



GOLD COAST
BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2020

President's Message



What a difference a rainy day makes. Or, many rainy days. How thankful are we that the fires are under control. However, those affected need our help to rebuild and renew their homes and businesses. If you are planning a holiday, give some thought to travelling within Australia to an area that needs some help to get back on its feet. I am proud to confirm that our bushfire appeal raised \$6,270 and that amount will be matched by the Commonwealth Bank Red Cross bushfire grants program.

Since the last board meeting in December, we have welcomed six new members, most are new bridge players attending lessons. Dot's beginners' six-week course commenced with 13 students on 22nd January, finishing on 26th February. At the end of the course these students will move into supervised play with Dot for approximately 4 weeks. They can then transfer over to Lynley's lessons and/or begin to play in regular sessions. While these students rely on their teachers to learn how to play bridge, it is up to each and every one of us to help them on this journey by being patient and polite. We also want them to feel a part of our bridge family from day one. Make sure they are included in some of the social activities held by the club such as drinks after our Saturday game.

The Gold Coast Congress has been and gone for another year. I hope those members who participated had a great time. If you had a win or have some great photos, please remember to send these to our Editors, Neil Raward and Neville de Mestre. Kim Ellaway at the QBA is always looking for content for their ABF Newsletter as well.

Over the next few months we are hoping to introduce some new activities to keep our keen bridge players on their toes. Charlie Howard will be running a mentoring program commencing in early May, date to be confirmed. We are hoping to trial a "bring the grandkids" day to introduce more youth to bridge. And we are working in conjunction with Surfers Paradise Bridge Club to hold a joint event sometime later in the year.

Julie Wicks - President



THE POTTED BRIDGE HISTORY OF TOM STRONG (AKA NO SMART GHOST)

My earliest bridge and card awareness came at my pre-school and pre-television age on cold Canadian winter nights when my parents had bridge evenings or played canasta, cribbage or euchre. When I was a little older and my mother was preparing food in the kitchen for her friends, I became the substitute for a few hands. I was a very good dummy! I became fascinated by bridge and read bridge columns and even a few books but did not play until my studies at the University of Toronto where I discovered that rubber bridge could be a good money-making activity.



It was at Uni. that I met Edda and we were married when she graduated. She had already been introduced to bridge on “cold” summers’ nights at my parents’ summer cottage and we later played social bridge at home before coming to Australia with our first two young children. This was only to be a kind of “working adventure” and we returned to Toronto only to come back here permanently!

Shortly before leaving, a friend had asked me to play with him at a Toronto bridge club. I loved it and eventually started playing Monday and Thursday nights at the GCBC. My first serious partner was Dr. Peter Schmidt. With him I won my first Congress and tried out for the Interstate Teams.

I was fortunate to play bridge at the GCBC in the 1990’s and early 2000’s. We then had a lot of very good, developing players who were later winning selection to Interstate Teams and State Championships. I was able to play with Charlie Howard, Ross Steinwedel, Anthony Tuxworth and against others like Kathy Johnson, Eva and Tony Berger, Heather Reid, Roger and Barbara Weathered, all of whom helped develop my game.

My favourite partner became my son, Terry Strong, who started to develop at GCBC into becoming a wonderful player. I have now been directing at the GCBC for about 42 years and served on the Board and as Vice President for several years. I have also served as Qld. Rep. on the Bridge Directors’ Association and on the QBA Management Committee for many years, retiring just recently.

A very enjoyable role was my Beginners’ Supervised Play for many years. Later on I started a Beginners’ Night on Wednesday. The Gold Coast was considered at the time to have the best night-time system of beginner training of all except two large Brisbane clubs.

Another enjoyable activity was the weekly Bridge Column I wrote for the Gold Coast Bulletin for about 20 years. Overall I have won many Congresses as well as two State Championships and two representations on the Interstate Teams. I now feel lucky to have Edda as my bridge and life partner after her 30 plus years of teaching and role as mother.

I have seen many wonderful changes in bridge on the Gold Coast and feel grateful to still be able to play in the many events now available, especially our amazing Gold Coast Congress.

Wishing everyone happy and successful bridging!

TOM

Finding The Ninth Trick



East is in 3NT with the E/W hands below.

