

Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



July 2017

Vol. 4 No 7

President's Report

This has been a sad last four weeks with the loss of two of our much-liked members Catherine Weallans and John Craig. John was a regular at the Tuesday evening session and there is an obituary, a little later in this newsletter, from his very old friend and partner Richard Wallis. Catherine was an old friend of Arne's and mine from our long mutual years at Corinda Bridge Club. Catherine was a regular and very capable player who always played with quiet charm and courtesy and of course always spoke with that lovely Scottish lilt. They will both be missed and our thoughts and best wishes extend to their loved ones.

Condolences also to Margaret Bower, whose husband Vic passed away very recently. Your friends are thinking of you, Margaret, and we hope to see you back playing at the club soon.

A major event in our Club's calendar occurs at the end of this month - the BBC Graded Teams Congress which is on Sunday July 23rd. As I say every time, teams is a great form of our game, so please support the Club and get a team together. There is, as always, the request for kitchen helpers and food contributions so please talk to Chris or Janette, or add your name to the list if you are able to help.

Elaine

Chris's Administrator's Corner

Red Point Sessions

Our next red point sessions are Saturday - 5 & 12 August. To qualify for the overall, you need to play both weeks with the same partner. Members pay the usual table fees and visitors pay \$9.

Are You a Green Thumb?

Some members may have noticed that the trees around the property are slowly being trimmed. Since the trees have been

trimmed between the club building and the shed next to the croquet club, I have noticed that these gardens need some TLC. I am wondering if there is a member or two who would like to take on the task of cleaning up this part of the garden and perhaps planting some new plants. If interested, please speak with me.



Masterpoint Promotions

Congratulations to the following members who have received a masterpoint promotion.

- Sue Herbert – *State
- Pam Singley – *State
- Pat Burke – Regional
- Pat Mathews – Regional
- Marianna De Jongh – **Local
- Judith Hansen – **Local
- Annette White – **Local
- Christie Campbell – Local
- Helen Chatterton – Local

New Members

The Committee welcomes the following new members and wishes them a long and happy association with BBC.

- Bradley Clarke
- Con Hellen
- Gloria Newton

Vale

We remember the following members who have passed away over the last month

- John Craig
- Catherine Weallans

Chris Larter

Defensive Signals – Part 2 of 3

The following is taken from the Australia Bridge Federation Education Page.

There are three types of defensive signals used in bridge

- Attitude – we looked at this last month
- Count
- Suit Preference – we will look at this next month

2. Count

Sometimes it's better to show partner how many cards you hold, instead of liking a suit and/or wanting it continued.

This occurs mainly when declarer is playing their long suit.

Perhaps partner holds the ace and wants to break declarer's communications with dummy by winning their ace when, and only when, they know declarer will have no entries left to reach dummy.

There are two types of count ...

- Natural Count
- Reverse Count

Natural Count (usually used with high encourage)

- High-Low to show an even number of cards
- Low-High to show odd number of cards
- With 9853, you could play the 9 followed by the 3, to show an even number.
- With 983, you could play the 3 first, followed by the 9, to show an odd number.

Reverse Count (usually used with low encourage)

- Low-High to show an even number of cards
- High-Low to show odd number of cards
- With 9853, you could play the 3 followed by the 9, to show an even number.
- With 983, you could play the 9 first, followed by the 3, to show an odd number.

It's important to recognise when the situation calls for attitude or count.

Chris Larter

Vale – John Craig

It is a sad duty for me to report the passing of my long-time friend and bridge partner John Craig.

John and I have been members of BBC since not long after its opening at Baroona Rd in Milton.

John and I met in 1966 when we were in the same Civil Engineering class at UQ, and we have been friends ever since. After graduation, John had to spend 2 years in the army as a Nasho, and during this service was in a drawing office in Vietnam during the infamous war. It was during this time in the office in Vietnam that John believes he got the Pulmonary Fibrosis that

ultimately claimed his life on Sunday 25th June.

