

Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



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President's Report

Last Sunday we had our highly productive working bee in preparation for our soon-to-be Easter Congress. Arne and I were joined by Les Egan and her husband Brian, Pat Tan, Clive Carter, Janet Leggo and Judith Milliner. This working bee was arranged by Les and for that I thank her. Thanks also to the above volunteers who all worked so hard to make the club spick and span. Several other people were unable to attend for various reasons and they assured me that they will contribute in other ways. Thanks to all.

As mentioned, the Easter Congress is nearly upon us, and this is the most important congress date in the BBC calendar. It is a popular and well-attended congress, and is important to our club both financially and in terms of club kudos and reputation. Needless to say the amount of work and angst required to successfully entertain 40 plus tables of bridge players for 2 days is considerable. So can I ask members to please consider contributing a few hours of help in the kitchens, to please contribute food for either day and to, above all, sign up to play. Support your club, have fun and get red points. We would also like volunteers to be on standby in case of any late withdrawals due to ill-health etc. Please contact Penny or Elaine if you will be available.

Our club championship, the Newnham Shield, was played last month. The number of pairs was

quite disappointing – only 6 tables in the open section, and 3 in the Under 300MP section. The day turned out to be serious headache for our lovely director, Jo Neary, for various reasons. We had quite a hectic time of trying to organize the day, and at one point decided to combine both sections in an all-day event with a separate award for the under 300MP players. All of those players were quite happy to play all day, and many were really disappointed when we reverted back to the separate half-day. So the committee have decided that it would be easier for the director and organisers if next year we have a single all-day event with 2 separate awards. It will also make Jo's life much easier (if she's recovered from this year and is willing to help out again!)

Jo also brought her delightful 12 year old granddaughter, Freya, who turned out to be a wonderful caddy.

Thank you to Jo and Freya.

The winners of the open section were John Kelly and Peter Evans. Due to a result being incorrectly entered during the session, the initial results showed a tie for first place with Malcolm Corney and Oliver Goodman (pictured). After the results were amended, Malcolm and Oliver shared second place with Barbara Kent and Ross Murtagh.

The winners of the Under 300MP section were Leith Cameron and Edwin Clarke, with Don

Weerheim and Neil Sadler second.
Congratulations to all.



Penny, our new administrator, is settling into her role at BBC during this hectic time - please introduce yourselves and make her welcome.

Thankyou to Tom Corney, who has been making himself available to answer various IT questions as we come to grips with all our software programs.

Could I please remind members to avoid coming to bridge sessions if you are unwell.

Elaine Jonsberg

Penny's Administrator's Corner

Hello BBC members

As advised in last month's newsletter, after several years with the Brisbane Bridge Centre, Tom Corney has taken up a full time position elsewhere and has handed the reins of Administrator over to me. They are big shoes to fill and I am on a learning curve. I reside on the Gold Coast and have been associated with the Gold Coast Bridge Club for the past ten years. At GCBC have been involved on the Board and as Membership Secretary.

I am looking forward to contributing to this Club which I have found to be a very friendly and sociable club with a very competent and hardworking committee. I will be in the office on a regular basis so please come and say hello.

BBC Easter Congress

Our Easter Congress is soon approaching on Sunday 20th April (pairs) and Monday 21st April (teams). The entry fee is \$40 per player (ie 40 MyABF bridge credits). Entry is via MyABF only. If you do not have a MyABF account or need help with your entry, please contact me. Please arrive no later than 9.15am on either day so play can commence on time.

We need volunteers on the Easter weekend to help with kitchen duties. Please put your name on the noticeboard if you are available to assist

with helping in the kitchen or providing a plate of food.

We also need players on standby so if you are not registered to play but could help out by being available to play if required, please let us know. There will be no regular duplicate session on Monday 21st due to the teams event.

BBC Graded Butler Pairs

The Graded Butler Pairs is coming up on Sunday 18th May. This will be an all day event commencing at 9.30am. The cost is \$40 per player (40 MyABF bridge credits), \$80 per pair (80 MyABF bridge credits).

Entry is via MyABF only. BYO lunch. For this event also, we need volunteers to help in the kitchen and/or bring food.

We also need standby players for this event to ensure smooth running on the day. Please let us know if you can help with this.

New Members

This month we welcomed Christine and Jim MacDonald to the Club and also returning member, Charles Page.

