



Caboolture Bridge Club

Newsletter

Issue 16

March 2015

President's Report:

Well it had to come: the graceful exodus, vacating the primitive slightly wonky wooden throne, stepping down if not out. You may all breathe a sigh of relief. Three years of putting up with me as your President is about to end -- if it hasn't ended already by the time you read this newsletter -- three years. It's been a surprisingly pleasant 36 months, two days, eight hours and thirty-three minutes -- I kid you: no punch ups, no police interventions, no broken bones, no serious dummy spits. There have been; however, a few broken promises -- to my bridge partners, a few withering glares -- from opponents and my partner, a moment or two of inspired madness -- my bidding system; certainly, lots of pleasant afternoons and evenings. Thank you all.

I have, in my annual report, handed out my bouquets to my fellow committee members -- and don't they deserve them. I could, but I will not, deliver a few, ever so tiny, niggling brickbats here -- Pause -- extended pause -- But I won't. As the songs say: 'Don't Worry, Be Happy', 'We All Live In A Yellow Submarine', 'What a Wonderful World'.

I wish the new committee well. They deserve your support, your positive input, your constructive, rather than niggling, criticism.

I will be staying around, helping out with lessons and whatever else comes my way. Give me a wink and a smile as I sit at your table. Be generous in your defence when I....

In closing, If I may, a little advertisement -- Who's gonna stop me? I am self-publishing a novel I have written. If anyone is interested in buying/reading this ripping, suspenseful, historically accurate and audacious yarn -- I'm biased (you all know that) -- come and see me. The novel is called: 'The Other Swastika'. It'll be steal at \$12. It should be out early in April. The following is a synopsis of the story:

In the early seventies, twenty-seven year old Dan Jensen visits Denmark to test his wife's and his mother's theory of absence and the heart. In Copenhagen he falls in love with his first cousin and then discovers that his beloved father, who uprooted his family of four to come to Australia, may have had an ulterior motive for migrating and for wiping the family history and the memory of Denmark clean -- We've come to Australia to be Australian. While Dan is in Denmark a modern day vigilante group, the Swastika Movement, carry out ritual horizontal crucifixions of Danes who, during World War II, had played a gruesome part in the conflict. Dan and his cousin Birgit are caught up in a web of intrigue.

Finn

Member's Corner

Contributed by Robyn Smith

Rhonda is having a break from Bridge at the moment. Together with sister Karen, they are visiting relatives in Adelaide, before heading back to Sydney to catch up with some friends.

Pat is off cruising again. This time the cruise is up to New Guinea and back to Brisbane. It should prove to be an interesting destination.

Kevin is back in town, albeit for a short visit. He is heading off to house sit in Ballina, where he enjoys playing bridge at the Ballina Club.

It is nice to see Phillipa back at the Club after being absent for a few weeks caring for her husband who has been unwell.

Margie has also returned home from visiting family in the United Kingdom.

Ron and Robyn are off on a cruise to New Zealand and are looking forward to a relaxing time.

Jo-ann Middlebrough is certainly keeping herself busy since retiring. Jo-ann is quite a talented artist and is furthering her artistic skills by doing an art course in Portraiture and Figure Drawing plus Botanical Art. All the best Jo-ann.

Jenny and her husband are off to cruise the Mexican Riviera and Panama Canal.

Your newsletter editor Martine and husband Jan are off to India. They are looking forward to experience the real Indian food.

To all our travellers have a safe trip.

Master Point Movements Contributed by Charlene

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

Ros McGovern to Graduate — Val Anyon to Club

The Eclectics : March on Tuesdays — April on Thursdays

Red Point dates: March Saturday 14th — April Tuesday 14th

Bill Smith is on his deathbed and knows the end is near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons are with him. So, he says to them: "Bernie, I want you to take the Hamilton houses." "Sybil, you take over the apartments in Bulimba." "Jamie I want you to take the offices over in the city centre." "Sarah my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the banks of the Brisbane river." The nurse is blown away by all this and as Bill slips away, she says. "Mrs. Smith, your husband must have been such a hard working man to have accumulated all this property." "Property?.....he had a paper run!"



DAWN Benes has noticed some bad habits carrying over to GNOT's and make the following reminders.

Too much unauthorized information is being spoken at tables.

Players must announce 1 C and 1 NT (opponents are not obliged to ask)

The director may be called at the end of the game if not announced.

Players must alert where necessary.

If a player suspects a revoke, do not replace your cards in the board.

Wait for the director to make a ruling.

And remember, a double is not personal:

It is part of the game.

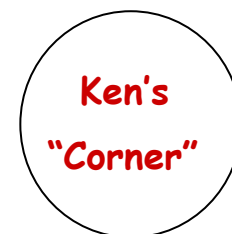
Thank you Colin.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Sitting at a bridge table doesn't make you a bridge player, anymore than standing in a garage makes you a car.

Eight ever, nine never.

This chestnut comes from whether you should play Ace and King when you are missing the Queen or whether you should finesse.



