

GYMPIE BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

September/October/November 2020 – SPRING issue, No 69

Hello fellow bridge club members,

- A new committee was elected at our AGM.

President: Nev Harington

Vice-president: Bevan Anderson

Secretary: Kaylene Lingard

Treasurer: Kay Kerr

Committee: Ross Chapman, Jenz Davidson, Glenys Gissel, Rudy Meyer and Sue Schierning.

All other positions remain the same as last year.

(See the back page for that information.)

- What an "one out of the box" sort of year it has been. Covid 19 hit the world hard and it will take many years for "normal" to resume.

But, the club re-opened on Tuesday, 4th August, with a limit of eight tables and social distancing in place. Although we're yet to get back to full capacity, members are enjoying returning to the bridge table and the camaraderie.

During the club closure, many members played online through StepBridge and Bridge Base Online. Personally, I found playing on StepBridge not only enjoyable but also interesting with a wide variety of systems seen online.

The committee continued working during the Covid shutdown, with several items completed. One was the purchase of a defibrillator, thanks to Rudy Meyer doing the hard yards to get a grant through the council. Thank you Rudy.

The carpet and chairs were cleaned, the gardens given a carpet of mulch and the club prepared for the reduced Covid play allowed at the club.

Our secretary Kaylene Lingard continues to work hard on ensuring all committee members are kept up to date with the latest Covid information, through the government and both the ABF and QBA. Thank you Kaylene.



- Our survey to find preferred sessions, instigated to cut out the double sessions on a Thursday, bought a limited response. So the committee has committed to a new regime next year of:

7pm, Mondays

1pm, Tuesdays

7pm, Wednesdays

9am, Thursdays

1pm, 2nd & 4th Sundays

All sessions require members to be seated 15 minutes before the stated playing time.

Therefore the only change is that Thursday night sessions now move across to Wednesday nights.

The committee is well aware this new day will not suit everyone, and although the most popular option was Wednesday night and Thursday arvo at 1pm, it was decided to keep the Thursday morning 9am session which gives members plenty of time for other things after bridge finishes.

- Our columnists this edition are **Joan Butts**, with an interesting "Morton's Fork Coup" hand. In our Director's Digest, **Jennifer Hollingworth** revisits comparable bids and **Ken Dawson** brings us another "konundrum". Enjoy.

Good bridging ... JENZ

– COVID CARE –

We know it's difficult to keep up the social distancing and excessive hand washing but it takes just one person who could cause a "cluster" of cases and we don't want to be the club responsible for that! So ...

- PLEASE, if you are not well, stay home
- Keep at least 1.5m apart when socialising
- Avoid touching your face
- Use the sanitizer provided at every table
- When washing your hands, include your fingers and wrists



And as the *Hill Street Blues* sergeant said at every roll call, "stay safe out there".

OUR BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

- 15: Rennie Pettit
23: Kaylene Lingard

President's report

Spring edition

Nev Harington presented his AGM 2020 president's report on Tuesday, 1 September, to an appreciative audience — smaller than usual, but socially distanced.

The past year commenced as normal, with our annual Teams Congress last October, which was well attended and capably organised by Convenor Jennifer Hollingworth. This was followed by our annual Christmas party, which again proved to be an enjoyable social event. The new year commenced in a business-as-usual way, with Kay Kerr organising our annual April Pairs and our Teams Congress. Both events were filling fast when we suddenly heard of Covid-19. Governmental response was to impose harsh restrictions on all enterprises across Australia, including businesses, sporting clubs and bridge clubs. So it was with much regret that we were obliged to cancel the congress event.

Things got even worse when we were forced to close down our bridge play altogether! This was a disappointment for most players and distressing for some because we are a club which provides a competitive game in a social environment. Some players found respite by playing online bridge or playing with friends at home. However, it is regrettable that across Australia, there will be fewer bridge players because of the Covid-19 dysfunction. And sad, because some of our friends and associates have passed on, or will otherwise not be seen at bridge again.

Throughout the lockdown period, your management committee has functioned as normal — attending to necessary maintenance, paying bills and planning re-scheduling of events, however possible. Secretary Kaylene has been burdened with an endless stream of directives and suggestions from governmental and bridge agencies and I compliment her dedication to the job. An inevitable consequence of no bridge play has caused treasurer Kay to withdraw \$5000 from our savings in order to pay bills.

All committee members have been keen to assist, however possible. I thank Bevan for his advice and support; thanks also to Jenz for keeping members informed with her entertaining quarterly newsletters. Jeff and Ross have been of much assistance with maintenance work.

