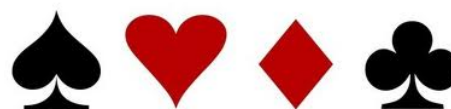


Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2021

Vol. 8 No 2

President's Report

Greetings to all friends and members. I hope that, like myself, you are enjoying the slow relaxation of the stresses of Covid, and are thankful that, unlike our friends and relatives overseas, we have escaped much of the misery of the pandemic.

BBC is slowly returning to normal thanks to the continued efforts of Julie Jeffries and the Committee, and table numbers are slowly returning to near normal. It is particularly good to see the Tuesday morning session regaining its support. We would like to see a few more tables on our only evening session on Tuesdays. As a Club we feel it is important to preserve this session for those members whose work commitments make daytime bridge difficult, but it has to be tenable – so please support if possible.

A condition of our tenancy agreement with Brisbane City Council is that we share our facilities with local groups and organisations. We sub-let to a church group, the Society for Creative Anachronism (Medieval Society) and the Shakespeare Society, which brings revenue to the Club and provides a service to the local community. A new group commences this week - Weightwatchers commence a tenancy agreement with the Club, which will be weekly meetings on Thursday afternoons.

We have luckily gained kind sponsorship support from St Lukes Green Retirement Village

at Woolloongabba (thanks to John Kelly) to pay for the printing of our coupons, and their advertising logo will be found on future club playing coupons. Please support this organization if possible, and I thank them for their sponsorship.

The Newnham Club Championship is being held on Saturday March 6th (see Tom's admin section for details). Please support this premier red point club event.

Bear in mind also that BBC will be hosting its major pairs and teams congress at Easter. Because there will be Covid-induced number restrictions it will pay to get in an early application once entries are opened, so keep your eyes on the Club website.

For those of you who are interested in improving all aspects of your game, I again encourage you to join in Peter Evans' Saturday morning Zoom lessons. They are always interesting and informative. If you can't get on line, they are posted on the club website under "Documents" then "Others". Peter's lessons commenced on 24th October 2020, but other mini lessons (which were given at the club on Friday mornings prior to Covid restrictions) are also available in the same area. All make good reading!

Elaine

Tom's Admin Corner

BBC Newnham Shield Club Pairs Championship (Red Points), Saturday 6 March

Our premier club event is coming up on the first Saturday of March. This event will be run with two grades.

- Open – 9.30am start (all day)
- Under 50 Masterpoints – 1pm start.

All players must be financial BBC members and have played at least 3 times in BBC session games in the past 3 months or may also be accepted at the discretion of the committee.

Please note that due to COVID-19 restrictions there could be limited numbers. The current total limit allowed in the room is 38 pairs (19 tables).

You can enter on the BBC website events page, or email the convener Chris Larter at c.larter@hotmail.com; there will be no paper entries this year. Entries will not be accepted until full entry fee for both players has been paid. Entries close Tuesday 2 March.

Note: The only play on Saturday 6 March will be the Club Championship. There will be no normal afternoon duplicate pairs on this day.

Friday Morning March Pairs (Red Points) 12 & 19 March

9.30am start each morning. No prior entry is required. Everyone plays in the red point sessions.

To qualify for the combined sessions overall placing result, you need to play both weeks with

the same partner. The cost will be a coupon or \$7 for members and \$10 for visitors.

Name Badges

If you would like a BBC name badge, I am currently taking orders. The cost is \$15 per badge, which includes the magnetic back. For those who have a name badge but have lost the magnetic back, you can buy a new back for \$3. To order, there is a list on the blue noticeboard near the front door at the club. Alternatively, you can email your order to bbridgecentre@bigpond.com. Orders close Monday 1 March after the morning session.

