurance
- Motor Vehicle Insurance
- Commercial Building and Business Insurance

Many players speak highly of the service they have received when needing to review and renew their Home and Contents or Car Insurance.

As a broker, TBIB works for you the client, not the insurance companies. They don't just sell policies and forget about you. They have a full claims team that will assist you in the lodgement, negotiation and settlement of your claim, regardless of how big or small it may be.

If you haven't yet spoken to them, contact either Steve Weil or Josh Dejun at TBIB on 07 3252 5254 and see how they might assist you.

Queensland Mixed Pairs



2nd: Ron Clarke -  
Janeen Solomon absent



3rd: Phil Hale and Carmel Martin

Queensland Butler Pairs



3rd Section 'C': Barry Koster -  
Jeff Conroy absent

Queensland Butler Pairs



Overall winners: Watson Zhou, Alan Gibson (director) and Eileen Li



Women's winners: Angeline  
Christie, Richard Ward (QBA  
President) and Krystyna Homik



Men's winners: Terry O'Dempsey  
and Geoff Toon

Toowong Novice Pairs



Winners: Jene  
Jones, QBA  
President Richard  
Ward and Max  
Latimer

# FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH BRIDGE

FREE PIZZA DINNER INCLUDED

EVERY FRIDAY | 6:30PM TO 9PM  
QUEENSLAND CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB  
67 IPSWICH RD, WOOLLOONGABBA



For further details, contact:

Michael Gearing | 0419 733 930 | michael.l.gearing@gmail.com

Jim Evans | 0421 116 658 | jimbeany@bigpond.com







**60TH INTERNATIONAL**

**GOLD COAST  
BRIDGE CONGRESS**

**2022**



**18TH - 26TH FEBRUARY**  
**GOLD COAST CONVENTION CENTRE, BROADBEACH**

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## Gold Coast Graded Pairs



Nikolas  
Moore

THIS event had reached capacity by the time I entered, but luckily for us someone withdrew. I partnered Rachel Langdon. We played in A Grade and got off to a good start with a score of 1700 in the first round. A win in the second round got us in the lead and we managed to stay there all day and win the event, though we finished fewer than 2 VPs ahead of 2nd and 3rd!

Dir N	♠ 3		
Vul NS	♥ AQ9742		
	♦ Q6		
	♣ AJ42		
♠ K9876		♠ J42	
♥ J853		♥ 6	
♦ K3		♦ AJ1092	
♣ 96		♣ KQ103	
	♠ AQ105		
	♥ K10		
	♦ 8754		
	♣ 875		

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

This was an interesting board in the third round. East led a top club, which I ducked – a Bath Coup. A low club continuation to the seven gave me a chance to make it. I overtook with the jack and tried the spade finesse, but it lost, and the opponents also got two diamonds and a club ruff, for –100 and a loss of 2.5 IMPs. To make it I had to play the king of trumps and then run the ten, which is well worth considering as East's bidding suggests trump shortage. Leading a club from dummy at trick 3 would also work if West does not ruff (as I can then win the ace and trump a club in dummy) and even if West ruffs and East gets in to play a fourth club I could still ruff that high and run the trump ten.

Dir E	♠ AQJ852		
Vul Both	♥ K954		
	♦ Q10		
	♣ 5		
♠ K73		♠ 109	
♥ A103		♥ J872	
♦ K872		♦ 9653	
♣ 1083		♣ A97	
	♠ 64		
	♥ Q6		
	♦ AJ4		
	♣ KQJ642		

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

This was an important hand, in theory, to right-side. We play transfer responses to 1♣ openings. My 1♥ bid showed 4+ spades, and partner's 2♣ denies three spades. My 3♥ is natural and forcing, and I was tempted to bid 4♠ but, even though we have a fit there, game in spades or NT only makes from the South hand. Both contracts fail from North if diamonds are led and continued. Against 4♠ as it ensures that West makes the ♦K, and declarer lacks the entries to finesse spades twice. Against 3NT it removes the entry to South's clubs. In practice, most defenders found the diamond lead against 4♠, but presumably did not return the suit, as game always made so we effectively gained nothing from 600.

Dir E	♠ 74		
Vul None	♥ 1052		
	♦ 1098642		
	♣ Q5		
♠ KQ32		♠ AJ95	
♥ KQ4		♥ A6	
♦ KJ5		♦ AQ3	
♣ 1064		♣ AK83	
	♠ 1086		
	♥ J9873		
	♦ 7		
	♣ J972		

A lucky board for us. East declared 7♠, which looks a good bet with 36 points, all the controls, and a 4-4 fit. If East has four diamonds and three clubs there are then 13 top tricks, and would also make on this

layout if holding the club jack instead of the spade jack. As it is, there is a sure club loser as long as partner keeps the jack twice guarded, which she did, so we scored +50 and 10 IMPs in. I should have discarded the queen of clubs as soon as possible to make it clear to partner what to keep. Indeed, in the next round, an opponent made 5H because I failed to discard a queen with the same holding so that partner would know to keep J x x.

