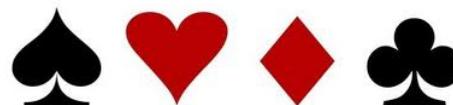


Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



January 2019

Vol. 6 No 1

President's Report

Happy New Year everyone and I hope that you all had a very enjoyable Xmas break.

It was the festive season, however the club was only closed for a couple of sessions.

So thanks to our directors, dealers and to Janette for keeping the catering supplies going. Our Administrator Chris had a well earned break but I know that he kept an eye on things to make sure the Club ran smoothly.

Over the next 12 months we will be hosting our usual congresses and have a number of red point sessions spread throughout the year. The

first of these is the Summer Teams event which will be held on 2nd and 9th February. I encourage members to attend this event as teams competition is good fun.

The Gold Coast Congress is on next month and has competitions for all levels of bridge ability. I encourage our rookie and novice members to enter as it really is good experience.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2019 and as always, happy bridging.

Peter Burke

Chris's Administrator's Corner

Membership Renewal

Thank you to all members who have paid their annual membership.

An email reminder has been sent to those members who have not paid. Please pay ASAP or visitor fees will apply when you next play at BBC.

If you are not renewing, please let me know via email, phone, or in person. This is so I can remove your name from the records.

New Members

Are you new to BBC?

Are you playing regularly at BBC but pay the visitor fee?

If you have answered yes to one of these, I strongly encourage you become a member. You can collect a membership form from the sideboard located outside the office or download the form from the contacts page on the club website.

Improver Lessons (Bridge Basics 2)

Bridge Basics 2 Lessons will be held on Saturday mornings, 9.30am – 11.30am on the following dates.

- 19 & 26 January – Pre-emptive Opening Bids
- 2 & 9 February – Overcalls & Advances
- 27 April & 4 May – Takeout Doubles & Advances
- 11 & 18 May – The Competitive Auction

There is a break between 9 February and 27 April due to other bridge events and beginner lessons at the club.

The Bridge Basics 2 lessons are suitable for players who have completed a Beginners Course in the last year or so and are looking for the next step.

The cost is \$8 per lesson and the book which goes with all the lessons is \$18.

Saturday Summer Teams (2 & 9 February, 1pm)

The Saturday Summer Teams will be held on 2 & 9 February starting at 1.00pm each day.

A team can consist of 4-6 players with 4 players playing each day. This allows teams to have a substitute if one or two players in the team cannot play both days.

If you need help finding another pair to form a team, please let me know ASAP.

This event is an opportunity for players to play teams in a club atmosphere. Some players use this event as practice for the teams at the Gold Coast Congress.

Entry slips are available on the blue noticeboard near the front door at the club or you can enter on the BBC events page

www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org/comingevents.asp

The cost each afternoon is a coupon or \$7 for members and \$9 for visitors.

Please note: The only play on 2 & 9 February will be the teams. NO normal duplicate pairs on 2 & 9 February.

Bridge at BBC during the Gold Coast Congress

BBC will be closed for the following sessions during the Gold Coast Congress ...

- Tuesday Morning – 19 February
- Tuesday Night – 19 February
- Thursday Morning – 21 February

We will be open for all other sessions.

There will be no guaranteed game if you turn up without a partner on ...

- Monday 18 February (as per usual)
- Wednesday 20 February
- Friday 22 February (as per usual)

The mini lesson prior to the 10am session on Friday 22 February will also be cancelled.

Beginner Lessons

Our first set of beginner lessons at BBC for 2019 will be held on Saturday mornings, 9.30am – 11.30am, 9 March – 13 April. Flyers are available near the front door at the club. If you know anyone interested, please ask them to register at the club via email bbridgecentre@bigpond.com or by phoning 3392 7933.

Masterpoint Promotions

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

- Ros Clark – **Local
- Jann Simmonds – Club
- Rob Swann – Club

Chris Larter



Gold Coast Congress Update 15 - 23 February 2019

BBC players, especially our Novice & Rookie players, are encouraged to travel south and play in at least one event at the Gold Coast Congress in February.

For our Novice and Rookie players, there are events for players with 0-10 masterpoints, 0-50 masterpoints & 0-100 masterpoints as of 30 September 2018.

Some of the Rookie events (0-10 & 0-50 masterpoints) are one session events. This means they are of a similar length of time to a normal game of bridge at the club.

For further information regarding the congress, including session times, you can visit <http://www.qldbridge.com.au/gcc> or speak to Chris at the club who will be happy to answer any questions.

Partners: If finding a partner or team mates is a problem, contact Toni Bardon who is the partnership coordinator for the GCC. Toni's details are tmbardon@hotmail.com or 0401 082 054.

Early Bird Rate: A reminder to all playing at the GCC that there is an Early Bird Price for all events except the Rookie, Under 50 Masterpoint and Walk-In Pairs. This Early Bird Prices applies if entry payment is received by 4 February 2019.

