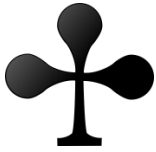


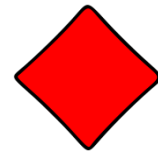


BRIDGE MATTERS



March 2016

Caloundra, Coolum, and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs



CLUB NEWS

Caloundra

Stephen Hughes

The club has been progressing well during the current quarter. We've averaged ten tables per session, with Thursday mornings usually having 12 to 14 tables and Wednesday afternoons 10 to 12.

Following a drop in numbers in the Friday afternoon session the club introduced intermediate lessons from 10.30 to 12 Friday morning for \$4 per person, that charge including table fees for those wanting to play in the afternoon. Friday sessions have now seen improved numbers and the lessons have been well received.

Thanks to our games director Randall Rusk for giving up his time to run the lessons. Now that Randall has started teaching the beginner classes Steve Hughes ran 2 lessons in March and will be recommence lessons on 8th April. Beginner classes have now been running for 4 weeks and we have 24 in the class.

The club has just overhauled its computer system so that everything is automatically backed up and if anything happens to the main computer we are able to resume normal operations with a minimum of disruption.

Preparations are well under way for the Club's 2 day Swiss Teams Congress on 9th and 10th April.

Lots of entries have already been received. The club has chosen to set prize money at a level that makes the event a break even one for the club.

The restricted pairs concluded on Thursday 17th March. 10 pairs entered and were divided into A and B divisions based on total masterpoints, up to a maximum of 150. Winners of the A division were Ivy Timms and Margaret Arnott while Lainey Sharman and Paul Kemp won the B Division and came 2nd overall. Each pair received \$100 prize money. We are hoping to attract a larger field for this event next year.

At the Gold Coast Congress in February Drew Dunlop and Steve Hughes won the Intermediate Pairs for the 2nd time.

Coolum

Brett Middeburgh

Winners of this year's Coolum Bridge Club President's Trophy were Lois Meldrum and Emmy Vandermaat.



Sunshine Coast

John Gosney

This is a busy time for our club, with a number of projects recently completed, under way or about to begin.

In the field of finance we have introduced a simplified collection procedure for table fees, without the traditional envelopes and payment slips. North South players are now responsible for ensuring that the correct amount of money is on the table before play begins. This procedure has significantly reduced the workload of our "banker". We have also revised our chart of accounts to make our financial information more meaningful to Committee members.

Currently we are surveying our members to help us make two important decisions. The first is whether or not to continue to subscribe to Pianola and Pianola Plus for all our members. There is a significant cost involved in the provision of this software and we need to know that it is being used before deciding whether to continue our subscription in June. The second decision concerns the purchase of a defibrillator. There is strong evidence that the availability of these machines can make a significant difference to the chances of surviving a heart attack. We would like to acquire one, but we need to know that we have enough members willing to be trained in its use to the point at which we can be sure that the machine would be used effectively in an emergency situation.

At next month's Committee meeting we shall devote a large proportion of the meeting to considering a plan to make changes to our clubhouse. The intention is to take about a metre of the space at the front of the clubhouse to provide room for additional toilet facilities and more useful space in our kitchen area. We will not go ahead with this project unless we can

be sure that we can do it without significant adverse effects on the functioning of our busier club sessions and of course our congresses.

In May we shall hold a Special General Meeting to consider a proposal to remove proxy voting from our Constitution. Several other clubs have already done this and a previous attempt to do so at our club narrowly failed to reach the 75% majority required.

In between all of this we are continuing to play bridge! Our new Tuesday afternoon sessions continue to be enjoyed by those who participate and we would love to see more players at these sessions, particularly from other local clubs. We have a full program of bridge education at our club, with over 60 students enrolling in our beginners' lessons plus a number of presentations for improving players from Andy Slater, Joan Butts and Andy Hung. We recently introduced the RAMP mentoring scheme which is flourishing, thanks to the generous assistance of our senior players.

