

# GYMPIE BRIDGE CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

March/April/May 2020 – AUTUMN issue, No 67

**Hello fellow bridge club members,**

Hard to believe it's autumn already, as I reckon summer still seems to have us firmly in her grip.

I wonder if you, like me, were once again amazed at how fast the land recovers from drought conditions after a good dose of rain. We have been pretty fortunate in Gympie to escape the worst of both drought and flooding, and late summer has turned the land into a riot of colour.

The **Gympie/Coolum Interclub Pairs**, hosted by Coolum on Wednesday, 22 January, was such a resounding success, that Coolum wants to hold it bi-annually, instead of annually. Your committee agreed so Gympie is now hosting their club on Wednesday, 26 August. I'm sure we will replicate the inaugural event with fine food and players keen to make the most of a red-point event.

The **Gold Coast Congress** has now finished for another year, with Peter Coppin gaining the most gold points in the Gympie club this year. Carolann Verity also did well and the other four who went, including myself, all came home with a goldie. Jane Lennox and her long-time friend from Brisbane Marge Lane, did exceptionally well in the Novice Pairs, 0-50 masterpoints, coming in fifth overall. Well done Jane and Marge.

TSR, installers of our **air conditioning** system, made several recommendations, which will be posted on the notice board. Salient points are:



**Usage:** When a building is in use 16 hours a day, continuous running of the air-con may be warranted. But as our club has intermittent usage, continuous running is not recommended.

**Fans:** Operating fans in conjunction with air-con is not recommended in buildings with high ceilings in relation to room size, as the warmer air in the higher space would mix with the cooler lower air. But in our clubhouse, with its relatively low ceiling, it would be preferable to run the fans at low speed so as to gently mix the air in the room.

**Windows:** Having some windows slightly open is desirable when people are mostly shut in all day. But as members often use the sliding door, and pop in and out of the kitchen and front doors, there is no need to open windows.

Finally, TSR set the "northern" unit's outlet **louvre blades** to aim high, and suggest it remains thus.

The committee is intending to introduce a voucher system for table fees soon. You'll hear more when it's ready to roll.

Some members are keen to join up on our "find me a partner" phone app on Messenger, but they don't want to sign up for Facebook just to get it. Well, you can install Messenger without first installing Facebook (Dr Google says so).

Just go into your "app store", via the icon on your phone screen, search for the **Facebook Messenger** app and then download it. Select "**not on Facebook?**" option (or it could be "**create new account**") and then enter your **name** and **phone number**. Do not hit the "Log in with Facebook" button. Once downloaded and installed, just ask someone already using the app to add your name. Good luck.

Our columnists this edition are **Joan Butts**, with advice on super-accepts in the minors; **Jennifer Hollingworth** has advice on alerts in the Directors Digest and Coolum's **Ken Dawson** brings us two more "konundrums". Enjoy.

**Good bridging JENZ**

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## OUR BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH

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

### APRIL

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

### MAY

- 1: Margaret Bazzan
- 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 Bloomfield

# President's report

## Autumn edition

• **Bi-annual inter club day:** The Coolum Bridge Club approached our club last year, regarding a closer mutual association because we are of similar size and similar ethos.

One possibility was for each club to alternatively host an annual Inter-Club Pairs Day. Apart from promoting inter-club goodwill, it allows the host club to have an extra Red Point event on its calendar.

We willingly accepted their invitation to visit their club on 22 January this year, and the event was much enjoyed by all who attended and was deemed most successful.

So much so that Coolum would like to have such a bridge day bi-annually. Your committee agreed, and we are now looking at hosting our first reciprocal event on Wednesday, 26 August.

• **Air conditioning:** The air-conditioning system in the clubhouse has been the subject of much criticism since it was installed.

Several members have offered different opinions as to how it should be run and at the last committee meeting it was decided that I take the matter up with TSR.

The substance of my report is outlined in Jenz' editorial, and the management committee will deal with my report at our next meeting.

• **Gympie Congress:** This is being held on 18 and 19 April. Both the teams and pairs filled fast, with entries now closed and those who didn't make the cut on a waiting list. This is our masthead event for the year and I'm sure it will again be the successful two days it usually is with visitors and local members enjoying two great days of bridge.

