



GOLD COAST
BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 2020

AGM President's Report



2nd September 2020

I should have known this would be a challenging year right from day one. On the night before our AGM last year we learned the neighboring Caltex garage site was up for sale. This kicked off an intense six week period where we looked at options including the club possibly purchasing the site or, more likely, assisting a “friendly party” to do so. Thanks to Jeff Wicks, Paul Brake and Darryl Hennig for their hard work on this project. In the end we believe the property sold to Woolworths. Decontamination of the site may take a couple of years before any construction can commence.

Coinciding with this, Australia was experiencing its worst bushfire season on the back of its worst drought for many years. The club undertook a fund raising appeal to help victims of bushfire and we proudly raised over \$12,000.

Then along came the biggie of 2020 – Covid-19. It was with a heavy heart that we closed the club on 18th March. At the time we thought the closure would be for around four weeks. It turned into four months before we were able to reopen on 11th July. There have been many changes to our usual bridge routine in order for us to be able to return to face-to-face bridge. However, I believe we have offered both a safe and comfortable environment for our members to enjoy their session of bridge.

I wish to personally thank everyone - our members and my fellow board members - for supporting me during this first year of my Presidency. Such a challenging and busy year would not have been survivable without your support. I am hoping for a slightly less turbulent time for my second year!

Of the eleven members on our current board, nine have nominated to stand again. Colin Lewis is stepping down and I wish to thank him for his contribution throughout the year.

Tony Berger has also decided to step down from the Board after many years of service. When the club closed, Tony immediately swung into action and arranged for a major refurbishment of the clubroom. The ceiling was lowered, new lighting installed, some upgrade to the air conditioning, new emergency lighting, and the whole room was repainted and the carpets cleaned. I think we all agree the room now looks fantastic. It was also identified that our solar panels were not working. After confirming it was necessary, Tony arranged for the complete replacement of the panels. Tony has done a myriad of other smaller jobs and his ‘to do’ list never seems to get any smaller. Thank you Tony from all of us. Although sadly not staying on

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the Board, Tony has offered to continue to work his magic with maintenance issues.

Margaret Bills is staying on as a board member, but is stepping down from the role of Secretary. Thank you Margaret for your contribution, and most recently in assisting Trevor Fletcher applying for grants.

Our continuing board members are:

* Odette Hall (Vice President) has not had a great year health wise. However, Odette always maintains a positive attitude and is always willing to help where possible. She continues to make a worthwhile contribution to the Board and to the club. Thank you Odette.

* Linda Stanton (Treasurer) has kept a close eye on the club's finances during this period when we had no income but still had innumerable bills to pay, including some large ones following the refurbishment. Thank you Linda.

* Liz Downer is always the first to volunteer to help. Liz keeps our Facebook page updated, looks after marketing and promoting the club, and more recently took on the job of recording all registrations for sessions. Liz also regularly fills our entry foyer with fresh flowers, a welcome sight. Thank you Liz .

* Dot Piddington is the quiet achiever in this group. Dot wears many hats, as a Director, Congress Convener, Board member and, over the past two years, a teacher. Dot has now completed three Beginners' classes and most, if not all, of her students have joined as members on completion of the course. This is an enviable record. Thank you Dot for your contribution and support.

* Charlie Howard was getting set to instigate a mentoring program after he and others returned from Perth after representing Queensland in the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Congress last April. Due to Covid-19 this event was cancelled. Charlie and Kerry Wood recently started a Q&A session following Tuesday's bridge for members who wish to discuss one or

more hands from the day's play. This is proving very popular with great feed back. Thank you Charlie and Kerry.

* Neil Raward is an invaluable member of the Board and an invaluable member of the club. His many achievements and contributions are too numerous to list. Thank you Neil for all that you do.

* Jan Palm, in the role of Kitchen Co-ordinator, was instrumental in organizing our three major celebrations of the year. Jan also ensured the decorators were fed and watered at least once a month as they made decorations. Thank you Jan.

