



GYMPIE BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER



March/April/May 2019 — AUTUMN issue, No 63

Hello fellow bridge club members,

It seems odd writing "AUTUMN issue" in the masthead, but yes, summer is starting to lose its grip on us as we head into what I think is the best season of the year (barring further heatwaves!).

Lessons have started up again for the year, with about eight people attending. If we can get as many people into bridge as last year's fab lot, the club will surely benefit from yet another intake.

While the beginner lessons are in progress, Jennifer has stopped taking her hour-long lessons before our Tuesday bridge session. However, after our new group of beginners have learnt the basics and are playing in the club, she intends to hold further "modern bidding" lessons.

The Gold Coast Congress has been and gone with several Gympie players attending. So it seemed appropriate to include **Peter Busch**'s column on why he believes not only experienced players but

also novice and everyone in between should give it a go at one or more congresses.

Our other columnists this edition are: Australian bridge guru **Joan Butts** who brings us some sage comments of how to bid and play misfits; our local columnist is **Kaylene Lingard**, who brings us advice for visitors who only need their ABF number to compete; we have more words of wisdom on "overtaking" from **Kevin Feeney**; and last but not least in our Director's Digest, **Jennifer**, brings us some more points we should be taking on board around the bridge table.

Meanwhile, the Australian Bridge Federation has started an initiative designed to help players improve their game. It's a daily "bridge question", set by experienced bridge teachers such as Ron Klinger and others. Details are in the small ad (inside) or, players can find out more online at the ABF website.

Good bridging everyone, JENZ



Help needed

Do you have some skills with a computer? Do you have a spare hour or two, approximately once a month? Then ...

"Your Club Needs YOU".

The committee is looking for more members to join the dealers' team — dealing the boards we all use at our club sessions.

Making the boards usually takes about an hour, and the more people who are on the boards' roster, the less often they will be called upon to make them up.

All those interested in taking on this important task are asked to talk to Bill Thorne at the club or phone him on **5486 6256**.



OUR BIRTHDAYS

IN MARCH

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

AND APRIL

- 18: Trevor Simpson
- 21: Brian Brink
- 26: Jen Hawke Wright

AND MAY

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

President's report

Autumn edition

Your management committee has been operating effectively without any serious issues. Most activities are of a procedural nature, however this is not to diminish the good work done by members. It is pleasing to see new member applications and the on-going program of teaching. We have our annual Congress in April and already there is good representation by club members. The forthcoming GNOT bridge event gives all members a chance to gain gold points at club play.

Some historical aspects of Bridge may be of interest. Bridge evolved from the game of Whist which has been played all over Europe for the past 400 years. Whist is an old English word equivalent to Shhh (the intention is clear). The word "bridge" is an anglicisation of the Russian word "biritch" which made its appearance early in the nineteenth century.

For most of the time, the game was played by four people with a deck of cards. However in the late nineteenth century, the idea of "duplicate bridge" emerged whereby many people played identical "boards" and relative scoring was possible. It was a real break-through which eliminated all talk of "luck".

The concept of "auction bridge" also emerged which provided a method of bidding in order to determine which suit, if any, would be trumps. The game gained in popularity throughout the world.

Then early last century, American Harold Vanderbilt invented "contract bridge" which required a partnership to commit to a certain number of tricks (failure to fulfil a contract resulted in a scoring penalty). He also introduced a sophisticated scoring table, and varying modes of vulnerability. Thus was born the game we know today, played by millions of people throughout the world, especially seniors.

Good bridging everyone!

Nev Harington

Kaylene's Knowledge . . .

When you visit another bridge club, and you don't wish to join that club, you can simply enter your ABF number into the BridgeMate. Initially it will not show up as a name. The Director will have to import the name from the BridgeMate and check it is correct and then export the name back to the BridgeMate where your name will appear and it will no longer be blank or N/A on the screen when you go to the next table/round.

Of course, if you wish to join as an "away member", you will need to find the director and you will be assigned your own number for that particular bridge club.

These columns are generally designed to give information on bidding conventions and interesting bridge hands. However this time, I would like to use my column to address a couple of issues concerning dummy which are occurring too often around the bridge tables.

