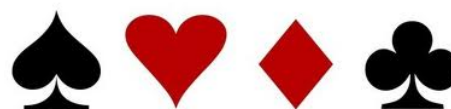


Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



April 2024

Vol. 12 No 4

President's Report

The BBC Easter Congress was held three weeks ago and was a great success as usual. The full results will be shown later in this newsletter but I must credit our members who did particularly well. Richard Spelman and Lyn Tracey won the B Grade Pairs with Sheila Wills and Ross Murtagh third. Martin and Alex Wu won, and Jenny McGowan and Vanessa Brewis were third in the C Grade Pairs. Richard Wallis's team were third in the A Grade Teams, and the team of Jenny McGowan, Vanessa Brewis, Ming Yang and Oliver Goodman won the B Grade Teams. Well done to all club players who participated.

The success of the Congress is very much dependent upon the help of club members and this year we had some prodigious contributions. Pat Tan and Clive Carter toiled for the whole of Sunday and were helped considerably by Lynn Kelly who worked a long afternoon. Clive then returned for the whole of Monday and worked with myself, Bronwyn Turner and Hazel Lahey. Many thanks to these selfless souls who contributed their time and effort.

Thank you also to our excellent directors Chris Snook and Jo Neary, and also another brilliant effort by Tomas Corney who convened the event. It is also very gratifying that at the end of a long two days of bridge playing, members and visitors all happily contributed to clearing tables and chairs in the upstairs room. Thank you.

Sadly we lost one of our popular members this week – Bernadette O'Connell has moved to Sydney to be closer to her family. Bernadette was an excellent and pleasantly aggressive bridge player who will be missed by her partners and the rest of us. Have a good time with your family Bernadette, and get back to bridge soon. I hope her regular partners Lyn White and Narelle McIver have made other arrangements because we would hate to lose them too.

We have football again this Saturday and the last couple of home games have created chaotic parking conditions. Members playing must try to be at the club by 1240 as that is when the barriers come down, and any contribution to manning the barricades will be gratefully accepted.

Our second major Congress, the BBC Graded Butler Pairs happens on May 19th, and I ask all members to support this event. Also we need, as usual, kitchen help and food contributions.

You may have noticed that we have a growing number of drink bottles in our lost property area. Please check to see if any of them belong to you. It would be a good idea if those who bring bottles along labelled them with their names.

Elaine Jonsberg

Tom's Administrator's Corner

ANZAC Day (Thursday 25 April)

BBC will remain open on ANZAC Day with our usual Thursday session at 9:30am. The ANZAC Day service at the Cenotaph is at 7:30am and will likely last for approximately one hour. It is advisable that those arriving by car do not turn up for bridge until 8:45am at the earliest. This allows the car park to be vacated by those attending the service.

BBC Graded Butler Pairs (Sunday 19 May, 9:30am)

Our next big congress is coming up on Sunday 19 May. The Graded Butler Pairs Congress entries are now open on the website and on MyABF and the entry form can be found on the QBA website and on the noticeboard at the club. The cost is \$35 per player (\$70 per pair) and entries will close after Wednesday 15 May.

So what is Butler scoring? The Butler scoring method uses IMP's, which is how Teams are scored, instead of Matchpoints which we play at our usual sessions. In Butler scoring the Declarer's top priority is to make their contract while the Defender's priority should be to defeat the contract rather than simply trying to limit the amount of overtricks.

Please Note: We are also after volunteers for this congress. Please let us know if you can help out in the kitchen on the day or perhaps bring along a plate of food to share if you intend to play on the day instead. Any spare players or people who would be happy to make a house pair for the Congress can please phone Tom on 0450 510 196 or email bbridgecentre@gmail.com if you can help out.

Tuesday PM May Pairs – Red Points (7 & 14 May)

7:00pm start each night. No prior entry is required. Everyone plays in the red point sessions. To qualify for the combined sessions overall placing result, you must play both weeks with the same partner. The cost is \$7 or a coupon for members and \$9 for visitors.

Australia-Wide Novice Pairs (25 - 31 May)

If you are a novice player I would suggest you look into an upcoming event held across the nation: the Australia-Wide Novice Pairs.

The event is matchpointed across a field of approximately 2800 players. This means that when you look at your results on the web page, you will see your score on each board compared with well over 500 tables. There will be book prizes awarded to pairs for specific achievements during the event (for example, bidding and making a tricky game). The top five pairs nationwide will also receive beautiful Australia-Wide pens engraved with your name, and all pairs scoring over 52% (scored across the field) will receive Red Masterpoints.

The Australia-Wide Novice Pairs has a rich history that goes back more than 30 years, bringing together thousands of players from all around the country. Each player will receive a souvenir booklet on the day, describing recommendations for how the bidding and play should have gone. After the results are in, there will also be a second personalised booklet available on our web page, looking at every board to see how your bidding and play compares against recommended results.

If you are interested in the event QCBC will be hosting sessions on Monday 27 May at 7:00pm and Tuesday 28 May at 10:00am.