Dir E	♠ 1087		
Vul None	♥ K95		
	♦ J107		
	♣ 10862		
♠ AKQJ543		♠ 92	
♥ 72		♥ QJ86	
♦ K9		♦ 86532	
♣ AQ		♣ J7	
	♠ 6		
	♥ A1043		
	♦ AQ4		
	♣ K9543		

Partner opened clubs, with West doubling and then bidding spades. The opponents had a misunderstanding, reaching 6♠ by West over which partner made a double that was profitable for both our score and telling me what to lead: dummy's first suit, hearts, instead of partner's club suit, which would have finessed her king. 4♠ made at most tables but even that is beatable as long as the defence doesn't lead both minor suits or a third round of hearts, with declarer having no entry to dummy.

Partner won the heart lead and played ace and another diamond to declarer's king. Declarer drew trumps and led a heart to my king. I found the only safe exit of a diamond, as partner had signalled for that suit. Declarer ruffed and had to lose a trick to the ♣K, going three off for +500 and 13 IMPs. We still lost the round by 2 IMPs but it could have been far worse. ■

If you take bridge seriously, you go crazy anyway, so it helps if you're a bit nuts to start with because you do not waste so much time getting that way.



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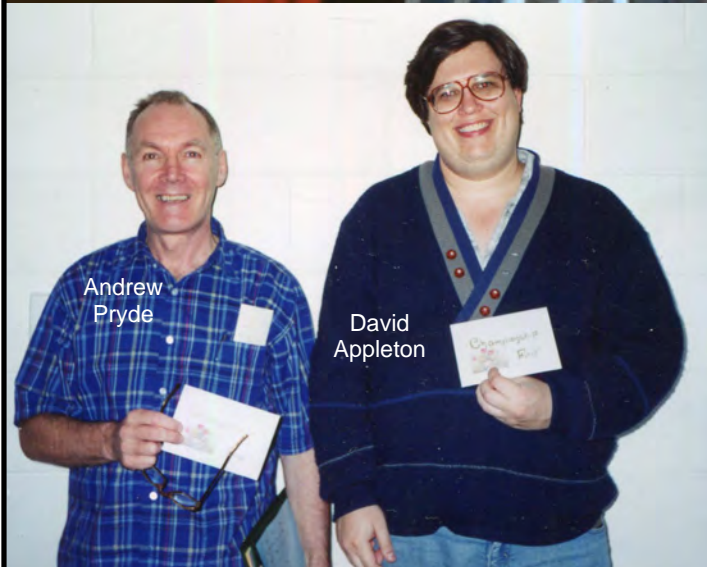
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# Pics from the Past



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## Teacher's Corner



Joan Butts

### Slam Bidding and Blackwood

**B**IDDING to small slam (the six-level), or grand slam (the seven-level) is exciting. Before committing to such a level, the partnership needs to check whether they:

- have enough high card and distributional points
- know what to play in (a suit or no trumps), and
- have enough controls

You need 33 points for a small slam, and 37 points for a grand slam. With two balanced hands, it's all about points, but there's more to consider when there's a fit. In either case, it would be embarrassing to reach slam and have the opponents take the ace and king of a side suit against you.

Once you've found a trump fit, check for controls (A control is a card that stops the opponents taking too many tricks in a suit). The ace (or void) is a first-round control, since it stops the opponents from taking the first trick. A king (or singleton) is a second-round control. The opponents can take the first trick in the suit with their ace, but the king (or singleton) will stop them on the second round.

Before going to slam you need first-round control of at least three suits. One way for the partnership to be sure they are not missing too many controls is to use the Blackwood convention after a trump suit has been agreed. This convention was designed to keep partnerships out of bad slams by helping them discover if they were missing too many controls. It's not suitable in all situations.

Blackwood is 4NT, only when it is clear the partnership has found a fit, and is considering going further than game. It's an artificial bid asking partner how many aces they hold.

The responses are:

5♣ = no aces (or all, but it's rare to have all four aces, and have your partner using Blackwood)

5♦ = one ace

5♥ = two aces

5♠ = three aces

If you discover that the partnership holds all the aces, 5NT next asks about kings. NB: don't ask for kings if the partnership does not hold all four aces.

