

CABOOLTURE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2012

New Committee

A new era has commenced in our club with a new management committee under the leadership of new President Finn Nielsen. We wish Finn and his committee wisdom in their decisions as they introduce the club to the new technology for us of Bridgemate scoring. A big thank you to retiring committee members Pam Barbour, Chrisje Brooks and Derek Stringfellow for their contributions to the past smooth running of this club.

Members Corner

Pat and Paul Lyons are leaving in April on a 28 day cruise from Sydney via New Zealand and Bora Bora to San Francisco, where they have an apartment for a 28 days holiday, then a weeks stop over in Hawaii on the way home. This is a wonderful trip and we hope they return with many great memories.

Jo-Ann Hein is another member going on a great trip. Jo-Ann is going cruising down the Danube and then on a land tour which includes Prague, Warsaw and Berlin. We wish Jo-Ann a memorable and interesting trip, and will be keen to hear stories of her travels.

Tina and Jan Goedhart, with Wikke van Wensveen and Cees de Greef are away for a holiday in NZ. We hope they enjoy the beautiful scenery there and have an enjoyable time.

It was good to see Colin Anderson was out of hospital and although restricted in movement was able to make the AGM. Colin we hope you are able to overcome your problem and return to playing bridge again with good physical movement.

Lydia Backer is in Buderim hospital with a heart problem, but the problem cannot be dealt with until Lydia overcomes a touch of flu.

Marcia and Bob Gardner are both improving and are in good spirits, but still have health issues.

Frances Twoomey has missed playing bridge the last week due to not being well. We hope she recovers soon.

We are all pleased to see Rosaleen Harp and Pam Barbour back playing bridge after unwelcome health problems

James O`Sullivan Rankings

I have been surprised and pleased to see that nine of our members have made the ranking list for Queensland as at the 29th Feb 2012. The James O`Sullivan Rankings highlight the most prolific earners of masterpoints for each masterpoint rank at the end of each calendar year within clubs in each State. Within Qld clubs, the progressive totals as at 29th February for our members who have made the top ten in their ranking in the State are –

Rank	Place	Name	Points
Silver Life	1 st	Errol Miller	29.28
**National	6 th	Kath Haigh	6.24
State	8 th	Nigel Cleminson	6.64
*Regional	4 th	Jean Trafford	5.29
**Local	5 th	Margaret Jennings	3.69
	7 th	Rhonda Niven	3.64
Local	6 th	Pam Barbour	3.51
Club	8 th	Tony Daigle	2.89
	9 th	Frida Boeser	2.68

The top Qld player in the Rankings is Nathan Van Jole with 79 points.

Congratulations to the above nine club members who must be playing good bridge and playing several sessions a week, to be able to make the ranking list.

LIBRARY

Thanks to Rhonda Niven for volunteering to be our librarian. Please return all books so that we may undertake a stock take. Many books have not been signed out, so it is very difficult to locate them when a member wishes to borrow these items.

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SUPPLIES

100 packs of new cards have been received. Look forward to seeing these in the boards shortly. Simple system cards and Cheat Sheets are also back in stock. See a committee member to purchase these.

GNOT Teams

It was great to see 10 club teams playing in the Caboolture section of the 2012 GNOT. All teams scored some gold points and had a pleasant time. It would be great if the club teams game later this year has this number of players or more. Congratulations to the following 4 teams who have qualified for the semi-final on 24th June –

- Kath Haigh – Hugh Gehrman, Eunice and Derek Stringfellow
- Frida Boeser – Freida Wintringham, Finn Nielsen – Mary Cowley
- Nigel Cleminson – Dawn Knight, Margaret Jennings – Peter Gruythuysen
- Anita Crestanelli – Jean Trafford, George Konyi – Maureen Neubauer, Pat and Paul Lyons

Gold Coast Congress

This congress finished earlier this month. It is the largest congress in the southern hemisphere and one of the largest in the world. The number of tables being played over the 8 days of the congress varied from 330 to 420. It is a great experience to play in this event, and I would encourage our members to consider playing in at least one event, if not the three events spread over the 8 days. As Novice (under 100MP`s), Restricted (under 300MP`s), Intermediate (under 500MP`s) as well as Senior and Open are now included, members should try and play before they graduate out of the lower sections. If you play in the open events you can meet international players from USA, England, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Indonesia, China, India, NZ etc. Aim to play in the 2013 Gold Coast congress starting Feb 23rd 2013.

For The Improving Bridge Player

NOT UNDERSTANDING CAPTAINCY

A fundamental principle of bidding, particularly if it could be a part score game, is the need for one member of the partnership to limit his hand as soon as possible.

If you are uncertain about what that means, consider the most common limit bid you have in your repertoire - an opening bid of 1NT.