When you are dummy have you ever touched or played a card without being asked? I know I am guilty. After dummy has laid his/her hand on the table, the only times he/she should touch dummy's cards is: (a) to arrange them or (b) when asked to do so by the declarer. Dummy should never touch or play a card without being asked. The Bridge Laws state that if, as dummy, you

Visitors' ABF number

indicate to the declarer to play a designated card, an adjusted score may be awarded if the Director thinks the opposition has been "damaged". For example, you indicate to declarer to lead a particular suit, or as many do, hover over a particular card, because you believe declarer should play that one.

Another no-no when dummy, is to move a remaining suit into a gap left by another suit which has been played out. You must not move any remaining suits to fill a gap; they should stay where they were first placed.

And finally, declarer should be specific when asking for a card. For example, don't say "low", instead ask for the specific card, such as "3 of diamonds please".

Good bridging ... *Kaylene Lingard*

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.



Director's Digest

Board and Card Control



Dear readers, Law 7 in the bridge rules is all about control of the boards and the cards.

A. Board placement: Players are entitled to see the vulnerability, so the board should remain on the table. Also, removing it can lead to hands going back in the wrong pockets once a board is returned to a table.

B. Removal of cards from a board: Counting cards before looking at them should be automatic to all players and is instilled in beginners from Lesson 1. "But I did count them," is not a defence. Correct procedure is to make sure a hand holds exactly 13 cards. Also, players can become agitated when their personal space is invaded by others touching their cards. When called to a revoke, try to stop this happening. Hackles rise and the order of cards can be disturbed which all makes it much harder to sort things out.

C. Returning cards to a board: Players should always shuffle their cards before returning them to a board. This removes any information as to what order the cards were played in by the previous players.

Common sense suggests that sorting cards into suits for the next player who has difficulty doing so would still be ok, regardless of whether instructed to do so by the director or done out of consideration for one's fellow man.

Routinely sorting cards into suits is not the same as shuffling and ought not to be done.

There is no actual requirement to count them though this is clearly sensible, to make sure none have dropped on the floor. There's no point to counting 13 cards if some of them belong to another player.

D. Responsibility for procedures: QBA regulations, under 1997 Laws, made **North in charge of the table** (unless EW were stationary) and responsible for maintaining proper conditions of play at the table. **This does not mean that North must do all the work.** So we need to discourage the notion that East West are not permitted to pick up boards, turn over bidding slips etc. Helping with the chores is sensible. North is simply responsible for seeing that everything is done properly.

Jennifer

School of Bridge - Joan Butts

Partnership Bidding: Misfits

As Marty Bergen says: "It would be easy if your side had a good fit on every hand, but life's not like that".

It's managing the misfits that test us, and the main advice when there's no fit, is to get out of the bidding as fast as possible.

If partner makes a forcing bid, you can't get out, but as soon as either partner has limited the shape and strength of their hand, just pass. Experts often bemoan the fact there aren't any chapters in books on PASS. Instead they're all on bidding! So, some tips:

- Don't hope to bid 2NT as a rescue bid when both partners have shown their suits.
- The worst place to play a misfit is no trumps, unless both partners have a whole lot of points.
- Stay away from no trumps with a singleton or void.
- Good no trump contracts require more than stoppers. They must also contain a source of tricks. (As Marty says, stoppers may prevent sudden death, but they don't ensure long life.)
- It's not the end of the world to play at a low level in a 4-3 fit.
- Giving preference to partner's first bid suit and thus playing a 5-2 fit is much better than bidding no trumps.



- Some hands just don't have a fit.
- It's much better to allow a weak hand to play in its long suit.
- It's also much better to bid your second suit as opener after responder says 1NT. This is not showing a better hand.
- If you're fighting with partner for the contract, it's probably better to play in the weaker hand's long suit because that suit might be worth some trump tricks. Otherwise this hand might be worthless.

Here's a hand from a championship event, which illustrates the last tip.

At one table, even after north had shown long clubs, South decided that the hand would play better in South's diamond suit. Sure enough, they hit jackpot with great diamonds in dummy.

North

♠ Q
♥ 63
♦ AJ5
♣ AKJ9753

West

♠ 3
♥ KJ9842
♦ 632
♣ Q82

East

♠ KJ98754
♥ AQ
♦ 9
♣ T64

South

♠ AT62
♥ T75
♦ KQT874
♣ void

At the other table, West opened with a bid that showed a weak two-bid in either major, North bid 3♣, East bid 3♠, South passed, and the bidding came back to North who rebid 4♣. What should South do now? They decided to pass. The defence started with ♥A and the ♥Q, overtaken with the ♥K, and the ♥J was continued. Declarer mis-guessed and ruffed with the ♣9, overruffed with the ♣10. Later West's ♣Q made a trick. 5♦ made at the other table, so this was not a success going minus 1 in 4♣.