• **Coronavirus:** Anyone who has a sniffle, a cough, or generally feels under the weather is asked to NOT play bridge until they are well and truly over whatever cold symptoms they may have.



This COVID 19 virus attacks older people and of course, our club consists of many older citizens who may be susceptible to the complications which can arise from catching the virus, most notably, pneumonia.

• **Easter:** Finally, Easter is 10-13 April this year and the management committee wishes all members a safe and happy break.

Nev Harington

# Consider this . . .

What would you bid on these two hands, played at our club on Tuesday, 10 December, 2019?

**Board 30** made West's eyes pop a little. With 10 spades and 3 losers, slam was probable, but how to get there?

	<b>North</b>	<i>Dir: E</i>	
	♠7	<i>Vul: None</i>	
	♥A9632		
	♦KQT5		
	♣743		
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>	
♠AJT9865432		♠KQ	
♥Q		♥75	
♦A		♦J9876	
♣A		♣KJT2	
	<b>South</b>		
	♠ —		
	♥KJT84		
	♦432		
	♣Q9865		

**Board 24.** Another difficult bidding situation. Hearts predominated at our club, but what would you do?

	<b>North</b>	<i>Dir: W</i>	
	♠ —	<i>Vul: None</i>	
	♥JT976542		
	♦Q9865		
	♣ —		
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>	
♠KQ985		♠4	
♥AQ		♥83	
♦742		♦J3	
♣Q54		♣KJT87632	
	<b>South</b>		
	♠AJT7632		
	♥K		
	♦AKT		
	♣A9		

## It's all good clean fun . . .

A woman abruptly left a new cleaning position within weeks of starting. Back at the employment agency, she was asked why she left so suddenly.

"Well, they did paid good wages . . . but it was the most ridiculously undignified place I've ever worked," she said. "They played this awful game called bridge and the language was just terrible.

"For example, before play started one day, one woman said to another, 'I'm playing with your husband today and you're playing with mine.'

"Then a man told a woman to, 'Lay down and let's see

what you've got'. Another man said, 'I've got length, but no strength.'

"And when I was bringing out refreshments, I heard a man say to a woman, 'take your hand off my trick'.

"I almost dropped my tray of scones when the woman answered him. She said back, 'you jumped me twice when you didn't have the strength for one raise'.

"Another woman was talking about protecting her honour, but the final straw was at the end of the day.

"As I put on my hat and coat, I hope to die if one of them didn't say, 'Well, I'm off home now. That was the last rubber'."

<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
Pass	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	? <sup>3</sup>
? <sup>4</sup>	Pass	?	

<sup>1</sup> A multi 2 opening with 5 hearts and five of another.

<sup>2</sup> West's best bid is probably to double. The only other bid would be 4♠, but that's a shutout.

(If South doesn't open, West could open 2♣.)

<sup>3</sup> North also has 5 hearts and could bid 3♥ or even 4♥.

<sup>4</sup> South now has to decide. With 9 points and 1 length point, should they bid game? All the N/S bidding makes it difficult for E/W to bid.

West, after the double, can show their strength and suit, bidding 4♠. North passes and East, with two top spades, would consider 5♠. South passes and West would then go to 6♠. On a heart lead, E/W make 12, but any other lead, they make 13. Only 2 East/West pairs bid 6♠, another 2 were in 5♠ and the rest stopped at game.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♠	? <sup>1</sup>	? <sup>2</sup>	? <sup>3</sup>
? <sup>4</sup>			

<sup>1</sup> Will North pass, bid 1♥, or bid 2♥ or even 3♥? (North would not double as partner may bid clubs!)

<sup>2</sup> Will East bid clubs? If so, how many?

<sup>3</sup> What will South bid?

<sup>4</sup> Should North bid again? If so, what?

One way the bidding may have gone is . . .

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♠	2♥	3♣?	3NT? X?
Pass	4♦	5C? Pass?	5♦

Most were in 4♥ by North, one in 5♥, one in 6♥. Half made 10, others 11 (East's 4♣x, making 9! - the only anomaly). No one found the diamond fit.

(Thanks Jeanette for your bidding advice!)

# School of Bridge - Joan Butts

## Understanding super-accepts

This hand came up at a recent duplicate.  
How would you bid it?

