



ISSUE 212 MAY 2024

President's Report

Rain, rain, go away. With the onset of so much rain our club has sprung several leaks. Investigations showed that the flashing on the roof has deteriorated due to age and sea-side conditions. It will be replaced as soon as possible.

I recently attended a Joan Butts Bridge holiday in Melbourne which was excellent and then spent a week in Tasmania with my family which was also excellent. New beginner's lessons start on 26th April so if you know anyone keen to learn ask them to contact Dot Piddington our wonderful teacher. Lynley's lessons are going well and Bijan's sessions on Saturday were well attended and very useful for all levels. You never stop learning when you play bridge!

I had a chat about bridge on ABC Gold Coast radio, also talking about our club's 60th celebrations this year. Keep these dates free for our two main events:

- **Family Day on Sunday June 2.** First up, our teacher Lynley has graciously offered to do a free lesson on the Art of Finesse. Next, you are encouraged to invite your family members, especially the grandchildren, to join in the rest of the day's activities, including learning to play mini bridge with club members. There will be a sausage sizzle and plenty of fun and games to keep everyone entertained.
- **High Tea celebration on Sunday October 20.** More details to follow later.

Carolyn Waters

Volunteers Week, 20th to 26th May

It cannot be stated often enough that our club would not function without the time, effort, and dedication of our volunteers. Some volunteers are very visible around the club, others are behind the scenes and are people you may not have even met.

The last available statistics from one source regarding volunteering in Australia is from 2020. At that time 6 million people were involved in formal volunteer work for an organisation annually. This represented almost one third of the population aged over 15. Queensland's share was 26.5%. Volunteering is considered to be of such value for both the individual and the organisation that a whole week is dedicated as Volunteers Week, the dates for this year are at the end of May.

To give you an idea of what is required for our members to enjoy a session of bridge, the list below shows the varied roles and those volunteers currently active in our club.

Role

60th Year Anniversary
Steering Committee
Annual Diary
Badges
Bidding Boxes
Board Members

Volunteer

Carolyn Waters, Alan Kestenberg, Greg Tosh, Juliet Rogers,
Sue Herse, Connie Cassar, Liz Linderman, Julie Wicks.
Alan Kestenberg
Penny Grace
Joanna Reid, Dot Piddington, Margaret Bills
C Waters, J Lemarchand, J Williams, G Tosh, J Henderson, P Grace,
J Martin, O Hall

Bridgmates maintenance	Trevor Fletcher, John Glennie
Chief Scorer	Pat Beattie
Competition Notices	Joanna Reid
Compscore	John Glennie
Congress Convenor	Alan Kestenberg
Dealers	Margaret Bills, Melanie Mills, Jane Parry, Jenny Dimond, Deb Foot
Decorations	Kerry Wood, Liz Linderman
Diary - daily winners	Cheryl Millar
Director's Notices	Jenny Martin
Facebook	Joanna Reid
Grants	Trevor Fletcher, Pat Beattie, Margaret Bills
Key Register	Julie Wicks
Kitchen Co-ordinator	Connie Cassar
Kitchen/Special Events	Juliet Rogers
Library	Lisa Basile
Maintenance	Greg Tosh
Manuals of Procedure	Julie Wicks
Marketing	Joanna Reid
Masterpoint Secretary	Pat Beattie
Membership Secretary	Penny Grace
MyABF	Jenny Martin, Paul Brake
Newsletter	Julie Wicks
Office Supplies, Stationery	Margaret Bills
Power Point	Joanna Reid
QBA Representative	Di Hodges
Raffles	Liz Linderman
Recorder	Tom Strong, Dot Piddington
Sponsorship	Alan Kestenberg
Printing	Margaret Bills
Tablecloth Laundering	Lorraine Twyford
Tournament Comm Chair	Jenny Martin
Youth Bridge	Paul Brake
Webmaster	Paul Brake
Welfare	Cheryl Millar
Zone Committee	Odette Hall, Tom Strong, Margaret Pisko, Sonya Palfreyman

We also acknowledge the time, effort and dedication of our teachers and directors. The club will show its appreciation by inviting all volunteers to join us for a morning tea on **Saturday, 25th May**. This will be followed by the usual session of bridge.

The Convention Menagerie - The Other "Multi-Two Bids" by Frank Hymus

Last month we talked about the common uses for the multi-2D opening bid. This month we'll briefly talk about the other two-bids freed up and an often used meaning for them.

- 2NT Shows two minor suits, typically 5-5, and less than opening values.
- 2S Shows 5 Spades and 5 of a minor, and less than opening values.
- 2H Shows 5 Hearts and 5 of any of the other three suits, and again less than opening values. Note that it can show 5 Spades. Yes, it is ambiguous especially about the important 5-5 in the majors and is one reason variations on the system are often seen. But we'll stick to this common meaning for now.