Coat/Shawl: The Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre has cold spots even if the outside temperature is over 30. A reminder to bring your coat/shawl with you. If anyone has spare shawls, pashminas or coats they are prepared to donate to the GCC, they would be most appreciated. If you happen to have accidentally taken home any borrowed from the GCC stock, they would love to have them back.

Timing Changes:

- Bobby Richman Pairs Championship (All Levels) on Saturday 16th February commences at 10.30am
- Weekend Swiss on Saturday 16th February commences at 3.00pm.
- Monday Butler Swiss on 18th February commences at 9.30am.

Additional Information: Under the Info tab www.qldbridge.com.au/gcc/info.php on the GGC website you will find the following:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- 0-50, Rookie and Novice Events
- Walk In Events Schedule
- Celebrity Speakers

BBC Dinner: One night during the GCC, some BBC members get together for a meal. The dinner will be happening again this year.

- Date & Time: Tuesday 19 February, 6.30pm (straight after play)
- New Location: Kurrawa Surf Club, 'Beachside' on Old Burleigh Road (end of Charles Ave, behind The Oasis Shopping Centre)
- RSVP: Lesleigh Egan

Slams

I played in the Gold Coast Teams - the first weekend congress of the Queensland calendar year. Our team triumphed due to getting on the right side of the (dodgy) slam bidding.

Dlr: E ♠ K95
 Vul: NS ♥ AK975
 ♦ A85
 ♣ 105

♠ Q1083
 ♥ 83
 ♦ J3
 ♣ AQJ76

♠ J42
 ♥ J1062
 ♦ 9
 ♣ 98432

♠ A76
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ KQ107642
 ♣ K

E	S (Me)	W	N
P	1D	P	1H
P	3D	P	4NT
P	5S	P	6D
P	P	P	

Only 2 of the 30 NS pairs found the slam here. The critical bid is the jump rebid of 3D by South. Normally you need 16+ points and a good six card suit. However, I've found with a seven card suit, you generally only need about 13+ points. Essentially the critical thing is that you think the hand has at least 7 tricks (6 diamonds and the ♠A).

Partner felt his hand with good controls and diamond support was enough to try for slam. Roman Keycard Blackwood from partner revealed we were missing one keycard and partner bid slam and fortunately there were no problems in clubs. In the event, I got a spade lead and I was able to discard the ♣K and a spade on the set up hearts and make all 13 tricks.

This was an unlucky EW slam that 10 out of the 30 pairs were in, including our opponents and our teammates:

Dlr: E ♠ -
 Vul: NS ♥ QJ72
 ♦ Q10962
 ♣ J752

♠ AJ86
 ♥ 864
 ♦ K5
 ♣ AK43

♠ Q532
 ♥ AK53
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ Q86

♠ K10974
 ♥ 109
 ♦ 8743
 ♣ 109

It is unlucky not just because of the 5-0 spade break, but because of the lack of texture in spades and the distribution of the high card points. If my partner and I had been bidding it, it would have gone:

E	S	W	N
1NT	P	2C	P
2H	P	2S	P
4S	P	4NT	P
5S	P	6S	P
P	P		

West's 2S bid is invitational strength or better and forcing for one round with 4 spades. East's jump to game shows a maximum (16-17) with spade support and is enough for West to check for aces and bid the slam.

The slam has no chance on the trump break but would be in trouble on a good break anyway due to the inevitable heart loser and the lack of texture in the spades making it hard to avoid a loser there as well.

Note that South is right not to double. For all South knows, 6NT might be making and the opponents might run there. Or the double might give the opponents a fatal hint as to how to handle trumps. Best to keep quiet and just let the contract go off.

This final slam was the decisive one in the last round. It was only bid at 7 of the 30 tables but fittingly in a battle between the eventual winners and 3rd place it was bid at both our tables. Sadly and ironically, I brought the slam home on an inferior line while our opponents went down at the other table. I suspect they might have been playing a better line than I but I really didn't want to ask.

Dlr: N ♠ K1052
 Vul: NS ♥ 9762
 ♦ AK975
 ♣ -

♠ Q974	♠ 63
♥ QJ	♥ 854
♦ Q106	♦ J832
♣ K654	♣ QJ103

♠ AJ8
 ♥ AK103
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A9872

N	E	S (Me)	W
1D	P	2C	P
2D	P	2H	P
4H	P	4NT	P
5D	P	6H	P
P	P		

I think partner's opening of his hand 1D is reasonable – a good 5 card diamond suit headed by the AK, good controls and one 10 and 2 nines. However, it is definitely pushy.

Partner's 2D bid over 2C in our system is very minimal (12-13) and possibly only 3 diamonds.

