

GYMPIE BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

March/April/May 2021 – AUTUMN issue, No 70

Hello fellow bridge club members,

Covid 19 is still with us and according to experts, will remain until next year. However, we have been able to make some changes, bringing our club back into line with the way it was before the pandemic. What remains firmly in place is the continued requirement for social distancing; hand sanitizing at each and every table before you start play; and we still have restrictions on closing doors etc.

So to clarify. All members must:

- Use sanitizer provided at each table, ensuring hands are sanitized properly before play. (Sanitizer doesn't stay effective for long, so it's important to reapply often.)

After each session:

- South ensures **Bridgemates** are sanitized and returned to the bench outside the office.
- North/South ensures their **boards** are returned to the box container.
- East/West collects rubbish and empties into **rubbish bin** by kitchen door.
- North ensures all **side tables** and the metal on **chair backs** is wiped down.
- When everything is shipshape and cleaned, **only NORTH's** chair is tipped forward on a table.

Please respect our guidelines and adhere to them.

This is worth repeating too.

Members intending to play bridge should be at the club at least 15/20 minutes before the scheduled start time and seated at least 5/10 minutes before play starts. This gives the director time to work out the movement for the day.

And again, *please* have ALL table fees in the supplied coin bag, so whoever is collecting fees doesn't have to return, sometimes more than once, for those late fees.

Now, for some good news. The 2022 Gold Congress is being held from 18 February to 26 February next year. See Nev's column for more on this prestigious event.

Wednesday evening bridge is now, usually, a steady three to four tables, which puts it on a par with Sundays and even Mondays on occasion. A review of the success of the change of date will be made at this month's committee meeting.

Ever wondered why I chose the font I did for the headings in our newsletter? Well, it's a nod to our Gold Rush past, a "wild west" frontier font. In case you were wondering. Of course you were!

Our guest columnist **Joan Butts**, goes back to the basics with a "Refresher" lesson. More examples and information is available on her 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

Here's a Covid meme I found - a little light relief in these hard times.



GLORIOUS COLOUR

You will find the latest newsletter
online at

www.gympiebridgeclub.com
under the *Newsletter* icon.

Read it there, or if you prefer,
print it out at home to get the
full effect, in colour.

OUR BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

- 1: Kay Kerr
- 3: Jack Wright
- 5: John Byrnes
- 14: Kelly Chapman

AND APRIL

- 14: Des Ward
- 18: Trevor Simpson
- 21: Brian Brink

AND MAY

- 1: Margaret Bazzan
- 5: Steven Verity
- 7: Darryl Swan
- 11: Judith Malcolm
- 13: Jane Lennox
- 15: Fran McDonald
- 20: Arlette Cook
- 21: Kathi Vince
- 24: Ian Manly
- 30: Angela Blomfield

President's report

Autumn edition

Governments are slowly dismantling restrictions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, mainly because vaccinations are now available. However there is still a lot of fear in the general community even though the virus is not overly virulent. As a result of perceived danger, we have put Safety before Freedom, Prudence before Courage and Avoiding Danger before Accepting Risk.

In the world of Bridge, normality is slowly returning - in particular, the Gold Coast Congress has been scheduled for 2022 (Fri 18 Feb to Sat 26 Feb). This is a Gold Point event attracting players from across Australia and beyond. It also caters for all player grades both in pairs and teams events. It is a spectacular venue catering for upwards of 2000 players - a "must see" at some stage of your bridge life. So check with your associates and book accommodation while prices are down. Note that a courtesy bus will service most of the Gold Coast strip - just check details on the website under QBA events.

Our club has suffered a loss of members due to Covid - we are now down to 64 members. So we need to recruit more players and to this end, brochures are being distributed around Gympie and Southside. Special thanks to Des Ward for his coverage of most of Southside. Brochures are still available if any member wants to assist - just check with Ross or Des regarding coverage done to date. Jennifer would welcome a new lot of beginners to teach. By the way, Jennifer and Carolann were the winners of our Pairs Championship held last Sunday - congratulations to both!

