



GYMPIE BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER



December 2019/January/February 2020 – SUMMER issue, No 66

Hello fellow bridge club members,

It's been a nasty few months with bushfires raging across Queensland, NSW and other parts of the country. I sincerely hope all your loved ones are safe, wherever they reside in Australia.

The dry, hot conditions means our air-con system is getting a big workout and with advice from an air-con professional, backed by others in the industry, I'd like to take this opportunity to explain the best working model.

When air-con is used for a session, it is best turned on immediately, allowing the room to cool before everyone arrives. The room then has a chance to reach the ideal temperature before play starts and any "drafts" won't be as noticeable.

Each unit produces 14,000 BTU (British Thermal Units) which means the two outer units adequately cool the room at most club sessions.

The third unit brings the combined BTU up to 42,000 – good when we have a congress or any other time more than 100 people are present. (The old units produced just 20,000 BTU which meant on cool days, they were adequate but on hot days, they were quite inefficient.)

When the air-con is being used, doors and windows should be kept **closed**. (The units only have to work harder if windows are left open!) The fans should be off, as they just lift cold air away from the tables and back up to the ceiling.

No system will suit all the people, all the time, but

our air-con upgrade has the capacity to provide a comfortable environment for all.

The directors have made a club ruling that after the four-minute bell sounds, ALL players who have not begun their final board must take an average. There will be no exceptions simply because "it's the last board before a break" or end of a session.

And, the director **MUST** be called when a ruling is needed – even if experienced players are at the table. Many players are not aware of rule book changes, so a director's ruling is essential.

The "find me a partner" phone app is proving popular. To join, you firstly need the Messenger app on your phone. Then, find a member who is already on the list and they can add your name.

Major expenses this year included new lighting. Extra tubes between the air-con units and at the front above the door have shone a light on what were darker areas. And, the dishwasher tank split, causing it to leak, but the club should get many years of good service from the upgrade.

Our columnists are **Joan Butts**, with an interesting hand she struck at a recent event; **Jennifer Hollingworth** has an interesting Directors Digest and we welcome new columnist, **Ken Dawson**. Enjoy.

This is the last newsletter this year so . . .

Seasons' Greetings to you all.

JENZ

PS: Christmas dinner photos inside

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all



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OUR BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

22: Marilyn Virtue
25: Merv Rettke
27: Jan Beckett
28: Peter Coppin

JANUARY

6: Joy Anderson
6: Tania Hooper
15: Bevan Anderson
15: Lesley Wilson
17: Bernadette Baxter
25: Steph Richardson

FEBRUARY

5: Steven Verity
7: Carolann Verity
11: Sue Schierning
18: Dave Connors
19: Helen Morrissey
25: Jenz Davidson
26: Ed Beckett

President's report

Summer edition

Bridge is played universally around the world. For most players, it is a combination of mental challenge, an interesting pastime and a venue for social encounters. A webpage displaying the 50 most popular hobbies ranks playing cards at 28. (Reading and watching TV rank first).

All pastimes have their phases of popularity. The internet and social media has influenced people's preferences and while bridge is holding its own, Australians are moving away from lawn bowls and other traditional competitive sports such as golf, tennis and rugby. Research by ABF Marketing head, Peter Cox, shows internet bridge now equals club play in the USA. New Zealand has the highest percentage of bridge players per population with 0.32%, followed by Australia on 0.15% (60% live in NSW or Qld) while the average age is between 55 and 80. Over 70% of players have less than 100 master points. They are avid readers of quality newspapers, and watchers of quality TV. They are evenly divided on politics and climate change.

Taking account of all of the above, the need for recruiting new players is ever present. Mr Cox's Bridge Marketing Plan outlines specific objectives and strategies. Notably, ABF and State Associations should use technology to reach young people — for example, to have online video teaching and apps, and to foster "Bridge Buddies" (where members act as mentors for new recruits). Your Management Committee recognises that local recruitment is essential, and for it to be successful we must have a Marketing Plan, a Teaching Regime and a Welcoming Ethos to beginners.

