

Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



September 2017

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President's Report

We have had good news, via Peter Burke, from the Council – they intend finally to sort out the on-going problems with the club roof. This has been a real headache for the Club with the worry of flooding in the premises every time there is a downpour. Hopefully the Council will be carrying out the necessary upgrades soon and then we can complete the floor renovations upstairs.

Congratulations to Peter Evans who is the latest Club member to become a Grand Master – much deserved Peter although I know that Kathleen helped you along the way.

As Chris outlines in his Admin Corner, next month we host our annual Novice Pairs Congress. These competitions are important to our Club for a number of reasons and I would ask all members with less than 100 master points to support this event. Red points are available and these events are always relaxed and enjoyable and of course our catering is legendary.

Remember that it will soon be the AGM so please give some thought to how you could make a positive contribution to the running of our very fine Club.

Elaine

Chris's Administrator's Corner

Red Point Sessions

Our next red point sessions are Fridays - 6 & 13 October. 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.

Beginner Lessons

- Friday afternoons, 2pm – 4pm, starting 20 October 2017

The lessons will go for 6 weeks (20 October – 24 November) and the cost of the course is \$65 per person. Flyers are available at the club front

door. For further information or to register, please speak with me.

Competitive Bidding Lessons (Bridge Basics 2)

- Wednesday evenings, 7.15pm – 9.15pm, starting 18 October 2017

The lessons will go for 8 weeks (18 October – 6 December) and the cost of the course is \$80 per person. Registration is required. There is a registration list on the blue notice board at the club. Eight people are required for these lessons to go ahead.

BBC Novice Pairs Congress

The BBC Novice Pairs Congress is coming up on Sunday 22 October. It is an all-day event from 9.30am to 4.30pm. I encourage all BBC members with under 100 masterpoints to enter and play in this congress.

To enter, there are pink entry forms available at the club or you can enter via the Events page of the BBC website.

Masterpoint Promotions

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

- Peter Evans – Grand
- William Grimes – **Local

- Leith Cameron – *Local
- Archie Smith – *Local
- Clive Carter – Local
- Barry Winning – Local
- David McCarthy – Graduate
- Catherine Miller – Graduate

New Members

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

- Nicola Godfrey
- Gill Phillipppo

Chris Larter

Director's Corner: Changes To The Bridge Laws

Quite extensive changes to the bridge laws came into effect on 1 August 2017. This is a very shortened precis of the main things players need to know:

1. There have been large changes to calls out of turn and lead restrictions. You need to listen closely to the director's explanation of what your options now are. If your left hand opponent doesn't accept your call, your partner is no longer initially barred from the auction. Partner may make any call, but your call is unauthorised information to them. This means partner cannot select a call suggested by the unauthorised information if there is a logical alternative worthy of serious consideration.

When the bidding gets to you again, if you make a "comparable call" to your call out of turn, then there is no further rectification and bidding proceeds normally. If you don't make a

comparable call, at worst partner will have to pass for one round only, and you may suffer lead restrictions if you end up defending.

With any lead restrictions, an opposition declarer can forbid the lead of any one suit not legally specified in the auction.

2. What is a "comparable call"?
 - A call with the same or a similar meaning to the withdrawn call
 - A call which defines a subset of possible meanings of the withdrawn call
 - A call with the same purpose as the withdrawn call

Let's take an example. Your left hand opponent passes and before partner can bid, you pass. Left hand opponent doesn't accept your pass. Under the old laws, you would have had to pass for the remainder of the auction. Now:

- Bidding reverts to partner who can make any legal call, but your pass is unauthorised information to them.
 - Let's say partner opens 1H and your right hand opponent passes.
 - You now bid 1NT. This is a comparable call – your 6-9 1NT response is a subset of “pass”. Bidding and play now proceed normally.
 - Instead of 1NT, you bid 1S. This is not a subset of “pass” – you can respond 1S with an opening hand or more. Your partner now must pass once at their next turn. If you end up defending, the first time partner gets on lead, declarer may forbid the lead of one suit you haven't mentioned in the legal auction. If you have only specified the spades, declarer can forbid one of either a club, diamond or a heart lead.
3. In making a claim, you now must show your hand. Under the old laws, play ceases upon a claim and, if there is any doubt about the claim, the director makes a ruling. There was no ability to “play on” except in the case of a defender who objects to their partner's claim. Now you can “play on” after a claim if all 4 players agree, and the result of the play on will stand. Note this is a silly thing to agree to if you are on the non-claiming side. Under the claim rules, the director would have had to give your side the benefit of any doubt, and your “play on” has now alerted the declarer to possible problems which they might now avoid.
 4. The board should remain correctly oriented at the centre of the table throughout the hand. The point of this law is to prevent cards going into the wrong pocket and so that everyone can clearly see the vulnerability and who is the dealer. Please try not to be overly officious with this law – be reasonable if the board is moved a couple of centimetres to make room for dummy or to help a visually impaired declarer.
 5. Dummy can now attempt to stop any player from committing an infraction (eg stop an opponent leading out of turn). Under the old laws, dummy could only try to stop declarer.
 6. If you realise you have given a wrong explanation about a bid or bids of partner's, you now no longer have to correct it immediately (though you can if you wish). However, you do have to correct it before a defender has made the opening lead.
 7. You can now touch your opponents' cards with their permission (explicit or implicit). Under the old laws, you could not do so except with the director's permission.
 8. You now are not obliged to draw attention to your non-established revoke. A revoke becomes established when you or partner lead to the next trick.

