



GOLD COAST
BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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JUNE 2021

President's Message



Last week was National Volunteers Week. Thank you to the many volunteers that have taken on extra jobs so that the club can run smoothly. You are appreciated!

The last three months have gone so quickly. Covid restrictions are still in place and we have adjusted. This is now the new "normal" and will be for some time to come.

We are sorry that we've had to make changes to the 2021 diary. It's been necessary due to COVID and the smaller number of members attending each session. For many years our club members were predominantly 'ABF Life Masters' and above. Over the last twelve years this has changed. The majority of our member's are now under 200mp. Therefore, in the 2022 diary we are looking at changing some of the competitions to suit all grades and taking into consideration the days of the week they play. This will be fair to all players by us providing competitions across all grades on different days of the week.

Your annually updated ABF card is available for collection. They have their own special box situated on top of the cupboard at the North end of the 'Neil Raward' room. And what a fabulous name for our main room! Thank you Neil for many years of your time, effort, support, fun and the love you have given to the club and its members we treasure you and wanted to show our appreciation.

The board has moved to enlist the services of an outside IT consultant. Looking to ensure our hardware and software programs are of the best standard suitable for the clubs needs. This means that we have an outside source that oversees our two IT volunteers within the Club. Working many hours behind the scenes have been Charlie Dacey and John Glennie who make sure that our computers are working efficiently. Charlie and John you are unsung heroes.

For many years this quarterly newsletter is put together by Neville de Mestre. Neville is an avid surfer and on 18th April he came 2nd in the Australian Masters' Surf Lifesaving Championships 75 years and over Iron Man Event. Congratulations Neville!

Keep well & safe,

Odette



The Potted Bridge History of Roger Weathered



I worked as a floor manager at Jupiter's Casino for 15 years and during that time my wife Barbara taught me to play bridge. I was hooked! Every break at work I would read one of Ron Klinger's bridge books.

I have been a member of Tweed Bridge Club also for many years. So, as well as the regular Monday and Thursday night sessions at Gold Coast Club over the years, I played regularly at Tweed in the daytime and Wednesday nights. A few Gold Coast members would venture south of the border for those enjoyable Wednesday night sessions.

There have been many ups and downs in my bridge career, but the highlights were the following:

1. Qualifying 1st in the Gold Coast Pairs Championship at the ANA Hotel with my beautiful late wife Barbara;
2. Playing teams with my daughter Sandra and her husband Andrew, on their honeymoon, in the South West Pacific Championships, and beating Australia, China and Japan and tying with New Zealand.
3. Beating Team 1 (Andy Braithwaite) in the Australian Championships in Canberra.

After Barbara passed away I found that she had kept the hand records of the four matches of the South West Pacific championships in the draw next to her bed.

I am truly blessed to have fallen in love with another beautiful bridge player in Lou Tillotson.

JOIN JOAN BUTTS FOR HER SLAM BIDDING WORKSHOP AT GOLD COAST BRIDGE CLUB

TOPIC: SLAM BIDDING

Learn all there is to know about **Slam Bidding** from one of Australia's most popular and respected bridge teachers, **Joan Butts**.

Bidding 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

Date: Friday, 18 June 2021

Time: 9 am - 11 am

Blue Playing Ticket if Club Member

Bookings Through: Gold Coast Bridge Club

In an effort to encourage Newsletter input from more club members (there are only four regular contributors from a club membership of nearly 350) I tried asking for bridge cartoons (one response), bridge poems (one response) and so now I go back to interesting bridge problems. At the table you have less than six minutes to try to figure out the best way to make your contract. Here I am giving you three months. Let us see what the response to this is.

Editor

Over to you

The finesse is a useful technique in bridge.

Sometimes it is the only way to make your contract.

A finesse will work 50% of the time, since either one of your opponents will have the missing card.

The question is, which one? Look at this deal.