We mostly play that a 1NT opener shows 15-17 high-card points in a balanced hand, but some prefer 14-16. There are many different ranges around the world, but most are narrow, and thus show a limit to the hand strength early in the bidding.

Consider the difference between a 1NT opener and an opening of, say, **1H**. In most systems, an opening of one of a suit can be made on a good – or maybe even a not-so-good – 11 HCP up to 20 or more, perhaps just short of a strong, forcing opening.

That's a wide range. The sooner opener more clearly defines his hand – perhaps via a 1NT rebid or by rebidding his suit at a minimum level – the better the chances that the partnership will arrive at the correct contract, because as soon as one player can advise the point limit of his hand, then his partner will be able to fix the level obtainable for the contract and thus assume the role of captain for that auction.

Similarly, in the auction, **1C** : [Pass] : **1H**, responder's range can be pretty wide. Responder, in fact, could have a very strong hand with which he prefers to go slowly.

So what is all this leading up to? It is a discussion of a principle known as captaincy.

Basically, captaincy comes into play when one member of a partnership limits his hand. At that point, the other player becomes "captain" of the auction. It makes sense, doesn't it?

When you open 1NT with, say, a range of 15-17 HCP, who in the partnership knows how high the bidding should go? Not you. You have no idea how strong partner's hand is, especially if partner is an unbid hand.

The captain on this auction is your partner, who can look at his own hand and know whether to -

1. Give up on game – perhaps passing 1NT or transferring and then passing

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2. Invite game in some way, perhaps by bidding 2NT or transferring and bidding 2NT or raising the transfer suit
3. Insist on game in one of a variety of ways
4. Invite slam, perhaps by bidding 4NT directly (not asking for aces)
5. Insist on slam

You must answer partner's questions and/or respond to his invitations and, most important, abide by partner's decisions.

Understand what is **forcing** and what is not. In general, a new suit by unpassed hand is forcing, but once an "old" suit (ie one that has been bid before) has been mentioned, (and the points have been limited) it is no longer forcing. For example, you are West and open the bidding -

W	N	E	S	In this sequence, the 2H bid is not forcing and shows support in hearts but is limiting in showing a minimum opening hand. Now partner, East becomes the captain for this auction, and then fixes the level of the contract. You as West, should not bid again unless asked to bid by
1C	p	1H	p	
2H	p	?		

partner's further actions.

Another example is shown by the following bidding –

W	N	E	S	In this sequence, the 2H bid is not forcing and shows heart support and 6-9 HCP's (that is a limiting bid). Now West is the captain for this auction, and East should not bid again, unless asked to by West's actions.
1H	p	2H	p	
?				

You will profit in your results and earn respect as a player by making this your mantra - **Once I have described and limited my hand, I will not bid again unless forced or invited to do so by my partner.** However if this will vary if partner opens and you have a big hand and the losing trick count indicates a possible slam, then slow but forcing bidding may be the best.

PLAYING TOO MANY CONVENTIONS

It's exciting to learn how the language of bridge works, and it's natural to admire the established pairs who seem to have something in their bidding systems to cope with every "problem" that arises.

You look at the convention card of an expert pair, players with seemingly every space taken up with some notation about a convention in use, and you think that the more gadgets you can "acquire" the better off you will be. Don't believe it.

In your early development, you will be far better off concentrating on your card play – learning how to take tricks – than you will be by adding every known convention to your repertoire.

Here are some reasons for going slowly in the convention department:

1. It takes time to grasp all the nuances of any new convention. Whenever you and your regular partner decide to add a new agreement, you should discuss the tool thoroughly. What if the opponents interfere? At what level is it "off?" What does it mean if you don't use the convention?
2. When you are starting out, you already have a lot to think about at the table – as declarer and when you are defending, trying to learn to count the high-card points and the length of each suit in opponents' hands. How will you manage all this if you also have to try to remember a couple of dozen conventions you don't fully understand?
3. Some gadgets are brilliant in conception but not very useful because opportunities to use them occur so rarely. Trying to keep everything straight in your mind uses energy better spent on more mundane – but highly important – tasks such as deciding on an opening lead or figuring out a way to make a tough contract. Other conventions use bids that sound so natural that a "forget" is not unusual.
4. My partner and I play the "Bergen Convention" – if I open 1 of a major then a 3D response by partner says 'I have 4 cards in major plus 10-11 HCP's (plus other bids with other meanings). At the Gold Coast earlier this month, I opened **1S** and partner responded **3D**. It was late at night, I forgot the convention, passed and left my partner in a hopeless 3D contract. **Oops!**
5. It is better for you and your partner to fully understand the simple system you have been taught and then add to your system, say extended stayman or other convention, only after you have discussed and

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understood the meanings of the various responses, nuances, and principles of the proposed convention. You should add only one convention at a time, and do not consider a further one until you are both fully conversant with the first.

