



**GOLD COAST  
BRIDGE CLUB**

# NEWSLETTER

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**JUNE 2020**

## President's Message



*By the time you are reading this, the club will have been closed for more than 10 weeks. Who would have thought we could survive without our regular attendance at our club and seeing our friends. Yes it has been a difficult time, more so for some than others. Richard Misior is now recovering from Covid-19, although he remains hospitalized in a serious condition. Richard's bridge partner, Eduardo, has been providing regular updates on his progress. Richard was critically ill for many weeks. Hopefully he has turned the corner and we look forward to seeing him back at bridge.*

*Kim Ellaway, the Manager at QBA, recently advised that we won't be allowed to return to face to face bridge until after the end of Stage 3 at the earliest because we can't social distance. This means not before mid August, but most likely later than that. The ABF has appointed a Health Officer to write a paper for clubs to assist them when we do return because, whatever the date, things will be different.*

*I hope you are working on your Coronavirus Competition entry. Entries close on 30th June and will be judged shortly thereafter. The theme of the competition is any form of art or creation depicting these times during this pandemic. All entries will be displayed in the clubhouse after we re-open. I have been asked if you can submit more than one entry. Yes please - the more the merrier. Please send me a photo of your entry, or an email if it is a written piece, to [juliekwicks@gmail.com](mailto:juliekwicks@gmail.com).*

*Our refreshed clubroom looks amazing. I will leave Tony to write all about that. A huge thank you Tony. As you know Paul has been keeping many of us busy playing online bridge. What a joy it is to play with our own club members and what an experience to play against others from all around the world. Thank you Paul for your commitment to make this happen.*

*We keep hearing people say they cannot wait for things to return to normal. I'm not sure we will ever go back to 'normal'. So many aspects of our lives will have been reset, or need to be reset. Just like our enticing, intoxicating, addictive game of bridge, life is always evolving around us and we should always be striving to do it better.*

*Stay well.*

*Julie Wicks, President*



# *The Potted Bridge History of Nail Reward (aka Neil Raward)*



I was born in Brisbane in 1942; my father served in the RAAF and for 3 years I lived in various married quarters on the eastern seaboard. After the war we moved to Armidale (NSW), and in 1947 the family moved to South Tweed Heads where I remained until I joined the Queensland Police as a cadet in 1959. Card nights were popular with my family, and at an early age I would take over hands of 500 whilst Mum made supper. My grandfather taught me to play crib, and I enjoyed my time with him and the crib board.

My early years in the police enabled me to play many different card games; Poker, strip poker (no), black jack, pontoon, 500, euchre, crib, gin rummy, canasta, Ricketty Kate. Every office had a copy of Hoyle which opened up the world to many other card games, however bridge was never on the menu. It was only when I started reading the bridge columns in the newspaper did I realise that the game sounded very much like 500. I bought a basic bridge book by Klinger in the 1990s and could not wait until my retirement in 2000 to take bridge lessons.

Retiring to the Gold Coast, the first bridge lessons available were at SPBC in January 2001 where Coral Aiken was my teacher. Following lessons I joined the SPBC and the GCBC, and as GCBC was closer I commenced playing at the GCBC.

Glen Skeates was my neighbour and we did our lessons together. Monday night suited us, and we commenced playing in early 2001, not knowing that this was probably the strongest session of bridge with over 10 tables playing each week. Members playing then are now the grand masters of our club as they were working full time and could only play night-time bridge. We were made most welcome, and looking back, probably because top boards could be seen by all opponents as we made our way around the tables. We were very timid about bidding games and I always remember a member of very few words, John Pritchard (deceased) surprising us one night by saying, I would like to buy you boys a bridge book, *How to Over Bid*. As very often there were only 9 tricks in the hand, the rest of the players would bid to game and go off one.

In every endeavour that I have taken up during my life I always wanted to become more involved and in 2002, I was invited to join the board and the rest of my bridge involvement is history. I have been on the board ever since, president (four times) and the list goes on. In 2002 I started playing with Gerry Brameld on a Thursday night, and we decided that we wanted to become directors. John Dennis directed on a Thursday night, and on hearing this we took over directing bridge under his guidance in early 2003, passing our directors' exam in June of that year.

Bridge has been my life and I have made so many wonderful friends during my 19 years with the club. I could not have hoped for a better way to spend my retirement.



