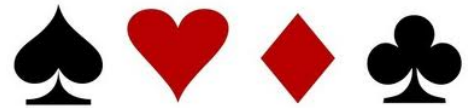


Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



October 2026

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President's Report

I welcome Helen, Inta, Sandra, Greg & Jim to the committee.

Your committee is investigating ways to increase table numbers across all sessions. To this end, we are considering adopting a spare player roster, whereby whoever is rostered on for a particular day would be prepared to play with whoever turned up without a partner. This would only be for the Monday, Wednesday & Friday sessions. So we would be seeking 3 people per week, so we would be seeking 12 people for the month. See Inta's message later in the newsletter for more information.

Good luck to our members playing in the Congress on the 25th. If you are playing, food contributions will be most welcome.

During my AGM address I regrettably failed to mention the sad loss of five valued members of our club. During the last year we have lost Tony Williams, Joan Rossberg, Geoff Moller, Ian Argent and Annette White. They were all valued members of our club and will be sadly missed.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the hard work done by Clive Carter and Pat Tan in maintaining a tidy and efficient library. Thank you.

Neil Hansen

News from the Office

We are almost in November and where has the year gone? Christmas and New Year will be here before we know it. However, we have a couple of special things happening in November. We have an Eclectic running in our Monday session, your best three scores from the five available sessions will count towards extra masterpoints. We are also having our Friday AM Cup Season Pairs on two consecutive Fridays (6th and 13th of November). These are red point sessions which have cumulative red points for the pairs who do play on both days (and do well).

You will also be aware that we can no longer pass on bank charges incurred through using EFTPOS. Over the course of a year this will cost us a significant amount of money, mainly for the purchasing of coupons and the payment of membership dues. If members use bank transfer or cash for these payments, it will save the club hundreds of dollars per year. We will still have EFTPOS available, but please consider using the alternative payments methods wherever possible.

Tony Treloar

Messages from Inta

Fundraising

Thank you so much to all of you who so generously donated items for the 25 October Congress raffle. The basket overflowed so excess items have been set aside for inclusion in the Christmas hampers.

Apologies to those of you who asked to buy raffle tickets in advance of the Congress. It was felt that it be seen that the raffle is won by somebody present on the day of the Congress. Please keep those donations coming as we are now starting to build the Christmas hampers to be raffled.

Walk-In Policy

The club is looking to re-introduce a walk-in system where members or visitors can arrive without a partner and be guaranteed a game. This means that you don't have to miss out on your beloved game of bridge if your partner calls in sick at the last minute or takes a cruise to exotic destinations. But to make this happen we need members to volunteer to be a stand-by player. If a person arrives without a partner, they are paired with the stand-by. If two players arrive without partners, they play with each other and the stand-by goes home. Similarly if nobody walks in looking for a game.

We are asking club members to volunteer for one morning per month – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Saturdays are covered by the Director.

You can be a good, bad or average bridge player, a grand master or a rookie – the only requirements are a good nature and a willingness to give back to your club with your time once a month. This initiative will not only benefit club members but grow attendance numbers which is sorely needed.

If you are able to participate please ring or text 0466 333 004 or email

idevine@optusnet.com.au

Change Of Session Start Time

There has been a request to change the morning sessions starting time from 9:30 to 10:00.

Please contact the club with your thoughts.

Your New Committee Members

During the recent discussions about possible amalgamation with QCBC it came to light that BBC's management committee was feeling fatigued. At the September AGM five brave souls responded with offers to assist by nominating for the committee. So who are they?

Read on to learn what they have to say about themselves.

Inta Devine joins the committee with previous experience on committees organising Latvian arts festivals and youth camps. As a former Human Resources Manager, she remains active in Brisbane's small Latvian community. Inta wants to contribute to the club through membership communications and fundraising.

Jim MacDonald brings the club extensive corporate experience as a CFO, Company Director and Company Secretary which included committee participation in Finance and Audit, Governance and Risk. He feels it important that the committee collectively has the broad range of talent and knowledge to financially manage the club, support growth and provide an inviting environment and social interaction. When there's not bridge, it's time with family, travel, exercise and the beach.

