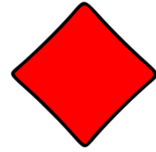


# BRIDGE MATTERS

June 2016

Caloundra, Coolum, and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs



## **Thursday Twilight BRIDGE 'n TAPAS at Caloundra**

Join us for social bridge and dinner every Thursday evening.

Be ready to start play at 4.00pm and be finished by 7.30

BYO Tapas plate to share & drinks.

**ALL WELCOME**

## **CALOUNDRA NEWS**

### **INITIATIVES-** *Bob Galvan*

The Caloundra Club Committee has introduced some initiatives aimed at increasing and varying the bridge-playing opportunities for established players, beginners, and potential recruits.

Those are:

- Thursday Twilight Bridge 'n Tapas sessions (dodger above); which have got off to a successful start;
- Tuesday Afternoon Restricted Sessions, intended to assist novices in gaining the ability and confidence to participate in open sessions (article at right); and
- Public demonstrations of Mini-Bridge at Caloundra Library (article on Page 6), which yielded some new recruits to the Club.

### **Restricted Play on Tuesday Afternoons**

Caloundra Club has introduced a Restricted Session on Tuesday afternoons intended to assist novice players in making the transition to Open sessions.

The 'restriction' is achieved by limiting the bidding and playing to compliance with a standardised Systems Card, based on the ABF and QBA 5-card Major bidding system. That system nominates acceptable leads, signals, and basic conventions but allows no other conventions or partnership agreements. The system is the basis of the structured beginners lessons provided by the Caloundra Club.

Visiting players wishing to join the group are supplied with a copy of the standard card and are required to follow it.

It is intended that this basic system allows beginners to attain competence in basic bidding and card-play techniques in a supervised environment before tackling more taxing conventions and systems.

Any player can attend and a partner will be organised. Experienced players are welcome, to assist in supporting the instruction of the novices, though but they must conform to the standardised System Card provided.

**Caloundra Contract Bridge Club  
Annual General Meeting  
11.00 am. Wednesday 17th August 2016**

## AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

A special THANK YOU to Anne Manester who put so much time and effort into chasing down sponsors and donations and organising this event, which resulted in a big donation to the Queensland Cancer Council.

Well done Anne!

Details on Page 7.

## CONGRATULATIONS

*Stephen Hughes*

In April the club ran its two-day Swiss Teams Congress. The format was 8 rounds of 14 boards each. The event attracted a good field of 28 teams and prizemoney of \$3,000 was shared by 7 of those teams. For prizemoney purposes the field was divided into 12 A division, 11 B division and 5 C division teams.

Winners of the A division were the Jakes team of Maureen Jakes, Alison Dawson, Rosemary Crowley and Richard Perry. 2<sup>nd</sup> in A was the Rusk team of Randall Rusk, Maurine Lamont, Diane Maltby, Alan Maltby, Drew Dunlop and Steve Hughes. 3<sup>rd</sup> in A was the Afflick team of Ian Afflick, Paul Collins, Terence O'Dempsey and Norman Maclaurin. The Jakes team had to survive an appeal from the Rusk team relating to a trick conceded by the Jakes team on the Saturday but given back to them on the Sunday under Law 71.

Winners of the B division were the Tall team of Peter Tall, Georgina Cassels, Tessa Townend and Carole McDonald. 2<sup>nd</sup> in B was the Boyce team of Alan Boyce, Joan Jenkins, Lex Ranke and Jack Rohde and 4<sup>th</sup> in the B was the MacKinlay team of Ruth MacKinlaw, Mary Winch, Maria Linday and Bill Lindsay. The Leathley team of Judith Leathley, Sharon Silver, Judy Hildebrand and Susannah Gray won the C division and also came 3<sup>rd</sup> in B division but (eventually) received the higher prizemoney for winning C division.

## COOLUM NEWS

*Brett Middelberg*

### NETT SCORING

Coolum Club plans to introduce an option into our scoring program which rarely sees the light of day.