The purpose of this method is to put yet another pre-emptive block in the way of the opponents early in the auction on hands that standard methods would not allow, while giving partner a reasonable picture of the hand. Strength should be something like 6-10 points, with most of the points in the two long suits. You can of course always pass if your suits are bad. You are under no obligation

to open. Some players will extend this to 6-5 hands or even 5-4 hands, but to begin, I would advise club players to stick to the 5-5 guidelines.

How does partner respond to these bids? First note that if s/he has less than about 15 points, you usually will have no chance for a game, so s/he attempts to find the safest place to play at the lowest level. If you have a fit for the “anchor suit” you can pass, or even perhaps raise it if you have good support - it is not designed to be constructive, but to put a bigger pre-emptive block on the opponents. If you instead want to play in opener’s other suit, you bid the next suit up as a “pass or correct”.

- 2H (Pass) 2S
- 2S (Pass) 3C (Note NOT 2NT!)

If opener has opened 2NT, you know exactly what suits partner has so you can simply choose whichever minor suit is best. If responder senses that there is a possibility of a game after 2H or 2S opening, s/he bids 2NT artificial force (alert!) again asking for the “other” suit, which will give partner a better picture of possibilities.

If responder knows there is a game in the “anchor” suit, s/he should simply bid it. Also, if s/he wants to play 3NT irrespective of the other suits, s/he simply bids it, and opener must pass. Like any pre-emptive opening bid, never second guess partner!

This is a fairly sound system, but not without its own special problems, particularly the 2H opening with spades as the possible hidden suit. Also, because of the unknowns about the hidden suit, the opponents can often compete aggressively to pre-empt you out of your possible fit. But entering the bidding early on, hands that standard methods would not allow can be a huge advantage, which advocates of the system strongly endorse.

A note if the opponents do enter the bidding. If you have a good fit for the anchor suit, then you should be able to accurately assess the situation. If the opponents double for take-out, responder can simply pass if the “anchor” suit is OK, or raise it to compete, or bid the next suit up, or the pass-or-correct option we described above. As for Opener, DON’T bid again unless your partner invites you! You’ve told your story, don’t tell it again.

This note and last month’s discussion have introduced these bids to you. This is not the whole story, and you will find a significant number of players using different methods from those described here. So, if you play these bids, remember to alert and describe fully what you have agreed to play when asked. And if opponents play these against you, have them explain fully which variation they are playing. “Multi Two” is never a sufficient explanation if asked.

Frank

Book Review by Librarian Lisa

Last month I recommended books we have in our library outlining the challenge and importance of making the correct lead!

This month I would like to suggest some excellent books that deal with learning to play the cards once dummy comes down. There are countless books in our library that are teaching tools to improve our game and I promise you, most are terrific in their simplicity.

For example:

- **“The Principles of Card Play”** by Paul Marston
- **“Introduction to Declarer’s Play”** by Edwin B Kantar
- **“25 Ways to Take More Tricks as Declarer”** by Barbara Seagram & David Bird.

They all outline the basic steps of making your contract and introduce us to slightly more advanced techniques, techniques that explain how to deal with awkward hands in a straightforward manner.

Lisa

April Events Winners - Congratulations.



Easter Red Point Teams

1st - Berger team

Kevin Steffenson, Carolyn Miller, Eva Berger, Tony Berger.

2nd - Howard team

Frank Hymus, Krystyna Homik, Kerry Wood, Charles Howard.



Connie's Saturday Pairs

Section A

1st - Tony Berger, Eva Berger

2nd - Usher Zeng, Ann Liu

Section B

1st - Maggi Fisher, Shane Whiting

2nd - Carol Wright, Carol Harris

Cecily Critchley Memorial Teams

1st Group A - Hogan team

Charles McLaren, Victoria Cairns, Carol Guiffrida, Michael Hogan

1st Group B - Roots team

Maggi Fisher, Karin Nay, Deb Roots, Jo-Anne Martin



Professional Lending Solutions Red Point Pairs

Open:

- 1st - Erin Waterhouse, Zenon Olszewski
- 2nd - Frank Hymus and Krystyna Homik

Restricted:

- 1st - Jenny L Williams and Robyn Kronenberg
- 2nd - Caroline Ausden and Nola Saunders

May Events

- ◆ **Saturday 4th May. Red Point Pairs, Day 2**
Sponsored by Zeppelin Travel
- ◆ **Tuesdays 7th and 14th May. Tuesday Pairs**
Sponsored by Shiraz Persian Restaurant
- ◆ **Fridays 17th and 25th May. Club Teams Championship**
- ◆ **Mondays 13th and 20th May. Monday Pairs**
Sponsored by Fran Taylor
- ◆ **Monday 27th May. Australia Wide Novice Pairs <100 MPs**
- ◆ **Wednesday 29th May. GNOT Heat 3, Day 1. Held at SPBC**

Promotions

Gold Life - Usher Zeng

National - Diana McAuliffe

Local - Carolyn Lloyd, Thomas Ward

Graduate - Theo Armenis

New Members - Welcome

Anne Weekes, Nick Weekes, George Plebanowicz, Pru Hux, Wendy Stafford, Nancy Wicks, Graeme Putt, Johnnie Smith, Denise Phillips, Justine Digance, Jenny Michael.

