



# Caboolture Bridge Club Newsletter

Issue 20 March 2016

## Presidents Report

As the 2015 President of the Caboolture Bridge Club, I would like to report that this year was very successful.

We hosted a number of events this year which included our club 2015 GNOT, the Bridge For Brains Fundraiser, the Club Pairs, the GNOT Semi-final, the Redcliffe Challenge, the MIT, the Australia Wide Pairs, the Gardner Pairs, the Beryl Cramb Pairs, the Melbourne Cup Party, the Club Teams, the Queensland Wide Pairs, a FANTASTIC Christmas Party, the Novice Pairs and soon the 2016 GNOT competition. Hosting this many events takes a lot of work and is only possible with the help of members ... not only committee members but all members. I thank all of you for your assistance especially during the time when I was unavailable.

This year there has also been some physical changes to the club house. We now have a working solar system which is very financially beneficial. We have new linoleum flooring that has really brightened up the place with talks of perhaps new carpet in the foreseeable future. A new air conditioner was installed in the kitchen after the old one blew up. The overgrown palms have been removed, the area cleaned up, new turf has been laid (Peter Gruythuysen, Neville Jordon and Gary Gibbards) and \$200 of new plants will soon be planted compliments of Bunnings (Charlene Frederiksen). For many years we have had an agreement with the old Caboolture Council for the land that our club house is situated on ... now we have a legal written contract and the lease costs \$1 per year with the new Moreton Bay Council.

Along with good positives, unfortunately there has been a few negatives this year. I am referring to health issues that have affected some of our members (including myself). We have a couple of members that have not been able to return to bridge because of these issues BUT we remain hopeful the situation could improve. We have also had Colin Andersen return to the UK to be with family after serving the club well for a number of years in various capacities.

I have been very lucky to have the support of a very talented, cooperative, experienced and hard working committee. I would like to thank them and the various other volunteers for their efforts this year and especially for filling the void while I was away. I am very confident that 2016 will be just as successful as I welcome back all of these competent committee members (except for Finn who is leaving the committee after 4 years) and one new comer (Pat Lyons). We have always been able to work well together and I am sure that this will continue into 2016.

I am pleased that a few key issues were discussed, clarified and decisions were made with a vote at the AGM (please check the minutes if you did not attend). In 2016 we will be hosting various special days and competitions and I know that there will always be volunteers to help. Thanks for your support.

Remember, bridge is meant to be FUN!

President Mitch Kostaschuk

*At the AGM on March 12, a new committee for the year 2016 was elected.  
Another successful year is forecast for the Caboolture Bridge Club.  
Many thanks for all the hard work you did over the last year and for what you will  
achieve in 2016.*



*A warm welcome to the following people who have  
just finished the lessons and are now  
new members to our club*

*Tina Gordon-Brown*

*Tony O'Riordan*

*Sylvia Reynolds*

*Lorna Gregory*

*Lyn Wilson*

*Colin Wilson*

*We also welcome Margaret Macdonald  
who recently moved here from NSW and  
Rick Wedgwood who has joined us at supervised play  
after having lessons at Beerwah.*

*Masterpoint Notes*

*Congratulations to the following  
players:*

*Lyn Gadsby*

*Club to Local Master*

*Ralph Preston*

*Club to Local Master*

Quite a few members are feeling the urge to travel again in the coming weeks. To all of you have a fantastic time and stay safe. I'd love to receive some feedback from your adventures, to print in the next newsletter.

And now that I have your attention.

This newsletter offers information, education, recognition and entertainment to its members.

It is published for, by and about its members for the benefit of its members.

Drop me a line if there is anything of interest you'd like to share with your fellow bridge players.

You might have the solution why my finesses don't work for 98% of the time.  
M.



*No one realizes  
HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS TO TRAVEL  
until he comes home and rests his head on his old familiar pillow.*

## The Facts and Fiction and History of Bridge

Believe me, there was a time in the past when there were no computers, television sets, telephones, fax machines or cars, but people still came together and played card games. They would play in taverns, inns, at countryside homes, in royal palaces, in the mansions of the rich, in the private rooms of the clergy. Every nation, kingdom and state would have card players battling each other in the afternoons and evenings on every night of the week. It was a pastime, a way of filling the evening with fun and games.

