



President's Report



2020 feels like a blank whiteboard. There were a lot of activities, appointments, travel and yet to be realised opportunities that just did not happen. However, fingers crossed that we can revisit those plans in the not too distant future.

We quickly acted on advice to close the club way back in March and reopened again with abundant caution in July. Safety for our members has been the key word and we have aimed to set a high bar when it comes to safety. At the time of writing the club is still abiding by the various roadmap guidelines and restrictions imposed by Queensland Health. As we know, things can change overnight so by the time you are reading this we may be abiding by a different set of rules. As has been shown in Victoria, abiding by the rules does work.

Unfortunately, the signature bridge event of the year, the QBA Gold Coast Congress held at the Convention Centre each year, has been cancelled for 2021. This Congress is one of the premier events in the world attracting both national and international participants. It also creates a terrific buzz around Broadbeach and the influx of 2,000-3,000 people in hotels, restaurants and bars will be sorely missed. Let's hope it is back bigger and better in 2022. We too had to cancel Congresses and sponsored events throughout the year. Neil has done a great job in reorganising the current diary to accommodate several red point events. Neil and Di Hillman have produced the diary for 2021 with a lot of uncertainty as to whether scheduled events can take place or not.

Despite all that 2020 has thrown at us, Christmas will still happen. We were denied holding our annual Christmas party at the club due to Covid restrictions on numbers. Thanks to Jan Palm and Odette Hall for sourcing and booking the venue, Northcliffe Surf Club, for our party. It promises to be a great day with 124 members booked so far.

Wishing you all good health, good cheer and exceptional bridge for 2021.

Julie Wicks

President.



RESULTS

SEPTEMBER ECLECTICS

TUESDAY

1st Cheryl Hansel
2nd Jan Palm

THURSDAY 'A'

Equal 1st Tony Berger, Ed Hahn

THURSDAY 'B'

Equal 1st Graham Male & Carolyn Sargeant

FRIDAY

Equal 1st. Kathy Johnson and Lois Steinwedel

OCTOBER ECLECTICS

MONDAY (now Rookies)

1st Carole Millar
2nd Glenda Brennan

TUESDAY

Lisa Basile and Lindell Day (equal)

WEDNESDAY

1st Eva Berger
2nd Kathy Johnson

THURSDAY A

Equal 1st Kerry Wood and Eva Berger

THURSDAY B

1. Tom Ward
2. Sonja Bailey

THURSDAY NIGHT

Equal 1st Tom Strong and Bob Hunt
Club Pairs Championship
Tom and Edda Strong 1st,
Ed Hahn and Pat Beattie 2nd

Local Newsletter Pairs

Nikolas Moore and Rachel Langdon 1st
Eva and Tony Berger 2nd

Anniversary Teams

C. Howard, K. Wood, David and Sue Smith 1st
Tony Berger, Ed Hahn, Kathy Johnson
and Eva Berger 2nd

Rose and Bernie Nightingale Swiss Teams

1st Nikolas Moore, Rachel Langdon, Charlie
Howard, Kerry Wood
2nd Roger Weathered Lou Tillotson, Andrew
and Sandra Richman
3rd Eva and Tony Berger, Lol and Lou Garnett

Distribution Problems

Problem A: Design a board with the 52 cards so that North/South makes 7 Spades (i.e. all 13 tricks) with only 5 High Card Points between them, no matter what is led by East/West.

Problem B: Design a board with 52 cards so that North/ South makes 3 No Trumps with only 16 High Card Points, no matter what is led. Can you design one to get there with less?

Solutions page 7

Congratulations!

*Our oldest club member,
Zachariah Davidson,
turned 100 in November.*



He lives in Melbourne but comes to the Gold Coast for 3-4 months each year during the winter with his wife, Daina, who is also a member. Obviously they could not come this year due to Covid, but Daina says that they hope to come up early in the new year. It is not often that we have a centenarian, so perhaps we could make a fuss of him when they next come to the club.

Tips for the Improving & Intermediate Players (The Waiting Game)

This exciting hand came along at our Club last Thursday. One of my students playing in the <100 masterpoints competition brought it to my attention. *Asking: How I would bid it if I held the West hand over a 2♣ opening by East (showing 20+ unbalanced or 23+ Balanced)*

	North	
	♠87	
	♥Q98	
	♦74	
	♣976542	
West		East
♠Q9643		♠AKJ
♥K6		♥A2
♦Q53		♦AKJ62
♣AKT		♣QJ3
	South	
	♠T52	
	♥JT7543	
	♦T98	
	♣8	

So my thoughts:

- I have a balanced 14 count with a five card suit . Opposite 20+ points, I'm confident at least small slam is on.
- If partner holds 23+ balanced I want to be in a grand slam. We need 37 for grand slam. So long as we are not one Ace off the top, all should be well.
- A positive bid of 2♠ is far from ideal. The suit is not up to scratch. Remember I am suggesting Spades as a trump suit. Best to have 2 of the top 3 honours or 3 of the top 5 in your 5+ card suit.
- A positive bid of 2NT simply shows 8+ balanced and although not an unreasonable option, the auction may become awkward.

