

# Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



September 2019

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## President's Report

My term as president is rapidly drawing to a close. I want to thank members for bestowing this honour on me and for the support I have received over the last two years. More will be said about the operations of the club when I present the President's Report at our AGM.

The AGM is a very important meeting for your club and will be held 21 September commencing at 11.45. Light lunch will be provided afterwards and followed by a red point session. I encourage members to attend.

We have a number of teams representing BBC at the GNOT Brisbane finals this coming weekend and I wish them well.

In other club bridge news, our most recent red point event held over the last two Wednesdays was won by Alan McKenna and Arne Jonsberg. Congratulations and well played.

Sunday afternoon 22 September we have a working bee scheduled. We aim to do a general tidy up and some basic maintenance to the building and surrounding grounds. If you could spare some time, it would be greatly appreciated.

We recently had some sad news in that Lorna Newnham passed away. Lorna was a founding member and past president of the club. When I first started playing bridge back in 2011, Lorna ran the supervised session on a Monday morning. Lorna's love and passion for the game was infectious. Lorna will be missed.

Peter Burke

## Chris's Administrator's Corner

### Annual General Meeting

The BBC Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday 21 September, 11.45am.**

This meeting is for all the membership, so everyone is encouraged to attend.

AGM information was sent via email earlier this month. Those without email should have by now a hard copy.

Following the AGM, there will be a light lunch. The 1pm session will be a red point session.

## Working Bee

The club will be holding a working bee on **Sunday 22 September, 2pm onwards**. The building and grounds are in the need of some attention and it has been a few years since the club held a working bee.

Jobs that require attention include:

- Cleaning
- Gardening
- Maintenance



A list of jobs is on the blue notice board near the front at the club.

Please bring any tools or equipment with you to carry out your task.

Remember to wear closed in footwear. If you are doing an outside task, please bring hat.

If you have any questions, please email the club or speak to me in person.

## Red Point Sessions

Our upcoming red point sessions are ...

- Saturday 21 September @ 1.00pm
- Friday Mornings 4 & 11 October @ 10.00am

To qualify for the Friday October overall, you need to play both weeks with the same partner. Members pay the usual \$7 or coupon and visitors pay \$9 per session.

## Beginner Lessons

Our next set of beginner lessons will be held on Saturday mornings, 9.30am – 11.30, starting 12 October for 6 weeks. This will be our last set of lessons for 2019.

The cost of the course is \$70 per person, which includes all the lessons + book and notes. Flyers are available at the front door to the club.

If you have anyone you know wishing to participate, please ask them to register by contacting the club via email or phone.

## BBC Novice Pairs Congress

The BBC Novice Pairs Congress is coming up on Sunday 20 October. It is an all-day event from 9.30am to approximately 4.30pm. I encourage all BBC members with under 100 masterpoints to enter and play in this congress.

To enter, there are entry forms available at the club or you can enter via the events page of the BBC website.

## Saturday 1pm Green Point Teams – 26 October

Our next Green Point Teams session is Saturday 26 October at 1pm.

The aim of these afternoons is for players to experience teams in a friendly club atmosphere.

***I encourage that you mix it up with each team having an experienced pair and a novice pair. This would provide a great mentoring experience to the novice pair in each team.***

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 club. You can enter either as a team or a pair to be placed into a team.

**NOTE: There will be no normal pairs session on 26 October. The teams will be the only play.**

## Friendly Reminders

Please remember to do the following at the end of the session before leaving.



- Pushing your chairs in
- Placing paper and rubbish (including crumbs & toothpicks) in the appropriate bins outside the kitchen
- Taking cups and glasses to the kitchen and placing them in the dishwasher
- Placing the pens along one side of the bidding pad holder

Leaving your table neat and tidy makes it inviting to the players sitting at the table at the next session.

### **Masterpoint Promotions**

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

- Richard Spelman – Life
- Kathy Males – \*National
- Gloria Newton – \*\*Local
- Barry Winning – \*\*Local
- Marjorie Jackson – Local
- Suzan Haynes – Club

### **New Member**

The Committee welcomes Allie Hays as a new member, and wishes her a long and happy association with BBC.