The Wide Bay Bridge Zone has accepted our offer to host the Zone Novice Championship on Sun 18 April. We expect players from Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Maryborough to contest the event, so Gympie players get prepared to compete at your level and enjoy the day. Happy Bridging from your President . . .

. . . Nev Harington

Consider this . . .

Four boards from our Pairs Championship, held on Sunday, 7 March. There were 6½ tables, 2 sessions.

Board 14, AM session. Most E/W found 4♥; only one pair bid 6♥; and no-one found the diamond contract.

		Dir: E Vul: Nil	
		North	East
		♠ T752	♠ 984
		♥ 862	♥ AT975
		♦ 752	♦ Q8
		♣ J94	♣ A76
West	South		
♠ AKJ3	♠ Q6		
♥ QJ4	♥ K3		
♦ AKJ63	♦ T94		
♣ 5	♣ KQT832		
East	South	West	North
P	P	1D	P
1H	2C ¹	2S ²	P
3H ³	P	4H	P
4C ⁴			

¹ South has 10hcp so bids 2C. ² West's 4-card Major.
³ West knows hearts could be a 7-card fit only.
⁴ West now bids Blackwood - 4NT, and after East shows 2, West gambles a little and bids 6H, making 12. (1 spade loser).

Board 18, AM session. No-one N/S bid further than 3NT or 3♦, and most made 13 in either. Clubs could also have made 13 tricks.

		Dir: E Vul: N-S	
		North	East
		♠ —	♠ KJ3
		♥ AT	♥ 864
		♦ QJ8642	♦ T75
		♣ AQT96	♣ 8532
West	South		
♠ AQT6	♠ 987542		
♥ QJ953	♥ K72		
♦ 3	♦ AK9		
♣ J74	♣ K		
East	South	West	North
P	1S	2H	X ¹
P	3D ²	P	4NT ³
P	5H	P	6D! ⁴

¹ East doubles to show the two unbid suits.
² South bids the longest of the unbid suits.
³ North must use Blackwood, not 4C, or partner will assume clubs is their preferred suit.
⁴ North takes a punt and bids 6D, or perhaps 6NT.

Board 2, PM session. Deep finesse says 7NT, 7S or 7D are possible. At the champs, two bid 6D, three 5D, & one 3D. Three pairs made 12 tricks and three made 13.

		Dir: E Vul: N-S	
		North	East
		♠ 753	♠ KJ98
		♥ J9762	♥ Q
		♦ Q	♦ AJ72
		♣ T765	♣ A842
West	South		
♠ AT6	♠ Q42		
♥ AK3	♥ T854		
♦ KT8654	♦ 93		
♣ J	♣ KQ93		
East	South	West	North
1D	P	2D ¹	P
2S	P	4C ²	P
4S ³	P	5C	p
5H ⁴	p	6NT	All pass

¹ Shows natural or opening values, depending on your system.
² West knows there's a diamond fit, now looks at slam.
³ East shows two, whether standard Gerber or CRO.
⁴ East has one king, so bids 6D.

Board 24, PM session. Another 7-trick hand, in all bids, except clubs. (7NT, 7S, 7H, or 7D).

		Dir: W Vul: All	
		North	East
		♠ AKQ752	♠ 63
		♥ AT92	♥ 76
		♦ AT	♦ 9752
		♣ 4	♣ KT532
West	South		
♠ 984	♠ JT		
♥ J83	♥ KQ54		
♦ Q86	♦ KJ43		
♣ QJ98	♣ A76		
West	North	East	South
P	2C ¹	P	2NT ²
P	3S ³	P	4C ⁴
P	4D ⁵	P	5C ⁶
P	5H ⁷	P	6NT ⁸

¹ North's bid shows 4 or less losers; (17hcp & 2 length points.)
² South has no 5-card suit, so bids 2NT.
³ Shows a good, at least 5-card suit.
⁴ As the first club bid was artificial, this must be an ace ask.
⁵ Must be 3, as North opened 2C.
^{6, 7 & 8} South finds one king is missing, so now signs off in 6NT.
 There are six spade tricks, four heart, two diamond and one club, making 13.

