

GYMPIE BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

September/October/November 2019 – SPRING issue, No 65

Hello fellow bridge club members,

The AGM was held on Tuesday, 3rd September, with a new committee elected and most of last year's lot still on board. Your committee for the year 2019 - 2020 is:

President: Nev Harington

Vice President: Bevan Anderson

Secretary: Kaylene Lingard

Treasurer: Kay Kerr

Committee: Ross Chapman, Jenz Davidson, Rennie Pettit, Trevor Simpson and Jeff Street.

Other positions, such as zone delegates and ethics committee, remain the same as last year.

Two members were presented with Honorary Life Membership – Jennifer Hollingworth and Bill Thorne. Congratulations to you both. Their "bridge" journeys are featured inside this edition.

New locks have been fitted to the front and kitchen doors and a key pad has been installed on the office door. Every key issued is now numbered so each individual is responsible for their own key and a record of who has been issued with each specific key is now on file with our secretary, Kaylene.

Them and Us

Who are "they", I hear you ask those folk who take on all the tasks. When things don't go according to plan "they" jump right in and lend a hand.

"They" volunteer to do the dishes bring in cake and birthday wishes; Sharpen pencils, tidy tables "they" keep our club strong and stable.

Where would we be without "them" or "they" ensuring we all enjoy our day. If only we could change "them" to "us" all taking a turn - now there's a plus.

Jenz Davidson: 2019

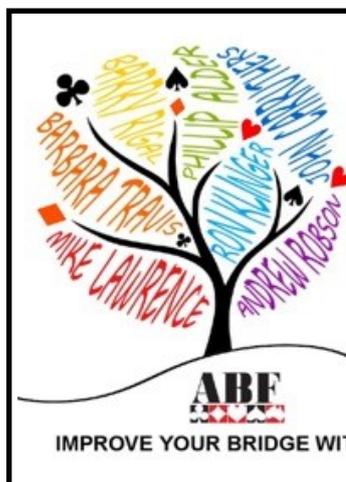
Lessons and supervised play have finished for the year, with most of this year's small group now part of the club. Once again, Jennifer has done a sterling job bringing novice players up to speed and ready to take on playing in the "real world". But please, remember they are novice players and some encouragement will go a long way to ensuring they enjoy playing at our tables.

It would seem no one in our club, including myself, has taken up the Australian Bridge Federation's ABF's bridge column. It's designed to help players improve their game with a daily bridge question. Have you tried it? Please let me know if you did and what you think of the column.

Our columnists this edition are **Joan Butts**, with an interesting hand she struck at a recent event; **Kevin Feeney** on alerts, as is our Directors column from Jennifer. Enjoy.

Good bridging everyone,

JENZ



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President's report

Spring edition

The past year as your bridge club president has been a pleasant experience for me. This is mostly due to the spirit of co-operation and goodwill which has characterised the management committee.

I pay tribute to my off-sider **Bevan Anderson** who has always been willing to discuss matters in a logical and confidential manner, and to be available to step in for me when necessary.

Kaylene Lingard has been a most conscientious secretary and has done much to improve the record-keeping for our club. Our thanks are due for all the secretarial work she has done, as well as keeping track of our master points and performing director duties.

Kay Kerr has performed treasurer duties in a most professional manner. In addition, Kay is our zone representative, a club director and our April Congress Pairs and Teams convenor. Our club thanks Kay for all her good work.

It heartens me that our club senior executive is continuing in their respective roles. **Jenz Davidson** displays her journalistic and compositor abilities with the production of the quarterly newsletter, plus other print material. Our club is fortunate to have someone like Jenz with such skills.

Ross Chapman researched and compiled a Flood Emergency Plan. Interestingly, there is a 1 in 100 chance of having flood waters 1m deep in our clubhouse in any 12 month period. The plan outlines procedures at the onset of a major flood, such as moving equipment and furniture to the nearby high school for temporary storage. I thank Ross for his good work.

Trevor Simpson and **Ruth Greentree** are retiring from the committee, and I thank both for their contributions and general assistance during the past year.

I welcome **Jeff Streat** onto the committee, and I thank him for assisting with odd jobs and routine maintenance work during the year.

Directors are an essential component of any bridge club, and our thanks are extended to Kay, Kaylene, Trevor, **Jennifer Hollingworth** and **Kelly Chapman** for their untiring service.

Jennifer is also club teacher and October Congress Teams convenor. I am pleased to second Jennifer's nomination to be granted Honorary Life Membership of our club.

It is worth noting that **Bill Thorne** deals the hundreds of boards required for our congresses. Dealing boards for bridge play is a constant chore for him and the small group who do this essential work. We sincerely thank them.