Directors are an essential component of any bridge club and our thanks are extended to Kay, Kaylene, Kelly, Jennifer and Trevor for their untiring service. Thanks also to provodores Arlette and Rennie, and to the small group who routinely attend to the dealing of boards. Thanks also to club member Rudy, who was instrumental in obtaining a council grant for the purchase of a defibrillator. Ron will soon be teaching interested members on how to operate the unit. It is unfortunate that we have had to cancel our annual October Teams Congress but hopefully, things will return to normal in the near future. It heartens me that your senior club executive is continuing in their respective roles. May we have a good year ahead.

Nev Harington

Consider this . . .

Here are four slams, from our Championship Pairs, held on Sunday, 30 August.

Board 8, AM session. In this hand, deep finesse says 6♥ or 6♠ or 6NT to East or West makes. How would you bid?

North ♠84 ♥42 ♦QT9643 ♣965		Dir: W Vul: Nil
West ♠Q75 ♥AKT983 ♦A5 ♣KT	East ♠AJT632 ♥75 ♦K ♣A873	
South ♠K9 ♥QJ6 ♦J872 ♣QJ42		

West	North	East	South
1H	P	2C/2D ¹	P
2H	P	3H ²	P
4C	etc		

- ¹West has 6 spades, but first shows partner opening values, and depending on their system, will bid 2C (2/1 GF) or 2D which is alerted.
- ²A heart fit is found — no need to show your spade strength — so E makes an invitational 3H bid. W bids 4C finding E has 2 aces and a 5C bid shows 1 king. Enough for a 6H/S/NT bid.

Board 18, AM session. Most stopped at 3NT but the deep finesse says 5♦, 5♠ or 6NT makes. What would you bid?

North ♠KQT ♥AJT2 ♦A96 ♣AK8		Dir: E Vul: N-S
West ♠A64 ♥Q9 ♦QT72 ♣JT53	East ♠83 ♥87543 ♦J ♣97642	
South ♠J9752 ♥K6 ♦K8543 ♣Q		

East	South	West	North
P	2S ¹	P	2NT ²
P	3D ³	P	4C ⁴
P	etc		

- ¹With 5S and 5D, it's a perfect Multi 2 bid.
(If South doesn't open, North bids 2C (19+) or 2D (20-22))
- ²North replies to the multi bid with 2NT = 16+hcp.
- ³South bids their other 5-card suit & North knows they have two eight-card fits.
- ⁴Both bidding styles now ace ask, arriving at 6S or 6NT.

Board 10, PM session. The deep finesse says 6♦, 6♠ or 6NT to North or South makes, but it wasn't that easy to find. How would you fare?

North ♠Q632 ♥AK4 ♦KQJ2 ♣AK		Dir: E Vul: All
West ♠A7 ♥Q92 ♦T763 ♣QJ98	East ♠85 ♥T753 ♦98 ♣T6543	
South ♠KJT94 ♥J86 ♦A54 ♣72		

East	South	West	North
P	P	P	2C/2D ¹
P	2S ²	P	4C

- ¹Again, depending on partnership agreement, North opens strong.
- ²2S showing 5 spades and 8+ hcp
- ³North, having established a 9-card fit, can now ace ask and with just one ace missing, will probably bid, and make, 6NT.

Board 30, PM session. With only five tables, each session was 27 boards. But this is the only other East/West slam in the lot, so I've included it and you can decide where you would bid to - 6♥, 6♠ or 6NT. It is a bit tricky to play.

North ♠K4 ♥Q632 ♦95 ♣K9764		Dir: E Vul: Nil
West ♠AQT82 ♥A95 ♦KQ2 ♣J8	East ♠J5 ♥KJT7 ♦AT7 ♣AQ53	
South ♠9763 ♥84 ♦J8643 ♣T2		

East	South	West	North
1C	P	2D ¹	P
2H ²	P	2S ³	P
4C ⁴			

- ¹Shows opening values
- ²East shows their four hearts ³West shows their five spades
- ⁴East now ace asks, expecting to end up in NT. The replies show West has two aces and one king, so goes to 6NT. E/W must play low with the first spade, letting opposition win it, then it should be plain sailing with a couple of finesses!

Thank you Jeanette for the bidding advice!

School of Bridge - Joan Butts

Challenge Hand

The **Morton's Fork Coup** is a play that presents a defender with two losing options. It's named after the Archbishop of Canterbury John Morton (1420-1500). The late expert Alan Truscott is credited with inventing the bridge term in the 1960s. As the tax collector for King Henry VII, the Archbishop's rule on taxes went something like this. If the King's subjects were living lavishly, then they must be able to afford higher taxes. If they were living modestly, then they must have the savings to afford higher taxes. Either way... higher taxes.

