

GYMPIE BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

December 2018/January/February 2019 – SUMMER issue, No 62

Hello fellow bridge club members,

Lessons and supervised play have finished for the year with most beginners now enjoying a session or two of bridge each week. I hope you'll continue your bridge journey well into the future. And, well done to Jennifer who is now an ABF accredited teacher. (More in the President's Report.) Our new committee is firing on all four cylinders with, on many occasions, our vice president Bevan, filling in for our busy president, Nev. The final committee positions have now been filled with these members stepping up to the plate.

Gardening: Bette Geary and Bill Thorne.

Library: Lee Lewis.

Maintenance: Jeff Streat.

Member care: Kathi Vince.

Newsletter: Jenz Davidson.

Partnership co-ordinator: Rennie Pettit.

Sundays only: Arlette Cook.

Teaching: Jennifer Hollingworth

with Fran McDonald assisting.

Web and Publicity: Kay Kerr.

Stars out of alignment?

A rare and unusual event occurred at the bridge club one wet Monday night in October.

As members milled around before the usual bridge session, it quickly became apparent that the men outnumbered the women. Final count? Eleven men to just five women – including two tables of four men. Astonishing! Amazing! Usually, our club favours women, with the balance very much tipped their way. On several occasions in fact, Sundays have been "women only" sessions.

So well done fellas and maybe we'll see you set another record-breaking attendance soon.

This is our last edition for the year, and we're fresh off the press with a photo spread from our fab Christmas party. (I've also included a couple of photos from our Melbourne Cup day. Although only six tables, most went the extra mile for a "day at the races". "Best dressed male", Peter Krause, was barely recognisable in his French-themed outfit. Well done Peter.)

As for our Christmas do, well . . . it was all fun and games making the night an enjoyable one and definitely one to remember. Well done to the organisers and bring on next year's party I say.

In other news, Jennifer and I attended a two-day Joan Butts teacher training session in Brisbane recently. The Saturday seminar was all about learning new methods of teaching while the Sunday was about personal development. Well worth the time and effort, with Jennifer already implementing ideas on Tuesdays before bridge and keen to bring new ideas to bridge lessons next year.

Our guest columnists this edition are far ranging. I feel privileged to bring Australian bridge guru **Joan Butts** to our humble newsletter, where she gives us the lowdown on bidding pre-empts. Our local columnist is **Lee Lewis**, who brings us two interesting systems, and we have more words of wisdom from **Kevin Feeney**, this time on unblocking. Finally, having taken over the mantle from Kay Kerr, **Jennifer**, our new Director's Digest writer, discusses bidding mistakes in her first column.

Season's Blessings everyone, JENZ



OUR BIRTHDAYS

IN DECEMBER

- 6: Joy Anderson
- 22: Marilyn Virtue
- 25: Merv Rettke
- 25: Ross Plowman
- 27: Jan Beckett
- 28: Peter Coppin
- 29: Mario Lobigs

AND JANUARY

- 6: Joy Anderson
- 6: Tania Hooper
- 15: Bevan Anderson
- 15: Lesley Wilson
- 17: Paivia Lobigs
- 25: Steph Richardson

AND FEBRUARY

- 5: Steven Verity
- 1: Carolann Verity
- 11: Sue Schierning
- 18: David Connors
- 19: Lesley McHugh
- 25: Jenz Davidson
- 26: Ed Beckett



BRIDGE PLAYERS



DO IT WITH FINESSE

President's report

Summer edition

In my initial report after the AGM, I expressed confidence that the elected management committee would serve the club well. I can now report that my confidence was justified - all members of the committee are so willing and able to serve the interests of the club. It is a great pleasure to work with confident and competent people who co-operate with each other in a friendly way. There are also other members who volunteer their assistance in routine but essential services such as card dealing, providore work, teaching, garden watering, etc. All of these members are deserving of our thanks.

