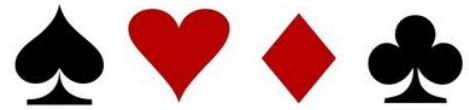


Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



June 2021

Vol. 8 No 6

President's Report

This has been a busy month with plenty to report. Firstly I give a huge thank you to Robyn Brady whose fantastic production of jams, marmalades and preserves has raised an amazing \$300, which has been donated by the Club, on Robyn's behalf, to the charity Young Care. So thank you Robyn and all those members who bought the jams etc.

Members will have noticed that there have been occasions recently when we have been desperate for Directors and even I have had to occasionally fill the gap – I know the computer system but I am not a Director! For this reason the Committee asks for volunteers to learn how to direct. Julie, a brilliant director herself, will conduct a course for potential directors – so come on have a go.

As reported in last month's newsletter I attended a presentation to celebrate the 2021 Community Benefits Grants which are given yearly by Club Southside. I would like to thank Julie Jeffries for her successful application and also to thank Club Southside for their fantastic support for a large number of deserving causes in south Brisbane. We will soon be receiving some new Bridgemates, partly courtesy of this grant.

The big Club event this month was the BBC Butler Pairs which was a huge success, and I have many people to thank for its smooth running. Firstly Tomas convened the event and he did it brilliantly, as well as being caddy, assisting Chris Snook, and keeping his eye on the

kitchen and sundry other things. Lynne Henley, Tomas and myself did the setting up upstairs, and the clean up at the end of the day was helped by Marie Buckley, David O'Gorman, Alan Aitcheson, Malcolm Corney, Bronwyn Turner, Julie Jeffries, Richard Fox and anyone else who, if I have forgotten them, I apologise. Arne and I helped in the clear-up and also came in next morning and put away all the tables and chairs. Jeanette was responsible for setting up the catering in the early morning – thank you Jeanette, and Marie and Bronwyn helped in the kitchen during the day. Last but not least, Arne Jonsberg and John Lahey spent the first hour and a bit outside, safe guarding the car park from the rugby players, and then had the temerity to come inside and gain second place in the A Grade. Thank you to all those people who helped to make it a great day. A big thank you of course goes to Chris Snook, our director, for running the day with his usual efficiency. These events rely heavily on our volunteers making everything happen, and would not be possible without them, so please consider lending a hand at our next occasion.

One last thing – we are looking for a member with a Ute or van (we no longer have one). We have some items at the club, including a couple of chairs and a table, that we would like taken to the dump. Any volunteers please? We will provide the dump vouchers.

Elaine

Tom's Administrators Corner

BBC Graded Teams (Sunday 25 July, 9:30am)

BBC's next congress is coming up on Sunday 25 July. The cost is \$120 per team (\$30 per player). The entry form is available at the club and on the QBA website; the entry link is available online via the BBC website. Entries close after Wednesday 21 July.

Please Note: We will also be looking for Spare Players for the Congress. Please email bbridgecentre@bigpond.com or phone 0450510196 if you can help out.

NO Green Point Teams & Rugby @ Souths

There will be NO green point teams session Saturday June 26. BBC will continue on with our normal Saturday session at 1pm. Please note that this is also a Souths Rugby game day so please arrive by 12:40 to ensure a parking spot.

Tuesday PM Winter Red Point Pairs (6 & 13 July, 7:15pm)

BBC's next red point session will be 6 & 13 July, 7:15pm start each evening. No prior entry is required. Everyone plays in the red point sessions. To qualify for the combined sessions overall placing result, you must play both weeks with the same partner. The cost will be a coupon for members and \$10 for visitors.

Beginner Lessons (3 July – 7 August)

Our next set of beginner lessons at BBC will be held on Saturday mornings, 9.30am – 11.30am, 3 July – 7 August. Flyers are available near the front door at the club and information is on the BBC website under 'Lessons'. The cost is \$70 for the 6 week course which includes a textbook. *If you know anyone interested, please ask them to register at the club via email or by phoning 3392 7933 and leaving their details.*

Cold & Flu Season Reminder

With the cooler weather around here is your reminder to get the flu vaccine. Even with no non-quarantined Covid cases in Brisbane, it is important to remember the following ...

- If you are sick, or have cold/flu symptoms please think twice before coming to bridge. We rather you get well than sharing your cold or the flu with others at the bridge table.
- If you do need to cough at the bridge table, please cough into a tissue, handkerchief or your shoulder. Do not cough into the playing cards or on your hands.
- It is recommended that people wait at least 14 days between a dose of seasonal flu vaccine and a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. The 14-day time frame is a precautionary measure to manage the common side effects that may come with many vaccinations.

Lost & Found

There are a number of items that have been left at the club recently. Please let me know if you have an item missing that you suspect may be left here or if you have found anything at the club. In particular we have unclaimed glasses, glasses cases and umbrellas.

Masterpoint Promotions

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

- Daniel Chua – Bronze Life
- Michelle Harris – Regional
- Bob Hearle – Regional
- Gaye Jackson – State

New Members

The Committee welcomes our new member Alan Hamilton, and wishes him a long and happy association with BBC.

Tomas Corney

BBC Graded Butler Pairs – Results

A Grade

1. Richard Ward & Tony Hutton
2. Arne Jonsberg & John Lahey
3. Barry & Agnes Kempthorne



A grade winners

B Grade

1. David Earnshaw & Daniel Chua
2. Justine Wlodarczyk & Kathleen Clifford
3. Sue Herbert & Cheryl Webster



B grade winners



A grade second place



Tom Corney, Chris Snook and the photo bomber

OPENING LEADS AGAINST SUIT CONTRACTS

The following suggestions are general and assume that the bidding does not point you to a different lead. If the opposition bid a suit, obviously that makes it much less likely that leading that suit will be a good idea. Also remember that most bridge rules are not set in concrete and need to be broken some of the time.