- ♠ J109
- ♥ QJ7
- ♦ K109
- ♣ AKJ8

In first position you open 1NT. After partner transfers via 2♣, you bid 3♣. You're using super-accepts, and your vague agreement is to super accept on any three plus cards to an honour in partner's suit. You super-accept here, and partner bids 3NT, making 10 tricks.

Partner's hand was:

- ♠ AQ4
- ♥ 65
- ♦ J3
- ♣ Q76432

It made me think about super-accepts and what opener needs to super-accept over partner's minor suit transfer, after a 1NT opening.

(I think transfer bids are hard for newer players to understand, in that you bid the suit BELOW the one you really hold! Let alone understanding super-accepts!)

What is a super-accept? When playing transfers to the minors, after partner's 1NT opening, if you, the responder, bid 2♣ or 2NT (showing clubs or diamonds), partner will usually bid your minor —

(eg 1NT p 2♣ p 3♣)

BUT sometimes, they don't, and instead they bid something else —

(eg 1NT p 2♣ p 2NT).

This is a "super accept", and says they **really** like your suit. They haven't just forgotten the system!

When partner makes a "super-accept", they show a hand with one or more honours in your suit and usually three cards, and they suggest you might make nine tricks in no trumps with the benefit of this minor suit.

You don't want to struggle in 5♣ or 5♦, so the idea is to hope to take six tricks in the minor, and then find the other three tricks required for 3NT via the honours in other suits.

If it all works you'll make a great 3NT that you weren't really expecting to.

And if partner's hand is very weak without an external entry to their long suit, they will give up on 3NT and just bid their minor. Opener will respect this, and pass.



### Tips: What opener needs to super-accept partner's minor suit transfer

- Axx or Kxx are the classic super accepts in your partner's minor suit.
- Qxx or xxxx are possible with maximum no trump points (17/18, not 15).
- Ax or Kx are not enough. Don't super-accept.
- AK doubleton? Now responder needs an external entry to make 3NT. (eg QJ10xxx plus A or K of another suit)
- With a small doubleton or three small, do not super-accept, as there is no reason to expect you will take six tricks in this suit.
- If responder had AKQxxx of their minor, they do not need to transfer to it at all. Instead they would just bid 3NT.

If you do super-accept and partner simply bids their minor again, then they are telling you they have a very weak unbalanced hand and do not want to play in NTs.

*Cheers, Joan*



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# Director's Digest

## Alerts — 2/1 and general



There is some confusion and mis-information about alerting bids by partnerships playing Two-Over-One Game Force. A summary of common situations is:

**Pre alerts:** Tell opponents your system is "2 over 1"; what the HCP range is for your 1NT response and whether it's forcing, semi-forcing or non-forcing.

**Alerts during the auction:** Your 2-level response to a 1-level opening is not alertable if the bid guarantees at least three cards in that suit — but it is alertable if it doesn't.

**1NT response:** A forcing 1NT response is alertable; however, a semi-forcing or non-forcing 1NT is not alertable.

**General:** These rules apply to all partnerships.

- Pre-alert any agreement for which the opponents may want to discuss a defence before it comes up.
- Alert any bid that has a meaning opponents may not expect and which may impact on their bidding during the auction, or declaring the hand if you are defending.

• If your side is declaring, explain the auction before the opening lead is chosen, highlighting anything that the opponents may not have been aware of, especially whether certain bids deny a major.

• Alerts are made by circling the bid AND saying "alert". Saying "alert" minimises the chance of an opponent making a bid before you have had a chance to circle your partner's bid.

• Do NOT explain the meaning of the bid you are alerting unless asked to do so by an opponent.

• But when explaining a bid, explain it fully. Don't just state the convention name. For example, don't say a Michael's bid as "It's Michaels". You should state, "It's Michaels, showing 5/5 in the other major and a minor; and it's less than an opening hand".

• Remember, pre-alerting an agreement does not remove the need for the bid to be alerted, and also, the fact it's written on your system card does not remove the need to alert. If in doubt, alert!

**Good bridging — Jennifer**



## Ken's Konundrum . . .

problem solving with Ken Dawson

What do you make of this auction?

N	E	S	W
1♦	1♥	3NT	P
4♠	P	?	

What can you conclude about opener's shape?