West	East
♠ K5	♠ A732
♥ A865	♥ K73
♦ AK4	♦ Q8
♣ AT62	♣ J753

South leads the DJ. Can you make the contract against any distribution of the remaining cards between North and South?

Declarer sees eight winners off the top, two Spades, two Hearts, three Diamonds and one Club. Since there are eight Clubs in the E/W hands, that is where declarer should work.

The missing Clubs are CK,CQ,C9,C8,C4 which may be distributed 5/0 or 4/1 or 3/2 in the N/S hands either way.

Win the opening lead in either hand; it doesn't matter here.

Play the CA and C3, and if either of N/S shows out, the opposing Club distribution was 5/0 and there is now a marked finesse situation.

When both North and South follow to the first club trick, now play the C2 from dummy towards declarer's hand.

If North shows out, rise with the CJ, and there is now a marked finesse against South.

If North plays CK or CQ, declarer ducks with the C5 and so either the CJ or CT will win eventually.

If North plays low, play the CJ, which either wins for the ninth trick or is taken by one of the higher honours. But in the latter case the distribution was 3/2. Therefore duck another Club when next on lead and the ninth trick has finally been established.

Tie Rod

MARCH DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM

March Double Dummy Problem

This hand from a game at the club on February 7 is a relevant double dummy problem. Try to make 6 Hearts as West with C2 as the lead.

	♠ 764	
	♥ Q76	
	♦ T83	
	♣ J972	
♠ AKQ		♠ J853
♥ AKT52		♥ J98
♦ A7		♦ KQ4
♣ Q83		♣ AT3
	♠ T92	
	♥ 43	
	♦ J9653	
	♣ K65	

West could see 10 or 11 winners and either 3 or 2 losers, but with a double dummy problem can see the N/S hands, and so there are three losers as the Heart finesse does not work. Therefore she has to park the 2 losers on the SJ and DQ. This requires some careful unblocking of the Spades, which luckily break 3/3 in the N/S hands.

After winning the first trick with CA cross to HA then HK followed by SA, SK and SQ. Now play DA, cross to DK and the DQ throwing the C8. Now lead the SJ and discard CQ. North will ruff with the HQ, but West has 3 trumps left for the last 3 tricks, making 12.

Note, the old adage. When you have a possible trump trick, make an aggressive lead, because without double dummy there is no problem with any other lead.

Johnathon Sky

A Master Class on Defence for Improving Players ... Starring Smart Alec

It was great to have Alec back at the club again. It had been several months since we had seen him, and everybody had missed his input at drinks after play. Even if a little arrogant, his knowledge in the game of bridge is legendary and we newer players all value his expert opinion. He had been sitting East, as was I, and I had a question on defence for him. I patiently waited my turn and when my chance came, I quickly piped in.

'What happened at your table on board 16, Alec? It says we are able to defeat declarer's contract of 3NT. I thought we defended OK, but declarer made 10 tricks at our table. How can we defeat it?'

Alec grabbed his hand record. . 'Ah Yes. We defeated the contract of course,' gloated Alec.

We established that the auction was identical at both tables. As was the opening lead. South was dealer and opened 1♣, North responded 1♦, and after a rebid of 1NT North bid 3NT. South was declarer.

The full hand

♠ 62
♥ AQJ
♦ KQ1098
♣ 1043

♠ QJ1083
♥ 973
♦ 75
♣ A52

♠ 754
♥ 652
♦ A62
♣ KJ97

♠ AK9
♥ K1084
♦ J43
♣ Q86

Alec continued.

'On the lead of the ♠Q. Declarer won the Ace and knocked out my ♦A. Naturally, I quickly recognized that declarer would easily make this contract if I didn't immediately switch to a club. I know the repeat heart finesse is working. So even if declarer doesn't hold the ♥K, I can count 4 diamond tricks, 3 heart tricks and 2 top spade tricks.

'But' I protested, 'that was exactly my reasoning. I did just that. I remembered that I should lead through strength and up to weakness, so I switched to a club. Partner won the ♣A and returned a club to my King. But Declarer still made 10 tricks!'

