



# THE GYMPIE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

February/March 2017 Issue No 52

Hi all

Here we are into February already. Xmas is a thing of the past, the kids are back in school, & Australia day has gone and now we can relax and settle back into our routines.

Thanks goodness for the air conditioning at the club. Even though fresh air is better for us, it is also great to have the Air Conditioner, when it becomes so uncomfortable that only cold air will help. It will be interesting to see how the new Air Con. goes when all the details have been finalized. These are in the process, I believe.

As you are aware the Beginners Lessons are due to start shortly, Wednesday pm 8th & Saturday am 11th). Again we ask that you let us know if you are aware of any interest by your friends. The Beginners are needed to keep our Club progressing.

You should all have received your Handbooks for 2017. These are a great help for you to see what is coming up or phone numbers for any Partner request that you require. Please keep it handy. One update is for Cathy Maertens, her new No is 5331 3167.

Your fees are now getting to the due date. So if you haven't paid them as yet, please do so.

As you will probably know, Ron & Lesley lost their father in January. Our thoughts go out to them.

We have some new members. They are Paivi & Mario Lobigs.

We welcome these members and hope they enjoy their time with us.



Why did I get divorced? Well, last week was my birthday. My wife didn't wish me a happy birthday. My parents forgot and so did my kids. I went to work and even my colleagues didn't wish me a happy birthday. As I entered my office, my secretary said, "Happy birthday, boss!" I felt so special. She asked me out for lunch. After lunch, she invited me to her apartment. We went there and she said, "Do you mind if I go into the bedroom for a minute?" "Okay," I said. She came out 5 minutes later with a birthday cake, my wife, my parents, my kids, my friends, & my colleagues all yelling, "SURPRISE!!!" while I was waiting on the sofa... naked.

# BIRTHDAY BOOK

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Birthdays in **FEBRUARY**

*Steven Verity  
Bernie Greentree  
Carolann Verity  
Sue Schierning  
David Connors  
Helen Morrissey  
Jenz Davidson  
Ed Beckett*

## and in **MARCH**

*Kay Kerr  
Greg Dewar  
John Byrnes  
Tim Wilson  
George Konyi  
Kelly Chapman  
Lesley McHugh  
Ruth Sparrow  
Sandra Skennerton  
Jack Wright*

"Happy New Year everybody! So far, it has been an incredibly hot summer and the air conditioners have been running at nearly every bridge session since December! The air conditioning units are getting old and not really as efficient as they could be, so the Committee (with the much appreciated assistance from Bevan Anderson) will be gathering quotes and putting together a submission for Club Members to vote, via an Extraordinary General Meeting, to upgrade them. Notice of that meeting will be circulated as soon as all the relevant information, specifications and costs have been correlated.

Watch this space!

Lessons for Beginners are starting on Wednesday evening 8th Feb and Saturday morning 11th Feb.

President Peter organised the Gympie Times to do an editorial (including a photo of Peter and Kay) prior to advertisements being placed in the Gympie Times. Local Radio Station 4GY has also been "plugging" the lessons for free and Jennifer has been receiving calls from prospective beginners seeking further information about the lessons. We hope the number of interested beginners is high and once their lessons are complete, they go on to become members of our wonderful club. The viability of the club depends on new members joining every year and existing members should be welcoming and encouraging to our beginners. Remember we were ALL beginners once! The Committee also decided to increase table fees to \$5 per session commencing 1<sup>st</sup> February. This includes table fees for visitors and red point events. The only time, members will pay more than \$5 is when it is a gold point event. We hope this small increase is not too much of a financial impost on players.

Gympie Contract Bridge Club will also be having its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May of 2018 and Kay has been asked by the Committee to form a sub-committee to plan such a momentous occasion. There will be more information regarding that in the next Newsletter.

Until then, happy bridging!

Kelly

Vice President

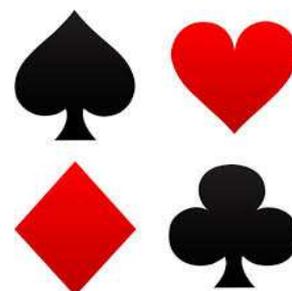


## Results of recent events

Nothing to report for December (too busy getting ready for Xmas)

### SUMMER PAIRS Thursday AM 2nd February

- 1st - Shirley Bishop & Adele Harington
- 2nd - Chris Lucas & Keith Johnson
- 3rd - Sue Schierning & Ross Muirhead.



### COMING EVENTS

#### March - Pairs Championships over 2 weeks (14th & 21st)

GNOT PLAY OFF will be held on Sunday 19th March. Winners will need to be available to go to Maryborough for the semi final in June.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS is happening from 18th 25th February.

Don't forget the Sunday Bridge sessions. They are a good relaxing afternoon and are a very social day.

Australia Day 26th Jan Thursday AM. I believe this was a very good morning with lots of decorations and of course the National Anthem. Also lot of nibbles were enjoyed by all who attended.

The Xmas Party was on the 1st December 2016 at Gunabul's Restaurant.

I hear that there were mixed reports regarding this, but on the whole it appears to have been a good night.



## Rule of Twenty - Rule of 20

This guideline or method, named the Rule of Twenty, is a method in determining whether a holding containing fewer than the standard 12 plus high card points is, despite this fact, worthy of an opening bid. The development of this concept is attributed to **Mr. Marty Bergen**.