My 2C bid followed by the 2H set up a game force, showing the 5 club/4 heart shape. Partner's 4H is a subtle warning he really didn't like his hand that much – in a game force he could have bid 3H showing a stronger hand.

On basic evaluation, my South hand is 16 high card points and 3 for the singleton diamond. However, that singleton is in my partner's probable suit and hence not as valuable as 3 points would suggest. However again, our bidding system left in doubt as to how good those diamonds were in the North hand. The weaker the diamond suit, the more likely partner's points are working in suits helpful to me.

I decided my controls were very good and my heart suit excellent so I pressed on through the red lights.

After agonising, West lead ♠4. You can see his problem – he is leading away from something in every suit and likely to finesse himself in a 6 level contract and promptly did.

Assessing the hand, I dismissed trying to ruff clubs in dummy fairly quickly. You have to get back to hand 3 times either by drawing trumps you need to ruff with, spades which could be ruffed or diamond ruffs which are shortening your own trumps. Too dangerous.

It looked like I had an inevitable trump loser so couldn't afford to lose anything else. With ♠AKJ, ♦AK, ♣A and ♥AK in the bag for 8 tricks, I could get 4 more through little trump cross ruffs. However, an opposition master trump would win one of these tricks so I had to produce another from somewhere.

With 6 diamonds, the opposition diamonds are 4-3 65% of the time, so I could try to ruff the 5th diamond good. If this failed, I could fall back on the spade finesse. It looked like West held this card from the agony at the start and what happened on the first trick but my East

opponent was good enough to duck with the ♠Q.

So it looked like hope for a 3-2 trump break, try diamonds and if that didn't work fall back on the spade finesse. It's probably right to play the trumps first, but I fell back on the adage that you set your suit up before you draw trumps (to allow you to switch to a crossruff if things don't work) and played ♦AK and ruffed a diamond with pleasing results.

However, when I laid down the ♥A, the ♥J appeared from my left. There is a guide called "restricted choice". Basically if you are missing the QJ of trumps and one falls first round, mathematically it is twice as likely to be singleton than from QJ. I felt ill. I'd shortened my trumps with the diamond ruff (and hence now couldn't catch all 4 from my right) and used

up a critical entry to my hand for some sort of club/diamond cross ruff.

I had no choice now but to lay down the ♥K and hope. And dropped the ♥Q, made the slam and won the congress.

If I'd played ♥A at trick 2 and seen the ♥J, I might have tried a club/diamond cross ruff, fearing the twice as likely bad trump break. It needs ♦AK, ♣A, 2 spades, ♥AK, 3 club ruffs and 2 diamond ruffs. And needs East to have exactly 2 spades, 4 hearts, 3 diamonds and 4 clubs. And goes down on the actual 3-2 trump break.

Who said making a good plan at trick one wins at bridge?

Peter Evans

Heard at the Bridge Table

We can't all be full-time Bridge Players. There must be someone who has to work to support us.

Bridge players are like woodpeckers. They succeed by using their head.

During a Bridge tournament there are those who want to play on and those that are totally fed up and want to go home. The trouble is that they are always a partnership.

The inherent downside in looking for a new bridge partner is the possibility of that you might actually get one.

The purpose of Individual Tournaments is to remind you that there are partners who are worse than yours.

Losing a bridge partner can be hard. In my case, it was almost impossible

I somehow get the feeling that bridge would be more enjoyable if it had been played with a soccer ball.

Bridge players are OK; I just wouldn't want my sister to marry one.

Bridge is the Septic Tank of the intellectual.

Bidding is a rest period between arguments.

A measure of a person's mental stability is the degree to which they can play bridge as though it is just a game.

Asking a bridge player what he thinks about being criticized is like asking a lamppost how it feels about dogs.

How many Bridge players do you need to change a light bulb?

Four. One to change the bulb and 3 to tell him how he could have done it better.

Bridge is an addiction only curable by death.

Awards

The Janus Award for Flatulence Perspicacity goes to Lesleigh Egan, who may miss the occasional squeeze and end-play, but doesn't miss much else.

The W.H.Auden Award for stunning poetical talent is awarded to Peter Burke, who is to poetry what Kathleen Nagrodzki is to mixed martial arts.

Quickies

A man walks into a bar with a roll of bitumen under his arm and says: "Pint please, and one for the road."

I went to the doctors the other day and I said, 'Have you got anything for wind?' So he gave me a kite.

My mother-in-law fell down a wishing well, I was amazed, I never knew they worked.

I saw this bloke chatting up a cheetah; I thought, "He's trying to pull a fast one".

I went down the local supermarket, I said, "I want to make a complaint, this vinegar's got lumps in it", he said, "Those are pickled onions".

I backed a horse last week at ten to one. It came in at quarter past four.

Endgame

Please send all material for future newsletters to the **Editor, Arne Jonsberg**, via email at arneuser2@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