

GYMPIE BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

June/July/August 2021 – WINTER issue, No 71

Hello fellow bridge club members,

- Winter is upon us now and members are reminded that if they are feeling unwell, to please stay away from the club until you are better, but...
- How wonderful to see more members back playing bridge since Covid protocols have eased.

However, people are gently reminded that Covid is still very much a risk, (just look at Melbourne and those escapees) especially in our club where most members are, on average, retirement age plus.

- A plea from the directors. Members arriving to play bridge should be at the club at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.

Those few minutes give directors time to work out and finalise the session movement and it enables table fees to be collected before play starts.

So please, be an **early bird** and also have ALL table fees in the supplied coin bag, so whoever is collecting them doesn't have to return, sometimes more than once, for those late fees. If you are going to be late, please phone either your partner or the club to let them know you are on your way.

- At a recent committee meeting, the following procedure was adopted:

"If one pair is clearly responsible for a board not being able to be played due to unreasonably slow play, that pair will receive an average minus for the unplayed board and the opponents will receive an average plus.

"The responsible pair will also receive a warning

and will receive a procedural penalty for any further instance of unreasonably slow play."

This ruling applies to all events, red and green.

- Wednesday evening bridge has taken a leap forward in recent weeks, with many in the latest group of beginners enjoying the night session paired with a "mentor" ie: a more experienced member of the club.

One newbie, who had been observing play only over a few Wednesday evenings because he couldn't make it to lessons, was persuaded to play and did pretty well too, all things considered.

- Meanwhile, lessons are continuing on Tuesdays, from 6-8pm, with up to eight new players there most weeks. All beginners are very welcome — not only because they bring new blood to the club, but also because our numbers have dropped by some 20 members since Covid, with many deciding to not return to play since.

- Did you open a window at the club house? If you did, **please**, remember to close it at the end of the session before you rush out the door. Thank you.

- Our guest columnist **Joan Butts**, goes back to basics again with a "Refresher" lesson. More examples and information is readily available on her ABF website, or through the ABF website.

- In our Director's Digest, **Jennifer Hollingworth** has further examples on what players should NOT do at their table while waiting for a director.



Good bridging ... JENZ

GLORIOUS COLOUR

You will find the latest newsletter online at
www.gympiebridgeclub.com
under the **Newsletter** icon.

OUR BIRTHDAYS

IN JUNE

- 1: Lee Lewis
- 6: Ross Chapman
- 14: Mary Boyd
- 14: Adele Harington
- 14: Dean Hollingworth
- 17: Gavin Trease
- 21: Jay Kent
- 22: Nannette Jones
- 23: Jen Hollingworth
- 23: Cynthia Ryan

AND JULY

- 3: Bev Eaton
- 5: Glenys Gissel
- 19: Rudy Meyer
- 20: Jeff Streat
- 28: Meredith Ward

AND AUGUST

- 2: Don Griggs
- 2: Ruth Greentree
- 8: Shelly Gauld
- 8: Tertia Brink
- 15: Yve Welch
- 20: Jean Harm
- 24: Keith Johnson

President's report

Winter edition

At the last committee meeting a report on club membership was presented by Ross Chapman. His report was timely and encouraging with respect to possible initiatives which the club could implement to foster membership.

Our membership has declined from over 90 members in 2016 to just 65 now. Of course the recent decline has been mostly due to the Covid-19 virus which has impacted all sports except golf. However Ross identified three other reasons which have attributed to declining membership, these being:

- Beginners who have taken lessons are not well enough prepared to play against experienced players
- New members are not well supported by experienced players, and
- Members leave with no concerted attempt to keep them playing.