Case 1:- AJT43 K92

With 8 trumps here, the odds favour finessing for the Queen rather than playing Ace and King and hoping that the Queen drops doubleton.

Case 2:- AJT43 K972

With 9 trumps, the odds favour playing the Ace and King, expecting the Queen to drop singleton or doubleton. Be warned, playing for the "drop" is only marginally better than finessing.

In each case, you should give yourself an extra chance. Advance the Jack first. A sleepy RHO may play the Queen and solve your problem.

The main problem with this chestnut is that **it presumes that you have no other knowledge.**

This is rarely the case :-

- If one opponent has pre-empted, it means they are more likely to be short in your suit. Finesse their partner for the Queen.
- If one opponent has opened a strong 1NT, they are more likely to hold your Queen.
- If one opponent has already showed 10 HCP and didn't open the bidding, they can't have your Queen.

However, the most common reason to play Ace and King even though you have only eight trumps is that you cannot afford to lose the lead while there are trumps out. The opening lead and play has convinced you that an opponent will get a ruff.

Be aware that, when you breach this chestnut, you may be heading for a different score to the rest of the field. Most will follow this chestnut. You need to be prepared to back your judgment!

Playing at the five level belongs to the opponents

N	E	S	W
1S	2D	4S	5D
???			

This chestnut comes from the fact that it is very rare that both 5D and 5S will be making contracts. It is very likely that both 5D and 5S will fail.

If North follows this chestnut, he should pass or double 5D and not bid 5S.

Does North really know what South has for his 4S bid? I doubt it. That is a good reason to pass with ordinary hands.

Of course, there will be exceptions. If you opened 1S with 10 HCP and a 7 card suit, you have a better case for bidding 5S.

If you are sure 5D is going off without spade tricks, then opener should double - if only to keep partner quiet.

If opener wishes to investigate slam - great hand, diamond void etc - he needs to bid 5H. That shows a better hand than a 5S bid.

The most important thing in life is not knowing everything,
it's having the phone number of somebody who does!

MISUNDERSTOOD LAWS (Hesitation)

(Article written by Peter Busch, reproduced with permission)

Hesitation in bridge is a fact of life. Sometimes you have a difficult hand to bid, and other times you've worked out your bid in plenty of time but are caught short when an opponent makes a pre-emptive jump. Hesitation in itself is not illegal. However, it does convey "unauthorised information" to partner (authorised information between partners is limited to legal calls and plays). It doesn't tell partner what exactly you have, but it does suggest some values in your hand, because if you had nothing, you wouldn't be hesitating. When you have received unauthorised information from your partner, like a hesitation, it is important that you bid your hand, and disregard anything you might deduce from partner's hesitation. However, when push comes to shove, the laws make things tougher. Even though you might believe your hand justifies your bid, and even if you decided to make that bid before partner's hesitation, unless 75% or more of similar players would make that bid, then you may be in trouble. That's what is referred to as "no logical alternative" - if 75% or more of players in your shoes would make that bid without the hesitation, then you will have no problems making it. The picture is muddier if your action was a bit risky and it is decided that less than 75% of similar players would do it. In this instance, you need to look at whether the unauthorised information suggested one action over another. For example, consider this: in a competitive auction, the opponents have bid 4S and you need to decide whether or not to bid 5H or to pass, and it is a 50/50 choice. Partner has hesitated and passed at their turn to bid. That would suggest to you they had undisclosed values, and this would influence you to bid on rather than pass. It is this situation that is now not allowed, and the director would probably adjust the result. In general terms, when pass is an option that more than 25% of players might consider in your position, it will usually be held that making any other call after partner's hesitation would be suggested by the hesitation and therefore would be illegal. In summary, when you have received unauthorised information from partner's hesitation: (a) if there is 75% + action (one that three quarters of similar players would take without the benefit of the hesitation), then it is safe to take that action; (b) if it's not that clear cut, then you cannot take any action that might be suggested by the hesitation, even if you always intended to do it. It has been suggested that once you have hesitated, you really should make a bid rather than pass in order to protect your partner's options. That is good advice, but it doesn't guarantee that your partner will be free of problems. Your hesitation still conveys unauthorised information by telling them that you have no clear cut action, but it is generally a safer path than hesitating and passing. Remember that these rules apply to all forms of unauthorised information, not just hesitation. Comments and expressions, undue interest in an opponent's conventional bid, passing too quickly, changes in the way you write your bid all constitute unauthorised information. Finally, it's important to remember that if the director decides that your action may be based on unauthorised information and adjusts your result, they are NOT accusing you of cheating. The laws simply state that once you have unauthorised information, your options are reduced. That's why it's important to try and make all your calls in tempo.



THE BIBLE SALESMAN EXTRAORDINAIRE

A pastor concluded that his church was getting into very serious financial troubles.

While checking the church storeroom, he discovered several cartons of new Bibles that had never been opened and distributed.

