

Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



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President's Report

Hello friends, I hope that you are all well and surviving through these odd times. There are a few developments that suggest an imminent start back at the Club and I was hoping to give some definite information in this newsletter, but there remain a few obstacles to overcome. Julie Jeffries, in between running BBO sessions, is working very hard to ensure that our return happens as smoothly and quickly as possible. She has a firm grip on proceedings and is well prepared for the return to play. She will email all members with all the relevant information as soon as anything certain happens, so please keep an eye on your emails and remember to contact any of your friends without email of any developments.

Despite the fact that the Club has been closed there have been many things happening; an unscrupulous gardener illegally dumped a very large pile of garden refuse in our car-park and the Club had to pick up the substantial cost to have it removed. We have had some uninvited guests staying in the sheds and making a bit of a

mess, despite an offer of alternative accommodation from the Council. Again it was down to the Club to sort this out with police and Council assistance. The sheds are now secured and will remain boarded up until such time as Council can move ahead with renovations. Because of the incidents, and previous problems in the car park, we are now getting quotes to install CCTV, which will be in place as soon as possible.

The inside of the club looks great as we have had a big clean-up and removed any clutter and obsolete stuff. There are a few new packs of cards without barcodes, a few pictures, a mirror and a couple of baskets, which anyone is welcome to take when you are back at the club. I am so looking forward to all members coming back and enjoying our lovely environment.

There is one masterpoint promotion this month: Madonna Olm has gained the rank of Graduate. Congratulations Madonna!

Elaine



Bridge hand: Loser on Loser

We are all anxious to be thought better players than we perhaps are, so here is a good way to convince opponents that you are the bridge playing *grande fromage du monde*. Loser on loser play is always a guaranteed method of impressing your opposition and here are two examples:

Hand 1

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

South plays in 6 Hearts and receives the lead of the King of Diamonds. He would appear to have a certain losing spade and probably a losing club or two. After playing two top Clubs if he attempts to ruff a club with a low trump in dummy he will be over-ruffed by East. He can however ruff once with the Jack, return to hand with a spade, play a low club and instead of a

futile ruff he discards dummy's then lone spade. Dummy's hand can then ruff declarer's spade in safety.

Hand 2

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

South plays in 4 Spades and west leads his top three Hearts. If declarer ruffs the third round he will lose control of the trump suit on the probable 4-2 break. He should therefore discard a club loser in hand and dummy's trumps are able to cope with a heart continuation. There are many occasions when this good declarer technique can be demonstrated. The apparent corollary of this is the winner on loser, which is definitely not recommended.

Arne



Bridge during Covid

This Covid crisis has left many of us with lots of time on our hands and not much to do with it. Of course we could play Bridge – but the clubs are closed! There are a number of Internet facilities available.

Early on in the crisis Charles Page organized Duplicate Bridge games online using BBOL, and this has proved to be a boon to those isolated in their homes. In my mind this in no way takes the place of playing in the club, but it is a useful alternative. You can also play with your partner against Robots (at a cost), or my preference, with 3 other friends.

In one such game in late June, the importance of adjusting your thinking to the play of the hand came up. The bidding gives you an initial picture, but make adjustments to this picture as each card is played.

Take this hand as a defender:

♠ A 9 5 2
♥ x x x
♦ x x x
♣ K x x

Playing Standard, LHO opens 1H, to which RHO responds 2C, LHO rebids 2H, RHO 2NT and LHO

raises to 3NT and it is your lead! Nothing in the bidding would preclude a spade lead so you lead the ♠2 and dummy goes down as:

♠ J x x
♥ A Q 10 x x x
♦ A 10
♣ Q x

Dummy plays low and partner's ♠K wins trick 1 and they return the ♠3, to which declarer plays

the ♠10 and it is your play, and you should take stock of the new information that you have before deciding whether to win or duck.

RHO has a limited hand (9-11) and did not respond 1S, nor show 2-card support for LHO, so they probably do not have 4 spades or 2 hearts, but declarer still has the ♠Q, since partner's ♠K at trick 1 denies the ♠Q. Thus partner has a spade left if they win a heart or diamond trick – therefore duck at trick 2 to keep communications open. This will not defeat the contract, but will limit declarer to just 9 tricks instead of the 10 if you clear the spades, which is so important in a Pairs event. However, if you had the ♣A instead of the ♣K, you could win and return a low spade at trick 3 asking for a club return

Richard Wallis

*During the recent tidy-up of the club office after the renovations, this little list of **Don'ts** was found and I think it deserves a look.*

Don't:

- Touch your opponents' cards - Ever!
- Fold your cards until agreement is reached on the board's result.
- Touch Dummy's cards unless you clearly call 'arranging' or 'sorting.'
- Question a bid unless you are going to bid yourself.
- Hesitate blatantly and then Pass.
- Pull a card out from your hand until it is your turn to play.

- Belittle your partner or your opponents.
- Fill in your personal score sheet during the game.
- Attempt to mislead an opponent –
 - By means of a remark or gesture
 - Through haste or hesitancy of a call or play (as in hesitating before playing a singleton, or a card from a worthless doubleton), or by the manner in which the call or play is made.
- As dummy draw attention to an irregularity (eg a revoke by a defender). Dummy may do so after the play of the hand is concluded.
- Quiz your opponents when there is nothing to ask at this stage.
- Reach for a systems card and study it intensely after two rounds of bidding.
- Argue with the Tournament Director.
- Hesitate unless you are declarer.
- Touch a card until it is your turn to play.

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.

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

Bridge partners are like husbands -- they are fine as long as they are someone else's.

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

Bridge is something like photography, if you don't focus; all you have is the negative.

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

Bridge is the Septic Tank of the intellectual.

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

If winning isn't important, why does everyone look at the score?

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

Bridge is a chocolate substitute.

Since I started playing Bridge, I have more stress, weigh more, exercise less and care less.

Of course a loving wife is better than winning a Bridge tournament. But I'm not sure about 2 Bridge Tournaments.

When you are doing well, you are a good player. When they are doing well, they are lucky.

And finally a little gem from Graham:

A regular club player, known for his flamboyant bidding, goes off horribly in a misguided slam contract. Then on the very next hand, he opens wildly again. On seeing the look of alarm in his partner's raised eyebrow, he says " don't worry partner, every hand is different". To which the partner retorts "yes but your declarer play isn't!"

(I seem to remember you saying this to me, Graham)

An end-play squeeze



Endgame

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