May Birthdays

1st - Sue Herse, Christine Lane, Peter Lloyd; 2nd - Jan Kinkead; 3rd - Vanessa Wadds;
5th - Caroline Barton, Adele Butters; 6th - Caroline Ausden, Pam Dowse; 7th - Grace Henry, Deb Roots, Erin Waterhouse; 8th - Peter Uldrich; 9th - Yvonne Kilvert, Wendy Lemon, Tom Ward;
10th - Julian Egerton-Vernon, Graham Lasky; 11th - Juliet Rogers, Jane Swanson; 12th - Alan Jones, 12th - John Lemarchand; 13th - Debbie Usmar; 14th - Wayne Mitchell; 16th - Marilyn Mandie;
17th - Michael Aikin, Barry Coe; 18th - Wendy Drysdale; 19th - Tony Berger;
20th - Ross Steinwedel; 21st - Mary Ditton, Nadya Tuxworth; 23rd - Philip Kerr;
24th - Shayne Palfreyman; 25th - Lorraine Twyford; 27th - Margaret Day, Faye Ding;
28th - Drazel Pincus; 31st - Tony Roberts.

Masterpoints Explained



What are masterpoints? Their primary function is as an award. The Masterpoint Scheme is intended to stimulate interest in the game of bridge and provide a means of measuring player achievements.

Who gives them out? The Australian Bridge Federation (ABF)

How many types are there?

Green masterpoints are generally awarded in normal club sessions, while **Red** masterpoints are awarded in special club events, congresses and state events. **Gold** masterpoints are gained in national events or by attending ABF Gold point sanctioned congresses at Canberra, Gold Coast or Coffs Harbour (and other state capitals).

How do you get them?

By finishing in the top half of the field for pairs or the top third of the field for teams in an event sanctioned under the QLD Bridge Association or ABF.

How does the ABF know to give them to us?

Your Masterpoints appear once the club masterpoint secretary or event coordinator submits the masterpoint awards to the ABF Masterpoint Centre (normally at the end of each quarter) and pays any relevant fees.

How do we find out how many we have?

You can look up your current masterpoints details online at www.abfmasterpoints.com.au then select mid-way down the left hand side, Masterpoint Lookup.

Are they important?

They are as important as you want them to be. The masterpoint system often appeals to members because it lets them know their approximate overall ranking relative to every other member. The ranks that members earn as they achieve various plateaus of masterpoint holdings serve as close approximations of their overall standing. If you look at the Master Rankings Table, you can see you cannot move beyond a Regional Ranking without Red MPs, and a National Ranking without Gold MPs. However, being too “attached” to masterpoints is not wise. It is better to enjoy bridge for the sake of playing bridge and give more importance to your own evaluation of how you’re progressing. This may help you to enjoy masterpoints, in a more detached way. Don’t forget, a player’s masterpoint holding **does not** directly indicate the time it has taken the player to earn them, or the calibre of the events the player has earned them in. Bridge is primarily a game to be enjoyed!

How can I find out more? You can read more about Masterpoints on-line:

<http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/mpmanual.asp>

How can I earn the different masterpoints at Gold Coast Bridge Club?

Green points are awarded in regular bridge sessions.

Red points are awarded in special red point events that are advertised.

Gold points are awarded in our Club’s GNOTS qualifying sessions and regional final.

Are masterpoints free? No, the club pays for the masterpoints received by players.

Why Do I Love Bridge by Julie Wicks, June 2017

Why do I love Bridge

Let me count the ways

It took quite some courage

To play in the early days

What is a pre-empt

What is a finesse

Failing at every attempt

Nothing making any sense

But then it became clear

And started to fall into place

There is nothing to fear

As long as you have that Ace

Challenge your brain

Meet new friends

You’ve everything to gain

And on your partner you depend

So, come and learn to play
And you will discover
At the end of the day
A passion you will uncover

Happy Bridging
Julie Wicks

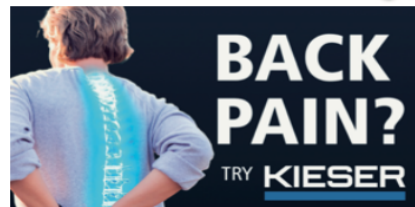
*Would you like to contribute to the newsletter? Please forward to the editor,
juliekwicks@gmail.com by the 25th of each month.*

Need a Partner: Use your Pianola account to request or find a partner or contact:

Mon - Sat Judy Fitzgerald.....0412 739 984
Thursday Night Tom Strong.....0421 106 986

Welfare Officer: Cheryl Millar 0409 879 081

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MINOR SPONSORS