The sage smiled and nodded. Well done 'But! WHICH club did you switch to? You must also recognize that a small club will not work. Try to visualise partners hand. Dummy has three to the 10, and on the switch to a small club, declarer simply ducks and forces the Ace in West's hand thus establishing the ♣Q as a certain trick. Your reasoning is that you need partner to hold the Ace if you are to defeat the contract. If so, it's likely declarer holds the Queen, and the only card which will trap the Queen is the Jack. This caters for a holding of 3 clubs to the Queen with South.'

Alec was on a roll now. His audience listened on in wonder.

'This manoeuvre is referred to as a Surround Play. Otherwise known as a Sandwich Defence. Declarer is defenceless against it.'

East/ West take 4 club tricks and the A♦ to defeat 3NT.

'The situation only occurs when you are on

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YOUTH BRIDGE FUN NIGHT

The Gold Coast Bridge Club hosted (and generously paid for) the 5th Annual Youth Bridge Fun Night held during the Gold Coast Congress, the largest bridge event in the World outside the USA.

24 youths (from all over Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and one from the USA) had a great time at our club. Following a feed of pizzas and snacks, they competed in several different variations of bridge, designed to be fun and encourage the players to socialise and get to know each other.

We started off with standard bridge, but with the ranking of suits reversed, with clubs being the highest ranking suit, and NT being the lowest ranking. It takes some mental gymnastics to get your head around the fact that, for instance, after the opposition opened 1♠, you can overcall 1♦

The second variation was when each partnership had to finish the bidding with only 2 bids per player (with a pass not counting as a bid). The bidding was fast, furious, and very natural.

.....
lead and Dummy will be last to play. Your card is always higher ranked than Dummy's highest card. The Dummy's highest card is sandwiched by the second and third card held by you. In this example the lead of the 7 or the 9 won't work, because dummy holds the 10. When you lead the Jack, the King and the nine sandwich the ten.'

He cast a broad satisfied smile upon me.

'But well recognized. That you did not woodenly continue a spade at trick two.'

Feeling quite proud that I had at least got it half right, I poured Alec another glass of wine.

'He's not called Smart Alec for nothing,' somebody laughed.

***Have Fun . Play the game
Lynley Jenkins***



The next variation was when players had to bid their hands after only seeing 8 of their cards, with the balance of their hand only being picked up after the bidding had been completed.

This was followed with bridge being played using the "snap" principal. If one could not follow suit, if a discard was of the same rank as a card already played on the trick, it won the trick.

In another round, the final contract had to be doubled or redoubled.

The final variation required a player to always beat his partner's card if he had a higher ranking card in the suit led.

It was a fun-filled evening. The youths expressed their appreciation to the Gold Coast Bridge Club for organising this truly unique annual event, and to Laura Ginnan (who again was the creative volunteer director for the night). We look forward to the youth playing at the GCBC when they are at the Gold Coast in the future.

Paul Brake - GCBC Chair Tournament Committee & QBA Youth Coordinator



Director's Corner

(by Paul Brake, Chair, Tournament Committee)

Things seen at the bridge table.

Matthew McManus is a well known and well regarded bridge director. Here he relates an absurdity he observed at the bridge table. The player in the spotlight did something wrong, which resulted in an outcome which seems way disproportionate to the error he had made. However, the correct application of the relevant laws meant the end result was quite bizarre.

Careful with those red aces!

Dealer South

All Vul North

♠ K
♥ J 10 6 4
♦ 10 6 5 3 2
♣ 10 7 4

West

♠ 6
♥ A Q 8 5
♦ A 9 8 4
♣ A 9 5 2

East

♠ Q J 10 9 7
♥ 9 7 3
♦ Q J 7
♣ 8 6

South

♠ A 8 5 4 3 2
♥ K 2
♦ K
♣ K Q J 3

West	North	East	South
			1♠
X	Pass	1NT	2♠
X	Pass	Pass	Pass

Declarer seems to have three losers in spades, two in hearts and one in each of the minors. Two down, +500 seems like it will be a very good score for EW, but it didn't turn out that way....

Rather than trying to find partner's strength outside trumps – if he had any – West found the best lead of ♠6. On winning dummy's ♠K, declarer tried to sneak through a trick, by leading up to his singleton king of diamonds. This shouldn't have worked, but West "won" with the ♥A (!) and then banged down the ace of clubs. Yes, West had been careless in sorting his cards and had mixed up his red aces. This particular error is probably not that uncommon but the effect on this hand was quite devastating. Playing ♥A on the diamond constituted a revoke and then leading to the next trick established it. This meant that West could not correct his revoke – which in turn meant that ♣A was a lead out of turn, as South had now won trick two with ♦K!