North

- ♠ A3
- ♥ KJ93
- ♦ AQ86
- ♣ KJ8

South

- ♠ K6
- ♥ AT64
- ♦ KJ72
- ♣ AT9



Problem 1: South is in 6 Hearts on the lead of the SJ by West. The opposition trumps divide 3/2 or 2/3. You are faced with a finesse both ways in two suits, Hearts and Clubs.

Send your solution to the editor's email (margnev2@bigpond.com) before the September Newsletter.

Problem 2: South got greedy and ended up in 6NT. West makes the same lead. How should South play it this time?



Director's Corner

(by Eva Berger, Chair, Tournament Committee)

Unauthorised Information and what to do with it (Law 73C)

When playing bridge, there is only one legal way of communicating with your partner: during the auction, by the calls you make; and during the play, by the cards you play. Any other information which passes between you and partner is called unauthorised information (often abbreviated to UI). The laws explicitly state that you may not use such information when deciding what action to take.

UI can take many forms. It ranges from the highly undesirable – the shake of the head, the look of disgust, the unmistakable groan – to the absolutely innocent which is part of the game (e.g. partner alerting your bid). Two of the most common types of UI are also a perfectly normal aspect of the game. One is the length of time partner takes when deciding what to do; when they take a long time, they clearly have a problem. The other is the explanation of the meaning of your bid which partner gives to the opponents; if he gets it wrong, you know that partner has misunderstood you and there is a temptation to 'Have another go' at getting it right.

I will attempt to talk about what your responsibilities are when you have UI from partner. It is a question which I have been asked a lot. Many players think that they should ignore it, and do what they what they would have done anyway. This is NOT correct! The Laws of bridge place a greater ethical obligation on you when you find yourself in this position. Hopefully, the following examples may demonstrate it.

With both sides vulnerable you are sitting East, holding the following hand, you hear the opponents, playing Standard American, bid uninterrupted to 3NT

Sitting East:

♠ J7653
♥ 10
♦ 8652
♣ 754

The Auction goes:

West	North	You	South
	1C	P	1H
P	1NT	P	3NT

They haven't shown any inclination to bid towards a slam even though you only have 1 point, so partner must have a reasonable hand – maybe even an opening hand. What do you lead?

Look at the options:

A Spade – it is usually pointless leading from a long suit with such a weak hand, as it will take a lot for it to be right. (For example partner may hold KQx and declarer can only duck once) However, you may get lucky and this is the lead many players would choose.

A Heart – South has not made any move to search for a Heart fit, so the chances are that he has only 4 and NS have at most 7 Hearts between them. If they have 7 and you have 1, partner will have 5 and a good hand, but couldn't bid.

The opposition bid his suit. Just think about all the times when partner is on lead to 3NT and you hold a singleton - it's always the suit partner leads! So why not return the favour when you are on lead.. There is an excellent chance that it is the best lead for your side.

A Diamond - could be right and it is probably fairly safe. It probably won't be a devastating lead but it is the one that is least likely to give anything away and maybe that is how you need to defend this hand.

A Club – to lead declarer's suit would be a real shot in the dark. This would be the least successful.

So having heard all the evidence, what do you choose? For me, the argument for a Heart lead is the strongest, although I understand if you choose a Spade or a Diamond.

Now more information - After South bid 3NT, partner paused for about 15 seconds before passing. , What was partner thinking?

There are 2 possibilities: bidding or doubling. What was partner thinking of bidding? Hard to guess, certainly not bidding over 3NT, so it must have been a double. If partner had doubled, what would you have led? The correct answer is a Heart. When partner, having passed throughout, doubles a freely bid 3NT, it asks you to lead dummy's first bid suit. They have got very good Hearts; they couldn't bid them themselves as the opponents bid them first, and they couldn't double 1H as that would be for takeout showing the other suits. Now on the actual hand partner did not double, but they were clearly thinking about it. Do you still lead a Heart? This is where the knowledge of your ethical responsibilities comes into play.