Ross's report suggested several methods which could be adopted by our club to overcome the above-mentioned perceptions, these being:

1. Hold a special free Sunday afternoon bridge session with snacks and drinks to revive friendships and goodwill, and to meet and welcome learners and beginners.
2. Ask our qualified teachers to attend a committee meeting and outline course objectives and content so regular players are familiar with the bridge knowledge of beginners.
3. We could seek teacher advice on how to structure specific playing sessions to encourage beginners, alternatively consider expanding lessons to make beginners more competent and confident.
4. Continue the practice of mentors and expand it to encourage a regular pairing to both act as mentors and they each take on a beginner. All experienced club members should act as a mentor for at least once a year.
5. Appoint two members to meet with "lost" players and discuss options for them to return to bridge which could include reduced first year member fees and offering them an experienced mentor to play with.

In Ross's opinion, there exists in our club an attitude that winning and increasing masterpoints is more important than having a friendly, sociable club. Further, if that is what our club is all about, then it is disappointing to him. In all sports, after the game there should be time to relax and chat with the opposition to rekindle friendships after the "battle".

Ross's report was well received at the meeting and created much discussion. We have already decided to have a Special Sunday Bridge session on 27 June starting with a Sausage Sizzle Lunch and then play bridge where everyone is guaranteed a partner. We also decided to ask Jennifer to attend a committee meeting as set out in the report. Other items have been held over for future decisions.

I commend Ross on his initiative on preparing the report (paraphrased) and I hope the contents are seriously considered (and implemented) by the next management committee.

Cheers, Nev.

Consider this . . .

Four potential slams in a GNOT heat, held Sunday, 16 May. Just 4 teams competed in the two sessions.

Board 7, AM session. One 6NT bid made 12 (1440); One 4H bid made 13 (710); Two 3NT bids made 10 (630).

North ♠QT843 ♥T76 ♦32 West ♠KJ7 ♥AJ532 ♦J74 ♣97	Dir: S Vul: All East ♠A952 ♥K4 ♦AKQT5 South ♠6 ♥Q98 ♦986 ♣KJT654
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South P P P P P P	West P P 2H ² 4C ⁴ 5C ⁶ 6D ⁸	North P P P P P All pass	East 2C ¹ 3D ³ 4D ⁵ 5S ⁷
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¹ 4 losers and 20hcp, so East opens 2C.

² West, with 5 hearts, 10HCP & 1 length point, is happy to bid.

³ East shows the long, strong diamond suit.

⁴ West knows Partner must hold 5+ diamonds, so now ace asks.

⁵ East shows three aces (CRO) or 4NT (standard).

⁶ West asks for kings.

⁷ East shows two kings.

⁸ East, missing just 1 king, leaves it in 6D or could bid 6NT.

Board 2, PM session. One 3NT bid made 11(660); One 4H bid made 11 (650); two 4H bids made 10 (620).

North ♠K62 ♥AJ963 ♦A8 West ♠AJ875 ♥T8 ♦72 ♣T754	Dir: E Vul: N-S East ♠QT94 ♥Q42 ♦QT6 South ♠3 ♥K75 ♦KJ9543 ♣AJ3
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East P P P P P	South 1D ¹ 3D ³ 4H ⁵ 5D 6H	West P P P P All pass	North 2D/2C ² 3H ⁴ 4NT ⁶ 5NT
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¹ Natural 1D opening bid.

² Depending on p'ship agreement, North would show opening values with either a 2D bid or if playing 2/1, a 2C bid.

³ South rebids the strong diamond suit.

⁴ North now bids the 5-card major.

⁵ South shows the heart fit and bids game.

⁶ Would North now try for slam? Blackwood shows only one ace missing, so for those who do bid 6H, it may pay off.

Board 10, AM session. One 4S bid made 12 (680); One 4S bid made 11 (650); One 4S bid made 10 (620); One 2S bid made 12 .

North ♠AKJT4 ♥Q2 ♦AKJ West ♠K82 ♥K63 ♦9762 ♣742	Dir: E Vul: All East ♠Q5 ♥J754 ♦Q43 ♣J865
---	--

South P P P P P	West P P 2H ² 4C ⁴ 5C ⁶ 6D ⁸	North P P 2NT ² 3S ⁴ 4H ⁶ 5H ⁸
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¹ Although 5 losers, with 24pts it's a definite 2C opening.