# Director's Corner

(by Paul Brake, Chair, Tournament Committee)

The GCBC runs 'virtual' club sessions on Bridge Base Online (BBO). This allows club members to play together online with people they know. Sessions are held on Monday night, and daytime sessions on Wednesday, Thursday (<100 MPs) and Saturday. Currently, they are FREE! (this may change in the future).

## *What to do before your first session:*

- Create a BBO account (free).
- Register your BBO username with the club, so you are on the list of players allowed to join a session.
- Become familiar with BBO, and particularly the alerting and claiming mechanisms.

## *What to do on the day:*

- Login to BBO
- Go to Play or Watch Bridge, then Competitive, then Free Tournaments.
- There are 3 headings - Pending, Running and Complete.
- Under Pending, find our event (Gold Coast Bridge Club) and click the competition title. Four sections appear: Register, Details, Entries and Partnership Desk.
- Check that your partner is on-line, and then in the Register section, add your partner's BBO username.
- They will get a popup invitation on their screen, which they should accept. You can now log out of BBO if you wish.
- A few minutes before the start time, make sure you're both logged onto BBO.
- If you register quite early, it is best to log out and log back into BBO (anywhere other than the casual area) 5 minutes before the start time, to ensure you have not been logged out off the site due to inactivity.
- When the event starts, you will be removed from whatever else you are doing on BBO (provided you are not in the casual area) and taken to your starting table.



## *After the match:*

- All players can see the results in BBO under the "History" tab in their account.
- Players who have supplied an email address will receive a Pianola results email and the results will be in their Pianola history as usual.

You do not need a partner. You can look for a partner using the Pianola Partner Finder, or use the BBO partnership desk. If you can't match yourself up, you should start the game with no partner, but will be paired up with an available player from anywhere around the world.

Connection problems - If you experience problems with your connection to BBO during a session you can try logging out of BBO and reconnecting. When you successfully reconnect BBO will take you straight back into the game.

## *For full details:-*

- Visit [dev.goldcoastbridgeclub.com](http://dev.goldcoastbridgeclub.com) and look under BridgeBase Online, or
- Come along to a free and personal inhouse training session at the club (limited to a maximum of 4 attendees at a time in these Covid-19 days), or
- Attend a free BBO training session on your own computer

Don't let Covid-19 stop you enjoying the wonderful game of bridge!

For more information, contact Paul Brake on 0490 117 482 or [paul.brake95@gmail.com](mailto:paul.brake95@gmail.com)

*Paul Brake*

*Chair*

*Tournament Committee*

# AN INTERESTING PLAN

At the Barrier Reef Congress in 2019, I was declarer and sitting East on the following hand. Dealer East, all vulnerable.

North  
 ♠ T2  
 ♥ J2  
 ♦ QT9874  
 ♣ T62

West  
 ♠ AJ9  
 ♥ QT98  
 ♦ AK6  
 ♣ KQ5

East  
 ♠ 765  
 ♥ AK3  
 ♦ J53  
 ♣ A984

South  
 ♠ KQ843  
 ♥ 7654  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ J73

The bidding proceeded as follows:

E	S	W	N
1♣	P	1♥	P
1NT	P	4♣*	P
4♠**	P	5♣***	P
5♥****	P	6NT	

\*Gerber ( after NT bid)

\*\* Two Aces

\*\*\* King Ask

\*\*\*\*One

South led the ♠K, and I could see nine immediate tricks, and two more eventually if both the Hearts and Clubs broke 3/3. The opening lead helped me, but I had to decide whether to duck and hope for a continuation of the ♠Q, which would give me the 12th trick via the Bath Coup, or win the ♠A and squeeze South at the end. I chose the latter.

All went well! The suits did break, I tossed the ♠6 on the fourth Heart and on the ninth trick I discarded the ♦5 on the fourth Club.

As I was now in hand, I led the S7 and South was defenceless. The contract was safe. This hand illustrates making a plan before playing on trick 1 and showing that a passive lead for 6 NT does make it harder for declarer. The decision to play the Ace first was made easier by knowing where the SQ was.

Lindell Day

## HIDDEN BRIDGE TOPICS

Below are a number of hidden bridge topics. For example, Lawyer's viaduct would be Contract bridge. See how you go on the following. Answers below.

