

# CABOOLTURE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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**JANUARY 2012**

## *From the President's Notepad*

### Christmas Party

The committee catered for 80 people at this year's Christmas Party. A huge thank you goes to Finn and Eva for once again entertaining us with their versatile abilities. Comments indicate that the event was a success and a pleasant way to finish 2011.

### Our Provider

On behalf of all club members we would like to thank Jean Trafford who has held this position for the past 3 years. Jean has managed to cope with the huge demand of keeping the members in cheese, biscuits and toilet paper, as well as the many unseen items that keep the club running. Thanks to Bill also who has been of great assistance to Jean in this role.

### Painting

The painting has been completed and the club rooms look very fresh.

### Bridgemates

You may have noticed that the interactive component of our session results is not always available on the internet. We are having some difficulties with the scoring program and support from the software supplier has not been able to remedy the problem. As we are also considering the purchase of Bridgemate, and our current scoring program, Rapscore, cannot be used with Bridgemate, the committee may purchase the scoring program that is compatible with Bridgemate, which will make the transition to a full Bridgemate option easier at a later date.

### 2012 Diary

As we are in the process of updating member information for the 2012 diary, please advise if you have changed contact details or have acquired an email address. Update slips are available on the notice board.

### Membership Fees

All membership fees for 2012 are now due. Please pay a committee member at your earliest convenience in order that we may finalize this with the ABF & QBA.

### 70% Club

Congratulations to Eunice and Jean for making the 70% club, on 31 December, with a creditable 75%. Who will be first for 2012?

Jenny Hays

## **Members Corner**

Our very best wishes go to Pam Barbour who has had a very trying time health wise over the last month and we all wish Pam the very best in gaining good health again and returning to bridge.

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Our best wishes also go to Barry Kelly who has been having a tough time health wise. We hope you recover quickly Barry and again join us playing bridge.

We all hope that the present treatment gives Bob Gardner relief from his present pain and causes a recession that will allow Bob to again join us at bridge.

## Directors Corner

Every player including the director, attends a bridge session to have an enjoyable game, but actions by some players, leading to complaints to the director, could lead to the director having to impose a procedural penalty and award an adjusted score which can cause angst. Some of the complaints received by directors have been about discard information, explanation of bids by partner, lack of alerting, and lack of system cards.

1 **Discard information** – one complaint was that pair A and B as defenders had no system card, and on a trump lead A discarded a D5 card. Declarer asked B what was their discard system? B replied that they had no agreed discard system, but on further questioning, said they discarded an unwanted suit. However on winning a trick, B then led a small diamond and A won with the DA and then played the DK. After the round was finished a complaint was made to the director, that B had appeared to make an incorrect explanation, and apparently knew A wanted a lead of a diamond. The director explained that as B had already left the clubhouse it was too late to make a complaint, but if the director had been called to the table before the next board was commenced, he would have investigated to check, if A had another card which was more reasonably an unwanted suit card to discard in lieu of the D5, and to check why B had led a diamond as soon as she had the lead, or did she have a more sensible lead from another suit? If the check showed that A and B's explanations were satisfactory then no action would be taken. However, if the facts and declarer's claims showed how declarer was disadvantaged by B giving a misleading explanation, then the director will consider awarding an adjusted score.

2 **Alerting requirements** - the lack of required alerting has been raised with me a number of times, and I commented on one of these complaints in the October newsletter. In that case one player in response to his partner's 1D opening, had bid 1H (with Q105), then following 1NT from opener, had bid 2S (with AKJ109). In later questioning the responder advised that if his partner opened one of a minor, then he would respond up the line in suits in which he had a stopper. With this form of system, the opener has the responsibility to alert the bid and if questioned by opponents has to give this explanation.

3 **Systems cards** - each partnership should have at least one **fully completed system card**. One complaint was, where opener bid 1H and partner bid 3H, and opponent looked at their system card, but the section on Basic Responses was not filled in. When asked what the 3H bid showed, the opener replied that it showed a strong hand, but when asked was it a limiting bid or a forcing bid, opener replied that she did not know. This is unacceptable as opponents have a right to know the point range for each bid so that they can estimate their partner's possible point range. Opener's hand can be minimum (12-15 TP), strong (16-18 TP) or very strong (19+ TP), and if they play a limit bid system for jump raises, then the above 3H bid by partner in above example is showing heart support and 10-11 total points, but if the partnership is playing a forcing system, then the 3H bid by partner is showing heart support and 12+ total points.

