

Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



November 2022

Vol. 9 No 11

President's Report

The Interclub Teams Championship is being held Sunday 20 November. Our club will field the following teams:

A Grade

Elaine Jonsberg, Richard Wallis, John Kelly and Peter Evans

B Grade

Peter Burke, Nanette Hinsch and Neil and Judith Hansen

C Grade

Malcolm Corney, Jenny McGowan, Rob Swann and Philip Argyris

I think it is very fitting that all six of our directors have been selected to represent the club in recognition of their contributions. We are very fortunate to have such a talented pool of directors at our disposal and most importantly they run the sessions in a very friendly and welcoming manner.

A date claimer. The club will be holding our Xmas Party Saturday 17 December. Come along and bring a plate of food to share for lunch which will be commencing at noon. Afterwards there will be a red points bridge session starting at the normal time of 1pm. Please support this event as we would love to see a large turnout of members.

As you are aware, Council are very supportive in maintaining and improving our club's facilities. Over the last few years Council has installed a new roof, installed disability toilets both upstairs and downstairs, restored our storage sheds and installed a new lift. These works have been carried out as capital works project by Council.

Another way of maintaining and improving our clubs facilities is through grant applications.

We recently applied for a grant from Councils Better Communities. This was to remove most of the old shade stands and benches and restore a couple as well. Also to remove the flagpoles except for one. Unfortunately, we were not successful and I have sought feedback from Council with a view to re-submitting our application for the next round of grants early next year.

Also next year the State Government will conduct a number of rounds of Sustainability Grants. It is our plan to submit an application for solar panels.

Having any work done for the club is made slightly more complex as we need to obtain permission from a couple of organisations.

Firstly, as lease holders we must get approval from Council by submitting an Application for

Works. Council as property owners take a keen interest in any planned changes.

Secondly, as the entire Yeronga Park including our club house and grounds are Heritage listed we must apply to the State Government Dept. of Environment and Science for an Exemption Certificate. They have to authorise any proposed changes. For those of you who have wondered why the old corrugated tin doors at the front of one of the sheds were kept this was stipulated as a Heritage requirement to maintain an old link.

The QBA is putting on free introductory bridge lessons for youth players during the summer holidays. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Finally congratulations are in order for three of our members who did brilliantly in the recent Sydney Spring Nationals. Lily Jia and her partner won the Restricted Pairs and Jenny McGowan and Vanessa Brewis won the Novice Pairs. Congratulations on an excellent performance.

Peter Burke

Tom's Administrator's Corner

Annual Membership Renewal

All members will receive their annual membership renewal notice in early December. The due date is 31 December 2022. The preferred payment method is internet/online direct deposit. If you are paying by cash, cheque or EFTPOS place the correct money or receipt in a sealed envelope with your details and drop the envelope in the white Annual Subscriptions Box outside the office. Please do not give money to the Director or ask the Director for change in order to pay your membership fees.

A reminder that the Concession price is available for members who have an Australian Pensioner Concession Card.

Christmas Party

The BBC Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 17 December. This is for all BBC members, not just those who usually play on Saturdays. The Christmas Party Lunch will commence at 12 noon in which we ask everyone to bring a plate of food to share. There will be a Christmas Hamper Draw on the day of the party; tickets can be purchased for \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5. Lunch will be followed by a red

point bridge session at 1 pm. Please come, enjoy a social afternoon and support your bridge club.

Members' Contact Details Update

The list of members' contact details will be on the blue noticeboard at the club for only a couple more weeks until the 2023 club diary will be sent to the printers. Please check the list to see that your details are correct and let me know if anything needs updating. Note, to any of our new players at BBC who plan to become members at the beginning of 2023, I would also like to include your phone details in the diary. Please either come and see me or write your details on the list at the club.

Air Conditioning

As we enter summer, a reminder that there are cool spots in the room when the air conditioners are on. The air conditioning is set at a temperature to cool the whole room. It is suggested, if you feel cold, that you bring a jacket along for the times you sit in a cool spot. There are also shawls available in the white cupboard near the kitchen for players to use.

The committee asks that players do not adjust the temperature or direction of the air-flow

themselves. If you have a problem, please advise the Administrator, Director or a Committee Member. Thank you.

Masterpoint Promotions

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

- Glenn Chapman – Graduate
- Carol Smith – Graduate

New Members

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

- Lynne Gray
- Peter Henley

Tomas Corney

From the QBA Website:

This is a continuation from last issue of an article that first appeared in two parts in the Sunshine Coast Tri-Club Newsletter "Bridge Matters" in March and June 2014. It has been modified for the QBA Bulletin.

What annoys bridge players – Part 2

In the last QBA Bulletin, I presented a list of things that annoy me at the bridge table. I was prepared to face some flak from members telling me to stop being a grumpy old man, but I have been overwhelmed by the number of people agreeing with me. Many players have also shared their own pet hates and I'm going to devote this column to listing some of these. Some of these are actually infractions under the laws.

Dummy perfection: Some dummies are overly fussy about neatness. When laying out dummy, they first place the four suits in four neat piles, so you can only see the top one of each, then they neatly move each card down, repositioning any cards on the way that are more than a micron out of line. Once done, they will fuss and move any column that is not completely square or equidistant from the others. During all this, the opponents are unable to make their assessment of dummy and have to wait for the show to finish. On the other hand, I guess I'm at the other extreme when it comes to laying out dummy. I'm sure

my partners despair when my 13 cards hit the deck in a very "casual" layout. Maybe this infuriates opponents who fall into the "fussy dummy" category.

Hogging the bridgmate: In my opinion, the correct way for the EW player to accept a result is to leave the Bridgmate on the table as they press the Accept button. That way, all four players can see the following screen showing the other results. Some EW players hold the Bridgmate up in such a way that no-one else can see the screen as they press Accept, and leave it there as they look at the other results before placing it back on the table.