Masterpoints Promotion

Congratulations to Kath Armstrong: Club Master

Rugby at Souths

Just a reminder for those arriving by car on Saturdays when the Rugby is on to please arrive by 12.40pm to ensure you are able to park and bridge can start on time. The schedule of home

games is on the noticeboard inside the front door at the Club. On these days we would also encourage volunteers to assist with the barricades.

Penny Grace

Bridge Hands from the BBC Club Championship

The numbers that turned out for our annual club championship were disappointing this year. There were only 12 pairs in the Open and 6 in the under 300. There was a time when we had to hold the event upstairs because there were too many players. It surprises me that more wouldn't be interested in playing in a red point event at their own club, against people they know. In any event, all kudos to Elaine Jonsberg and Jo Neary for their hard work in putting the championship together, and to Jo for managing the very difficult task of running 2 separate events at once.

I think there are only about 9 gadgets which are essential to playing a strong game of bridge.

One is a concept which goes under various names including NEW MINOR FORCING and CHECKBACK. It would have helped our opponents on this board:

Match 2 BD: 10 Dir: E Vul: ALL

♠ J 7	
♥ 97632	
♦ KT	
♣ A983	
♠ KQ543	♠ AT9
♥ AQ8	♥ J
♦ 873	♦ AJ9642
♣ 42	♣ QJ7
♠ 862	
♥ KT54	
♦ Q5	
♣ KT65	

E	S	W	N
1♦	P	1♠	P
2♦	P	?	

You can see West's problem – in basic bridge 2♠ is a 6-10 6 card signoff and 3♠ is an 11-12 6 card invite. So, what on Earth do you do with an invite hand with only 5 spades? Or a game going hand with 5 spades for that matter?

The answer is NEW MINOR FORCING – you bid the other minor with 3♣. This says nothing about clubs but says you have 5 of your major and at least an invite hand. If partner has a minimal opening, they signoff in 3♠ (or 3♦ if they don't have 3 spades), and, if larger, they accept the invite with 4♠ (or 3NT if they don't have 3 spades).

On this hand, East, with 12 high card points plus 3 for the singleton ♥J, would accept the invite with 4♠. The contract makes due to the benign 2-2 diamond split, losing 2 clubs and a diamond. 3 out of 6 pairs either didn't reach the 4♠ game or bid the inferior 5♦ contract going one down.

The same concept is available if opener rebids 1NT:

1♣	1♠
1NT	?

2♠ is a 6 card 6-10 signoff

3♠ is a 6 card 11-12 invite

2♦ is again NEW MINOR FORCING, with 5 spades and at least an invite (11 total points) hand.

Another helpful little gadget (not essential though) is REVERSE SMITH'S ECHO. It's a gadget defenders use against NT contracts. When the opening lead is won by declarer and declarer plays another suit, a high low signal in this new suit says that the defender has a much better suit they want partner to switch to. Merely following up the line (low high) says I either want you to continue the suit of the opening lead or I have nothing better to suggest. This gadget was helpful for John and me on this deal:

Match 5 BD: 23 Dlr: S Vul: ALL

	♠ 8654		
	♥ K7		
	♦ J973		
	♣ Q74		
♠ KQ3		♠ J972	
♥ J84		♥ AQT32	
♦ A42		♦ T5	
♣ JT63		♣ 85	
	♠ AT		
	♥ 965		
	♦ KQ86		
	♣ AK92		
S	W	N	E
1NT (15-17)	P	P	P

From West, I led the ♣3 and watched declarer win ♣9 over partner's ♣8. Declarer led ♦K to my ♦A and John dropped the ♦10 which looked like a reverse asking for a switch. With declarer apparently holding ♣AK and working on diamonds, the needed switch was hearts or spades. I played a careful ♥J to unblock the suit and John ran 5 hearts to go with the ♦A and we held declarer to 7 tricks for a top as other tables didn't get the hearts running and declarer made 8 tricks.

Match 11 BD: 23 Dlr: S Vul: ALL

	♠ J42		
	♥ Q3		
	♦ 9		
	♣ AQJT942		
♠ K		♠ QT987	
♥ AKJ8		♥ 97542	
♦ AKJT65		♦ -	
♣ 63		♣ K75	
	♠ A653		
	♥ T6		
	♦ Q87432		
	♣ 8		
S	W	N	E
P	1♦	2♣	P
P	2♥	3♣	4♥
P	P	P	
	♦9 opening lead.		