Nobody remembers who invented the first deck of cards. Nobody remembers who named the suits and designed the graphics. And today we have all kinds of cards: trading cards, credit cards, greeting cards, baseball cards, tarot cards. Bridge cards, of course, have a history as does the game itself. It was not always called Bridge, and many still believe that it is an ancient game. But, in comparison, Bridge is a relatively new game derived from an older version. The refinement came about in the early 1900's and has continued to this day. Following are some historical moments in Bridge.

We are able to trace the beginnings of Bridge back to the early 16th century, although at that time it was called Whist and was played by the Brits. The first book devoted to Whist appeared in the year 1742, called Edmond Hoyle's Short Treatise, and, according to all players of the time, became a best seller. The first game of duplicate Whist was played in London in the year 1857, and the systems used eliminated much of the luck involved in which card each player was dealt.

How did the card game come to be called Bridge?

The truth, alas, is that no one knows precisely where the name bridge for the card game came from, although it is fairly certain that it has nothing to do with other senses of the word bridge. The invention of bridge in the 19th century was, evidently, based on a card game long popular in the Near East and known at that time as Russian whist. The word whist itself, by the way, is an old British equivalent of shhh!, and is a natural name for a game that demands silence from its players. Russian whist was also known as biritch or britch, both of which do sound Russian although neither of them seems to be an actual Russian word. In any case, once the British took up the game, britch became bridge through a process known as folk etymology, which is a fancy way of saying that people often substitute a word they do know for one they don't, even when the substitution makes no sense. So the answer is that the name bridge is almost entirely random and does not mean a thing, or, as we say at my house, Go Fish.

Back in North America, there was **Mr. Harold Vanderbilt**, who changed the course of Bridge while taking a cruise .... A highly intelligent gentleman, Mr. Vanderbilt recommended that only the tricks bid and made would count toward making a game. Overtricks would count as a bonus. His recommendation became popular and out of Auction Bridge, we suddenly had Contract Bridge.

There were many other pioneers in the development of the game of bridge. They are too numerous to mention here.

However, we should mention one more person. His name is Mr. John S. Bennett. In Kansas City, Kansas, in the year 1931, Mr. Bennett was playing with his wife as his partner against Mr. and Mrs. Hoffmann. The couple had had some serious communication problems that day and they were uttering some rude remarks in public about the bidding and playing abilities of each other in derogatory words. Then came the fateful hand when Mr. Bennett bid a Spade, the Left Hand Opponent overcalled with two Diamonds, and Mrs. Bennett raised to four Spades. Mr. Bennett did not fulfil the Contract, and Mrs. Bennett could not hold her tongue.

She became so enraged that she seemed hysterical. Mr. Bennett reached across the table, slapped her several times, as witnesses reported. Mrs. Bennett went into her mother's bedroom, retrieved the family automatic weapon, returned to the game room, and pointed the weapon at her husband. Mr. Bennett raced toward the bathroom and slammed the door behind him. But Mrs. Bennett fired two shots which went through the wooden door, and killed Mr. Bennett.

It seems that Mr. Bennett could have made the contract of 4 Spades after all, according to Mr. Ely Culbertson, who later analysed the cards.

### Deafening Silence

When a wise partner holds his tongue, he says more than  
then when he speaks.

### The Impossible Dream

A Partner who only gives advice when asked.





### A few more tips from Ken Dawson.

How do you play

Q 2

AJ43 for three tricks???

The first point to notice is, that small to the Jack doesn't help.

Even when that wins, you are in the soup. Your Queen will now be smothered, leaving you with just two winners. The solution is to first lead small towards the Queen. You must hope that LHO has been dealt Kx or Kxx.

Even with Kxxx LHO might err and rise with the King. Presuming LHO plays low, rise with the Queen.

Now that you know where the King is, that play should be a little clearer. There is no point finessing the Jack on the way back—that has to lose. Instead, return with 2 to the Ace. Then, exit with your last small card and hope that the King now beats the air. Your remaining lone Jack is now a winner.

#### **When playing in the Teams. (Sorry may be a bit late)**

##### **At teams, always play in the safest contract at part score, game or slam.**

At teams, there is little difference between 3D making and 3H making.

Similarly, 6H making scores the same as 6NT making. So, if 6H is the safer contract, then that is the contract which we should select.

At pairs, 3NT will often be selected ahead of 5 of a minor. 3NT making 10 tricks achieves a much better score than 5 of a minor making 11 tricks. For this reason, minor suit contracts are frequently not investigated thoroughly at pairs. Many players regard teams as a more "pure" form of the game since all denominations are treated with equal respect.

