

Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



November 2025

Vol. 13 No 11

President's Report

A big thank you to all that helped make the under 500 and Rookie Congress a success. It was a good day until the storm hit.

And congratulations to all the winners.

Our club is in a sound financial position but we have been operating at a loss for the past two years. Your committee has decided that one of the fiscal responsible actions is, for the first time in fourteen years, to raise the table fees from \$7 to \$8. Commencing 1st January 2026.

There will be new coupons costing \$75 for a book of 10.

The new table fee for members will be:-

A new coupon, or an old coupon plus \$1 or \$8 cash.

The new table fees for non members will be \$9 or \$10 for a Red Point session.

We are continuing to run the Tuesday morning session as a relaxed supervised session for beginners and players with fewer than 30 masterpoints .

Richard Wallis has decided to no longer direct on Mondays. This session will be run in future by, Nanette, Peter Burke, Peter Evans or myself, or Marie in an emergency.

We thank Richard for his years of dedication to the Monday session. Richard will continue to direct the Thursday supervised session.

Neil

Hansen

Penny's Administrator Corner

Hello BBC members

New members

This month we welcomed one new member – Helen Hall.

As the Improver lessons are nearly at an end, these new players will be encouraged to join the club so it is hoped they will decide to become members.

BBC Under 500 and Novice Pairs

This all day event was held on Sunday 26th October. It was a very enjoyable day which ran very smoothly until an enormous storm hit, just as play was concluding.

Thank you to the organisers, especially Elaine, Julie Jeffries and the kitchen helpers, for a very well run event.

Tuesday Morning Supervised Play

The new Tuesday morning session for beginners and players with under 30 masterpoints is taking off slowly. These sessions are relaxed, supervised sessions and no partner is required. The club wants to encourage beginners and newer players to continue with their bridge without the pressure of a regular session. Sessions begin at 9.30am and finish at 12.30pm.

BBC Diary for 2026

The new club diary is almost ready to be sent to the printer. If there are any last minute changes to your contact details, please let us know as soon as possible so they may be included in the diary.

BBC Christmas Party – Saturday 13th December

Just a reminder that the Christmas party will be held at the club on 13th December. All club members are welcome to attend. Lunch will be followed by a regular session of bridge at 1pm with red points available.

Membership Renewals

Annual club membership renewals will become due from 31st December and renewal advices will be sent out early in December. For 2026, there is a small increase in the annual membership fees, due to increases in fees from the ABF and QBA.

2026 Fees –

Annual Home Membership \$83

Home Concession Membership \$69

Away Membership \$30

Away Concession Membership \$16

The club's preference for membership payment is to the club's bank account.

Alternatively, you may pay by Zeller Eftpos.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following who have recently been promoted –

Judith Bennett – Silver National

Happy bridging!

Penny Grace



Bridge Hand

I always thought that I held the record for the most failing finesses in one deal, but I think South in this hand may own the record.

South opened the bidding with 1C and without opposition interference ended in 3NT from South on the lead of the ♠6.

Dlr: South
Vul: N-S

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

South's sequence of losing finesses began when he played a low spade from dummy at the first trick and East's jack won. East returned a club and declarer played low. West took the ♣K (second finesse fail) and led a second spade. Dummy's queen lost to the king and West led another club. West took South's 10 with the jack (the fourth failing finesse) and returned a club to South's ace. South next led a heart to the jack losing to East's queen who then cashed a club for two down. Five finesses, five failures! Was South unlucky? – possibly.

Was South inept? – definitely.

See what happens if South limits his declarer play to one losing finesse. On the opening spade lead go up with the Ace, get back to hand with p'raps a diamond and finesse the heart Jack. East wins with the Queen but cannot profitably lead a spade. When South gets back in he will have a minimum of nine tricks to enjoy. I told you it was an easy game.

Arne

Here is a welcome contribution from May Waddell:

Bridge – What Can it do for you?

Bridge inherently provides an outstanding program for self- development – this is evidenced in the following ways:

1. Bridge is a challenge that constantly requires the player to use their imagination and reasoning powers, even though it is disguised as a game.
2. The rules and taboos of bridge are such that even the most unsociable and obstreperous must remain politely within the bounds or face being marginalized. This develops restraint and helps the individual learn to get along with those around them.
3. Each player is on their own even though they have a partner – they must make their own decisions. This develops self-reliance.
4. The bidding and play must take into account the holding and actions of partner across the table. This teaches and drills the player to consider the thoughts of others.
5. A player who plays or bids by impulse will discover, time after time, that have made an irrevocable error, and their thinking came too late. This teaches self-control.
6. Bridge is a relaxing hobby, the moment a person joins three others in combat around the table, they cannot feel lonely And all worries and troubles vanish.

Heard at the Bridge Table

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

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 of that you might actually get one.

I have often wanted to drown my troubles, but I can never get my partner to go swimming.

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

Taking advice from my bridge partner is like taking sailing lessons from the captain of the Titanic

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

Not everyone hates my Partner ... Only those who have partnered him.

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

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

Bridge is the Septic Tank of the intellectual.

Bidding is a rest period between arguments.

People are born to suffer. Even those that were initially free from suffering somehow end up playing bridge.

Bridge is easy. You only need to concentrate until a drop of blood forms on your forehead.

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

Bridge has kept more people sane than psychiatrists have.

My Bidding may be bad but at least I make up for it with my atrocious play.

Endgame

Please send all material for future newsletters to the **Editor, Arne Jonsberg**, via email at arnejuser2@bigpond.com, or contact Arne by phone on 0404 085 712. Current and past newsletters available on BBC's web-site: www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org