The recent "Gympie Living" magazine features an article on Bridge written by Jenz. It is a well-prepared, easy-read article encouraging potential players to attend lessons early next year. The article with a caption "Try the most popular card game in the world" should prompt some to contact Jennifer on 0411 898 214 or Fran on 5483 2201.

The Australian Bridge Federation recently announced that Jennifer is an Accredited Teacher - this is testament to the years of hard work and endeavour put in by Jennifer and is a major milestone for our club as well. Not only will the club be well served by having an accredited principal teacher, but we can purchase teaching programs and literature at 50% cost. Well done Jennifer!

Our club held its Christmas Party last Thursday evening and from all accounts, it was well attended and much enjoyed. I thank everyone who assisted with arrangements, and those who participated in fun stuff. I have the Christmas Cake with candles drawn by (blind-folded) Brian in my possession, and marvel how he drew candles and then put a flame on each!

I close by wishing all club members a Merry and Safe Christmas!

Nev Harington

Lee's Ledger . . .

Two systems to consider

Here is a system which Lee likes and a method of determining whether you should open with a pre-empt.

Cappelletti/Hamilton/Pottage convention. It doesn't matter what you call it, the meaning is the same. This is a convention for overcalling opponent's 1NT opening in the direct and/or balancing seat (as agreed) in which:

2♣ = a single suited hand, any suit.

(Responder bids 2♦ then overcaller bids their suit.)

2♦ = both major suits

2♥ = hearts and a minor suit

2♠ = spades and a minor suit

2NT = both minors

All the above bids are alertable.

Partner should expect overcaller to hold a good 9-14 points, taking distribution in as a factor.

Rule of 2 and 3. A rule used to define what an appropriate hand would be for an opening pre-emptive bid.

When vulnerable, you should be going down two at most in your hand. When non-vulnerable, you should be going down three at most. For example: ♠KQJT643 ♥43 ♦K2 ♣32

On this hand you would expect to lose six tricks or be going down two in 3♠. So a vul opening bid of 3♠ is acceptable.

When non-vulnerable: ♠KQJT543 ♥43 ♦52 ♣32

On this hand, you expect to lose 7 tricks or down 3 in 3♠, so a non-vulnerable opening of 3♠ is acceptable.

For those who don't play the multi 2♦ system, the same rule would apply to a pre-emptive opening of a 2 bid.

Good bridging and Merry Christmas . . . Lee



Thumbs up

Thumbs up to the organisers of the games and fun at our Christmas dinner. It was a great night with the "what is that song" theme, and the other "parlour games" all proving a great success.

The meal was enjoyable but mostly, it was all about the



camaraderie which was in full fun mode.

More photos on the back page.

♠♥♦♣ Director's Digest

Dear readers, it is surprising how often this infringement comes up at the bridge table, and is often not dealt with at the time. The table is left with a sense of confusion as the bidding or play unfolds and it is obvious that misinformation has occurred. I encourage you all to take this information on board and bring to the problem to everyone's attention.

Problem 1: Partner has described your agreement correctly, but you don't have that hand.

Response: You have no responsibility to say anything.

Problem 2: Partner has not described your agreement and you become declarer or dummy.

Response: At the end of the auction, call the director and explain.

Problem 3: Partner has not described your agreement and you become a defender.

Response: At the end of play, call the director and explain.

Problem 4: You are not sure if partner is right (and you have made the wrong bid) or you are right and partner has not described your agreement.

Response: Assume partner is right and proceed and proceed as in 2 or 3.

In all five examples at right, North opens 1NT and East

Bidding mistakes ♠♥♦♣

overcalls 2♣ with ♠A9763 ♥QJ97 ♦A8 ♣T7.

The first example bidding goes 1NT, 2♣, 3NT, all pass.

In the second, it's 1NT, 2♣, all pass.

In a third, it's 1NT, 2♣, Pass, 4♥, all pass.