The important point on this hand is to gather information, not give it. I need to know which hand you hold. A balanced 23+ or a distributional hand with 20+

- In my experience this is the perfect 2♦ waiting bid.

The hand works just as well using simple Blackwood as with Keycard Blackwood.

So a possible auction for those playing Simple Blackwood

2C	-	2D (waiting)
2NT	-	3H (transfer)
3S	-	4NT (blackwood)
5S - 3 Aces	-	5NT (asks for Kings)
6H -2 Kings	-	7NT

Once East shows 23+ balanced a grand slam is pretty much on the cards. Had I bid the Spades immediately as a positive this could skew Easts rebid . She may choose to support Spades instead of showing her shape and strength (although I would disagree with that bid. I believe it is still more important to complete the description of the 2♣ opening by bidding 2NT before showing spade support)

All that remains now is to check that we are not an Ace off the top (partner may have counted a length point). To use our Ace asking tool of Blackwood or RKB, we need to establish a trump suit first. A bid now of 4NT would certainly be interpreted as quantitative, asking partner to bid 6NT with a maximum and pass with a minimum. So now it's time to transfer to my 5 card Spade suit. When partner accepts the transfer. I follow up with Blackwood or RKB.

Once I've established we hold all the Aces I now ask for Kings. Its essential not to ask for Kings unless you hold all the Aces and the Queen of trumps., My Queen of Spades is now working well.

East shows 3 Aces and 2 Kings using simple Blackwood. or 4 keycards and one King using RKB Grand slams should play themselves. As this one does. 13 top tricks with 7NT being the optimum unbeatable contract It's a great hand and I'm sure can be successfully bid in many ways, but this one works well and successfully finds the top spot.

Have fun, play the Game and bid your Slams!
Lynley Jenkins

CLEVER PLAY

South is declarer in 4 Hearts with the following N/S cards.

North (dummy)

- ♠ KJ953
- ♥ 54
- ♦ AQT
- ♣ J73

South (declarer)

- ♠ void
- ♥ KQJT972
- ♦ KJ92
- ♣ 84

The bidding was

W	N	E	S
1C	1S	2C	4H

West leads the CK and it wins the first trick. East signals with the C9 that she has the CA. Although West can see the DA in dummy, he next plays the D8. This could be a singleton, or the start of a “peter”, or a lead through dummy’s broken strength hoping that partner has the DK. What should South do from here on? Try to figure it out before reading on.

Declarer can see 2 losing Clubs and a losing Heart. She can also see 4 Diamond tricks and 6 Heart tricks once the HA is removed. However, what if that D8 was a singleton and East has the HA? Then the contract could go down with 4 losers, if East is awake and declarer starts on trumps..

So declarer should win the second trick in dummy, and do it with the DA to make West think that his partner East has the DK. (Clever move in case West is put on lead again). Then she leads the SK from dummy. If East plays low, declarer discards the C8 ensuring no more than 3 losers once again. This puts the lead back with West who will probably lead another Diamond. But if East plays the SA, declarer must ruff. Declarer now knows that East cannot hold the HA as well, since she already has the CA (remember the C9 signal) and only supported West’s opening 1C with a 2C reply. Declarer now plays the HK won by West’s HA, and can now only lose the CA before he gets in to eliminate the defenders’ trumps and run the Diamonds (carefully unblocked) and the remaining Hearts. Very neat!
Tie Rod

CARDS AND THE CALENDAR

- ♦ The Chinese invented playing cards about 1000 AD.
- ♦ Did you know that the traditional deck of Playing Cards is a strikingly coherent form of a Calendar?
 - ♦ There are 52 weeks in the year and there are 52 Playing Cards in a Deck.
 - ♦ There are 13 weeks in each Season and there are 13 cards in each suit.
 - ♦ There are 4 Seasons in a Year and 4 Suits in the Deck. (However this is obvious by the rules of mathematics.)
 - ♦ There are 12 Months in a Year and there are 12 Court Cards (Those with faces, namely Jack, Queen, King in each suit)
- ♦ The Red Cards could represent Day, while Black Cards could represent the Night.



♦ If you let Jacks = 11, Queens = 12, and the Kings = 13, then add up for any suit the sum of the cards being $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + 13 = 91$. Now multiply this by 4, for the four Suits, therefore $91 \times 4 = 364$. Add another 1 for the Joker and you will arrive at the number 365 being the Days in a Year?



