



## NOVICE NEWS #8 AUGUST 2019

At the time of writing this, it is a cold and wet day on the Gold Coast. The perfect day to get comfortable, get warm and read the latest Novice News. Then go online to [www.abfmasterpoints.com.au](http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au) and from the left hand column select Club Reports under the heading 'Reporting'. This contains some interesting statistics relating only to our club (No. 4-620) and you may find your name appearing in one or more of several lists. The lists are updated monthly and, as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Penny Grace was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> of the "Top 50 Most Improved Players This Year". The following three Novices were listed in the "Top 50 Master Point Earners This Year": Lesley Sutherland, ranked 44; Penny Grace, ranked 47; and Barbara Huddy, ranked 49. Well done on this fantastic result and we are only half way through the year! One final statistic: there are 354 bridge clubs nationwide and our club is ranked by size at No. 22 and 9<sup>th</sup> in Queensland. We are doing well.

**The AGM** is approaching and soon nomination forms will be available. Any current home club member can nominate to be on the Board. The revised date for the AGM is Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 11am and nominations will close three weeks before that date. If you do not wish to be a Board member, there are still many ways in which you can contribute. If you feel you have a particular skill or talent and would like to volunteer please contact any member of the Board. We have many volunteers who do amazing work behind the scenes. Also, as evidenced recently with two fundraisers for Legacy and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, we have a strong esprit de corps.

**Noticeboards.** Please note that members are not to display anything on the noticeboards or place advertising material anywhere in the club without prior approval from the Board. The various brochures and advertising material on display is used to promote our sponsors and the noticeboards are only to be used for information relating to club matters.

**Bidding Boxes.** Many duplicate sessions these days use bidding boxes. Bidding boxes have been introduced into the game to reduce the possibility of information being communicated between partners by voice intonation or other mannerisms such as eye contact or the way a bid is written on a bidding slip.

When using a bidding box try to decide what your bid is going to be before reaching for or touching cards in the bidding box. An extreme example of this impropriety is when you say touch a 2♥ card and then pull out a pass card. When using the bidding box the correct protocol is for the bids to be left on the table until the opening lead is made. This is to ensure the defenders are able to review the auction and to ask any questions prior to the commencement of play. The bids may then be returned to the box.

**Rule (Eva Berger) Turning a card over before everyone has played to the trick.**

Apart from being contrary to the laws, this is confusing to other players and can lead to cards not being played to tricks or too many cards being played to a trick. A similar issue is when a player wants to see the cards just played to the trick after they have been turned over. The laws allow a player to ask others to re-face the card played to the last trick until such time as they have turned their own card.

**Tip (Lynley Jenkins)**

Get in and get out early. If you don't find a fit get out of the bidding.

**GCBC Bylaw**

Slow play is subject to penalisation (see QBA Regulations). A timing clock is usually set after the first round. Bidding on a new board must not be started after the warning bell has gone.

**Etiquette**

This is probably the Golden Rule - always be courteous at the bridge table. This applies to how one relates to partner, the opponents and the Director when s/he is called. Carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause embarrassment to any other player - or which might interfere with his/her enjoyment of the game. It is always good practice to greet your new opponents at the table. The Director should always be called to the table in a courteous manner. Being mindful of the tone in one's voice when summoning the Director underscores recognition that this official has an onerous task in providing a valued service to bridge players. At the end of a round it is courteous to thank your opponents before moving on to the next table. It is unacceptable behaviour to have an extended lesson or hand analysis discussion during the round (especially if asked to stop!).

*"On Defence sometimes you play Defence and sometimes you play Offence. Figuring this out on each hand is key to helping you keep the right cards. Any Defender can take tricks with an Ace or King. Good Defenders find ways to take tricks with 10s, 9s and even smaller cards."*  
Robert S Todd

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