Which Honour do I play?

Pat Buch

You hold KQ&J of the suit you have bid and your partner dutifully leads this suit.

The usual card to play is the lowest card to force the ace.

However, if you play the jack, your partner could assume that the declarer holds both the ace AND the king, and guess that the defender was bluffing with both the ace and the king.

Having put both of these cards with the declarer, your partner may then place other cards in your hand and defend accordingly.

If you play the queen, and the declarer the ace, then your wonderful partner will readjust her thinking to put other cards in the declarer's hand, having made the assumption that you hold the jack, queen AND the king.

There is absolutely no rule to cover this, just logic by your partner and you.



NEW MEMBERS

Caloundra

Susan King	Judy Carr
Robyn Burnage	Geoff Olsen
Denise Hutchinson	Yvonne Cantor

Coolum

Patrick Bugler	Neville Graham
Rachel Darken	Wendy Slack
Marguerite Hondow	Suzy Piercy
Pat Mitchell	Jill Boyd
Don Scott	Julie Scott
Brian Shannon	Jim Burton
Diana & Jeremy Honeyman	

Sunshine Coast

Ann Anderson	Carmel Dwan
Yvonne Houbolt	Stephen Ohl
Lisa Phillips	Glenys Rousell
Bronwyn Rynne	Beth Smith
Ken Styles	Margaret Sutherland
Elizabeth Templeton	Sue Penfold
Heather McKelvie-Morris	
Donna & Aimee Berridge	
Marion & Ian Dennis	
Shirley & Michael Phillips	

What! Cheating at Bridge?

In a pursuit charged with as much ego as bridge and, in the United States at least, with so many highly paid professionals it would be surprising if some rule-bending didn't happen; and that indeed has been the case.

As early as 1965 an English pair was caught signalling by the positioning of their fingers when they fanned their cards.

The 'Italian Foot Soldiers' used the positions of their feet, amongst other tricks, to convey information to their partners.

In 1970 a relatively unknown American pair devised a complex system of sorting their hands in which they went through the suits in order and then indicated the strength of that suit by the direction of movement of cards.

In 1979 another two Americans were caught signalling with their pencils.

Voice signals had been eliminated by written bids and exchange of information by the nature of written bids was eliminated by the introduction of bidding cards. But the variety of visual signals was such that, in top level matches, diagonal screens were fitted, above and below table tops, to prevent partners from seeing each other. However, even that measure didn't ensure the desirable level playing field.

In 2014 the 'Coughing Doctors' (two German Physicians) were banned for ten years by the WBF, but most would-be cheats are smarter than that.

Within the last year, a Norwegian player, Boye Brogeland, has revealed suspicion that two young Israeli players, Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz, had been secretly exchanging information about their hands.

Brogeland had played as both a team-mate and an opponent to Fisher and Schwartz and, in both of those roles, he became convinced that logic alone couldn't have led them to the large number of favourable opening leads which they were able to make when playing together. That conclusion was followed by hours of study of hand records and consultation with others who

had played against them and he then arranged that videotapes be made of the pair's play.

It appeared that the two were exchanging information by the configuration on the table of the duplicate board and the bidding tray (on which the players' bid cards are conveyed past the screen for the information of the other bidders).

Fisher and Schwarz sat North-South as often as possible, so that they would have control of tidying and clearing the table's paraphernalia. When one of them became declarer the board and tray were cleared away in a straightforward manner but, when defending, they appeared to select one of a variety of complex procedures involving the division of responsibilities between themselves and the positioning and sequence of movement of the board and tray.

Brogeland set up a website (bridgecheaters.com) and in 2014 he was contacted by a Dutch lady who had become suspicious of an Italian pair, Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes. Their method appeared to be simply that the lead card placed vertically on the table indicated that the hand contained an honour while a horizontally placed card denied an honour.

