



TRUMPIT

Hi Everyone,

As I have said before, the club is slowly getting back to the normal routine and isn't it good to be able to play on the regular sized tables and write down our own bids?

Now if we could just have a cuppa and an Iced Vo-Vo, all would be well!

In this month's issue, apart from all the regular bits, we have a new feature "Better Bridge" written by Ron Klinger and we thank him for making this available to us.

Also, on the next page is a new on-line bridge club, run by Val Roland for those people who wish to stay at home and play bridge.

Finally, as I have resigned as Editor of the Trumpit and this is my last newsletter, I would like to thank everybody who has contributed in any way over the last five years, especially Doug Sands and Pat Back. I hope you have all enjoyed my efforts and my sometimes terrible jokes.

Happy Bridging,



Pauline Curtis



*When you can't control what's happening,
challenge yourself to control the way you
respond to what's happening.
That's where your power is.*

Dalai Lama

NOVEMBER 2020

From Your Committee

A Farewell : Long-time club member Margaret Wienk is moving to New Zealand to be closer to family. Most members would remember Margaret's many years of service in the kitchen at congresses and other functions. Her tasty treats will be long remembered! As we say farewell to Margaret, we wish her and husband Arie, a smooth transition to Christchurch and many happy years there.

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A Welcome : Following the Beginners' class held in July and August immediately after the COVID-19 shutdown, thirteen graduates submitted applications to join the club. These members were all listed in the October Trumpit. In addition, two new members have transferred into the club, Janet Aldridge, from Western Australia, and Nigel Cleminson from Caboolture. As you meet these players at the club, please make them feel at home.

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An Ending: BBO online Bridge will cease to hold sessions after this Sunday 1 November. Many members used this opportunity to continue to play while the COVID-19 shutdown was in place.

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A Beginning: Face-to-face Saturday Bridge sessions will resume at the clubhouse on 7 November. Bookings are to be made online, the same as other sessions. Please use the club's website to book and do not take up Donna's or Gill's time by phoning them.

Doug Sands - Secretary

CASUAL BRIDGE CLUB

This is a totally on-line Bridge Club (run by Val Roland of the Beenleigh Bridge Club) for those players who are not able or wanting to go back to face-to-face bridge at this time.

It is for club players only and will be master pointed.

Val says that as several clubs have ceased their on-line BBO tournaments because their players have returned to the table, she thinks that it would be a win/win situation for all. Beenleigh Club would get the help it needs to successfully take off and our club would still be offering something to those who can't make it into the club room. Players only pay for their entry to sessions.

Also, Val will send information to those players who may be interested in one of her famous "zoom tours".

Val can be contacted on 0413 177 63



IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE

By Patricia Back

Rules and Conventions

When playing competitive bridge, as we do whenever we take part in a duplicate session, it is important for everyone's convenience to be aware of the basic rules of this very complicated game. Some rules are quite serious, for instance the rule that you must follow suit whenever possible, so that if you fail to do so you may be penalized by the director, and thereby lose some precious tricks. Other rules tend to be advisory, and it is a good idea to be aware of them, even though no penalty is involved.

- When your partner opens the bidding with 1 Club, state the number of cards you expect in the suit, such as "at least 3" rather than "better minor" for instance.
- When partner opens with 1 No Trump, give the range, such as 16-18, with no embellishment such as "no 5-card Major"
- When partner opens with 2 Clubs, or any artificial bid, do NOT volunteer a description until an opponent asks. Only ask about a bid when it is YOUR turn to bid.
- A little-known convention that is not widely understood and is primarily ethical, occurs when your partner has given an incorrect description of your bid. Assuming you become declarer, it is correct to explain this mistake, before the opening lead is made.
- When you discard on a suit, DO NOT announce that you have none of them. It is up to your partner to check that you are void in this suit by asking you about it, to avoid a revoke. If you are a defender, it is illegal to announce your void, as partner may not have noticed.

Bridge Topic of the Month



COUNT YOUR CARDS

Players should count their cards before looking at them

If missing or extra cards are discovered once play commences, affected players can be disadvantaged. For example, a missing card is deemed to be part of the hand at all times and a revoke may have occurred.

From ABF Rules and Ethics

? Bridge Trivia ?

Who invented probably the most popular bridge convention in the world, the ace-asking bid of 4NT that bears his name?

