



**GOLD COAST**  
BRIDGE CLUB

# NEWSLETTER

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**JUNE 2019**

## *President's Message*



This will be one of my last President's messages before the AGM, so I'm dedicating it to encouraging members to seriously consider nominating for the upcoming board. Last year we had two new nominations Margaret Bills and Elinor McCloskey who have proven themselves to be valuable and very important to the running of the club. Margaret has been Sue Herse's understudy as Membership secretary, and Elinor has nailed it as Congress Convenor. Next year we will need more of you to help out, as several of us have been in and out of the board with lots of different responsibilities over many years. It really is an exciting time for the next generation to show their skills. If you can spare a couple of hours a month, and perhaps have a business or financial background, computer skills, be creative or just would like to be part of the great comradeship that we have on the board, please come and have a chat with me or any of the current board members and we will try to convince you .....

*Eva Berger*



## *Congratulations!*

The club held an event "Gold Coast Novice and Intermediate Pairs" at the end of March. This was well attended by entries from other clubs including Ballina and Brisbane.

Cheryl Millar (right), Penny Grace (left), from the Gold Coast Bridge Club won 3rd place in the Novice event. Well done ladies.



# REFLECTIONS BY THE CLUB'S LATEST SILVER GRAND MASTER

The scene is St Colomb's Church, Clayfield circa 1960, where I used to deliver the Parish notes and where incidentally I was confirmed by Archbishop Halse. There was a bridge group in the Church Hall where my mother Hilda played Auction Bridge. At about this time the new fangled contract bridge was introduced to the group. We moved house around then and Mum stopped playing. I used to hear Mum and Dad (Harry) talking about bridge as my Father had played occasionally whilst serving in North Africa and Italy.

Bridge, 500 and Poker were played at my school and university. I didn't play but would often observe. I did occasionally dabble at Pontoon.

In 1973 I was working at Thornlie High School in Perth. My Boss was a keen club bridge player and introduced me and most of the Math's Staff to the game. I was immediately hooked.

I read Terence Reece's book "Bridge for Beginners" till the pages wore out! ... so for the next 2 years had a very happy time playing weekly at the Melville Bridge Club.

My bridge continued at the Kingsway Senior High School, Amanzimtoti, Natal, South Africa, playing with workmates. In 1976, now living on the Gold Coast, Tom Strong introduced me to the club where I played night time bridge twice a week. I didn't ever have formal lessons; however I read every bridge book I could get my hands on and was never backward in calling experts for their opinions on bidding. My favourite book at the time was "The Play of the Hand" by Louis Watson written in the late 30's.

I kept my reading up by subscribing to Australian Bridge, as well as The Bridge

World, and borrowed other publications from John Dennis and Tom Strong. I had a particular interest in bridge probabilities and still buy books of that nature. I encourage all new players to have a couple of books on the go. Lesley, our librarian should be one of your best friends. In the digital age, Mike Lawrence's "Counting at Bridge" is guaranteed to improve your game.

I encouraged the youth at my school to play/learn bridge. We took on Brisbane Girl's Grammar (coached by luminaries in the Brisbane bridge scene) and took home the title. I also encouraged work colleagues from Benowa High to play; Graham Dawes still plays.

I realised that to further improve my game I had to play in the big tournaments so became a regular competitor at the Canberra and Gold Coast Congresses. Have had some great Bridge Partner's in the 40 + years I have been playing however special mention to my longest and most successful partnership with Kerry Wood. She shares my passion for the game and desire to continue to learn and improve. Together we have represented Qld in four Senior's Teams and once in the Open. Representing Qld in Fremantle was especially enjoyable as I reunited with my old friends from Thornlie High (who I had kept in contact with) and who still play. Mum and Dad would be very pleased that they had nurtured such a wonderful pastime and passion. They would also be happy to know that my other great passion is contemporary latin dance, which because of its energy and grace complements the long hours sitting playing bridge.