LEARN AND PRACTISE BRIDGE ONLINE



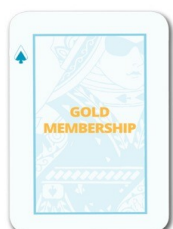
Complete a new bridge lesson each week



Access a library of lessons and resources



Play unlimited bridge hands



**Become a gold member
Join the Online School of Bridge**

joanbuttsbridge.com/join

How much does it cost?

Gold membership costs \$15 Australian a month. Discounted six month and annual plans are also available.

Cheers, Joan

Kevin's Korner . . .

A hand which looks straight forward but a little bit of planning and careful thinking is required here.

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1D	1S	1NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Partner (West) leads the Spade King. East sees:

North

♠ 9 3

♥ K 3

♦ A Q J T 9 7

♣ A Q 8

West (on lead)

♠ K

East (you)

♠ A J T 8 5 2

♥ Q J 4

♦ K 2

♣ 6 5

When to overtake?

Your planning: You can see that the diamond king is your re-entry to your spades. You know that Declarer has three or four spades to the queen. So what do you do? You OVERTAKE the spade king with your ace and lead spades until you force the queen. It's how you can set the contract by two tricks. If you do not overtake, the declarer will make the contract with an overtrick. A likely layout would be:

♠ 9 3

♥ K 2

♦ AQJ1097

♣ AQ8

♠ K

♥ 108753

♦ 63

♣ 109742

♠ 93

♥ K2

♦ AQJ1097

♣ AQ8

♠ Q764

♥ A96

♦ 852

♣ KJ2

♠ AJ10852

♥ K4

♦ QJ4

♣ 65

Kevin Feeney



It's on the cards

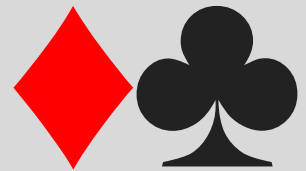


- The **Gold Coast Congress** has been and gone for another year, and several Gympie members took part. (Check out their gold points tally on the back page).
- Our **Singles Championships** were hotly contested, with a fair bit of juggling required by many players to ensure that had a different partner on each of the two nights. The overall winner after the two rounds was **Kelly Chapman**. Congratulations Kelly!
- The red points **Autumn Pairs**, is being held this Thursday morning, followed by . . .
- **Club Pairs Championships**, (another red points event) on Sunday (17 March). This is a two-session, all-day event, with players asked to be at the club by 9am, ready for a 9.30am start.
- The **GNOT playoff** is on Sunday, 31 March. It's open to players of all abilities, and is a fun experience, especially for anyone who hasn't yet "played away" at another club.
- April starts with the **Wide Bay Zone Novice Pairs Trials**, in Maryborough, on Sunday, 7 April.
- Our **Gympie Congress** follows on the 13 and 14 of April. It's the pairs on the Saturday and teams event on Sunday.
- The club will be closed for Easter, so no bridge on Easter Monday, (22 April).
- The **Anzac Pairs**, a red points event, is next, on Thursday, 25 April, in the morning.
- **Caloundra Pairs and Teams**, held on Saturday and Sunday, 28 and 28 April, is another "away" event for those keen on more bridging experience.
- **Hervey Bay Pairs and Teams** is the following weekend (4 and 5 May).
- Not spending time with Mum this Sunday? Then enjoy **Mother's Day** bridge on Sunday, 12 May.
- The **Pro-Am** green points session is being held on Monday, 13 May. Players need one "pro" player and three "amateur" (novice) players in a team.
- It's another big day for our own club, with the **Gympie Teams Championship**, on Sunday, 19 May. Teams of four will enjoy a great day of bridge.
- The Wide Bay Zone GNOT finals are being held in Maryborough on 1st and 2nd June.
- The **Noosa Cross-Imp Swiss Pairs** on Thursday, 13 June, start four great days of bridge at the coast. Friday, 14 June, it's the **Sunshine Coast Walk Ins**, then it's the **Sunshine Coast Pairs and Teams**, on Saturday and Sunday, 15 and 16 June.
- So bridge aplenty to choose from — at home, and away at nearby clubs. Enjoy.



Busch's Blog

Why attend a congress?



