
CABOOLTURE BRIDGE CLUB

QLD

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



EDITOR DEREK STRINGFELLOW

Members Corner

Members have had very interesting holiday experiences (cruises, beach holidays etc), but I want to comment on Jenny Hays incredible contribution to the running of this club whilst away on holiday. Beside attending to all the treasurer's duties (issuing receipts and banking funds received, preparing full financial reports for Committee meeting), arranging for maintenance work to be carried out and organizing access for workers, arranging extra session time for hall hire and advising hirer of conditions etc. For Jenny to be doing these chores on her holiday indicates what a wonderful choice the Club made in electing her as a Life Member

Bridge Notes for the Improving Player

When to Lead a Trump

I am writing this on February 11th. Today we had two hands in which the lead of a trump would have made a big difference. In the May 2024 newsletter I detailed on when to make a trump lead and when not to lead a trump. By going into Documents you can retrieve all this information, particularly the following statement.

When your opponents each bid a suit and end in a third suit, a cross ruffing play is likely. The lead of a trump is commonly an effective defense strategy in this situation.

J53
T98
8
AQJ876

AT872
AJ42
Q764

6
KQ3
KJ953
T942
KQ94
765
AT2
KJ3

This is Board 24 from the play on Tuesday 11th Feb. The bidding was –
W N E S
1S 2C 2D P
2H P P P
and the lead was the CA.

With the declarers each bidding a suit and finishing in a third suit, this indicated that a trump should have been led. But I was able to trump the lead, use my SA, then use my 7 Hearts to individually cross ruff for a total of 8 tricks, contract made and a reasonable score obtained.

When I was much younger, I was taught to listen to and respect my elders. Now when I am much older I am being told to listen to and respect youth.



This next board is also from the play on 11th February, BD 5, indicating the lead of a trump.

73		The bidding was as follows –			
A76		W	N	E	S
AQJ8			1D	X	1S
J865		My partner N alerted and said the 1S showed 5 card suit and a maximum of 5HCPS			
		P	P	P	
KQ65	AT	The lead was the D10.			
JT5	Q983	As a trump was not led, I was able to make 8 tricks and this resulted in a top score for this board.			
T752	K643				
K9	AQ3				
	J9842	As detailed in the May Newsletter, there are 5 instances where the lead of a trump is indicated by the bidding, and if you recognize these indicators, then this should improve your results .			
	K42				
	9				
	T742				

You should also know when not to lead a trump.

Old Age

I am increasingly finding that during play, my brain is switching off, with no alarm bells warning me. In a hand in a February session, I opened the bidding, my partner bid 2NT, but after opening my brain must have switched off as my partner bid 2NT and I passed. When partner brought me back to again having a reasoning mind by asking what I took his bid to mean, I realized my error and it was made worse as he made 11 tricks.

K4	At another session my partner opened 1H and I replied 2H, with the hand shown, I
Q9842	should have replied 3D, saying that I had 4 card support and 10HCPS. Tim then
A73	invited by bidding 3H. My brain dead reply was pass. My brain switched back on
J87	when I was asked to put dummy down. Now with an operating brain I realized what a mess I had made of the bidding.

This “age problem” is a concern for my partners, but I hope they do not “ditch” me as when my brain is operating, I enjoy my bridge.

Congratulations to Errol Miller

Errol Miller became a member of Caboolture Bridge Club in 2011 and became a Grand Master in 2021. During the last nearly 4 years, Errol has made a phenomenal advance in the Australian Bridge Federation master point rankings, following the recent Gold Coast Congress, to now have more than 2500 master points and thus qualify for a Silver Grand Master rank.

Only the good players will achieve a Grand Master ranking, but only the best of the best will achieve a Silver Grand Master rank. So again Errol we congratulate you on this phenomenal result

Bridge players should **learn to prepare or prepare for failure.** This applies most definitely when you are declarer following the lead being tabled and **prior** to playing a card.



You don't touch a card until you have formed a plan, including assessing opponents holding from bidding

In a NT contract, count the number of tricks on top, where you can develop extra tricks if needed, what are the dangers? Do you need to hold up taking a trick, has bidding indicated a “danger” opponent

In a suit contract, count your losers and if this is more than you can afford to make your contract, then look at ways to lose one or more losers - ruffing in dummy before drawing trumps, discarding losers on winners in other hand. Your plan must include whether losers must be removed before trumps are drawn, or if your losers are only in trumps, should trumps be drawn immediately to protect your suit winners. In the following 2 hands, you are N and declarer. Make a plan before you read on for a suggested plan.

BD 1 - N hand	S AJ64	S hand	S 63	Bidding	W	N	E	S
	H Q9		H AK1084					1H
	D 732		D KJ		2S	2NT	P	3C
	C AQ62		C K854		P	3NT	P	P

Lead S7

BD 2 – N hand	S 83	S hand	S A75
	H A987642		H K10
	D K		D AJ96
	C A95		C KQ104

For this hand, East and West passed every bid and North became declarer in 6H. The lead was SJ.

Cover the rest of this page and make your plans as declarer N.

BD 1 -

Assess – 7 sure tricks (1S, 3H, 3C) in the 2 hands, and a total of 27HCP's.

Bid info – W should have 8-10 HCP's and 6 spades (including the K and Q), thus E has only 1 Spade and 3-5 points.

Danger hand – East is the danger hand as you do not want East leading a D through your KJ

PLAN – as East should only have 1S there is no advantage in “ducking” the first round of spades. If hearts break 5-1, you need to finesse for the HJ through the danger hand East. Do not play the Club K before playing the heart J finesse, as it is the only sure entry to the winning hearts once the HJ problem has been resolved.

BD 2 –

Assess – 8 top tricks. If trumps split 2 and 2 you will make 13 tricks, but you should not endanger the contract by not planning for a 4-0 trump break.

Danger – if hearts split 4 – nil, and the spade loser is not removed.

Plan – for hearts to split 4 – nil, and thus discard spade loser early.

Play – Win spade lead with SA. Win D6 with Dk, then play C5 to CK, and discard S8 on DA. Lead remaining S7 and trump in dummy with the H6. Lead small trump, H10, from dummy, and if West plays low, play H2 and you get the bad news that West has no hearts. However your plan has limited the opponents to just one trump trick, and a tight slam was made by proper planning, before playing to the lead.

A lot of players would have missed this slam by using the understanding that if you hold 9 cards in a suit including the A and K, never finesse, but lead the A and the K.



What is a cardiologist?

- a card player who induces a heart attack



Husband (after being massacred in 3NT doubled) – “I thought you knew I didn't have a heart Dearest!”

Wife – “of course I did darling, but I did think you had a brain”.

Jenny and Bob are currently enjoying their Western Australian Odyssey

Here are a few pictures from their trip so far.



One of the many massive sculptures in the Living Desert State Park near Broken Hill



The remains of the Telegraph Station at Eucla.



The majestic Great Australian Bight



One of our many free camps, this one at Nelsons Rocks, east of Norseman.



The stunning turquoise blue water and fine white sand of Lucky Bay at Cape Le Grande near Esperance.



Our site on the King River near Albany.



Having a great trip, see you all at the GNOT!

Jenny.