² South with 7hcp, 10 losers but no 5-card suit, bids 2NT.

³ North now bids the 5-card spade suit.

⁴ South doesn't know North's strength, so an invitational bid.

⁵ North now ace asks.

⁶ South shows one ace.

⁷ North asks for kings.

⁸ South bids 5H, showing one king.

⁹ North knows only one king is missing, so bids 6S or 6NT.

Board 22, PM session. All 4 pairs bid 4H. 1 made 12 (680); 2 made 11 (650); 1 made 10 (620).

North ♠KQ52 ♥A962 ♦Q732 West ♠A984 ♥Q4 ♦JT ♣AQJT7	Dir: E Vul: E-W East ♠7 ♥KJT8753 ♦AK8 ♣64
---	--

East P P P P P	South 1H 2H ³ 4H 5S	West P P P P	North 2D/2C ¹ 4C ⁴ 5C 6H ⁵
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¹ Opening values so West bids as per partnership agreement.

² North could X, (opening values & heart stopper) but passes.

³ East rebids hearts, showing at least 6.

⁴ West now knows there's a heart fit and makes a slam enquiry.

⁵ 6H is possible, but would hesitate to bid further than game. (Then finding 1 ace and 2 kings missing wouldn't help!)

Thank you Jeanette for the bidding advice!

School of Bridge — Joan Butts

A "Refresher" of the Basics — part 2

Responder's role

After the opening bid, responder makes a decision about whether the partnership strategy should be:

- **constructive**, trying to find **OUR** best contract, or
- **pre-emptive**, when your goal is to stop the opponents finding **THEIR** best contract.

After a 1NT opening

Responder's role is to bid constructively, putting the partnership in its best contract — generally straightforward.

- With 0-7 points — it will be the best part-score
- With 8-9 points — responder will invite game
- With 10+ — responder drives the partnership to game (or even slam)

Familiar tools, Stayman and Transfers, are helpful here.

After a major suit opening with support

Responder decides which of four main categories the hand belongs in. Three categories are **constructive**, where you expect to make your contract.

- **Single raise** (6-9 or 10). Hands with trump support but minimal values, where opener will need extra strength or shape to be interested in anything but a part-score.
- **Limit — Invitational — raise** (11-12, with some shape, eg a doubleton or singleton and four trumps). Hands where responder wants to invite to game in opener's major suit.
- **Forcing raise** (13+ and four trumps). Hands with support and enough strength to take the partnership to at least game, and possibly slam.



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One category is **pre-emptive**, where you don't expect to make your contract.

• **Pre-emptive raise**. Weak hands with long trump support. Responder's raise makes it more difficult for opponents to find bids.



Point-count ranges

There are only general guidelines. Some suggest a single raise is 6-9; others 6-10. Experts are flexible. A good 10-point hand could be promoted to limit raise category; a poor 10-point hand would be in the single raise category.

Length of the trump suit

The modern style is for responder to use different approaches depending on the length of the trump support. The better the trump fit, the more aggressive the partnership can be in deciding how high to bid or compete. Responder tries to describe the exact length of the support, although this is not always possible using standard methods.

Responding in 1NT

6-10 points and no fit if partner has opened a major.
Two example hands of responder basics:

♦Q86 Vul: Nil
♥AQJ975
♦KQJ
♣4

♠T432 ♠KJ7
♥K864 ♥2
♦54 ♦9632
♣AK2 ♣JT53

♦A95
♥T3
♦AT87
♣9876

♦T5 Vul N/S
♥T42
♦AQJ63
♣AJ2

♦K2 ♦A74
♥853 ♥K97
♦T972 ♦854
♣KT85 ♣Q963

♦QJ9863
♥AQJ6
♦K
♣74

West	North	East	You
1H	P		
1NT ¹			
P	3H ²	P	4H ³
All Pass			

West	North	East	You
	P		1S ¹
P	2D	P	2H ²
P	2NT ³	P	3S
P	4S ⁴		All Pass

¹ South (you) has 8 hcp, no heart fit (yet); you can't bid 1S with only a 3-card suit, and with not enough points to bid at the 2-level — so bid 1NT.