Our thanks are also due to providores **Rennie Pettit** and **Arlette Cook** who have constantly looked after our day-to-day provisions. Thanks also to all members who donate home-cooked treats for our congresses, those who offer help serving refreshments, working as caddy, selling tickets, setting up, etc. I am sure we will continue to offer our country-style hospitality to visiting bridge players.

It is so obvious that so much assistance is offered by so many club members, compared to how little is offered by some.

May our bridge club have a good year ahead and **good bridging to you all.**

Nev Harington



OUR BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

- 1: Phillip Waugh
- 2: Jeanette Roughley
- 12: Nev Harington
- 18: Dana Wildey
- 23: Muriel Meyer

AND OCTOBER

- 5: John Roughley
- 6: Ron Organ
- 25: Lester Pettit
- 27: Bill Thorne
- 27: Cathy Maertens
- 30: Shirley Bishop
- 31: Peter Thorogood

AND NOVEMBER

- 15: Rennie Pettit
- 23: Kaylene Lingard

Top teacher . . . Jennifer Hollingworth

Jennifer Hollingworth's family, like so many "back in the good old days", played various card games. But her maternal grandmother took it one step further, as she also played bridge - much to the consternation of her family - as it seemed she was always "at bridge". She taught Jennifer some Goren basics when Jennifer was in her 20s, and that in turn fostered her growing passion for the game of bridge.

But it wasn't until she and her husband Dean arrived in Gympie - and while her children were still babies - that she took lessons at the Gympie Bridge Club, in the Forester's Hall, under the tuition of Bev Salter.

"I learnt with Gail Coppin, Ada Medak and Jenny Verrier - the last two ditched it but Gail and I were in for the long haul," she laughs.

They had a total of just eight lessons, then were thrown in the deep end, playing against "grand poobah, Wayne Choy Show and other very good players".

She survived, as did many others who learnt to play bridge that way.

Jennifer has been an active member in the club throughout, but it is in teaching that she has shone. She has been the club's main bridge teacher for the past 15 years

and that dedication was recently recognised by the Australian Bridge Federation, with an accreditation as an official ABF bridge teacher.

"A huge undertaking every year is congress convenor for the October teams competition, which is well-favoured in south east Queensland."

Like many members who have been bridging for years, she has seen a lot of changes, especially in technology.

"BridgeMates are an innovation which have been a game changer. And we used to shuffle the cards by hand, so the dealing machine has been a boon.

"Bridge is an ever-evolving game, and I like the modern bidding style. Session printouts mean people can analyse their game and they, along with website results, are tools which can be used to better their bridge."

Away from the bridge table, Jennifer still works three days a week, and her hobbies include cycling, gardening, travel and of course, family.

Jennifer never expected an honorary life membership nomination. "I love being a part of this club and whatever I do there, I do willingly, so thank you everyone who voted to bestow this honour on me."



Home handyman ... Bill Thorne

Bill Thorne says his "knees went all shaky" when he was told he had been nominated for honorary life membership at the Gympie Bridge Club. "I couldn't believe it," he said.

Bill's bridge journey began in 1998, when his wife Leonora persuaded him that learning bridge would be good for them both. "She had previously encouraged me to learn square dancing and that proved to be a great decision, so I didn't hesitate to take up bridge."

A passionate scuba diver, Bill met Leonora through the sport. "I met her on the back of a boat," he grins. The couple married in 1982 and as well as the aforementioned bridge and square dancing, they were also keen horse riders.

The couple were taught bridge by George Murray, with about 12 lessons over about three months. Later, when George Konyi joined, Bill took up advanced lessons with Jeanette Roughly, and continued with those for about three years. Meanwhile, Leonora found it wasn't really to her liking and only played bridge intermittently.

When BridgeMates and the dealing machine were purchased by the club in 2011, the dealing machine in particular quickly became Bill's pet project and today, he often deals all the boxes of cards needed for our congresses - a huge undertaking.

"Those two items, along with our computers, have been great advances from the early days."

Bill's main job before retirement was 33 years with Telstra, with two retirements from the company in the mix. "The two retirements were for our business ventures. We firstly ran an old people's home, then we had a restaurant, then a used furniture business and finally, we ran a pet motel.

"They were busy years, and I used to work seven days a week then."

These days, he's his own "home handyman" and often the bridge club's handyman too. Since he joined the club, Bill has been a kitchen hand and general helper at all but two congresses and they are roles he hopes to continue with for many years to come. "I'm busy with things around the club a lot of the time."

Bill is humbled by the honorary life membership and thanks everyone who voted for him, adding that, "I owe Jeanette for teaching me and for all the advice she has given through the years. So thank you everyone for this great honour."



School of Bridge - Joan Butts

Finding slam, using Two-Over-One Game Force

There is no doubt in my mind that the two-over-one game forcing approach improves one's slam bidding.