A few days after that accusation was aired, a German pair confessed to 'unethical conduct', though that confession wasn't entirely voluntary. They would have been outed by Brogeland if they'd not beaten him to it.

The charges against the Israelis and Italians mentioned above are still only allegations though it is probable that none of the four will ever play top level bridge again. The Israelis, when teenagers, had been banned for cheating by their national authority.

In the past, bridge authorities had ethics protocols but tended to be ineffectual in dealing with cases, partly because allegations were hard to prove and partly for fear of having damages claims awarded against them.

With tools like YouTube available to monitor play and support mustered by forums such as

bridgewinners.com there is now more incentive for those authorities to pursue allegations.

Serious professional players like Brogeland want to have bridge seen as being wholly straight and the community in general is now more aware of the corrupting influence of cheating, the damage done by Lance Armstrong to the sport of cycling being the negative model.

The duel between cheats and bridge authorities is something like a miniature version of the ongoing warfare between hackers and IT&C companies.

Based on "Dirty Hands". Department of Gamesmanship, New Yorker, March 7th 2016; forwarded by Jo Drake.

Meanwhile- Bridge in Thailand

The *Pattaya One* newspaper has reported that a group of elderly bridge players were recently surprised by a visit from the Pattaya police.

Thirty-two foreigners, including British, Swedish, Norwegian and Australian citizens, plus an 84-year-old Dutch lady, were arrested during the anti-gambling raid.

Thailand has strict anti-gambling laws, with nearly all forms of gambling prohibited, and the country's military rulers have vowed to crack down on corruption and crime.

Police said they raided the bridge club after its anti-corruption unit received a tip-off that the players were in breach of a 1935 law, the Playing Cards Act, which prohibits individuals from possessing more than 120 playing cards.

The players were released on bail after 12 hours in custody and after the President of Thailand's bridge league had travelled to Pattaya to explain to police how bridge is played.

Reported by Elaine Jung; BBC.

(Post Script- Sunshine Coast and Coolum members, Steve and Verna Brookes, have just returned from Thailand where they played bridge in Bangkok. Bridge is still 'closed' in Pattaya though the Bangkok club is thriving).

Crystal ball gazing

Mike Phillips

When all else fails, and the situation looks hopeless, try to visualise what layout of the cards would enable you to succeed – whether you are declarer or defender – and play to that layout. If the cards lie as you hoped, you will succeed, and if they don't, you were doomed to fail anyway. An example of this came up in a semi-final of the 2005 World College Internet Tournament as reported on OK Bridge.

In this match, Massachusetts Institute of Technology played Catholic Junior College of Singapore 1. With MIT sitting N-S the bidding went:

Dealer West, both vulnerable

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

West led ♠9, ducked in dummy, and East's ten lost to the queen. Declarer ran the ♦T to East's jack. East returned a club, and declarer knocked out the ♦A and claimed 11 tricks. (At the other table Catholic stopped in ♦3 making, for 11 IMPs to MIT.)

♠	A632
♥	5
♦	KQ6532
♣	KT
	♠ KJT
	♥ AQT6
	♦ AJ8
	♣ 832

Holding the East cards, is this how you would have played? Pause for a moment, and think about the layout of the cards.

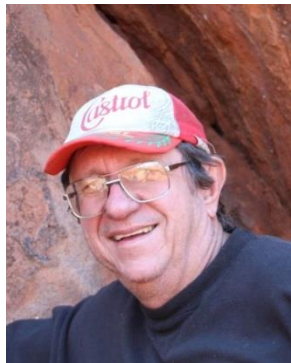
You have 15 HCP. North-South have two opening hands and have bid 3NT so they must have close to 26 HCP between them. This means that your partner can have, at best, only a jack. ♣J would be useless, but what if he has ♥J? Now visualize the action. If you play ♠K to win the first trick, cash ♥A and continue hearts, at some point declarer must take his king. Declarer now has eight tricks but needs a diamond to make his contract. When you get in with ♦A you take the remaining heart tricks to set the contract.

