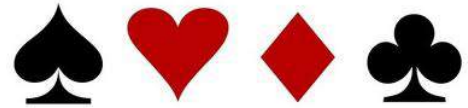


Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



December 2024

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President's Report

We had an excellent day last Saturday at the club Christmas Party. There was a brilliant turnout and enormous amounts of wonderful food. Thanks to everyone who contributed. Thank you also to all those members who generously supported the hamper raffle. We were able to return a sizeable profit to the club coffers. The lucky winners were Fenna Cooper and Jean Rankin – well done to them and I hope you enjoyed the lovely content. Thank you also to Neil Hansen who directed the red point event with his usual quiet efficiency.



Peter Evans has taken a poll of his regular Tuesday evening players and found that there is little or no interest in the Xmas Eve and New Year's Eve late sessions, so these evening sessions are cancelled. All other sessions,

including Xmas Eve and New Year's Eve daytime sessions will be running as usual. We will be closed on Xmas Day.

Please note that Membership renewals are due by the end of the year. The preferred payment method is Direct Deposit. Cheque, Cash, MyABF Bridge Credits or EFTPOS are also accepted. Please do not give cheque or cash payments to the director on the day as these may be missed; please place these in the white "Annual Subscriptions" box within a labelled envelope instead.

I would like to wish all members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a safe, prosperous and 'good bridge' New Year.

Merry
Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Elaine Jonsberg

Bridge Hand

In our November newsletter, Graham Baker submitted a humorous column entitled "B Grade Bidding Woes". Graham, three robots, and a bottle of Shiraz had trouble bidding a diamond grand slam with these cards:

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

Peter Evans responded with the following letter to the editor:

The hand in today's magazine is biddable to 7D if you have the gadgets. And there's a gadget for everything in bridge.....

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

(1) inverted minor, 10+pts, 5+ diamonds

(2) this is the critical bid – a jump shows a game going splinter. 2H would simply be showing a stop and heading for 3NT

(3) Opposite minor minorwood. My main partner and I use the opposite minor at the 4 level as Roman Keycard Blackwood. North can see we are in slam territory as Axx is a terrific holding to have opposite a singleton (and not bad opposite a void). If you are playing ordinary 4NT RKCB the grand slam is still biddable, as it is using standard 4D minorwood

(4) 3 or 0 keycards, obviously 3 given the game going splinter

(5) Specific king ask – another critical gadget to have, not just the ordinary ask about a number of kings

(6) Shows club king and denies the heart or spade king as you bypassed those suits

(7) North can "see" South with ♦AK and ♠A on the 4C ask, the ♣K on the 5C ask and knows their 2 little hearts can be ruffed away because of the splinter

I'm terribly jealous you got this hand. I've had the above general system with my main partner for 15 years and I don't recall ever being able to splinter in an inverted minor sequence to slam let alone grand slam.

And from John Kelly:

Lovely column by Graham Baker ("B Grade Bidding Woes", Nov), except for the uncalled-for dissing of my bidding style! I would never open 1NT with a singleton Q in one suit (a singleton K or A, maybe) - or perhaps a singleton Q only if playing against a duffer pair like the author and his regular Tuesday partner!

Seriously, though, this is indeed a tricky hand to bid to slam on. Forget about the grand, getting to 6D would be a good effort. With my regular partners, I play inverted minors and Minorwood. Thus, the auction might go:
1D - 2D* - 2S - 3NT - 4D (Minorwood) - 5C (2 key cards and ♦Q) - 6D.

(Wolf Stuthe also said that, as Graham grudgingly conceded, the grand slam could be found using Precision bidding - as his partner, I know that I would lose the plot before the end of a very complex bidding sequence and collapse in 6D...Elaine) *Or 3D (Ed)*

2024 Interclub Teams

The interclub teams for 2024 snuck up on us and by the time it came to our notice the deadline for entries had passed. As luck would have it there was an odd number of teams entered and the Zone Secretary, Jacqui, asked Elaine if BBC could provide teams.