Thank you Jeanette for the bidding advice!

School of Bridge - Joan Butts

A "Refresher" of the Basics

Opener's role

Opener is often called the "describer" and as such they tell partner what the shape and point count of their hand is. Modern bidding recognises the value of **long suits**, so add extra for length from the start. Don't add extra for short suits (singleton etc) until a fit has been found.

High Card Points (hcp): Ace=4; King=3; Queen=2; Jack=1.
Length Points: 5-card suit add 1; 6-card suit add 2; etc.

Opening 1NT

15, 16 or 17 points, balanced shape (4443, 4432, 5332)
Open 1NT as often as possible, and include length points.
So 14 with a five-card suit can be considered 15 total points.
Open 1NT with a 5-card Major? **Yes** (in modern bidding).

Opening One of a Suit

Shows 13-20 points, using hcp & length points. Opening 1♠ or 1♥ shows 5+ cards in that suit. 1♦ is 4+ cards. 1♣ is 2+ cards. This is still based on 13 points, but modern bidding recognises there's more to hand evaluation than high cards. **Two-suited hands**, and a good long suit hand, will play better than balanced ones, so the **Guideline of 20** works well in deciding whether to open borderline hands in first or second position. Add your hcp to the length of your two longest suits, and if the total is 20 or more, bid. Eg: ♠AT973 ♥KT952 ♦K8 ♣6. There are 10hcp, plus two five-card suits (10+5+5 = 20), so this hand is considered good enough to open 1♠.

Other factors to recognise are that **aces and kings** are more powerful than **queens and jacks**, and tend to be undervalued in the point-count system. **10s and 9s** have no point count value, but they improve the trick-taking potential of the hand.

Honours working together in the same suit, such as ♥K,Q,J are more powerful than unsupported honours in separate suits.

The bottom line is: "Would partner also open this hand?" **Both partners should have an expectation of what an opening bid of 1♠, 1♥, 1♦, or 1♣ shows.**

In third position, when two players have passed, one of whom is your partner, it's good to open with a point or two less than in first or second position. But... always open a **good suit**, even if it's only four cards (in a major). Your side may not win the auction, so now your bid will be lead-directing. It's much better to open 1♠ than 1♣ with: ♠AKQT ♥62 ♦753 ♣Q642.

Borderline hands' strategy in **fourth position** is a little different. There's the option of passing the deal out. So the bidding should only be opened with the intention of getting a plus score, either by bidding and making a contract, or defeating the opponents if they compete. **The Guideline of 15** is useful here. Add your hcp to the number of spades. If the total is 15 or more, open the bidding. Otherwise consider passing. Two example hands of the basics:

♠97 Vul: Nil ♥842 ♦AQT8 ♣KJ95				♠7642 Vul N/S ♥T973 ♦K2 ♣AK8			
♠KT3	♠AQ862	♠85	♠AKQT	♠85	♠AKQT		
♥AQT93	♥J75	♥Q4	♥62	♥Q4	♥62		
♦42	♦9763	♦T984	♦753	♦T984	♦753		
♣876	♣4	♣JT953	♣Q642	♣JT953	♣Q642		
♠J54		♠J93		♠J93			
♥K6		♥AKJ85		♥AKJ85			
♦KJ5		♦AQJ6		♦AQJ6			
♣AQT32		♣7		♣7			
North	East	You	West	East	You	West	North
P	P	1NT ¹	P	P	1H	P	3H ¹
3NT	All pass			P	4H ²	All pass	


¹ South (you) has 14hcp and 1 length point for the club. The modern way is to open 1NT, not 1C. Also, a 1C opening lets West overcall 1H and it's likely E/W will make game in either hearts or spades.