Thank you to our teachers Lynley Jenkins, Dot Piddington and Mary Ditton and previously Carolyn Waters. Our Education program is offering lessons for all members from beginners to intermediate level with a dedicated session on Mondays for Rookies having just started.

Even though the kitchen has been closed our kitchen staff, Chris and Carole, have not been forgotten. They have willingly undertaken various duties since we reopened including cleaning, ordering supplies, registering arriving members for a session, receiving health declarations and conducting temperature checks and setting up tea and coffee trays. Thank you Chris and Carole.

I would like to particularly thank Paul Brake for his efforts in setting up and running the BBO sessions that kept some of us from going crazy during the club's closure. Some members have been reluctant to return to face-to-face bridge and these BBO sessions are allowing members to have access, not only to the game, but in a virtual GCBC club atmosphere. Paul did receive help from various people including Sue Robinson, John Glennie and Darryl Hennig. However, there is still a need for more help in this area to ease Paul's heavy workload.

Many members will be unaware that our club could not survive without the volunteers that offer us support behind the scenes. Many thanks to the following:

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Accounts: Marlene Dwyer, Pat Beattie
 Admin: Marlene Dwyer, Cheryl Hensel and Edith Richardson
 Card washing: Mary Dooley, Maggie Reynolds
 Chief Scorer: Eva Berger
 Club Diary: Dianne Hillman
 Congress Convener: Dot Piddington, Eva Berger
 Director's Diary Update: Marie Orme, Trish Millar
 Dealers: Darryl Hennig, Pat Beattie, Michael Hogan and Charles McLaren
 Directors: Paul Brake, Neil Raward, Eva Berger, Jenny Sawyer, Mary Ditton, John Glennie, Dot Piddington, Merle Bogatie, Carolyn Millar, Ruth Young, Margaret Pisko, Sue Robinson
 Free tickets: Ruth Tracey
 IT Manager: Charlie Dacey
 Key register: Jim Moodie
 Magazines: Neville de Mestre, Quarterly magazine; Neil Raward, Monthly magazine
 Master point Secretary: David Gillard
 Membership: Sue Herse and Penny Grace
 Partnership Arranging: Jim and Shelley Moodie, Neil Raward
 Sponsorship: Neil Raward
 Welfare Office: Cheryl Millar
 Zone Committee: Margaret Pisko, Di Hodges, Lesley Sutherland, Tom Strong
 and to others that I have unknowingly omitted...

Despite this impressive list of volunteers, we are always looking for more willing helpers. We have a few vacancies at the moment: Chief Scorer, Librarian. Please contact me if you are interested.

Let's hope the coming year will see our lives regaining some form of normalcy, whatever that may mean for each of us. My hope is that we all maintain good health, continue to look out for one another and continue to play and enjoy this highly addictive pastime of Bridge. It is not 'just a card game'!

Julie Wicks

SEPTEMBER DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM

This double dummy problem was based on a Ron Klinger article. Your esteemed editor gave it to me to solve. After many tries, I worked it out in the middle of the night. See how you do before looking at the answer. It's hard not to peek!

South is in 6 Spades on the lead of the DK by West. Plan your play for 12 tricks.

North

♠ QJ2

♥ Q86

♦ A43

♣ KQ94

West

♠ AT86

♥ T74

♦ KQ

♣ T876

East

♠ void

♥ J953

♦ JT98762

♣ 52

South

♠ K97543

♥ AK2

♦ 5

♣ AJ3

Win DA & trump a Diamond, leaving West with no Diamonds. Lead a trump to the SJ, and West will hold up. If not it is all over. Play four rounds of Clubs, trumping the last one. Now, three rounds of Hearts ending in dummy. West is now left with three trumps including the SA. Lead the last Diamond & trump with the SK. Poor West is stuck. He can win the SA anytime, but only makes one trump.

Trick 3 is important (declarer's trumps now 4 to West's 3). At trick 7 declarer trumps a winning trick to reduce the South's trumps under West to 3. At trick 11, ruffing with SK is the coup de grace.

