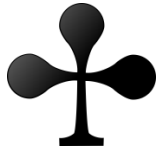
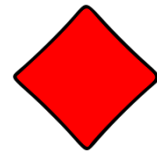




# BRIDGE MATTERS



## September 2016



Caloundra, Coolum, and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs

### CALOUNDRA NEWS

#### 2016 AGM

Highlights of the President's Report, presented to the forty members who attended this year's AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> August, were as follows.

While 34 new members joined the Club during the year, membership decreased slightly to approximately 300.

To counter the fall in membership and to cater for those interested in playing bridge but who cannot attend day lessons, the Club has initiated a second round of beginners' lessons to be held on Monday nights starting on 26<sup>th</sup> September, the objective being to attract a younger group of players.

The social environment of our new "Twilight Tapas and Wine" sessions, starting at 4.00pm Thursdays, has proved popular with members.

Our weekend Teams Congress was a great success with 24 tables competing and many teams coming from other Clubs

The club has had a steady year financially with approximately 5% increase on the number of tables played during the year, with corresponding increase in table fee income. Aside from the regular maintenance expenses and operational expenses, the club has undertaken a major upgrade of the computer systems for club operations and also installed a new security system.

The club's bank balances have been maintained at a very healthy level with adequate contingency funds available. Accordingly, there is no financial imperative to increase table or membership fees.



### NEW MEMBERS

#### Caloundra

Maggie Cox	Laila Hansen
George Kavanagh	Tonni Keijzer
Roslyn Kendrick	Pauline Tetter
Torben Hansen	Astrid Borchardt
Helen Fox	Pete Fox

#### Coolum

Janice Clough	Phillip Johnston
Viv Wilson	

#### Sunshine Coast

Mary Travers-Jones	John Nibbs
Pat Murray	Jan Kehl
George Blacklock	Maureen Cass
Carolyn Davey	Bill Duffield
Shirley Eames	Maree Foote
Judy Frazier	Lydia George
Trish Goodger	Robyn Hannon
Eva Jungland	
Blythe & Devlin Levick	
Shirley & Doug Park	

# COOLUM NEWS

*Ken Dawson; Brett Middelberg*

## COOLUM RED POINT BONANZA

Three coming Red Point events are:

- Thursdays Oct 21<sup>st</sup> and Oct 28<sup>th</sup> (not listed in the Diary).
- Thursdays Nov 24<sup>th</sup> and Dec 1<sup>st</sup> (not listed in the Diary)

Red point eclectics will be run at the above sessions. If you are in the room both days, you will be eligible for bonus red points. No need to have the same partner. Visitors welcome

- Monday Nov 7th. Regular session but with red points.

Normal table fees apply to the above events.

Make a plan to find a partner and enjoy.

## COOLUM CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS

Thursdays Nov 3rd, 10th and 17th.

This will be a Members-Only red point event

Usually conducted in a Swiss format with a draw being made at the end of each round. One substitute for one session is permitted with the substitute being of lesser or equal masterpoint level

Our Nett Championship is determined on the same days. Trophy awards only. If you need assistance finding a partner, please make contact. Entry via Ken at [banksia9@gmail.com](mailto:banksia9@gmail.com) is good.

Normal table fees.

There will be no side session on these days.

## COOLUM ANNUAL INVITATION DAY RESULTS

Twenty tables competed; and we were pleased to welcome regular visitors from as far away as Redcliffe and Gympie.

Coolum players featured strongly in the results; which are posted on our website and are summarised below:-

- Overall Placings
  1. Verna Brookes & Ken Dawson
  2. Brett Middelberg & Arch Morrison
  3. Steve Jesienowski & Alan Sinclair

- B Section
  1. Jill Nicholl & Maz McKee
  2. Maree Filippini & Jean Bavage (Redcliffe)
- C Section  
Meg Pace & Janet Brodie-Wallace (Noosa)
- 
- Coolum Home Club Members Trophy  
Steve Jesienowski & Alan Sinclair

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Fees are due by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>; though many of our members have helped the Club, financially and administratively, by paying early.

## CLUBHOUSE PLANS.

Our committee plans to tender for the lease of the old Coolum Cinema which is expected to be open soon. There have been resident objections but Sunshine Coast Regional Council seems determined to move the building. We shall see.



