



GOLD COAST BRIDGE CLUB

Issue No 203 - August 2023

President's Report

It's pleasing to see that, since our open Monday afternoon sessions ceased, most of those members are now playing on Tuesday. Our Tuesday session has now become one of our strongest days with two divisions.

We will also be adding a new section on a Friday afternoon to bolster numbers. The format is yet to be confirmed (updates to come). Our Friday session is a very social event with members bringing wine and nibbles to have after Bridge. Please join in with a game and the fun and festivities.

The club is concerned that over \$700 was spent on biscuits in June. This is an extraordinary number of biscuits and well outside what is normally consumed in one month. The biscuits are complimentary, provided by the club for the enjoyment of the members. However, it is expected that each member takes one pack per person per session.

Warmest regards, Odette

AGM 2nd September 2023 at 11am

We are only one month away from the club's Annual General Meeting. Prior to the meeting is when you, the members, have a chance to nominate for a position on the Board, put forward a motion, or speak up about other matters listed on the agenda. Nominations for Board positions will open on 5th August. Proxy forms, if required, will be available on request.

Membership Renewal Time

You have probably received your renewal notification by now. Your current membership expires on 31st August 2023. Your timely renewal is much appreciated by our overworked Membership Secretary, Penny Grace. Please contact Penny, John Lemarchand (Treasurer) or send an email to the club (gcbriidgeclub@gmail.com) if you have any queries regarding your membership renewal.

Vale Danny Hatcher

Danny recently passed away and we send our condolences to his family and friends. Danny was the epitome of a larger-than-life character. He had interests in opal mining in Lightning Ridge, was an aviator and had a cheeky and lovable nature. He called a spade a spade in the non-bridge sense, but also played a mean game of bridge. Danny joined GCBC in March 2010. Although he has not played much at the club in recent times, he will be missed by many. Rest in peace.

Vale Adam Marks

Adam sadly passed away last month, and we send our condolences to his partner, Fiona and his family. Adam moved to the Gold Coast from Victoria and shortly thereafter signed up for the beginner's course in April 2021. Adam joined GCBC in June 2021 and, as a raw rookie, played in the Gold Coast Congress the following year. He had a happy joking nature and showed himself to be quite a connoisseur of wine at the club Christmas party held at Shiraz restaurant in December 2021. Adam was a friend of one of Michael Aikin's nephews and Michael often mentored Adam in open sessions. Rest in peace.

GCBC Library

Our Librarian, Lisa Basile, is seeking the return of numerous books, borrowed by members many months ago, in some cases 12 months or more. Our library is run on an honour system and books are loaned to members for up to three months. We understand that books can be placed on bookshelves and forgotten. We are asking that you do a home audit to see if you have any GCBC books that should be returned. Two books in particular, 'The Language of Bidding' and 'The Language of Bidding - Two Over One Game Force', both by Paul Marston, are in great demand but

have been missing in action for well over the three-month period. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

A note to those who dispense books in Lisa's absence, including Directors and teachers. Please note the date, the title of the book and the name and club number of the person to whom they are loaned. Again, your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Building Better Partnerships (This article is based on "Love Thy Partner" by Larry Cohen.)

• Respect

Learning how to handle the relationship with your bridge partner will do more for your results than reading any technical book on the game. If your partnership is not good, you are at a big disadvantage.

Top players do get a bad result (and it happens more than you would think). However, there is no acrimony. It's always "on to the next board." No raised eyebrows, no "why didn't you do this," and absolutely no yelling, ranting, or raving. The time to discuss these things is always *after the session*. One must control their emotions at the table and never say a harsh word to partner. It may sound like an obvious and rudimentary lesson, but it cannot be stressed enough. We all have emotions, and they can be tough to control. Your partner(s) will appreciate you and will consequently play better if you make a concerted effort to change bad habits. When they can play without fear of criticism or retribution they'll give you their A-game. You in turn will be in good spirits to give your A-game. This makes a friendlier and more enjoyable atmosphere for you and everyone else playing.