Declarer chose not to accept the lead out of turn, so ♣A became a penalty card. The ace of trumps was played and West had to discard ♣A. So by the time the hand was finished, declarer had lost no tricks in diamonds and no tricks in clubs. The defence still had to make three trumps and ♥AQ, but not enough to defeat 2♠SX. To add insult to injury, still to come was the rectification for the established revoke – one more trick to NS, for a final score of NS +870. Quite a difference from the -500 declarer would have been expecting at the start of the hand.

Adopted from the Australian Bridge Directors Association Bulletin – Issue 59 December 2019

• RESULTS •

DECEMBER 2019

ECLECTICS

Monday Eclectic

1st EVA BERGER
=1st KATHY JOHNSON

Monday Evening Eclectic

1st BARRY COE
=1st JOHN SEAR

Tuesday Eclectic (Open)

1st ALAN JONES
=1st DOT PIDDINGTON

Tuesday Eclectic (Restr)

1st LORRAINE TWYFORD
=1st ROBYN SPOONER

Wednesday Eclectic

1st ROSS STEINWEDEL
=1st LOIS STEINWEDEL

Thursday Eclectic (Open)

1st NAOMI RYAN
2nd LIONEL NICHOL

Thursday Eclectic (Restr)

1st DIANA BOARD
=1st JULIAN EGERTON-VERNON

Thursday Evening Eclectic

1st TOM STRONG
=1st KEVIN DEAN

Friday Eclectic

1st EVA BERGER
=1st TONY BERGER

Saturday Eclectic Open

1st SAFTICA POPA
=1st KEN MOSCHNER

Saturday Eclectic Restr

1st LORRAINE TWYFORD
=1st LOIS MEE

JANUARY 2020

ECLECTICS

Monday Eclectic

1st KATHY JOHNSON
=1st EVA BERGER

Monday Evening Eclectic

1st ROGER WEATHERED
=1st LOU TILLOTSON

Wednesday Eclectic

1st EVA BERGER
2nd KATHY JOHNSON

Thursday Eclectic (Open)

1st LYNLEY JENKINS
2nd JULIET ROGERS
=2nd JAN JENNINGS

Thursday Eclectic (Restr)

1st RALPH SPINKS
2nd LORRAINE TWYFORD

Thursday Evening Eclectic

1st SUE ROBINSON

Friday Eclectic

1st KATHY JOHNSON
=1st LOIS STEINWEDEL

Saturday Eclectic (Open)

1st LAUREN SOMERS
=1st MERLE BOGATIE

Saturday Eclectic (Restr)

1st CHERYL MILLAR
=1st KIM MACMASTER

SPECIAL EVENTS

Gold Coast Graded Swiss Teams Congress - January 6, 2019

1st PAUL GOSNEY - ANNE LAMPORT -
EWA KOWALCZYK -
GHEORGHI BELONOGOV
2nd EVA BERGER - TONY BERGER -
KATHY JOHNSON -
LOIS STEINWEDEL

Surf Parade Pairs

Open
1st ROGER WEATHERED -
LOU TILLOTSON
2nd KERRY HISCOCKS -
TREVOR FLETCHER
3rd ODETTE HALL - CHERYL HENSEL
Restricted
1st ELINOR MCCLOSKEY -
MAGGIE GIBBS
2nd JOHN HENDERSON -
CAROLYN WATERS
3rd DI BROWN - VANDRA BRAGA

Gold Coast Bridge Congress

Notable results by members

Bobby Richman Pairs

Open B Eva & Tony Berger 9th
Restricted C Odette Hall & Di Hillman 2nd
Restricted D Marlis Jones &
Kerry Watson 2nd
Novice A Lesley Sutherland &
Lindell Day 6th

Teams Championship

Restricted Daria Williams +
3 non-club members 3rd

Friday Novice Pairs

Juliet Rogers & Carolyn Waters 10th

Ivy Dahler Pairs

Restricted Daria Williams
& non-club member 7th



AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

