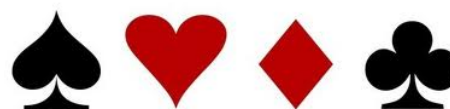


# Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



April 2021

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## President's Report

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of two of our valued members, Jill O'Malley-Jones and Bev Pouflis. Our sympathy and thoughts are with their families and friends. On a happier note, we had a very successful Easter Congress with attendance at the very limit of the Covid regulations. Full results will appear later in this newsletter but I would like to say thanks to Chris Larter and Julie Jeffries for their hard work in convening this Congress, and to also thank Chris Snook and Jo Neary for their brilliant directing. Many thanks also to all those members who helped with the setting up at the start, and for all those who helped with the significant clearing up at the end of Monday's team session. Can I remind everyone that we have another important Congress coming up soon – the BBC Graded Butler Pairs will be played on Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup> and I would ask all members to support the Club, play and win Red Points.

The previous Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup> we are holding the BBC GNOT heat – this is a teams event and not as intimidating as it sounds. It is also the way to get Gold Points, so get a team together and register.

On behalf of the committee and members I would like to offer congratulations to our valued director Peter Evans who has qualified as one of the Queensland Open Team in the 2021 Australian National Championships in Perth in

July. At risk of repeating myself I cannot recommend more highly Peter's Zoom lessons on Saturday mornings at 10am. If you want to improve your bridge these lessons are fantastic, and take up only 15 to 20 minutes of your time. We have supervised/relaxed play back and running at the Club on Thursday mornings at 9.30, Saturday afternoons starting 1.30pm and Tuesday evenings at 7.15pm. If you are a beginner or novice, or simply want to play a game where you can take your time, ask advice about how to bid or defend, or go over a hand you've just played and see what options were available, this is a great way to do it. If you weren't able to play during the Covid lockdown and feel a bit rusty, this is the way to blow away the cobwebs without the pressure of the clock. Please encourage anyone you know who is interested in playing again, or who just wants a gentle re-introduction to the game. You don't need a partner to play in these sessions.

We had a recent meeting with the City Council and the South's Rugby Club in an attempt to mitigate some of the parking chaos on Saturday game days. I will keep you in the picture regarding any progress, but in the meantime thanks to all those good souls who put up and man the barricades and allow us to park in an orderly manner.

Elaine

## Tom's Administrator's Corner

### **Saturday Green Point Teams (Saturday 24 April, 1pm)**

Our next Green Point Teams session is coming up soon on Saturday 24 April at 1pm. The aim of these afternoons is for players to experience teams in a friendly club atmosphere. Prior entry is required.

To enter, there is an entry list on the blue noticeboard near the front door at the club. Alternatively, you can enter via the BBC website or email the convener, Chris Larter. Entry can be as a team or a pair to be placed into a team.

*Note: There will be no normal pairs session on 24 April. The teams will be the only session.*

### **Tuesday Morning May Pairs (11 & 18 May, 9:30am)**

9.30am start each morning. No prior entry is required. Everyone plays in the red point sessions. To qualify for the combined sessions overall placing result, you need to play both weeks with the same partner. The cost will be a coupon for members and \$10 for visitors.

### **BBC GNOT Heat - Teams with Gold Points (Sunday 23 May, Whole Day Event)**

Please arrive by 9:15 for a 9:30am start. A team can consist of 4 – 6 players, with four players playing each session (morning & afternoon). Prior entry is required. You can enter on the BBC website events page or email the club. Due to Covid, there are no paper entries. Entries close Wednesday 19 May.

### **Rugby @ Souths + Bollards Volunteers**

The next Souths Rugby game is Saturday 1 May. Please make sure you arrive at the club by 12:40 to ensure you have a parking space.

Up until recently Arne Jonsberg has been coming in to the club at 7am each rugby day, putting out the bollards and tapes to ensure that members have secure parking for the Saturday sessions, and lately Chris Larter.