It is a beautiful problem for those of us wanting a challenge.

Jonathon Skye

Turning 9 tricks into 10

Last year Paul Marston wrote up the following bridge hand in the Weekend Australian. It has some useful aspects for all players. Here are the cards, but as declarer you can only see the N/S hands.

	North	
	♠ K6	
	♥ A972	
	♦ 743	
	♣ 8743	
West		East
♠ void		♠ Q542
♥ KQJ65		♥ 843
♦ Q5		♦ JT962
♣ AQJ952		♣ T
	South	
	♠ AJT9873	
	♥ T	
	♦ AK8	
	♣ K6	

The bidding was as follows

South	West	North	East
1S	2S	pass	3H
3S	4C	4S	all pass

West led the HK. Declarer could envisage two losers in Clubs, one loser in Diamonds, and a possible loser in Spades. West's bid

of 2S then 4C was clearly Michael's Cue bid indicating at least 5/5 in Hearts and Clubs. Therefore West would be short in Spades and could even have none.

Declarer won with the HA and immediately ruffed a Heart with the S7 (important, not the S3). Next she played the S8 to the SK and noted that West had no Spades. Hence West could have at most 3 Diamonds. Looking at the visible Spades she deduced that East's holding in Spades was Queen,5,4,2. (Remember that this is not a Double Dummy problem, but a real situation.) Therefore she led the S6, and when East ducked, she played the S3. AHA! Now she was still in dummy to ruff another Heart, thus reducing her trump holding to three.

Now it was time to investigate the Diamonds. She played the DA and DK and West played the D5 and DQ revealing that West only had Hearts and Clubs left. Therefore she led the CK from hand and West took two Club tricks but had to return a Heart or Club. Declarer ruffed again reducing her trump holding now to the Ace and Jack and led the D8 on the 11th trick. The trump coup had been set up and declarer made 10 tricks.

I like to give credit where it is due. Dot Piddington has been teaching our beginners. Her last class graduated just weeks before we had to close the club. They only had a week or two to practice all their new found knowledge and then Covid 19 took over our lives. As soon as we were allowed to recommence lessons Dot arranged for her class to come back and continue their journey, all in a Covid safe environment of course. She was given the go ahead to conduct a new beginners class starting on 1st July and she now has 11 keen brand new players ready to start plus a couple on the list for the next course in September.

Dot's current students are so appreciative of her as their teacher they gave her a gift yesterday, a few weeks before they even finish up with her. This beautiful bag (see photo) was sourced from Thailand by one of the ladies where it was made by tribal women and is a unique one off. Thank you Dot for your many varied contributions to our club.

Julie Wicks



Portrait of a Bridge Tragic named Heather Reid (aka Three Haired)



We were a card playing family growing up in New Zealand, playing Happy Families, Rummy and 500, but we always knew there was a greater game to follow.

My mother was a very keen Bridge player with a regular Saturday afternoon game. Best hats and dresses, four ashtrays on the table, their game was fast and expert, while gin and tonic was served at the finish when money changed hands, though the stakes were low.

One afternoon I was allowed – no, was told - to take a few hands while the afternoon tea was prepared, and that was my introduction. Bridge was popular with my friends as we studied and worked, although it was mostly accompanied by chatter.

After moving to Australia, bringing up children and while still working, I finally took the plunge and enrolled in an 8-week evening Bridge class at the Gold Coast Bridge Club. The teacher was Joy Duveck, who was quite a character. She was known as “Ducky”, her favourite name for players, and she was a stickler for the rules. If a player came to the table without a system card she would get up, go to the office and get a card and would not begin a hand until the card was filled in.

Ron Klinger’s “Guide to Better Bridge” was our Bible. I still think it is one of the best books for beginners. It was Standard American with 4-card majors.

This was in May 1982.

When we had completed our 8 lessons, we all thought we could join the Bridge Club. “Oh no,” said Joy, “you must go away and learn to play”.

