



THE QBA BULLETIN

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From the President



Richard Ward

Summary notes for the 2023/24 year

- Club membership for Queensland has stayed below 7000 as clubs continue to recover from the effects of Covid-19. Many are conducting beginners' lessons and we thank them for their enthusiasm and dedication.
- The financial position of the QBA continues to be marginally satisfactory, relying on the Gold Coast Congress to create a surplus balance each year. Thanks to Graham Rusher, Barry Williams and Kim and Ray Ellaway for all of the behind-the-scenes accounting work that underpins the QBA's Profit and Loss accounts.
- The number of entries in our 2023 State Teams Trials was healthy in all except the Seniors which had only 10 pairs continuing this trend for the past decade. Results from the 2023 Perth ANC were: OPEN 6th from 7; WOMEN 5th out of 7;

SENIORS 3rd out of 7; YOUTH 3rd out of 6. These are better than in 2022 with the Seniors and Youth teams always contenders for the finals.

- The Cairns Bridge Club ran a most successful 2023 Barrier Reef Congress with healthy entry numbers and very positive reports from participants;
- The third QBA Festival of Bridge was conducted over an extended weekend in October with a most pleasing increase in the number of entries in both the Open Pairs and the Open Teams. This event is now firmly established in the QBA Calendar as the premier event of the year. In 2024 the pairs will be playing for the Reg Busch Trophy [teams] and the Joan McPheat Trophy [pairs].
- The Grand National Open Teams was moved from Tweed Heads [-2020] to Online [2021] and to the Queensland Contract Bridge Club in 2022. Of the 14 Queensland teams, only two made it to the third round where they were defeated by strong Melbourne and Sydney teams. Thanks to Ray Ellaway for his many years of service towards the running of this event for the ABF.
- The River City Gold Mixed Pairs [incorporating the Qld Mixed Pairs] was again held at the Toowong Bridge Club and attracted 86

pairs [20% increase on 2022]. Queenslanders Watson Zhou and Eileen Li held off strong challenges from several of Australia's top pairs.

- The Australian Bridge Federation has undergone a change to its governance structure (and Constitution) with the creation and appointment of a new position, Executive Director. We welcome David Fryda to the ABF Board. The ABF continues to support associations, clubs and players by virtue of:

- Developing further the capabilities of myABF including launching the Club Administration module for those wishing to use it;
- Promoting Youth Bridge by continuing with the popular Youth Week in January, launching free online Youth lessons courtesy of Paul Marston and supporting teams to the transnationals in Warsaw.

These are in addition to the regular offerings of a high-quality quarterly Newsletter together with the efficient support provided by the Masterpoints Centre;

- Several Novice and Restricted events have been held and their success indicates a healthy growth in numbers for that sector of our game;
- Youth Bridge continues to thrive, especially in Brisbane, thanks to the efforts of Michael Gearing who is supported by Paul Brake, Jim Evans, Pamela Evans and Sarah Strickland and many of the older 'youth'. Several of our players received QBA subsidies for their attendance at Youth Week in Canberra in January. Three of our players are part of an U26 Youth Women's team and some are featuring frequently in the winner's lists at congresses;

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- The Gold Coast International Congress 2024 was a great success with accolades coming from far and wide. Comments such as: “The organisation is first-rate and many overseas players believe it is one of the best tournaments in the world (measured on almost any metric you wish)” were endorsed by many. This year we had players from Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Netherlands, New Caledonia, Noumea, Singapore, Tahiti, Thailand, Wales, Scotland, England, the USA and of course New Zealand.

Whilst the QBA continues to have difficulties securing future dates from the Gold Coast Congress and Exhibition Centre, we continue to persevere and were quite relieved when the 2025 dates in early February were finally confirmed. With Kim and Ray Ellaway stepping down as GCC Managers, after 28 years of outstanding service, work is underway to create Team GCC 2025 to ensure that the high standards of the event are maintained and enhanced.

- We have received generous sponsorship from a number of organisations, most notably TBIB, but also Moore Australia, Australian Bridge Magazine, Paul Lavings Bridge Books and Supplies, Penline, NSWBA Spring Nationals, Stepbridge, The Two Men and a Truck, Stepbridge, Annette Maluish, David Stern, Jim Evans and others who wish to remain anonymous;
- Two new events have been added to the calendar in recent times: the QBA Christmas Pairs and the QBA March Pairs, both created and convened by Jan Peach. Entries were excellent and proof that the chosen dates were filling a need for our players. The surplus earned from these events help to support the QBA’s financial position, which, excluding the GCC, has always been quite marginal.
- Queensland Government Community Funding has been received after successful applications by QCBC, Mackay, Wynnum and Sunshine Coast CBC.

- The QBA is a multi-faceted, not-for-profit organisation which relies on the goodwill and voluntary support of many people at all levels. Here is a list of appreciation for everybody who has helped this year:

- QBA Manager;
- Management committee;
- Tournament committee;
- Finance committee;
- Director accreditation;
- Novice co-ordination;
- Youth co-ordination;
- Directors – national, state, congress and club;
- Bulletin editor and those who regularly contribute;
- State and club masterpoints co-ordinators;
- Legal Counsel;
- Treasurer;
- Gold Coast Congress convenor and his team 70+ people; and
- myABF liaison officer.

Looking ahead to 2024-2025 there are many challenges for us all:

- First and foremost is working towards increasing the number of new players – providing beginners’ lessons and then keeping them with us through supervised play, regular club duplicates, novice events and congresses. Key to this is creating a welcoming environment in our clubs and a non-negotiable zero tolerance of bad behaviour.
- It continues to be a time of post-Covid renewal and re-building for the QBA and this means focussing on promotion of all of our competitions but especially the QBA Festival in October, the Mackay and Townsville Barrier Reef Congresses, the River City Gold Mixed Pairs and other state events plus the zonal heats leading up to the new-look online GNOT Finals in September.
- We are also seeing greater use of myABF by tournament organisers and clubs as we are all become increasingly familiar with how it works.
- Next year Brisbane is hosting the Australian National Championships. The venue has been secured and planning under the leadership of Julie Jeffries is under way. ■

Gold Coast Congress



Barry Rigal

Three Tricky Slams

IN America and the UK, the two countries where I have played most of my bridge, tournaments are geared towards the expert. While there are major events that have Novice or Intermediate sections, I have become accustomed to seeing those events take place using separate boards and often starting at different times to the main events. As a consequence, the players in those events cannot but help forming the opinion that they are a side-event. When you don’t play the same hands as the experts you cannot discuss them and learn in the same way that you could if you played the same deals.

The national events in Australia are rather different. And specifically the Gold Coast (which I’m freely admitting is my favorite tournament of all time) is organised along completely different lines. I’ve been coming every year bar COVID since 2010 and I plan to come every year until they stop inviting me to write the bulletin!

The tournament is something of a family affair when it comes to the organisers – there have been only three convenors in the last 30 years, I believe. Kim Ellaway, who is retiring this year, has been the floor manager for the last 20 years or so. The same dedicated group of Queensland staff have worked themselves to the bone and pressed their family into duty to ensure everyone has a good time.

Bridge in Australia is an extremely friendly and laid-back affair. Yes, there are tournament director calls, but as a spectator I feel that they have mastered the combination of playing seriously but have not forgotten that bridge is a game.