- **Marketing Plan:** It has been decided to have a regional letter drop by Australia Post. Jenz has prepared a draft pamphlet promoting Bridge as "the most popular mind sport in the world" being fun, competitive, and suitable for all ages! We are seeking an ABF subsidy for this marketing plan.
- **Teaching Regime:** Both Jennifer and Jenz are now ABF Accredited Teachers, with Jenz set to share the teaching of beginners only next year. We thank both these members for their commitment to our Bridge Club. It seems that the methodology of teaching Bridge has altered/progressed much in the past 20 years, just has the variety of bridge systems and conventions. I don't know whether you can teach a monkey or a parrot a particular bridge system, but you can certainly teach/program a computer. Personally, I would find it more fun to have a monkey as my partner rather than a computer.
- **Welcoming Ethos:** Sometimes experienced players need to be reminded that bridge should be played in the manner of good sportsmanship, and that there needs to be a spirit of goodwill at the table. We should be especially encouraging towards beginners. Some tips — don't comment on their bridge play unless asked (it's ok to acknowledge good play); don't penalty double; and above all Don't Teach! If you would like to adopt a "Bridge Buddy" by all means discuss the matter with Jennifer. The Management Committee wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nev Harington

Merry Christmas

A good turnout of members enjoyed Christmas cheer at Mt Pleasant on Thursday night, 12 December. Here are just a few highlights of the fun at the dinner celebration.



School of Bridge - Joan Butts

Finding the highest scoring contract



These days, with everyone using Bridgemates at clubs, simply punching in a trick score and having the rest calculated for you, means that people are forgetting how important it is to understand scoring!

Having a minor fit usually means NOT playing in the minor if you want a good score at matchpoints (pairs, duplicate).

Eleven tricks are needed for game in 5♣/5♦, for 400 (not vul) or 600 (vul). But only nine tricks are required for the game bonus in No Trumps (400 or 600).

Taking an extra trick in no trumps (10 tricks for 430 or 630) usually means an excellent score in matchpoints, beating any other pairs who played in the minor.

Here's a hand from the **Dick Cummings Pairs**, a match-point pairs event, at the **Spring Nationals** in October in Sydney (round 6, board 23).

How would you bid it?

North
♠10
♥AQJ
♦Q1062
♣J10986

West
SQ975
HK1053
D875
CK4

East
SKJ6
H7642
DK4
CQ753

South
SA8432
H98
DAJ93
CA3

The top scorers all played 3NT, the next best played a NT partscore, and 12 tricks in diamonds was needed for a good result. Anyone who made only 11 tricks in diamonds received 34%! Oh dear!

I recommend that you play Inverted minors to give you more accuracy when deciding whether to play 3NT or game in a minor.

Gold members on my **Online School of Bridge** are able to do a whole lesson on Inverted Minors, play hands and watch reviews videos.

Tips

- Playing "Inverted Minors" allow you to investigate whether hands with minor fits are better played in no trumps or the minor
- The word "inverted" means you swap (invert) the meanings of 1♣ pass 2♣, and 1♣ pass 3♣ (ditto for diamonds)
- Raising 1♣ to 2♣ normally shows a weak hand without a major, and 6-10 points
- Raising 1♣ to 3♣ shows a stronger hand without a major, and 11,12 points
- When playing Inverted Minors, the stronger raise becomes 1♣ p 2♣, and the weaker 1♣ p 3♣ (6-10, shapely, five + clubs)
- Some play that 1♣ p 2♣ is a limit raise or better (11+), but others play it as a game forcing raise (13+)
- For hands of 6-10 that are not shapely, bid 1NT

Inverted Minors offers a sensible treatment because it gives you more bidding space to investigate two good minor hands, without jumping.

The extra space allows you to show no trump stoppers, or shortages, when deciding whether to play no trumps, or to stick with the minor. It works well ... give it a go!

Cheers, Joan

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Director's Digest

Points for better playing



Regulations: As soon as the first round of cards has been played, the bidding pad must be covered over — and this is normally done by whoever is dummy. This requirement is a bridge regulation — not a law — so a player will not be penalized if this is not done. However, if it is found that a player or players are looking at the bidding pad to influence their play during the game, the opposition can call the director if they believe an irregularity has occurred and penalties may be imposed.

Bridgemates: When you are responsible for the Bridgemate and it is your turn to lead, *please*, play your card first, (or put down dummy) *then* fill in the Bridgemate particulars. It is an unnecessary waste of time at the table if you do Bridgemate details before you play your first card. If you are playing, it can be a bit more tricky, but there is usually time to do so as dummy is being placed on the table. Directors ask that all players be mindful of this.

Bidding Boxes: Any player has the right to use bidding boxes (assuming they are available) for any event if they are needed. As a policy, when a player states that they have a handicap requiring the use of bidding boxes, directors do not question why. When bidding boxes are in use, for that reason, no player has the right to refuse to play with them.

Bidding: A player is obligated to choose a bid before touching any card in the box. The director could be called if there is any deliberation while touching the bidding box cards. A call is considered made when a bidding card is removed from the box and touches or nearly touches the table or is maintained in such a position to indicate that the call has been made. If a player has inadvertently taken out the wrong bidding card and then immediately attempts to correct their mistake, the director may rule that a bid has not been made and no penalty is incurred.