Normal bridge sessions are the bread-and-butter of most bridge clubs. However, only a small proportion of regulars play in bridge congresses, and I think that is unfortunate. So let me tell you why congress bridge is different – and I believe better – than normal club bridge.

Congress attendees are drawn from all over, and fields tend to be stronger. That's good for stronger players, but also excellent for improving players. Plus, you'll meet players you would not meet every day at the club, and this is good for your bridge, as well as enhancing your social aspect of the game.

If you're avoiding congresses because you don't want to get beaten by stronger players, don't worry. Almost all congresses are run on the "Swiss draw" principle, which means that except for the first round, you only meet opponents who are doing as well as you are. Less experienced players will, in the main, meet players of a similar standard. If you are doing particularly well in a round, you will be tested with your next draw, but if you're doing badly, you should get an easier draw.

Most congresses have Teams events in which two pairs enter together as a team of four (they don't need to have played as a team before, but are usually of a similar standard.) Scoring is done solely on how your table result compares to their table result – what happens at all the other tables is irrelevant. This is a very different method of scoring from what is used at regular club sessions, and many people believe this makes for much more enjoyable bridge.

Pairs Congresses are either Matchpoint or Butler scored. Matchpoint scoring is the method used at club sessions, but Butler is more like teams' scoring, and many people find this an enjoyable alternative to club sessions.

Masterpoints at congresses are red or gold, and are awarded at a higher rate than normal green point club sessions. Further, the way points are commonly awarded at congresses means that it is unusual for any player to walk away empty

Gold Coast Congress — Gympie results

Several Gympie members tested their bidding and playing skills at this year's congress. For some, it was a first-time, one session, experience — well done Bernadette Baxter and Glenys Gissel — while for others, it's a "holiday".

Our most successful player was Jennifer Hollingworth, who came home with a very credible 8.68 gold points.

Next was Peter Coppin, with 7.63 goldies, who was followed by Carolann Verity with 6.00.

Bryan and Tertia Brink did well, coming away with 3.42 gold points each, while Ron Organ and sister Lesley Wilson took away 2.26 goldies each. And Dean Hollingworth, who played just the one day of bridge, came away with 1.45 points.

And apart from the congress ... Rudy Meyer was the highest ranked player in a novice category in the January round of McCutcheon rankings.

Congratulations to you all on your achievements.



Party time: Jennifer Hollingworth with left, Arthur Porter (SA) and Mike le Voi from Brisbane's Arana Bridge Club at a Joan Butts Teacher's Party held during the Gold Coast Congress.

Photo: Joan Butts

handed, so your Master rank promotion gets just a little bit closer with every congress you play in.

Congresses are run by non-playing qualified directors, who have time to ensure issues at a table are properly dealt with, and that justice is done. That's not always possible at club sessions when playing directors must get back to their table.

Let's not forget the prize money. Congress fields are usually divided into categories for prize purposes, so that lesser players are not competing with the strong players for minor prizes. And there's often a special group at the tail of the field for newer players, so everyone in the field stands a chance of getting a prize.

Congresses represent excellent value for money. Your entry fee generally covers a full day of bridging enjoyment, a nice sandwich lunch, coffee, tea and snacks throughout the day, and a beer or wine with hot snacks at the end.

If, as a new player, you are still a bit uncertain about all this, dip your toe in the water at a Novice or Graded congresses. Gympie has its own events and slightly further afield, Maryborough, Noosa, Hervey Bay, Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast clubs all run one or more Novice Congresses each year, which are specifically for players with fewer than 100 Masterpoints. In Graded events, the field is divided into groups at the outset, and players only play within their group. This is another way newer players can play in a congress knowing they will only meet players of a similar standard.

In the same way that Congresses are different from normal club sessions, major gold point national congresses are different again. These are professionally run events, and draw top players from Australia and overseas. The biggest in Australia is undoubtedly the Gold Coast Congress – it is quite something to sit in a room with over a thousand other players all focusing on the play of their hands. – you could hear a pin drop! Other top events include the Barrier Reef Congress (North Qld) and the Summer Festival (Canberra), but all States hold at least one gold point event each year. And finally, let's not forget that congresses represent a way for clubs to earn money – money that ultimately benefits their members.

Upcoming congresses are listed on the QBA web site (www.qldbbridge.com). Entry forms for all regional congresses are also displayed on a club's notice board.

Peter Busch