This deal is from the penultimate round of the Open Teams Qualifying.

| | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|--|
| Dir S | ♠ 75 | | |
| Vul None | ♥ 9763 | | |
| | ♦ 42 | | |
| | ♣ Q10753 | | |
| ♠ 42 | | ♠ K106 | |
| ♥ AQJ10852 | | ♥ K | |
| ♦ 6 | | ♦ AKQ1087 | |
| ♣ 864 | | ♣ AJ2 | |
| | ♠ AQJ983 | | |
| | ♥ 4 | | |
| | ♦ J953 | | |
| | ♣ K9 | | |

| W | N | E | S |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| KozakosHughes | De Livera | Morrison | |
| 4H | P | 6NT | All pass |

After Morrison led a passive heart, De Livera had no choice but to run the hearts, reducing to one card in each black suit and four diamonds. Morrison was forced to reveal his shape, coming down to this position as he still had to discard on the last heart:

```

7
-
42
Q107
42      K
2        -
-        AKQ10
864     A
        AQ
        -
        J953
        K
    
```

Morrison discarded the king of clubs, and when declarer led a club to the ace he pitched the spade queen. Now De Livera took two top diamonds and exited with a spade for the endplay at trick 12.

Could the defenders have done better? It is conceivable that if South pitches the spade queen first, declarer might not read the ending. In Jean Besse's phrase, the club king is a neutrino. By showing void in a suit we sometimes turn inference into certainty for declarer.

Note equally that North must keep both diamonds or he turns the inference of the diamond count into certainty for declarer.

With six qualifying spots, only the

leading team was locked going into the last round. Everyone else in the top 11 could qualify with a blitz, or dial out with a big loss (in fact, the team running second fell all the way to tenth after a 14.64-5.36 loss).

Single deals made the difference between triumph and heartbreak in quite a few matches. For example, Sophie Ashton brought home a spectacular slam here, to eliminate the pre-tournament favourites Milne and edge her team into the top six.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|--|
| Dir W | ♠ 652 | | |
| Vul Both | ♥ 765 | | |
| | ♦ J108 | | |
| | ♣ J632 | | |
| ♠ Q4 | | ♠ AK3 | |
| ♥ K1042 | | ♥ AJ9 | |
| ♦ AK964 | | ♦ 32 | |
| ♣ Q8 | | ♣ A9754 | |
| | ♠ J10987 | | |
| | ♥ Q83 | | |
| | ♦ Q75 | | |
| | ♣ K10 | | |

| W | N | E | S |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|----------|
| Wilshire | Milne | Ashton | Coutts |
| 1NT | P | 3C ¹ | P |
| 3D ² | P | 4C | P |
| 5C | P | 6C | All pass |

¹Puppet stayman.
²No five-card major.

Ashton tried to show a five-card club suit and slam interest, and when Wiltshire did not sign off in 4NT she awarded herself a sixth club.

After the spade lead Ashton won the queen and cashed a diamond, then crossed to a top spade to lead a low club up. Coutts took his king and exited unsafely in hearts. Ashton won cheaply, unblocked the club queen and cashed the top diamond to ruff a diamond, then the top spade and hearts ending in dummy.

In the two-card ending with the lead in dummy she led a heart and executed a trump coup on Milne for a stellar 1370.

For the teams that did not qualify, there was a Swiss Pairs. Alan Watson and Rick Roeder went out with a bang on the final deal of the Reg and Joan Trophy Swiss Pairs.



Bobby Richman Pairs winners: Ella Jacob & Phil Markey



Sarah Jane Reid, Kim and Ray Ellaway, Pam Cridland and Gerald Schaaf

| | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|--|
| Dir S | ♠ KQJ7 | | |
| Vul EW | ♥ AQ93 | | |
| | ♦ Q1062 | | |
| | ♣ 5 | | |
| ♠ 986 | | ♠ 1032 | |
| ♥ J87 | | ♥ K10652 | |
| ♦ K83 | | ♦ A74 | |
| ♣ 10743 | | ♣ 98 | |
| | ♠ A54 | | |
| | ♥ 4 | | |
| | ♦ J95 | | |
| | ♣ AKQJ62 | | |

Watson opened 1♣ and jumped to 3NT over the 1♥ response, and Roeder raised to 6NT. Yes, East might have doubled for a heart lead, but then there would have been no story. Instead Watson received the lead of the nine of spades and ran four spades then six clubs, gleaning the information along the way that the heart finesse rated to lose. This was the ending as the last club hit the green baize:

| | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| — | | — |
| | AQ | |
| | Q10 | |
| — | | — |
| J8 | | K10 |
| K8 | | A7 |
| — | | — |
| | 4 | |
| | J9 | |
| | 2 | |

This position is known as a wrinkle, and the correct defence – often missed at the table, as it was here – is for West to bare his king and keep his hearts. When he does this, declarer can pitch a diamond from dummy (whereupon East discards his ace) or a heart (East also releasing a heart). Either way, the defence prevail.

Instead, West discarded a heart and dummy threw a diamond. East could not bare his king, so pitched the ace of diamonds to avoid being thrown in. Watson crossed to the ace of hearts and exited in diamonds, forcing West to give him trick 13 in his hand. ■

One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts.

25 Years Ago



Wynne Webber

Hands from the Gold Coast Congress 1999

As many of you know, for the last few years I have edited and put together the Daily Bulletin at the Gold Coast Congress. Every year I seem to have a few good hands left over that didn't make it into the bulletin—sometimes through lack of my time to get them in, sometimes because they arrive too late to be topical for a daily bulletin. Some of these hands feature players who may not be familiar to Queensland players who do not go to the Gold Coast, but they are nonetheless interesting, either for the bidding or the play, and they all feature players who are quite well-known, either nationally or, in the case of the Hackett twins, internationally.

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------|--|
| Dir N | ♠ 985 | | |
| Vul None | ♥ J9 | | |
| | ♦ KQ1097654 | | |
| | ♣ — | | |
| ♠ AJ63 | | ♠ Q107 | |
| ♥ KQ85 | | ♥ A1073 | |
| ♦ 3 | | ♦ AJ | |
| ♣ AQ72 | | ♣ 9864 | |
| | ♠ K42 | | |
| | ♥ 642 | | |
| | ♦ 82 | | |
| | ♣ KJ1053 | | |

Nick Hughes was North, and his wife, Nicoleta Giura, was South. EW was Anthony Silver and David Mcleish, a Melbourne pair who played on the winning team in 1998.

North opened 4♦ and East doubled. West bid 5♦ (I have a great hand partner, and I can support anything), East bid 5♥, and West raised this to 6♥. Nick doubled this for a lead. He wrote:

'It's always risky to make a Lightner double in pairs. If partner guesses wrong, or you're ruffing a loser, or just saving an overtrick, it's

an intergalactic bottom. Anyway, Nicoleta led the ♣J, ruffed, and declarer later had to lose a club for +100 to us.

'Tom Kiss also opened 4♦, which his partner alerted (even though it's past 3NT). "Namyats" is my pet hate, and Tom and his partner had no agreement. South, Tony Burke, corrected to 4♣ and Tommy passed serenely when West doubled. For this he should get an active ethics award. 4♣X went –1100, definitely one of those intergalactic bottoms, unless someone doubled 6♣ and it made...'

LOGICAL DEDUCTION by PeterGill

| | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|--|
| Dir S | ♠ K82 | | |
| Vul EW | ♥ A632 | | |
| | ♦ A | | |
| | ♣ KJ832 | | |
| ♠ QJ10 | | ♠ A4 | |
| ♥ Q74 | | ♥ KJ95 | |
| ♦ KQ62 | | ♦ J9873 | |
| ♣ 764 | | ♣ Q10 | |
| | ♠ 97653 | | |
| | ♥ 108 | | |
| | ♦ 1054 | | |
| | ♣ A95 | | |

Peter Jamieson was North and Peter Gill was South. North opened 1NT (sticklers for protocol seldom win pairs events), and South bid 2♥, transferred to spades.

Against 2♠ by North, East led the ♦7 to the queen and ace. North led a low heart to East's jack, and a diamond to West's king was ruffed.

North led a club to dummy's ace and ruffed another diamond; then played the ♥A, followed by a heart ruff. He then led a spade from dummy to his bare king, taken by East's ace. East exited with the low trump, taken by West's jack. West continued with another diamond, ruffed with dummy's last trump.