Masterpoint Promotions

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

- Vanessa Brewis – Local
- Ros Clarke – Regional

New Members

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

- Barry Lewis
- Michelle Sarri
- Annette Scott
- Peter Scudamore-Smith
- Margaret Teitzel
- Pam Tink
- Denise Wiseman

Tomas Corney

ABF Masterpoints News

1000 Club

The ABF Council has confirmed a recommendation that players who have earned 1000+ masterpoints, irrespective of the colour of the masterpoints, be recognised. These players will be awarded a certificate designating the player as a member of the 'One Thousand Club'. Players who achieve 1000+ masterpoints, providing they do not achieve the rank of Grand Master at the same time, will receive this recognition. Otherwise, they will simply receive their Grand Master certificate. Note: The 1000 Club is purely a recognition certificate, not a new Master rank.

Star (*) Master Ranks

Some of the Master Ranks previously were denoted by either 1-star (*) or 2-star (**) rankings. To bring the nomenclature in line with that used for Life and Grand Masters, the ABF have renamed the 1-star (*) ranks as Bronze, and the 2-star (**) ranks as Silver. The full list of changes is below:

<i>New Name</i>	<i>Old Name</i>
Bronze Local	*Local
Silver Local	** Local
Bronze Regional	* Regional
Bronze State	* State
Bronze National	* National
Silver National	** National

Chris Larter

INTERESTING HANDS FROM THE SUMMER TEAMS

Dealer: S
Vul: NS

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

I have seen a 9 card suit in one of the 4 hands about 5 times in my life. Unfortunately, hands with extreme shape often defy rational attempts to bid them. What is West to do?

- Opening 1H could be passed by East with only an ace, missing game.
- Pre-empting 4H is an underbid as it shows 7 tricks in hearts not the 9 tricks there actually are. You could miss a slam.
- Opening 2C gives partner an idea of a much bigger hand in point terms. It's now very hard for East to avoid going on to slam with 2 aces and 10 HCPs. 6H goes down on the lead of the ♦AK.

With some of my partners, I play 2C as an absolute game force (9 ½ + playing tricks) and 2D as a multi in which one of the options is an 8 ½ to 9 playing trick hand in any suit. Hence, we could bid this hand:

2D 2H
3H

East can see 2 clear tricks but must still wonder if any of the spade holding, the ♣J or the

doubleton diamond might be worth another trick and be the magical 12th trick. There is still a danger of going overboard on the slam.

Perhaps best is opening 1H, intending to rebid 4H. This gets across an opening hand with very long, self-supporting hearts but not a lot of strength outside the suit. It's unlikely the bidding will die at the one level. You do wonder though that you might be giving opponents with spades an easy ride.

With the North hand, despite the unfavourable vulnerability (vul vs non-vul), I would bid 2NT over the 1H opening and bid again to show the very strong nature of the hand (4 loser). It looks like you will give away -500 at the very most if doubled at the 5 level and very possibly less if you can hit partner with the right stuff.

Dealer: N
Vul: Nil

	♠ K J 10 7 4 2		
	♥ A Q 9 7		
	♦ J 9		
	♣ 5		
♠ A Q 9		♠ 6 5 3	
♥ 2		♥ 8 6 5 3	
♦ Q 4 3		♦ A 10 6 2	
♣ A Q J 9 6 2		♣ K 8	
	♠ 8		
	♥ K J 10 4		
	♦ K 8 7 5		
	♣ 10 7 4 3		
N	E	S	W
1S	P	1NT (1)	2C
2H	P	3H	P
4H	P	P	P

(1) Forcing 1NT – 6-11 points

John Kelly and I gloriously overbid this hand, as you do in teams where the scoring system

favours getting the game bonuses if you can. For good reason, we were the only ones in the room in game.

John rated his South hand a 10 count invite, counting 3 for the singleton spade (an aggressive evaluation given it's my suit) and I joined in the fun from the other side rating my hand a 14 count given the singleton in the opponents' bid suit of clubs and enough to bid game.

East led the ♠K and another club and I ruffed.