After leaving the Army at the beginning of 1970 John joined the Coordinator General's Elite design group where we started to play bridge together during the lunch break, and extending to QCBC at Manning St. After my reading about it in a Bridge book, we quickly adopted Kaplan-Sheinwold, an American system developed by one of the top USA pairs in the 1960s. We still continued to play our version of this system until his untimely death.

He had many friends at BBC and will be sorely missed by them as well as his family.

Richard Wallis

Bridge Hand

Those of us who occasionally make a bridge partner out of our life partner know that mayhem, violence and death are never far from the front of our mind. In my very first Newsletter I related the story of the Bennetts and for those who missed it I feel a re-visit is worthwhile as a lesson to us all.

In Kansas City in 1931 at the home of the Bennetts possibly the most famous hand in bridge history was dealt. The hand itself was unremarkable but the outcome was tragic and unforgettable. The Bennetts were playing host to their friends the Hoffmans in their regular social game of bridge and the following hand was dealt:

Game All; Dealer South

♠ A 10 6 3
♥ 10 8 5
♦ 4
♣ A 9 8 7 2

♠ Q 7 2
♥ A J 3
♦ A Q 10 9 2
♣ J 6

♠ 4
♥ Q 9 4
♦ K J 7 6 3
♣ Q 7 5 3

♠ K J 9 8 5
♥ K 7 6 2
♦ 8 5
♣ K 10

Mr. Bennett, perhaps rashly, opened the South hand 1 Spade and soon found himself in the optimistic contract of 4 Spades. Mr. Hoffman, West, began with the Ace of

diamonds. A diamond continuation is best, weakening the hand with the long side suit, but Mr. Hoffman switched to the Jack of clubs. The contract can now be made double dummy (three rounds of trumps picking up the Queen, then Ace and nine of clubs), but Mr. Bennett finished two down.

A couple down in a social bridge game should not be dramatic, but Mrs. Bennett observed that 'that sure was a bum play' followed by a furious row which culminated in Mr. Bennett reaching across the table and slapping his wife several times. After Mrs. Bennett repeated over and over that 'only a bum would hit a woman', Mr. Bennett declared that he would spend the night elsewhere and went to his den to pack his bags. Mrs. Bennett appeared waving the family revolver and Mr. Bennett ran to the bathroom and locked the door. Firing twice through the door Mr. Bennett was wounded fatally.

At the trial Eli Culbertson (the most famous bridge player then, and possibly ever) subjected the jury to detailed analysis of the various possible lines of play, and finished his evidence with ... 'We have heard of lives depending on the play of a card. It is not often that we find this figure of speech to be literally true ... Mr. Bennett started to pull the adverse trumps. Here again he flirted with death, as people frequently do when they fail to make a plan either in the game of bridge or the game of life.'

Mrs. Bennett was acquitted on the charge of murder. Possibly the jury agreed that Mr. Bennett's line of play was unacceptable, but most likely the reason was given to the press by one of the jury ... 'She was only a woman, unused to guns. We reckoned that if she had really been trying to hit him she would have missed.'

Arne

A Few Useful Rules for the Bridge Table

If you focus on playing good bridge then good results will come. If you focus on trying to get good results then you won't play good bridge

It's not usually the first mistake that gives you a bad board, it's the second one. You often make the second mistake because you are still focusing on the first one. Don't let one mistake cause another!

When you are in bad contract, be an optimist. When you are in a good contract, be a pessimist

Support with Support!

The auction tells you what to lead, your hand has to persuade you otherwise

Don't get too fancy, just try to bid your longest suit...

Rule 1 when discarding — Do No Harm! (Do not give up a trick trying to signal).

Lead trumps against doubled part scores!

Better to clear up your agreements with a question (discussion) than with a zero

Awards

The **Kofi Annan Award** for tact, diplomacy, sweet temper and general laid-back tolerance goes to long-distance sailor, technophile and wit Keith Long. At a recent bridge session Keith managed to pick an argument with 13 of the visiting E/W's to his table. The one pair that he failed to argue with have complained to the Committee of discrimination and so after a quiet word with Keith he has assured me that the next time he plays this pair he will give them a seriously hard time.