Now it was crunch time for Peter Jamieson. He had to decide whether East or West had the ♣Q. He decided that West would have opened with a 12-count, even though it was 3-3-4-3 in shape and aceless. Therefore he led a low club to his king, dropping East's queen and making nine tricks for +140, an excellent pairs score for NS.

On the same hand Matthew McManus and Kylie Robb had a bidding misunderstanding in the championship and ended up in 3NT, played by West.

South had bid spades along the way, and so North led ♠K. Matthew took this with dummy's ace and made the key play of the ♠J from hand. He then led a diamond to his king and North's ace, and a trusting North continued with another spade, taken by Matthew's queen. Next Matthew set about knocking out the ♥A, and, you guessed it, North continued with the third spade. And so West made three spade tricks, three hearts and four diamonds for +630 EW!

Leigh Gold of Melbourne and his partner, Derick Daus, held the NS cards.

| | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|--|
| Dir W | ♠ KJ9 | | |
| Vul NS | ♥ AKQ8 | | |
| | ♦ A76 | | |
| | ♣ Q32 | | |
| ♠ 1084 | | ♠ A75 | |
| ♥ 42 | | ♥ J10 | |
| ♦ 10952 | | ♦ KJ83 | |
| ♣ 10876 | | ♣ AJ54 | |
| | | ♠ Q632 | |
| | | ♥ 97653 | |
| | | ♦ Q4 | |
| | | ♣ K9 | |

Leigh opened 2NT (20-21 hcp) and Derick responded 3♣ (5-card major Stayman). Then 3♦ (I have a 4-card major), followed by 3♥ (tell me) and 3NT (it's hearts). Derick passed this out.

East led the ♥J, won with the ace. North continued with the ♠K, won by the ace, and East got off lead with the second heart.

North then led a small club towards the king. East couldn't rise with the ace because this would present declarer with two club tricks, and so the ♠K won. North continued with three more rounds of hearts and, on the third round of spades, it came to this end position with the lead on the table.

It's not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.

| | |
|------------|----|
| | — |
| | — |
| | A7 |
| | Q3 |
| Irrelevant | — |
| | KJ |
| | AJ |
| | 2 |
| | — |
| | Q4 |
| | 9 |

On the last spade North pitched a club, and East could resign. They could only win one more trick. Eventually East threw a club, and Leigh led a club to the ace, endplaying East in diamonds for 11 tricks. A simple (!!!) strip squeeze and endplay as he told me.

HEART ATTACK!

| | | | |
|--------|----------|----------|--|
| Dir W | ♠ AK8652 | | |
| Vul EW | ♥ J7 | | |
| | ♦ 6 | | |
| | ♣ 10843 | | |
| ♠ 743 | | ♠ 109 | |
| ♥ A982 | | ♥ Q1054 | |
| ♦ J74 | | ♦ 8532 | |
| ♣ Q65 | | ♣ 972 | |
| | | ♠ QJ | |
| | | ♥ K63 | |
| | | ♦ AKQ109 | |
| | | ♣ AKJ | |

Nice cards for NS, aren't they? At one table, North opened 2♦ (multi-two); South bid 2NT (14+ and an enquiry); North rebid 3♦ (strong weak 2 in spades); South bid 4♣ (Gerber); North replied 4♥ (1 ace); South passed!!!

East led the ♦9 and EW reviewed the bidding, but in their own words because they also played multi-twos. South suddenly realised their mistake and was suffering. South thought that partner had a big heart hand until dummy went down! Showing no emotion, declarer said, 'Thank you, partner,' and thought, 'How many down?' First trick, ♦A; then ♦K and ♦Q, discarding two clubs. The ♦J fell on the third round, so declarer continued with the ♦10, West ruffing with the ♥8, overruffed with the ♥J.

So far so good, four tricks...Small spade to the ♠Q; then the ♠J, all following. Another sigh of relief

as East drops the ♠10 and ♠9. Six tricks. Hah! this game is easy. The ♣A was followed by the ♣K and ♣J, ruffed with the ♥7 in dummy - another miracle that clubs were 3-3 and no over-ruff. Nine tricks...and home as declarer leads the ♠A from dummy and can trump higher than East with the ♥K!

Think of the agony of East and West as their last six trumps all fell together on the last three tricks. My contributor says that it was a lucky escape all round. At the other table, the spade slam (cold if declared by South) was not bid.

FROM AN UNKNOWN...

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|--|
| Dir N | ♠ K1096 | | |
| Vul None | ♥ QJ53 | | |
| | ♦ 98 | | |
| | ♣ KJ5 | | |
| ♠ 4 | | ♠ A8752 | |
| ♥ A7 | | ♥ 10964 | |
| ♦ A654 | | ♦ Q | |
| ♣ 1098742 | | ♣ AQ3 | |
| | | ♠ QJ2 | |
| | | ♥ K82 | |
| | | ♦ KJ10732 | |
| | | ♣ 6 | |

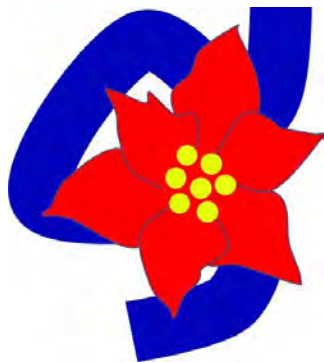
An unnamed contributor writes: 'Our opponents bid to 3NT at both tables!'

At the first table, East opened 1♠; South overcalled 2♦; West bid 3♣(!); East continued with 3♥ and West had the final say with 3NT. North led a diamond (well, partner had bid them), and the contract quietly went one off.

At the second table, things were a little more exciting. First, the bidding: North opened 1♣(!); East overcalled 1♠; South bid 2♦; North rebid 2NT; South liked their hand so much that they raised that to 3NT.

'East led the ♥9; West played the ace and Grosvenored the defence by putting back a heart. North went for the necessary spade trick first. East took the ace and played the ♣Q. West followed with the 2 and then, when in with the ♦A, at last played the ♠10. Declarer got it wrong...three off.'

One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts.



RIVER CITY GOLD MIXED PAIRS 2024

Hosted by TOOWONG BRIDGE CLUB
22 Roy Street AUCHENFLOWER QLD 4066

Gold Masterpoints and ABF Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP)

Residentially qualified pairs also play for the Queensland Mixed Pairs Title
and the Queensland Novice Mixed Pairs Title

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th May

9.30 am start both days

All ENTRIES and PAYMENTS on



\$180 per entry

Chief Director: Alan Gibson

Tournament Organiser: Janet Lovell

E: tbccompetitions@gmail.com T: 0409 387 527

- ABF Regulations as modified by the Supplementary Regulations apply
- Green, Blue and Red systems and Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments
- Swiss Pairs - Matchpoints converted to VPs - 12 x 9 board matches

LUNCH INCLUDED

(Please self-cater if you have dietary needs)

Wellness Guidelines

Players and officials are asked not to attend any event if they are infectious, or if they are supposed to be isolating or quarantining. Those who come to play and, feeling unwell, self-diagnose that they may be infectious, should inform the director and leave the venue.





MACKAY CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

PRESENTS



28th BARRIER REEF CONGRESS 2024

3 - 6 MAY 2024

VENUE: 500 PAVILION, THE SHOWGROUNDS
MILTON STREET, MACKAY QUEENSLAND

Chief Director: Jan Peach | Senior Director: Peter Busch
Tournament Organiser: Diane Morgan 0427 574 328 | 07 4951 2147
Email: brc2024mky@gmail.com



Arana Teams



Peter
Evans

THE 2024 Arana Teams, the last hit out before the Gold Coast Congress, attracted a capacity field of 32 teams. We were treated to the usual terrific hospitality of the Arana Club and an event smoothly run by director Julie Jeffries.