I don't play often enough to become a "Gold Grand Master" but I'll be trying.

*Charles Howard*

# Biggest Morning Tea – GCBC



I am so proud to be a member of the GCBC. And this was highlighted once again by our recent Biggest Morning Tea held on Thursday 16 May, what an absolutely magnificent party which should make every member feel very proud. These events do not just happen and thanks go to the two Margaret's – Margaret Day and Margaret Mellick and their band of willing workers who put the event together.

Over 150 letters of request were sent to potential sponsors/donors and the list of prizes for the raffle was astounding. The club provided the morning tea which cost players \$5. Each day for two weeks the merry band of workers sold raffle tickets and there was also lucky door prizes. The theme for the day was yellow and blue and it was lovely to see so many members dressed for the occasion. All agreed that it was another great day for the GCBC.

Thanks to the organisers and the generosity of the members \$4000 will be donated to the Australian Cancer Research Fund (ACRF).

The recent Poppy Day promotion for which 18 members knitted over 170 poppies raised \$700 for Legacy, another incredible effort.

Neil Raward



**Margaret Mellick and Chris Smith survey the morning tea**

*Footnote:- Cancer's devastating effects are felt in every Australian community. Each year more than 124,000 Australians, young and old, men and women, will be diagnosed with cancer. While there has been great progress in research into many cancers in the last few years, more funds are needed to ensure researchers have the latest technology and equipment.*

*ACRF was founded in 1984 by the late Sir Peter Abeles and the late Lady Sonia McMahon. Honouring their legacy, we focus exclusively on providing Australia's best scientists with the tools they need to outsmart cancer. Our focus attracts and inspires the best and brightest scientific minds to take on ground-breaking new cancer research as we work together to outsmart this terrible disease.*



# Director's Corner

## What NOT to do while waiting for the Director

By Matthew McManus (Reproduced with kind permission from the Australian Bridge Directors' Association Issue No 57 – May 2019)

Sometimes the director might be busy with another call, and at other times it may take them anything up to 10 seconds to arrive. What do you do while you're waiting? This article is not going to answer that – instead it will provide some advice on what NOT to do in various situations:

### 1) *You've revoked (or so the opponents claim – as if!)*

The important thing is that you should never try to prove whether there has or has not been a revoke by looking in the tricks that have already been played. The Laws strictly prohibit players from looking at quitted tricks...and the absolute very worst thing you can do is to start turning over other players' cards. What inevitably happens is that someone will claim that another player moved his cards, etc, etc, and the facts will never be able to be determined.

So, leave the cards alone! When the director arrives at the table to investigate the accusation of revoke, he is only interested in whether it has allegedly happened on the most recent trick, or in a few circumstances, on the trick immediately preceding. If the revoke may have happened any earlier, the director will not care – there is nothing that can be done until the hand is over. He will tell you to play it out and there is no point anyone saying, "But, but, but, the play would have been completely different." The director is aware of this and the Laws exist to ensure that the nonoffenders are not damaged in any way. At the end of the hand, with the director in attendance, the played cards can be turned over in an orderly manner and the truth will be revealed. If a revoke has occurred the director will rule accordingly as per the Laws.

### 2) *You've made an insufficient bid*

Keep quiet. The worst thing you can do is to try to explain yourself...for example, "I didn't see you opened" or "I thought you bid 1D". In the great majority of cases, the Laws provide some way for insufficient bids to be fixed without having any effect on the auction. However, once you open your mouth and start broadcasting to everyone (in particular partner) what you were thinking, you may find that you have blown any protection that the Laws give you.

### 3) *You've made a claim and the opponents don't like it – or an opponent has made a claim and you don't like it.*

If an opponent of the claimer does not ask for the hand to be played out (subject to all four players agreeing) and the director is called to adjudicate on the claim then just sit and wait. It is too late for the hand to be played. While things you add to your claim during the wait will usually be discounted by the director they may also be used in evidence against you! So, be careful and just wait.