The program has the option to produce nett scores for each session based on handicaps stored in the computer, those handicaps being based on the scores which the pair has achieved in the past.

As an example: Consider a pair which has achieved average scores of 55% in the past. In a session where they obtain 52%, they have scored below their average and their nett result will be below 50%. The nett score is calculated for each pair in the field. A second printout of nett results is produced for both the noticeboard and the website.

Scoring by nett results is seen as an incentive for developing players, allowing them to compare their results to those achieved in the past."

### NEW DEALING MACHINE

Coolum Bridge Club has been successful with a funding application to the Gaming Community Benefit Fund!

A new dealing machine is on its way together with a boards and cards; value \$5820. Thanks to Val Longden for her efforts.

Keep using those pokie machines people.

### GNOTS

Coolum Club seems to have found a successful niche with three Wednesday afternoons in May, 24 teams having competed in the Swiss format.

This was the largest first round of any club in our zone.

# SUNSHINE COAST NEWS

*John Gosney*

In the last edition I mentioned three important matters being considered by the Club Committee. The results of these decisions are:

1. We have decided to continue to subscribe to Pianola and Pianola Plus. These are valuable tools for all players interested in improving their bridge, not only the less experienced among us.
2. We have decided not to purchase a defibrillator at this time because our Committee is still not confident of our being able to operate it effectively in a real emergency.
3. We have decided at a Special General Meeting to remove proxy voting from our Constitution. This change is now before the Office of Fair Trading for their consideration.

On the bridge front we are delighted with the success of our graded teams' competition. This was a new event last year and attracted a modest entry of 18 teams. This year that number almost doubled to 34 teams. Particularly pleasing was that the B Grade section contained a number of players from our supervised play session.

Good on them all for having a go.

Congratulation also to Drew Dunlop and George Kruz for winning in a closely contested and nail biting finish to the Sunshine Coast Pairs Championship.



## NEW MEMBERS

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### Caloundra

Janice Little	John Burt
Myles Kapatan	Tony Sizer
Robyn King	Donna Lines
Judith Stewart	Glenda Johnson
Kathy Rodier	Bill Quinn
Carol Kemp	Jenny Deem
Bob Davies	Annie Lyons
Terry Curran	

### Coolum

Helen Procter	John Garland
Jan Corlett	Judy Hinton
Lyn Hall	Shirley Grieve
Margo Way	Maureen Routh
Douglas & Heather Stewart	
Basil & Heather Burmeister	

### Sunshine Coast

Louise Beckingsale	Diana Stagg
Bill Duffield	Mary Travers-Jones
Catherine and Rodney Towner	

## RANDALL'S REMINDERS

*Randall Rusk. Caloundra Club Games Director*

### BRIDGEMATE PROTOCOL

Declarers are entitled to have a reasonable time to formulate their strategy for play of each hand.

It is thus necessary to remind players that, when they are on lead as well as attending to the Bridgemate, they must give priority to showing their opening lead before entering data into the Bridgemate.

### NO-TRUMPS FOR BEGINNERS *(and maybe for some experienced players too- Ed).*

While having had the pleasure of taking Caloundra's beginner lessons this year, I have noticed recurring problems in playing No-Trumps. Some basic techniques for success in such contracts follow.

There are several things to be done but take a very deep breath and don't panic.

1. After winning the auction, place your hand face down before the opening lead and review the auction. Remember which opponent has or has not bid.
2. When the lead is made and the Dummy's hand comes down, count all the high card points in your own and dummy's hands. There are 40 total HCPs so you then know how many points the opponents have.
3. Analyse the opponent's bidding to make an educated assessment of how their total points, and the missing honours in particular, are distributed between the two hands. Awareness of the stage/s at which an opponent did or didn't pass the bidding is valuable information in that assessment.
4. Analyse the opponent's opening lead, reminding yourself that tight contracts are often won or lost by the play of the first card in either hand. You need to assess why he/she lead that suit, possibilities including:
  - Is it from his/her longest suit short suit?