The event was convincingly won by **Francis** (Neville Francis, Tony Hutton, Pele Rankin, Kim Morrison) who led most of the way. My team, **Evans** (Peter Evans, Tony Treloar, Therese Tully, Richard Ward) were second.

The B division was won by **Li** (Eileen Li, Greg Lee, Martin Qin, Bob Ren) with **Murtagh** (Ross Murtagh, Daria Williams, Shane Palfreyman, Sonia Palfreyman) second.

The C division was won by **Koster** (Barry Koster, Barbara Mackay, Sameer Pandya, Lyn Tracey) with second taken by **McGowan** (Jenny McGowan, Vanessa Brewis, Andrew Sharp, Susan Sharp).

This was my inauspicious start to the day with my partner Tony West.

| | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|--|
| Dlr E | ♠ AQ | | |
| Vul EW | ♥ A1052 | | |
| | ♦ K65 | | |
| | ♣ AKQ6 | | |
| ♠ K97432 | | ♠ J1086 | |
| ♥ Q43 | | ♥ 987 | |
| ♦ 983 | | ♦ Q42 | |
| ♣ 10 | | ♣ 743 | |
| | | ♠ 5 | |
| | | ♥ KJ6 | |
| | | ♦ AJ107 | |
| | | ♣ J9852 | |

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| W | N | E | S |
| 2D ¹ | X | 2H ² | P ³ |
| 2S | X | 3S | X ⁴ |
| P | P ⁵ | P | |

¹ Multi

² Pass or correct. I'd normally bid 3♥ pass or correct in line with the nine

trump fit but the adverse vulnerability and the flatness of my hand (rightly) put me off.

³ South really has to do more with a 10 count. I'd bid 3♣, which I play as invite values with my partners (weaker club hands would go through a 2NT 3C Lebensohl style puppet). North should have little trouble finding 6♣ opposite such a bid.

⁴ An attempted responsive/takeout double.

⁵ Christmas is early this year.

The defence had little difficulty taking seven tricks outside spades and the ♠AQ for a -1400. This was a sharp re-education on not sacrificing with flat hands and not trying to rely on the mystic qualities of the law of total tricks to protect you. I realised from my three points that a small or grand slam was on the other way. However, giving Tony a maximal hand for his bid of ♠KQ and say ♥A, I was going to lose six tricks outside trumps and the ♠A for -800. This was a best case scenario and you're obviously well down on that part of the field that can't find slams (-800 vs -420 or -490) and not gaining much on the rest who are likely to be in a minor suit small slam at best (-800 vs -920). Give Tony a lesser hand by taking away one of those critical cards and you're clearly down too much with -1100.

Given only nine out of 32 pairs found a slam, I suspect I wasn't the only one who got a little too enterprising with the EW cards, but I was the only one who got his fingers jammed in the cookie jar.

Another possibility for the death of slams is one of my pet hates – the 20-22 2NT opening, assuming a pass from West. I think this is too wide a range and 20-21 is preferable. Opposite a 2♣ opening and a 2NT (22-23) rebid, South is much more likely to take slam action. Even opposite a 20-22 2NT opening, if you have 3♣ minor suit Stayman available or a bid showing the 5/4 minor holding, you shouldn't have too much trouble finding the 6♣ small slam.

However, one of the nice things about teams is you get to choose adults as your teammates. Slinking back to the home table with a -1400, I found our teammates had bid and made 7♣ for +1440 and the team had gained 1 IMP on the board!

This was a very testing hand for declarers and defenders:

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|--|
| Dlr N | ♠ A109842 | | |
| Vul None | ♥ KJ107 | | |
| | ♦ 5 | | |
| | ♣ K7 | | |
| ♠ J73 | | ♠ Q6 | |
| ♥ 982 | | ♥ AQ6543 | |
| ♦ 10732 | | ♦ Q64 | |
| ♣ A106 | | ♣ Q4 | |
| | | ♠ K5 | |
| | | ♥ — | |
| | | ♦ AKJ98 | |
| | | ♣ J98532 | |

| | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | 1S | 2H | 3C |
| P | 3S | P | 4S |
| All pass | | | |

At the home table (and at some other tables), the defence tried an incautious ♥A opening lead (possibly because hearts were bid and raised?). This could now be ruffed, two rounds of trumps drawn, and a club thrown on the second round of diamonds. The defence get just the ♣A, ♥Q and a trump.

Some defenders tried the ♣Q, which should also have given the contract to the declarer. Assuming a club continuation, declarer can

- 1) lead a large heart and ruff if it is covered,
- 2) play the ♠K, ♦AK throwing the ♥7, and
- 3) ruff a diamond to hand and play the ♠A

again losing just the ♣A, a heart and a trump.

I gave my declarer the much more testing ♦4 lead. This scissors contact with dummy outside of trumps and puts declarer on the spot for the diamond finesse. He declined the diamond finesse and eventually lost the ♠A, one trump, one overruff and one heart.

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Dir E ♠ AQ983
 Vul NS ♥ Q9
 ♦ J7
 ♣ 9742

♠ KJ62 ♠ 1075
 ♥ AK8654 ♥ J2
 ♦ K104 ♦ AQ9652
 ♣ — ♣ 63

♠ 4
 ♥ 1073
 ♦ 83
 ♣ AKQJ1085

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------|---------------|
| W | N | E | S |
| 3H ¹ | P | 3D 4H | P All pass |

¹Forcing

It's almost de rigueur these days at favourable vulnerability (non-vul vs vul) to pre-empt one more than you normally would. It gave South a very difficult decision and kept NS from the bidding. I decided an honour doubleton was enough to support Tony's hearts. He ruffed the club lead and played three rounds of hearts. The defence got just the ♠A Q and a heart.

It's nice when you use scientific bidding and it actually works for a change.

Dir W ♠ A875
 Vul None ♥ K108
 ♦ J854
 ♣ 82

♠ 32 ♠ Q104
 ♥ Q ♥ A7643
 ♦ AKQ32 ♦ —
 ♣ J10764 ♣ AK953

♠ KJ96
 ♥ J952
 ♦ 10976
 ♣ Q

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|---|
| W | N | E | S |
| 1D | P | 1H | P |
| 2C | P | 4C ¹ | P |
| 4D ² | P | 4H ² | P |
| 5C | All pass | | |

¹ Setting the suit and angling for 6C, asking for control bids

²First or second round control

Finding ourselves wide open in spades, Tony and I stopped in 5♣ making 11. I began to fret that 6♣ could be blasted at the other table

on not overly informative bidding and the slam made on a non-spade lead. I shouldn't have worried: These being a fan of leading aces vs slams led the ♠A and made short work of the 6♣ at her table.

Following on from the last hand, the theme of the day was possible slams which turned out to be will-o'-wisps.

Dir E ♠ K10765
 Vul Both ♥ Q
 ♦ QJ6
 ♣ 9432

♠ 8 ♠ 94
 ♥ K642 ♥ A9875
 ♦ 108542 ♦ K3
 ♣ K105 ♣ Q876

♠ AQJ32
 ♥ J103
 ♦ A97
 ♣ AJ

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------|----|
| W | N | E | S |
| P | 4H ¹ | P | 1S |
| P | 5S | All pass | 5C |

¹ Game going splinter in hearts

Declarer lost a diamond, a heart and a club to go one off. The 4♥ bid from North is definitely an overbid, but there isn't a good descriptive bid for the hand in basic bridge. You don't want to get partner excited, but given the 10-card trump fit and the heart shortage you want to play it in game. I think a direct 4♠ is best, though it is an underbid on what you are holding. Any form of limit bid runs the risk of being passed. In our system, Tony and I are able to accurately describe the North hand as an 8-loser splinter in hearts and we would get to the right spot without any mishaps.