It has been said that Keith could pick an argument with a fence post or the Archangel Gabriel, but I think that is a little extreme... Oh! maybe he could ... yes he probably could ... actually I'm sure he could.

The **Akira Kurosawa Award** for swatting virtuosity goes to grandmother, delightful bridge-player and cake-maker par excellence Hazel Lahey. She brandishes the fly swat with the speed and expertise of a samurai warrior and no insect is safe from her devastating onslaughts. Who needs window or door screens when Hazel is on duty, but just a warning – do not get in her way.

The **Sweeney Todd Award** for tonsorial overkill goes to the Terpsichorally gifted engineer, bridge expert and skinhead Richard Wallis. Members have recently been concerned at the state of Richard's hair – well no need to worry folks, it is not chemotherapy. Richard's wife bought him a gizmo to cut his own hair and he didn't read the instructions. He assures me that to complete the picture he will soon get the cobweb tattoo on his neck plus the large Doc Martens boots.

It is not well known that Richard is a serious rock n roller hence the reference to Terpsichore the Greek muse of dance. You can jive with him and do anything but do not step on his blue suede shoes, he regards that as worse than failing to count trumps.

And remember, as the Prince of Denmark said: 'There is a divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will'. But possibly he was talking about circumcision.

The **Volpone Award** for kitchen duties, above and beyond the call of duty, is won by Lesley Focks, who, every Tuesday morning, buries herself in the unremitting toil of dishwasher jankers. She requires very little supervision from the men who are present and appears to know, by and large, what she is doing. Thank you Lesley, you are Club treasure.

For those who, unlike Pauline Crowe and myself, are not experts in late Elizabethan, early Jacobean theatre, Volpone (the Fox) is a play by Ben Jonson.

So Fox ... Focks – get it? Too subtle? Oh try and keep up!

The **Medusa Award** for seriously intimidating glowering, goes to Joan Jacobi, who, after a perfectly innocent bid from my partner, gave a look to Graham that would have stopped four clocks and terrified Mephistopheles. Graham apologises for bidding your suit Joan and assures me that after two counseling sessions he has stopped shaking and feels that once again he can return to the bridge table.

Mind you Joan hasn't been the same since she played Claudius in the famous BBC production in the 1970's. Oh sorry ... that was Derek Jacobi.

The **Opponent of the Month Award** is won by Anne Bartholdt for her unfailing good-humour and happy smiling face.

The **Marco Polo Award** for the circumnavigation, on foot, of the Iberian Peninsular is won by the delightful globe-trotting Lesleigh Egan. Welcome back dear girl and please try to keep your partner in check!

Late News

A late award is now being offered:

The **FFS Award** goes to 'bad to the bone' Lynne Henley for her verbal assault on the near saintly editor of this newsletter. So much for keeping your partner in check Lesleigh!

A Few Words on Growing Older

As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two.

You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old.

My mother always used to say, 'The older you get, the better you get, unless you're a banana'.

The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom.

One of the good things about getting older is you find you're more interesting than most of the people you meet.

Growing older is not upsetting; being perceived as old is.

But I'm kind of comfortable with getting older because it's better than the other option, which is being dead. So I'll take getting older.

And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

Growing old is no more than a bad habit which a busy person has no time to form.

The minute you're born, you're getting older.

You know you're getting older when the candles cost more than the cake

Endgame

Did you hear about the new restaurant called Karma?
There is no menu. You get what you deserve.

Once my dog ate all my Scrabble tiles.
For days he kept leaving little messages round the house.

Did you hear about the dyslexic devil worshipper? He sold his soul to Santa.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

OK Sorry – that is enough.

If you want serious entertainment I will be happy to receive all contributions to this newsletter from members. Particularly I would like people to send in victims for the Awards section – I cannot keep picking on the same poor souls.

Please send all material for future newsletters to the **Editor, Arne Jonsberg**, via email at arnejuser2@bigpond.com, or contact Arne by phone at 3342-0105. Current and past newsletters available for viewing and download on BBC's web-site: www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org