#### **At teams, don't double a part score from 2H to 4D unless you are sure to defeat it.**

When a doubled contract between 2H and 4D makes, declarer receives the game bonus.

e.g. 2HX vul making 8 tricks scores 670 compared to the undoubled contract scoring 110.

This one result may well cost the match.

By comparison, 4HX making is not so expensive. It costs 790 compared to 620, a difference of 170.

1NTX making 7 tricks scores 180 compared to the undoubled score of 90. This is not such a disaster. Many pairs will back their defence against 1NTX in the hope of collecting a sweet penalty.

At teams, it is always the MAGNITUDE of the score which is important. At pairs, it is the rank order of the scores which is important.

At pairs, any doubled contract making is bad news for the defence. However, it is still just ONE board out of the session.

### CLASH OF THE TITANS

Goren disliked Sam Stayman and never would call the Stayman convention by name in his column - instead, he called it the 2C convention.

A guy wanted to take his Chihuahua into a restaurant with him, so he put on dark glasses and "tapped" his way in the establishment.

The waiter said, "Hey! You can't bring a dog in here."

The man indignantly claimed, "I'm blind! This is my seeing eye dog!"

"You're trying to tell me," said the waiter, "that this Chihuahua is a seeing eye dog?"

"What???" cried the man, "they gave me a Chihuahua?"



not that vet again

## Perception....Something To Think About.... Stradivarius



### The situation

This man stood at a metro station and started to play the violin; it was a cold January morning. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that thousands of people went through the station, most of them on their way to work.

Three minutes went by and a middle aged man noticed there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried up to meet his schedule.

A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar: a woman threw the money in the till and without stopping continued to walk.

A few minutes later, someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work.

The one who paid the most attention was a 3 year old boy. His mother tugged him along, hurried but the kid stopped to look at the violinist. Finally the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All the parents, without exception, forced them to move on.

In the 45 minutes the musician played, only 6 people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin (Stradivarius) worth 3.5 million dollars.

Two days before his playing in the metro, Joshua Bell sold out at a theatre in Boston and the seats averaged \$100 each to sit and listen as he played the same music.

This is a real story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The outlines were: in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour: Do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected context?

One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be:

If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing?



## A Dish of Ice Cream

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

"How much is an ice cream sundae?"

"50 cents," replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied a number of coins in it.

"How much is a dish of plain ice cream?" he inquired. Some people were now waiting for a table and the waitress was a bit impatient. "35 cents," she said brusquely.

The little boy again counted the coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away.

The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and departed.

When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and then swallowed hard at what she saw.

There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were 15 cents – her tip.

An ACT and Queensland Council decided to have a competitive boat race on the Shoalhaven river.

Both teams practised long and hard to reach their peak performance. On the day they were as ready as they could be. The Queensland crew won by a mile.

Afterwards the ACT crew became very disappointed by the loss and morale sagged.

Senior management decided that the reason for the crushing defeat had to be found.

A project team was signed up to investigate the problem and recommend appropriate action.

Their conclusion; "the problem was that the Queensland crew had eight people rowing and one person steering. The ACT crew had 1 person rowing and 8 people steering."

Senior ACT management immediately hired a human resource consultancy firm to undertake a study of the crew structure. Millions of dollars and several months later they concluded that "too many people were steering and not enough rowing."

To prevent losing to the Queensland council next year, the ACT council crew structure was changed to four "steering managers", three "senior steering managers" and one "executive steering manager".

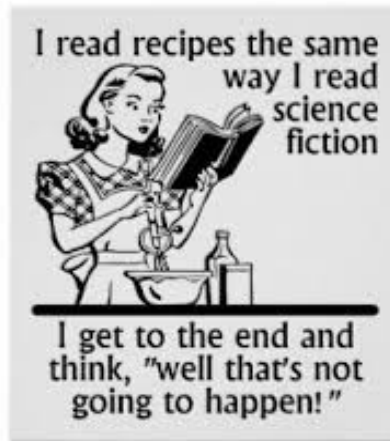
A performance appraisal system was set up to give the person rowing more incentive to work harder and become a "key performer". "We must give him empowerment and enrichment — that ought to do it!!!"

The next year the Queensland crew won by two miles. The ACT council laid off the rower for poor performance, sold off his paddle, cancelled all capital investment for new equipment and halted the development of a new boat.

High performance awards were given to the human resource consultancy and all the money saved was



Thank you Nigel



"The healthiest part of a donut is the hole. Unfortunately, you have to eat through the rest of the donut to get there!"