Not that long ago, Brent Manley wrote how Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell – one of the world's top pairs – decided that it was time to make a significant reduction in the size of their system notes. The two have fashioned an amazingly complex and effective bidding system, and they almost never have “forgets,” but at one point Meckstroth appealed to his partner to cut down on the agreements because it was getting harder and harder to remember everything.

If a pair like Meckstroth and Rodwell can decide that less is more, it makes sense for aspiring players to follow suit.

Quiz

- Q. 1 - If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter “a”
- Q. 2 - The 21st Feb last month can be written as 21-02-2012 - a palindromic pattern (same backwards as forwards). How many palindromes are there in this century assuming the century starts in January 2000
- Q. 3 - Consider the 2nd Feb 2000 which occurred earlier this century, In numerical form this was 02-02-2000, and all the digits were even digits (0, 2, 4, 6, 8). Many more have followed since that day, such as 04-02-2000 and 06-02-2000 etc. What was the date before 02-02-2000 when they were all even digits? How many years ago was that ?
- Q. 4 - When was the last time when all the digits were odd and when will be the next time? What is the length of time between these dates?
- Q.5 - How long was it between the last time the digits were all odd and the digits were all even? We have lived in a special numerical calendar time.

Fantasy

If Bud ABBOTT and Lou COSTELLO were alive today, one of their sketches might have turned out something like this - COSTELLO CALLS TO BUY A COMPUTER FROM ABBOTT

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: Thanks I'm setting up an office in my den and I'm thinking about buying a computer.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: No, the name's Lou.

ABBOTT: Your computer?

COSTELLO: I don't own a computer. I want to buy one.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: I told you, my name's Lou.

ABBOTT: What about Windows?

COSTELLO: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?

ABBOTT: Do you want a computer with Windows?

COSTELLO: I don't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?

ABBOTT: Wallpaper.

COSTELLO: Never mind the windows. I need a computer and software.

ABBOTT: Software for Windows?

COSTELLO: No. On the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals, track expenses and run my business. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?

ABBOTT: I just did.

COSTELLO: You just did what?

ABBOTT: Recommend something.

COSTELLO: You recommended something?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: For my office?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: OK, what did you recommend for my office?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yes, for my office!

ABBOTT: I recommend Office with Windows.

COSTELLO: I already have an office with windows! OK, let's just say I'm sitting at my computer and I want to

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type a proposal. What do I need?

ABBOTT: Word.

COSTELLO: What word?

ABBOTT: Word in Office.

COSTELLO: The only word in office is office.

ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.

COSTELLO: Which word in office for windows?

ABBOTT: The Word you get when you click the blue 'W'.

COSTELLO: I'm going to click your blue 'W' if you don't start with some straight answers. What about financial bookkeeping? Do you have anything I can track my money with?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: That's right. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: I need money to track my money?

ABBOTT: It comes bundled with your computer.

COSTELLO: What's bundled with my computer?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: Money comes with my computer?

ABBOTT: Yes. At no extra charge.

COSTELLO: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?

ABBOTT: One copy.

COSTELLO: Isn't it illegal to copy money?

ABBOTT: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.

COSTELLO: They can give you a license to copy money?

ABBOTT: Why not? THEY OWN IT!

(A few days later)

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: How do I turn my computer off?

ABBOTT: Click on 'START'.....

You know you are living in 2012 when....

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave
2. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three
3. You email the person who works at the desk next to you
4. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
5. You pull up in your own driveway and use the mobile phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
6. Leaving the house without your mobile, which you didn't even have one for the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.

Did You Know

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history.

Spades: King David

Hearts: King Charlemagne

Clubs: Alexander the Great

Diamonds: Julius Caesar

Quiz Answers

1. One hundred and one
2. There are 29 palindromes
3. 28-08-888 – more than 1,111 years
4. 19-11-1999 then 11-11-3111 – again more than 1,111 years
5. Less than 3 months (75 days).

Newsletter

Tine Goedhart, when she returns from her holiday in New Zealand will be taking over as editor of this newsletter. As Tine does not play in our afternoon bridge sessions, I ask you all let her know of items of interest (particularly about members) by email (martinegoedhart@aapt.net.au) or by a note left for her at the office.

SYSTEM CARDS HOW AND WHY – PART 2 THE INSIDE

Last month we looked at filling in the front and back of the system card and now I will comment on the advantage of completing the inside section of the ABF System Cards.