Peter Evans



Bridge Hand

North/South arrive in 4 Spades on the following hand. On the lead of the Jack of diamonds how do you guarantee 10 tricks against any E/W holding?

North

♠ A J 7 6

♥ 3 2

♦ A Q 7 6

♣ K 9 4

South

♠ K Q 10 9 8 5

♥ K J

♦ K

♣ 6 5 3 2

This is a simple problem that should not fool anyone, only a mental block would allow you to go off on this hand.

The opening lead is the Jack of Diamonds.

Simply win the King of diamonds, draw as many trumps as necessary ending on the table, then discard **two hearts** on the two good diamonds and eventually lead towards the King of clubs in dummy. If West has the Ace you make an overtrick, if East has the Ace you make your contract.

The only way to mangle this contract is to

discard clubs on the diamonds and then try to hold your club and heart losers to three tricks. It may be possible against certain E/W card holdings but discarding hearts guarantees your contract.

Full Deal:

North

♠ A J 7 6

♥ 3 2

♦ A Q 7 6

♣ K 9 4

West

♠ 2

♥ A Q 9 8

♦ J 10 9 8 5

♣ Q 10 8

East

♠ 4 3

♥ 10 7 6 5 4

♦ 4 3 2

♣ A J 7

South

♠ K Q 10 9 8 5

♥ K J

♦ K

♣ 6 5 3 2

Arne

Awards

Taking on the editorship of this newsletter several years ago my prime intention was to produce something that was informative and entertaining. I introduced the awards each month primarily as harmless fun – there was never any intention to be hurtful or malicious and even those people who have been subjected to my ‘Liverpool’ sledgehammer wit have always accepted it in the spirit with which it was intended – fun! I think the awards section

became popular to the point where ‘victims’ wore their awards as a badge of honour.

However very recently there have been complaints from certain souls who took great exception to awards offered, and whilst I view with bewildered incredulity the substance of their complaints, I fully respect their right to be unhappy with what they see as gratuitous, although harmless, comment on their behavior.

For this reason the awards section is discontinued and I will replace it with the **Abysmal Play of the Month** - No just joking, that would make me even less friends.

No more jokes or fun in this newsletter except for:

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made

babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

An Ode to Bridge

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.
I can't sleep at night for thinking of doubles.

My cards are all rotten
And I have forgotten
Who has played what and what is trump
Sitting for hours with a sore rump

So it's all over tonight - I'm off to the backwoods
I'm bidding goodbye to Gerber and Blackwoods.
I can't stand the hassle,
I can't stand the pain
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.

Another bad night Nothing's gone right.
My partner's a dope
I'm losing all hope.

When opponents say "double"
I know we're in trouble.

My points are not high,
and I'm wondering why
She kept on bidding right up to the sky.
We're in seven spades,
I doubt she makes
When surprise, surprise,
all tricks she takes

The defenders feel sick
My partner's really slick.
All of a sudden,
gone is my sorrow
And yes, I'll play again tomorrow!

Poem contributed, but not written, by Barbara

Heard at the Bridge Table

Even if you go down 5 tricks doubled, it should not be considered a complete failure. After all, you can always use it as an example of poor bidding by your partner.

A perfect partner is one that bids and plays perfectly and accepts that his partner does not.

It takes a good bridge player to readily admit

when he is wrong and even a better player to keep his mouth shut when he is right.

"If you are always making your contract, you are not bidding high enough."

"All the bridge tournaments I have participated in have 3 things in common – an optimistic beginning, a tough middle and a lousy end"

Count your losers and count your winners. If the total doesn't come to 13, count your cards.

A Bridge Expert is a person who can tell you more about the game than you really care to know.

Englishman: I use the ACOL System. I open 4-card Majors.

Irishman: I use the ALCOHOL System. I open anything and don't worry about it.

If you can't be kind to your partner, at least be vague.

Clever of you not to miscount the Spades, partner. What a pity you did not show the same advanced technique with the Diamonds."

We play forcing hesitations.

What do you call an eight card suit? Answer: Trumps.

Phobias

Phobias are defined as 'an extreme or irrational fear of something' and there are many fascinating ones.

Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia – The fear of long words.

Phobophobia – The fear of fear.

Philophobia – The fear of love.

Triskaidekaphobia – The fear of the number 13

Paraskevidekatriophobia – The fear of Friday the 13th

Taphophobia – The fear of being buried alive (affects Elaine)

Koumpounophobia – The fear of buttons.

Gelotophobia – The fear of being laughed at (unknown at BBC)

Gephyrophobia – Is not the fear of Bridge but the fear of bridges and the crossing of them.

Nomophobia is the fear of being without your mobile phone and allegedly affects 66% of the population and is the most common phobia in the world.

I have the exact opposite – I have a morbid fear of having my phone with me and being contactable – possibly this is Abnomophobia?

Endgame

Elaine is a grammar, punctuation and spelling Nazi and I suspect there may be other such annoying pedants in the Club. These are for you:

What's the difference between a cat and a comma? A: One has claws at the end of its paws, and the other is a pause at the ends of a clause.

"Knock knock." "Who's there?" "To." "To who?" "Actually, it's to *whom*."

Q: What do you call Santa's little helpers? A: Subordinate clauses

Q: What happened when the verb asked the noun to conjugate? A: The noun declined.

Never leave alphabet soup on the stove and then go out. It could spell disaster.

Q: What should you say to comfort a grammar Nazi? A: "There, their, they're."

I before e... except when you run a feisty heist on a weird beige foreign neighbour.

Sorry ... that's enough.

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