*We are still looking for volunteers to do this on an occasional basis. Please contact me or Elaine if you would be able to help out.*

### **Masterpoint Promotions**

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

- Robyn Brady – Regional
- Malcolm Corney – Local
- Sue Crennan – Regional
- Ian Gillespie – Graduate
- Bronwyn Turner – State

### **New Members**

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

- Helen Chamberlin
- Jan Frith
- Lyn Stern
- Jennifer Vickers

Tomas Corney

## Easter Congress Results



### A Grade Teams:

First: Neville Francis, Tim Runting, Patrick Bugler, Murray Perrin  
Second: Paul Roberts, John Scrivens, Gheorghii Belonogov, Ewa Kowalczyk  
Third: Terry Strong, Watson Zhou, Charlie Lu, Jill Magee

### B Grade Teams

First: Barbara Kent, Ross Murtagh, Margaret Plunkett, Greg Gosney  
Second: Barry Koster, Jeff Conroy, Sheila Wills, Robin Steinhardt  
Third: Winny Chan, Dewi Eastman, Trevor Dwerryhouse, Neil Strutton

### C Grade Teams

First: Rosemary Thompson, Annette Scott, Neil Hansen, Judith Hansen  
Second: Jane Tagney, Marge Henry, Philip Argyris, Rob Swann  
Third: Kathleen Clifford, Sue Herbert, Andrea Pappas, Speros Pappas

### A Grade Pairs

First: Larry Moses, Nikolas Moore  
Second: Watson Zhou, Charlie Lu  
Third: Paul Theim, Terry O'Dempsey

### B Grade Pairs

First: Barry Koster, Jeff Conroy  
Second: Sunil Mukherjee, Dennis Sullivan  
Third: Joan Jenkins, Jenny Williams

### C Grade Pairs

First: Unis Sulliman, Steven Parkes  
Second: Vanessa Brewis, Jenny McGowan  
Third: Sebastian Langdon MacMillan, Rachel Langdon

Congratulations to all BBC players who did well in the congress!

For a full list of results and hands, see the QBA website:

<http://www.qld.bridgeaustralia.org/resultslistbyheadevent.asp?umbid=263>

## An Unusual Hand:

Dlr: West

Vul: N-S

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| ♠ 8 4         |             |
| ♥ 8 5 4 3     |             |
| ♦ 5 2         |             |
| ♣ J 9 5 4 2   |             |
| ♠ 9 7 6 3     | ♠ Q 5       |
| ♥ Q J 10      | ♥ K 9 7 6 2 |
| ♦ 10 9        | ♦ Q J 7     |
| ♣ K Q 10 7    | ♣ A 8 6     |
| ♠ A K J 10 2  |             |
| ♥ A           |             |
| ♦ A K 8 6 4 3 |             |
| ♣ 3           |             |

At Friday morning bridge recently (9 April), the above hand appeared and the majority of the N-S pairs did not get to the optimum contract. At most tables the bidding would've started Pass, Pass, then a third-hand opening of 1♥ by East.

Now, what to do with this monster shapely South hand? The point count based on high cards alone is 19 points. But it is actually a much more valuable hand than that due to its shape, and based on the loser-count evaluation is a 3-loser hand. That is, it is a hand with enough playing strength to make game on its own!

I know that at several tables South started with an overcall of 1♠, West raised partner to 2♥, North passed (naturally), East passed, then South bid 3♦ or 4♦ and played there. This is very unfortunate since both 4♠ and 5♦ are there as makeable games.

One thing to take note of is that two-suited hands (5-5 or better shape) can often be quickly described with a single bid – the **Michael's Cuebid**. The most common way this is played is that:

- 1) After a minor-suit opening (e.g. 1♣ or 1♦), then a cuebid of that suit shows a hand with *both* majors (at least 5-5 or better);

- 2) After a major-suit opening (e.g. 1♥ or 1♠,) then a cuebid of that suit shows a hand with the *other* major and an unspecified minor.

For example, bidding 2♣ over an opening 1♣ bid, shows both ♠s and ♥s, and bidding 2♥ over an opening 1♥ bid shows ♠s (the other major) and an unspecified minor.

### What strength does a Michael's Cuebid show?

This is where most people don't fully understand the convention. It shows *either* of two types of hands:

- 1) A hand with less than opening strength; or
- 2) A very strong hand with 4 losers or fewer.