People have also mentioned to me that they don't like it when that player reads all the results out. As well as creating problems when it's overheard at the next table, there are times when the opponents know they got a bad result and don't want to know the gory details. My advice – look at the result if you want, but say nothing – if the others want to know, they can look too.

General rudeness and impoliteness: This is something close to the hearts of many players. People complain how rude it is when pairs continue their post mortem of the previous hand and completely disregard the incoming players as they take their seats. People have also complained about general impoliteness they've encountered at the table – general

discourtesies, not helping to pass boards, not clearing rubbish from the table at the end of the session etc.

Opponents arguing with their partner is something else people hate and this can be unpleasant for others at the table. However I look at this philosophically - partnership disharmony can only worsen their results and improve your score, so my advice is to disregard it and look forward to some good boards coming your way.

Congratulating partner: The bridge etiquette books tell us it's polite to say "Well played, partner" after your partner makes a contract as declarer. I don't agree - silence is a wonderful thing. There's been times when I know my partner or I have mis-defended and it's only because of this that the contract makes. It's twisting the knife somewhat when an opponent congratulates their partner for their brilliant declarer play when it was not their good play but our bad play that let the contract make. I admit it can be difficult for newer players to notice when mis-defence has occurred – that's why I maintain that the best thing is to stay silent.

Matters of impropriety: Things like hesitating before playing a singleton; hesitating when playing in second seat to make declarer think you've got a missing honour; asking questions or making comments to mislead the opponents; making comments or doing other things to suggest something to partner; prolonging play unnecessarily (e.g. failing to claim when the outcome is obvious); asking questions for your partner's benefit – these all fall under Laws 73 and 74, and infractions can be subject to procedural penalties. These laws also deal with etiquette, so the Director has the power to penalise general rudeness and impoliteness by a score adjustment if they feel it is appropriate.

General handling of cards: At least one opponent must be present before cards are removed from the board. Touching another player's cards is also a no-no (except that Declarer can touch the cards in dummy). Both these requirements are regularly flaunted.

Detaching a card before it's your turn to play: This is a specific item mentioned in Law 74 and seems to irk a lot of people. Its poor form because you are telling your partner that whatever they or the next hand does, this is the card you are playing. It is specifically listed as an infraction in Law 74B3, and also constitutes Unauthorised Information under Law 16. It also falls under the category of Deception if your aim is to suggest to the opponent that you only have one card that can be played at that turn and in fact you don't.

Dummy playing without instructions from declarer: Dummy is just that – dummy. They cannot take any part in the play of the hand and can only do what declarer tells them to do. This means they shouldn't pick up a card and play it until declarer calls for it, and this even applies if there's a singleton on the table, or if Dummy thinks declarer's play is obvious e.g. ruffing or playing low under the ace. If the Director finds that Dummy suggested a play that wasn't what Declarer was going to do, they can award an adjusted score. I've seen occasions where dummy reaches for a trump expecting this to be Declarer's plan when Declarer may have thought the card they led was a winner, or worse, Dummy hovers over a discard when they know that Declarer has led a winner but Declarer may not have realised their lead was a winner and was planning to trump.

Quitting a trick then re-facing it in order to ask others to re-face their cards played: The laws allow a player to ask to see all cards played to the last trick until they have turned their card over. However once they've turned their card over, they can't turn it back and ask others to show their cards. If this happens to you, you are within your rights to politely refuse.

Semi-forcing natural 1C opening: Some players play a short club as part of an otherwise natural system, but partner may respond to 1C no matter what their point count is, admitting when challenged “I couldn’t leave opener in 1C – they might only have 2 clubs”. If this is your agreement then partner needs to alert the

response, explaining if asked that it may be as weak as zero points.

There’s probably many more pet hates that I’ve missed. Now that this article has reached a wider audience, I’m expecting to receive a barrage of suggestions!

Peter Busch

Melbourne Cup Lunch

This year we had a Melbourne Cup Lunch, sweep and best-dressed competition for the first time since Covid hit. Thanks to Nanette for organizing the sweeps, and to those players who contributed the delicious food. Here are a few pictures of the day.



Heard at the Bridge Table

The meek may inherit the earth but they won't win at Duplicate Bridge

The only void I have is in my head

When in doubt, bid one more time

Mr. Perfect Player is the only one qualified to criticise. They are not a member of this club

Winning forgives all errors

When your bridge ability speaks for itself, don't interrupt

You do not play bridge? What a sad old age you reserve for yourself!

Friendly people are seldom good bridge players

Tragedy is more instructive than triumph. There are more lessons to be drawn from it

If you think there's any chance of partner not understanding the bid – don't make it!

Do not ascribe to bad luck, the result of bad play

It's not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There are not enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones

Blind adherence to bridge maxims is a losing strategy

Madam, that second hesitation was certainly an overbid

The more often I encounter complicated artificial systems, the more strongly I feel about their futility

Dave Jayne's Funnies

I dialled a number and got the following recording:

"I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the Beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

A woman asks a man who is traveling with six children, "Are all these kids yours?"
The man replies, "No, I work in a condom factory and these are customer complaints".

A three-year-old boy was examining his testicles while taking a bath.
"Mom" he asked, "are these my brains?"
"Not yet," she replied...

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



Summer Bridge Lessons

If you like brainy challenges and games, you'll love bridge!
Come and learn the basics of the world's best mind sport.

Free lessons for ages 10-25



Monday 12 - Thursday 15 December
9:30am - 11:45am each day



Queensland Contract Bridge Club
67 Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba

Register your interest with Michael Gearing
m: 0419 733 930 e: michael.l.gearing@gmail.com