Congratulations to Coolum's hard working president, Pat Terrace, who has been promoted to National Master rank.



Friends wishing Geoffrey Townley a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He and his wife Alison (on his right) arrived from Yorkshire in 1963 and have been members of Coolum Bridge Club for many years.

## PRE-ALERTS

*Peter Busch, Sunshine Coast Games Director*

The ABF Alerting Regulations require players to pre-alert their opponents to any calls in their system that might have an unexpected meaning. These pre-alerts should be made known to the opponents at the beginning of each round.

Pre-alerts should be recorded on your system card in the section in the middle of the front page headed 'Pre-Alerts'. You should also verbally tell your opponents of your pre-alerts, but this can be done briefly (e.g. "some of our low level doubles have special meanings") and refer them to the Pre-Alerts section of the card for full details if they are interested.

Just because you will be alerting a bid during the auction does not remove the obligation to pre-alert. In some cases, the opponents may wish to work out a defence though they cannot do that and once the auction has commenced.

Failure to pre-alert is similar to failing to alert during the auction, and the Director may award an adjusted score if damage is deemed to have occurred.

Below are some common conventions that we believe need pre-alerting.

### **Always pre-alert:**

- **Basic system (Precision, Standard, Acol, 2-over-1 etc)**
- **Style 2-level opening bids (Multi-2's, all, Weak 2's, Benjamin 2's, Flannery etc)**

### **Pre-alert these if your system includes them:**

- **Transfers responses after 1C opening i.e. 1C – 1H where 1H shows spades**
- **Transfer pre-empts e.g. Opening 2H which shows a weak spades hand, or NAMYATS**
- **Doubles or re-doubles with special meanings i.e. showing weakness**
- **Unbalanced 1NT openings**
- **Highly unusual carding e.g. leading low from a doubleton**
- **Unusual meanings for bids that have a generally accepted meaning e.g. 2C following 1NT that does not ask for majors**

- **Systemic penalty-oriented doubles that might look like take-out e.g. 1S – 2X - X**

If you're not sure if one of your conventions warrants a pre-alert, consider whether the opponents might need to work out a defence in advance. This may apply, for example if you make 1-level transfer bids and they may want to assign a meaning if they double the bid suit or bid the requested suit. Also, in the case of bids that cannot be alerted, such as doubles and cues, consider whether an opponent may make a different call during the auction if they knew the meaning.

Remember, a general rule that applies to all alerts (pre-alerts, alerts and post-alerts), if in doubt, alert it.

---

## SUNSHINE COAST NEWS

*John Stacey*

### **BRIDGE DURING THE CLOSE-DOWN**

Sunshine Coast Club will be closed for most of October for renovation of the toilets and kitchen. We will have a much better configuration for our operations and we are confident our members will appreciate the improvements.

However, Coolum, Caloundra and Noosa clubs have all advised that Sunshine Coast Players will be welcome to visit their Clubs during that period, and will only be asked to pay Club playing fees.

The times of 'Bridge Sessions at Local Clubs' are shown in the purple 'Program -2016'.

We thank our friends in nearby Clubs for their assistance in this time of discomfort for our Club and assure them of our help whenever required.

## BRIDGEMATE RESULTS DISPLAY

*Peter Bishop, with inputs from many others.*

Progressive display of board results on the Bridgemates has been a contentious issue, the current status appearing to be:

- Sunshine Coast recently conducted a survey on the subject, the conclusion being that a majority of players on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays were in favour of results being shown while Monday, Thursday and Saturday players were against. The current status is that the display has been restored for all sessions on a three-month trial.
- Caloundra removed the display some months ago and (narrowly) voted at its AGM in August to not restore it.
- Coolum has recently started displaying results again.
- Noosa doesn't display results.
- Information gained from a few big city clubs (with paid directors) indicates variation in practice.
- Bridge authorities require that progressive results are not displayed in competition events.

The main argument put forward for showing results is that it gives the educational opportunity for less experienced players to see if they bid correctly while the rationale which they employed in bidding is fresh in mind.