6♣ = no kings

6♦ = one king

6♥ = two kings

6♠ = three kings

Once you're familiar with Blackwood, there's a more advanced version which gives more info. That's Roman Key Card Blackwood. (Don't try this if you're a new player).

Key Card Blackwood acknowledges that the king of the trump suit is as important as an ace for bidding suit slams. If a king in a side suit is missing, it might be possible to avoid a loser. But, if the king of the trump suit is missing, it's a different story. So, Key Card Blackwood includes the trump king in the answers, so think of the king of the trump suit as if it were an ace, and instead of four key cards (the four aces), you now have five (the four aces and the trump king). It's also possible to discover whether the partnership also holds the trump queen.

These are the responses when using Key Card Blackwood: It's called fourteen thirty "1430" (which is also the score for a small slam in a major!)

5♣ = one or four key cards (1 or 4)

5♦ = zero or three key cards (3 or 0)

5♥ = two key cards (or all five) without the queen of trumps

5♠ = two key cards (or all five) with the queen of trumps

There's a little more to it after that, but it's not necessary now. The main point about any version of Blackwood is that it will only tell you the number of aces missing. It won't tell you which aces.

---

*Bridge separates the men from the boys. It also separates the husbands and wives.*

---

Dir N	♠ Q954
Vul None	♥ A86
	♦ 8542
	♣ A6
♠ 102	♠ 73
♥ KQ72	♥ J10953
♦ A976	♦ QJ10
♣ 854	♣ 932
	♠ AKJ86
	♥ 4
	♦ K3
	♣ KQJ107

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

South has a good two-suited hand but isn't strong enough to open 2♣ so we open it 1♠. Partner bids 3♣ showing 10-12 points and a fit with probably four trumps. We have only one ace but can use Blackwood to check on how many aces partner holds.

So we bid 4NT and partner shows two aces with their 5♥ bid giving us three aces, so we can confidently bid 6♠.

Dir E	♠ 105
Vul NS	♥ 1076
	♦ AKJ1084
	♣ 86
♠ J962	♠ 8743
♥ AK983	♥ KQ52
♦ 3	♦ 72
♣ 432	♣ 1095
	♠ AKQ
	♥ 4
	♦ Q965
	♣ AKQJ7

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

South has a great hand with a solid club suit and only three losers so is worth a 2♣ opening. When North responds 3♦, which is a positive, we know we have a big fit and will look for slam by using simple Blackwood, although Key Card would be more accurate here. As we now know that we have one ace missing which, after the positive diamond bid, must be the heart ace, we can bid 6♦.

Dir S	♠ KJ74		
Vul EW	♥ J854		
	♦ J54		
	♣ AJ		
♠ 986		♠ 10532	
♥ A3		♥ 97	
♦ KQ102		♦ 9763	
♣ 10542		♣ 987	
	♠ AQ		
	♥ KQ1062		
	♦ A8		
	♣ KQ63		

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

South has a strong hand with good hearts so opens 1♥. After the North shows heart support we are interested in a slam so bid 4NT to see if North has an ace. When North shows one ace we'll bid 6♥.

We are missing the trump ace so after the lead of the diamond king we have to get rid of our diamond loser before we draw trumps, otherwise we'll be a quick one down. So we play on spades and on the third round discard the diamond in hand. There is always the risk of the spade being ruffed, but that is the risk we have to take.

Dir W	♠ AQ97543		
Vul Both	♥ 86		
	♦ Q5		
	♣ A7		
♠ 62		♠ 10	
♥ J4		♥ Q107	
♦ A976		♦ J832	
♣ J10832		♣ KQ654	
	♠ KJ8		
	♥ AK9532		
	♦ K104		
	♣ 9		

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

North opens 1♠ and we have a very good hand with hearts but bid just 2♥ as that is forcing. When North repeats the spades we know we have a good fit and are good enough

to think of slam. When North shows two aces we can bid 6♠.

You can see that we only have the diamond ace to lose, but after the club king is led there is a way to make all 13 tricks.

After drawing trumps we can play the two top hearts and ruff one, leaving all our hearts as winners and can discard our two diamonds, making all the tricks. ■

*Courtesy: joanbuttsbridge.com*

## Toowoomba Gloria Collins

Toowoomba's first centenarian  
member

Born at Pialba and then growing up in Clifton as the daughter of a farming family, Gloria joined the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service in 1941. After they were demobbed, Gloria spent the next three years at the Mater Hospital doing her general training and then the Women's Hospital where she did her midwifery.

Now aged in her late 20s, Gloria headed off to the UK and worked at the St Mary's (Rockhampton) Hospital for a number of years. This hospital was designed to treat war veteran amputees and more than 20,000 ex-servicemen from WW11 went through its doors. Gloria said



these young men were just wonderful with their spirit and courage. From the UK Gloria then worked at a hospital in Niagara Falls for three years before returning home to Australia where she took up the post of matron of the hospital attached to Gatton College – a position she retained until she retired.