Directors and this newsletter for sometime have been trying to get partners to have completed system cards. It should improve your partnership bridge if you have discussed and filled in each section of the system card with your partner, as you will be able to more accurately understand the meaning of each bid and early discard during play made by your partner.

The Committee may have to consider penalizing bridge partners who do not have a fully completed system card at a bridge session.

Please be aware of your responsibilities in alerting and in giving correct explanations to enquiries.

Directors are happy to help at any time. We will be having time prior to sessions for members to seek help in completing and understanding system cards. These times will be set once sessions return to normal after the holiday period.

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## Hand Assessment

S KQJ108754 I was amazed to see that some South players on Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. holding the hand  
H AKQ3 shown (board 8), with only 3 possible losers were not playing in 4S, even if their  
D 7 partner had passed, and had not looked for slam if their partner had bid. With only  
C - 3 possible losers, South with this hand would make 10 tricks on his own without any help  
from partner, and should have at least bid the game. I have commented on this hand to make players aware that  
the number of high card points is not the only fact to look at when assessing the strength of a hand. Hand shape  
and number of losers give vital information. As West would have opened this hand, as South I would have  
doubled then rebid my spade suit if I was playing with a partner who would recognize that as a strong hand, but if  
my partner was one who may not recognize that information, then I would immediately overcall 4S. The results  
indicate some South players need to go back to their lesson notes and check up on how to value hands.

## EXTENDED STAYMAN CONVENTION

I have been asked by a number of players to include the extended stayman system and it is as set out below.  
After a 1NT opening and a 2C response from partner, the opener's replies show if any 4-card major suit is held and  
also shows whether hand strength is minimum(15-16) or maximum(17-18). This is with 15-18, 16-18 or 15-17 NT  
point ranges. The various possible replies give the following information –

- 2D** - Both majors, minimum
- 2H** - 4 hearts, no 4 spades, minimum
- 2S** - 4 spades, no 4 hearts, minimum
- 2NT** - No 4 card major, minimum
- 3C** - No 4 card major, maximum
- 3D** - Both majors, maximum
- 3H** - 4 hearts, no 4 spades, maximum
- 3S** - 4 spades, no 4 hearts, maximum.

Memory guides are - 2-level rebids are minimum and 3-level rebids are maximum;  
Diamonds show both majors (diamonds are a girls best friend, so diamonds show both majors ( responder's best  
news).

Note – most top bridge players now do not use the extended stayman convention as they consider that it gives  
opponents too much information. However for improving and mid-level players it is a good tool and should be  
included in your system until you have graduated to the top level of player.

As the reply to extended stayman can be at the 3-level, responder must have at least 8 total points to use this 2C  
response. That is, 8 HCP's, or 7 HCP's plus 1 length point.

## Responders Strategy

The use of the 2C allows responder to –

- (a) find out opener's strength and then with 8-9 points decide whether to bid game or stay in a part score; and
- (b) find out opener's holding in the major suits. It pays to play in the major suit when a 4-4 fit is found in a major,  
in lieu of playing in 3NT.

The major suit game will succeed more often, and when both games succeed, the major game generally produces a  
higher score. Usually if an overtrick is available in 3NT it is also available in 4H/4S and you score +430 vs 450 or  
630 vs 650. For example -

WEST	EAST	Bidding –	W	N	E	S
S K8	S AQ6		1NT	P	2C	P
H AQ87	H KJ62		2H	P	4H	All pass
D A53	D 874					
C QJ42	C K63					

3NT will usually make (though it might fail on a diamond lead). On the other  
hand 4H can survive a diamond lead and will usually make 11 tricks (West  
discarding diamond on the third spade).

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WEST EAST  
S A84 S 73  
H AJ87 H KQ62  
D A53 D QJ102  
C K32 C QJ6

On a likely spade lead a 3NT contract is in jeopardy but might succeed if the diamond finesse works. If the heart split is the normal 3 – 2, 4H will succeed even if the diamond finesse fails. If the diamond finesse works, 4H will usually produce 11 tricks.