• Conventions

Try to choose a partner whose convention-scale rating is like yours, ie. if you enjoy having lots of conventions, so does your partner. Start your partnership out simply. Don't try to fill up your plate too fast, it's just not practical. Bridge players are not computers. It's best to Keep It Simple!

A good partnership takes work. With any serious partner there are three chores that are considered a must:

1. Maintain partnership bidding/system notes.
2. Practice bidding hands before important events.
3. Go over the boards at the end of the day.

• 1st Time Partnerships

It seems that when people play together for the first time, things often go better than expected. Perhaps there's a lesson here and this anomaly is the fact that both players are on their very best behaviour and trying hard:

1. they want to make a good impression on the other player.
2. neither makes any "questionable" bids or plays.
3. they don't play too many conventions.

• Post Session

This is an exchange of ideas and solidifying your agreements. This exchange of ideas has got to be done maturely. It's a sensitive area, and you've got to set your ego aside. Try to adopt an attitude of "What could I have done to better help out my partner?" Don't try to explain to your partner what he/she should have done. If you are on a different wavelength from your partner, that's okay. But after the session get it ironed out. Agree to do it one way or the other.

• Misunderstandings

1. Don't ever show emotion when the dummy goes down. Always act confident.
2. Do not discuss bridge during the session. **Take notes.**
3. Pick the bidding alternative that is easiest to remember, rather than the best theoretical choice. When adding a convention, make sure it is consistent with your existing conventions.

- **Cherish Your Partner**

It can't be over-stated: You've got to keep your partner happy, especially during the session. Do not accuse, yell at, frown at, complain to, criticize, castigate, disparage, abuse, ridicule, sneer at, or mock your partner. Try to be comforting, supportive, compassionate, encouraging, reassuring, sympathetic and understanding. Don't argue with your partner in front of other people. And, especially, don't talk negatively about your partner or teammates behind their backs. Whatever it takes, remember to keep a smile on your face, a pleasant attitude and be the best partner you can be! (Unlike the cartoon below)!



On a final note, the above are not just some moral guidelines. Most are covered in Rule 74 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, "Conduct and Etiquette". Penalties can be incurred for discourteous behaviour, poor etiquette, and violations of procedure.

July Events Winners – Congratulations

Club Teams Championship

1st - Steffensen team: Kevin Steffensen, Carolyn Miller, Usher Zeng, Ann Liu

Neil Raward Trophy Red Points.

1st Section A – Kevin Steffensen, Bijan Assaee

1st Section B – Jo-anne Martin, Steve Goldwater

August Events

Wednesday 2nd August. GNOT Heat 4, Day 3 at GCBC

Friday 4th, 11th August. Green Point Pairs. Sponsor Mudgeeraba Cutting Salon

Sunday 13th August. GCBC Novice / Restricted Pairs Congress. Sponsor Harcourts Coastal

Wednesday 16th, 23rd August. Club Pairs Championship Red Points

Thursday 17th, 24th August. Red Point Pairs. Sponsor Local Newsletter

Thursday Evening 17th, 24th August. Nancy Fleming Pairs. Sponsor Shoetique

Friday 25th August. Australia Wide Open Pairs.

Promotions

Regional – David Lewis, Margaret Bills

Silver Local – Jenny L Williams

Bronze Local – Zhou Xiaohong

Local – Lee Lethbridge

Graduate – Karen Curtis, Ray Bailey

New Members – Welcome

Nikhil Radia, Trusha Radia, John O'Hara, Libby Persson, Gillian Farrell

August Birthdays

1st - Lexie Yeates; 4th - John Leach; 5th - Suzanne Davis; 6th - Kim Morrison; 8th - Kerry Hiscocks; 9th - Marilyn Bidey, Fiona Evans; 12th - Melanie Mills; 13th - William Guthrie, Dorothy Meier; 15th - Laura Dummett; 16th - Derick Coppack, Paula Mcleish; 17th - Di Court, Michelle Craig, Elizabeth Linderman; 18th - Andrew Castle, Gregory Parry; 19th - Ken Moschner; 20th - Neven Burica, Jack Luke-Paredi; 21st - Robin Simpson; 22nd - Charlie Dacey, Joanna Reid, Pamela Rowney;

