

ISSUE 210 MARCH 2024

### *President's Report*

Our workshop with Pete Hollands was a great success. He is a thoughtful and clever teacher who encouraged us all to think more clearly about our game. Congratulations to Pete and his team who won the Open Teams at this year's Gold Coast Congress. There will be more educational workshops during the year including one on Sunday 2 June. Please save the date. It will be part of our 60-year celebration. As bridge players we are always learning, part of the attraction of the game.



Juliet Rogers and I were a volunteer pair for the Gold Coast Bridge Congress on the first Sunday. It was amazing to see so many players from so many countries in attendance including many members proudly representing our club. We were not needed for the Main Events but for our trouble gained free entry into the walk-in competition.

Janet Wallis has been advised by her doctor that she can no longer play bridge. Janet has been a member of GCBC for nearly 30 years and during that time took on such volunteer roles as Congress Convener, Head of Tournament Committee, she was on the Zone Committee and President for one year. She also brought in several sponsors. Janet said she has very much enjoyed her years of playing at GCBC and will miss both the game and her bridge buddies.

My very best wishes and heartfelt thanks to everyone who makes our club so amazing.

**Carolyn Waters**

### *GNOT 2024*

The Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) is an Australia wide event selecting 60 teams to attend the GNOT National Final, a 4-day event at the end of November/December of each year.

Throughout the year four heats are run one day a week over three weeks in January, March, May and July. For our region, these heats are alternately held at GCBC and SPBC. The venue, dates and times are all available in the GCBC diary and on both the club's website and QBA website. This is the only event where gold points are earned at a club level. These are precious and, along with red points, necessary to climb the Masterpoint Ladder. It is definitely the cheapest way to accrue gold points by entering a team in a GNOT event.

GNOT heat 2 will be held on **Tuesdays 12th, 19th and 26th March at GCBC**. Start time is 10am. Despite having the word "Open" in the title, any member can form a team and play in this highly regarded national event. Entry forms are at the club. The fee is \$80 per team plus table fees per session.

### *Teams*

Speaking of teams, here is some information for our newer members who may not have experienced playing in a team before.

In teams there are at least four members. Depending on the event, you may be allowed to include substitutes and have up to six members. One pair will play North South (NS) and one pair will play East West (EW), as per a normal session. The main difference in a teams event is the different method of scoring, plus you do not play every other table in your section.

In a normal club pairs session, your result on each board is compared to the rest of the room sitting in the same direction as you and your partner. Your matchpoints are based on that ranking for each board. In most team events, scores are calculated in IMPs (International Match Points). Each player is given a conversion table at the start of play which is used to record scores for each board.

In teams, you will be allocated to play another team for possibly a third of the number of boards in play. NS stays at your home table and the opponents' EW join you. Your team's EW play against the other table's NS. Therefore, you only need focus on what is happening at your home table and your opponents' home table. How the specific board is played around the rest of the room is irrelevant.

The different scoring calls for a different approach to your play. It is imperative that you bid to game where you think it is possible, especially where you are vulnerable. Overtricks do not count for much, so long as you make your contract.

Give it a try. Teams is a lot of fun.

### *Gold Coast Congress*

The Gold Coast Congress has now finished for another year and there is bound to have been many cheers and a few tears. Congratulations to everyone who participated.



## *The Convention Menagerie by Frank Hymus*

We all have our favourite set of conventions. Many club players seem to play bridge just for the exhilaration they get from trotting out their favourites as often as they possibly can. I don't want to spoil your convention fun, but I would like to suggest that you might become a better bidder if you worked on basic principles of "standard" natural bidding, especially understanding correctly the first four bids of a natural auction. The latest fancy convention will NOT make you a better bidder and make up for your lack of understanding of basic principles.

Our expert teacher agrees with me. I direct you to Larry Cohen's website, the last article he wrote on a series on Useful Conventions, summarising what he believes are essential, there are only 4, and why he considers "the rest" are traps for the average club player.