Potted Bridge History of Paul Brake (aka Blue Parka)

Paul was born in Brisbane in 1958. He went to Marist Brothers College, Ashgrove, and his main interest growing up was with the Scouts' movement. Starting at the age of 8, he remained in the Scouting organisation until he left at age 25. At the University of Queensland, his completion of degrees in Arts and Law was somewhat delayed as much time was spent playing 500 in the students' cafe. He qualified as a solicitor, but after a few years switched to the accounting profession, taking up insolvency work, and getting a Commerce degree. It was at this time he first started to play bridge on a regular basis. He moved to Hong Kong, where he expanded his work to include investigatory work on behalf of the Independent Commission against Corruption. In Hong Kong he met and married Teresa (who has to date not succumbed to the joys of bridge). They subsequently moved to the United Kingdom, where they had three children. Paul's main work there was defending white collar criminals. Returning to Australia in 1996, he moved back into pure insolvency work, and in 2000 set up his own practice. He started a long gradual progress to retire from that as soon as he reckoned he had enough money to live on and play bridge for the rest of his life!

Teresa and Paul have three lovely children including Jessica (a full time professional bridge player in Sydney, and currently a member of the Australian Women's Team), and Darren who played in the Queensland Youth Team before moving to Victoria. Paul is the QBA Youth Coordinator.

Paul has been an active member of the club for a number of years, and is currently a director and chair of the tournament committee. In the past, he has been the club treasurer, and was responsible for the introduction of Pianola. More recently, he organised our BBO games during the COVID 19 pandemic, and developed our new website. He likes to dabble in bidding systems, and is always happy to give something different a go (as long as it is fully documented – as per the detail of the system card he produces at the table!).

When not playing bridge or doing bridge administration, he teaches Christian Religious Instruction in some state schools, avoids strenuous physical exercise, and dreams about extended travelling adventures.



- DIRECTOR'S CORNER -

Asking about a bid then passing

Many players know that pausing (“hesitating”) during the bidding can cause problems. Asking about a bid, especially if you ask and then not bid yourself, can also give rise to issues. Take the following case that occurred at our club recently:

Dealer: West

Vulnerable: Nil

North

♠T5
♥K5
♦KQ9853
♣T54

East

♠QJ9 83
♥JT32
♦72
♣KQ

West

♠A74
♥Q74
♦64
♣AJ976

South

♠K62
♥A986
♦AJT
♣832

Bidding

West	North	East	South
Pass	2D [Not alerted]	Asks; what is the meaning of the 2D. South advises it is a natural bid, 6 card diamond suit, less than opening values.	Pass
Double Pass	Pass Pass	2S	Pass

The laws of contract bridge provide

“A player may use information in the auction or play if it derives from the legal calls and plays ... and is unaffected by unauthorized information from another source or ... [further matters not relevant to this article]. Any extraneous

information from partner that might suggest a call or play is unauthorized. This includes remarks, questions, replies to questions, unexpected alerts or failures to alert, unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism.

A player may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorized information if the other call or play is a logical alternative. A logical alternative is an action that a significant proportion of the class of players in question, using the methods of the partnership, would seriously consider, and some might select.”

Here East asked about the meaning of the 2D bid, and then, after being told that meaning, passed. Some (not necessarily all) directors may consider that East probably asked about the bid because he had a reasonable hand, and wanted to know about North’s hand in order to decide whether to bid or pass. East may not have asked about the bid for that reason, and West may not have drawn the inference that East has a reasonable hand. However directors are not mind readers, and unless convinced otherwise on objective evidence, can only go on what hypothetical players could reasonably (not necessarily did) do or infer.

The law does allow a player to ask what a bid means, even out of idle curiosity, and even if they have no intention of bidding. However, asking comes at a price. If East asks, and then passes, when the 2D bid is passed around to West, his partner, West, now has a potential problem.

A player may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorized information if the other call or play is a logical alternative.

In a smooth auction, with no question of unauthorized information, some Wests may

continued >

double, while at least some ** Wests would pass. Here, on West's hand, passing is a "logical alternative" to making a takeout double. If the director considers the actions by East suggest that he had a reasonable hand (albeit ultimately not one worth bidding at that stage), and that suggests to a hypothetical West that making the takeout double, rather than passing, may be the better option, then the director will rule that West is not entitled to double, and must pass.

If West does double where he possesses what the director considers to be unauthorised information and North/South then get a worse result than what the director considers they would have got if West had passed (ie if North/South had been left to play in 2D), then the director is required to adjust the score to what North/South are likely to have got playing in 2D. It is a "no win" situation for West. If he doubles, and ends up getting a good score in 2S, the table result is disregarded, and North/South will be treated as if they played in 2D. If West doubles and ends up getting a bad score in 2S, the bad 2S table result for East/West remains. This arises from the fact that a player asked about a bid, and then passed, putting his partner in a difficult situation where, as is in this example, there is no "obvious" clear cut action for partner.

