



Caboolture Bridge Club Newsletter

Issue 11 - February 2014

Presidents Report for 2013

Thank you one and all for allowing me to represent you for a second year.

A year ago I had expected my first term to be my last, then by years end I expected my second term to be my last... but in the absence of a nominated volunteer I have offered my services once again - this year constitutionally will be my last.

As I said last year I could not have survived the rigors of presidency without the hard work and dedication of a team.

A few of my thoughts on the team:

During my second term Jenny's work has once again been inspiring. I could not have survived a second year without her influential work. Jenny has been a tower of strength, an excellent wordsmith, a shoulder to lean on - grown men don't cry.....

I would have floundered in dollars and cents, book-keeping and club's interest in all matters money, without Nigel. He keeps a tight rein without wearing a kilt.

Note: Nigel has been in the UK for several weeks attending to his Father and so has been unable to provide an input into the pre-meeting financial information.

However auditing of our financial interests has been carried out and will be presented in full at the AGM.

Charlene's work as Master Point Secretary and Teacher for bridge playing beginners should be lauded by all.

We need new players to push the rest of us. Charlene pushes those that will push us in the future.

Mitch, for another year, has done an excellent job of being the director's director.

His work is meticulous with 'school teacher' precision.

Those of us who dabble in his science (art?) appreciate his knowledge.

I'm not sure that you, my fellow bridge players, know how much work Robyn does behind the scenes; dealing cards, organising, working the kitchen - trying to track down a dealing machine traveling it's own Australian journey.

To the rest of the committee members and the select group of bridge players who generally do the work that allows the club to prosper, I say: 'well done'.

I salute all the following: Directors, Providores, Zone Representatives, Newsletter Editor, Bridgemate controllers, Librarian, Kitchen helpers...

One 2013 innovation I am particularly proud of is the Thursday morning session for beginners and improving players.

All are welcome - 9 am till approximately noon.

Whether you: have a new partnership, are experimenting with a new bidding system, are a learner without a partner, are just seeking company; all are welcome.

It is an open session with hints and advice being the order of the day; no green, red, purple or pointy points on offer; no charge, no pressure; free coffee, tea and congeniality.

We lauded our various bridge playing champions at the Christmas party.

Here I congratulate them all without singling out individuals.

Keep flying the Caboolture Bridge club flag. Keep spreading goodwill when you play at other clubs and venues. I would like us to be known as Caboolture - 'The Friendly Club'.

Our year on the regional scale was not as successful as the previous year.

We did put collective best feet forward. We sometimes were generous to our opponents.

We did win the Caboolture/Bribie teams event, and the current Beryl Cramb winners are Caboolture members (Derek & Eunice).

The Caboolture Bridge club currently has 102 members, 21 of them being associates. A slight decline on last year. Quite a few beginners who will soon be coming through the ranks to join the formal sessions.

Make them welcome. Give them a little slack.

I am honoured to say that you, the club members, have expressed your confidence in the outgoing committee by not opposing any of the standing executive committee members for the coming year.

We do lose one committee member, Judith. I wish her well in her new business venture.

It will be a blessing to have some new blood on the committee:

Margie, Peter and Roy.

I wish the new committee well and hope that they, and the rest of you, will allow Bridge playing in its purest and most enjoyable form to prosper.

Thank you.

Finn Nielsen



Welcome to the new committee

Thank you in advance for all the work you will do in the coming year

*It is good to know that we are in good hands having
such a great team at the helm*



It is nice to see Julia Moran back at bridge. Julia and husband John went to the UK to spend Christmas with their daughter and son-in-law and enjoyed a lovely holiday.

Jenny Hays has also returned to the Club. Jenny has been visiting her Mum in Victoria for a couple of weeks. So welcome back Jenny.

Mitch Kostaschuk is on a cruise for a week. We hope that it has not been too rough with all the weather systems out in the Pacific.

Ron and Robyn Smith are off on the Sea Princess cruising to Fiji for 11 nights. They are looking forward to a relaxing time.

Brian Ford is also cruising on the Sea Princess to New Zealand and back. Brian loves his cruising and has done many cruises.

Fay Barkwith is also taking a little break at present and is visiting family in New South Wales.

Thanks again Robyn

I love to hear from you

and so do other members in the club.

