

Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



December 2022

Vol. 9 No 12

President's Report

In the recent Brisbane Inter Club Team Championships BBC acquitted itself very well and finished 2nd overall. The C grade team performed very well and won their division. The A Grade team also performed very well and came second. More about this event follows in an article from Richard.

In the also recent Australian Teams Knockout Championship our team from BBC won the Novice Division. Congratulations to Lilly Jia, Martin Wu, Vanessa Brewis, Jenny McGowan and Malcolm Corney. A fantastic effort. Well played.

Our club Xmas Party was held last Saturday and was a great success. The lunch was fabulous with a wide variety of goodies both savoury and sweet contributed by members on offer. A very big thank you to Elaine for organising the well stocked Xmas hampers. I was disappointed not to be lucky enough to win one. (Those who bought tickets on Friday, please rest assured that your tickets went into the draw).



Hamper winners John Kelly and Phyll Roxborough, consolation winner Archie Smith.

On behalf of the committee we want to wish all our members and their families a happy and safe Xmas. We also hope to see you all in the New Year and may the cards be kind to you.

Please consider supporting the club as often as you can, particularly our Tuesday and Wednesday and our new Thursday night sessions.

Peter Burke



Tom's Administrator's Corner

Club Email Change

Beginning in 2023 the BBC email address will be changing to bbridgecentre@gmail.com. Any emails sent to the old address of bbridgecentre@bigpond.com will be forwarded to this new address so you should not need to worry about changing the address in your email address book if you do not want to, just note that the reply will come from the new Gmail address.

Beginner Lessons

Our first set of 2023 Beginner Bridge Lessons will be held from 28 January to 11 March on Saturday mornings, 9:30am – 11:30am. The cost will be \$70 which includes the 6 week course and the Bridge Basics 1 Textbook. Flyers are available on the blue noticeboard near the front door at the club. If you know anyone interested, please ask them to register at the club via email bbridgecentre@gmail.com or by phoning 3392 7933.

2023 Membership Renewals

Thank you to all members who have promptly sent through their renewal fee for 2023, please note that the due date for this is 31 December. There are envelopes available at the club to put cash or cheque payments into the white annual

subscriptions box. Please write your name and ABF number on the envelope.

Christmas – New Year Period at BBC

There will be no changes to our regular sessions of bridge at BBC during the Christmas and New Year's period this year. Please also note that the Tuesday night session will be moving to Thursday nights beginning in the first week of 2023.

Masterpoint Promotions

Due to the ABF website troubles since our last publication, the masterpoint promotions from both September and October are listed below.

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

- Allie Hays – Local
- Lilly Jia – National
- Rob Swann – State

New Members

The Committee welcomes our new member Davis Zhang and wishes them a long and happy association with BBC.

Tomas Corney



Bridge hands from the 2022 Interclub Teams

This year I had the pleasure of playing in the Interclub Teams at Arana BC with Elaine Jonsberg, and our teammates were Peter Evans and John Kelly. We lost our first match, won the other 6, but not by a big enough score to win overall. QCBC won 5 out of 7 and won the A Grade comfortably. They also won the B Grade and narrowly missed out on the C Grade (won by BBC) so QCBC won the overall title from BBC by a big margin.

Representing BBC in B Grade were Peter Burke and Nannette Hinsch, playing with Judy and Neil Hansen, and the victorious team in the C Grade were Phillip Argyris and Rob Swan playing with Jenny McGowan and Malcolm Corney.

It was a fun day and Arana looked after us very well, except for the heavy rain after the presentations as we were trying to get to our cars for the journey home. I have included 2 hands from our match against QCBC which contributed to our 4 Imp win. This was small, but gave us important bragging rights.

M2, Bd 9

Dlr: N

Vul: EW

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

W	N	E	S
1D	P	P	1H
P	1NT	2D	3NT
//			

We were playing better Minor, and I opened 1D for tactical reasons as North, which kept East out of the bidding on the first round. He was able to bid the suit naturally on the second round, and Elaine had no hesitation in bidding 3NT.

East led the ♦10, which I won on the table and led the ♥6. Second hand low is instilled into beginners, and West duly played low and the defence was lost. East could set up his Diamonds, but West had none to play when he won the ♥A, so that was 9 tricks for +400.

At the other table NS got to the normal contract of 4H and this failed by 1 trick when Declarer did not have the advantage of looking at all of the hands.

Double-dummy Declarer can pull a small Spade from the table and if East plays the ♠Q later finesse the ♠J, or drop the ♠Q if East plays low. +400 and +50 was 10 imps to us.

M2, Bd 12

Dlr: W

Vul: NS

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

W	N	E	S
1C	1H	1NT	2S
2NT	3S	X	//

On board 12 I made a normal overcall of 1H and East bid 1NT to show a stopper and about 7-10 HCPs. Elaine had a reasonable suit and the

safety net of a doubleton Heart, so competed with 2S, which I raised to 3S, and East made a sporting double, left in by West.