What does one do with a 2-suited hand with opening values but *not* a super-strong 4-loser hand? One simply overcalls in the higher-ranking suit, then later bids the lower-ranking suit at the lowest level. *Don't use Michael's in this situation.*

Most of the time when someone makes a Michael's Cuebid, they have hand type 1 (that is, less than opening strength), and having described their hand should not bid again unless asked to by partner. In the case where the Michael's bidder shows an unknown minor, partner with a strong hand can ask what the minor is by bidding 2NT. Most of the time, partner will bid the other major if that seems suitable, or with shortness in that major and tolerance for either minor, simply bid ♣ at the lowest level available, asking the Michael's bidder to pass or correct, depending on their minor.

On the rare occasion when one has the super-strong shapely hand (as in the South hand above), start with a Michael's Cuebid, and **then bid the other suit** (and keep bidding it as necessary). This bidding again, even when not invited to by partner, shows the strong hand, and is *forcing*.

Here, after a 1♥ opening by East, South should bid 2♥. If West passes, then North must bid (yes, even with only 1 point!), and here, given her holding in ♣s, would intuit that South's other suit is likely ♦s, so with a doubleton in both ♠s and ♦s would simply bid 2♠ as a preference (major suits are preferred and it keeps the bidding low). South with the very strong hand, should now bid 4♦, describing her great strength and asking partner to pick a game, either 4♠ or 5♦. Here North would bid 4♠.

After the 2♥ bid by South, many players holding the West hand with Q-J-10 in partner's suit and

5 nice other points might decide to raise to 3♥. Now, of course, North is off the hook for bidding and would pass, but when South now freely bids 4♦ (again absolutely forcing), then as above, North would correct to 4♠, trusting that partner pretty much has game in their own hand.

Of the 13 pairs that played this hand, only 4 reached a game while the others all languished in 3♦ or 4♦, which was a sad result.

**It's important to know how the Michael's Cuebid works!**

*John Kelly*

### Heard at the Bridge Table

I never forget the partners I play with, but in your case I will make an exception.

Be awfully nice to your partner when he makes a mistake because you're going to make some yourself.

If you really have to tell your partner his mistake, it costs nothing to be polite.

My partner is so stupid that he leads 4th best from a 3-card suit.

Partner : A person who took up bridge to make another person miserable.

Experience : A marvelous thing that enables you to recognise the same mistake you made the last time.

Partners, after a while, become like car alarms. They make a lot of noise no one listens to.

Bridge is 90% mental and 50% luck.

My finesses lose, I can't remember the cards, my bidding is terrible and no one wants to partner me anymore. Other than that, bridge is great.

Too many bridge players, not enough brains

Bridge is what is left when you run out of meaningful things to do.

The cure for boredom is bridge. There is no cure for bridge.

Having a good sense of humour is useless in bridge as the people you use it on are usually not in a very good mood.

## Some definitions from Neil

**BEAUTY PARLOR** - A place where women curl up and dye.

**CHICKENS** - The only animal you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

**COMMITTEE** - A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

**DUST** - Mud with the juice squeezed out.

**HANDKERCHIEF** - Cold Storage.

**INFLATION** - Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

**MOSQUITO** - An insect that makes you like flies better.

**RAISIN** - A grape with a sunburn.

**SECRET** - A story you tell to one person at a time.

**SKELETON** - A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

**TOOTHACHE** - The pain that drives you to extraction.

**YAWN** - An honest opinion openly expressed.

Now the final **Inta...lude**:

The amount of jokes about coronavirus has reached worrying numbers. Scientists claim we are in the middle of a pandemic.

I have a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare, But he chewed it a lot so I can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B.

I've told my suitcases that there will be no holiday this year. Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.

Masks are the new bra...they aren't comfortable, are only worn in public, noticed when NOT worn and now available in every colour, pattern and style.

## Endgame

Please send all material for future newsletters to the **Editor, Arne Jonsberg**, via email at [arneuser2@bigpond.com](mailto: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](http://www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org)