Rugby @ Souths

The next few rugby home game days are:

- Saturday April 27
- Saturday May 18
- Saturday May 25

Those arriving by car are asked to arrive before 12:40pm on rugby game days. This is to allow you an easy park and also so the session can start on time.

Red Points Sessions

Due to a mistake regarding the amount of red points sessions the BBC has been allocated for the year, our Red points sessions later in the year will be restricted to one session per month instead of two. This is updated on the BBC website & calendar and will be announced each month affected. Beginning in July only the first week of the noted red points sessions in the diary per month will be red points. The second listed will be a regular green points duplicate bridge session.

Cold & Flu Season

With the cooler weather beginning, here is your reminder to get the seasonal flu vaccine or even a Covid booster. During play it is important to remember the following ...

- If you are sick, or have cold/flu/Covid symptoms please think twice before coming to bridge. We would rather you get well than sharing your cold or the flu with others at the bridge table.
- If you do need to cough at the bridge table, please cough into a tissue, handkerchief or your shoulder. Do not cough into the playing cards or on your hands.

New Member

The Committee welcomes Lyn Tracey and wishes her a long and happy association with BBC.

Masterpoint Promotions

We are still waiting on the masterpoint promotions from the ABF so April's promotions will appear in the next edition of the BBC newsletter.

BBC Easter Congress Results

A Grade Pairs

1. Paul Gosney & Kate Macdonald
2. Jim & Lyn Martin
3. Nikolas Moore & Rachel Langdon

B Grade Pairs

1. Richard Spelman & Lyn Tracey
2. Chris Woolley & Wendy Gibson
3. Sheila Wills & Ross Murtagh

C Grade Pairs

1. Martin & Alex Wu
2. Chris Williams & Margaret Giebels
3. Jenny MCGowan & Vanessa Brewis.

A Grade Teams

1. Richard Fox, Christine Newbery, Nik Moore and Andrew Woollons.
2. Barry & Agnes Kempthorne, Jan Peach and Richard Ward.
3. Richard Wallis, Greer Tucker, Anne Lamport and Paul Gosney

B Grade Teams

1. Jenny McGowan, Vanessa Brewis, Ming Yang and Oliver Goodman.
2. Lauren Morgan, Jasmine Skeate, Laurie Skeate and Kate MacDonald
3. Peter Gruythuisen, Ross Shardlow, Barry Williams and Anne Barry.

Full results can be found on the QBA website here:

qld.bridgeaustralia.org/resultslistbyheadevent.asp?umbid=408

Tomas Corney

Bridge Hand

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

The hand above was played in the Monday BBC session on 18th March, and I opened 1NT with the North hand and partner bid 4C to ask for Aces. When I showed 2 Aces with a 4H response, he jumped to 6NT and East led the ♦A and followed up with the ♣J.

I concluded 2 things from the lead of the ♦A followed by the ♣J, firstly that East likely did not have the ♥K, and secondly that Clubs were probably not breaking!

Accordingly I decided that my best chance for 12 tricks was a **Vienna Coup**, with the Club break as

a fall-back chance. As preparation for the VC, when in dummy with the ♦J, I cashed the ♥A and then proceeded to cash all of my outside tricks. West could discard Spades to start with, but then on my Spade tricks, they had to discard their Clubs to keep the ♥K. Seeing West discard 3 Clubs gave me hope that the squeeze was working, and so it proved when I was able to cash 12 tricks.

I believe that the Vienna Coup dates back to the era of Rixi Markus, one of, if not the best, female Bridge players of all time.



Rixi Markus

Richard Wallis

Heard at the Bridge Table

There are three kinds of bridge players: those who can count, and those who can't.

Why take a simple finesse to make your contract when you can go down in style on a triple squeeze play.

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

You know you're in trouble when you are the declarer and the opponents start drawing trumps.

The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you sit at the bridge table.

Too bad partner. It was an unlucky grand slam you bid. The ace of trumps was on the wrong side.

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

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

Clever of you not to miscount the Spades, partner. What a pity you did not show the same advance technique with the Diamonds.

Blessed is a partner who has nothing bad to say and cannot be persuaded to say it.

Remember to show humility when you win a tournament and are congratulated for your efforts. For those of you who don't know what humility is, it is the ability to look appropriately shy while explaining to people how wonderful you are.

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

It takes a good bridge player to readily admit when he is wrong and even a better player to keep his mouth shut when he is right.

Bad cards, like the common cold, must run its course.

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

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.



**Interesting bit for English lovers -
Absolutely brilliant!**

Once Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Bengali poet and scholar, jokingly asked Michael Madhusudhan Dutt, an Anglophile poet of great repute; **"As you are a Master in English, can you make a sentence without using a single 'E'?"**

Dutt, the genius, wrote this:

"I doubt I can. It's a major part of many many words. Omitting it is as hard as making muffins without flour. It's as hard as spitting without saliva, napping without a pillow, driving a train without tracks, sailing to Russia without a boat, washing your hands without soap. And, anyway, what would I gain? An award? A cash bonus? Bragging rights? Why should I strain my brain? It's not worth it."

Absolutely brilliant!

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