*Randall attending to two important matters: cross-training and nurturing future talent (the latter in the person of grand-daughter Savannah).*

- Is it lead from a sequence, of honours particularly?
  - Does he/she believe that it is partner's suit?
5. A good habit to get into is to look at the opposition's systems card for leads against No-trump, or simply ask your RH opponent what the lead means.
  6. Remember that, in no-trumps, **you do not like short suits** (in contrast to play in a suit contract, when you love short suits. If you run out of a suit when playing No-trumps, the opponents can run wild playing that suit since you have no trumps to take control).
  7. When you are playing in a No-trump contract, **you count winners** (immediate tricks such as As, AKs and AKQs), and tricks you need to develop, sometimes called "slow" tricks. (In a suit contract **you will count losers** from the perspective of the hand with the longer trump holding, that usually being the declarer).

Some basics on No-Trump play are set out above for those players just starting their bridge journeys, though there are many other techniques which can be added as you progress.

## DO WE HAVE A DEAL FOR YOU! Fantasies, Facts, and Foreigners.

*Barry Vassella & Peter Bishop*

How often have we heard bridge players say “These hands couldn’t possibly be random! **They** (*that unknown villain, lurking in the background*) must have set the machine to give us (*some type of*) hand.”?

In fact, the dealing machine itself is a simple device which does nothing but sort cards in accordance with instructions it receives from dealing program software loaded into the computer serving the club or tournament.

Different dealing programs are used to set up the boards for high level competitive events and for normal club play.

The Australian Bridge Federation requires that programs used for setting up the boards for congresses or championships must simply produce random deal files and allow no access for operators to tamper with deal generating parameters. *Big Deal*, designed by Hans van Steveren of the Netherlands, is a commonly used program of that type.

The dealing programs used for normal club play must also produce random deal files but it is desirable, and permitted by the ABF, that they also provide the information, including every possible result for every hand, which is displayed online and on the printed hand records. As part of that capability, those programs do enable operators to set parameters in deals.

*(Dealmaster Pro* DMPPro, designed by Ward and Sons of the USA is a program commonly used by Australian clubs. It incorporates the ‘*Deep Finesse*’ interactive hand analysis which calculates every result for every hand and would allow operators to set deal parameters. The term ‘*deep finesse*’ is also used to refer to the situation where a player finesses to a low card

though that usage is unrelated to the program within DMPPro.)

So the truth is revealed! Congress hands are cast in stone but, for Club events, dealing machine operators could introduce routines which would ensure that, for instance, one hand in every deal had 12 HCP or that East West hands always had more HCPs than North-South hands.

However, players at our three Coast clubs don’t need to worry as there are four good reasons why this wouldn’t happen:

- The ABF has said that the operators are not allowed to do it;
- Our operators have said “We wouldn’t do it. Scout’s Honour!”;
- They know that even to think such a thing would doom them to playing bridge to eternity against the Darth Vader- Johann Faust partnership; and
- They don’t know how to do it.

Referring to the production of random deal files; a random number generator produces the required number of boards (eg. 720 boards in 20 sets of 36) from the huge number of deals possible. The number of bridge hands which can be dealt from a single 52-card pack is around  $5.3E+28$  (That’s 53 followed by 27 zeros) and every one of those hands has a number, between 1 and  $5.3E+28$ . (hand number ‘1’ would be 4-As, 4-Ks, 4-Qs and JS while hand number ‘ $5.3E+28$ ’ is 5C, 4-4s, 4-3s and 4-2s) and the random number generator just selects deals in turn from within that range.

To give some familiar terrestrial relevance to the number  $5.3E+28$ ; we can say that, if it were a number of kilograms, the weight would be greater than the weight of Planet Earth or, if it were a number of square millimetres, the area described would be greater than the Planet’s surface area; both with several zeros left over.

The third ‘F’ of the title of this article refers to foreign materials.

