



President's Report

At our November board meeting Brian Pearson was unanimously voted in as Vice President. Brian has a wealth of experience in management, and we welcome his guidance and assistance. An email was sent outlining his career and skills.

We started November with our Melbourne Cup celebration which was sensational and well supported. A very big thank you to the members that assisted in making it so successful and to Connie Cassar, Melanie Mills, Cheryl Hensel, Grace Henry, Sue Herse and others who prepared and assisted in serving the magnificent lunch.

Also, thanks to Liz Linderman, Kerry Wood, Norma Cameron and others who made and put up the decorations. Wow! A wonderful, colourful display for all to enjoy.



Once again Carolyn Waters and Juliet Rogers displayed a huge array of homemade produce and craft at the Christmas stall with proceeds going to charity Orange Sky. Helped by Liz Linderman, John Lemarchand, Alan Kestenberg and many others, all doing an incredible job. They have been working tirelessly throughout the year to make all the amazing goodies. A separate email message will follow.

John and Alan also organised the trivia night on November 18th. A most enjoyable night had by those who attended. Thanks for organising and running this fun night guys with proceeds also going to Orange Sky.



Fundraising for Charities is well supported by our members. We haven't forgotten about Rosie's Raffle. Liz Linderman has beautifully wrapped the donations. Thank you, Liz and others, those who donated goodies, and the helping hands selling tickets etc. Prizes will be drawn at the Christmas Party Saturday 3rd December... good luck everyone.

The club is very fortunate to have so many willing volunteers and you the members that support these events so generously.

Warm regards Odette

How to Improve your Focus at the Bridge Table

The following is a worthwhile article about holding your concentration for the duration of these seemingly never-ending sessions of bridge.

Four main tips are discussed:

a) Distractions; b) Fatigue; c) Anxiety and d) Practice.

<https://giftsforcardsplayers.com/how-to-improve-your-focus-at-the-bridge-table/>

Education Report - Lynley Jenkins

Lessons are almost over for the year. Just next week to go for Wednesday and Friday lessons. I'm planning to head south to Newcastle to family early December and will stay for Christmas. Lessons will resume mid-January. Dates to be confirmed in the next newsletter or via a pianola email.

Look forward to your company at the Christmas Party 🎄

Happy Christmas all and a very happy New Year from the teaching team.
Lynley, Dot and Lindell

Hand Analysis

"He who fails to plan is planning to fail". Winston Churchill.

Let's make a plan for this hand.

Spending half a minute on your PLAN at trick one will often save you time in the play. It may also save your contract! Try to allow your mind to think ahead and run through the general order of play before you play to the first trick. It will take time to be able to do this but give it a try and gradually you'll see!! Over time it will just come naturally!

You open a spade and partner invites game with a 3-spade bid. By agreement this bid promises 4-card trump support and 10-12 points. With a very minimum balanced opening hand you rightly reject the invitation.

The contract is 3 Spades by South and West leads the ♦Q.

	Dummy	
	♠ Q865	
	♥ Q65	
	♦ AK52	
	♣ 63	
♠ A2		♠ 94
♥ K982		♥ 10743
♦ QJ109		♦ 64
♣ 974		♣ AK852
	♠ KJ1073	
	♥ AJ	
	♦ 873	
	♣ QJ10	

Time to make a PLAN.

- Against a suit contract it's important to count losers. One spade, One diamond Two clubs and a possible heart. That's 5 losers. One too many.
- You must dispose of one loser. You quickly assess those losers which cannot be avoided. 2 clubs and a spade. You must avoid either a heart loser or a diamond loser.
- You cannot afford to touch trumps as the diamonds are under attack and will be continued by defenders as soon as they gain the lead.
- At first glance it looks like a winning heart finesse is the best way to make your contract. But before taking a finesse always ask if there is a better way?
- There is! You plan to establish the ♥Queen in dummy for a diamond pitch while you still have the ♦Ace as a quick entry to the table. So, you play the Ace and Jack of hearts losing to the King regardless of which defender holds it.