Believe it or not, the actual layout was exactly as you visualized when you made your brilliant play. If your partner had not held ♥J the contract was cold.

♠	9875	♠	A632
♥	J432	♥	5
♦	94	♦	KQ6532
♣	765	♣	KT
		♠	KJT
		♥	AQT6
		♦	AJ8
		♣	832
		♠	Q4
		♥	K987
		♦	T7
		♣	AQJ94

KEN'S KORNER

Ken Dawson



Ken's Konundrum

♠J76

♠A9843

West leads S2 against your 4S contract. Your goal is to have just one trump loser! What card do you play from dummy?

You should play S6. The SJ only works if West started with KQ2 in which case S2 would be a crazy lead.

Having played S6, East produces SQ which you grab with the SA. What is your next play?

♠J7

♠9843

You should play small towards S7 or run the S9. Why?

Because there is one trump that you can be sure East doesn't hold. That is ST. Holding that card, East would have played it rather than the SQ because he can see SJ in dummy.

You will still be in the soup if West started withKT52, giving him two trump tricks no matter what you do. However, your play is rewarded when the layout is

♠J76

♠T52

♠KQ

♠A9843

Notice how much tougher it is if East plays SK at trick one. You should still take the same

line as a tough East holding KT will not part with his SK.

If West hadn't started trumps for you, SA should be your first play. Note that East drops an honour and then play the same way. If he has the other top honour, it will "beat the air". If he shows out, you are no worse off.

Ken's Chestnut

ALWAYS COVER AN HONOUR WITH AN HONOUR

This time-honoured bit of bridge advice is often good; but it's also often wrong. Better advice would be:

"Cover an honour with an honour if it can promote a card in either your own or partner's hand"

Suppose the layout is

Dummy

A3

K86

54

QJT972

Here it would be an error to cover declarer's Queen. You can outlast dummy and make your King. Cover the Queen and the entire suit is lost

Dummy

AT94

Q76

85

KJ32

Here: declarer in a 4-4 fit advances the Jack. Should you cover?

The answer is *No!*

Covering cannot promote a card in your hand or partner's hand. Let declarer fish for your Queen. That is what he is looking for.

However, if you had to think about it, declarer sees your flinch and knows you have the Queen. When dummy came down, you had to decide immediately:-

What am I going to do if declarer leads the Jack at me?

A plan is the key!

Dummy

AQ43

K6

T85

J972

Here, you should cover the Jack.

If you don't, declarer's next card will be the two, your King will "*Beat the Air*", and you won't capture a decent card with it.

Declarer has erred here. He has insufficient *stuffing* in the suit for this finesse. i.e. He has too few cards surrounding his honour. Instead, he should have played small to the Queen and then the Ace. No Loser!

Bridge Players' Solemn Oath

Anon.

I'm giving up bridge! Tonight's my last night
It's Amen to Stayman, I give up the fight
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles
I can't sleep at night for thinking of Doubles

My cards are all rotten and who's played what?
What the heck's trumps? I think I forgot
It's all over now, and this time for good
I'm saying farewell to leads and Blackwood.

I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain
I'm getting bad cards, again and again
I'm giving up bridge. Tonight's my last night
Declarers are horrid and nothing's gone right

My partner's a dope and I'm losing hope
And her bid for Game can mean only shame
My points are not high and I'm wondering why
She keeps bidding up, right to the sky.

We're in seven spades and all my hopes fade
When surprise, surprise her bidding has paid
We're winning some tricks, the defenders feel sick

And I have to admit that my partner's a brick

But I'm giving up bridge, tonight's my last night
Farewell to conventions, I give up the fight
I leave with few words, but some that are true
Bridge isn't for me, though maybe for you

So be kind to your partner and don't mind their cheek

It's only a game; and I'll see you next week.

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