This hand is an example of such a coup. When declarer leads the $\spadesuit 4$ towards the $\spadesuit Q$, West is in a losing position — if they rise with their $\spadesuit A$, then there will be two discards for declarer later, and if they don't — now declarer will win the $\spadesuit Q$ and play the $\clubsuit K$, discarding the $\spadesuit K$ from hand! Poor old West can't win! The bidding:

	$\spadesuit A86$	$\heartsuit AKJT952$	$\diamond K4$	$\clubsuit 4$	
N	E	S-You	W	Dir: N	
1C	P	1H ¹	1S	Vul: Nil	
X ²	P	4NT ³	P		
5C	P	6H ⁴	All pass		

¹Although 15hcp & 3 extra for length, South responds with just 1 \heartsuit .

²After West bids 1 \spadesuit , North, having opened, now bids X, showing precisely three-card heart support.

³Now South, with a known fit, bids Blackwood and partner replies 5 \clubsuit showing one or four controls.

Must be one, because South has 3.

⁴So straight to 6 \heartsuit , knowing partner has one ace.



West leads the $\clubsuit T$ and dummy goes down.

$\spadesuit QT4$	$\heartsuit Q83$	$\diamond Q95$	$\clubsuit AK62$
$\spadesuit A86$	$\heartsuit AKJT952$	$\diamond K4$	$\clubsuit 4$

N/S has 7 heart winners in declarer's hand, plus $\spadesuit A$ makes 8; two clubs is 10 and they'll develop a diamond trick for 11. They have one club discard, but $\diamond A$ is missing. Things are not looking good. What to do?

Win the $\clubsuit T$ with the $\clubsuit A$, draw two rounds of trumps, and now all trumps have gone.

Next, play the $\diamond 4$ to $\diamond Q$. West rises with the ace. Now, you'll make the contract.

After winning the $\diamond A$, West leads a small spade. In dummy, play either $\spadesuit Q$ or $\spadesuit T$. It holds and wins.

Now $\diamond 9$ to $\diamond K$, then play $\heartsuit 2$ to cross over to dummy's $\heartsuit Q$ and play the $\clubsuit K$, discarding the spade loser on it. Play $\spadesuit Q$ or $\spadesuit T$ to the $\spadesuit A$ and all the trumps are good.

The full hand:

	$\spadesuit QT4$	
	$\heartsuit Q83$	
	$\diamond Q95$	
$\spadesuit KJ9532$	$\clubsuit AK62$	$\spadesuit 7$
$\heartsuit 6$		$\heartsuit 74$
$\diamond AJ7$		$\diamond T8632$
$\clubsuit T98$	$\spadesuit A86$	$\clubsuit QJ753$
	$\heartsuit AKJT952$	
	$\diamond K4$	
	$\clubsuit 4$	12 tricks = 980

Playing $\diamond 4$, up to the $\diamond Q$, the contract wins — making 12 tricks via Morton's Fork Coup.

Cheers, Joan

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Director's Digest



Revisiting comparable calls

A. Consider this scenario. Declarer has ♥AJ3 opposite ♥K4 in dummy. Declarer leads ♥3, intending to win with the ♥K, then play dummy's ♥4 to finesse for the queen. But Declarer leads the ♥3 and thinking one trick ahead, calls for dummy's ♥4 first, losing the trick.

Q: Does this scenario qualify for a correction as an unintended designation?

A: A director can only go on what the declarer said - "I was thinking one trick ahead". But this is a lapse of concentration, so not an unintended designation.

Law 45C4(b) states: "It may seem harsh but players are permitted to make mistakes and be away with the pixies. In this case, declarer may have initially planned to play the suit differently however, at the moment they designated (a card), they seem to have been thinking ♥4.

"Directors need to feel a high degree of certainty to allow a change of call."

B. Explanation: A director does not suggest comparable calls. They will explain, if necessary, what constitutes a comparable call and the player will choose their call.

It is usual practice for the player to be able to ask the director, away from the table, how the director will rule if a certain call is made."

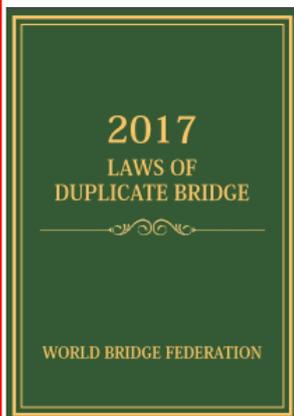
"If I bid 3♣, will partner have to pass?" The director will ask what 3♣ means in the system being played and will advise accordingly.

