

## From the President

Bridge is a game **that keeps our minds ticking over**, which if you are like me, is a good thing. Since learning bridge is a journey that involves many steps, it usually provides as many stages of desperation as it does mind blowing inspiration & delight. We all have periods when we want to throw the game away but I have always found its rewards outweigh its frustrations (even when I'm being called a Wally).

As president, one aim is to continue the work of improving the standard of bridge play in the club, particularly for those on the novice journey. The first step is to have a good set of introductory lesson. At the club we are very fortunate to have a good teaching team headed by Deidre Giles. Since she is planning to **commence lesson again on the 1<sup>st</sup> October**, if anyone knows of someone who may find the game interesting, tell them about the lessons. A good introduction to anything new is always the best way to start the journey.

Once you have started the journey, and become familiar with your KISS bidding system, there are always new things that can be gradually added to your knowledge of the game, particularly in the art of defence. Good defence contributes 60% to success. The **library has been promoted** and the plan is to gradually improve the selection of up-to-date books that reflect modern playing/defence/bidding methods. Borrow, but also remember they need to be available for everyone, so please return promptly. If you really like the book, maybe buying it is a worthwhile option (see Molly).

The **teams of three competition**, conducted recently, hopefully has allowed new players to learn the tactics that make team play, compared to pair competition, different. The club thanks go to the team captains. Emails received after the day by the club attest the great work of mentoring their team was appreciated. Some suggestions for changes to the event in future are included below;

- holding it on a different day--maybe a Tuesday
- more time between rounds for discussion (this would entail having less boards e.g. 6 rounds of 8 boards) finishing around 2.30 with maybe nibbles afterwards
- people nominate their own team of three (if they want to) and then the club organiser tries to find team captains (or they find own team captain)
- information needs be given out prior to event-example
  - team strategy and its impact on play and bidding
  - filling out system cards
  - how to score and its significance

Your ideas are always appreciated, so keep them coming, as they provide good starting points when committee discusses or reviews.

Another area that will improve your bridge is to become familiar with the **laws of the game**. On the QBA site there is a new part called "Laws and Ethics Tips" <http://www.qldbridge.com/laws/> with tips for all players. As a way to gradually become familiar with the laws that are most significant when playing could I suggest looking at just one slide each week or try the law quiz. (PS If you get 40% correct the club is always looking to assist in training new directors).

Also a good way to keep improving your bridge is to **play congresses**. Redland Graded Pairs, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September would love to accept your nomination. Playing congresses is fun and the best time is when you can do it on home soil.

Most importantly, enjoy bridging.

Anne



## IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE

*Patricia Back*

### Finding an Opening Lead

Recently I have noticed players making less than ideal opening leads and giving away tricks unnecessarily. For instance, it is not recommended to lead away from a tenace (combination of split honours such as AQ). One player, on lead against 3 Clubs, led the 8 of spades from AQ8, when it was known that declarer was short of spades. You should wait until that suit is led TO YOU.

When partner has bid a suit and you have 3 to an honour in that suit (such as Q76), do not lead the Queen. You are likely to make a trick later with that Queen if you do not lead it. The correct lead in this case is the 6.

### FROM THE COMMITTEE



The front of the building can no longer be used for disabled parking per council regulations. Disabled parking will be at the southern end of the building only and, although not signed, it is marked by the yellow studs in the ground.

A new water cooler has been purchased since the old one was not worth fixing.

A bequest was received from Graham Perry in memory of his wife, Enid. It was decided that the money would be used to purchase new bridge books.

### **Last chance for Beginner Lessons**

Wednesday, October 1 at 2:00 pm. If you know anyone interested learning bridge have them contact Deidre on 0412131172 or [gilesodyssey@gmail.com](mailto:gilesodyssey@gmail.com)

Welcome to our new member:

**Laurel Riek**

## Upcoming Events

### September

**Redland Graded Pairs Congress,**  
Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup>, all day

### October

**Spring Graded Pairs**  
Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, red point



### **NOVICE CORNER**

*Ben Engeman*

As a novice I seem to be continually learning, forgetting and not improving. I play on average three times a week and the problem for me is to retain the knowledge and apply it in play. I am sure this is not news for most novices, however I find that particularly with big hands, the mistakes multiply with the level of anxiety. Last Monday my partner opened with 1C and I had about 20HCP with a balanced hand and no four card major suit. I realised immediately of course that together we should be heading for a slam. Since I could not give my partner a suit, the only option appeared to be NT. So I replied with 2NT (mistake number 1). My partner thinking that I had 11+ points replied with 3NT. So I replied with 4NT to ask for Aces (mistake number 2), confusing my partner because our agreed procedure is to use 4C to ask for Aces. My partner replied with 4H, I went to 5NT and my partner by now was thoroughly confused. So we ended up with 6NT because we did not have an agreed suit and of course 6NT was just not there. What a waste and all caused by me. However the lesson was strong and that is to communicate with my partner using our agreed procedures. Having three different partners does not help either.