So at his Sunday sermon, he asked for three volunteers from the congregation who would be willing to sell the Bibles door-to-door for \$10. each to raise the desperately needed, money for the church.

Jack, Paul and Louie all raised their hands to volunteer for the task.

The minister knew that Jack and Paul earned their living as salesmen and were likely capable of selling some Bibles, but he had serious doubts about Louie who was a local farmer, who had always kept to himself because he was embarrassed by his speech impediment.

Poor Louie stuttered badly but, not wanting to discourage Louie, the minister decided to let him try anyway.

He sent the three of them away with the back seat of their cars stacked with Bibles.

He asked them to meet with him and report the results of their door-to-door selling efforts the following Sunday.

Anxious to find out how successful they were, the minister immediately asked Jack, "Well, Jack, how did you make out selling our Bibles last week?"

Proudly handing the reverend an envelope, Jack replied, "Using my sales prowess, I was able to sell 20 Bibles and here is the \$200 I collected on behalf of the church."

"Fine job, Jack!" The minister said, vigorously shaking his hand..."You are indeed a fine salesman and the church is indebted to you.."

Turning to Paul, "And Paul how many Bibles did you sell for the church last week?"

Paul smiling and sticking out his chest, confidently replied, "I am a professional sales man. I sold 28 bibles on behalf of the church and here is \$280 I collected.

The minister responded. "That's absolutely splendid, Paul, you are truly a professional salesman and the church is indebted to you."

Apprehensively, the minister turned to Louie and said, "And Louie, did you manage to sell any Bibles last week?" Louie 'silently offered the minister a large envelope. The minister opened it and counted the contents.

"What is this?" the minister exclaimed- "Louie, there's \$3,200 in here! Are you suggesting that you sold 320 Bibles for the church, door-to-door, in just one week?"

Louie just nodded.

"That's impossible!" both Jack and Paul said in unison. "We are professional salesmen, yet you claim to have sold 10 times as many Bibles as we could."

"Yes, this does seem unlikely" the minister agreed. "I think you'd better explain how you managed to accomplish this, Louie."

Louie shrugged. "I-I-I re-re-really do-do-don't kn-kn-know f-f-f-for sh-sh-sh-sure," he stammered.

Impatiently, the Pastor interrupted. "For crying out loud, Louie, just tell us what you said to them when they answered the door?"

"A-a-a-all I-I I s s-said wa-wa-was," Louis replied,
 "W-w-w-would y-y--you l-l-l-l-l-like t-t-to b-b-b-buy
 thth-th-this B-B-B-B-Bible f-f-for t-t-ten b-b-b-bucks-
 --o-o-o-or wo-wo-would yo-you j-j-just like m-m-m-me
 t-t-t-to st-ststand h-e-here and r-r-r-r-r-read it t-to
 y-y-you?"



A game not to be missed

It's the grand final and a man makes his way to his seat at centre court.

He sits down and notices that the seat next to him is empty. He leans over and asks his neighbour if someone is sitting there. He responds, "no the seat is empty" The first man exclaims "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the grand final and not use it?" The neighbour responds. "well the seat is mine, but my wife passed away and this is the first finals we haven't been together." The first man responds, "I'm sorry to hear that. Wasn't there anyone else, a friend or relative, that could've taken that seat?" the neighbour responds, "no, they're all at the funeral."

John Smith was the only Protestant to move into a large Catholic neighbourhood. On the first Friday on Lent, John was outside grilling a big juicy steak on his grill. Meanwhile, all of his neighbours were eating cold tuna for dinner. This went on each Friday of lent.

On the last Friday of Lent, the neighbourhood men came together and decided that something had to be done about John, he was tempting them to eat meat each Friday of Lent and they couldn't take it anymore.

They decided to try and convert John to be a Catholic. They went over and talked to him and were so happy that he decided to join all of his neighbours and became a Catholic. They took him to church and the Priest sprinkled some water over him, and said, "You were born a Baptist, you were raised a Baptist, and now you are a Catholic." The men were so relieved, now their biggest Lenten temptation was resolved.

The next year's Lenten season rolled around. The first Friday of Lent came and just at dinner time, when the neighbourhood was setting down to their tuna fish dinner, came the wafting smell of steak cooking on a grill.

The neighbourhood men could not believe their noses! **WHAT WAS GOING ON?**

They called each other up and decided to meet over in John's yard to see if he had forgotten it was the first Friday of Lent. The group arrived just in time to see John standing over his grill with a small pitcher of water. He was sprinkling some water over his steak on the grill, saying.

"You were born a cow, you were raised a cow, and now you are a fish" **Happy Easter**

A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the engine of a Harley Davidson motorcycle when he spotted a well-known heart surgeon in his shop. The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey, Doc, can I ask you a question?" The surgeon a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, fix 'em, put 'em back in, and when I finish, it works just like new. So how come I get such a small salary and you get the really big bucks, when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The surgeon paused, smiled leaned over and whispered to the mechanic... "Try doing it with the engine running"