I threw a club from dummy and ran the ♦9 lead round to my ♦J (South of course not playing his ♦Q and giving me a further free diamond trick). Given the bidding, the ♦9 had the horrible look of singleton about it and I correctly wondered if South could start ruffing clubs the other way, so I banged down the ♥AK and was glad to see the 2-2 break. Dummy's remaining 2 clubs were discarded on ♦AK and the ♠K knocked out the ♠A. The ♠J duly appeared making all dummy's spades good for 12 tricks and a shared top.

Match 9 BD: 15 Dlr: S Vul: NS

	♠ J93		
	♥ 96		
	♦ 9873		
	♣ KT43		
♠ T7		♠ A542	
♥ Q875		♥ AJ2	
♦ AKT2		♦ Q6	
♣ Q62		♣ J975	
	♠ KQ86		
	♥ KT43		
	♦ J54		
	♣ A8		

S	W	N	E
1♦	P	P	X
P	2♥	P	P
P			

My 2♥ bid in response to a takeout double shows about an invite hand value and John, with a minimum opening, left things there.

North led ♦9, which I ran around to my hand, scooping the ♦J in the process. I finessed the ♥J to South's ♥K. South played the ♣A and another club to her partner's ♣K. I was careful to throw ♣6 then ♣Q under this to give North the impression I had no more clubs and stop her giving South a club ruff.

I won the diamond return and cashed ♥A, noting that North had played ♥9 and ♥6 in hearts showing a doubleton. I used this information to finesse the ♥8 and pick up the ♥10. I later finessed the ♣9 and got a spade discard on the ♣J for 10 tricks and a top.

Non-vul against vul has long been called a licence to thrill. You can get away with all manner of naughty things and cause your opponents grief. This is what a knowledgeable opponent did to us on the last hand of the competition:

Match 11 BD: 25 Dir: N Vul: EW

♠ 85		
♥ A965		
♦ QJ876		
♣ T3		
♠ AKQT		♠ 7432
♥ Q4		♥ T3
♦ A		♦ K9542
♣ KJ9874		♣ AQ
	♠ J96	
	♥ KJ872	
	♦ T3	
	♣ 652	

N	E	S	W
P	P	P	1♣
P	1♠	2♥ (!)	4♠
P	P	P	

What a shocking overcall: 5 points, tatty 5 card suit and at the 2 level. And how beautifully it worked. It attracted the ♥A lead from North and another heart to the ♥K. While I got the rest of the tricks, 11 tricks was a poor result as the heart lead wasn't found at most tables and this allowed most declarers to discard hearts on the long clubs (and the ♦K) and make all 13 tricks. Could the 2♥ bid have been doubled? We can only take it 2 down (-300) on good defence (2 spades, 2 diamonds, 2 clubs and a diamond overruff with the ♥Q) and that doesn't make up for a vulnerable game.

Peter Evans

Heard at the Bridge Table

Bridge skill does not drop off with age, it's the drive and killer instinct ... and when a man isn't primed to kill he makes mistakes.

Good Bridge comes from experience, and a lot of that experience comes from bad Bridge.

I don't suffer from bridge addiction; I enjoy every minute of it.

Years ago there were only two acceptable excuses for not leading the suit your partner had opened; having no cards in the suit, and sudden death.

“Your play was not much better tonight, Partner, but your excuses certainly were.”

The correct way to make the contract will become obvious as soon as you have finished your play.

The more you practice, the luckier you get.

Most bridge players prefer consistency in their partners rather than brilliance.

Four hearts is a very good bid -- but on some other hand

When in doubt, put the opponents on lead. Why should you make the mistake?

Bad enough when the trumps are 4-1, but when the singleton trump gets a ruff, that's downright unfair.

Nowadays, all you need to open in the third and fourth seat is 13 cards

Bridge is played by four people. Making a mistake is yours to savour alone.

Nowadays, I don't think anyone opens diamonds to show diamonds anymore. We lost the club suit in the 1950s. Now diamonds are gone and hearts are sinking fast.

Since the average person's small supply of politeness must last a lifetime, he can't afford to waste much of it on bridge partners.

Bridge is essentially a social game, but unfortunately it attracts a large number of antisocial people.

I hate bridge players. They always seem to be having a better time than I am.

I go to bridge tournaments full of confidence... and then the game begins

The good thing about bridge is that you only need to be healthy above the neck.

Bridge advice is always given by people least qualified to do so and received by people most likely to ignore it.

All that was needed was a simple finesse. But nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

Endgame

Please send all material for future newsletters to the **Editor, Arne Jonsberg**, via email at arneuser2@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