Intermediate or improving players tend to underestimate the value of making a safe or passive opening lead against a suit contract. Remember when you are defending a suit contract, the opposition usually has more high card points than you do. This increases the likelihood that you will finesse yourself (or partner) or otherwise give declarer a free trick on the opening lead. The problem becomes very acute when the opposition has far more high card points than you do. That is why much of the time a passive/safe lead against a suit contract is good.

Let's start with the leads that are usually **bad**, and usually should be avoided:

- (1) **Leading a singleton trump** (you often finesse your unfortunate partner),
- (2) **Leading a suit bid by the opposition,**
- (3) **Underleading an ace** (if declarer has a singleton K, you've just lost your trick)
- (4) **Leading an ace when you don't have the king.** This goes back to the fact that the opposition are much more likely than your partner to have the missing honours in the suit led. Aces were made to capture honours, particularly kings, not 2s. Look at the effect of leading an ace on these hands:

K65

A43 J1098

Q72

If you lead the ace here, declarer will make K and Q for 2 tricks. However, if you wait quietly for declarer or partner to lead the suit and

capture the queen under your ace, you hold declarer to 1 trick in the suit.

964

A1085

QJ72

K3

Here if you lead the ace, declarer will make his king. If you wait for declarer or partner to lead the suit, declarer won't make any tricks.

(5) **Doubleton honours such as Kx, Qx or Jx (unless partner has bid the suit).** Honours were meant to capture other honours, not to fall uselessly under higher honours. Declarer might also finesse incorrectly and allow your honour to make. Don't help him/her!

What about leads that are usually **good**:

- (1) **Leading partner's suit.**
- (2) **Leading a suit headed by AK or more top honours.**
- (3) **A suit headed by 3 or more cards in a solid sequence (eg KQJx, QJ109, J109).**
- (4) **A suit headed by 2 consecutive cards, and the next card in the sequence is missing by exactly one place (eg KQ109, QJ9, J108)**
- (5) **Leading a singleton.**

But what if you have none of the above? There is a 2011 book by David Bird and Taf Anthias called "Winning Suit Contract Leads". The authors have used computer simulations over 5000 hands to assess different leads in different situations. Their conclusions have turned the considered wisdom on its head in a number of situations. Here's some of their general conclusions:

- (1) **Prefer to lead a small card doubleton rather than a suit with just one honour.** (This harks back to not finessing yourself, as well as the chance for a ruff/s).
- (2) **Prefer to lead a suit with no honours rather than a suit with only one honour.**

(3) If you have to lead a suit with only one honour, prefer to lead away from a jack than a queen, and a queen than a king.

(4) Leading away from KJxx or KJ10x was generally worse than leading away from Kxxx.

(5) Leading an ace from AQ or AJ was generally bad (even when partner has bid the suit).

(6) Leading an ace where there were no other honours in the suit wasn't as bad as has been thought, particularly as a singleton or doubleton, or at matchpoints.

Peter Evans



This is one of a series of extremely useful talks that Peter has provided at a Zoom session at 10am on Saturday mornings. Anyone wishing to improve their bridge should join these sessions (send your email address to Peter to be included in the invitation). All previous lessons are available on the Club website.

Heard at the Bridge Table

Some people are so busy learning the various conventions and gadgets of the game, they never fully enjoy the game.

Winning does not really matter, as long as you win.

Don't let worries get you down - play Bridge instead

Bridge is like a hot bath. It feels good while you're in it, but the longer you stay in, the more wrinkles you get.

People shouldn't be allowed to use conventions they don't understand. It's not fair to the opponents.

If I work very hard at it, I may be able to achieve mediocrity.

I expect the worst in bridge and am rarely disappointed.

I know no one whom I would rather see in charge of the dummy.

There is a fine line between wanting to play bridge every day and mental illness.

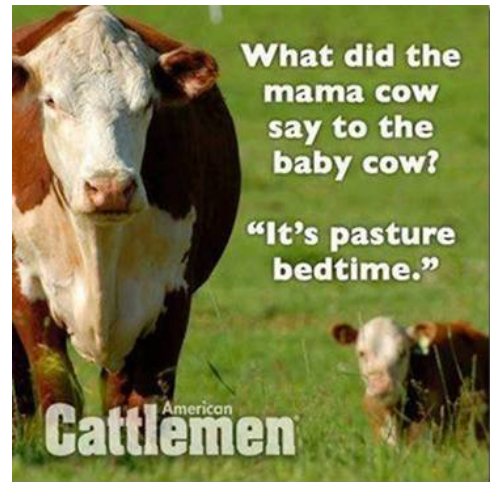
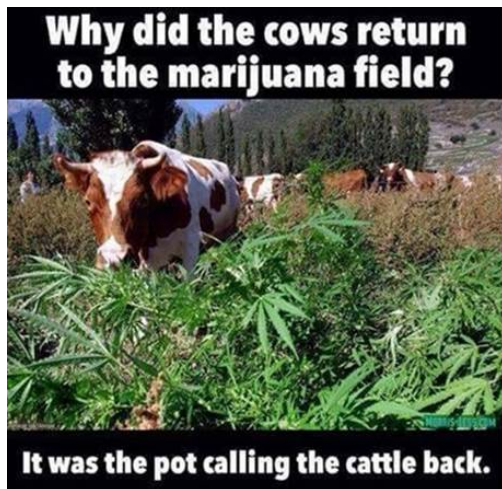
Through constant practice, I have become an expert loser.

Isn't it a shame how 99% of bridge players give the whole game a bad name.

Bridge Success is more attitude than aptitude.

Bridge is "just a game" unless of course when you win.

The Dave and Neil Section



Endgame

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