West led the ♦K and Elaine played the ♦A to lead a trump, won by East who now led the ♦9, won by West who switched to the ♥K. This was won on the table with the ♥A and a Club was led.

East played low on the Club, but Elaine could win and lead another Club to set up a ruff, and thus made 9 tricks for +730.

At the other table North's 1H overcall was surprisingly passed out, and this went 1 off for another +100 and 13 Imps.

Maybe East was waiting for a take-out double and South was reluctant to bid 1S with only 2 Hearts, and of course, West has no other option but to pass when 1H was passed around to him.

Richard Wallis



Here is an interesting article by Larry Cohen that appeared on the BBO Team website recently. For those players, like myself, who try to avoid complex and obscure bidding systems and conventions, this is truly a breath of fresh air. For Elaine and Wolf it will be the noxious emanations of the sewage farm.

Conventions. How many are too many?

I can't believe I'm planning to write a book about conventions. I'm possibly the most anti-convention player/teacher/writer in the world.

In this article, I've excerpted and paraphrased (is it plagiarizing when you take from your own work?) some of what I plan to say in my Introduction to the book.

The "Big 4" (Blackwood, Jacoby Transfers, Negative Doubles and Stayman) need to be understood inside and out. But there are many conventions that should be avoided.

To succeed at bridge, you need to be good at logic and concentration. Avoiding dumb mistakes is the key to success. Conventions introduce the chance to really screw up the bidding. My estimate is that players make mistakes with new/complicated conventions more often than they use them properly. They don't know if the convention is on by a passed hand or when the opponents interfere. They haven't discussed all the variations and follow-ups.

Most of my students and readers don't like to study and memorize. Even in college with our sharper, younger brains, we didn't enjoy memorizing material to then spit it out on an exam, only to forget most of it two weeks later.

Unless you're trying to win major championships, bridge should be for fun. Sure, you want to do well, but memorizing dozens of conventions is not the formula. Less is more. If your head isn't clogged with artificiality and code, it is easier to focus on basics. Keep it really simple (knowing the necessary conventions thoroughly) and avoid the inverted spiral asks that come up once a year. It is much more important to know bidding basics and your partner's style than to work on fancy stuff.

How often have you had a 40% game and attributed it to the fact that you didn't have enough conventions? Was your 60% game because you played lots of conventions? Usually, 40% means lots of mistakes (and bad luck) and 60% means not many mistakes (and good luck). Did you ever finish second and lament the fact that if you had only

been playing reverse-caterpillar relays on Board 7, you would have finished first?

My friend and colleague Barbara Seagram wrote a very successful book: "25 Conventions You *Should* (emphasis mine—not hers) Know." I'd say that's about 15-20 too many.

For my Convention book, I'm focusing on the "Big 4" named above. I'll begrudgingly give the pros and cons of a few others and then a long list of conventions you can live without. In the introduction, I'll essentially be saying: "This is a book on conventions, and by the way, most of them are a bad idea." Possibly the most contrite book introduction ever written.

I know some of you just LOVE conventions. I hope you're not offended. Go ahead, have a ball, play as

many as you want (and think of me when you have accidents).

About the Author

Larry Cohen is widely regarded as one of the world's best bridge teachers and is as close to a household name as you can probably get in the world of bridge. He has been named ACBL Player of the Year, ACBL Honorary Member of the Year, 2020 Hall of Famer, and has won a total of 25 National Bridge Tournaments. He's also a regular contributor to bridge magazines and has written and produced many best-selling, award winning bridge books, cd's/computer software, videos and webinars. Find out more about Larry on his website, larryco.com

Heard at the Bridge Table



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

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

Q: Why do partners always have a stupid look on their faces?

A: Because they are...

The best way to get your partner to learn a new convention is to suggest he is too old for it.

With hesitations, body language cues and the familiarity of partner's style, bridge can never really be a totally fair game.

I thought I wanted a friendly, social game but it turns out I just wanted to abuse and be abused.

Too many bridge players, not enough brains

Bridge is 90% mental and 50% luck.

Bridge players must believe in luck. How else to explain the successes of those bridge players we don't like.

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.

It is always the best policy to admit your mistake, unless of course you are an exceptionally good liar.

When you are not doing well in a tournament, cheer up, the worst is yet to come.

Luck is what you have left after you have tried your very best.

He who stops being better stops being good

The way you have fun in Bridge is by winning.

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.

Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue.

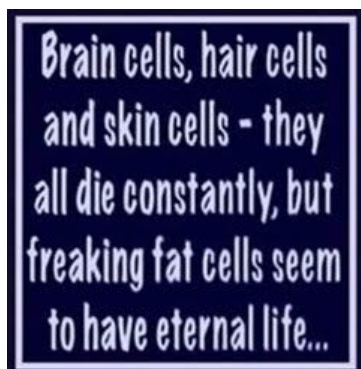
Brain - An apparatus with which we think we think.

I am not a bridge addict - I can go for hours and hours without touching any cards.

Money cannot make you a better Bridge player but it can sure buy you a better partner.

You have no control over what the other pair does. But you have control over what you do.

Dave's Funnies



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