Over the next few months, I would like to present Larry's ideas in an Australian context, try to analyse the most popular conventions, evaluate their usefulness, and consider traps lying in wait. These are the evaluation criteria I will use. You can even start to look at your favourites and try your hand at evaluating them by these criteria.

1. Is it useful? Does it allow you to do things that normal standard bidding can't do? Why carry around convention baggage if standard natural bidding can get you there? "Stayman" is the obvious example of a convention that allows you to do things standard natural bidding cannot.
2. Does it take away a useful "natural bid"? Do the advantages of taking away the natural meaning outweigh the downside? "4C as always Gerber" is a typical example, taking away a "natural" Club bid or raise. I find it unacceptable, but you might not agree. For more advanced players I also really detest Minorwood for the confusion it can cause.
3. If the convention is "artificial", does it give alert opponents the chance for lead directing doubles or cue bids that they might not otherwise have? Is it worth providing them the opportunity? With Stayman, I believe the benefit outweighs the cost. With "Transfers over 1C" I believe it doesn't.
4. Is the convention well defined and "limited" in terms of distribution and strength? In other words, does partner know what to do? "Unlimited 2NT" showing the minors with strong or weak hands violates this principle. As does "weak or strong Michaels".
5. Have you discussed all the "follow up" ramifications with partner? If you do play the "unusual NT" it is unsatisfactory just to believe it "asks for a minor" and leave it at that.
6. What happens if the opponents interfere? Have you discussed whether the convention is "on" or "off"? And if "on" under what circumstances?
7. Will you remember the convention? Will your partner remember? More problems than I can remember occur because one partner says to the other "I don't play that". Or "Sorry partner, I forgot"! Director is called, possible penalties assessed for misinformation, exchange of unauthorised information and bad alerts, and possible ill-will left behind at the table.

Larry Cohen's website is [www.larryco.com](http://www.larryco.com). The four essential conventions he believes are Stayman after 1 and 2NT, Major Suit Transfers after 1 and 2NT, Blackwood and Negative Doubles. I add a fifth, Take Out Doubles. All the rest are secondary.

Next month, I will address "Multi Two Openings", as many people have asked me about them. You may disagree with me, but they are not essential. And without understanding the seven points above, dangerous for club players. But more on that next month.

**Frank**

## *February Events Winners - Congratulations.*

### **Joan Leckie Memorial Pairs**

1<sup>st</sup> - Bijan Assae and Val Holbrook

2<sup>nd</sup> - Usher Zeng and Ann Liu



## *March Events*

**Saturdays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> March. Ken Nicholson Memorial Pairs. Sponsored by June Pulford**

- **Thursdays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> March. Red Point Pairs. Open and under 50 mps. Sponsored by Chevron Renaissance Chempro Chemist.**
- **Tuesdays 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March. GNOT Heat 2 at GCBC.**
- **Thursdays 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> March. Thursday Pairs under 50 mps. Sponsored by Lorraine Twyford.**