In the Beginning...Paul Brake

- **What's your bridge background?**

It always helps to come from a card playing background. In my childhood, starting off with Snap, I often played games such as Euchre, Canasta and 500 with my parents and siblings. In my early teens, there was bridge played around the kitchen table with my grandmother. At university, I spent many hours in the student cafeteria playing 500 when I should have been at my lectures. While my academic results undoubtedly suffered, looking back with the benefit of hindsight after a long professional career as a lawyer and accountant, I still think this was a worthwhile trade-off.

- **Bridge during your working life**

The carefree joys of adolescent and young adult activities are seldom a match for the rigors of earning a living. After entering the workforce, for the next 30 or 40 years my bridge activities had to take a back seat. In the background I did continue to maintain an interest in bridge. Bridge is a game that can be played anywhere at any time. I have fond memories of playing in interclub competitions while living in England. The weather often was bleak, the temperature cold, the winds biting, the sunlight absent and travelling on icy roads potentially dangerous - but the comradery (and competition) of the game were always enjoyable. Learning and documenting different bidding systems and conventions in a variety of contexts (Standard American, Acol, Precision, Polish Club, and 2/1) was, and still is, an avid interest - there are few things in life more enjoyable than working on a detailed system card (maybe there is something crazy about that!)

- **Your family members and bridge**

My wife, Teresa, has many fine qualities but has always resisted the siren call of taking up bridge. However, one joy of parenthood is the opportunity to influence your children, and I introduced our three children to the game when they became teenagers. Our eldest child, Jessica, began playing initially using a form of Polish club that I played at that time, but we soon jettisoned this so she could play with others. She has really taken to the game, getting onto the Australian Girls' and then the Australian Women's teams. She threw in her job as a secondary school teacher to become a fulltime bridge professional in Sydney. Our middle child, Lorraine, attended bridge lessons, but never took to the game. Such is life. Our youngest child, Darren, has taken a middle course. He was on the Qld Youth Team for several years and enjoys playing, but currently bridge is only a modest part of his social activities. My father (aged 93) is still going strong in his bridge, one of my brothers has recently taken up the game, and various nephews, partners etc. play the game. At one stage the extended Brake family could have had a teams' match amongst ourselves.

- **Away from the bridge table**

Bridge games (and clubs) do not run themselves - both individual bridge clubs and the wider bridge community always require many volunteers to help. I have had the opportunity to be the QBA Youth Bridge Coordinator and non-playing captain of the Qld Youth Team. Teaching bridge at a local school yielded some achievements (one student is now in the under 21 Australian bridge team), but it just got too hard! I have been treasurer at both the GCBC and the SPBC. Having introduced Pianola to GCBC many years ago, at the moment I am working on adopting MyABF into the club's activities. I also maintain the club's website and occasionally direct at the club. Bridge is a game of endless challenges - working in a partnership is intellectually stimulating and socially cohesive. I look forward to continuing, with my friends and colleagues here at the Gold Coast Bridge Club, my journey in bridge for many years to come.

Quiz

For the quiz masters among us who love their music, identify these song titles, which include the word club, diamond, heart, or spade. (Solution next month).

AOS	Motorhead
CATEOTS	Elton John
DAAGBF	Marilyn Monroe
DAF	Shirley Bassey
DGBMH	Elton John & Kiki Dee
DOTSOHS	Paul Simon
HH	Bruce Springsteen
HOG	Blondie
HOG	Neil Young
LITSWD	The Beatles
QOS	Styx
SOYCD	Pink Floyd
SPLHCB	The Beatles
TEOTH	Bonnie Tyler
TH	Phil Collins

Happy Bridging Julie Wicks

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

Mon - Sat Jim & Shelley Moodie...5591 2135 or 0402 634 013
Thursday Night. Tom Strong.....0421 106 986

Welfare Officer: Cheryl Millar 0409 879 081

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