1. Roosevelt's economic fix
2. Swap rake for shovel
3. Bellusconni's hotel room entry
4. Scandinavian switchback road
5. Austrian revolution
6. Minor road hug
7. Reporter's pencil (say)
8. Irishman's stick auction
9. Hold up, hold up
10. Empty Neanderthal's weaponry
11. Who stole the tarts?
12. Kicking, punching, gouging

### Hidden Bridge Answers

1. *New deal*
2. *Transfer to Spades*
3. *Roman key card*
4. *Fin-esse*
5. *Vienna coup*
6. *Two-way squeeze*
7. *Journalist lead*
8. *Michael's cue bid*
9. *Support double*
10. *Void in Clubs*
11. *Knave of Hearts*
12. *Over ruff*

# EARLY REACTIONS TO PLAYING CARDS

Presumably, Club members share a common interest – a love of playing Bridge. Or perhaps it is an addiction.

Card playing is a popular pastime all over the world, but did you know that hundreds of years ago it was considered quite unacceptable.

In the late 14th century in Western Europe, restrictions were placed on cards. Card playing was outlawed – but only for the working classes. French and Swiss upper classes were above the law.

By the mid 15th century, the playing of cards had become so popular that monks from the Catholic Church preached passionately against their evil. This spread to such an extent that large numbers of the populations were forced to burn their cards in public fires.

Although an Act of Parliament in England in 1463 prohibited the importation of playing cards, they were still obtained illegally and the practice of card playing persisted.

In 1526, Henry VIII tried in vain to stamp them out as he thought card playing had a “shocking effect on morals, religion and domestic happiness”. So, in 1526, he passed a statute stating that “husbandmen, serving men, labourers and the like might play cards at Christmastide only and at no other time”.

In 16th and 17th century England, the Puritans, of course, strongly denounced playing cards and pronounced them “the Devil’s picture books”.

Nevertheless, playing cards have refused to be suppressed and over the last few centuries have become an enjoyable form of recreation.

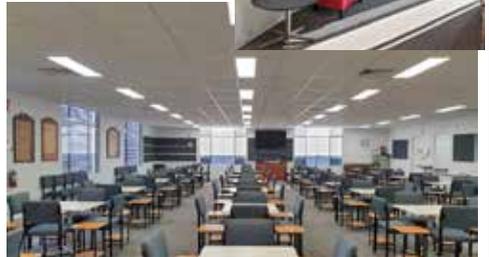
Let us give thanks for their survival.

Barbara Grant

# CLUB RENOVATIONS

The club board decided some time ago that the main room could do with a facelift, however the question was, “What would be the most visible improvement?” It was decided that a new ceiling to hide the unsightly air-conditioning duct would be the way to go. Of course it was not that simple, as this meant extending the air-conditioning ducting and removing all existing lights prior to commencement.

The work was scheduled for some time in May to give us time to obtain prices for the work, but then the Covid19 caused the closure of all sessions at the club. This was now an opportunity to have the improvements carried out without disruptions to the members. All the trades cooperated and work was commenced immediately as we had enough quotes to make a decision.



The construction was accelerated as we were all concerned that there may be a decision by governments to stop this type of work, and we would be left with an incomplete room. All went well, and it took only a week to finish apart from some minor items. We now have recessed LED panels in the ceiling, emergency lighting, exit lights and lighting rows to suit the way that tables are set up.

The ceiling renovations gave the club such a clean new look that the board also approved painting the walls a very light grey to complement it.

I am now really keen for the restart of club bridge in our upgraded premises.

Tony Berger

## JUNE DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM

South is in 6 Clubs on the lead by West of the CA followed at the second trick by the C9 (good lead). See how you go!

North  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ J54  
 ♦ AT98765  
 ♣ 84

West  
 ♠ JT865  
 ♥ AKQT  
 ♦ QJ  
 ♣ A9

East  
 ♠ 974  
 ♥ 987632  
 ♦ K43  
 ♣ 3

South  
 ♠ AK32  
 ♥ void  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ KQJT7652

The solution is one of the rare occasions where the squeeze comes very early. Declarer plays three more rounds of trumps with West discarding two Hearts and a Spade, dummy discarding three little Diamonds, and East discarding three little Hearts having also discarded a Heart on the 2nd trick.

So here we are at only the 6th trick, and declarer leads another Club intending to discard the H4. If West discards a Diamond, declarer can next play to the DA and lead the DT. If East covers, declarer ruffs and leads a Spade to the SQ, plays the winning D9 throwing the S3 from hand, ruffs a Heart back the winning Spades. If East does not cover the DT, declarer throws the S3, crosses to SQ, ruffs the Heart again back to the winning Spades.