In the fourth, it's 1NT, 2♣ (alert — shows clubs and another suit), 3NT, all pass.

The fifth, it goes 1NT, 2♣ (alert — as above), pass, 2♦, pass.

The laws require the opponents be given a correct explanation of partnership agreements. An incorrect explanation can mean an adjusted score. An agreement can arise through (a) partnership experience or (b) customary partnership practice. The director has to be certain there has not been an incorrect explanation given and in the absence of satisfactory evidence, assumes an incorrect explanation.

In the above examples, in one and two, West realises they should have alerted the 2♣ bid (showing the majors). The director is called upon to remedy the situation, which may include taking aside the player to find out what they understand by the bid, and their response.

Jennifer

School of Bridge - Joan Butts

Modern Pre-empts

A well-timed pre-empt has always been the best way to upset the opponents' bidding, so they're more popular than ever these days.

The strict "rules" that students are taught have also relaxed, and although the vulnerability is always to be observed (especially vul versus not). Players may often be one card short of the requirements for preempting, and take no notice of "not having cards in the other major, or voids".

Watching the European Championships this year, I saw a non vul 3♠ bid in first seat on:

♠KJ6432 ♥86 ♦2 ♣Q1076

Not a great suit, nor seven cards, but he wanted to get his bid in as soon as possible. It didn't stop the opponents reaching 4♥ this time, but next time it might.

Here's a hand from Audrey Grant's June 2017 *Daily Bridge Column*, the subject of a bidding quiz. It's not vul vs vul, and the bidding is p, p, to you in third seat:

♠KQJ9862 ♥4 ♦3 ♣Q1064

The panel was unanimous with a 4♠ opening here, saying that the shape (7411) and the position at the table were factors in their decision. The thing you know is that the next hand will be strong, so your "duty" is to take as much space as possible.

So, what would you do on this hand? You hold:

♠ A1098643 ♥J1042 ♦62 ♣ void

If you follow the rule books you would pass, because of the features which are supposedly wrong for an opening pre-empt —

- another four-card major
- the spade suit is not good enough, and, God forbid ...
- a void

As I played this hand in a National event with lots of experts around, I decided to ask them about it.

Should you get in early and open 3♠? Or is the hand not suitable for a vul vs not pre-empt? The results:

Make-a-bid camp:

- Nathan Van Jole — Open 3♠ (he feels it's close to a 4♠ opening)
- Peter Hollands — Open 3♠
- Paul Gosney — Open 3♠
- Margaret Bourke — Open 3♠
- Jimmy Wallis — Open 4♠ (because of the 7-4 shape)
- Michael Ware (NZ International) — Open 3♠

In the Pass camp:

- Geo Tisleval — Pass, "jackpot if partner opens 1♥"
- Johnno Newman - Pass first and come back in with 2♣
- Paul Lavings - Pass first and come back in with 3♣
- Ron Klinger - Pass first and come back in with 2♣
- Joan Butts - Pass first and come back in with 2♣



The school for "opening 3♠ immediately" say "don't be concerned about a possible heart fit", and no one worried about the void. Get in and take the opponents' space away, or bid to your own making game as here.

The "passers" remembered other hands when they opened 3♠ only to find partner with one spade and lots of hearts. They preferred to pass first and then come in with 2/3♠ over the opposition's 1♣, p, 1♦. They now knew there was no worry about missing a heart fit, and a good partner would deduce you had hearts anyway, because you passed at first.

Teachers should stick with text book definitions of pre-empts ie a good suit (two of the top three - AKQ, or three of the top five honours - AKQJ10) when teaching pre-empts, and to be within two tricks of your contract when vul, but suggest a more daring approach when non-vul.

Here's the whole hand.

♠7	♠KQ2
♥864	♥AQ5
♦AQJ8	♦54
♣AKQ98	♣75432
♠A1098653	♠J4
♥J1072	♥K93
♦62	♦K10973
♣ void	♣J106

What do you think?