When responder bid 3NT over the 1♥ bid, that denies a 4-card spade suit. He/she would have shown it first in a natural and forcing auction. Responder would be able to revert to 3NT on the next round of bidding. Yet opener was prepared to bid spades at the 4 level! After the spade denial by responder, it must surely be a five-card suit.

So opener has five spades, yet opened 1♦. Why? The inescapable conclusion is that opener has a SIX card diamond suit.

At our table, responder passed after the 4♠ bid and the hand was played in a comfortable 5-3 fit.

**Ethical note:** The opponents asked for a bidding explanation before the opening lead. Responder divulged it must show a 6-5, but this conclusion was based on bridge logic, not a system agreement. As such, de-

fenders were only entitled to know that the 3NT bid denied four spades.

An appropriate explanation would be: "Opener is prepared to bid spades on his own at the 4 level, even though I have denied the suit. You have to decide what sort of hand is held."

### Another konundrum

These are your trumps . . . Dummy: ♠ Axx  
You: ♠ QJ9xx

You lead the ♠Q, which holds the trick. What next?

If West started with the ♠Kx, they would probably cover the queen. That would provide their partner with a trick when the ♠T9x is held.

So, West probably started with ♠Kxx and their partner with ♠Tx. (You were never going to avoid a loser if West started with ♠KTx).

So, you should now run your ♠J, hoping to smother East's ♠10. This makes your ♠9 the winner of the third trick and avoids having a trump loser.



# 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 newsletter and a run-down of what's on in the next three months.

## — Congratulations to all our winners —

- The **Gympie/Coolum Interclub Pairs**, hosted by Coolum on Wednesday, 22 January, was such a resounding success, that it is being hosted by Gympie in August.
- **Summer Pairs**, our first red pointer this year, was held Tuesday, 11 February, and won by Tertia Brink and Lesley Wilson. Dean Hollingworth and Ian Manly were second; Jeanette Roughley and Peter Coppin third.
- Taking home the most gold points at this year's **Gold Coast Congress**, held Friday, 21 February to Saturday 29 February, was Peter Coppin. Carolyn Verity also did well, and the other four who attended all came home with a goldie. Jane Lennox and her Brisbane partner, Marg Lane, did exceptionally well, coming fifth in the Novice Pairs, 0-50 Master points category.
- Our **Singles Championship**, held over two Monday nights, 2 and 9 March, is a double red points. The overall winner this year was Nannette Jones. Second was Rennie Pettit and third Peter Coppin.

## — Upcoming events —

- The **Black and White Pairs**, another red pointer, is on Thursday, 19 March, at the morning session.
- **Gympie's Pairs Championships** is on Sunday, 29 March. This is an all-day event with a session in the morning and another in the afternoon. Don't forget - BYO lunch.
- April starts with the **Wide Bay Novice Pairs**, being held in Maryborough on Sunday, 5th.
- **Easter Pairs**, another red pointer, is being held on Tuesday, 7 April.
- **Gympie's Pairs and Teams Congress**, on 18 and 19 April, is now full, with a waiting list in place.
- The Hervey Bay holds its **Pairs and Teams congress** on Saturday and Sunday, 9 and 10 May.
- Keen to win a few gold points? The **GNOT playoff** is your chance, being held on Sunday, 17 May.
- The **Caloundra Pairs and Teams congress** is being held on Saturday and Sunday, 30 and 31 May, rounding out the quieter month of bridge for Gympie players.

Plenty of bridging events to choose from — at home, and away at nearby clubs. Enjoy.

## A little light relief

Did you hear about the man who wanted to learn bridge in just *one* day? He ordered 35 copies of *Five Weeks To Winning Bridge*.

Did you hear about the woman who always went *down* by 1 trick in 3NT? She said it happened because she follows her teacher's advice: "Eight ever, Nine never".

Did you hear about the Elvis Presley coup? It's when your left-hand opponent leads from AQ around to your Kx: the King is no longer dead!

## GLORIOUS COLOUR

You will find the latest newsletter online at [www.gympiebridgeclub.com](http://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.

**Jan:** Why did you lead the *nine* from K-9-7-5-2?

**Jim:** I play fourth best. **Jan:** Then why not the *five*?

**Jim:** Oh.... I always forget which end to count from.

## 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.