### 4) *You've forgotten what your partner's bid means*

You don't have to have a guess and tell everyone, and you definitely don't have to tell the opponents how you are going to take it. They are not entitled to know that. When the director comes, the common procedure is that he will ask you to go away from the table momentarily. While you are away, he will check with your partner as to whether he believes that you have some agreement, and if so he will get your partner to explain it to the opponents (as they are entitled under the Laws) while you cannot hear what is being said. You then return to the table and the auction continues.

### 5) *There is a "dispute"*

The dispute may arise for any number of reasons: a player's hand didn't match the explanation given, a player may have called for one card and another player thought he said something else, someone doesn't like the call a player made after his partner's hesitation...Bridge players can think up any number of reasons to engage in "competitive banter". If there is a dispute which requires mediation, call the director and leave it at that. There is seldom anything more frustrating and difficult for the

# TO SACRIFICE OR NOT?



Have a look at this hand from Round 3 of the Bobby Richman pairs at the 2019 Gold Coast Congress. West is dealer and East/West are vulnerable.

	North		East
	♠ A		♠ K8
	♥ 96		♥ AKQT8732
	♦ AT432		♦ 76
	♣ Q8643		♣ 9
West		South	
♠ Q9764		♠ JT532	
♥ 54		♥ J	
♦ void		♦ KQJ987	
♣ AKT752		♣ J	

our table West opened 1♠ (very reasonable) and North immediately bid 2NT (alerted) for both minors. East doubled and South bid 6♦ expecting game or slam to be on for E/W. This was an advance sacrifice, not expected to make but used as a pre-empt. Unfortunately this prompted East to bid 6♥ which cannot be beaten. In error I led the ♥J instead of the ♣J, but the contract can make no matter what is led. We leave this to the readers to confirm. Some brave pairs played in 7♦X for a top board, showing that it doesn't pay to underbid your hand.

Before you consider the possible bidding have a look at the HCP in each hand. At

Tony Berger



## Director's Corner Cont.

director than to arrive at a table where the players are squabbling. Then, when the director tries to find out what the problem is, the players just continue arguing with each other. Can you blame the director just walking away thinking that the players didn't really want him?

### 6) Someone is slow

To have to raise this last scenario is a bit embarrassing, and you would think that it wouldn't happen, but it does! This is the situation – one of the players is taking a long time on a hand, and the opponents are getting fractious. Eventually frustration boils over and the director is called. In my experience, when this happens, it always seems that the director is making a ruling at another table at the time and so there is a minor delay. Eventually the director arrives and the players are waiting “patiently”, in the middle of the hand. One player will say, “He is taking too long.” The director will look bemused and enquire as to why the play isn't continuing when the table is running so late. The reply: “We were waiting for you!” It is true that a player taking more than his share of time is discourteous and may be subject to sanction under the Laws. However, if you call the director on an opponent's slow play and then do not continue play until the director arrives just to make a point, then I am afraid you are even more guilty of delaying the game. If you were to do this on more than one occasion, you shouldn't be surprised if it is you who is penalised!

Paul Brake - Tournament Committee

# TIPS FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER

## Making the Most of Weak-Two Openings – Are you?

Consider this situation. Sitting South, you hold:

♠ AK82  
♥ K43  
♦ 4  
♣ KQ865

Partner is dealer and opens the bidding 2♥ weak. RHO passes. Your bid? Should be 4♥. *As long as you can trust the quality of your partner's weak 2 opening*, with 3-card support for partner, and only 5 losers, your hand is good enough to bid game. At worst you expect to lose no more than 3 tricks. Your ♠A, ♠K, ♥K and ♣KQ combination should each provide a trick. And, if necessary, partner should be able to trump one or two diamonds in your hand (dummy).