While appreciating the temptation, as South I think I would have settled for 4♠ opposite the 4♥ splinter. With a sure heart loser, you're wanting partner to turn up with something like ♠K, ♦K Q and the ♠K; or the ♠K and ♦K Q J x for a solid slam. This looks a little optimistic and as we all know partner never has exactly the right stuff.

The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in it.

Now my turn for some slam attempt overbidding.

Dir W ♠ 973
 Vul Both ♥ AJ10754
 ♦ 53
 ♣ J3

♠ QJ10842 ♠ A5
 ♥ Q8 ♥ 9
 ♦ 64 ♦ AKQ10872
 ♣ A109 ♣ KQ4

♠ K6
 ♥ K632
 ♦ J9
 ♣ 87652

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------|----------|
| W | N | E | S |
| 2D ¹ | P | 2NT ² | P |
| 3S ³ | P | 4NT ⁴ | P |
| 5C ⁵ | P | 5S | All pass |

¹ Multi

² Strong relay

³ Upper end of a weak 2S opening

⁴ Key card

⁵ 1 or 4

It was just possible for Tony (West) to have the ♠K Q and an outside ace for the upper end of a weak-2 but not so strong that it would have to be opened 1♠. Two aces and the trump queen were highly unlikely as too strong for a weak-2 opening. Despite knowing the odds weren't good, I had a look and stopped in 5♠ missing the two key cards. The safer 5♦ couldn't be bid as it would constitute a trump queen ask over the 5♣ bid.

The defence was deadly accurate:

1. The ♣J opening lead to the ♣K and ♥9 led and won by South's ♥K.
2. South continued clubs, won in the West hand with the ♠A, and ♥Q was ruffed low
3. The ♠A, ♦AK, then ♦Q ruffed with the ♠10 and the ♠Q led to South's ♠K.
4. A third club was led by South and ruffed for the setting trick.

Fortunately, my opposite number at the home table also made a slam attempt and was in 5♠ down one on similar defence.

To open one notrump with a five-card major is not a misdemeanor but a felony.

I managed to stay out of trouble on this board:

| | | | |
|---------|----------|------------|--|
| Dir W | ♠ 7543 | | |
| Vul NS | ♥ K52 | | |
| | ♦ 742 | | |
| | ♣ 865 | | |
| ♠ Q1096 | | ♠ A8 | |
| ♥ J87 | | ♥ AQ43 | |
| ♦ AK986 | | ♦ — | |
| ♣ Q | | ♣ AJ109432 | |
| | ♠ KJ2 | | |
| | ♥ 1096 | | |
| | ♦ QJ1053 | | |
| | ♣ K7 | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|----------|
| W | N | E | S |
| 1D | P | 2C ¹ | P |
| 2D ² | P | 2H ³ | P |
| 2NT | P | 3NT | All pass |

- ¹ Just 10+ not two over one bidding
- ² 12-13 minimal hand
- ³ Natural game force

It's also tempting to proceed onwards with this hand. However, Tony's bid of 2NT suggested something in spades and less than 3 clubs. Given Tony's minimal opening and the misfitting look of the hands I decided to go quietly with 3NT, making 11 tricks. At the home table, our opposition pair bid to 6NT going one off.

| | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|--|
| Dir W | ♠ A5 | | |
| Vul Both | ♥ A97532 | | |
| | ♦ — | | |
| | ♣ AK932 | | |
| ♠ Q2 | | ♠ J6 | |
| ♥ J64 | | ♥ K8 | |
| ♦ AJ9762 | | ♦ 10854 | |
| ♣ 87 | | ♣ QJ1064 | |
| | ♠ K1098743 | | |
| | ♥ Q10 | | |
| | ♦ KQ3 | | |
| | ♣ 5 | | |

Another tricky hand where five pairs reached 6♣. Four got the helpful lead of the ♦A – this can be ruffed, then ♠A, ♣AK throwing a heart, ♥A and ruff a heart to hand and draw trumps for all 13 tricks.

I don't think the contract can be legitimately made on the testing ♣8 lead eg:

1. ♣AK throwing the ♥10.
2. ♥A, ruff a heart, ruff ♦3, ♠A.

3. If South psychically leads another heart (a club will get overruffed and the ♦A set the contract), East must be careful to upper cut with a ♠J ruff so that West scores the ♠Q and the ♦A.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|--|
| Dir N | ♠ J | | |
| Vul None | ♥ K2 | | |
| | ♦ Q8753 | | |
| | ♣ QJ1042 | | |
| ♠ 872 | | ♠ A10643 | |
| ♥ J10953 | | ♥ 6 | |
| ♦ 104 | | ♦ KJ62 | |
| ♣ A75 | | ♣ K98 | |
| | ♠ KQ95 | | |
| | ♥ AQ874 | | |
| | ♦ A9 | | |
| | ♣ 63 | | |

| | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | P | 1S | 1NT |
| 2S | 3C | P | 3D |
| All pass | | | |

My very capable opponents didn't seem sure of what they were doing over the 2♣ interference over the 1NT overcall. I use a simple "system on" with 1NT overcalls and thus Lebensohl or Rubinsohl or whatever you use over interference to 1NT bids.

3♦ was inevitably one down, losing the ♣AK, ♠A and ♦KJ.

The North hand isn't an easy one to assess. Ignoring the ♠J, you have a quacky eight count and two not terribly good 5-card suits. It's clearly worth at least an invite, but at teams I think I'd bash 3NT and hope for the best.

Our teammates got to 3NT by South. It can be defeated in a number of ways, but the defence is not at all easy. A spade opening lead (given a 1♣ opening), a spade continuation,

and then a failure to duck the first round of clubs was enough for Richard Ward to sneak the contract home. ■

Ethical Dilemmas



Matthew McManus

Multiple choice - What should you do when your partner gives an explanation of your bid that doesn't match your hand?

1. Nothing
2. Call the Director
3. Go and talk to the Director away from the table
4. Tell your opponents
5. Sigh/Roll your eyes
6. Leave

While #6 may be an attractive alternative, the correct answer is actually #1. Option #3 is obviously the one that feels right, because when I'm directing that's what most people seem to do. While I am sure that most players think that they are trying to be "ethical", the Laws specifically require that, at least for the time being, you should do nothing.

So, when do you say that something has gone wrong? Well, that depends....

Case 1: Your partner has described your agreement correctly, but you don't have that hand – for instance, you forgot the system, you missorted your hand, or you miscounted your points. In this case, you have no responsibility to tell your opponents



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and, in fact, you shouldn't say anything. (BUT you must be absolutely sure that your partner has described your agreement correctly.)

Case 2: Your partner has misdescribed your agreement, and you become declarer or dummy. In this case, you should call the director and tell the opponents after the auction is finished and before the opening lead is made. The reason for calling the director is that he may be able to take some action which could reduce the problems caused by the misexplanation.

Case 3: Your partner has misdescribed your agreement, and you become a defender. In this case, you must not say anything until the play of the hand is completely finished. Now fess up. If the opponents ended up with a poor score and may have done something different with the right information, the director may adjust the score. (Note that just because the opponents got the wrong explanation, that doesn't mean that the director will improve their score. Each situation is considered on a case by case basis.) The reason you don't do anything until the end of the hand is that as a defender, your partner is still very much involved in the hand. You cannot "wake him up" that you don't have the hand he thinks you have by pointing out his error.

The absolute worst thing that you can do is say nothing when you know that partner has – however innocently – misled the opponents. That is unethical.

This article looks at the player's responsibility in relation to what the opponents need to be told. There are further issues relating to what action you might take in the auction when you know because of the explanation that you and partner are not on the same wavelength. I will consider those in the next issue. ■

At bridge, the bad apples are the ones who cannot shake off a lurking feeling of inadequacy. To compensate, they are inclined to berate their partner and/or the opponents by belittling their efforts.

The Leaderboard in a Swiss Pairs Event – What is the maths telling us?