(Answer next page)

There are many less obvious unethical actions that occur, and are difficult to deal with, in particular certain revealing examples of body language or unnecessary remarks. Let's keep the game as polite as possible. I believe our Club displays foremost a very polite and pleasant environment in which to indulge our liking for our favourite game.



TABLE MANNERS FOR HAPPY BRIDGE PLAYERS

Communication between partners during the auction and play should be affected only by means of proper calls and plays. Avoid any communication by eye contact.



We warmly welcome our newest member

JANET ALDRIDGE

and wish her a long and happy association with the club

Answer to Bridge Trivia

EASLEY BLACKWOOD



Blackwood was a fine player, but his convention became critical for slam bidding and was adopted widely around the world due to its simplicity and effectiveness. In fact, it was so widely adopted that Blackwood lamented that if he had a nickel for every time it was used (often incorrectly), he would be a millionaire.

The wrong choices also created popular bidding conventions that are widely in use today, but none quite so much as the Blackwood convention.



HAVE A LAUGH

A woman brought a very limp duck into the vet. The vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and said "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away".

The distressed woman wailed "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure" replied the vet.

"How can you be so sure, I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something".

The vet rolled his eyes, left the room and returned with a Labrador, who stood on his hind legs and sniffed the duck from top to bottom and sadly shook his head.

A few minutes later the vet brought in a cat. The cat jumped on the table and sniffed the duck from head to foot and sadly shook his head.

"I'm sorry", said the vet "but your duck is 100% dead". He then handed the woman a bill for \$150.

"\$150" the woman cried, "just to tell me my duck is dead". The vet shrugged and said "I'm sorry but if you had just taken my word for it the bill would have been \$20 but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now \$150.

**In other news...
the Seven Dwarfs
have been advised
that as of today,
they can only meet in
groups of six.
One of them isn't
Happy.**



Better Bridge

with Ron Klinger

DROP SHOT

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

North

K1062

QJ4

964

Q32

South

AJ854

AK3

AQJ

65

West North East South

Pass 1S

Pass 2S Pass 4S

Pass Pass Pass

West leads the CJ, low. East plays the C4, low-like. West continues with the C10. East wins with the CK and plays the CA. You ruff low. West follows with the C7. How do you continue?

Preface: Skip this if you already know how to play the above spade combination and if you have already worked out how to play the hand above.

Dummy

K1062

Declarer

AJ854

In the absence of any information about the opposing hands, the percentage play is to cash the top cards and hope for the queen to come down singleton or doubleton. With this combination there is a slight advantage to starting with the king. This allows you to avoid a loser when the layout is like this:

Dummy

K1062

West

East

Q973

Declarer

AJ854

Play the ace first and you have to lose a trick whether East has Q-9-7-3 or West has that. Play the king first and when West shows out, continue with the 10. If East plays low, the 10 Declarer wins and you finesse the jack. If East covers AJ854 the 10 with the Q, return to dummy and you can finesse the 8. The chance of all four trumps with East is only 5%, but a 5% gain is significant in these days of

low interest rates. However, please note the words "In the absence of any information" Often there is information.

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

North
K1062
QJ4
964
Q32

West	East
Q73	5
1086	9752
103	K8752
J10987	AK4

South
AJ854
AK3
AQJ
65

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1S	
Pass	2S	Pass	4S
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1S : 2S is a normal 6-9point raise in standard methods. Even if you play *Bergen Raises" where 1S : 3C = 6-9 points and 4+ spades, there is a good case for bidding just 1S : 2S when the responder has a 4-3-3-3 pattern.

After ruffing the third club, South should play the H3 to the HQ and finesse the DQ. When it wins, you can place East with the DK. (There is no good reason for West to duck if holding the DK.). Now East has shown up with the CA, CK and you presume the DK. That gives East 10 HCP, but East passed as dealer. East will not hold the SQ as well. That would give East 12 HCP and an opening hand.

Once you place the SQ with West, you cash the SA and finesse the S10 for 11 tricks. If you simply played SK and SA after ruffing the third club, you make 10 tricks, your contract, but you could have made an overtrick for a top score.

If it turns out that West has the DK and the diamond finesse lost, you can revert to playing the spades in normal fashion, king and ace, and hope the queen drops.

Murphy's Law #40: If you fail to finesse, the finesse would have worked; if you finesse, playing for the drop would have worked.