## *Promotions*

Bronze Life - Sonya Palfreyman

Bronze National - Jack Luke-Paredi, Peter Lyons

National - Juliet Rogers

State - Maida Beale

Silver Local - Fiona Evans, Jennifer Martin

Bronze Local - Wayne Mitchell, Leonie Harris

Local - Lexie Yeates, Pat Gaudet

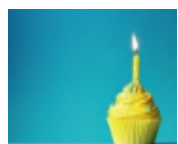
Club - Karen Curtis, Patricia Geale

Graduate - Nynke Heida

## *New Members - Welcome*

Peter Schmidt, Debbie McKenzie

## *March Birthdays*



2<sup>nd</sup> - Robyn Fletcher, David Kronenberg, Robyn Kronenberg; 4<sup>th</sup> - Dimity Burke, Elizabeth McMillan, Jill Wilke; 5<sup>th</sup> - Margaret Bills; 8<sup>th</sup> - Pamela Collins; 10<sup>th</sup> - Heather Fielding; 12<sup>th</sup> - Patricia Geale; 13<sup>th</sup> - Faye Atkinson, Carolyn Lloyd, Michael Rootes, Kerry Watson, Julie Wicks; 14<sup>th</sup> - Bob Hunt; 16<sup>th</sup> - Kathy Johnson; 17<sup>th</sup> - Merle Bogatie; 18<sup>th</sup> - Margaret Mellick; 19<sup>th</sup> - Carole McGregor; 20<sup>th</sup> - Brian Borrell; 26<sup>th</sup> - Jeff Conroy; 27<sup>th</sup> - Norma Cameron, Yida Zhou; 28<sup>th</sup> - Setsuko Horsfield, Maggie Reynolds, Sandra Richman; 29<sup>th</sup> - Rhonda Peachey; 30<sup>th</sup> - Theo Armenis, John Glennie; 31<sup>st</sup> - Andrew Tonkin.

## *In the Beginning ...Ross and Lois Steinwedel*

Back in 1980, Lois and her Auntie May (Taylor), who were card players at home, were on the beach and Bridge came up in the conversation. Lois suggested they learn together, and they enrolled at TAFE for lessons. Her teacher was Roy Huttenance, a past President of GCBC. Soon they were playing regularly at the club. Lois' early regular partners included John Carbis and Tony Chrisp. These days she plays regularly with her husband Ross and Kathy Johnson. Partnering Kathy, she has represented Queensland in the National Women's Pairs numerous times.

Eight years later, Ross also took lessons at TAFE, this time with John Dennis, who also served as GCBC President. Still working as a schoolteacher, Ross played night sessions three times a week. He was also fortunate in that several established players partnered him during school holidays. Andrew James, a significant leader of Bridge at GCBC encouraged him into Tournament Directing and Club Masterpoints management. With Lois, and several other Gold Coast players, Ross has represented the Region at the GNOT several times. Together, Ross and Lois ran Bridge classes at the club for a period.

These days they enjoy playing Club Bridge almost exclusively, enjoying the friendship and company of their bridge friends.

*A bit of fun, although woe betide those who don't take this seriously. !!*

# TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR BRIDGE PLAYERS

**1** THOU SHALT NOT PLAY ANY GAME OTHER THAN BRIDGE WHILST AT THE TABLE.

**2** *Thou shalt not call a misdeal just because thou hast been dealt no picture cards.*

**4** AFTER LOSING THREE GAMES, THOU SHALT NOT CRY, NOR STAMP THY FEET, NOR SET FIRE TO THY BRIDGE TABLE.



**3** THOU SHALT NEVER TAKE THE RULES OF BRIDGE IN VAIN.

**5** THOU SHALT HONOUR THY TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S DECISION, EVEN THOUGH THOU MIGHT FIND IT UNFAVOURABLE.

**6** WHEN THY PARTNER MAKES A MISTAKE, THOU SHALT NOT KILL, NOR CAUSE HIM OR HER SERIOUS INJURY.



**7** THOU SHALT NOT RESORT TO COUGHS, GRUNTS, HAND SIGNALS, MEANINGFUL LOOKS, OR KICKS UNDER THE TABLE TO INSTRUCT THY PARTNER.

**8** IF THOU BREAKEST COMMANDMENT 7, THOU MUST NOT GET CAUGHT.

**9** THOU SHALT KEEP TABLE TALK TO A MINIMUM, UNLESS THOU HAS SOME JUICY GOSSIP THAT WILL NOT WAIT.



**10** THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY OPPONENTS' ACES, NOR THEIR SUCCESS AT MAKING SEVEN NO TRUMPS DOUBLED AND REDOUBLED.

*Happy Bridging  
Julie Wicks*

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**Welfare Officer:** Cheryl Millar ..... 0409 879 081

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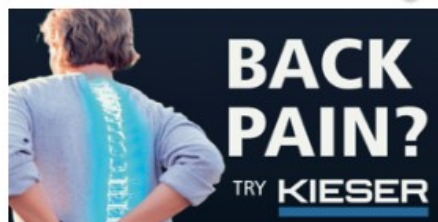
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