This was the leaderboard going into the 7th and final round of the prestigious BBC Easter Pairs.

| Rank | Names | average % |
|------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Paul Gosney-Kate MacDonald | 57.2 |
| 2 | Lyn Martin-Jim Martin | 56.8 |
| 3 | Nik Moore-Rachel Langdon | 54.7 |
| 4 | Tony Hutton-Ali Dawson | 54.5 |
| 5 | Neville Francis-Charlie Lu | 54.4 |
| 6 | Peter Evans-John Kelly | 53.2 |
| 7 | Jill Magee-Terry Strong | 53.2 |
| 8 | Jenny Hay-Ralph Parker | 53.0 |
| 9 | Kim Morrison-Seb Langdon-MacMillan | 51.4 |

The leaderboard looks incredibly tight with 1st playing 2nd in the final round. Bring it on!

The reality is that the margins are SIX times greater than they appear. Why is that?

This is because the event is almost over with six scores contributing to the percentage shown with only one score still to be added. That 57.2% is obtained as if the first placed pair obtained 57.2% on each of the first six rounds. Likewise for the other pairs.

| Rank | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | Total | Margin |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 57.2 | 57.2 | 57.2 | 57.2 | 57.2 | 57.2 | 343.2 | 0.0 |
| 2 | 56.8 | 56.8 | 56.8 | 56.8 | 56.8 | 56.8 | 340.8 | 2.4 |
| 3 | 54.7 | 54.7 | 54.7 | 54.7 | 54.7 | 54.7 | 328.3 | 14.9 |
| 4 | 54.5 | 54.5 | 54.5 | 54.5 | 54.5 | 54.5 | 327.0 | 16.2 |
| 5 | 54.4 | 54.4 | 54.4 | 54.4 | 54.4 | 54.4 | 326.5 | 16.7 |
| 6 | 53.2 | 53.2 | 53.2 | 53.2 | 53.2 | 53.2 | 319.0 | 24.2 |
| 7 | 53.2 | 53.2 | 53.2 | 53.2 | 53.2 | 53.2 | 318.9 | 24.3 |
| 8 | 53.0 | 53.0 | 53.0 | 53.0 | 53.0 | 53.0 | 317.7 | 25.5 |
| 9 | 51.4 | 51.4 | 51.4 | 51.4 | 51.4 | 51.4 | 308.2 | 35.0 |

So, 2nd place needs to score just 2.4% more than 1st place in order to overtake them. On this occasion, 1st is playing 2nd, so 51.5% to 48.5% will be enough to overtake them. Of course, there is always the risk of being swamped by one or two pairs flashing home from further back in the field! After all, they didn't turn up to be part of the "also ran".

How should 3rd place assess the situation? 1st place has a 14.9% start on them. So, 3rd will need to score 15% more than current 1st. So, a 65% round is the go. Of course, you will also need 1st and 2nd to square their match, a big ask. Similarly reasoning applies for pairs further back in the field.

So, the general strategy is to calculate how far you are really behind 1st place and add 50% to determine your goal. You don't need to work with the total score. You can simply calculate the difference shown on the leaderboard, multiply by 6 and add 50%. For example, 3rd place is 2.5% behind 1st place. $6 \times 2.5\%$ gives us 15%. Add 50% gives us 65%. If 3rd place can score 65% on the last round, they are in with a shot.

■Ken Dawson

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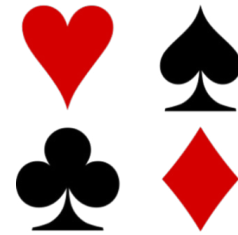
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| | | |
|----------|---------|--------|
| Dir S | ♠ 763 | ♠ K985 |
| Vul Both | ♥ 9542 | ♥ K87 |
| | ♦ A104 | ♦ 953 |
| | ♣ 984 | ♣ 1072 |
| | ♠ 102 | ♠ AQJ4 |
| | ♥ Q63 | ♥ AJ10 |
| | ♦ J76 | ♦ KQ82 |
| | ♣ KQJ63 | ♣ A5 |

| | | | |
|---|-----|----------|------------------|
| W | N | E | S |
| P | 3NT | All pass | 2NT ¹ |

¹ 21-22 hcps

West led the king of clubs, asking for a count signal from East. Declarer played low from hand at trick one but had to win the continuation of the queen of clubs, as East signalled that he had begun with an odd number of cards in the suit.

After winning the ace of clubs at trick two, declarer concluded that clubs were 5-3. So, barring a blockage in that suit, he could not afford to lose the lead. As he had only five sure winners beside the ace of clubs, his best hope was that East had the king of spades. In that case he could make three tricks in spades if he had two entries to dummy for finesses in the suit. On that premise, he would be home if he could take four diamond tricks too.

The only suit that could provide entries to dummy was diamonds. However, the only sure entry in the suit was the ace of diamonds. Since he needed two entries to dummy, declarer cashed the king of diamonds and then led a low diamond toward dummy. When West followed with a second low diamond declarer called for dummy's ten of diamonds, which won the trick.

Declarer continued with a low spade from dummy to his jack. When that held, he crossed back to dummy with a low diamond to the ace to lead a second spade toward his hand. After East followed with a small spade declarer played the queen of spades from hand. Once that held he claimed nine tricks: three spades, a heart, four diamonds and a club.

| | | |
|--------|----------|------------|
| Dir N | ♠ J2 | ♠ K1098653 |
| Vul NS | ♥ K974 | ♥ 82 |
| | ♦ Q65 | ♦ 9 |
| | ♣ AKJ7 | ♣ 942 |
| | ♠ 7 | ♠ AQ4 |
| | ♥ AQJ105 | ♥ 63 |
| | ♦ K1083 | ♦ AJ742 |
| | ♣ 1086 | ♣ Q53 |

| | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| All pass | 1C | 3S | 3NT |

West led the queen of hearts. Declarer played low from dummy but covered the jack of hearts continuation with the king. When the latter held, declarer paused to assess his chances. On the assumption that East had the king of spades, declarer counted eight winners in total. While a winning diamond finesse would win the day, the bidding suggested that the odds were against East holding the king.

As the heart suit appeared to be 5=2, declarer decided to gather more information. At trick three, he called for dummy's jack of spades. East covered this with the king and declarer took this with the ace. Next, declarer cashed the queen of spades on which West threw a diamond, confirming that the suit was originally divided 1=7. Declarer then ran the club suit, with East discarding a spade and West a diamond on the thirteenth club.

Declarer counted West as having begun with 1=5=4=3 shape, giving East a singleton diamond. So, instead of leading a diamond, declarer called for dummy's nine of hearts, West took three heart tricks with the ace, ten and five. Declarer

threw three low diamonds from hand and another low diamond from dummy on the hearts, reducing to the ace-jack of diamonds opposite the queen-six in dummy. As West had only the king doubleton of diamonds remaining, declarer would take the last two tricks for his contract no matter which diamond West played next.

| | | |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| Dir N | ♠ AJ | ♠ 6 |
| Vul EW | ♥ KJ92 | ♥ 107653 |
| | ♦ 64 | ♦ 75 |
| | ♣ K7642 | ♣ AQ853 |
| | ♠ K103 | ♠ Q987542 |
| | ♥ Q84 | ♥ A |
| | ♦ J832 | ♦ AKQ109 |
| | ♣ J109 | ♣ — |

| | | | |
|---|-----|----------|-----------------|
| W | N | E | S |
| P | 1C | P | 1S |
| P | 1NT | P | 2D ¹ |
| P | 2H | P | 3S |
| P | 4S | P | 6D |
| P | 6S | All pass | |

¹ Game forcing enquiry.

This deal came up in a team game where the team that was ahead stopped in game. As North-South needed a swing, South took a rather agricultural approach to reaching the slam.