## MINI-BRIDGE

*Randall Rusk*

Drew Dunlop and I recently conducted a session of MiniBridge at the Caloundra Library, which attracted a lot of interest and some new recruits to the Club

'Mini' is a simplified form of Contract Bridge designed to expose newcomers to declarer and defensive playing techniques without the burden of learning a detailed bridge bidding system: ideal for family and social play.

A key aspect is that the decision regarding which player becomes declarer is taken out of the players' hands. Each player adds all high-card points in their hand and announces the result. The partnership with more combined high-card points then plays the hand. Of this partnership, the partner with more high-card points becomes the declarer and their partner, with fewer high-card points, becomes the dummy. If both partnerships have the same number of high-card points (i.e., 20 each), the hand is re-dealt.

Declarer's partner then lays open their hand, and declarer decides and announces a contract as either a trump suit or no trumps, together with an undertaking to win more than half the tricks (part score) or to win the game. The remainder of the game is very similar to contract bridge.

### Tricks needed to win

Contract	Part Score	Game
No trumps	7	9
Major suit	7	10
Minor suit	7	11

Card dealing machines are sensitive creatures which rely on the clarity of images seen by their optical readers (a version of a mobile phone camera) and the functionality of miniature mechanical equipment.

None of that can be expected to work properly in an environment containing lipstick, blood, vegemite, chocolate, or cake-icing; and other players don't much like using cards crusted with suspicious substances either. Also, biro or other ink marks on cards can interfere with the functioning of the dealing machines.

It is necessary that a pack of cards with even one fouled or damaged card is not put through the dealing machine but be destroyed. So please take care. If you do have an accident and dirty one or more cards, or if you find a bad card, please call the Director. He or she will decide if the offending card/s can be cleaned, if the pack can be replaced immediately, or if the pack should be discarded at the end of the day's play.

Continuing the above discussion of mathematical mysteries: if we decided to be interested in Honours only (treating all the 'rags' below Jack as equal), the number of possible deals would drop to only  $8E+15$ ; and 37 million deals by suit only would be possible.

Other interesting truths are available for those who feel that the grey matter is currently under-utilised whilst bidding and playing. For instance:

- If partner or an opponent indicates a flat hand, it's twice as likely (21%) to be 4-4-3-2 distribution as 4-3-3-3 (10%).
- Any hand has a 48% chance of being balanced and 29% chance of being two-suited, 5-4 or better.
- We might intuitively think that an even number of outstanding cards are most likely to divide equally between the opponents' hands but that is not so. Four missing cards are more likely to break 3-1 than 2-2, six will tend to break 4-2, and eight will tend to break 5-3.

*(Thanks to Stephen Hughes for confirmation of the figures.*

*Further reading:*

- *Figures-Wikipedia 'Contract Bridge Probabilities'*
- *Dealmaster Pro- <http://dealmaster.com/> and*
- *Big Deal- <https://sater.home.xs4all.nl/doc.html>*

## ALWAYS LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH

Alan Maltby

21	♠ Q743	Dir: N																													
	♥ AJ985	Vul: N-S																													
	♦ AK6																														
	♣ Q																														
♠ 9	♠ AK1052																														
♥ 4	♥ 732																														
♦ QJ72	♦ 10854																														
♣ AJ65432	♣ 7																														
16	♠ J86	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	3	2	2	S	-	-	3	2	2	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-
♣	♦		♥	♠	NT																										
N	-		-	3	2	2																									
S	-		-	3	2	2																									
E	1	-	-	-	-																										
W	1	-	-	-	-																										
8	♥ KQ106																														
	♦ 93																														
9	♣ K1098																														

I was North and opened 1H, East overcalled 1S, My partner Di supported my Hts and we were left in a 4H contract.

East led SA, dummy went down and I counted tricks, seeing 4 losers (2 spades, a spade ruff, and CA) so resigned myself to going one off.

