

Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



November 2024

Vol. 12 No 11

President's Report

We had an excellent Under 500 and Novice Congress last month, our last congress of the year. Thank you to our convenor, Tom, and our director, Julie Jeffries.

Many thanks to Bronwyn Turner, Linda Groves, and Richard Wallis for all their help in the kitchen, and also to Marie Buckley, Pat Tan and Clive Carter who helped before and to the bitter end, despite also playing. Thank you too to all those who contributed the delicious food.

Due to communication breakdown BBC almost missed the chance to play in the Inter-Club Teams which was held at Redland Bridge Club on November 17th.

Despite only 24 hours notice I managed to get an excellent trio of teams together, who all performed well. Thank you to the following for your generous donation of time at such short notice:

A Grade: Richard Wallis, Sheila Wills, Narelle McIver and Sue Herbert – 3rd place

B Grade: Judith & Neil Hansen, Leith Cameron and Pat Tan – 7th place

C Grade: Malcolm Corney, Clive Carter, Rob Swann and Barry Winning – 4th place

Special mention to Richard and Sheila who finished second in the A Grade Pair Datums.

Could I remind all members that the BBC Christmas Party is being held on Saturday December 14th. The party starts at 12 noon, will include a hamper raffle and followed at 1pm

with a Red Point bridge session. Even if you do not regularly play on a Saturday, please come and support the club, have a good time, win a raffle, and gain red-points. What's not to enjoy?

The recent Bridge lessons for beginners, that are excellently conducted by Judith Bennett with assistance from Tony Williams, are now over, and in an attempt to build on Judith's hard work Arne and I have invited participants back for two hours on a Saturday morning to give them practice and confidence in both bidding and card play. It is hard to expect new players to plunge directly into normal club sessions, so we are hoping that this will be a confidence building exercise for them. We had seven keen beginners this Saturday and we certainly saw some potential.

Could I please ask players to resist the temptation to put ink marks all over the tablecloths. Whilst the occasional nervous tapping with the pen on the cloth is at least understandable, there has been recent evidence of serious graffiti.

It begs the question: "would you do this to your tablecloths at home?" As a frequent washer of these cloths I would be grateful for your cooperation. To avoid this problem some bridge clubs have a pencil-only policy.

Elaine Jonsberg

Tom's Administrator's Corner

2025 Membership Renewal

All members will receive their annual membership renewal notice in early December. The due date is 31 December 2024. The preferred payment method is internet/online direct deposit. If you are paying by cash or EFTPOS place the correct money or receipt in a sealed envelope along 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 14 December. This is for all BBC members and partners, 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. 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 2025 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 2025, 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. You can also update your details at any time on Pianola by going to app.pianola.net/Account – just don't forget to hit "Save Changes" at the bottom of the page!

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 which players are free to use.

BBC Christmas Day - CLOSED

We will be closed on Christmas Day - Wednesday 25 December.

Masterpoint Promotions

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

- Peter Grinlaubs – Bronze Local
- Neil Hansen – National

New Member

The Committee welcomes Jennifer Casey and wishes them a long and happy association with BBC.

Tomas Corney

B Grade Bidding Woes

The following set of North South cards arose when I was playing a game of 'no friends Nigel' on BBO recently – me, three robots and a bottle of Shiraz. East West didn't have any shortages so 7D is cold: draw trumps, cash winners and cross ruff. But playing Standard, how do you get there?

North:

♠ K Q x
♥ A x x
♦ Q x x x x
♣ A x

South:

♠ A 10 x x
♥ Q
♦ A K x x x
♣ K x x

Dealer: South

Despite having 16 points, South can't open 1NT with the singleton QH. Well, John Kelly might, but for us mere mortals, 1D is likely to be the common opening bid. EW remain silent. If, like my partner, you subscribe to the BFT system (blunt force trauma), then North might bid 3NT. But that shuts down any progress, because it can be bid with 12-14 points and no 4-card major, and hides the excellent diamond fit. South would likely pass.

The more sophisticated among you might

employ inverted minor, with North bidding 2D to keep the auction going. At this point, opener can bid 2S, which is not a reverse, so North would likely again bid 3NT. Would South take North's jump to 3NT to show a strong hand? It only needs opening hand opposite opening hand.

If they did, South could bid 4D confirming the fit and looking for slam. But a poor outcome is getting stuck in 5D, which is a risk when leaving 3NT to look for a minor slam. In this case, assuming you understand each other and don't stop in 4D – it happens - then RKC would get you to the terrific slam.