Why not send me an email with anything you think is interesting to put in your newsletter. May be you found a good place to eat, you might have a really good recipe or like to share with us how to make what you bid at the bridge table.

Drop me a line:

martine@goedhart.com.au



Masterpoint Notes by Charlene

Congratulations to the following player who earned a promotion during December and January

Lyn Gadsby to Graduate

Eclectics and red points for March and April

The eclectics will be

The following are the red point days

March on Tuesday

March Thursday 6th

April on Thursday

April Tuesday 8th

You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else.

Albert Einstein

The Mathematical Advantage of Aggressive Bidding

No matter what bidding system you use, or how good you are, there arise some hands that offer a 50/50 chance of making game. Rather than agonize over each one as it occurs (and risk guessing wrong more often than not) it would seem to be a distinct advantage to take a consistent stand on whether or not to bid all close games. The question of which course to take can be answered by analysing the mathematics of scoring.

For example, assume two hands where the odds of making game are exactly 50%. To simplify the discussion, let us further assume that the choice lies between passing three spades and bidding on to four (game). The first hand makes four; the second makes three (or goes down one, if you bid four).

Using duplicate values for part score (50 points), non-vulnerable game (300) and vulnerable game (500), we can easily construct a table for the relative value of bidding game vs. part score at various vulnerability conditions.

Stopping in Part Score (Any Vulnerability)

Bid Made Score

3 4 170

3 3 140

310pts

At any vulnerability, if you stop in part score on both hands, the score for the two hands totals is 310 points (140 + 170). If we compare this total to the score you would obtain by bidding game on both hands, we can derive odds for bidding game:

- Not Vulnerable - Bidding game on both hands results in a net score of 370 points (420-50), 60

points more than the part scores. Thus, the odds in favour of bidding game are 370 to 310, or a little over 54%.

- Vulnerable - When vulnerable, the odds are even better for the aggressive pair. Now, bidding game both times nets 520 points (620-100) and yields a net gain of 210 points! The odds for bidding the game increase to 520 to 310, or almost 63%!

Of course, this table does not take into account unfavourable factors which may cause the contract to be set more than one trick or doubled which change the odds somewhat, but it is clear that, mathematically at least, it pays to bid aggressively.

The Cost of Passing

It is often said by those of a cautious mind that the winners of matches are those who make fewer mistakes. What, however, is a mistake? Is it a reasonable play that happens to result in a bad score? No. Bridge is a game of probabilities, so playing with the odds doesn't always win. Often those who win in a long match are those who employ cost-effective bidding methods. It can be costly to pass. There is a tendency among commentators to overemphasize the risk that comes from the possibility that those who open light will be penalized. Take an example from the finals of the 2007 Spingold with Russia-Poland versus the USA. The opening bid was light by most standards and one British commentator was moved to ask if anyone could explain the rationale behind it. ...A question that might have been better asked is this: what is the cost of passing with a hand that could be opened? One cost is self-inflicted: after passing in first or second seat, the passing player finds that in a constructive auction without interference he has been unable to express the full value of his 11 HCP. The temptation is to bid too high even if the value of the hand has not substantially increased. S. J. Simon, a writer with a high degree of insight into a bridge player's psychology, noted this tendency and formulated the Principle of the Lesser Risk: there is less risk in opening the bidding light than in passing and overbidding later. This is true of any system.

"Bridge Probability and Information" by Robert MacKinnon

Bidding is the life blood of bridge and the overall conclusion of many leading bridge thinkers is that bridge is a bidder's game. Getting your shot in as early as possible is likelier to lead to a positive outcome for you in the long run than allowing your opponents to have all the bidding space just because they might have better cards.

Chris Martle, USA champion seconds this opinion: "*Light openings do have their advantages. You get in the first shot and you take away bidding space from the opponents*".

Eric Rodwell another USA champion states: "*The range I prefer is starting at 11, with hand evaluation always being relevant. Plenty of 10 counts, some 9 counts and maybe even some 8 counts would qualify if they have enough playing potential.*

However I don't think opening a hand like Jx Axxxx Kxxx Qx with 1 ♥ is winning bridge

Opening light, though not too light, has advantages at all forms of the game, in the sense you are announcing certain minimal values and something about your shape. You're just positioning yourself well, primarily for a competitive auction."

