



ISSUE 211 APRIL 2024

President's Report

It's been a very busy month at the club with the GNOT, farewells and in house competitions. Firstly, a big thank you to the Tuesday players and club members who got into the spirit of the Grand National Open Teams and competed over three weeks. 32 teams, an excellent turnout.

The Board has engaged Mobile Tech Support to manage the Information Technology at the club from the beginning of March. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Charlie Dacey who has been the Club IT manager since 2018. Charlie is a highly valued member of our band of volunteers who has kept pace with ever changing technology, even engaging AI to help. He is a problem solver of the highest level and has helped many club members over the years with their IT problems.

Marilyn Bidey very generously sponsored her farewell bridge competition, followed by drinks and nibbles. It was very ably organized by Alan and John. We wish her well in Daylesford, Victoria.

Please remember that your club is run by volunteers who give their time freely for the benefit of us all. Be kind to everyone in our community and enjoy your bridge.

Carolyn

60th Anniversary of GCBC

You may have already heard that we are in our 60th anniversary year. We've even added "60" to our banner above. Sixty years ago, this club opened its doors with 51 founding members and hasn't looked back. Throughout the year there will be a few events to celebrate this milestone culminating in a function in October. Details will be released closer to the time.

Change of Mailing Address

The club has changed its mailing address. Please note the following.

Gold Coast Bridge Club
PO Box 1625
Surfers Paradise Qld 4217

Beginners' Lessons

Dot continues to work her magic in attracting and then expertly teaching beginners to Bridge. The next six-week beginners' course starts on **Friday 26th April, 9am to 11am**. If you know of someone who can't wait to learn bridge so that they too can join in the fun and frustration this game provides, please contact our teacher, Dot Piddington on 0418887806 or email on dot.piddington@bigpond.com. Cost is \$85 including a textbook.

Please also note that Bijan Assaee will be conducting **free classes on Saturdays 6th and 13th April**. Class starts at 11am lasting approximately half an hour, the subject is Defence. All welcome.

A message from Lisa, the Librarian

I am hoping to entice more players to peruse our books. The library has been reorganised so that books are more easily located. One section is for beginners and intermediate players, the other section for more advanced players.

I propose to start a monthly review of books that are bursting with tips on how to play more effectively. Members are encouraged to help me with the reviews. Perhaps write a review of a borrowed book or, alternatively, let me know what feature(s) appealed to you. Please send reviews/comments to me at basilelisa1@gmail.com.

Here is a brief review of two books, both dealing with the opening lead. Being on opening lead is one advantage defenders have over declarer!

Mike Lawrence in his book, *Opening Leads*, clarifies, and talks about, what makes a good lead with various holdings. He challenges the player to listen for clues during the bidding, clues that can guide us to a winning lead. Chapter 16 on when should you lead a doubleton, Aces, Kings, Queens and Jacks against a suit contract is invaluable.

Barbara Seagram in her book, *25 Ways to become a Better Defender*, has a chapter on Leads, Signals and Discards. It's another must read.

Once again, we request if you have borrowed any library books that are past their return date, we would appreciate you returning these as soon as convenient. We do have GPS tracking on all our books, and we do know where they are. Ha-ha, just kidding, but don't tempt us!

Lisa

The Convention Menagerie II - Multi Two Opening Bid Complex..... by Frank Hymus

Caution! The following might be dangerous to your bridge health! For example, in the USA and Canada, such bids are forbidden except in the highest level of National Team Competition.

There is really only ONE bid that could be called "Multi" and that is the 2D opening. Several "standard" opening bids are condensed into a 2D starting bid. This frees other opening bids for other uses, the primary motive for the idea. More on that next month.

Here is the most common treatment of the 2D opening bid. Remember to Alert! It shows a "standard" weak two bid in either Hearts or Spades, OR a strong balanced hand of 20-21-22 HCP. As usual, I suggest that your "Weak Two" consists of a decent six (not seven!) suit. Please not Jxxxxx! How do you now find the right place to play AND to distinguish the weak two bid from the strong balanced 20-21? Here is one way that is common, and I suggest that club players use it before branching out to other ideas. Responder now bids:

2H ^(alert). "Pass or Correct". If you have a weak two in H, pass. If you have a weak two in S, bid 2S. Responder typically have less than 14 points and no great potential major suit fit, and no reasonable chance for game opposite a "weak two". Of course, if opener bids 2NT instead, she has the strong balanced hand, and responder proceeds just as after a "standard" 2NT opening bid -Stayman, Transfers and so on.

2NT ^(alert). This shows a hand with at least the possibility of a game opposite the right "weak two". A good fit in one or both major suits, and typically 15+ points. It is artificial and forcing! Opener should then show her long major suit. Of course, if opener has the strong balanced hand, you have at least a small slam, so go from there. There are a series of opener rebids more complex than this, distinguishing a "good" weak two from a "poor" weak two, but I suggest you start here. Better to keep it simple to start with and branch out when you have some experience.

Any other bid at the three level. By an un-passed hand this should be considered forcing, opener should raise, if possible, just as a new suit after any pre-emptive opening. It should not be a "rescue!" By a possible hand, OK you can rescue but with at least a seven-card suit. With a weak hand, just bid 2H and play partner's major at the two level. You aren't doubled yet!

Next month we will consider options for two level opening bids that have now been opened up, the real advantage of this Multi 2D Complex. Remember last month my first criteria for evaluating a convention was “Is it useful, allowing you to do things that standard would not allow?”

There is more to the basic first response as well, but that is at least another page. Let me know if you would like more on this, or if you would like me to discuss something different about other conventions. Till next month....