At that time the GCBC was the only Bridge Club on the Gold Coast and membership was limited to 500. Aspiring members were required to be of sufficient standard. However in June 1982 the Great Split

occurred, and the Surfers Paradise Bridge Club was formed, so by the time we plucked up enough courage to apply we were gobbled up, sufficient standard or not.

We began with supervised play on Monday nights, but this did not last long. After only a few weeks we were escorted into the main room and let loose. No restricted section, no grading, it was all in together. We benefitted greatly from this and in no time some of us even won.

Evening Bridge was very well attended and never dull. All the Honour Board competitions were held at night and the standard was very high. It is a shame that evening Bridge became universally less popular.

I often played with my mother who was rather a tyrant and I always had a sound telling off on the way home from a game. She introduced me and my friends to Acol.

After retirement, Bridge was a great replacement and mental stimulation after years working in a Pathology Lab and I became a daytime player.

In no time I was conscripted on to the Committee, became a Director, Congress Convenor, Diary Compiler and President.

The first Congress I played in was at the old Chevron Hotel, after that the ANA, and many more since, but none with the charm of those old hotels.

My mother was a GCBC member for many years and now my daughter, Joanna, has taken up the game.

I am so grateful to have had so many years of enjoyment playing the best game of all, and grateful for the friendships the Gold Coast Bridge Club has provided.

I intend to play for many more years.

Interesting Board from Club Teams' Championship

Board 19 in the final round of the Club Teams' Championship had the Berger's at East / West playing against Grace Henry (North) and Odette Hall (South). Here are the hands with South as declarer and E/W vulnerable.

North
 ♠ J7
 ♥ KQJT95
 ♦ T
 ♣ AT83

West
 ♠ 6532
 ♥ 62
 ♦ AK42
 ♣ KJ2

East
 ♠ AKQ
 ♥ A873
 ♦ J97
 ♣ 964

South
 ♠ T984
 ♥ 4
 ♦ Q8653
 ♣ Q75

The bidding was as follows:

South	West	North	East
pass	pass	1H	1NT (15 to 17)
pass	2C (Stayman)	2H	pass
pass	3NT	X	pass
pass	?		

West had to make a couple of difficult decisions. Firstly, holding 11 HCP's opposite a 1NT opening and only a singleton in the opponents potentially dangerous Heart suit, she decided on a risky 3NT. North immediately doubled, and two more passes left West with her second difficult decision. What does West know? North has a solid 6-card Heart suit with a solid outside entry. Perhaps this is a good time to run to 4 Diamonds? But with nerves of steel she passes.

The result was minus 800 and the revealed hands showed that East bid 1NT with only 14 HCP's. These hands really show up the fact that point count is just a guide and not a law. Comments are sought from readers on how the bidding could be improved! ANONYMOUS (or A TONY MESS?)

Editor's comment; Don't open or overcall 1NT unless you have 15 to 17 HCP's AND at least three suits covered. Perhaps East could have doubled for an opening hand and at least 3 cards in every other suit? If you give East a little Spade instead of a little Heart that would be a reasonable first bid as 4S would then make.

RESULTS

JULY ECLECTICS

Monday

Equal 1st Judith Woodward, Lorraine de Nett, Kathy Johnson, Eva Berger

Tuesday

1st Cheryl Hensel

Wednesday

1st Ross and Lois Steinwedel

Thursday

1st Jennifer Sawyer, Sue Robinson

Friday

1st Eva and Tony Berger

Saturday

1st Eduardo Besprosvan, Daria Williams

AUGUST ECLECTICS

Tuesday

1st Connie Cassar, Melaine Mills

Wednesday

1st Ed Hahn

Friday

1st Tony and Eva Berger

Saturday (A)

1st Dale Wells, Cheryl Hensel

Saturday (B)

1st Georgina Sievers, Barbara Huddy

CLUB TEAMS' CHAMPIONSHIP

1st Charlie Howard, Kerry Wood, David Smith, Sue Smith

2nd Tony & Eva Berger, Kathy Johnson, Lois Steinwedel

3rd Meg Pisko, Trish Anagnostou, Merle Bogartie, Rita Kahn

Tips for the Improving Player (The Third Seat Opening)

You are playing Standard American 5 card majors

Sitting South you pick up this hand

♠ AKQ10
♥ 102
♦ QJ3
♣ 7652

Your partner North is dealer and passes. East also passes. Your bid.