I think Rodwell is right on the money with his observations. When my partner and I experimented with opening with 10/11 pts without any shape, it only aided the opposition. We found it discouraged people from bidding risky games, helped them with finesses and generally assisted them in finding their best part score...oh cruel fortuna!

The only thing I don't like about playing bridge on the computer is, you can't peek at your opponents cards.



Hands of the Week

N ♠ AKQ
♥ 10 9 8 5 2
♦ K J
♣ 6 4 3

♠ 2 ♠ 8653
♥ J763 ♥ 4
♦ Q987542 ♦ 63
♣ 5 ♣ KQJ1097

♠ J10974
♥ AKQ
♦ A10
♣ A82

A tall tale or a real deal - Can you make this contract?

The bidding may not suit your liking.....but can you make this contract on the lead of the club 5??

If you think you know the answer you are one of the best.

Bidding:			
<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
	1H	2C	3S
Pass	4S	Pass	6S

Answers: on page 6 of this newsletter

South to make 6 Spades A Beauty!

West provides you with a rare opportunity for a rough and a ditch on the opening lead of ♥ K. Do you take it?? If not, how so you make 6 ♠ ???

N ♠ 643
♥ —
♦ 1065432
♣ 8432

♠ — ♠ Q1087
♥ KQJ1065432 ♥ A987
♦ QJ ♦ 987
♣ KQ ♣ 109

♠ AKJ952
♥ —
♦ AK
♣ AJ765



*Always
make my
Contract*

*Join the
gym*

*LOSE
WEIGHT*

*BE MORE
ASSERTIVE*

*PLAY MORE
BRIDGE*

*Stop
smoking*

Make Your Resolutions STICK!

When you set goals, establishing concrete objectives can be very helpful. It allows you to reflect on what you want to do to improve yourself and gives order to your ambitions.

The practice of goal-setting is not just helpful; it is a requirement for happiness.

People who make consistent progress towards meaningful goals live happier. The benefits of being challenged physically, intellectually, emotionally and vocationally are enormous. Each of us has great potential.

Make a List. Too often we set grand New Year's goals but then watch our good intentions go by the wayside. How do we make our resolutions stick?

Start by writing your goals down. That makes them tangible, make your list relatively short, make your resolutions specific and time-bound. A goal without a date is just a dream. Make sure that every goal ends with a *by when* date. Don't write "Lose 10 kilos" write "Lose 10 kilos by 31 December" State your goals in positive terms. If you frame your goals negatively, like "I will not smoke" or "I will not be overweight"; you're putting an image on what you *don't* want in your mind. You need to frame your goal in positive terms: "I reach my target weight and maintain it".

Make it Manageable. Sometimes we set goals that are too difficult to achieve, or we get overwhelmed by our list, finding our resolutions too daunting. Take it one day and one goal at the time.

Stay Positive. Don't be too harsh on yourself when you fall short of reaching your goal. The key is to keep trying. It's important to remember that failing doesn't make you a failure. When you do achieve the goals you set, your confidence surges.

My goal is to lose the 7 kilos that slowly became visible over the years. I did start every Monday, but

Now I put a date on my list, 31 December 20??

Martine Goedhart

My husband is working as a volunteer in the Information Centre in Glasshouse Mountains
Here are some of the questions travellers from overseas have asked him.

Q: Does it ever get windy in Australia ? I have never seen it rain on TV, how do the plants grow? (UK).
 A: *We import all plants fully grown and then just sit around watching them die.*

Q: Will I be able to see kangaroos in the street? (USA)
 A: *Depends how much you've been drinking.*

Q: I want to walk from Perth to Sydney – can I follow the railroad tracks? (Sweden)
 A: *Sure, it's only three thousand miles, take lots of water.*

Q: Are there any ATMs (cash machines) in Australia ? Can you send me a list of them in Brisbane , Cairns , Townsville and Hervey Bay ? (UK)
 A: *What did your last slave die of?*

Q: Can you give me some information about hippo racing in Australia ? (USA)
 A: *A-fri-ca is the big triangle shaped continent south of Europe .
 Aus-tra-lia is that big island in the middle of the Pacific which does not... oh forget it.
 Sure, the hippo racing is every Tuesday night in Kings Cross.*