It's possible to make 10 tricks, playing out the diamonds then clubs and losing the last 3 spade tricks.
Score: 430.

² A limit raise, 11-12 pts.


² With a fit, 16hcp and club shortage, South bids game. West leads ♠J, which North wins. Opposition hearts break evenly, so after two rounds, North plays ♣K, ♦K, then ♦2 to South's 3 winners. Back to dummy via a heart, the ♠8 is trumped by South. With a trump still in hand, North makes 11 tricks.
Score: 650.






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Director's Digest



What NOT to do while waiting for the director — part 2

When the director can't respond immediately they are called, what do you do while waiting? We won't tell you that, but we can tell you what NOT to do. Last week we discussed **revokes**; this week we have three further examples of what NOT to do while waiting.

2. You made an insufficient bid

Keep quiet. The worst thing you can do is to try to explain yourself — for example, "I didn't see you open" or "I thought you bid 1D". In the majority of cases, the Laws provide some way for insufficient bids to be fixed without any effect on the auction. However, once you open your mouth and start broadcasting to everyone (in particular, partner) what you were thinking, you may find you have blown any protection the Laws give.

3. A claim is made and someone doesn't like it

If an opponent of the claimer does not ask for the hand to be played out (subject to all four players

agreeing) and the director is called to adjudicate on the claim, then just sit and wait. It's too late for the hand to be played. While things added to your claim will usually be discounted by the director, they may also be used in evidence against you! So, be careful and wait.

4. You've forgotten what your partner's bid means

Don't guess and tell everyone, and you definitely don't have to tell the opponents how you are going to take it. They are not entitled to know that. Usually, the director will ask you to go away from the table momentarily and check with your partner as to whether they believe you have some agreement and if so, the director will get your partner to explain it to the opponents (as they are entitled under the Laws) while you cannot hear what is being said. You then return to the table and the auction continues. *More next issue.*

Good bridging — Jennifer



It's on the cards



The club is now back to almost normal, with members enjoying playing at the club again, even if some don't like the Covid guidelines put in place during sessions.

— Congratulations to all our winners —

- Sunday bridge once a month is chugging along nicely. But remember, to play in our **Last Sunday** Bridge session, you must have your name on the list, (found up on the blue notice board) by the preceding Thursday. There is a list for pairs and a separate list for singles looking for a partner. Last Sunday bridge days this quarter are: 28 March, 25 April and 30 May.
- The first red points session this year was the **Summer Pairs**, on Tuesday, 9 February, with Ron Organ and Trevor Simpson 1st; Joan Woodward and Rennie Pettit 2nd, Kelly Chapman and Fran McDonald 3rd.
- The club's **Pairs Championship**, a red points, two-session day, was on Sunday, 7 March. Overall winners were Carolann Verity and Jennifer Hollingworth, with Nev and Adele Harington 2nd and Dean Hollingworth and Ed Beckett 3rd.

— Upcoming events —

- The red points **Singles Championship** is held over two Monday nights — 22 March with the second session the following Monday, 29 March.

- In between, it's the red points **Black and White Pairs** on Thursday, 25 March. Don't forget to wear your best, or craziest, or superb, or otherwise, black and white outfit. No prizes folk, just a bit of fun.

- The **Wide Bay Zone Novice play off** is not being held in Maryborough on Sunday, 28 March this year, but at Gympie next month, on Sunday, 18 April — which would have been the date of our April congress. Please, anyone with under 100 masterpoints, give this a go and do our club proud with a good turnout.

- Our **Autumn Pairs** red pointer is Tuesday, 20 April.
- The red points **May Pairs** is Thursday, 13 May.
- The **GNOT** play off is Sunday, 16 May.

- There are other events listed in our handbook such as the Barrier Reef Congress in Mackay; the Hervey Bay Congress and the Caloundra Pairs and Teams Congress but anyone intending to play in

any of these away events will need to check first as many clubs are still restricted to members only and are therefore not opening up events to visitors.