Law 73C

Where a player has available to him unauthorised information from his partner, such as from a remark..... explanation.....hesitation.....he must carefully avoid taking any advantage from that unauthorised information.

So is it good enough to merely pretend that you didn't notice that partner had passed on some UI (as they did here through the hesitation before passing over 3NT) and lead what you were going to do anyway? The Laws require that you actively steer clear of the action which partner has, in this instance, unconsciously suggested will be the winning one. The only time that a Heart would be allowed is if it was absolutely clear cut on your hand. Holding AKQJT would be the most extreme example of when it would be standout, but it has to be very, very obvious.

A second example relates to the bidding:

Partner opens 1H and you hold

♠ AK4

♥ J862

♦ 984

♣ K98

The auction goes

West	North	East	you
	1H	P	3D!
Pass?		

You have close to an opening hand (albeit a very weak one), 4 card support for partner, but poor shape. You decide to show a limit raise via Bergen and that bid is 3D. Partner alerts the 3D bid and then starts thinking. After what seems like an eternity, partner eventually bids 3H signing off. Are you tempted to try 4H? Look at your points! You would open the bidding with most 11 counts, so you can use this excuse that you have an opening hand. What UI do you have from partner's hesitation? What were his alternatives? 3H or 4H. If you are going to "carefully avoid taking any advantage" you must PASS.

Same situation. Partner alerts 3D. This time the opponents ask and he says "6 to 9 points with 4 hearts" and bids 3H immediately. This time you have heard the wrong explanation, partner may have an automatic 4H bid opposite a limit raise, but again in avoiding taking advantage of the UI, you must PASS.

There are times when you could bid again, such as when you have no UI. Then you are free to do what you like no matter how silly it may be. So if partner explained the Bergen raise of 3D correctly and bid 3H straight away, do whatever you want, similarly, if there were no questions asked and partner bid 3H without hesitation again you at liberty to make any call at all.

Eva Berger



TIPS FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER

Overtricks Matter

You and partner bid to 4 Spades and successfully play the hand making 10 tricks. On checking the score later, you see you got only 33% on the board. How can that be?

You get your answer by checking the results which are available on our website. You may see that although all pairs were in the game, some declarers managed to make 11 tricks. Sometimes this is not your fault. Perhaps you were playing against superior defenders on that board, but sometimes you have missed an opportunity for a valuable overtrick. If that overtrick is there to be made, not making it can really hurt your score!

In the game of Matchpoint Duplicate or Pairs, the ruthless scoring really rewards **the overtrick!** Just one trick can make the difference between a below average score and a top board.

Let's look at an example
You hold a balanced 16 count, and open 1NT. Partner uses the Jacoby transfer convention. Popular, because it allows the 1NT opener to be declarer, thus protecting that hand on the opening lead.

The auction goes:

South	West	North	East
1NT	P	2♦	P
2♥	P	3♥	P
4♥	P	P	P

2♦ = transfer to Hearts, accepted by opener
3♥ = 6 Hearts; invitational to game in Hearts

West leads the 5Q.

Dummy
 ♠5
 ♥QJ8752
 ♦942
 ♣A53

Q♠

Me (South)
 ♠A973
 ♥K64
 ♦A3
 ♣KQ62

Before playing to trick 1, make your Plan.

- Count winners. We can count 10 **winners** after losing the trump Ace. These are 5 Hearts, 1 Spade, 1 Diamond and 3 Clubs. Enough for our contract.
- Even with enough tricks to claim our contract, we should also **count losers** when in a trump contract. Never overlook the possibility of the **overtrick**.
- Count your losers from the hand with the long trumps. In most cases that is Declarer's hand, but this time, due to the transfer, it's Dummy who has 6 trumps. One of the techniques we use to dispose of losers is trumping in the hand with shorter trumps
- So counting from the North hand, losers are **0** Spades, **0** Clubs, **1** trump and **2** Diamonds. Remember, extra tricks can be made by trumping with the short hand, but trumping with the long hand gains no extra tricks.