That is the sort of challenge that Elaine revels in (*I would like to dispute this - Elaine*) and after numerous phone calls, the following teams fronted up at Redlands on Sunday 17th November:

A grade: Sheila Wills and Richard Wallis with Sue Herbert and Narelle McIver;

B Grade: Judy and Neil Hanson with Leith Cameron and Pat Tan;

C Grade: Malcolm Corney and Clive Carter with Rob Swann and Barry Winning.

It was a very enjoyable day and we acquitted ourselves very well, finishing 3rd, 7th and 4th, and 5th overall from the 30 teams playing. I have included some of the hands from A Grade, but alas none from B & C Grade.

M1, Bd 2. Dlr: E. Vul: NS

	♠ 5 2 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ K Q J 8 6 ♣ A J 6		
♠ K J 6 ♥ A K 9 8 ♦ A 10 ♣ K Q 9 7	♠ A 9 7 4 ♥ 5 4 ♦ 9 7 4 3 ♣ 8 4 3	♠ Q 10 8 3 ♥ Q J 10 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ 10 6 2	
W	N	E	S
		/	/
2NT	/	3NT	//

Board 2 in the first match looked to be fairly-straight-forward and I led the ♦ K to 3NT, West having no chance and finishing 2 off for +100.

The 4-4 in the Majors looked promising, so we were hopeful of a pick-up and so it proved when Narelle found her 4-4 fit in Hearts and made 4H for +420 and 11 Imps.

However, this was our only joy in the first match, losing overall by 16 Imps

M2, Bd 11. Dlr: S. Vul: Nil

	♠ K Q J ♥ A 9 ♦ K 7 3 2 ♣ K 9 8 5		
♠ 8 6 4 2 ♥ J 10 7 ♦ A Q 9 8 ♣ Q 7	♠ 7 ♥ K Q 8 6 5 3 2 ♦ 10 ♣ J 10 3 2	♠ A 10 9 5 3 ♥ 4 ♦ J 6 5 4 ♣ A 6 4	
W	N	E	S
/	4H	//	3H

On board 11 in the second match Sheila put it to EW by opening with 3H, and I had no hesitation in raising to game.

West made an aggressive lead of the ♣Q, won by East who returned a club, but that was the end of the defence. When West ducked the ♦10 after Sheila drew trumps, she made 11 tricks for +450.

At the other table South opened with just 2H and when that became the final contract, he made 10 tricks, but 7 Imps to us for our first win of the day, by 9 Imps overall

M3.Bd 20. Dir: W. Vul: EW

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

W	N	E	S
/	1C	/	3C
/	3NT	//	

On board 20 in the third match I opened 1C, intending to rebid 2NT to show my 18-19 HCPs. But when Sheila jumped to 3C, I unwisely continued on to 3NT instead of passing.

Out of the blue, East led the ♦2 and EW took 7 tricks for 3 off and -300.

It looked like a bad result when 3C was probably making, but at the other table North was also in 3NT, only making 3 trick (???), so we gained 9 Imps!

Overall we won this match by 27 Imps to move up to 4th.

M4, Bd 6. Dir:E. Vul: EW

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

W	N	E	S
/	1H	/	1D
//		/	4H

On board 6 in the fourth match we had a routine auction to 4H with no opposition bidding and East led the ♠3.

Since I had only 3 probable losers, I ducked in dummy and won in hand with the ♠Q to lead the ♥Q, eventually losing 2 tricks for +450.

At the other table North played in just 3H, making 10 tricks for -170, but 7 Imps to us.

However, we still lost overall by 5 Imps to remain in 4th place

Richard Wallis

Heard at the Bridge Table

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

It is not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It is the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.

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

If I did everything right, I wouldn't be playing with you!

I'm not sure whether glory or masterpoints is first on the list, but I know learning to play better is definitely last.

I'd like a review of the bidding with all the original inflections.

The average defender operates in a fog of uncertainty.

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

A player who can't defend accurately should try to be declarer.

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

Years ago there were only two acceptable excuses for not leading the suit your partner had opened; having no cards in the suit, and sudden death.

I think we're all a little masochistic. Otherwise, why would we continue to play bridge?

Your play was much better today, and so were your excuses.

We play forcing hesitations.

Be an expert! Never take a finesse to make your contract when you can go down on a squeeze play.

It was not a play error, it was a play concept error.

Where's the hand you held during the auction?



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