Here's a hand which came up in a recent pairs event I attended.

Only five pairs in the big field managed to reach the optimum 6♦ contract.

Dealer: East
Vul: E/W

♠ 852	♠ Q964
♥ QJ874	♥ A2
♦ K8	♦ AQJ954
♣ T72	♣ A
♠ J73	
♥ 9653	
♦ T62	
♣ K63	

♠ AKT
♥ KT
♦ 73
♣ QJ9854

Here's a bidding sequence to 6♦.

E	S	W	N
1♦	P	2♣ ⁽¹⁾	P
2♣ ⁽²⁾	P	3♣ ⁽³⁾	P
3♦ ⁽⁴⁾	P	3♠ ⁽⁵⁾	P
4♦ ⁽⁶⁾	P	4♥ ⁽⁷⁾	P
4NT ⁽⁸⁾	P	5♣ ⁽⁹⁾	P
6♦ ⁽¹⁰⁾	P	P	P



(Bidding explanations)

- (1) 2♣ over 1♦ is natural and game-forcing (two over one, opening points, four-plus clubs)
- (2) 2♣ is a reverse, showing at least five diamonds and at least four spades
- (3) 3♣ shows at least six clubs
- (4) 3♦ confirms 6-4 shape (diamonds and spades)
- (5) 3♠ shows three spades (not four, or West would have raised spades earlier)
- (6) 4♦ is a slam try in that suit
- (7) 4♥ is a cue bid
- (8) 4NT is Key Card Blackwood
- (9) 5♣ shows one key card
- (10) 6♦ - that's enough for me!

6♦ is recommended over 6NT or 6♠. Why? In 6NT, if the ♦K is offside, there are only 11 tricks. Similarly in 6♠, if the ♦K is offside, the spades break 4-2, and you can't "find" the ♠J, then 11 tricks will be the extent of the hand.

But in 6♦, if you need it, the 12th trick will come from ruffing out the ♣K, allowing you to discard the fourth spade on the established ♣Q. In the actual layout, everything worked; the ♦K was onside, and the spades kindly broke 3-3. Although any decent system could get you to 6♦, the two-over-one game force approach makes both opener and partner feel relaxed from the second bid, knowing they must bid to game at the very least.

Cheers, Joan

Go to my website and Online School of Bridge to do the lessons on Two-over-One Game Force, and to play the hands from my book on the topic.

Joan Butts: 1 September, 2019



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Director's Digest

More detail on alerts



An alert draws the opponents' attention to your side's unusual bidding. It is controlled by ABF regulations in an 11-page document(!) So I'll save you some reading here.

With written bidding you alert your partner's unusual bid by saying "Alert" and circling it. Don't explain - wait to be asked. If using bidding boxes, say "Alert" and fish around in the box in the hope of finding the Alert card.

The definition of an "unusual" bid is somewhat opaque, but the general principle is: If a bid's meaning is not what it is generally accepted to be, then it should be alerted. For example, bidding a suit that does not show length, or bidding NTs, when it does not indicate a desire to play in NTs. It also includes bids with an unexpected HCP range. Examples include: • Transfer bids • Unusual NT or Levensohl • Multi-2 openings • 'Pass or correct' bids • Weak jump responses • Inverted minor raises.

Self-alerting bids

Some bids are defined as self-alerting, ie: they do not require an alert as they are "obviously unusual". They are:

- Doubles and redoubles
- All bids above 3NT (except unusual high level opening)
- Cue bid of opponents' suit.

Asking

You can ask about any alerted bid, or un-alerted bid for that matter, but only at your turn to bid or play. Most only ask if the answer could affect a bid or their play, but it is entirely up to you whether or not you ask.

Always ask in general terms- don't use leading questions:

eg: "What does 2♥ mean?", not, "does 2♥ show clubs?" (which could be interpreted as code for "I have clubs"). At the end of an auction that had multiple alerts,

if on lead you should say: "Explain the auction please", rather than asking about one specific alerted bid. If not on lead, wait until partner has led their card face-down and then ask your question.

Answering

You are required to explain your partnership agreements, nothing more. If you're not sure what the bid means or have forgotten your agreements, don't guess. Just say: "I don't know" or "I don't remember". (The director will adjust the result if your opponents are damaged by this.)

If you haven't discussed it, say: "It is undiscussed". Again, don't offer an explanation, or how you are going to take it. Partner fails to alert, or mis-alerts, or mis-explains - Happens all the time right? You must stay shtum for the moment. Then, at auction's end:

- With your side **declaring**: Before the opening lead, draw your opponents' attention to the problem. Explain what you think went wrong.
- With your side **defending**: Say nothing until the end of play, at which point you should identify the issue.

