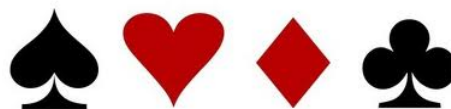


# Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



March 2026

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## President's Report

The Newnham Shield, our club Championship, has been held and won again by Peter Evans and John Kelly. It's great that our champions are two people who contribute so much to our club. Congratulations! Thank you to our director, Jo Neary, for a lovely, well-run day. A big thank you to Allie Hays, who wasn't playing on the day, but brought in treats to fortify the rest of us.

A memorial was held recently for Annette White. Annette, with her husband Ralph, was a long time member of our club and I was pleased to see so many of our club members in attendance. We look forward to seeing Ralph back at the club.

A copy of the eulogy given by Annette and Ralph's daughter Natalie is on the notice board and is well worth a read.

A big thank you to those that attended the working bee to smarten our club up in preparation for our major event of the year, the Easter Congress, to be held on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. (Thanks to Neil and Judy Hansen, Lynn and John Kelly, Janet Leggo and Pat Tan).

We are still seeking volunteers to help in the kitchens for a couple of hours on either of those days.

Neil Hansen

## Penny's Administrator Corner

Hello BBC members,

### New members

This month we enrolled 5 new members –

Ruth Desses  
Mary Matchett  
Pat Rowe  
Gael McLeod  
Deborah Haley

A big welcome to you all.

### BBC Newnham Shield Club Pairs Championship

This all day red point event was held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March. This was a successful event with thanks to the organisers and the director, Jo Neary.

Congratulations to the winners, John and Peter, who will have their names on the honour board.

## BBC Easter Congress – Pairs and Teams

The 2026 Easter Congress will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 9.30 am on both days.

Matchpoint Pairs will be held on Sunday and Teams on Monday. The cost to enter is \$40 (40 bridge credits) per player per event. BYO lunch. Entries are via MyABF only. This is a popular event so please get your entries in soon.

Volunteers are required to help in the kitchen on both days. Please place your name on the list on the noticeboard if you are available to assist.

If you can be available to play on the day as an emergency substitute, please let us know.

## Football Season

Please note that the footy season has begun and the fixture for the Souths Rugby Club home games is on the noticeboard. If you are playing on Saturdays, please make sure to arrive early when there is a home game to ensure a parking space.

## BBC Badges

Badges have arrived. If you ordered a new badge, they are now available in the office.

Happy Bridging!

Penny Grace

## **Newnham Shield (BBC Club Championship) 2026**

The club championship this year produced some wild hands. This was clearly the wildest:

Dealer: W

Vul: All

♠ KQJ98

♥ KJ943

♦ -

♣ J104

♠ 10743

♥ -

♦ 973

♣ Q87632

♠ -

♥ AQ10852

♦ AK4

♣ AK95

♠ A653

♥ 76

♦ QJ108652

♣ -

The bidding at my table went:

W	N	E	S (me)
P	1♠	2♥ (1)	4♠ (2)
P	P	5♥ (3)	P
P	X	///	

(1) With 20 points and a six card suit, this hand is too good to just overcall 2♥. You need to double and bid, but your job is even harder when the 4♠ bid comes back to you.

(2) I wasn't terribly happy with any bid here. I do want to bid game without getting partner too excited. A 4♣ splinter looks like an overbid given the low level of high card points. The hand does look better than the 4♠ "weak freak" type bid I chose. Probably right is 3♥ cue raise showing an invite or better hand with spade support and then bidding 4♠.

(3) A very difficult bid. I would certainly be bidding on with a 3 loser hand, but it usually pays to show your second suit. The rebid of the hearts only tells partner about 6 cards in your hand whereas the club rebid tells them about 9. And hits paydirt on this hand when the club fit is found.

I led the ♠A against the 5♥X contract and partner and I forced declarer with spades at every opportunity, eventually getting 4 trumps and a diamond and defeating the contract by 3 tricks for +800.

There were also plenty of “learning” experiences, or in my case, forgetting what you already know. When you have the opportunity to overruff, it can pay not to do so by discarding instead.

Dealer: W  
Vul: All

♠ -	
♥ AKJ754	
♦ A752	
♣ 732	
♠ AK65432	♠ J10
♥ Q82	♥ 103
♦ -	♦ QJ96
♣ Q109	♣ AKJ85
♠ Q987	
♥ 96	
♦ K10843	
♣ 64	

Contract 4♠ by West.