Sandra Mulcahy is new to the committee, nominating after realising that the club is struggling and that she might be able to assist in boosting its human and financial resources.

After retiring Sandra worked part-time for 6 years as Marketing Officer for the Australian

Bridge Federation and has previously served on the committee at Toowong Bridge Club.

Outside bridge, her interests are family, theatre, books, politics and travel. Sandra's hopes are for a growth in the club's membership base as well as cementing BBC's reputation as a friendly and welcoming environment for bridge players at all levels.

Greg Tomlin takes over from John Kelly (retiring after 16 years of service!) as Treasurer.

Although an Accountant by profession, Greg believes the role of Treasurer should not be perceived by others as "I couldn't do that because I don't know how". He says that with some guidance and the right mindset it's not that difficult a role. With a wealth of committee and board membership experience behind him in schools and a community based not for profit entity as well as being a roadie for school and Queensland Youth Orchestra ensembles, Greg wants to contribute not only by keeping the books but also by joining in to see the club continue its friendly and welcoming atmosphere. When not inside the bridge club or spending time with family, Greg enjoys the great outdoors including gardening and the occasional game of golf.

Helen Tomlin is an Accountant by profession but believes she would have been a great animal behaviourist. With a wealth of committee experience in outside school care, P&Cs, music support groups, Queensland Youth Orchestra and, other bridge clubs, Helen joined BBC's committee as a way of showing her appreciation for the welcome and support she has received on her bridge journey. She wants to see the club grow its membership while nurturing and promoting the friendly feel of the club. When not working, Helen devotes time to family, being owned by pooches, gardening, brain games, trying to motivate herself to exercise and occasional Scandi detective series binges.

The Weekly Raffle Is Back!

The weekly raffle has been reinstituted. Each Friday we will start a raffle with the prize to be drawn the following Friday. So be ready with your \$2 coins (cash only please) when approached by one of our volunteer ticket sellers. Starts next week with a large bag of Italian nougats on offer – guaranteed to make you friends at the bridge table if you are the winner, hopefully not your dentist!

Inta Devine

Charles M. Schulz, the creator of Peanuts, was an enthusiastic bridge player. It was not a coincidence that one of his iconic characters, Snoopy, also took up bridge in several cartoons. Snoopy - and his partner Woodstock - were named Honorary Life Masters by the American Contract Bridge League in 1997. Woodstock and his fellow bird mechanics also played several hands together. The context is primarily Snoopy's World War I fantasy. This diagram appears to be an endplay, with spades as trumps. South has a loser in each minor suit, but can exit a club to put West on lead. West must then lead away from the diamond king or concede and ruff and sluff.



Bridge Hand

Peter Evans has provided a response to last month's hand:

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

Much as I would like to offer our esteemed editor some rational and scientific bidding to grand slam on this hand, I fear I cannot. There are not enough bids to describe exactly all the hands that are possible and this problem becomes particularly acute with extremely distributional hands.

However, I would offer the following musings:

1. I wouldn't (and didn't) open the South hand. It is too quacky – too many queens and jacks which are overvalued on the point count as opposed to aces and kings which are undervalued. A doubleton QJ is a particularly poor holding and often worth closer to 0 than the alleged 3 points. And this is the case on this hand with the opposition holding AK in the suit. I definitely wouldn't open 1♦, intending to rebid hearts twice. This does get the 6-5 shape across nicely but overstates the strength of the hand and there is too much danger partner will head to the stratosphere and, when dummy is exposed, get that look of shock on their face that we are all so familiar with. I think the South hand is best described by initially passing. You can come alive later with a 2-suiter overcall of the opponents (eg a

Michael's cuebid) or bid the hand up if you find a fit with partner in your suits.

2. Assuming 2 passes to North, North is only interested in the whereabouts of one card – the ♦K. Find it, and bidding a grand slam is rational. However, this is not easy to do and few partnerships have the wherewithal. One possibility would be to set diamonds as trumps and Roman Keycard Blackwood upon the suit. If you get a reply of all the missing 3 keycards you know the ♦K is amongst them. However, if you get a 1 or 2 keycard response back, you have no idea whether the ♦K is involved or useless club and heart aces.