Cheers, Joan



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

Kevin's Korner . . .

Planning the play

Whenever you play a hand, either as a declarer or a defender, it's important to take some time before you play a card to MAKE A PLAN. Remember even a plan that fails is better than no plan at all.

In a trump contract it is best to count the tricks you will lose and PLAN to eliminate those losers.

The main techniques to avoid losers are:

- Establishing tricks in one hand and
- Discarding losers from the other
- Ruffing (usually in the short hand)
- Finessing

East leads ♠Q. You cannot draw trumps immediately as defenders will be able to take one spade, one diamond and two hearts. It's best to eliminate a small spade. Win the ♠A and lead a diamond at the K,Q. If King holds you are on a roll. Then it's back to ♣K and

repeat the diamond lead as the Ace is onside. Now, you can discard another small spade. If ♦A is offside you'll go down but not without a PLAN. **Kevin Feeney**

Contract: 4♥ North

4 losers: 2♥,1♠,1♦.

♠ AK7
♥ Q9874
♦ 65
♣ KQ6

♠ 854
♥ AK3
♦ JT93
♣ T92

♠ QJT9
♥ 2
♦ A872
♣ 8543

♠ 632
♥ JT65
♦ KQ4
♣ AJ7

"That was a great plan, Sherlock."
"Elementary, my dear Watson."



It's on the cards



Our winners in the past three months include:

- The **Spring Pairs** on 13th September was won by Carolann Verity and Jennifer Hollingworth.
- The **Rhoda Clifford Nett Competition**, held over two Tuesdays in October, was won by Jeanette Roughley and Peter Coppin.
- At the **Gympie Teams Congress**, held on Sunday 14 October, the best Gympie teams were: in the B-grade, Jennifer Hollingworth, Carolann Verity, Peter Coppin and Tim Hollingworth were second; while Ruth Greentree, Bevan Anderson, Nannette Jones and Rudy Meyer were third.
- In the **Queensland Wide Pairs**, held Tuesday, 20 November, Jeanette Roughley and Cathy Reed were our best north/south pair, coming in at a credible 16th. The best east/west pair were Margaret Bazzan and Yve Welch, at 31st.

At the **Hervey Bay Pairs** play off, held on Sunday, 4 November, Ruth Greentree and Kaylene Lingard enjoyed a "Consolation C Grade" prize.

And a mention must be made of two novice players who only finished lessons earlier this year. Glenys Gissel and Bernadette Baxter gained some red points when they competed at the Sunshine Coast

on Sunday, 11 November, in the **QBA Novice Pairs Final**. A grand effort ladies.

Congratulations to our winners — and well done to everyone who took part in these events.

December and **January** are quiet months for our Gympie players - except for the Christmas Party of course. **Don't forget** — the club will be closed from Monday, 24 December with club play resuming on Thursday, 3 January.

- **February:** The big event is, naturally, the **Gold Coast Congress**, being held this year from Friday, 15 February to Saturday, 23 February.

- **February:** Our **Singles Championships** is our first red point event of the year. Day one is Monday 25 February and Day Two is Monday, 4 March.

- **March:** The red point **Autumn Pairs** is Thursday morning, 14 March.

- **March:** **Club Pairs Championships**, (red points) is a two session, all day event, on Sunday, 17 March.

- **March:** Open to every level of player, the **GNOT playoff**, is Sunday 31 March. Give it a go.

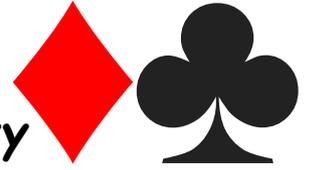
- Then it's the Easter break, with the club closed Good Friday and Easter Saturday.





Foto Finish

Melbourne Cup Day & Christmas Party



Three pics (above) from our Melbourne Cup day.
The others are from our Christmas Party held last Thursday night at the Mt Pleasant.