Good bridging . . . Jennifer

Ken's Konundrum . . .

problem solving with Ken Dawson

Spades are trumps. How do you plan to handle these holdings for one loser:

Dummy: ♠ Q2
 You: ♠ K76543

You need a lot of luck. Lead ♠3 towards ♠Q. If the queen holds, you then play low from both hands hoping that west started with ♠Ax and the ace will beat the air. No other layout allows you to escape for one loser.

Dummy: ♠ Q432
 You: ♠ K765

Again, you will need some luck. However, this time you must guess which of your opponents might hold ♠Ax. After that, it is the same as last time. Of course, if you can cajole an opponent to lead the suit, you might escape for one loser by following the familiar doctrine, "second-hand-low". Say west leads a spade. You play low and perhaps east will pop the ace. Even when they don't, body language may convince you of its location!

Another konundrum

How will you play these suits in order to make a trick?

Dummy: ♠ Q2
 You: ♠ J43

If you have to play the suit, you will need a lot of luck. Your best chance is to lead towards one of the hands and hope the AK is onside. Say you lead towards the queen. You hope west has AK. You have one more chance, particularly if this is a side suit against a trump suit contract. West may have king only. Thinking you may be leading away from the ace, west may pop the king to make sure of the trick in the suit.

Dummy: ♠ QT2
 You: ♠ 543

Here your best chance is to lead towards the 10, hoping LHO has the jack. If LHO plays low, insert the 10. Putting up the queen will only work when LHO has AK and not the jack. This will happen half as often as LHO holding the jack, with or without a top honour.



It's on the cards



Here's our catch up on all club and other events held during the past three months since our last news-letter was printed.

— **Congratulations to all our winners** —

- The **Spring Pairs** red point event was held Monday 9 September, **1st**: Steven Verity and John Byrnes. **2nd**: Lesley Wilson and Kaylene Lingard. **3rd**: Lester Pettit and Merv Rettke.
- The **Sunshine Coast Graded Pairs**, held at the SC Bridge Club on Sunday, 15 September, gave Bernadette Baxter and Glenys Gissel a valuable .16 red points in the C-grade competition.
- The **Wide Bay Zone Open Pairs**, held Sunday, 22 September in Maryborough, was won by our own Nev and Adele Harington, with 59.92%.
- The **Rhoda Clifford Competition**, was held over two Tuesdays, 8 and 15 October. Handicap winners were Mary Boyd and Angela Blomfield. Joan Woodward and Rennie Pettit were **2nd**, while Kelly Chapman and Fran McDonald were **3rd**.
- The **Gympie Teams Congress**, held Sunday, 13 October was, sadly, won by players from outside our club.
- The **Gold Rush Pairs**, held Tuesday, 22 October, was won by Shirley Bishop and Joy Anderson. **2nd**: Rudy Meyer and Des Ward. **3rd**: Judith Malcolm and Peter Krause.
- Two **Interclub Teams** travelled to Maryborough on Sunday, 24 November. Kathi Vince, Tania Hooper, Des Ward and Rudy Meyer won the Novice section; and Jennifer Hollingworth, Sue Schierning, Jeanette Roughley and Peter Coppin were third in the Open.
- The **Queensland Wide Pairs** were held Tuesday, 26 November. Our Gympie winners were: N/S Jeanette Roughley and Cathy Reed; with E/W winners Kay Kerr and Jenz Davidson.

Competing against 43 other Queensland bridge clubs (and 370 pairs each way) with results scored in the first 26 boards only, put Jeanette and Cathy fifth overall N/S, while our best E/W pair were Rudy Meyer and Kaylene Lingard in 57nd.

— **Upcoming events** —

- There's not a lot happening in our December bridge calendar, apart from our Christmas Party of course. (Hope you like the photos people!)
- January features an exciting new event — the **Gympie/Coolum Interclub Pairs**, hosted by Coolum this year (Gympie in 2021) on Wednesday, 22 January. If there's only one away event you decide to attend this year, *please* support this. The Coolum Bridge Club is at the Yaroomba Meeting Place, 1443 David Low Way, Yaroomba.
- Our **Summer Pairs** is our first red point event for the year, being held on Tuesday, 11 February.
- The **Gold Coast Congress**, takes place from Friday, 21 February to Saturday 29 February this year.
- Our **Singles Championships**, held over two Monday nights, 2 and 9 March, is a double red points event.
- The **Black and White Pairs** another red pointer, is on Thursday, 19 March, at the morning session.

Plenty of bridging events 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 — which can be found on top of the bookcase next to the office.

If it's a gripe, don't grizzle to your husband or wife, partner or friend — rather, "post" it in the suggestion box. Any "concerns" or suggestions will then be tabled at the next committee meeting.