If West discards a Heart, declarer crosses to the DA, ruffs a Heart, crosses to the SQ and throws the S3 on the winning HJ before crossing back again.

If West discards another Spade, declarer crosses to the SQ, ruffs a Diamond to get back, and plays the three Spades from the top.

All over, Red Rover!

Jonathon Skye

## AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE

West leads the ♠8 to South's contract of 3NT. Down goes dummy and declarer can see the following cards only, as usual.

North(dummy)	South (declarer)
♠ JT43	♠ A2
♥ 53	♥ AK4
♦ QJT7	♦ A984
♣ A42	♣ QJ3

Declarer can see that she can make the contract no matter how the defenders' cards are distributed. Before reading further, see if you can decide how to do it!

First of all, declarer examined the lead. She is missing the KQ9865 in Spades, so the lead is either the fourth highest from four, five or six Spades or top of little cards. Declarer can see five immediate tricks plus three eventual in Diamonds and one eventual Club. She will probably lose the ♦K and ♣K, so can she prevent the defenders from making three Spade tricks before she makes her nine?

To do so, declarer ignores the hold-up Rule of 7 and plays the ♠3 from dummy winning with the ♠A from hand. Nine tricks are now there for a careful declarer, no matter how the defenders' cards are distributed.

She plays ♦A followed by the ♦4. They can win the ♦K whenever, but if they return a Spade from either hand, dummy only plays the ♠T or ♠J if West leads a small Spade. If they return a Heart or Club instead of a Spade, she plays the Clubs immediately for the eventual Club trick. This way declarer only loses one Club, one Diamond and two Spades, but not if she ducks the first Spade trick, for only then could she lose three Spade tricks.

Tie Rod

# Tips for the Improving Player

## (Strip and Throw)

The situation for this technique doesn't arise very often, but declarers should be aware of the necessary conditions for it. Firstly, declarer must be one trick short of the contract. Strong trumps are needed and the ability to eventually remove all cards from one side suit (strip) after removing defenders' trumps. Of the other two suits, one has the Ace and Queen with the King usually with the next defender, while the other is such that its last card gives that defender the trick, and puts them on lead (throw). Consider the following deal:

North  
 ♠ K985  
 ♥ J64  
 ♦ QJT  
 ♣ AQ5

West  
 ♠ 42  
 ♥ 9852  
 ♦ T532  
 ♣ J98

East  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ KQT73  
 ♦ 864  
 ♣ K742

South  
 ♠ AQJT76  
 ♥ A  
 D AK7  
 ♣ T63

The dealer is North and the bidding proceeds as follows.

North	East	South	West
1C	1H	1S	Pass
2S	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5H**	Pass	5NT***	Pass
6C****	Pass	6S	All Pass

\*Roman Key Card Ask

\*\*Two without the trump Queen

\*\*\*King Ask

\*\*\*\*None

East leads the HK. Declarer counts 11 tricks off the top but could lose two Clubs. Trumps are strong, Diamonds and Hearts can be eliminated with the last Heart putting East

on an impossible lead. If you can't see all this put out some cards and play it trick by trick as follows.

Win the HA followed by the SA to see how the trumps are divided. Remove the last of defenders' trumps with SK, and ruff a Heart. Strip the Diamonds playing DA, DK and finally winning DQ in the North hand. Now lead the HJ and when East covers with HQ give up a little Club from dummy.

East must either lead a Club into North's tenace or another suit for a ruff and discard of the CQ.

Note that the technique doesn't just work for slams. If you need nine tricks, and only have eight off the top and the opposition have already taken three tricks, have a look to see if a strip and throw is possible.

### Ten things a bridge player would never say...

1. This club (playing area) is always the right temperature- never too hot or too cold.
2. Free coffee? No thanks
3. Cool! A four-board sitout.
4. No, I don't think tournament fees are too high.
5. I can always count on my partner to remember every convention on our card.
6. No gossip please. I'm not interested.
7. More new Alerts! More new Alerts!
8. One thing I can say about bridge players - they sure know how to dress.
9. No matter which direction we sit, the cards always go our way.
10. I don't feel like bridge today, thanks. I'd rather jog and work out.