West led the jack of clubs. While declarer might have bought a dummy more favourable than he deserved, he still had to make twelve tricks. This would come if he could hold his losers in trumps and diamonds to one. So, declarer played a low club from dummy and ruffed it in hand. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts at trick two. Next he led a low trump to dummy's jack and was pleased when it held while East followed with a low trump.

Most players would cash the ace of trumps at this point and, when it proved that West had a trump trick, rely on playing the diamond suit without loss. However, this declarer spotted an extra chance. Instead of cashing the ace of trumps, he called for the king of hearts. After discarding the nine of diamonds from hand, declarer advanced the nine of hearts from dummy and ruffed it in

hand, felling West's queen of hearts. Dummy was re-entered with a trump to the ace to play the jack of hearts as a parking place for the ten of diamonds.

You should note that ruffing the third round of hearts was not without the risk of West overruffing. The good news is that if West began with a doubleton king of trumps when this occurred declarer would be a favourite to get the trick back by ruffing a diamond in dummy -- thereby establishing the ten of diamonds. Also, if West overruffed with the ten then he had a natural trump trick anyway.

Overall declarer's line has about a four-in-five chance of success once the jack of trumps holds at trick three.

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Dir S | ♠ K863 |
| Vul EW | ♥ 74 |
| | ♦ 8652 |
| | ♣ QJ8 |
| ♠ 5 | ♠ 742 |
| ♥ J632 | ♥ KQ985 |
| ♦ J10 | ♦ KQ3 |
| ♣ K76532 | ♣ 104 |
| | ♠ AQJ109 |
| | ♥ A10 |
| | ♦ A974 |
| | ♣ A9 |

| | | | |
|----------|----|---|----|
| W | N | E | S |
| P | 2S | P | 4S |
| All pass | | | |

After West leads the jack of diamonds, this deal can be used to illustrate the three stages of declarer play.

Those in the first stage will win the first trick with the ace of diamonds then draw three rounds of trumps, ending in dummy. Next the queen of clubs is run to West's king. Eventually, East will win the second round of diamonds and shift to a heart honour. As there will be no entry to left to enter dummy to cash the jack of clubs, declarer will lose a heart, two diamonds and a club for down one.

A declarer with a little more experience would observe that he could never make an overtrick. So, after winning the ace of diamonds and drawing two rounds of trumps

with ace and queen, this level of declarer plays ace and another club instead of relying on the 50-50 chance of the club finesse winning. When West produced the king of clubs declarer would be pleased that the club finesse would have failed. Alas, West can play a third round of clubs which East ruffs, leaving declarer with a heart and two diamonds to lose for down one.

The expert declarer alters this second approach by leading the nine of clubs at trick four instead of cashing

the ace of clubs before leading the low club. West will rise with the king of clubs and is likely to exit with a diamond. After winning this trick with the queen of diamonds, East will return the king of hearts. Declarer wins this with the ace of hearts, cashes the ace of clubs then leads a trump to dummy's king to shed his heart loser on the established queen of clubs. After conceding a diamond, declarer can claim ten tricks – five trumps, a heart, two diamonds and two clubs. ■

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The course will be in May 2024. It will consist of four lessons and four practice sessions of about one hour, and the whole thing will be entirely free. This course is a one-off. It will not be repeated.

The goal is to create a community of young bridge players who play in regular duplicates together. To achieve this goal, they will need to have a good number of students in the course.

Here they will need the help of the wider bridge community. We ask you to encourage all the kids you know to get on board and have a go. Please help us to reach a critical mass.

The link to register will be available in the next ABF Newsletter and on the ABF website at the end of March. Please pass this link on to any potential new students. It will provide them with interesting additional information, with an opportunity to grab a seat once bookings finally open. If you send an email to youthlessons@bridgelounge.online we will notify you when registrations open.

Why should kids learn bridge?

- **Teamwork:** You always have a partner when you play bridge, so the game teaches you how to work together.
- **Bridge is a great way to make new friends.**
- **Cognitive Skills:** Since many of the cards are hidden, bridge is a strategic game. It helps to develop a young player's reasoning, logic, and critical thinking skills.
- **Competition and Travel:** Bridge students can go on to participate in Youth Bridge competitions locally, regionally, and internationally. Many trips are partially or fully funded. These events teach sportsmanship – how to be good winners and good losers. They also provide opportunities for kids to travel and see the world.

Why should kids learn with Paul and Nevena?

They can handle numbers. More than 2,000 students graduated from Paul and Nevena's course between June 2020 to June 2023 with greater than 95% retention. True, these were adults and kids are different.

That is the challenge ahead.

The course is very hands on. The lessons will follow the first four

chapters in Paul's book Introduction to Bridge. These chapters focus on the basic conversation of bidding. That is, when to open in a suit, how to look first for a fit, ideally in a major, then decide about game.

This is the essential thinking of a bridge player. Once you understand this, you have reached first base. The opening bid of 1NT, overcalls and doubles can come later.

The card play topics are what to lead, the importance of drawing trumps, honour from the short hand, and promoting winners. ■

Directors' Corner



Chris Snook

That's not right, is it?

After discussion at a recent Directors Forum, we found the following comments are enough to make any Tournament Director cringe.

1. **"I'm declarer so I can just pick that up"**. If declarer has played a card from their hand, then Law 45C.2 says it has been played "if it is held face up, touching or nearly touching the table; or maintained in such a position to indicate that it has been played". There is no takesey-backsey by declarer. The Director might apply Law 47 and require the card to be retracted to correct an irregularity or following a change of play by opponent or the play was based on a mistaken explanation. Otherwise, the card has been played.

2. **"The rest are ours"**. Claiming is quite reasonable for declarer or either defender (the definition of a claim starts with "Any statement by declarer or either defender ..."). Dummy must not engage in play and should not say "the rest are ours" or make any similar statement about the tricks still in play. Such comment or gesture by dummy creates unauthorized information (Law 16B.1). It is possible that declarer might have misplayed the hand, until dummy interfered

when they shouldn't have. It would be horrible if Director had to rule against you (via Law 16B.2 or 16.B.3) because your dummy found an illegal voice and restricted your later card play choices. The term dummy came about because the hand opposite declarer is played by a dummy (an imaginary extra player) under declarer's instruction. Dummy must keep quiet.

3. **"Having none"**. Law 61 tells us that declarer may ask a defender who has failed to follow suit whether he has a card of the suit led. Dummy may ask declarer. Dummy may not ask a defender (otherwise they are trying to play the hand again). Defenders may ask declarer and one another (at the risk of creating unauthorized information). Nowhere does it say that you can triumphantly tell your partner "Having none". If you are a defender against 4 hearts, and partner leads a winning spade so you throw away a losing diamond hoping that partner will lead spades again so you can trump in – then this is good luck when it works. You're blurting out "having none" could be a wakeup call to partner to continue the suit so you can trump in – and this is not fair, so don't make the comment. It also is off-putting to many declarers who are trying to concentrate on their hand.

4. **"Just pick it up"**. A defender

has played out of turn, attempted to revoke or otherwise managed to expose a card, and declarer (or even worse, dummy) tells them to pick it up. The Director should be summoned at once when attention is drawn to an irregularity. Saying "pick it up" is obviously drawing attention to the problem so any player (including dummy) should summon the Director. Law 10 continues "The Director alone has the right to determine rectifications when applicable. Players do not have the right to determine or waive rectifications on their own initiative. The Director may allow or cancel any enforcement or waiver of a rectification made by the players without his instructions." Law 81C.5 allows the Director to waive rectification, for cause, upon the request of the non-offending side. It is in the Laws but is rare.

5. **"If you don't do XXX, I'll call the Director"**. Calling for the Director to give a ruling is a natural part of the game. You don't call the Director "on someone", you ask for help to correct an error in procedure and the Director will apply the appropriate law and judgement as required. You should always call the Director, not just when you are not getting your own way (probably by illegally making your own decisions at the table).

