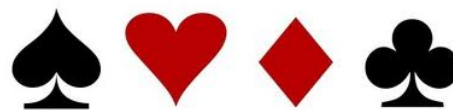


Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



January 2023

Vol. 10 No 1

President's Report

In a sad end to the year Blair Waters recently passed away. On behalf of the club I extend our condolences to his wife Jan and family.

I hope members enjoyed a fabulous Xmas and welcome to 2023.

We have a great program of bridge planned for the year. In addition to our usual Congresses we have a number of red point events spread across all our regular sessions. The first of these is the Red Points Teams event which will be held on Saturdays 28 January and 4 February. Please

form a team and come along as teams events are great fun.

It would be fantastic to see our table numbers pick up this year. In particular our Tuesday and Wednesday sessions could do with a boost in players. Also, could you please support our change from Tuesday night to Thursday night.

I wish all members a happy, healthy and enjoyable 2023 and may the cards be kind to you.

Peter Burke

Belated Congratulations

Belated congratulations are due to two of our members.

Peter Evans, playing with Tony Treloar, were the Best Metropolitan Pair in the GNOT Swiss Pairs

event held at QCBC in November of last year.

In the same month, Richard Wallis and partner John Gough won the Qld Senior Pairs held on the Sunshine Coast.

Tom's Administrator's Corner

Saturday Summer Teams – Red Points (28 January and 4 February, 1pm)

The Saturday Summer Teams will be held on 28 January and 4 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 door at the club or you can enter online here:

www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org/comingevents.asp

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

Please note: The only play on 28 January and 4 February will be the teams. There will be no normal duplicate pairs on these days.

Name Badges

I am currently taking another order for name badges. The cost is \$20 per badge, which includes the magnetic back. For those who have a name badge but have lost the magnetic back, you can buy a magnetic back for \$5. To order, there is a list on the blue noticeboard near the front door at the club. Alternatively, you can email your order to bbridgecentre@bigpond.com. Orders close Friday 3 February after the morning session.

Gold Coast Congress

The Gold Coast Congress will be held from Friday 17 to Saturday 25 February. All details of the event can be found on the MyABF website: www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/306

Novice players' note: The event has many sections including events for players with 0-10 masterpoints, 0-50 masterpoints & 0-100 masterpoints. A number of the Rookie events (0-10 & 0-50 masterpoints) are one-session events, meaning they are of a similar length of time to a normal game of bridge at the club.



Life at BBC during the Gold Coast Congress

The BBC will remain open during the Gold Coast Congress (February 17 to 25). In the unlikely event that there does turn out to be a change of schedules and we cannot hold a session, you will be notified via email and this will be noted on the BBC website.

Beginner Bridge Lessons (Saturdays January 28 – March 11, 9:30am – 11:30am)

The lovely Judith Bennett will be teaching BBC's first set of beginner lessons next year. These lessons will be held from Saturdays January 28 – March 11 2023. Please note that there will be no lesson on 18 February due to the Gold Coast Congress. The cost will be \$70 which includes the 6 lessons and textbook. Flyers are also available on the noticeboard at the club. If you know anyone who may be interested in these lessons, please spread the word. They can register by emailing the club.

Perfume & Cologne

As a kindness to other players, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne at the bridge club. Some members have allergies or reactions to scents which can include irritation of skin, breathing difficulties and/or sharp headaches.

Masterpoint Promotions

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

- Daniel Chua – Silver Life
- Jenny McGowan – Bronze State

Tomas Corney

Julie Clark working in the kitchen, looking fabulous in black and white

Counting Losers from Dummy and Ruffing a Long Suit Good.

This article is taken from our website. You can find many very helpful lessons there, under “Documents”, “Other”. Well worth a look! This particular lesson is by Peter Evans.

Dealer: W
Vul: All

	♠ A Q 10 8		
	♥ Q J		
	♦ 9		
	♣ A K J 6 5 2		
♠ 6 4 3		♠ 9	
♥ K 10 7 6		♥ A 4 2	
♦ A J 10 8 2		♦ K 6 5 3	
♣ Q		♣ 10 9 7 4 3	
	♠ K J 7 5 2		
	♥ 9 8 5 3		
	♦ Q 7 4		
	♣ 8		
W	N	E	S
P	1C	P	1S
X(1)	4S	P	P
P			

(1) Takeout double with red suits

4S by South. Opening lead Q♣ - you should assume that this is a singleton. What is the best line of play?

With suit contracts, your first step is to count losers. Normally you do this from your hand, though sometimes from dummy if dummy has the longest trumps. Dummy usually has the

longest trumps if there has been a transfer in the bidding.

However, when both hands have 4 or more trumps, you can count losers from either hand. In these situations, if I’m getting no joy from my own hand, I mentally go across to dummy and see if that helps. Usually the hand with the most points is the better hand to count losers from.

Counting losers from dummy on this hand points the way to a simple and elegant conclusion. Trumps have no losers, but there are 3 inescapable red suit losers – 2 hearts and a diamond. We can afford no losers in clubs. Can you bring the club suit home for no losers? Yes! Despite the 5 – 1 break, if you ruff 2 clubs high in your hand (to prevent an overruff) you can set up the sixth club.

Notice you can’t draw trumps first. Trumps are your entry back to the club suit. So:

1. Win the Q♣ with the A♣ and ruff a club with the K♠
2. Go back to dummy with the A♠ and ruff another club with the J♠
3. Go back to dummy with the Q♠ and draw another trump if you have to
4. Play the now running clubs and give up 3 red suit losers at the end

This line of play works if trumps are 2-2 or 3-1 (about a 90% chance). You can also handle a 4 – 0 trump break if West holds them (unlikely on this bidding). When you go back to dummy with the A♠, you will notice that East shows out. Next time you return to dummy in trumps you can finesse the 8♠ and avoid a trump loser at the end.