Frank

March Events Winners - Congratulations

Ken Nicholson Memorial Pairs

Section A

1st - Usher Zeng and Ann Liu

2nd - Carole McDonald and George Topfner

Section B

1st - John Stroop and Janice Stroop

2nd - David Lewis and Anne Zuscak



Thursday Red Point Pairs

Section A

1st - Frank Hymus and George Topfner

2nd - John Leach and Melanie Mills

Section B

1st - Judy Smith and Theo Armenis

2nd - Stella Jansen and Beverly Aird

Thursday Pairs under 50mps

1st - Caroline Barton and Shane Whiting

2nd - Stella Jansen and Beverly Aird

April Events

- ◆ **Monday 1st April. Easter All Day Red Point Teams.**
Sponsored by Rose and Bernie Nightingale Memorial Trust
- ◆ **Saturdays 6th & 13th April. Saturday Pairs.**
Sponsored by Connie Cassar.
- ◆ **Thursdays 11th & 18th April. Cecily Critchley Teams under 110mps.**
Sponsored by Lynley Jenkins.
- ◆ **Tuesdays 16th & 23rd April. Red Point Pairs.**
Sponsored by Professional Lending Solutions.

Promotions

Silver Life - Shayne Palfreyman

Silver National - Ruth Young

Bronze National - Lindell Day

State - Robyn Kronenberg

Regional - Jenny L Williams

Silver Local - Beverly Jarvis

Bronze Local - John Bunker

Club - Cathy Beatty

New Members - Welcome

Carol Wright

Milestone Birthdays

Quite a few of our members, who may be young at heart, are nonetheless approaching a significant chronological milestone. If you are soon to be 80 or 90 years old, please let us know so that we can

celebrate with you on or near your special day. The club will provide a cake and sing a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday especially for you.

April Birthdays

1st - Lydia Astill; 2nd - Marlene Millar; 5th - Rita Kahn; 7th - Leonie Harris; 8th - Margaret Pisko; 9th - Ming Gao; 12th - Val Holbrook; 13th - Sue Smith; 14th - Meredith Evans; 21st - Carol Harris, Lou Tillotson; 22nd - Deidre Clark, Lynne Sawyers, Doby Stepanek, Usher Zeng; 24th - Diana O'Ferrall, Anne Sandeman, Linda Stanton, Anita Thompson; 26th - Debbie Adams, Nik Radia; 27th - Jeff Wicks; 29th Lynne Rau, Lauren Somers.

ABF Youth Bridge

This is a great opportunity for our younger players to learn. It is online making it more accessible for those still at school or working. Registration opens early April. Get in early as space is limited.



Know Any Potential Young Bridge Players?
Opportunity for 14 - 24 year olds to learn Bridge - **FOR FREE!!**

Learn Bridge Online Young Player Course

Age Range: 14 - 24 years

Level: Beginner Course

Location: Online

Date: Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd
May 2024

Time: 7pm -Approx. 8pm AEST

Practice Sessions: Sunday 5th, 12th,
19th, 26th from 11am-12pm AEST

Course Teachers: Paul Marston &
Nevena Djurovic

Cost: **FREE**

Why Should Teens and Young Adults Learn Bridge?

- ✓ Academic Enrichment
- ✓ Socialise & Make Friends
- ✓ Enjoy Competition & Travel
- ✓ Connect with Family & Community
- ✓ Have FUN

About Our Course

Led by experienced Bridge teachers, Paul Marston and Nevena Djurovic, this course helps the next generation of bridge players master the important basics of the game. Players enjoy using their new skills playing with and against the other emerging young bridge talent before advancing to level 2. Spaces will be limited. Don't Miss Out!

Limited Places. Registrations Open Early April - www.abf.com.au

Got questions or want a notification email when registration opens just email - youthlessons@bridgelounge.online



A Bit of Humour - an oldie but a goodie

I'm giving up bridge, tonight's my last night
It's amen to Stayman, I give up the fight
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles
And I can't sleep at night for thinking of doubles
My cards are all rotten and I have forgotten
Who's played and what's trumps and what's gone on my right
So for now it's all over, I'm off to the back wood
I'm bidding goodbye to Gerber and Blackwood
I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain
I'm getting those bad cards again and again
So, I'm giving up bridge, tonight's a bad night

Declarer is horrid and nothing's going right
 My partner's a dope and I'm losing all hope
 And when s/he says "double" I know we're in trouble
 My points are not high and I'm wondering why
 S/he kept on bidding right up to the sky
 We're in seven spades and all my hopes fade
 When surprise, surprise, the high bidding pays!
 We're winning all tricks, the defenders feel sick
 And I must admit my partner's a brick
 But I'm giving up bridge, tonight's my last night
 Farewell to conventions, I give up the fight
 So I leave with few words but some that are true
 Bridge is a game. Not for me, but for you
 So be kind to your partners and don't mind their cheek
 For it's only a game, oh and yes ... I'LL SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

Happy Bridging
Julie Wicks

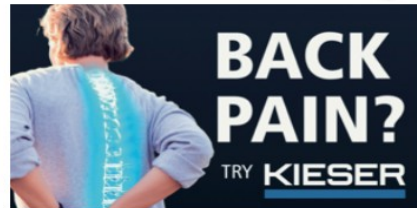
*Would you like to contribute to the newsletter? Please forward to the editor,
juliewicks@gmail.com, by the 25th of each month.*

Need a Partner: Use your Pianola account to request or find a partner or contact:

Mon - Sat Judy Fitzgerald.....0412 739 984
Thursday Night. Tom Strong.....0421 106 986

Welfare Officer: Cheryl Millar 0409 879 081

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MINOR SPONSORS