Another possibility is to set spades as trumps and use the 5NT specific king ask.

After 4NT Roman Keycard Blackwood, the 5NT specific king ask says we have all the keycards and I want you to bid your lowest king, not the number of kings you have.

So, Tony Treloar and I could theoretically have this auction:

2C	2H (1)
3S (2)	4D (3)
4NT (4)	5D (5)
5NT (6)	6D (7)
7S	P

- (1) 8+ points, reasonable quality 5+ heart suit
- (2) Sets spades as trumps, please start control bidding for slam
- (3) First or second round control in diamonds
- (4) Roman Keycard Blackwood
- (5) 0 or 3 keycards – clearly 0
- (6) Specific king ask
- (7) I have the diamond king.

There are only 2 problems with this little bridge fantasy:

- (a) First or second round control in diamonds might be a singleton or void rather than the ♦K. This would mean multiple diamond losers and even 5S or 6S might be a poor prospect.
- (b) Given the distributional nature of the North hand, I'd be expecting similar sorts of

distributions in the opposition hands and that we are going to get serious interference with our bidding, as was the case on this hand.

(c) In bidding slams, I think it is important to consider what sort of field you are in and what type of scoring is being used. Even in good club fields as the AGM red point event was, a good part of the field struggles to bid slams. Only 4/9 pairs got to slam on this hand. A simple and safer 6S contract would have netted 12/16 matchpoints or 75%. 7S does hit the 100% stratosphere but has much higher chances of going down for a 0%. I'm generally happy to just keep scoring well (as will almost always be the case with a making slam) while limiting any possible downside.

At Arne's table where South opened 1♦, presumably showing at least 4, this means the opposition could hold 4 diamonds and the odds of the ♦K being with partner are still just 50/50. However, later bidding might dramatically increase those odds (eg partner repeats diamonds to show 5 or 6).

At the end of the day though, our esteemed editor has recently shown a marked talent for bidding and making grand slams which Sir Humphrey Appleby might have described as "courageous". And I am not going to argue with success.

Peter Evans

Heard at the Bridge Table

It's not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents.

If you have the slightest touch of masochism you'll love this game

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.

"Bridge is my game and I play it seriously. Not well ... just seriously."

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

Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Takeout Double — the one that your partner passes.

Rule of Eleven — the inevitable trick total whenever you bid a slam.

Bridge is a self-inflicted punishment for people with too much time and intelligence.

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

I smile while playing Bridge because I don't know what the hell is going on.

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

You are lucky to have me as your partner as I am not as judgmental as all those censorious, self-righteous people around me.

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

When arguing with your partner, never miss a good chance to shut up.

Rules of Being a Good Partner continued:

11. Have a good time, and make sure that your partner does also. Bridge is for fun.
12. Trust your partner; do not assume that he has made a mistake.
13. Although it may be unfashionable, it really is okay to be pleasant to a partner with whom you also happen to live.
14. Remember the worst analysts and the biggest talkers are often one and the same. Think twice before verbally analyzing a hand – do not embarrass yourself with a hasty, inaccurate comment.
15. When you voluntarily choose to play bridge with someone, it is not fair to get upset when partner does not play any better than usual.
16. Never side with an opponent against your partner. If you cannot support your partner, say nothing.
17. If you think you are too good for your partner, and do not enjoy playing bridge with them, do everyone a favour and play with someone else. That is clearly much better than being a martyr, however, be careful before burning bridges – another player's grass may not be greener.
18. Learn your partner's style regardless of how you feel about it. Do not expect partner to bid exactly as you would. When partner makes a bid, consider what he will have, not what you would.
19. Try to picture problems from partner's point of view. Seek the bid or play that will make his life easiest.
20. Sympathise with partner if he makes a mistake. Let your partner know that you like him, and will always support him 100%.

Rules courtesy of Marty Bergen.

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