Partner led the ♥AK with me encouraging from the South hand. On the third round of hearts, dummy ruffed with the ♠J and I foolishly overruffed with the ♠Q. Declarer now had no difficulty drawing the remaining trumps with ♠AK10 and made the rest of the tricks and the contract.

Look at the difference if I don't overruff with the ♠Q and discard instead. When the ♠10 is later led, I cover with the ♠Q and force the ♠A. ♠K gets one more of my trumps but my ♠98 are now good and the contract goes down by one.



A bit of deduction on this hand would have helped my cause:

Dealer: E  
Vul: EW

	♠ Q108	
	♥ J875	
	♦ 9853	
	♣ K2	
♠ AJ2		♠ 974
♥ K2		♥ 64
♦ J10		♦ AKQ62
♣ Q98654		♣ A107
	♠ K653	
	♥ AQ1093	
	♦ 74	
	♣ J3	

E	S	W	N
1♦	1♥	2♣	2♥
3♣	P	P	3♥
P	P	4♣	P
P	P		

Partner led the ♥5. I took the ♥A and foolishly put the ♥Q on the table. Declarer won with the ♥K and cleared trumps with ♣A and one back to the ♣Q losing to partner's ♣K. Now we couldn't prevent declarer making 11 tricks by throwing his 2 spade losers away on the diamonds.

When I took the ♥A, I knew we had to get busy on the defence to get our tricks due to the dangerous looking diamond suit in dummy. But do I try to take a heart before putting a spade through?

Partner's competing to the 3 level suggests a 4 card heart suit. We were only ever possibly going to get one more trick in hearts whereas the 3 small spades in dummy suggest there might be richer pickings there. A good partner (which John Kelly is) also tries to avoid leading away from kings by themselves or broken sequences like KJ in suit contracts, even if we have bid the suit.

I should have added all that up and concluded putting a spade back immediately was a better chance. This should get us another 2 spade tricks and put the contract down. A computer looking at all 4 hands can still make 11 tricks but no human is going to find the convoluted line involved.



Peter Evans

*Peter Evans has kindly provided a response to the hand from last month's newsletter.*

I think your solution to the below hand is in fact the simplest and most elegant:

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

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

2C  
2H  
6D....

2D  
3H or 4H

This clearly shows a massive 2 suiter in the red suits and 12 probable tricks. South with the ♦A should take the hint and bid 7H.

There are 2 somewhat complicated and very rarely used gadgets called Kabel (which starts with an opening bid of 3NT) and the specific ace ask (which starts with an opening bid of 4NT). Both gadgets pinpoint specific aces and would have found the ♦A in the South hand and allowed North to bid the grand slam.

Failing the above, you could get to the grand slam on this particular hand with some basic control bidding:

- 2C (I play this as an absolute game force if the hand is unbalanced with a suit)
- 2D (With flat hands with slam points, I get partner to define their hand first then take over)
- 2H
- 3H (as we're in a game force, this is a stronger hand than a 4H bid and suggests slam ideas)
- 3S (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> round control, showing ♠A, ♠K, or a spade singleton or void)
- 4D (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> round control but most importantly denying anything in clubs)
- 4NT (Roman Keycard Blackwood)
- 5H (2 keycards, no trump queen)
- 7H (partner has denied the ♣A, so the 2 keycards must be ♦A and ♠A)

Note: if South only had ♦A this sequence couldn't have found the grand slam as North couldn't be sure which of the ♦A or ♠A they're hearing about in the answer to the Roman Keycard Blackwood.

Peter Evans



## Heard at the Bridge Table

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

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

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.

A novice makes the contract with a finesse while an expert goes down in style on a squeeze play.

Since losing finesses come in groups of three, a fourth consecutive losing finesse is actually the start of the next group of three.

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

One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice playing atrocious contracts.

We cannot change  
the CARDS  
we are dealt,   
just  
how we play  
the HAND.  
- Randy Pausch

### The Power of the One

During History lesson, the teacher briefly went through the Kings and Queens who rule countries. "But" the teacher continued, "There is a higher category of power. Can anybody tell me what it is?"

One child blurted out, 'Aces!'

## 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 on 0404 085 712. Current and past newsletters available on BBC's web-site: [www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org](http://www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org)