6. This last example is more seeing than hearing. Once the Director has given their ruling it is best to move away from the table so that you can focus on the rest of the room and if you are a playing Director that you can get back to your own hand.

If you hover watching, what will you do if you see an infraction such as a revoke? You will recall the consequences of correcting a revoke are different if it is not established, if it is established, if it is on trick 12 or if attention was first drawn to the revoke after the round has ended or after a member of the non-offending side has made a call on the subsequent deal. If you see a problem then you must deal with it, but in this case it is better to come back and visit the table a bit later so you are into Law 64B territory (no automatic trick adjustment but still need to redress damage). ■

D E A D

JULY 13 (noon)

Contributions to:
33 Royal Pde
Ashgrove 4060
Ph: 07 3366 1292

Email: philipsquire@tpg.com.au

L I N E

Townsville

Pink Stumps Day

This is our equivalent of the Jane McGrath Day at the cricket, to raise funds for breast cancer. Everyone embraced the pink spirit

Even the afternoon tea was pink.

Our club hosts a games afternoon once a week.

People can play Mahjong or a variety of card games.

The players pay \$5 for the afternoon which includes coffee and biscuits.

We usually have around seven tables. The idea is to encourage new players to gain card experience but it also increases our table fees for the week.



Bernice Morton, Greg Lawler, Donna Fitch, Rosemary Glastonbury, Heather Colbert and Gloria MacDonald (front)

RESULTS: JANUARY - MARCH 2024
JANUARY

GOLD COAST TEAMS [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Nikolas Moore / Rachel Langdon / Pamela & Jim Evans; 2 Krystyna Homik / Frank Hymus / Odette Hall / Cheryl Hensel; B Davis Zhang / Lilly Jia / Ping Xie / Paul Han; **QUEENSLAND CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB GRADED PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Margaret Millar / Neville Francis; 2 Tony Treloar / Graham Rusher; B 1 Chris Hill / Barry Koster; 2 Annette Hogan / Sally Hall; NOVICE 1 Louise & Stephen Bennett; 2 Peter Fagan / Kerry Barridge; **NORTHERN SUBURBS TEAMS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Geoffrey Thomas / Terry O'Dempsey / Tere Wotherspoon / Siegfried Konig; 2 Dewi Eastman / Winny Chan / Sue Ziegenfuss / Tim Runting; B 1 Eugene Pereira / Martin Wu / Vesna & Voyko Markovic; 2 Carmel Wikman / Richard Spelman / Margie Knox / Lyn Tracey; C 1 John Reiter / Bev Connell / Keith Cohen / Jenny Hays; 2 Stephen Cheshire / Peter Munro / Jamshid Vazirzadeh / Gill Phillippo.

FEBRUARY

KENMORE CONGRESS [Director – Chris Snook]: PAIRS 1 Rachel Langdon / Kim Morrison; 2 Michelle Radke / Bronwyn Macleod; B Shanaal & Hema De Zoysa; C Rosemary Floquet / Jan Kinross; TEAMS 1 Jill Magee / Terry Strong / Nikolas Moore / Rachel Langdon; 2 Magnus Moren / Neville Francis / Tony Hutton / Kim Morrison; B 1 Sonya & Shayne Palfreyman / Ross Murtagh / Daria Williams; C Ping Xie / Paul Han / Davis Zhang / Lilly Jia; **TOWNSVILLE AUSTRALIA DAY CONGRESS** [Directors - Jan Smith & Leigh Owens]: PAIRS 1 Ann Smith / Delma Johnson; 2 Maria Chippendale / Bill Bishop; B Jeanette McKenzie / Chris Tweddell; C Helen & Wilfred Tapiolas; TEAMS 1 Betty Hobdell / Rosemary Glastonbury / Robyn Nolan / Bill Redhead; 2 Pat Leighton / Barbara Hospers / Gladys Tulloch / Cathy Crawford; B Dusk Care / Jackie Seganfreddo / Ann Smith / Delma Johnson; C Coleen Evanson / Bill Pickering / Nina Doyle / Ian Leach; **ARANA TEAMS** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: 1 Neville Francis / Tony Hutton / Pele Rankin / Kim Morrison; 2 Tony Treloar / Peter Evans / Therese Tully / Richard Ward; B 1 Eileen Li / Greg Lee / Martin Qin / Bob Ren; 2 Ross Murtagh / Daria Williams / Sonya & Shayne Palfreyman; C 1 Barry Koster / Barbara Mackay / Sameer Pandya / Lyn Tracey; 2 Jenny McGowan / Vanessa Brewis / Susan & Andrew Sharp;

MARCH

QUEENSLAND FINALISTS AT THE GCC TEAMS - UNDER 1500: Wendy Gibson / Chris Woolley / Annette Corkhill / Christine Newbery; INTERMEDIATE: Jenny McGowan / Vanessa Brewis / David Zhang / Lilly Jia; NOVICE: Debbie Carroll / Jacinta Lee / Louise & Stephen Bennett; BEST QUEENSLAND: Kate Macdonald / Ben Leung / Michael Gearing / Pele Rankin; Best Queensland teams results from the Gold Coast International Congress: OPEN: Ben Leung / Kate Macdonald / Pele Rankin / Michael Gearing; UNDER 1500: Ed Hahn / Trish Anagnostou / Janelle Conroy / Margaret Pisko; INTERMEDIATE: Oliver Goodman / Ming Shu Yang / Winnie Chan / Sameer Pandya; RESTRICTED: Eliza Hemphill / Rick Webster / Robert Olander / Jan Flanigan; NOVICE: Hanna Majewski / Carla Ferro / Annie Shotter / Cathy Mathieson; **TOOWONG PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Christine Newbery / Richard Fox; 2 Larry Moses / Phil Hale; B David Sydes / Robyn Bishop; NOVICE 1 Gloria Newton / Lyn Edeson; 2 Debbie Carroll / Jacinta Lee; B Jenny Easey / Jen Borowski; **QLD MIXED TEAMS** [Director – Peter Busch]: 1 Ken Dawson / Alison Dawson / Janeen Solomon / Ian Afflick; 2 Jill Magee / Terry Strong / Therese Tully / Richard Ward; B Ian Pitts / Bob Hannam / Sobhan & Bob Davies; **ROCKHAMPTON AUTUMN CONGRESS** [Director – Les Bonnick]: PAIRS1 Diane & Max Holewa; 2 Malcolm Saunders / Luke Wilson; B Joie Day / Hilary Gunthorpe; C Sandra Morris / Annie Lynch; TEAMS 1 Jan Randall / Don Cameron / Karin Le Roux / Malcolm Allan; 2 Diane & Max Holewa / Tex Sheedy / Noel Bugeia; B Ken Cupples / Bernhard Hilse / Richard Zimmerman / Sue Rohrig; C Michelle Morrissey / Stuart Thurston / Pam Carmody / Alanna Waugh; **QBA MARCH PAIRS** [Director – Alan Gibson]: 1 Jack Luke-Paredi – Paul Gosney; 2 Jenny Hay / Ralph Parker; B Kathleen Clifford / Oliver Goodman; C Rosemary Floquet / Jan Kinross; **SUNSHINE COAST GRADED TEAMS** [Director - Peter Busch]: A Patricia Mann / John Morris / Mattie Baljet / Marcel Hoevenaars; B David Richards / Hugh Gehrman / Sandy Long / Maureen Wright; C Siobhan & Bob Davies / Bob Hannam / Ian Pitts; **SURFERS PARADISE PAIRS** [Director – Julie Jeffries]: UNDER 500 1 Shanaal & Hema De Zoysa; 2 Paul Han / David Zhang; 3 Kate Macdonald / Darren Brake; NOVICE 1 Elizabeth & David Ward; 2 Fiona Evans / Anne Moase; 3 Dawn McLeod / Carol Giuffrida.