Personally I am not sure it is of benefit to mix novices with those in the top echelon of players at our club during social play. I notice the "good" players normally sit in the front and the novices sit toward the back. Due to the difficulties in organising playing systems into one system we are combined. Is it possible to divide using points e.g 50 or 60 points above and below?

## And the Winners are . . . . .

### Eddie Santagiuliana Trophy

Judith Corney and Michael Souter (A Grade)  
Avra Bowler and Pam Burke (B Grade)

### Redland Championship Pairs

Molly O'Donohue and Philip Thompson (1<sup>st</sup>)  
Jan Argent and Neil Casey (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
Daniel Chua and Chris Mayfield (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Congratulations to all.



## The Law Is:

### MISTAKEN BID VS MISTAKEN EXPLANATION

There is a great deal of confusion among ordinary bridge player as to the differences between these two statements. To put it into proper perspective you must remember that Bridge is a game of communication through agreements of systems, conventions and discussions. Once these have been established by the partnership, your opponents are entitled to know what you have agreed to and what systems and conventions you play, hence the reason for a system card and the alerting procedure. The requirement, under the law, is to let your opponents know what you have agreed to.

So what is the difference between a misbid and a misexplanation? Let me give you an example: I play multi-two with my partner (Philip). I pick up my hand and bid 2D. Philip is asked what that means and explains a weak six in a major or strong and balanced as per our system agreement. Well it turns out I was away with the fairies and really have a weak six diamonds. Now Philip has given the correct explanation and everyone bids according to this explanation. This is a **mistaken bid** but it is not a penalty because my partner is just as disadvantaged as the opponents. (By the way he is really mad with me).

Again I pick up my hand and this time I have five/five in the majors with 6-10 points and bid 2H (multi-two—five hearts and five of another suit). Philip is asked what that means and he tells them a weak six card heart suit (he is away with the fairies this time). This is a **mistaken explanation** because this is our system agreement and the opponents are entitled to an adjustment if damaged.

So, for the future, remember if the correct systemic agreement has been explained, there is no infraction, irrespective of what the player has in the hand, conversely if the correct systemic agreement has been misexplained, then an infraction has occurred.

## BRIDGE IN VOLOS, GREECE

*Lynne Layton*

Things run a little differently at the Volos Bridge Club (60 members).....you play outside at the local Tennis Club under the grape vine trellis which is lovely on a summer evening. Play starts 8.00pm....we wait for everyone to arrive.....players chat, smoke and drink wine, beer and iced coffee. Play started at 8.20pm and ended at 12.30 am, yes after midnight!!!. The evening temperature was 29 degrees, very pleasant indeed. Bridge players get the added bonus of watching young, trim and fit tennis players on the floodlit courts beside the Bridge tables to well past midnight.

The word Director is not used at the Volos Bridge Club, if you make a mistake, you say sorry and correct it yourself. If you ask for an alert to be explained, the partner answers and the bidder helps with the explanation as well. Mobile phones may be answered and you may chat to the caller, your partner does not play until you finish your phone call, very civilized, no procedural penalties apply. Parking is at a real premium, so it is okay to leave the table and shift your car during a round.

Talking during a game is very much the norm, they talk about children, vacations etc., they talk loudly and we only heard one shhhh during the session. Since there is no break at the mid-way point, all the news is shared during play. Bidding occurs with bidding boxes, Scoring is via Travellers and they played 4 board rounds. You may take as much time as you wish to play your hand in the summer...as the clock is inside....the Director will not give you an average for the Board if time is a problem.

Most players play Standard American, they have some very good players, one we call the "Great White Shark" ....he is very hospitable, an extremely good player and a very good bridge teacher. Players are much younger, average age around 40+, things are very relaxed, friendly and super social. It was great to see the relaxed way Bridge happens in Volos...we are very grateful for our Bridge experience in Greece, it was a wonderful and unique experience, full of laughs and fun, we will treasure it in the years ahead.

# Melbourne Cup



## 2014



Tuesday, 4 November 2014

Doors open at 8:00 am

Sweeps sold until 9:05 am (\$1, \$2, and \$5 tables)

Bridge will start at 9:30 am and finish approximately at 12:15  
(Anne and Keith directing)

Morning Tea at 10:30 for 15 minutes

Cost: \$10 members; \$15 for non-members and partners of  
members (includes morning tea, bridge, lunch, wine and fun)

Sign up now and purchase ticket from Di Elliot. Closing date  
for purchase of tickets is Monday, October 27 (after this date  
no refunds)

Several fashion parades

--Sign up now--

☞☞ Volunteers needed for **morning tea** (see Anne); **sweeps** (see Gill);  
and **general** stuff (see Di)