Rules were meant to be broken

A problem with bidding systems is that it is easy to get stuck on their rules, rather than the principle behind them. One principle would surely be to convey the strength of your hand to partner as quickly as possible, in the hope of leaving enough bidding room to find game, or even slam if you're lucky.

As you all know, my partner approaches bidding with a precision bordering on religious fervour, any deviation from which would demand 30 lashes of the birch branch before breakfast. And he would say "never open a no trump with two doubletons" ...yeah, nah.

What would you do with the following (fairly typical) hand? You are dealer, playing Standard American, and we assume no interference from the opposition:

♠ Kx ♥ AJ10x ♦ J10 ♣ AK10xx

The obvious concern with a 1NT opening is that you end the auction in 3NT, and the opposition rattle off tricks in either of those doubleton suits. But shouldn't you be looking for 3NT with a strong hand like this one – 16 HCP and three tens. So should I start by worrying, or rather seeking to tell partner I have a good hand, and open 1NT?

Nonetheless, the accepted wisdom in Standard is to open 1C, and see what partner does. Pass would be OK, but disappointing. If s/he says 1S, you're quids in. You reverse into 2H, and now you are on your way. Or if they say 1H, you can jump to 3H.

But sadly today, s/he says 1D. Well that helps because now you aren't afraid of a calamity in diamonds. But what next? 1H from you is fine, but that leaves partner to bid 1NT, meaning the weaker hand plays. Still you can at least encourage with 2NT and see if partner has enough for game. Equally, if partner responds

1S over your 1H, that is fourth suit forcing so you can have an agreement for the next step...perhaps a jump to 2NT in such circumstances? Not precise, but at least there seems to be a way forward.

What if we invert the majors:

♠ AJ10x ♥ Kx ♦ J10 ♣ AK10xx

Now you have no opportunity for a reverse, so it gets trickier to convey the strength of the hand. You open 1C as before, partner says 1H, now what. How about 1NT – wrong; or what about 2NT – wronger; or 3NT – my partner, the all-knowing bidding expert, would suggest that you dip something tender in boiling oil for ten minutes! I suppose you could do as before: 1C (you), 1H (them), 1S (you), 1NT (them), 2NT...? Again, the weaker hand plays the contract.

Of course, if partner also has four spades, you can make it to 4S if s/he has enough strength i.e. 1C (you), 1H (them), 1S (you), 2S/3S/4S as appropriate. But a 1NT opening allows partner to find the 4-4 fit through good ole Stayman, in such a case, and partner knows immediately whether to reach for game or not.

Trouble is, it all gets a bit furry when partner can't pick the strength of your hand, and that's a bit unfair on them.

On a different tack, what about:

♠ AJ ♥ AK9 ♦ QJxxxx ♣ xx

Would you really want to open 1D and jump to 3D, with the suit of four nothing cards headed by QJ? It might work, since partner can choose between diamonds and NT. But if partner overestimates the quality of your diamond suit, you might be going off in 5D. Also, if partner has nothing in one of the majors, s/he would be worried about 3NT? Again, it is a bit unfair on partner when they don't know the quality of

your hand. 1NT may not be perfect, but you could always escape into diamonds if partner has nothing.

As for other misdemeanours you might perpetrate, what about opening 1NT with 15-17 and a singleton? If it's the Ace, definitely. Indeed, a much admired grand master at our club says he would open with a singleton King, though if I did it, I think my partner might start heating up that oil!

I guess the moral is that it is easy to think of all the problems that may exist, perhaps overlooking the point that if you and partner have game-going values, then find a way to say so, and get to game.

As for how best to overcome these annoyances, I am afraid I remain befuddled in the B-grade while partner writes the definitive work on bidding systems.

Graham Baker

Heard at the Bridge Table

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

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

The difference between a fantastic bid and a stupid bid is largely a matter of result.

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

My partner and I have been partnering for 40 years ... out of spite.

"Do you think my game is improving?"
"Of course. You only go down 2 nowadays".

Politeness is not saying bad things about your partner until you are at least 50 metres away.

My Bridge partner ran off with my wife: and let me tell you, I really miss him.

My partner has a brain like Einstein's --- dead since 1955.

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

Bridge is the Septic Tank of the intellectual.

Bidding is a rest period between arguments.

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

I wouldn't partner anyone who would have me as his partner.

Half the game is mental; unfortunately the other half is mental too.

Dave's Funnies

**Interesting bit for English lovers -
Absolutely brilliant!**

Once Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Bengali poet and scholar, jokingly asked Michael Madhusudhan Dutt, an Anglophile poet of great repute; **"As you are a Master in English, can you make a sentence without using a single 'E'?"**

Dutt, the genius, wrote this:
"I doubt I can. It's a major part of many many words. Omitting it is as hard as making muffins without flour. It's as hard as spitting without saliva, napping without a pillow, driving a train without tracks, sailing to Russia without a boat, washing your hands without soap. And, anyway, what would I gain? An award? A cash bonus? Bragging rights? Why should I strain my brain? It's not worth it."

Absolutely brilliant!



FRIENDS OF IRONY

If I waited until I had all my ducks in a row, I'd never get across the street. Sometimes you just have to gather up what you've got and make a run for it.

— Judge Lynn Toler
@JudgeLynnToler | @JudgeLynnToler

**I made a huge
to do list for
today.
I just can't
figure out who's
going to do it.**

Good Morning Australia

Endgame

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