Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter

November 2026 Vol. 14 No 11

President's Report

We recently held our Under 500 and Novice Pairs congress. The event was very well attended (22 pairs in the Under 500 section and 20 pairs in the Novice section). Thanks to Tony for putting in a big effort to encourage players from all Brisbane clubs to take part, and for attending on the day as both caddy and advisor to those players who wished to ask questions regarding the hands they had just played.
Thank you to Julie Jeffries, our director on the day, to Arne Jonsberg (first in, last out), who worked for the entire day in the kitchen, and to our members who brought along the delicious food donations. Once again, a very successful congress for BBC.

We pride ourselves on being a friendly and welcoming club. To that end, I would like to see us all wearing our name badges to each session. It would not only help visitors but would save embarrassment for those of us, like your club president, that often have a mental block when it comes to names.

We are currently conducting a survey on whether we should alter our morning session start time.
You can signify your preferences by emailing the club or completing a voting slip available at the club. Voting will close 27th November as the start times will be included in the new diary for 2027.
Also please advise the office of any change to your contact details prior to that date.

A big thank you to all those that help to clean up the kitchen after our regular sessions. But please do NOT return any milk left in the jugs to the fridge. It must be discarded.

I thank all those that represented our club in the recent Brisbane interclub tournament. I hope that you all had an enjoyable day.

Neil Hansen

News From the Office

As soon as the Melbourne Cup is run and won, we know Christmas is around the corner. At this time of year we often choose to spend more time with family and friends, so naturally attendance numbers at our sessions will fall away a little. If you find yourself without a partner for your regular session, please let me know. I might be able to match the "orphans" together to keep our numbers up a little.

In December we are running Eclectic sessions in our Tuesday PM, Wednesday and Thursday sessions. If you play in three of the available five sessions then you will be in the running for extra masterpoints. More importantly, we have our Christmas Party coming up on Saturday 12th December. We will have our Christmas lunch starting at 12 pm followed by a red point session starting at 1 pm. It would be great to see lots of members come along to this, and even better if a few keep supporting the Saturday session in the weeks and months to come.

Tony Treloar

Inta's Column

Fundraising

A very successful October with $572 raised from the Congress raffle (and thank you to Arne for selling the tickets) and two club raffles. Sue Herbert won the Congress food hamper with Philip Argyris and Peter Heard each taking home a kilo of Italian nougats. It would not have been possible without our band of merry ticket sellers – Nicky Denholm, Bronwyn Turner, Jenny Nitz, Marion Swann, Helen Tomlin and Flo Hall. Please continue to give them your support. Ticket sales for our Christmas raffle will commence in the last week of November. There will be a number of hampers to be won together with several consolation prizes. Tickets will be $5 each, drawn at Christmas party on 12 December. You don't need to be in attendance to win but we do hope you will come along to celebrate the festive season with your club mates.

Standby Roster

Some progress has been made towards bringing this idea to fruition but more help is needed. We are still looking for volunteers to be a standby player mainly on a Friday but Mondays and Wednesdays also could do with nominations. Please think about this as a way of contributing to your club – we need to increase our table numbers and this is one of the initiatives that we think will benefit both the club as well as fellow members caught unexpectedly without a partner. It is only one morning a month that we are asking of you.

Please contact Inta 0466 333 004 if you can help out or have any questions.

More About Our Committee Members

Last month we introduced you to the new BBC committee members.
This month we profile the Club President and Past President.

Neil Hansen returns for his second term as Club President, having taken on the role when asked to do so after the previous President had completed the maximum two consecutive terms. A former Credit Manager, Neil is active in the Mt Gravatt Men's Shed where he has also served as a committee member. Neil's aim for the club is to provide a friendly place for people to enjoy bridge. Neil has also agreed to take on the role of Club Recorder – more about that role elsewhere in the newsletter.