Chris Larter

### **Vale Lorna Newnham**

I have been friends with Lorna Newnham for many many years, and for all of that time she was a staunch supporter of the Brisbane Bridge Centre, and until her health started to wane, she was a regular player at our bridge sessions.

Until the tragic early death of her only daughter Tracey, also a staunch BBC supporter and Club Secretary, Team Newnham were a big part of the successful BBC operations week after week.

In the eighties we were moving from rented venue to rented venue, with no place to set down roots. Lorna started negotiating with the Brisbane Ladies Bowling Club to rent the top floor of their clubhouse adjacent to Souths Rugby Union Club at Annerley.

Just before these negotiations were completed, other club members saw a house for sale just down the road from the premises we were currently renting opposite Boggo Road Jail, and a Special General Meeting was called to decide on which option to proceed on. At the SGM it was decided to put an offer in for the house and the BLBC were notified of the decision. However, after the appropriate notices were posted, the local residents objected to the establishment of a Bridge Club in the house, and the Brisbane City Council vetoed the sale.

We subsequently moved to Souths Rugby League Club at West End, where we were very happy, and at one stage SRLC were thinking of building an extension to house our club on a permanent basis. Then out of the blue Lorna received a telephone call from the President of the BLBC who told her that the club had been losing money for months and were vacating their premises to be a co-tenant with the Mens Club a few kilometers away, and asked if BBC were interested in taking over their clubhouse. Of course we were, and we moved in towards the end of 1999 and have been there ever since. At our welcome BBQ, attended by the President and Secretary of the BLBC, the President told Lorna that since their new arrangement with the Mens Club, for the first time in years they have been making a profit each month.

After Tracey's death Lorna continued to work hard at making BBC a welcoming place for people to play bridge, being the occasional Club President and goodwill person, and this culminated in her being made a Life Member of BBC.

Lorna recently had her 95th birthday, and it was only this year that her failing health prevented her from regular games of bridge at the club. She was a great lady, a good friend and we will miss her.

Richard Wallis

## **Lorna Newnham – A Personal Memory**

Lorna was a force of nature and she will be sadly missed by her good friends at the Club. I had the privilege of being her last partner although she enjoyed many fruitful years in partnership with her good friends Audrey, Pam, Bill and Dawn, and of course, Tracey, before asking me one day if I would like a game with her.

Sitting across the table from Lorna was not for the faint-hearted, although my over-riding memories are of laughter and chaos. Lorna did not like to remain silent and an opening pass from Lorna often elicited the question from the opposition.... “does this mean Lorna has fewer than three points?” She was a very fine player, highly competitive, didn’t suffer fools, but was a generous, big-hearted person.

She had enormous affection for BBC and was instrumental (as Richard has outlined in his obituary) in creating both the clubroom and the atmosphere for which this Club is noted. Nothing could make her miss an AGM – she even absconded from hospital on one occasion to attend (Telling the nurse that she was going to get a cup of coffee. She didn’t mention that it would be at BBC!)

Even in her very latter years Lorna would not miss much, and pity the succession of Club treasurers who provided even the smallest ambiguity in their AGM financial statement. I was very fortunate to have had Lorna as a partner and friend, and I miss her.

Elaine Jonsberg

## **A Weighty Problem – from Alan McKenna**

A deck of cards weighs about 100 grams. If you had a separate deck of cards for every possible bridge deal, how much would all the decks weigh?

There are 54 octillion (27 zeros) possible bridge deals. If each one weighed 1 gram, they would weigh 54 sextillion (21 zeros) tonnes.

The earth weighs 6 sextillion tonnes, so if each deck weighs 100 grams then all the bridge deals would weigh 900 times as much as the earth.

*In an attempt to prove this, Alan would be grateful for the donation of any unwanted packs of cards.*

## Test Your Declarer Play

Here's a hand to test out your playing skills and highlight the value of spot cards and the need to keep a careful eye on them in key suits. Here are the hands:

♠ 5 2  
♥ A 7 4 3  
♦ Q J 8  
♣ Q T 6 2

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

You are South and the dealer and both you and your partner have stretched a bit in the bidding to be in the contract of 6♥ on the following aggressive sequence.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      |       |      | 1♥    |
| 1♠   | 2♠    | Pass | 6♥!   |

2♠ by your partner was a cue-raise showing ♥ support and 10+ points counting distribution and you have launched straight to slam.