However, that is a dubious rationale for the following reasons:

- It is bad statistical practice to base a conclusion on a small sample, as applies early in a session when boards have only been played a few times; and
- At any stage; just because a player at another table was in a better contract or made when another player didn't doesn't reflect on the latter player's bidding or play. The better result could have been due to any one of a variety of factors and the

information could in fact send the completely wrong message with the effect of being detrimental rather than a useful tool.

A more definite benefit of showing results is that it gives the opportunity for correction of anomalous result entries while the people responsible are available.

Arguments against are:

- Unreasonable delays caused by inspection and discussion of results: and
- Players at adjoining tables being unfairly advantaged by overhearing those discussions.

The Rules of Bridge allow penalties for slow play or audible discussion. However, our (playing) directors already do great work in organising bridge sessions and restoring equity by giving rulings on errors in play. They can't be expected to assume any disciplinary function.

Nor can directors be expected to remember to alter the computer before every session to have the progressive results display turned on or off.

It has been suggested that South players, being responsible for Bridgemate inputs, could also assume responsibility for ensuring that players at their tables behave appropriately in this matter. However, the South players themselves might be the laggards and many would not wish to act in any sort of authoritarian role.

So; from the above discussion, it appears that we can again say that bridge is an activity in which we should never say 'Never!'.

Perhaps the only conclusion which can be drawn is that those at Sunshine Coast who enjoy this facility could bear in mind that it is tolerated but not appreciated by many of the other people playing in any session.

It could also be noted that the facility is for information on contracts only, with consideration of whether or not hands were played or defended well to be undertaken at home computers.

## INTERVIEW WITH JOHN GOSNEY-

**IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
SUNSHINE COAST  
BRIDGE CLUB**

*Wendy O'Brien*



John first became involved with bridge as a young computer programmer working in Wales. His boss was passionate about the game and the office staff of 8 played every lunch time. As they were obliged to keep playing until the boss was ahead, the sessions sometimes went on until 3 in the afternoon.

John came to Australia in 1965, having spent 2 years in New Zealand on the way. He married, and with a wife and 3 children bridge was not on his mind till 16 years ago when his son Paul, still at school, agreed with his mother's suggestion that he learn to play bridge.

There were no lessons available at the time so John accompanied him to the supervised play sessions at Brisbane's QCBC. Paul's potential was quickly realised and he was taken in hand by Andrew Pryde, one of Queensland's leading players at that time. Paul has gone on to represent Australia at the international level on several occasions and remains one of our country's leading bridge players.

The Gosneys retired to the Sunshine Coast in 2005, and John joined the Sunshine Coast club. In 2011 he joined the management committee and has been president for the last 2 years, retiring at the AGM, September 5, 2016.

Early in his career John worked for a supervisor whose management philosophy was that you support the people who work for you because then everybody does a good job and the whole enterprise prospers. This philosophy was reinforced by his experience in the IT world, where people change jobs at the drop of a hat and there is no place for autocracy.

Over the years John has been involved with many committees and was recently president of Suncare for 3½ years. Suncare is an organisation providing services for the aged and disabled that

at that time, had over 300 employees and a turnover of \$20 million, yet was managed by a volunteer committee. In his words: "If people believe in what they are doing, receive credit for what they do and know they are appreciated, it is incredible how much a volunteer committee can achieve."

John brought that same philosophy to his role as President of the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club.

When asked what he thought had been the most significant achievements under his leadership, John replied that, of course, the upcoming renovations to the kitchen and toilet areas (involving the closure of the club house for 3 weeks in October) were the most topical, but he stressed that it is important for any organisation to concentrate on its main activity, which in our case is bridge, rather than get trapped in a web of side issues, important though they may be. For this reason he sees the most valuable contribution of the committee under his leadership to have been in promoting a variety of bridge playing initiatives, including Pianola, the Interclub Trophy, the graded teams' congress, Tuesday afternoon sessions, RAMP and member education. He gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Adrienne Kelly in this area.

John has enjoyed his time as president and feels the club can only continue to grow as the population grows and bridge becomes more popular. When asked if he had any regrets, he replied that he was disappointed the committee finally voted not to purchase a defibrillator at this time, but expects to see a defibrillator in the clubhouse at some time in the future. He stressed that it is important to respect the will of the majority on the committee and that a president should never take any committee members or club members for granted. He also regrets that the club no longer runs a night session.