East now switched to a Club, which I thought was rather good. As West was marked with a singleton Spade, I would now be able to take the next trick, draw trumps and thus make my contract. Sure enough, West took the CA and followed with another Club.

At this stage, I should have had a good look at the gift horse that East had presented but I was slack, thinking that Dummy's King would take the trick I discarded. East happily ruffed and then came the SK and a Spade ruff for two down.

All I had to do to make my contract was to ruff high.

## AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA, FOR QUEENSLAND CANCER COUNCIL.

Anne Manester- Caloundra Club

It was lovely to see new players, straight out of classes and still at supervised play, amongst the ninety three who arrived bright and early at Caloundra Bridge Club on Thursday 26 May to support Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

After a few rounds of Bridge, players broke to enjoy a Devonshire Tea, with thanks due to Shona Sandes for donating scones and to the Club which donated the champagne and everything else.

The auction drew some spirited bidding, the sale of liquor, macadamias, a framed print, and a two night stay in Rumba Resort all donated by members raising \$355. A further \$50 for a metal wall art that didn't sell at auction was raised by a sale on Gumtree.

Many of the items donated by members were given as door prizes and the balance were placed on a table with a donation box. Something we might not like or want ourselves is another's treasure and everything has been snapped up to raise a further \$165.

Local restaurants and businesses and resorts in the Whitsundays and Hervey Bay provided us with some fantastic prizes, the raffle for those items being a huge success. Although many of the prizes were won by people outside the Bridge Club, some of our members will enjoy great food locally and Chris Miles will be taking Betty to Hervey Bay later this month.

A further seven prizes were donated after the advertising and selling of tickets for our raffle commenced and another raffle is currently being held, restricted to Bridge Club members only.

Many more members helped by making donations and selling raffle tickets.

Every cent raised, including the table fees, has gone to this very worthy cause. The amount raised will exceed \$4,000, as compared to \$3,029 raised last year.

	<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b> to <b>BRIDGE MATTERS</b> are <b><u>WELCOME.</u></b>	
	Peter Bishop <a href="mailto:pjbishop@aapt.net.au">pjbishop@aapt.net.au</a> 5437 6009	

# KEN'S KORNER

Ken Dawson



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## Ken's Konundrum #2

What do you make of this auction; and what can you conclude about the shape of opener's hand in particular?

1D (1H) 3NT (P) 4S (P) ?

When responder bid 3NT over 1H, he denied having a 4 card spade suit. He could have shown it first in a natural and forcing auction. Responder would be able to revert to 3NT on the next round of the bidding.

Yet, opener was prepared to bid spades at the 4 level! After the spade denial by responder, this must surely be a five card suit.

So, opener has 5 spades yet opened 1D. Why would he do that?

The inescapable conclusion is that opener has a SIX card diamond suit.

At the table, responder passed 4S and played in a 5-3 fit making comfortably.

### **Ethical Note:-**

The opponents asked for an explanation of the bidding before the opening lead. Responder divulged that the auction must show 6-5.

However, this was a conclusion based on bridge logic and not a systematic agreement. As such, the defenders are on their own and are not entitled to the conclusion.

They are entitled to know that the 3NT bid denied 4 spades so an appropriate explanation would be to say: *"Opener is prepared to bid spades on his own at the 4 level, even though I have denied that suit. You will have to decide what sort of hand he must hold"*

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## Ken's Chestnut

### LEAD THE TOP OF PARTNER'S SUIT

This time-honoured policy is not always a good idea and can easily cost a trick. For example:

	You	
	K53	
Declarer		Dummy
Q76		92
	Partner	
	AJT84	

Here, if you lead the King, declarer will win the 3<sup>rd</sup> trick in the suit with his Queen. If you lead the 3 instead, partner will win his Ace and return the Jack. This scoops up declarer's Queen so that he makes no trick in our suit.

So, our policy should be:- *When leading partner's suit, make the same lead that you would always make from that holding in the suit.*

Your natural lead from K53 is the 3 and that is the card you should lead.