Continued >

5. Always draw trumps if there is nothing more important to do. But if you need to trump a loser, you often need to delay drawing trumps until that job is done.

And that is precisely the case with this hand.

Ten tricks is simple if you draw trumps right away, but we have an opportunity to make 11. We cannot avoid the trump loser but one of the diamond losers can be trumped in the dummy as so long as you don't hastily attempt to draw trumps..

Upon winning the first trick with the SA, cash your DA and give the opponents the Diamond trick they are always making. You are now void in diamonds and can trump your Diamond loser when you regain the lead. Making your contract with an overtrick! Well played!

So... **Don't be a loser, count your losers!**

Have fun and play the game

Lynley Jenkins



JUNE DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM

A hand I had recently in the SPBC all day Zeppelin Teams is interesting. Eva and I play transfers over 1C, so as South, after I opened 1C, Eva transferred to Spades and I ended up in 4S. The HJ was led which I took with the Ace, then finessed the Spade losing to the K. East cashed the HK, HQ, led another Heart which I trumped with the S8. It was overruffed, and I was down one. Even if I play SA and another, the S9 still makes for the defence. Deep finesse says I can make it.

North

♠ AQJT5

♥ T873

♦ T8

♣ J6

West

♠ 976

♥ J9

♦ QJ3

♣ 98542

East

♠ K4

♥ KQ65

♦ 96542

♣ Q3

South

♠ 832

♥ A42

♦ AK7

♣ AKT7

After the Heart lead, a double dummy declarer can see only 9 tricks since the trump finesse doesn't work. Somehow declarer must win 5 trump tricks.

Also declarer must keep East off lead until two Hearts are removed from the North hand.

Hence, duck the opening HJ, and win the second Heart.

Now win DA, then DK and lead D7 giving West the DQ and discarding a Heart in North.

West cannot lead back a Heart (has none left).

If the lead back is a Diamond, North discards another Heart and ruffs in South hand. If the lead back is a Club, South wins CA, plays CK then CT on which North discards last Heart.

East will ruff with S4 and play HK. But North can now ruff or overruff if West trumps in, and then take out the SK with the SA.

The trickiest lead back is a Spade. North must win with SA and East plays S4. Now the same procedure with the Clubs (CA, CK, CT discarding last Heart, and East wins with the SK). But too late for the HK, and North overruffs and removes the last trump(s) held by West.

Whew! Johnathon Sky

Our First Grand Slam



Only one entry in the bridge poetry competition. Thanks Julie.

I'm feeling bright
Slept well last night.
Arrived early to get a North/South
seat
Feel we are the pair to beat.
We are all seated waiting to begin
The room is noisy, what a din.
The Director is talking
But no one is listening.
Our boards and Bridgemate arrive
The noise is now more like a beehive.
Finally all is quiet and calm
My smile is meant to disarm.
The first board is played
A loss to us, I'm dismayed.
The next one sees us in game
Another loss to our immense shame.
We play our tenth board, we are a
third of the way
This is not shaping up to be our day.
My partner opens a strong two
I'm now thinking what do I do.
He is waiting for me, sweat on his
brow
If I get this wrong there will be a row.
The bidding goes back and forth
Landing in seven spades, for him
sitting north.

East leads the Ace of Hearts
Right now I wish I was playing
darts.
I must have made a mistake
The first trick they will surely
take.
No worries, partner has a void
Taking the trick, I'm overjoyed.
We make the grand slam, our first
I now have quite a thirst.
Wish we could have a drink to
make a toast
But we have to restrain our boast.
We do not win on the day
And many times I've felt like
giving bridge away.
But we will return for sure
Drawn by this game's magical
lure.
And for several times each week
Partner says we can do better -
what a cheek!

Julie Wicks March 2021