Now let's consider a different situation. Sitting South (as always), this time you hold:

♠ 6  
♥ Q1074  
♦ 1063  
♣ QJ876

Once again partner opens the bidding with a weak 2♥ and your RHO passes. Your bid? Again it should be 4♥.

This time you've jumped to game for a completely different reason. You do not think game has any chance of making. But what you do know is partner & you have a 10-card trump fit with a combined total

of no more than 14 points! The opponents have game points and are possibly even making slam – most probably in spades. This time you are bidding game to *up the ante*. *Raise the pre-empt to the level of your combined trump fit. Give the opponents the last guess!* West's first bid now has to be at the 4 level. A very different prospect from bidding at the 2 level!

Let's look at the problem from West's perspective. Two identical auctions but West has no idea whether you, South, hold the first type of hand **or** the second type of hand. If you hold the second hand type, then it will indeed be correct for West to bid. But if you hold a good hand (as in the first hand type), it may not work too well for West to bid.

In both situations you and partner are really making your Weak 2 Openings work for you.

*Tips for opening a Weak 2* – have only 6-9 points and make sure your 6 card suit has either at least 2 of the top 3 honours or 3 of the top 5 honours. In other words, a good quality suit!

*Tips for responding to partner's Weak 2 opening* – play opener to be offering the partnership 5 tricks. If you have trump support and can count 5 or more sure tricks in your hand, bid game. **OR** if your hand is also weak with 4+ trumps, up the ante and bid game!

Lynley Jenkins

# • RESULTS •

## MARCH 2019

### ECLECTICS

Monday Eclectic  
1st GEOFF DORBER =1st DESLEY QUESTED  
Monday Evening Eclectic  
1st EDDA STRONG =1st TOM STRONG  
Thursday Eclectic (Open)  
1st CHERYL HENSEL = 1st CHRISTINE JOSLIN  
Thursday Eclectic (Restr)  
1st SANDRA HENDRY =1st MICHAEL HOGAN  
Thursday Evening Eclectic  
1st KEVIN DEAN = 1st TOM STRONG  
Friday Eclectic  
1st TONY BERGER =1st EVA BERGER  
Saturday Eclectic (Open)  
1st MERLE BOGATIE 2nd TREVOR FLETCHER  
=2nd KERRY HISCOCKS  
Saturday Eclectic (Restr)  
1st VANDRA BRAGA =1st DI BROWN

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Friday Red Pairs

1st TONY BERGER - EVA BERGER  
2nd PAT BEATTIE - ROBYN FLETCHER  
3rd LOIS STEINWEDEL - KATHY JOHNSON

#### Ken Nicholson Pairs

1st MARGARET MELLICK - PENNY GRACE  
2nd NOLA SAUNDERS - LORRAINE TWYFORD  
3rd WENDY HARRISON - JUDY BOHLSCHIED

#### GCBC Cup 2019

1st EVA BERGER - KATHY JOHNSON  
2nd TONY BERGER - MERLE BOGATIE  
3rd KRYSZYNA HOMIK - SUE SPURWAY



## APRIL 2019

### ECLECTICS

Monday Evening Eclectic  
1st JANE SWANSON  
=1st KEVIN DEAN  
Tuesday Eclectic Open  
1st NAOMI RYAN =1st MARGARET WATSON  
Tuesday Eclectic Restr  
1st SUE DEAVES =1st VAL GIBNEY  
Thursday Eclectic Open  
1st EUGENE KRAUSZ =1st ALAN JONES  
Thursday Eclectic Restr  
1st MAUREEN SMITH =1st BARBARA HUDDY  
Thursday Evening Eclectic  
1st LOU TILLOTSON  
2nd DALE WELLS  
Friday Eclectic  
1st EVA BERGER =1st TONY BERGER  
Saturday Eclectic Open  
1st EDUARDO BESPROSVAN =1st RICHARD MISIOR  
Saturday Eclectic Restr  
1st DIANNE MORRIS =1st LYSETTE WOODMAN