² Partner has now shown an extra heart.

³ Knowing you now have a fit in hearts, bid to game, making 10. Score: 420.

¹ 10+ points & 4 diamonds. Forcing. limit raise, 11-12 pts.

² Show your second suit.

³ Partner hasn't shown support for either suit you've bid.

⁴ Now show your 6th spade and partner, obviously with two spades, supports this and bids to game.

Score: 620.

Joan is offering free "Guided Paths" lessons weekly to ABF members. Sign in at <https://www.abf.com.au/education/>



Director's Digest



What NOT to do while waiting for the director — part 3

Continuing our advice on what NOT to do while waiting for the director to arrive at your table. So far, we've discussed insufficient bids, a contested claim, memory loss over partner's unusual bid, and revokes. Now, we're discussing what happens when someone is slow.

5. Someone is slow

To have to raise this scenario is slightly embarrassing, and you would think it wouldn't happen, but it does.

This is the situation - a player is taking a long time on a hand, and the opponents are getting fractious.

And so, frustration boils over and the director is called. When this happens, it always seems the director is making a ruling at another table at the time and so there is a minor delay.

Eventually the director arrives and the players are waiting "patiently", in the middle of the hand.

One player will say, "He/she is taking too long."

The bemused director will enquire as to why the play isn't continuing when the table is running so late.

The reply: "We were waiting for you!"

It is true that a player taking more than his or her share of time is discourteous and may be subject to sanction under the Laws. However, if you call the director on an opponent's slow play and then do not continue play until the director arrives just to make a point, then you are even more guilty of delaying the game.

If you were to do this on more than one occasion, you shouldn't be surprised if it is you who is penalised.



Final in this small series next issue.

Good bridging — Jennifer



It's on the cards



- Last Sunday of the Month bridge in June features a sausage sizzle lunch before play, at midday. ALL are welcome, especially beginners and people considering returning to bridge. If you haven't a partner, one will be found for you. Last Sunday bridge days this quarter are: 27 June and 25 July and 29 August.

— Congratulations to all our winners below —

- The red points **Singles Championship** was held over two Monday nights in March. The overall winner was Jennifer Hollingworth with Carolann Verity second and Margaret Bazzan third.
- A GNOT gold points teams event was held on Sunday, 16 May. The winners were Shirley Bishop, Joy Anderson, Ruth Greentree and Margaret Bazzan.
- The **Australian Wide Novice Pairs** was held on Tuesday, 25 May. Locally, Des Ward and Rudy Meyer were first with Tertia Brink and Jenz Davidson second, however, when match-pointed nationally, Tertia and Jenz were 172nd with 56.6%, while Des and Rudy were 214th with 55.5% — out of a total of 1011 pairs.
- The **Wide Bay Zone Novice play off** was cancelled as there were not enough players from Gympie or further afield willing to take part. What a shame.

— Upcoming events —

- Our two-session, red point **Teams Championship** is an all day event on Sunday 13 June.
- Our red points **Solstice Pairs** is Monday 21 May.
- The **Wide Bay Zone interclub teams play off** is being held on Sunday, 4 July.
- The **Charity Soup Day** will be on Tuesday, 13 July.
- The **President's Trophy** is Wednesday 14 July, and the following Wednesday, another red points event.
- The **Wide Bay Zone GNOT semi finals** are held on Saturday, 31 July, and Sunday, 1 August, in M'boro.
- The **Gympie/Coolum Invitation Day**, being held this year in Gympie, is on Wednesday, 18 August.
- The **Wide Bay Zone GNOT final** will be on Sunday, 22 August, in Maryborough.
- **Muster Pairs**, a popular red points session, is Thursday, 26 August.
- As usual, if anyone is considering venturing out to other areas for any bridge, please check beforehand as some events are still being postponed or cancelled due to Covid restrictions.