Elaine Jonsberg is our immediate Past President who joined the committee in 2015 and has served three 2 year terms as President. It's hard to believe that Elaine would have time for other things in her life apart from BBC. But she is also a member of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland where she is happily engaged in copper foiling, leadlighting and mosaicing. This is when she isn't practicing piano or cross stitching.
Elaine's professional life was as a medical laboratory scientist, specialising in microbiology in both supervisory and managerial roles.

Inta Devine

Our Club Recorder at BBC

Unpleasant Experience?

The BBC is committed to ensuring that all players compete in a pleasant and respectful environment. To assist in this, a club recorder has been appointed to facilitate the smooth running of bridge sessions.
The role of our recorder is to:

- receive information (either verbal or written) from individual players as to concerns which may arise from events at the table
- be available for consultation prior to commencement of play (10 minutes) and at the end of play (20 minutes); and
- consider the issue/s raised and take appropriate action.

You are encouraged to report any unpleasant experience. Simply contact Neil Hansen at the relevant session or, should he not be available, contact him on 0455 848 335.

Sandra Mulcahey

Bridge Hand

Is there anything more aggravating at the bridge table (apart from certain people) than to be sorting out a beautiful hand, and whilst mulling over how you will open the bidding your partner, who is the dealer, opens with a pre-empt. And not just any pre-empt - they open 5D.
This hand came up on BBO a few weeks ago and you are sitting South with this hand:

♠ K Q J 7
♥ A J 10 8 4
♦ Q
♣ A K 6

So partner opens with 5D showing a hand that contains a minimum of 8 diamonds but most likely 9. So what do you do as South with the hand shown above? I would regard it as the apotheosis of pusillanimity not to bid 6D, with the thought in the back of your mind that if it goes off you can blame partner. A pass here from South indicates to me that you should be playing croquet.

Here are the full hands:

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

East, on lead, plays the ♠A and smugly waits to score his ♦K for the setting trick. Does this mean that your 6D bid was wrong? I don't think so – if West holds the East cards, 6D is a breeze and if you don't get the ♠A lead, 13 tricks are possible.

A preemptive bid is an opening (or overcalling) bid made with a relatively weak hand but with a long suit, designed to use up bidding space and therefore making it difficult for the opponents to find their best contract. Of course when it is partner who pre-empts, and you have a good

hand, you have similar problems in finding the optimal contract.

So Peter, would you bid 6D? And for next months newsletter would you give us all some advice on handling opponents and partners preemptive bids. Thank you.

Arne.

Heard at the Bridge Table

If you really want to get better at Bridge, go back and take it up at a much earlier age.

Man who plays Bridge once a week is sociable. Man who plays 4 times a week is competitive. Man who plays every day has no life.

Unlike most sports, you only need 15cm of space to play bridge - the distance between your ears.

There is more to life than Bridge, but not much more.

The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but how to escape once he is in it.

Bridge is a game invented by God to punish people who retire early.

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.

Murphy's Laws of Bridge Opponents

1. No matter how badly your opponents bid, they will always end up in the correct contract.

2. No matter how badly your opponents play, you will hold the exact cards and distribution to allow them to make.

Bridge Book for Losers

Now a Bridge book to end all Bridge books – "Zen and the art of Losing at Bridge". It contains some really good and useful advice and articles such as:

1. How To Go Down With A Smile.

2. How To Duck The Left Hook From Your Partner.

3. How To Accidentally Overturn The Bridge Table When The Contract Is Doomed.

4. Proper Etiquette When You Are Partnering A Complete Jerk.

5. Instant Meditation When Your Partner Starts To Cry Or Complain.

6. How To Rationalize Wasting 10 Or More Hours A Week On Bridge.

7. Why So Few Bridge Players Have A Life.

8. Why Your Wife No Longer Cares How You Made The Slam.

9. Why Having A Thick Skin Is Better Than Trying To Improve.

10. How To Relax When Your Partner Asks What The Trump Suit Is Halfway Through The Game.





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