This determination is decided when the number of high card points are added to the number of cards in the two longest suits. If the total equals twenty or more, then the player should decide to open. Conversely, if the total sum does not equal twenty, then the recommendation according to the Rule of 20 is that the holding should not be opened.

**Note:** According to Mr. Marty Bergen, the application of the Rule of 20 should be employed in either First or Second Seat in deciding whether or not to open even a borderline hand. The Rule of 20 is not relevant in Third or Fourth Seat.

Also, Mr. Marty Bergen strongly suggests that *most hands worth opening in first or second seat have at least 2 Quick Tricks*. However, in the words of Mr. Marty Bergen, no hard and fast rule is possible. Some hands with 1 to 1.5 Quick Tricks should be opened. He also admonishes the bridge player to consider the fact that no suit can have more than a total of 2 Quick Tricks according to his evaluation method. Please review the following for his evaluation method:

Ace & King = 2 Quick tricks. Ace & Queen = 1.5 QTs. Ace = 1 QT King & Queen = 1 QT  
King xx = .5 QT

### The following two examples should clarify this concept.

An example of a holding, which should be opened:

Spade 6 Heart AQ965 Diamond A10965 Club 42

This hand contains 10 high card points. The total number of the cards in both of the longest suits equal ten. Adding the two numbers together, the sum of 10 for the two longest suits and 10 for the number of points, the sum equals 20. The second, very important requirement that the working cards or values should be located in the two longest suits is also fulfilled. Therefore, the player can / may / could / should open this hand in any seat since the holding qualifies under the Rule of Twenty.

### An example of a holding, which should not be opened:

Spade Q Heart QJ Diamond Q6 Club QJ

This hand also contains 10 high card points. The total number of the cards in both of the longest suits equal ten. Adding the 2 numbers together, 10 for the total of the sum of the two longest suits and 10 for the number of points, the sum equals 20. However, considering that the holding contains no Aces and no Kings, and since the working cards or working values are not located mainly in the two longest suits, the second requirement is not fulfilled, and this hand does not qualify as an opening.

### The Difference

Mr. Marty Bergen, in his publication *To Open, or Not to Open*, provides suggestions and guidelines for the application of the Rule of 20 and also advice for the bridge player, such as:

- 1 The State of Vulnerability should not become an issue.
2. Always remember that there are logical exceptions to even the best of bridge rules.
3. Every bridge player must learn to upgrade attractive hands and downgrade ugly ones.
4. The high card points are not limited to only the two longest suits.

# THE SATNAV

A NEW POEM BY PAM AYRES

I have a little Satnav, it sits there in my car  
A satnav is a driver's friend it tells you where you are.  
I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life.  
It's better than the normal ones, my Satnav is my wife.  
It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive.  
"It's sixty miles an hour" it says, "You're doing sixty five"  
It tells me when to stop and start and when to use the brake  
And tells me that it's never ever, safe to overtake.  
It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green  
It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene.  
It list the vehicles just in front, and all those to the rear.  
And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.  
I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device.  
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives it's advice.  
It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught  
So why don't I exchange it, and get a quieter sort?  
Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed.  
It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed.  
Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff  
I only wish that now and then, I could turn the bugger off.



## **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

**Penalty Cards:** (re-print of a previous article)

It is often the case that players choose not to call the Director when a card is unlawfully exposed, believing they can deal with it themselves. In many cases, this is okay but one needs to know the difference between Minor and Major penalty cards.

A **Minor** penalty card is a card below the rank of an honour exposed unintentionally (as in playing two cards to a trick, or in dropping a card accidentally). Unlike a Major penalty card, **the Minor penalty card does not have to be played at the first legal opportunity.** The Defender may not play any other card of the same suit below the rank of an honour until he has first played the penalty card but he is entitled to play an honour card instead. Offender's partner is not subject to lead restriction but information gained through seeing the penalty card is unauthorised.

A **Major** penalty card is a card of honour rank or any card exposed through deliberate play (for example in leading out of turn or in revoking and then correcting). Where one defender has two or more penalty cards, all such cards become major penalty cards.

A Major penalty card must be played at the first legal opportunity, whether in leading, following suit, discarding or trumping. If a defender has two or more penalty cards that can legally be played, declarer designates which is to be played. When a defender has the lead while his partner has a major penalty card, he may not lead until declarer has stated which of the following options he requires:

Declarer may require the defender to lead the suit of the penalty card or to prohibit him from leading that suit for as long as he retains the lead. In either of these cases the card is no longer a penalty card and is picked up;

Declarer may decide not to require or prohibit a lead, in which case the defender may lead any card and the penalty card remains a penalty card.

So, we see that it's not all cut and dried and it's probably a good idea to call the Director when a card is exposed. \*\*\*\*\*

**Body language:** There are quite a few players who have obviously never played poker and never should! So much information can be given away by body language. When bidding and playing, remain impassive regardless of how difficult your hand might be to bid or how dismayed you may be at your partner's bid or lead. Also, hovering over the bidding pad, pencil in hand and making aborted attempts at bidding gives away so much information. If you are one of these 'hoverers', it would be a good idea to train yourself to leave your pencil on the table until you are ready to make your bid and thereby avoid the risk of giving unauthorised information (UI). It goes without saying that players should not comment, sigh or make hand gestures when bidding or playing. All of these things give UI. The Laws of Duplicate Bridge take UI so seriously, there are three pages of the rule book devoted to it under Law 16. As always, call the Director if you have any concerns.

\*\*\*\*\*

Till next time,

Kay

Cheers till next time.

Fran