Pre-alerting

At the start of each round, you should pre-alert your opponents to any unusual convention that they may need to arrange a defence against. Main examples are:

- Unusual 2-level openings (eg 2NT for the minors) ... the Multi 2 scheme does not need a pre-alert, as it's so relevant today.
- A system other than some form of Standard American: eg Precision, Acol, 2/1 system.

Good bridging . . . Jennifer

Kevin's Korner . . . The wrong explanation!

Question: My partner has given a mistaken explanation of my bid. What should I do?

Answer: Nothing - not yet anyway. Why not? Because if you, in all good faith, call the director and say what has happened, you have just alerted your partner to the misunderstanding.

This is the same logic that makes it illegal to remind your partner to alert when s/he has forgotten to do so.

That's right - if partner forgets, no looking daggers across the table, or waving little circles in the air.

POKER FACE - please.

Example - You open 1NT (15-17) which you have agreed to play but your partner tells the opposition you are playing a weak 1NT (12-14).

S/he is sitting there with a nice 10 points ready to pass.

If you remind your partner to alert or call the director, your partner now realizes the mistake and puts you to 3NT saving a bottom board.

So what should you do? If you wind up **declarer**, you call

the director at the end of the auction.

If you wind up **defender**, you call the director at the end of play.

Why the difference? It's all to do with illegally alerting your partner.

If you are defenders you must not do anything to alert your partner to the fact that something is amiss till the hand is over, since s/he will realize at once that your hand is not as assumed.

If you are declarer or dummy it does not matter, since one person plays both hands.

If you cannot remember what to do, call the director and ask to speak to her/him away from the table, although this step itself will constitute unauthorized information.



Good bridging,
Kevin Feeney



It's on the cards



Here's our catch up on our club events held during the past three months.

- The **Solstice Pairs** red pointer was held Thursday morning, 20 June. **1st:** Ian Manly and Sue Schierning. **2nd:** Bette Geary and Keith Johnson. **3rd:** Joy Anderson and Joan Woodward.
- Our **Winter Pairs** red pointer was held on Tuesday, 2 July. **1st:** Carolann Verity and Jennifer Hollingworth. **2nd:** Jeanette Roughly and Peter Coppin. **3rd:** Yve Welsh and Margaret Bazzan.
- The **President's Trophy** was held over two Thursday nights, 11 and 18 July. **1st:** Bevan Anderson and Nev Harington. **2nd:** Steven Verity and Trevor Simpson. **3rd:** Ruth Greentree and Jenz Davidson.
- The **Pro-Am** green pointer was held on Monday, 12 August. **1st:** Rennie Pettit and Jeff Streat. **2nd:** Jane Lennox and Jennifer Hollingworth. **3rd:** Kay Kerr and Jenz Davidson.
- The **Muster Pairs** red pointer was held on Monday, 27 August. **1st:** Kay and Klaus Decker. **2nd:** Carolann Verity and Jennifer Hollingworth. **3rd:** Jeanette Roughly and Cathy Reed.

— Congratulations to all our winners —

Upcoming events

- Our **Spring Pairs** is the first red points event on the spring calendar, being held on Monday, 9 September.
- A **Sunshine Coast Pairs** match is being held on Sunday, 15 September, at the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club.
- A **Wide Bay Zone Pairs Trial** will be held in Maryborough, on Sunday, 22 September.
- One of our bigger events in October is the club's **Rhoda Clifford Nett Competition**, held over two Tuesdays, 8 and 15 October.
- The biggest event on the October calendar is our **Gympie Teams Congress**, being held on Sunday, 13 October. Make sure you have your team pencilled in on



the board soon. (Photo: A previous event at our club.)

- Gold fever hits next with our red points **Gold Rush Pairs** on Tuesday, 22 October.
- Those wishing to travel further afield, it's the **Hervey Bay Pairs and Teams** on Saturday and Sunday, 26/27 October.
- The **Interclub Teams playoff** is Sunday, 3 November. It's a two-session competition, with NO table fees.
- The **Sunshine Coast Novice Pairs** are being held on Sunday, 10 November with the Noosa Swiss Pairs the following weekend, 16/17 November.
- The **Interclub Teams final** will be held on Sunday, 24 November, in Maryborough.
- The **Queensland Wide Pairs** is being held on Tuesday, 26 November - an opportunity to try your bridging skills, competing against most bridge clubs from around Queensland.

So bridge aplenty to choose from — at home, and away at nearby clubs. Enjoy.

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.

Got a suggestion? Got a gripe?

Then please, make your comments known to the committee by placing them in the suggestion box. If it's a gripe, don't grizzle to your husband or wife, partner or friend — "post" it in our sug-

gestion box, which can be found on top of the bookcase next to the office.

Any "concerns" or suggestions are tabled at the next committee meeting.