As noted above, a player is entitled to ask what a bid means, even out of idle curiosity, and even if they have no intention of bidding. However, asking comes at a price. A prudent player may wish (to reduce giving potential problems to their partners) to **not ask about opposition bids, whether alerted or not, unless they need to know the meaning of the bid at that time.** You can always wait until the auction is finished, then ask for an explanation of the entire auction.

Paul Brake

Chair, Tournament Committee

** As a guideline, directors will usually consider a course of action to be a "logical alternative" if one (or more) players out of five would take that action.

Distribution Solutions

Problem A

	North	
	♠ AJ432	
	♥ void	
	♦ 98765432	
	♣ void	
West		East
♠ K		♠ Q
♥ QJ76		♥ AKT98
♦ AKQ		♦ JT
♣ AKQJT		♣ 98765
	South	
	♠ 987654	
	♥ 5432	
	♦ void	
	♣ 432	

Ruff the opening lead. Play the SA to remove defenders' trumps. Cross ruff Diamonds and other suits until all the East/West Diamonds are gone, and then run the Diamonds. North/South makes 10 Spade and 3 Diamond tricks. Other similar arrangements are possible.

Problem B

	North	
	♠ A987654	
	♥ A4	
	♦ 32	
	♣ 32	
West		East
♠ KJ		♠ QT
♥ JT98765		♥ KQ
♦ KQ		♦ JT987
♣ KQ		♣ JT98
	South	
	♠ 32	
	♥ 32	
	♦ A654	
	♣ A7654	

North/South have 6 Spade tricks and the Ace in each of the other suits.

If a Spade is led, duck the first Spade, win any return and run the Spades.

If a Heart is led win the Ace, duck a Spade, lose another Heart, and win the next trick. Then run the Spades. Ditto if a Diamond or Club is led.

Not sure if you can do it with less than 16, but a finesse might work for a King instead of an Ace in a non-Spade suit.

DECEMBER DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM

Paul Marston never fails to entertain and challenge his weekly readers in the Weekend Australian newspaper with his double dummy problems. He also adds interesting bridge history stories of past and present great players over time.

After relating a Bobby Hammond story, he gave us this problem just before the New Year. Paul wished us lots of good bridge in 2020. Little did we know what was to come just three and a half months later.

South is in a 6 Hearts contract. West leads the SK. See how you go!

	North	
	♠ A64	
	♥ T732	
	♦ A862	
West	♣ A6	East
♠ KQJT73		♠ 982
♥ 8		♥ 965
♦ QT97		♦ 4
♣ J9		♣ Q87432
	South	
	♠ 5	
	♥ AKQJ4	
	♦ KJ53	
	♣ KT5	

The bidding proceeded as follows

North	East	South	West
1D	Pass	1H	2S
3H	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5D**	Pass	6H	All pass

* Roman Key Card Blackwood

** 3 Key Cards

Try to count West's shape by looking for the right play, then read on.

After West leads the SK, win the Ace and then draw trumps. Your plan is to hold your Diamond losers to one, but they can wait. You play CA then CK and ruff a Club. West shows out on the third Club, so his shape is 6 Spades, 1 Heart, 2 Clubs, and he has 4 Diamonds and 2 Spades left. Now ruff a Spade, cross to dummy

with a Diamond to the Ace, and ruff the last Spade. You and West are both down to three Diamonds. Duck a Diamond to West, who must lead a Diamond into your K J combination. Voila!

So easy in hindsight, right?

In The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge under Double Dummy it says that "The opponents are assumed to play perfectly." Before reading on, see if you can play perfectly as a defender to prevent South from making the contract.

West has to follow on three Spade tricks and two Club tricks, but must discard on three other tricks. If the discards are two Spades and one Diamond, instead of three Spades, the contract cannot be made.

Lots of good bridging to you all, whatever way you can.

Johnathon Sky

CARD PLAYING IDIOMS

English is a colourful language and many of the idioms we use in everyday speech derive from card playing. As these phrases trip off your tongue, have you ever paused to consider their origin and meaning?

- ♦ Play the hand you are dealt.
- ♦ Have an Ace up your sleeve.
- ♦ Play your cards close to your chest.
- ♦ Come up trumps.
- ♦ Be dealt a bad hand.
- ♦ A few cards short of a deck or not playing with a full deck.
- ♦ Follow suit.
- ♦ Have the cards stacked against you.
- ♦ Hold all the Aces.
- ♦ Lay one's cards on the table.
- ♦ Play your cards right.
- ♦ Your strong suit.



Barbara Grant