Q: Which direction is North in Australia ? (USA)
 A: *Face south and then turn 180 degrees. Contact us when you get here and we'll send the rest of the directions.*

Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia ? (UK)
 A: *Why? Just use your fingers like we do...*

Q: Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule? (USA)
 A: *Aus-tri-a is that quaint little country bordering Ger-man-y, which is oh forget it.
 Sure, the Vienna Boys Choir plays every Tuesday night in Kings Cross, straight after the hippo races.*

Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia ? (UK)
 A: *You are a British politician, right?*

Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany)
 A: *No, we are a peaceful civilization of vegan hunter/gatherers. Milk is illegal.*

Q: Please send a list of all doctors in Australia who can dispense rattlesnake serum. (USA)
 A: *Rattlesnakes live in A-meri-ca which is where YOU come from.
 All Australian snakes are perfectly harmless, can be safely handled and make good pets.*

Q: I have developed a new product that is the fountain of youth.
 Can you yell me where I can sell it in Australia ? (USA)
 A: *Anywhere significant numbers of Americans gather.*

Q: Can you tell me the regions in Tasmania where the female population is smaller than the male population? (Italy)
 A: *Yes, gay night clubs.*

Q: Do you celebrate Christmas in Australia ? (France)
 A: *Only at Christmas.*

Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA)
 A: *Yes, but you'll have to learn it first*

Q: Is it safe to run around in the bushes in Australia?
 A: *So, it's true what they say about Swedes.*

Probability, playing rules, conventions and systems take the place of thinking. That is why they are so popular.





Will I live till 80??

I recently went to a new GP. After two visits and exhaustive tests, he said I was doing "fairly well" for my age. A little concerned about that comment I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?" He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco or drink beer or wine?" "Oh no," I replied. "I'm not doing drugs either." Then he asked, "Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?" I said, "No, my other doctor said that all red meat is very unhealthy."

"Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, sailing, hiking or cycling?" "No I don't", I said.

He asked, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have a lot of sex?" "No", I said. "I don't do any of those things"

He looked at me and said., "Then why do you want to live till 80?"



Best excuse for speeding:

When a police officer pulled over this lady for speeding he asked her: "Do you know how fast you drove, and why you are in such a hurry?"

This 83 year old lady gave the police officer a smile from ear to ear and said:

"Probably much too fast, but I have to reach my destination before I forget where I am going"



Guy who believes in wearing protection at bridge clubs with **no** Zero Tolerance Policy

"And how is bridge supposed to make me smarter? Every time I learn something new, it pushes some old stuff out of my brain. Remember when I took that winemaking course, and I forgot to drive?"

No Kidding

A bridge player who talks about his bridge hands is more boring than a mother who talks about her children.

ANSWER: (Tall Tale or real Deal) Page 4. Win the Club A, then play three rounds of Spades (AKQ). Return to hand with the Heart Ace, pull last trump Spade Jack and cash the Heart King and Heart Queen.

Now, lead the Diamond 10 to the Diamond 3 (if west covers with the Diamond Queen play the Diamond K)

(the key play, lead a heart and discard the Diamond Ace.

West wins the Heart 3 but is end played!! No choice but to put you back in dummy (with a diamond) so you can discard the clubs on the remaining diamond and heart winner.

ANSWER: (A Beauty)

Trick 1: Trump in dummy with 3 and discard spade 2 from your hand

Trick 2: Lead spade 4 through East and capture whatever he plays with the least expensive trump

Trick 3: Cash diamond A and play low diamond from dummy

Trick 4: Cash diamond K and play low diamond from dummy

Trick 5: Cash club A and play low from dummy

Trick 6: Play low club forcing W to win with K

Trick 7: West must lead a heart, trump it in dummy with the 6 and discard the spade 5 from hand

Trick 8: Cash diamond 10 discarding club from your hand

Tricks 9-13: Lead another diamond from dummy (if E trumps it you overtrump with the least expensive card and then draw E remaining two spades with your good spades and cash your remaining good clubs, making 6 spades. If E discard a heart then you discard a club and continue leading diamonds and discarding a club from your hand until E trumps one (E can only discard hearts twice before being left with nothing but trump) which you over-trump and then pull E remaining trump with your boss trumps, making 6 spades. *This was a tough one!!!*