Prospects did not look good. If trumps were 4-1, I was not going to be able to set up spades, draw trumps and get back to the spades. If the defenders forced me to ruff clubs again, I wouldn't be able to get back to the spades even on a 3-2 trump break. I decided the only hope was to set up the ♦K by finding the ♦A in the East hand (not overly likely given West's bid and East's passes), set up a spade trick, and then score 8 more tricks by cross ruff. If the third rounds of diamonds and spades stood up, the cross ruff couldn't be stopped at that point as the rest of my hearts would be high.

The major problem though, as you can see, is if either defender leads trumps at any point, my house of cards collapses.

I led a low diamond from North and East rose with the ♦A and led another diamond to my ♦K. I then led the singleton spade off the table and West rose with the ♠A and played another club. I ruffed with the ♥A, played ♠K, led a low spade and ruffed with the ♥4 holding my breath. When West followed, I ruffed a diamond with the ♥7 and now had 5 top trumps remaining that I could score by cross ruff and make 10 tricks.

When you are not sure how to defend a hand, the best defence is often to just try to counter whatever declarer seems to be up to. As I was not drawing trumps but seemed to be angling

for ruffs, it was probably a good idea to lead trumps to try to cross me up.

Dealer: N

Vul: EW

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

5C by South. Opening lead ♦K.

Our opponents missed a chance to make John's life more difficult in a 5C contract.

Where you are on lead having just won a singleton in dummy, your partner should give you a SUIT PREFERENCE signal. You are clearly going to have to switch suits given that dummy is now void, so partner should tell you which suit they prefer. A high card says partner wants the higher of the non-trump suits, a low card says partner wants the lower of the non-trump suits.

Here, East should play the ♦2 on the ♦K asking for a heart rather than a spade. West obviously would have qualms about leading away from the ♥K, but should realise that East could have overtaken the ♦K with the ♦A. Hence, by leaving West on lead, East DEFINITELY wants a heart lead from West.

The heart ruff by East puts the contract in danger, but fortunately John can now draw trumps in 2 rounds and play ♠AK and ruff a spade. He can get back to dummy with the ♣10 and throw ♥J and ♥10 on the set up spades and make 11 tricks.

Peter Evans

The development of Bridge – a brief history

Bridge first seems to have appeared in the 1860s among Greek, Armenian, and Russian communities of traders and diplomatic officials in Turkey and other regions of the Eastern Mediterranean. It combined features of the traditional game of English whist and other related games, particularly the Russian yeralash. The game was at first called Biritch (an old Russian word for announcer). The first known description of the game, entitled "Biritch, or Russian Whist" was printed in London in 1886. However, by 1886, and possibly earlier, in the clubs of Constantinople where it had become the main game, the name had already been shortened to 'brich' or 'britch' and then anglicised to 'bridge' [i].

The game began attracting significant interest in the card playing and gentlemen's clubs of Paris,

London and New York between 1892 and 1894 [ii]. By 1898 it had become something of a craze in broader upper and upper middle class society. Women, in particular, took up the game in large numbers.

At this stage, the main differences between bridge and standard whist were that the dealer (or his or her partner) chose trumps, there was a dummy [iii], no-trumps could be bid, the suits were given different values and there was doubling and redoubling. But there was no bidding, which was already a feature of some of the European whist games.

The move to include bidding in bridge began at the end of the nineteenth century, at the same time as the original game was achieving broader popularity. It took root very quickly. By the end of the first decade of the twentieth century

bridge with bidding – known as auction bridge – had almost completely supplanted the original game.

Auction bridge was the dominant form of the game for around 25 years. During this time there were significant changes in the bidding and scoring which remain features of modern bridge but there was one more stage yet to come – contract bridge.

The contract principle – missing from auction bridge – is that you only get the bonus for the game if you actually bid it. Just as auction bridge developed early in the history of original bridge, contract bridge was not long in appearing. As with its predecessors, it is not clear who started it. It is likely that there were experiments in different places that gradually coalesced.^[iv] The first use of the term in print, by the French player, Pierre Bellanger, appeared in 1914. It began attracting serious attention during the first world war – to the point where efforts were made in 1917 to establish standard laws.