The left side of the inside of the card describes your first round bidding with partner. It is quite amazing how many times partnerships have confusion about the most simple of responses and I would urge all players to sit down together and discuss all of these responses in detail.

Some examples of where confusion arises include:

- 2C response to 1c bid - is it a GF raise or a limit raise;
- 3H response to 1C bid - is it natural pre-emptive or splinter agreeing clubs;
- If you are NOT playing Bergen what is a 3C or 3D response to a 1S opening;
- What is a 4D response to a 1D opening and what can partner really expect. Many players don't set upper limits on this bid and can easily miss game – certainly worthy of discussion;
- Many players agree to play Jacoby raises over 1H or 1S opening but fail to discuss further bidding over 1M:2NT. While it is not contained on the card the mere discussion of the 2NT should raise this issue with partner; Make every effort to add as much information as you can like point ranges and further bidding if there is space to do so.

The right side of the inside of the card is often the one that requires the most partnership discussion as it contains a lot of information about partnership agreements and further bidding. Treatments of bids like fourth suit, defence to strong club openings, treatments over high level pre-empts by opponents all require a great deal of partnership discussion.

At the bottom is a place to make notes that don't fit elsewhere on the card. Treat this as a reminder to yourself and partner of things you have discussed but may forget.

Most club only players do not fill in the inside section of the system card, and thus probably have not discussed and do not have a detailed partnership understanding of various responses over an initial opening bid. By discussing with partner and completing the inside of your system card, your partnership understanding and thus game results should improve. Consider spending time with your partners to discuss and understand these basics to improve your bridge.

Reminiscing

I have retired from the club Management Committee after over 25 years on the committee, and as this will be my last newsletter for the club after having written them for the last 8 years, I thought I might be excused if I spend a little time reminiscing on some of the club's past history.

I played in our first session as a bridge club on 26th Oct. 1981, in the lounge room area of the Senior Citizen's Hall. Tues. and Sat. afternoon sessions were soon added and were played at the hall. When our numbers grew to 6 tables, the area in the Senior Citizens hall was too cramped and we moved to the Church of England hall for both evening and afternoon sessions. There was a move to become an affiliated club, and when similar minded members from Bribie club approached us, we agreed to combine to further discuss the matter and aimed to become a strong club. The Thurs. night sessions now moved to play at Ningi hall with the Bribie members. From this the Moreton Bribie club was eventually formed. Thus a number of Caboolture members were foundation members of the Moreton Bribie Bridge Club. Following the formation, the majority of the new club voted to change the playing venue from the Ningi hall to the Arts and Crafts building in Banksia Beach. The Caboolture members after playing at the Arts and Crafts for a number of sessions, decided that this was not in the best interests of bridge in Caboolture and restarted Thursday night bridge sessions at the Caboolture Bowls Club in the Sports Centre. The afternoon sessions continued in Caboolture at the church hall,

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until the church stopped the use as they required the hall for youth activities. The afternoon sessions were then played for a while in the garage owned by Ruby and Harry Cross in Norfolk Esplanade, and later shifted to the Neighbourhood Centre in Edward Street. In the late 1980`s, the Caboolture Club held two open congress (there were no novice or restricted congresses in those days). The first was held in the Caboolture Memorial hall and the next year it was held in the Morayfield hall. The third was not held as the Bowls Club had installed poker machines making the Bowls club not as attractive as a venue, and members started thinking it would be better to put our energies and money into trying to get our own club house in lieu of organizing another congress.

In 1990 I became aware that the Telecom works depot office was to be sold, I obtained approval for the club to have use of part of the Rafting Ground next to the Girl Guides hut and following discussions among club members over some months, a majority of club members agreed to establish their own club house. Building loans, each of \$10,000 were arranged with the ABF and QBA, and two bridge playing families each provided \$5,000 to enable the club to purchase the building (it became dearer to buy as whilst the members were deciding whether they should go into debt to get their own club house, two churches heard about the building and made attempts to buy, resulting in the owner lifting the price I had originally negotiated. It took the club 3 months of discussions to finally agree to have a club house.

The building was relocated for us by Eddie Wright, then followed many hours of working bees over about 3 months, altering the building from mainly offices to suit our use, providing kitchen and toilets, connecting water and sewerage, painting the building, providing a garden around the building etc. This required a great effort of hard work by many club members, some of whom are still members. Whenever I go through Kilcoy on the way to Somerset , I look at the old club house with fond memories.

When we opened our first club house, we had usually 5 to 6 table sessions, but by 1998 we had 10 and 12 table sessions regularly, with one 13 table session. This was nearly capacity and started us considering extensions. But the decision was made to build a new club house. The planning, design, fund raising, obtaining approvals etc commenced in 1999, and following calling of tenders led to the construction of our existing club house.