This may mean that, against a suit contract holding Axx in partner's suit, you may not lead the suit at all. Partner can work it out.

Of course, as always in bridge, there are exceptions.



## THE HIGH-LEVEL CONTESTED AUCTION

Mike Phillips



When your opponents compete at the five level they are often sacrificing, and certainly making it more difficult for you to find the right contract. You and your partner need an agreed strategy for dealing with this, and, as this doesn't occur that often, it must be a strategy that is easy to remember when it comes up.

The situation below provides a good example:

Dealer West, nil vulnerable

♠	KJ875		N		♠	AQ2
♥	4				♥	76
♦	A54	W		E	♦	KQJ3
♣	AKJ2		S		♣	QT76

W	N	E	S
1S	3H	4H	5H
?			

West opens 1S and North overcalls 3H. First, if East has values and trump support what should he do?

- With an 8 or 9 loser hand, simply compete with 3S
- With 7 losers, jump to 4S
- With 6 losers (as in the example), bid 4H
- With 5 losers and heart control, bid 6S

The cue bid of 4H says nothing about hearts. It simply means that you have a good raise in spades and are prepared to play in 5S if necessary (your 6 losers, plus partner's presumed 7 losers, gives a combined 13 losers, so by the losing trick count you should be good for 11 tricks). It also sets up a force.

The force means that if the next hand bids 5H opener can pass knowing that the auction cannot die in 5H undoubled.

If, in fact, South passes East's 4H, or doubles, West can sign off in 4S or use normal methods to look for a slam. If South bids 5H, however, as

in the example, East-West need a perfect understanding of what their subsequent calls mean.

There are a number of options, but I suggest that this structure would be easy to remember.

- Pass means West has a minimum hand with no interest in slam. East must then either double for penalties, or bid 5S, depending on the vulnerability and East's defensive values
- If West bids 5S it shows slam interest (6 losers) but denies first or second round control in hearts. If East has a singleton or better in hearts East goes to 6S
- If West has a 6 loser hand and a singleton or better in hearts West bids 6S – this is what should happen in the example above
- If West doubles it shows primary interest in defending. East will pass for penalties or bid 5S to invite slam

You should also consider how to deal with even more pre-emptive competition. When your bidding space becomes more cramped it is important to be able to exchange information clearly. The following situation shows my suggestions, assuming again that you have good trump support.

W	N	E	S
1S	4H	?	

East's actions:

- With 7 losers bid 4S.
- With 6 losers and heart control bid 5H inviting slam
- With 6 losers but no heart control bid 5S inviting slam
- With 5 losers and heart control bid 6S

Referring to another situation:

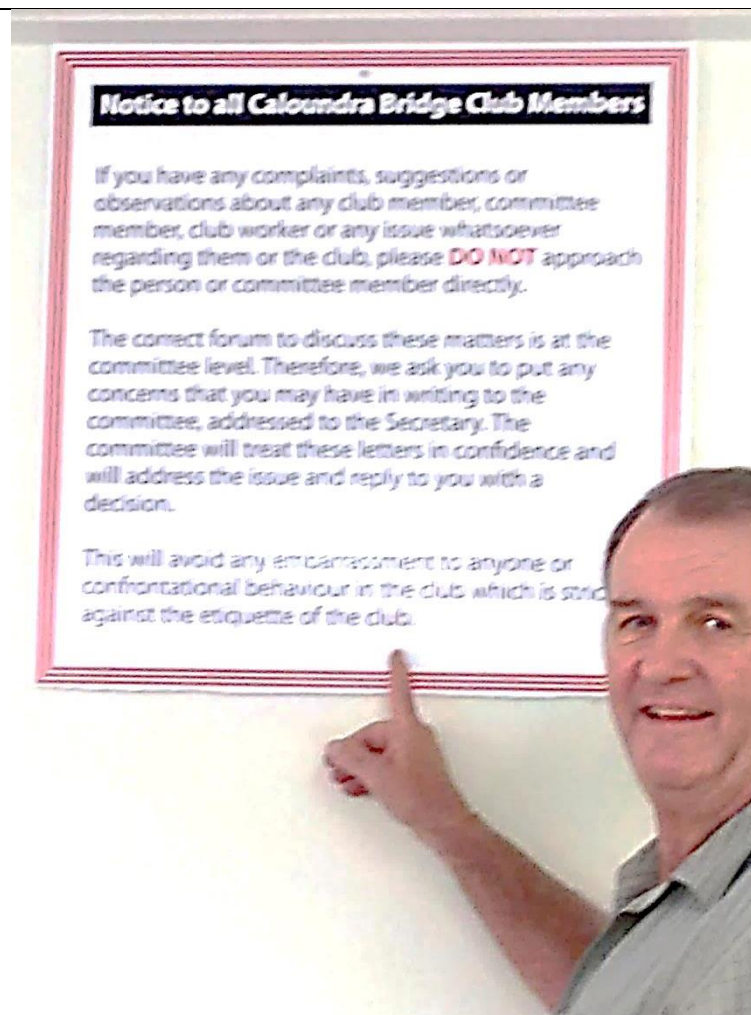
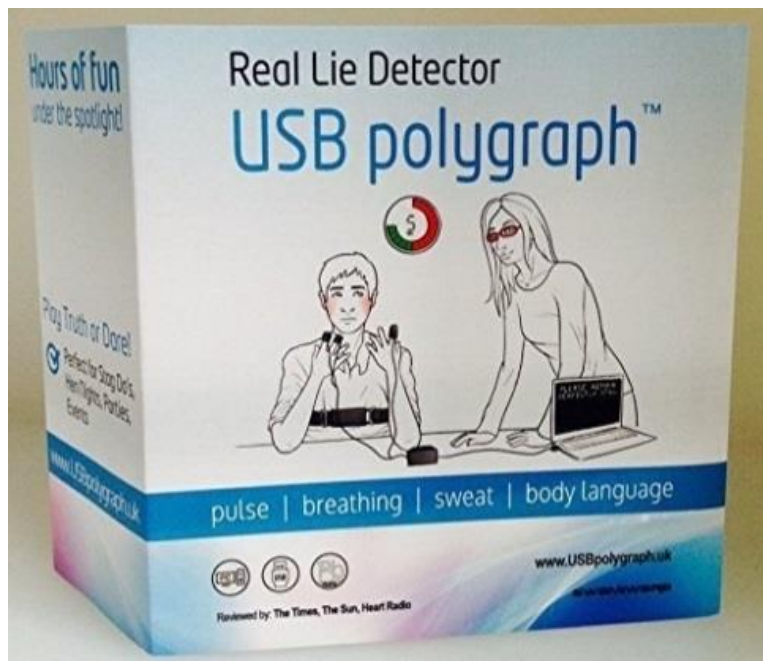
W	N	E	S
1H	3S	?	

East's actions:

- With 7 losers bid 4H
- With 6 losers and spade control bid 4S inviting slam
- With 6 losers and no spade control bid 5H inviting slam
- With 5 losers and spade control bid 6H.

## MEMBER ADVICE

Are you having trouble with exaggeration, delusion, obfuscation, prevarication or mendacity, or do you wear rose-coloured glasses? Perhaps your table needs a:



### ADVICE FROM CALOUNDRA COMMITTEE

## PARTNER COMMUNICATION ADVICE

### 1. Partner's Hand Assessment

At the close of bidding, ask partner the following questions:

- Did you count your winners?
- Did you count your losers?
- Did they add up to 13?

If the answer is 'No' you should ask:

- Did you count your cards?

### 2. Partner's Intentions

Ten minutes to start of play and no sign of partner so you ring to ask "Where are you?"

Recent experience at Caloundra has shown that, if the answer is "I'm on my way." you should be sure to ask "On your way to where?"

Partner could be on the way to Brisbane, to the Airport, anywhere.