And it was in Gatton that bridge as well as bowls, golf and her volunteer work with the St Peter Claver Mission became part of her life. Firstly playing rubber bridge as most people did back then, Gloria was one of the founding members of the Lockyer Valley Bridge Club where George McCutcheon gave bridge lessons teaching the Acol system. When the Toowoomba Bridge Club opened in Water Street in 1980, once again Gloria was one of the founding members.

Back in the 1960s Acol (a system Gloria prefers to play today – after all she has played it now for 60+ years) was very popular. But since then, Standard American is the dominant system played by most. However, Gloria has been fortunate in that Ralph Geddes and Gwen Francis – her regular partners – also originally learnt Acol. Rob Catto, who also plays with Gloria, first met her at the bridge table when he was 14, being part of the original Gatton group.

And a little warning. If you play against her, watch out - because she is still as sharp as a tack and will take you down so quickly, you won't know what's happened.

■ **Glenys Clift**

## COVID News

Members – if you are unhappy with how your club is dealing with the COVID regulations, talk to the club then if you are still unhappy, give me, Kim Ellaway, a call on 0412 064 903. The Department of Health should be the last port of call. The law is clear – clubs can recommend strongly that masks must be worn when the Government makes it mandatory but only the police can enforce and fine. It's the same with the COVID injection – clubs can only encourage; not insist.

## 25 Years Ago

Andrew  
Pryde

## Queensland Mixed Pairs

THE Queensland Mixed Pairs was played at Toowong Bridge Club attracting 27 tables. I played with Carol Rane doing more bad things than good and consequently didn't end up in the money. One reason is because, as Ziggy Konig said, 'You played this hand like a salami'. Cover the East and South hands and see if you would have got it right. South, the dealer, opened a game-forcing 2♠ which North raises to game and it is you to lead.

Dir S	♠ 83		
Vul None	♥ Q976		
	♦ J64		
	♣ J1065		
♠ J974		♠ K5	
♥ J		♥ 108542	
♦ Q108752		♦ 93	
♣ 82		♣ A973	
	♠ AQ1062		
	♥ AK3		
	♦ AK		
	♣ KQ4		

Let's say you lead the ordinary ♦7, partner plays the encouraging three and declarer the ace, which looks like he has A K doubleton.

The subsequent play is;

- ♥3 - J - Q - 2 (natural count),
- ♠3 - 5 - Q - 4,
- ♣K - 8 - 5 - 7,
- ♣Q - 2 - 6 - A,
- ♦9 - K - 5 - 6,
- ♠4 - ♠7 - 10 - 9.

You now have a complete count of the hand and have to find the right lead. Did you? I didn't because I led the very lazy, very unthinking and very disgusting ♦Q. Declarer has only five spades and partner has one left, and the way declarer played trumps it is probably the king or ace. A small diamond forces East to ruff with the king and promote a trump trick in your hand for one down.

I know that Belladonna would have saved me from my stupidity and ruffed anyway. As I am always saying to other people - it's an easy game; just learn to count to thirteen. ■

## Manager's Travels

WE (Ray and I) have returned to the bridge scene except when the mask wearing is compulsory as Ray cannot wear a mask for two sessions. Our favourite country congress Lockyer could not be visited due to mask-wearing, and they went ahead although only being allowed to have 14 tables, so well done Lockyer for not cancelling – you could not possibly have made any money. Please be assured that if there are lockdowns in Queensland the QBA will hold BBO matches.

During COVID most of my bridge has been played online so you can imagine how tired I was when I played six sessions at the very well-organised Barrier Reef. Congratulations to Janet and her team for a splendid job. ■

## State News

Gold Coast Congress – 18th to 26th February 2022 – enter on **MYABF** – entries opening shortly.

Barrier Reef Townsville – May 9th to 13th – enter on **MYABF** – advice will be given when entries open.

The Perth Australian National Championships has been postponed to 6th November – exactly the same program.

## Club News

Congratulations to Gold Coast and Wynnum who were successful with the most recent Gambling Community Benefits Scheme

Welcome to Ipswich City Contract Bridge Club – more information <https://www.qldbridge.com.au/clubs/qldClub.php?club=ipcity>

The Casual Bridge Club has ceased to operate from June 30th.

For a while you can be a senior, and then you're just old.

## HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

You will need to be registered on **MYABF** to enter some events this year and ALL congresses in 2022. Why not have a look and register now.

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## D E A D

OCT 18 (noon)

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## L I N E