The laws though did not eventuate with the result that through the 1920s there were a number of different scoring systems in use. At the national level, the main systems were the French, the Canadian and, after 1925, the American put together by Harold Vanderbilt.

At first, contract was dominant only in France, where it became known as bridge plafond ('ceiling'). In the UK until the late 1920s it was a niche activity confined to a few clubs. In the USA it took off largely after 1927 thanks initially to the social imprimatur of Harold Vanderbilt, the appeal of his variant of the scoring system and the marketing genius of Ely Culbertson, who took the game well beyond the elite to the broader American and European middle classes. The beginning of the end of different scoring systems came in 1929 when the British custodian of the laws, the Portland Club, adopted the Vanderbilt scoring, amid much controversy. Plafond continued as a separate game for some time but eventually most French players also moved to the by-now standard 'American scoring'.

Auction bridge proved very resilient. It remained a popular variant, played largely in social settings for many decades after the introduction of contract. However, in the world of bridge clubs, it lacked the appeal of contract – and contract had the marketing of Culbertson. In most places, by the mid-1930s auction had ceased to be the game played in competition.

There was, as the development of bridge, has shown, room for only one game at the top and this was contract – a position, which it has kept until now.

^[i] Many other explanations have been given for the origin of the name but it is difficult to find any reason to support them in the light of the evidence about biritch and its abbreviation.

^[ii] Many accounts credit Lord Brougham with introducing bridge to England. In the light of other accounts of the game being played or talked about, this is highly unlikely to be the case. He did though certainly introduce it to the Portland Club. As this was the most influential club in England in the world of cards, he would definitely have played a very significant 'tipping point' role that led to the game's wider adoption.

^[iii] Whist – known as 'dummy whist' had been played with a dummy and was popular in France in the 19th century. However, in England it tended to be played only when a fourth player was not available.

^[iv] Contrary to many published accounts, Harold Vanderbilt did not invent contract bridge in 1925, unless one takes the view that his variant of the scoring constituted invention of an entirely new game. There is evidence to suggest that the concept of vulnerability had previously been adopted and then discarded in France. Regardless, it is certain that, like Lord Brougham earlier, Vanderbilt played a very significant 'tipping point' role and that the scoring system he popularised had a major impact on how contract is played.

From ABF Website

Heard at the Bridge Table

Since the average person's small supply of politeness must last him all his life, he can't afford to waste it on bridge partners.

Regardless of what sadistic impulses we may harbour, winning bridge means helping partner avoid mistakes.

Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding bridge players that stops bright ideas from penetrating. Unlike the Ozone layer, the Bozone layer shows no sign of weakening.

Takeout Double — the one that your partner passes.

I assume full responsibility for my mistakes, except the ones that are someone else's fault

God must hate bridge players. He made so few good ones.

The trouble with Bridge is that there is no rewind button.

Experience is a great advantage. When you finally have enough, you are too old to do anything with it.

I am quite fair to all my partners. I treat them all equally like idiots

I always forgive my partner for his mistakes. Thinking was unfamiliar territory to him.

I'll try being nicer, partner, if you'll try being smarter.

After alcohol, laughter is the best medicine:

My dad used to say, "The first rule of theatre is to leave them wanting more". Lovely bloke ... terrible anaesthetist.

I've just hit a course record of 63 on my local golf course ... now for the second hole.

How do you console an English teacher? There, Their, They're.

I've decided to dress up as a different type of bread every day next week ... Roll on Monday.

My obese parrot just died ... It's a huge weight off my shoulder.

I have kleptomania. When it gets bad, I take something for it.

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my father. Not screaming and terrified like his passengers.



And Neil couldn't resist this:

I once swallowed a book of synonyms.
It gave me thesaurus throat I have ever had.

He sends his apologies!

Also, apologies from Elaine – who was the lovely person who brought in the page from the weekend Australian with the terrific jokes? I was so preoccupied with sorting out keys and locks etc that I forgot who you were (only room in my brain for one train of thought at a time!)



Endgame

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