Your LHO leads the K♠ and RHO plays the 9♠ (opponents play high encourage). Plan the play.

You can see that you have one ♣ loser (which can be discarded on the Q♦, after unblocking in that suit), and three ♠ losers. The hand would be an easy claimer if the trump suit divides 2-2, in which case, after conceding a ♠, your two additional ♠ losers could be safely ruffed in dummy. But it turns out after you win the opening lead with the A♠ and play K-Q of trumps from your hand, LHO annoyingly shows out. This leaves RHO with a ♥ ready to over ruff one of your hoped-for ruffing tricks. The bidding clearly marks RHO with at most a doubleton ♠. What to do? Over to you ... think before reading on.

### Solution

I hoped you noticed East's 9♠ on the opening lead and the now important 7♠ in your hand.

After playing just two rounds of trump, cash your two top ♦s and the A♣. Now cross to the A♥ in dummy, discard a ♣ on the Q♦ and lead a ♠. If East plays low (or shows out) insert the 7♠. After West takes the trick, she can't now lead a ♠ without giving both tricks to your A-J holding, and if she leads a ♦ without giving you a ruff and sluff (ruffing in dummy and sluffing your J♠), so the best West can do is lead a ♣. Given the bidding, however, you should play West for the K♣ and play the Q♣.

If East plays the 8♠ on the second lead of the suit, you should cover with the J. Again, you should be able to see that 7♠ proves to be a huge card! West cannot safely continue ♠s, and you know what to do if West switches to a low ♣.

Here's the whole hand:

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

[Hand courtesy of the great bridge teacher and writer, Eddie Kantar.]

John Kelly

## Heard at the Bridge Table

Bridge would be a much better game if only you didn't need a partner.

A card must be played the same day it is dealt.

My partner played very well today, except he was playing some game other than bridge.

Six No Trumps, good contract. Cold on three defensive errors.

I've tried relaxing at the bridge table, but I feel much more comfortable tense.

We play forcing hesitations.

You know you are in trouble when the first thing the opponents decide to do is draw trumps – and you're the declarer.

We had a partnership misunderstanding. My partner assumed I knew what I was doing.

I don't know what my problem is. Either I drink too much while I'm playing bridge or I play too much bridge while I'm drinking.

Your play was much better today, and so were your excuses.

## Awards

The **Ndabaningi Sithole Award** for unwarranted optimism goes to Graham Baker, who, due to the combination of little respect for the quality of the opposition and possession of 21 high card points, decided to double Richard Wallis and John Kelly in their contract of 4 Spades. Thirty seconds later he chalked up -790 against our names, and accepted the injunction that you need to pick your victims with great care.

The **Abel Muzorewa Award** for kicking a man when he was down goes to Richard Wallis, who, when making 10 tricks in the above 4 Spades contract, recommended to Graham that next time he doubled him in a game contract he should have a minimum of 22 points.

The **Foghorn Leghorn Award** is given to those members who continue to talk through the Directors pre-session announcements.

The **Rhinestone Cowboy Award** for sexy Western headgear is won by Wolf (Wild Bill) Stuthe.

## Puns

(Courtesy of Lynn Kelly)

My relationship with whisky is on the rocks.

Turning vegan would be a big missed steak.

I sued the airline for losing my luggage. I lost my case.

The last thing I need is a burial plot.

## Similar

(Courtesy of Inta Devine)

Why do shops have signs "Guide Dogs Only"? The dogs can't read and their owners are blind.

Why is there an expiry date on sour cream?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

One nice thing about egotists – they don't talk about other people.

*There will be a series of these witticisms over the next few Newsletters because I am a firm believer that you can play Bridge and still have a sense of humour.*

*In fact the way I often play it is essential.*

*Thanks to Lynn and Inta for your welcome contribution.*

## Thought for the Month

*The essentials for playing a good game of bridge are to be truthful, clearheaded, and considerate, prudent but not averse to taking a risk, and not to cry over spilt milk. And incidentally those are perhaps also the essentials for playing the more important game of life.*

Somerset Maugham

## Endgame

Please send all material for future newsletters to the **Editor, Arne Jonsberg**, via email at [arnejuser2@bigpond.com](mailto: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](http://www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org)