- **What you don't want** is to lose both a heart and a diamond. If you try the finesse that is what will happen. Your opponent will win with the ♥King and knock out your second top diamond to expose your loser. Your heart suit is blocked and with no quick entry to dummy, your contract will be defeated.

DEFENDERS. If declarer does take the finesse, you should continue diamonds and when declarer now tries to get to the table with a trump (the only chance) you must win the first trump trick (even if it means 2nd hand plays high) and cash your diamond trick, defeating the contract.

Rule of Fifteen:

Guideline for opening light in fourth seat: open if your high card points plus your number of spades is 15 or more.

Bridge Terminology

Cash: To take a trick with a card that is currently the highest in the suit, thought likely to succeed, or to take all available winners in a suit.

Cold: A contract that a player cannot fail to make, even against the best defence, is *cold*.

Control Bid: A bid that shows *control* of a particular suit. Often a cue bid, but not all cue bids are control bids.

Establish: To make winners of the remaining cards in a suit by playing or forcing out higher cards.

Kibitzer: A spectator who attends a game in person.

Lead through strength: A maxim that advises a defender to lead a suit in which LHO has high card strength, forcing declarer to play high or low before third hand plays. The corollary is that a defence is advised to lead *up to weakness* in the fourth hand.

Make: To take at least as many tricks as a contract calls for. Frequently used in the past tense, ie Made.

Onside: Favourably located, from the point of view of the player taking a finesse. If West holds KS and North the AS, QS, then from the South's point of view the KS is *onside*.

Opening lead: The first card led by defenders. The dummy is not faced until after the opening lead, which makes the choice of opening lead more difficult than other leads. The opening lead can determine the outcome of the deal.

Optimum contract: In unopposed bidding, the contract that cannot be improved upon by further bidding, nor could have been improved upon by taking a different line in earlier bidding. The contract is regarded as optimum because it offers the maximum score while minimising the risk of failure.

Quitted Tricks: A trick whose cards have all been turned face down. In duplicate bridge, a player may inspect a quitted trick only if told to do so by a director.

Reverse: A bidding sequence in which a single player, on consecutive calls, bids two different suits in reverse order to that expected by the basic bidding system. The specific definition of a reverse therefore depends on the bidding system. The reverse is designed to show strength without the need to make a jump bid. Because the reverse takes up bidding space, the reverse bidder is usually expected to hold a stronger than average hand, usually more than 16 high card points.

Events/Congress winners in November. Congratulations.

- **All Day GCBC Teams Congress**
Moore Team: Nikolas Moore, Rachel Langdon, Sarah Strickland, Darren Brake.

December Events

- Saturday 3rd December **Christmas Party** at 11am.

New Members

Ken Swansborough, Christiane Boulay, Barbara Gray, Andrew Castle, Lorraine Fell-Smith

Promotions

Life - Shayne Palfreyman
National - Dianne Hillman
Silver Local - Robyn Kronenberg
Club - Ian Jarvis
Graduate - Carol Vogel

December Birthdays

4th - Owen Kenny, Shelley Moodie; 5th - Jackson Cook; 6th - Edda Strong;
8th - Karen Curtis, Laura Ryan; 9th - Carole Millar; 10th - Charles Howard;
12th - Dulcie Miller, Heather Reid; 14th - Barbara Huddy, Lee Lethbridge, Ann Liu;
15th - Haklan Morton; 16th - Christiane Boulay; 17th - Brian Pearson; 19th - Nola Saunders;
20th - Lesley Sutherland; 21st - Ralph Spinks, Ruth Young; 22nd - Judy Fitzgerald;
23rd - Keith Archos, Maida Beale; 25th - David Lewis; 26th - Dave Mohr, Saftica Popa;
28th - Louise Hartnell, Lynley Jenkins; 29th - Bev Payne; 31st - Duncan Fraser.

Happy Bridging.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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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