# KEN'S KORNER

Ken Dawson



## Ken's Chestnut-

### ALWAYS PLAY SECOND HAND LOW.

This is a reasonable policy, based on the fact that partner still has a chance to play as 4<sup>th</sup> hand.

However, being alert, thinking and planning the play is more important.

What is declarer up to?

- Was he unable to get off the table any other way?
- Could he not get out of his hand?
- Why is he not drawing trumps?
- Why didn't partner return my suit?
- Should I grab ace of trumps to give partner a ruff?

The policy can also apply for declarer.

	K43	
x		?
	J62	

Here, your LHO leads a small card against your No Trump contract. Just by playing Low from dummy, you are guaranteed a trick in the suit. RHO may win the Queen. However, your Jack or King can push out the Ace leaving our remaining honour high. If you rise with the King, you run the risk of making NO trick in the suit. RHO may win the Ace. Then, LHO smother's your Jack with his Queen.

As a defender, here is a classic case where you need to play second hand low – and smoothly.

	KJT43	
A52		Q86
	97	

When you saw that long suit in dummy, you know that a low card would be fired at you at some time, didn't you? If you play the 2 nice and smoothly, declarer has to guess whether to rise the King or

finesse you for the Queen. Yes, he might guess right. However, if you rise ace or flinch, you remove his guess.

	KQT75	
A42		?
	6??	

Declarer leads the 6 at you and it looks pretty hopeless, doesn't it? Not necessarily. It depends on dummy's other entries and how many tricks we need to set the contract. If we need two, rising Ace gives us little hope. Playing low may turn up

	KQT75	
A42		J83
	96	

If declarer tries to get off the table with the 5 of this suit, partner will be ready to play second hand high and grab his Jack.

## Ken's Konundrum #3

Spades are trumps. How do you plan to handle these holdings for one loser:-

♠Q2  
♠K76543

You need a lot of luck. Lead S3 towards SQ. If the queen holds, you then play low from both hands hoping that west started with ♠Ax and the ace will beat the air. No other layout will allow you to escape for one loser.

♠Q432  
♠K765

Again, you will need some luck. However, this time you must guess which of your opponents might hold ♠Ax. After that, it is the same as last time.

Of course, if you can cajole one of the opponents to lead the suit, you might escape for one loser by following the familiar doctrine "second-hand-low".

Say west leads a spade. You play low and perhaps east will pop the ace. Even when they don't pop the ace, the body language may convince you of its location



# MIKE'S MUSINGS

Mike Phillips



## Part 1- REFLECTIONS ON COFFS

The Coffs Coast Gold Congress is rightly regarded as the second best in Australia, after the Gold Coast Congress; the 13<sup>th</sup> such event being conducted in April 2016.

Once again it was very well organised and expertly controlled by a team of top directors that included Peter Busch and Jan Peach.

Board 18 from the last Teams match was an extreme example of issues that the club player may not be familiar with.

	♠ 62		
	♥ J753		
	♦ T632		
	♣ AJ8		
♠ AKQT9874	Dlr- East	♠ J53	
♥ T64		♥ AKQ8	
♦ K8	Vul. N/S	♦ 7	
♣ -		♣ Q7652	
	♠ -		
	♥ 92		
	♦ AQJ954		
	♣ KT943		

East opened 1♣, which was not a Precision Club but could be any one of a number of different hands. North/South had one defence against a standard club and another for a strong club but had not discussed which they would use against these opponents.

South overcalled 2NT, intended to show strength in both minors, alerted and described as hearts and diamonds. Things went terribly wrong from here on. West bid 4♠ and, after much thought, North bid 5♥. The auction then proceeded: double by East, 6♣ South, double by West, 6♦ by South, doubled again, all pass.

The result was 10 tricks for minus 500. The director was called, East/West complaining that they had been done out of their spade slam (which was bid and made at the other table).

You may not know that the Laws of Bridge stipulate that your partner's alert and/or explanation of your bid are unauthorized information to you and you must not take any subsequent action that could have been suggested thereby. You must pretend that you never heard it.