C. Definition: Law 23A states, "A call that replaces a withdrawn call is a comparable call, if it:

1. has the same or similar meaning as that attributable to the withdrawn call, or
2. defines a subset of the possible meanings attributable to the withdrawn call, or
3. has the same purpose (eg, an asking bid or a relay) as that attributable to the withdrawn call.

The intention is clear: If the illegal call does not provide any substantial information other than what is subsequently conveyed by the legal call, that legal call is deemed to be a "comparable call".

Good bridging — Jennifer



Ken's Konundrum . . . problem solving with Ken Dawson

Which is the right card to play?

West leads ♠2 against your 4♠ contract.

Your goal is to have just one trump loser!

Dummy: ♠J76

♠2

You: ♠A9843

What card do you play from dummy?

You should play ♠6.

The ♠J only works if West started with ♠KQ2 in which case ♠2 would be a crazy lead.

Having played ♠6, East produces ♠Q which you grab with the ♠A.

What is your next play?

♠J7

♠9843

You should play small towards ♠7 or run the ♠9.

Why? Because there is one trump that you can be

sure East doesn't hold — the ♠T.

Holding that card, East would have played it rather than the ♠Q because s/he can see ♠J in dummy.

You will still be in the soup if West started with ♠KT52, giving them two trump tricks no matter what you do.

However, your play is rewarded when the layout is

♠J76

♠T52

♠KQ

♠A9843

Notice how much tougher it is if East plays ♠K at trick one. You should still take the same line, as a tough East holding KT will not part with their ♠K. If West hadn't started trumps for you, ♠A should be your first play.

Note that East drops an honour and then play the same way. If they have the other top honour, it will "beat the air".

If he shows out, you are no worse off.



It's on the cards



Here's our catch up on club events, and a run-down of what's on in the next few months.

Please note: The club is not presently holding Sunday bridge sessions. Directors are working together to find a solution which enables those sessions to recommence. Also, all Wide Bay Zone events have been cancelled.

• The red points **Club Pairs Championship**, was held over two sessions on Sunday, 30 September. The overall winners were Noosa's Jan and Ed Beckett, who are affiliated members of our club. Kay Kerr and Kaylene Lingard were 2nd and Arlette Cook and Kathi Vince 3rd. Congratulations to all our winners.

— Upcoming events —

- **Pandemic Pairs**, is being held on Thursday night, 10 September.
- Our red point **Spring Pairs** is being held Thursday morning, 17 September.
- The **Rhoda Clifford Nett Competition**, being held over two Tuesday sessions - 6 and 13 October - will now be a Red point event.
- The **President's Trophy**, another red pointer, has been moved to two Thursday nights, 15 and 22 October.

• Our **Teams Congress** was cancelled due to Covid 19, so instead, we holding our postponed **Teams Championship**, on Sunday, 18 October. This is an all-day event with an AM and PM session. Don't forget - BYO lunch & snacks, cup, teaspoon, water bottle, pen, etc.

• The **Black and White Pairs** is now being held Thursday morning, 29 October. It's another red point event moved to a new day because of Covid 19 restrictions earlier in the year.

• **GNOT playoff**, with gold points up for grabs, will be held on 1 November. We are able to hold this as a local event, but unfortunately, there won't be a GNOT final. So this team event is the one and only on the GNOT calendar this year. Covid 19 strikes again.

• The **Hawaiian Pairs**, a scheduled red point event, will go ahead as usual on Monday night, 9 November.

• The **Queensland Wide Pairs** will be held on Tuesday, 24 November.

• The final red points event for the year is the **Last Chance Pairs** on Thursday morning, 3 December.

Note: If you are not already aware, next year's **Gold Coast Congress** has been cancelled.

Our other executive members

We may be a small club but luckily, we have dedicated members who fill the many positions required to keep the club running smoothly. On the front of the newsletter, I said that "all other positions remain the same as last year". Those positions are: **Provodore** Arlette Cook, **Web master** Kay Kerr, **Library** Joy Anderson, **Member care** Kathi Vince, **Publicity** Jenz Davidson, **Partner convenor** Rennie Pettit, **Maintenance** TBA, **Gardens/grounds** Ross Chapman. **Ethics committee** Bevan Anderson, Dean Hollingworth and Adele Harington. **Congress convenors** April - Kay,

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.

October - Jennifer Hollingworth. **Zone delegates** Kay and Kaylene. **ABF Masterpoints secretary** Kaylene. The only change is Des Ward joins the **card-dealing** team.

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.