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Tuesday Handicap Pairs

Open  
1st VALERIE FAIRLIE - MARCIA BURDETTE  
2nd MARY JOJKITY - COLIN LEWIS  
3rd ALAN JONES - PAULA PETERSSON  
Restricted

1st PATRICIA ADAM - JUDY FITZGERALD  
2nd BARBARA HUDDY - CHERYL MILLAR  
3rd ELINOR MCCLOSKEY - MARILYN BIDEY

#### Easter Teams

1st TREVOR FLETCHER - DOT PIDDINGTON -  
HEATHER REID - KERRY HISCOCKS  
2nd CHARLES HOWARD - KERRY WOOD -  
TONY BERGER - NADYA TUXWORTH  
3rd MARGARET PISKO - TRISH ANAGNOSTOU -  
FRANK HYMUS - BEVERLEY GOSS

#### Saul Isaacs Memorial Pairs

1st EVA BERGER - KATHY JOHNSON  
2nd ROBYN FLETCHER - MERLE BOGATIE  
3rd LOIS STEINWEDEL - ROSS STEINWEDEL

# Precision 1 Club Opening (Positive responses) Part 1

Open 1 Club in Precision with 16 or more HCP's. The opener is the captain during this round of bidding, no matter what is the response.

Positive responses by partner show 8+ HCP's.

(i) Without interference responder

(R1) bids any of the following:

1H (5+ Hearts)

1S (5+ Spades)

1NT (8 to 13 HCP's, balanced)

2C (5 Clubs with at least two of A,K,Q or 6 Clubs any)

2D (5 Diamonds with at least two of A,K,Q or 6 Diamonds any)

2NT (14+ HCP's, balanced)

3C (8 to 10 HCP's, singleton Black suit)

3D (8 to 10 HCP's, singleton Red suit)

3H (11+ HCP's, 3+ controls, singleton Spade)

3S (11+ HCP's, 3+ controls, singleton Club)

4C (11+ HCP's, 3+ controls, singleton Diamond)

4D (11+ HCP's, 3+ controls, singleton Heart)

Opener has many responses possible (Op2) after the above in the form of asking various questions to be answered. Here are some!

After 1H or 1S bid 1NT (Beta question asking for the number of controls held with A = 2 and K = 1) or bid 2H or 2S respectively (Alpha bid asking for controls and cards held in that major) or bid another suit (Gamma bid asking for cards held in that other suit).

[ Beta responses are 2C 0-2, 2D 3, 2H 4, etc.

Alpha responses are in steps starting with the next possible bid:  
step 1, 0-2 cards or 3 without an honour

A,K or Q and 0-3 controls,  
step 2, 0-2 cards or 3 without an honour  
A,K or Q and 4+ controls,  
step 3, 4+ cards or 3 with an honour A,K or Q and 0-3 controls,  
step 4, 4+ cards or 3 with an honour A,K or Q and 4+ controls.

Gamma responses are:

Step 1, 5+ cards without an honour

Step 2, 5 cards with 1 honour

Step 3, 5 cards with 2 honours

Step 4, 6+ cards with 1 honour

Step 5, 6+ cards with 2 honours

Step 6, 5+ cards with 3 honours

After 2C or 2D use Alpha or Gamma questions, and if the response is step 1 bid any 4 card major next.

Let us see some of this with a couple of North/South hands without any interference by East/West.

North	South
S A65	S KQ983
H AJT2	H 5
D AKQ4	D 652
C 97	C K832

Bidding:

North	South
1C (16+)	1S (8+HCP, 5+ Spades)
1NT (Beta Quest.)	2C (0-2 controls)
2S (Gamma Quest.)	3D (step 3)
4S	Pass

Now change the Clubs held by South to AK32. South will now bid 2H (step 3) after the Beta question, and after the Gamma response North will go to 6S.

Further responses in Part 2 next time.

*Tie Rod*