Most players will open this hand in both first or second seat and would probably feel bound to open 1 Club, but sitting in third seat, opening 1 Club is less appealing. Partner has passed and the contract may well belong to East- West. If your side ends up defending what suit would you like partner to lead? A Spade or a Club?

Consider the tactical opening bid of 1♠ !

The whole hand

♠ 92
♥ J73
♦ 10975
♣ QJ103

♠ J76
♥ AK985
♦ 2
♣ AK94

♠ 8543
♥ Q64
♦ AK864
♣ 8

♠ AKQ10
♥ 102
♦ QJ3
♣ 7652

Over your bid of 1♠ West overcalls 2♥ and East with 9 high card points and 3 shortage points for the singleton raises to 4♥!

An alternative approach is for East to cuebid the opponents suit by bidding 2♠ showing interest in game.

Partner will lead the ♠9 top of a doubleton. You should win this with the ♠Q the lower of touching honours *See Note below

You now continue with the Ace and King of Spades. You can now continue with a fourth round of spades forcing West to ruff, hoping partner can overruff. On this hand the contract is defeated. If West ruffs with the ♥9 partner will overruff. If West ruffs with the ♥A or ♥K partner simply discards and eventually gets a trick with the promoted ♥J.

(thanks to South's ♥10)

This defensive play is known as a **Trump promotion**. On this hand it works a treat!

If you had opened 1 Club instead of 1 Spade partner would almost certainly lead the ♣Q top from a solid sequence. Declarer can then ruff a Club, discard a Club loser on a Diamond, draw trumps and claim 10 tricks. Easy!

Another exciting variation of Trump Promotion is known as the **Uppercut**.

Here's an example

♠ 432
♠ J5 ♠ Q6
♠ AK10987

In a Spade contract, West leads a suit in which East and South are both void. East ruffs with the ♠Q, thus ensuring a trump trick for the defence. If South overruffs the Jack wins a trick.

Message: *A defender with a completely useless trump holding should usually ruff with his highest trump if he gets the opportunity. Sometimes a ruff with a card as low as a 6 can affect an uppercut and promote a trump trick for the defence.*

It's a wonderful game!

*Note : Whilst when leading this suit you will start with top of your sequence by leading the Ace, when winning the trick, do so with the lowest of touching honours. Proper carding in Defence helps partner to understand which winners you may hold in the suit.

Club Numbers

Our editor was wondering how club numbers were allocated. He noticed that in the first ten there was no number 5 or number 7. Also the largest number was 1506, but there are certainly not that many club members. Consequently, he sought information on this from me, our longest-serving ex-president.

Rapscore was introduced to the club in the early 1980s, and before then each game was hand scored. Rapscore was a computer-generated scoring system which revolutionised bridge scoring and it required a club number to be allocated to each member. As Jan Tobiano was the president at the time, she acquired No 1 (now held by Heather Reid) and the other numbers were allocated accordingly. The numbers were allocated manually as members joined and reallocated when membership lapsed.

When Compscore was introduced to the club some 12 years ago, the club numbers allocated to members were retained for the new and more efficient scoring program. Once the membership numbers were transferred to Compscore, any new member received a randomly allocated member number which included lapsed membership numbers.

Neil Raward (324)

Nonagenarians



L to R: Edie, Ralph, Ruth, Elma

These sprightly 90-year-olds play at the club every Tuesday. They are pictured at the new table arrangements put in place during COVID-19.

The Garden



This is Peter Lester, our gardener, who takes immense pride in his gardening at the club. Peter came several times a week, every week, during the club closure to tend to and water the plants.