This advice to look for the 4-4 major fit is valid until the partnership holds about 30 HCP or above. With 30-32 HCP, it is unlikely that there is a danger suit with no stopper or just one stopper. Now two losers are unlikely and you figure to make 11 tricks whether you are in no-trumps or a trump suit. Therefore do not use 2C stayman with a balanced hand to look for a 4-4 major fit when the partnership is in the 30-32 point range.

## Responder`s Rebids after Opener`s Reply to 2C Stayman

### Principle 1 - Texas Transfers

After opener shows both majors, 4C by responder asks for a transfer to hearts, and 4D asks for a transfer to spades. If Texas transfers are added to your playing system, then the Gerber convention (asking for aces) cannot be used after a 1NT opening bid. For this reason a lot of improving players do not include Texas transfers in their playing system. The advantage of using this convention of transfers at the 4 level is to have the stronger hand as declarer and thus the lead coming up to strength.

West	East	Bidding		
		West	East	
S KJ54	S AQ63	1NT	2C	
H AQ87	H K2	3D(1)	4D(2)	(1) says maximum points and both majors
D K32	D 874	4S	pass	(2) asks "please bid 4S"
C A5	C J632			

If East were declarer in 4S, a diamond lead could prove fatal, but if played by West, the DK is protected from the opening lead. Responder is not obliged to transfer, and if he holds a hand with unprotected kings, it will be better for responder to be declarer.

### Principle 2

After a 3-level reply by opener, all responder`s bids below game are forcing.

As responder will have 8 points or more, a reply by opener at the 3-level (17 – 18 points) creates a game forcing situation. One of the benefits of Extended Stayman is that you can often set a suit as trumps and then start a slam auction, which would be difficult or impossible with simple Stayman.

West	East	
1NT	2C	This bidding shows a forcing situation, with hearts as trumps and responder is showing slam interest.
3D	3H	

After opener`s 3C or 3H or 3S reply to 2C, responder`s change of suit below game is natural, forcing and shows a 5-card suit. Opener should support the suit with 3 trumps or better.

### Principle 3

Supporting opener`s major at the 3 level is forcing, sets trumps and shows slam interest.

West	East	
1NT	2C	This 3H bid is forcing, sets hearts as trumps and invites slam try. The raise is <b>not</b> an invitation bid since opener`s 2H already showed minimum values. If weak, responder would pass. With enough for game, bid 4H. Although the raise sounds invitational, it is in fact stronger than a 4H bid.
2H	3H	

Note that using simple stayman, these slam going auctions setting opener`s major as trumps, are not available. The raise is needed to invite game. Thus using extended stayman, the supporting of opener`s major at the 3-level is very strong, forcing and indicates slam aspirations.

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## Principle 4

After opener's rebid at the 2-level to show a minimum, bids by responder at the 2-level are weak and should usually be passed. Opener should also pass a 3C or 3D rebid.

West	East	
1NT	2C	After this start, opener should pass a 2H or 2S bid by responder. A 2NT bid should also
2D	?	be passed by opener, as responder was using the 2C without a 4-card major purely to find

out opener's strength. If responder is minimum, he will pass a rebid of 2H or 2S by opener. This is one of the great advantages of extended stayman, in that the partnership can stop at the 2-level when opener is minimum and responder has invitational values.

West	East				
S AK9	S Q10	Playing simple stayman the bidding should be	West	East	
H KQ53	H A872		1NT	2C	
D A53	D Q742		2H	3H	
C 987	C 653		Pass		

Even without a club lead is a poor contract. With a club lead, 3H requires the king of diamonds to be on side as well as a 3-2 trump break.

Playing extended stayman, the bidding should be	West	East	
	1NT	2C	How much better to be in 2H than 3H
	2H	Pass	

## Benefits of Extended Stayman

- 1 Opener's range and 4-card major holdings are known with the reply to 2C.
- 2 You can stop at the 2-level when opener is minimum and responder has invitational values.
- 3 You can often set a major suit as trumps and create a slam-going auction at the 3-level.
- 4 It is easier to choose the correct contract.

However as extended stayman also gives this range of information to opponents, advanced players are ceasing to use it.