If your system allows South to jump to 3S over inverted minor to show 15+, even with a four-card suit, then North would know about the strong hand, the good diamond fit and could take action. But is that a less likely auction?

Ok, I can hear the Precision players insisting that their strong 1C opening would solve the problem. Maybe in this instance, I say grudgingly. The board is one of those strange ones, where Standard is a little hampered because the fit is in a minor. Swap the diamonds and hearts in each hand, and you'd get to a heart slam with consummate ease.

Oh, what to do? Perhaps I should switch to Merlot !

Graham Baker.

I think he was referring to me with the blunt force trauma accusation. Anyone who knows me is aware of my subtle, scientific, and artistic bidding skills. (Ed)



QBA Novice Coordinator

For the information of our Novice players, here is a message from Eve Sirigos, the QBA's Novice Co-ordinator. The important part of this message, if you would like to be notified of novice congresses, is the last sentence: you can add your details to Eve's mailing list and be notified of all upcoming Novice Congresses. Please email Eve directly at esirigos@icloud.com or see Elaine or Lynn Kelly if you are interested:

"QBA would like to encourage as many novice players as possible to join in novice bridge congresses. As Novice Co Ordinator for the QBA, I am happy to promote all bridge clubs novice events. To do that I need the clubs send me info on their congresses which is what I am requesting from you, be assured,

I will only ever send out information on Novice events in Qld, nothing else.

I will absolutely never share my email list with anyone.

I don't keep a record of the people's name, only their email address.

I send out my emails to recipients as blind carbon copies (BCC) so all email addresses are hidden from everyone else.

This is purely to help clubs promote their novice event and novice players to be informed of coming events in good time to plan ahead.

*When there is a Novice event on, such as you had on Sunday 27th, if you let me know, I can in turn send that information out to all the novices **that want to have that information**, because they have asked me to add them to my email list.*

There are two great benefits. First, clubs get their novice event individually emailed to over 100 novices already on my list. Second all the novices on my email list get information about coming events that they may not have known about any other way.

If BBC wants to have novice events promoted by myself as the QBA novice coordinator, please send me details (flyer) about your event and I will be very happy to pass it on to those on my list.

If your novice members would like to be on my mailing list then please give them my details and I will add them.

Eve

Neil Hansen is very concerned about the following Missing Books From the Library:

Can't Sleep at Night
By Constance Soarer.

Holiday on the Beach.
By Sandy Shaw.

Falling.
By Eileen Toofar.

Keeping Warm at Night
By Ida Down.

Pants Down
By Lucy Lastic.

My Holiday with the Penguins
By Anne Tartic.

Visitor from Another World
By A Lee-En.

My Crystal Ball
By C A Lot.

My Life as a Jockey
By Rhoda Horse.

Swinging from Trees
By Bab Boon.

The Long Sleep
By Anna Sthetic.

The Rag & Bone Trade
By Orson Cart.

Town Planning
By Sir Veyor.

The Antarctic Ocean
By I. C. Waters.

A Call for Assistance
By Linda Hand.

Pain and Sorrow
By Anne Guish.

Crossing Roads Safely
By Luke Bothways.

Fade Away
By Peter Out.

My Worst Journey
By Helen Back

The Garlic Eater
By I Malone.

Improve Your Garden
By Anita Lawn

Keep on Trying
By Percy Vere

Used Car Salesmen
By Con Alday

My House is Haunted
By Olive N Fear

The Leaking Tap
By Constant Dripping

The Female Artist
By Andrew Pictures

Heard at the Bridge Table

The difference between an excellent bridge player and an incompetent bridge player is that excellence has its limits.

The average woman would rather have beauty than brains, because the average man can see better than he can think.

Unfamiliar partnerships often can reap big rewards. The reason? No understanding -- no misunderstanding!

Bridge wisdom does not necessarily come with practice. Sometimes practice is all you are ever going to get.

A two-day bridge tournament was invented because it is impossible to cram all the bad luck into one day.

If over the past year you have kept your 2002 New Year's resolution not to "correct" your partner when he makes a mistake – check your pulse. You may be dead.

If you are not confused, you are just not thinking clearly.

Incomprehensible good luck beats skill anytime.

If you think fishermen and financial consultants are the biggest bluffers, you should ask a bridge player how he made his most difficult contract.

If you are always making your contract, you are not bidding high enough.

The difference between a bridge enthusiast and a bridge fanatic is night and all night.

Count your losers and count your winners. If the total doesn't come to 13, count your cards.

A Bridge Expert is a person who can tell you more about the game than you really care to know.

Bridge is a great comfort in your old age. It also helps you get there faster.

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

Dave Jayne's Funnies



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