The directors ruled that in pulling the double of 5♥ South was influenced by unauthorized information. Disregarding North's alert and explanation, South should have taken his partner to hold a huge heart suit, and passed. The score was adjusted to 5♥X, minus 1700, a bitter pill to swallow. Ironically, had North bid 5♦, as she should, or South converted to 6♦ instead of clubs, there would probably have been no infringement.

Sydney expert Nick Hughes edited the Congress Bulletin. He asked "Do you open 2NT for the minors? You shouldn't." Nick went on, "If you end up defending, declarer will get the play right. If game is on your way it's likely to be 3NT played by partner, not you. If it's one of the frequent bad days, you will find yourself several levels too high with no escape. Teams match 2 board 24 was an example of Nick's thinking.

		♠ A2	
		♥ J9862	
		♦ J87	
		♣ 974	
♠ Q	Dlr- West	♠ 96543	
♥ 5		♥ AKQT43	
♦ AQ6542	Vul. Nil	♦ 9	
♣ J8652		♣ Q	
		♠ KJT87-	
		♥ 7	
		♦ KT3	
		♣ AKT3	

"When West opened 2NT, East squirmed but couldn't bring himself to pass. His 3♥ was forcing so away they went. Nobody doubled the final spot but it was still bad because North/South can't make anything.

"So ignore what your friends say and go back to opening 2NT with 20-21. As a bonus, removing 20-21 from your 2♣ or 2♦ improves these auctions."

I don't know if I'm with Nick but it's food for thought.

# MIKE'S MUSINGS

## Part 2- THE GIFT HORSE STRIKES AGAIN!

♠	KQ954
♥	9
♦	8753
♣	JT2
Dlr- South	
Vul. Nil	
♠	JT-
♥	AKT2
♦	JT4
♣	AQ75

I was sitting South in the SCBC Congress Pairs.

In Match 2, there were no opposition bids to Board 11 and I was declarer in a 1NT contract. East-West were both very good players, West led the ♣6, I played the 2 from Dummy, and East contributed the 3.

Time for me to plan the play; though I rashly failed to take the advice of Alan Maltby's article in the June 2016 issue of *Bridge Matters* which said "always look a gift horse in the mouth."

Counting winners and losers, the hand looks easy: E/W can take five tricks but I should have the rest. Assuming that E/W would cooperate, I carelessly took trick one with the ♣7, thus guaranteeing defeat. Alas, East held up the ♠A until the second round and when I later led the ♣5 from hand West won with the king, and

dummy's four spade winners were now locked away. (If instead I had led ♣Q West would have held up his king, with the same effect.)

Result, down one. Of course I should have refused the gift and played ♣Q at trick 1, keeping two small clubs in hand to force an entry to Dummy to enjoy those spade winners.

	♠	KQ954		
	♥	9		
	♦	8753		
	♣	JT2		
♠	86	Dlr- South	♠	A732
♥	J75	Vul. Nil	♥	Q8643
♦	AKQ		♦	962
♣	K9864-		♣	3
	♠	JT-		
	♥	AKT2		
	♦	JT4		
	♣	AQ75		

This board was played at 22 tables. I sat South. As expected, most N-S pairs played in a spade contract, including three optimists who failed in 4♠. One South bid and made 2NT, losing the obvious five tricks; four E/W pairs stole the auction in a heart or club contract. Owing to our partnership methods, I was the only declarer in 1NT, and received the friendly lead of the ♣6, rather than the obvious diamond.

The moral of this tale? When you plan your play at trick 1 pay particular attention to possible communication problems. If presented with a gift horse look carefully in its mouth, or it may come back to bite you.

	<p><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</p>	
		





## CALOUNDRA LESSONS

### 6.30 Monday Evenings

The Caloundra Club Games Director, Randall Rusk, will run a series of lessons at this time from end of September.

Lessons will consist of 1 hour of tuition followed by about 2 hours of practice play.

For just \$40 learners will receive 10 weeks of lessons followed by another 4 sessions of supervised play.

If you know any potential bridge students please send them along; and Caloundra members who would like to use the lessons as a refresher are also encouraged to attend. A \$10 discount is offered to anyone repeating the course.