



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

July 2014

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President's Report



Winter has arrived this year with a vengeance! The days are crisp and clear but temperatures are much lower than we are used to. With the cold has come the usual coughs, splutters and sniffles, and we ask that members be vigilant in hygiene especially at the table and anywhere near the kitchen. Loyalty to partner

is a wonderful thing, but sometimes it may be better to stay home and recover rather than risk sharing the germs with everyone else.

I am deeply saddened to report the passing of three of our members recently, Roley Lavers, Margaret Lavers and Maryann Ziser-Constable. All three were a positive influence and respected members of our club and will be dearly missed. We are a large club and sometimes we lose contact with members – they could be bored with bridge, might be ill themselves or have ill relatives, or perhaps just cannot find a partner. If you have not seen someone at the club in a while, as a club member we ask that you contact them and see if they would like to come in for a game. As President, I ask that you check up on them to see if they are OK and to see if there is anything we can do to help them.

I had to spend the first week of July in Brisbane, so took the opportunity to play a number of times at the Northern Suburbs Bridge Club. Although it is a large club (with 663 home members compared to our 376 at the last ABF census date) they made me very welcome and their President Elizabeth Gibson found me someone nice to play each day. I make a point whenever visiting another club (as a player or Congress Director) to review the clubroom layout and to investigate the way that they do things. Not that we should change for the sake of it, but we should always be willing to learn from others where it is to our benefit. Northern Suburbs have an average membership age of 75 (just a few years higher than ours) and are embarking on extending their building. They often have two or three sections playing at the same time and sometimes these sessions are graded (eg top players sit along the South wall in A-grade, newer players sit along the North wall in C-grade, and the rest in between).

I think the players evolved this graded system themselves. Perhaps we should consider the same thing!

One differentiating feature of the Toowoomba Bridge Club is our Supervised/Restricted play on Monday, Supervised play on Wednesday morning and Restricted play on Thursday night – all where a player can turn up without a partner and get a game. Of the 52 clubs in Queensland, only two run similar schemes and a further small number run dedicated Restricted play sessions. Twenty-six percent of our membership is Graduate master or below and thus eligible for Supervised play, and a whopping 79% of the membership is still eligible for Novice events (below 100 masterpoints). The remaining 21% are above 100 masterpoints and comprise around 50% of the play at the club each week. I think we have the session balance about right. The two Brisbane clubs I mentioned earlier must be doing something right as they are experiencing rapid growth at the moment. The other different thing about Toowoomba is that five of our six daytime sessions are afternoon play. This is rare in Brisbane where daytime bridge almost always starts between 9:00am and 10:30am.

Back to Toowoomba we celebrated our “birthday” on Saturday 5th July – recognising seven years in our new building and thirty-two years since the original Toowoomba Bridge Club, the Downs Bridge Club and the City Bridge Club amalgamated before moving into the Water Street clubrooms. Before this, the clubs were nomads and played in a range of premises around Toowoomba. I encourage you to talk to some of our longer serving members about these early days to know where we came from.

Finally, I'd like to express a word of thanks to all of the members of the club who: direct sessions of bridge or assist the Director in this task; prepare the room and kitchen before play; cleanup the room after play; help with the restricted and supervised play sessions; cook cakes and biscuits or make sandwiches; replenish the table supplies; sharpen pencils; wash the tablecloths; meet and greet visitors to our club; and to all the members who recognise what people do and offer words of thanks at the time you see it.

Happy bridging everyone.

Chris Snook, President

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Chris Snook
VICE PRESIDENT	Keith Jenkin
SECRETARY	Trudy Dunne
TREASURER	Lorraine Sutton
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Jeff Aitchison Eileen Josey Byron Longford Ritamay Roberts Hugh Robinson Ian Steger

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PROVIDORE	Keith Jenkin
CONGRESS CONVENOR	Hugh Robinson
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
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TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Eileen Josey
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	John Clift
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Jeff Aitchison
HOUSEKEEPER	Bette Flamsteed

Two sub-committees coordinate much of the work in the clubrooms:

Tournament Sub-committee: Talk to your Director or a Committee member about the activities of this sub-committee, which covers all facets of bridge play at the club.

Social Sub-committee: Led by Ian Steger, this group helps organise all the social events at the club such as Melbourne Cup party, Christmas party, Birthday party and perhaps a few other special events through the year.



Membership Secretary's Report



New Members

Please make the following new members feel welcome. Most of them have just completed lessons and will be looking for encouragement from everyone.

Kent Taylor
Joanne Todd
Bill Becker
Patricia Becker
Kathleen Beckwith
Geoff Billsborough
Keith Boucher
Kath Brammer
Frances Connors
Robyn Crothers
Kay Duncan
Anne Fisher
Sharyn Gierke
Desley Hanrahan
Daphne Kuhn
Paul Matthews
Neil McKinnon
Wendy McKinnon
Kim Nalder
Anthony Pattison
Lawrence Price
David Roberts
Margaret Roberts
Lorrie Robinson
Charmaine Ryan
Marion Schneider
Robert Turner
Colin Wallace
Judith Watts
Warren Wilson
Ailsa Ziebell
Doug Bryant.

At present we have 464 members of the Toowoomba Bridge Club comprised of 376 "home" members and 88 "away" members. "Home" means these members pay their ABF and QBA levy through the Toowoomba Club and "away" members are also members of some other club and pay their ABF and QBA levies through that club instead.

Annette Sullivan
Membership Secretary

New Master Rankings

Congratulations are extended to the following members who have achieved new Master rankings since the last newsletter:

GRADUATE

Tony Thorne
Elizabeth Thorne
Lynn Gunthorpe
Beth Bevan
Colleen Wildman
John Ryan
Len Bartz
Glenda Downie
Horst Rohde

CLUB

Coral Allen-Ankins
Angus Walker
Jayne McMicking
Rosie Rohde

LOCAL

Pat Turner
David Edwards
Richard Behrend
Lynette Power
Anna Goldsmith
Jane Tait

*LOCAL

Simone Ferguson
Helen Payne
Lavinia Minchin
Margie Maddison
Marlie Walker
Robert Cheesman
Geoff Buckham

**LOCAL

Esme Burnie
Judy Desjardins
Diana Drummond
Jack Burnie
John Burnett
David Lynch

REGIONAL

Trudy Dunne
Rozalyn Wright

STATE

Jan Stringer

*STATE

Nev O'Connor
Desiree Fenaughty
Gabrielle Elich

NATIONAL

Ann Dujela

LIFE

Rhonda Dean
Robert Fulton
Laurie-Marie McRoberts

BRONZE LIFE

Byron Longford

Masterpoint Secretary's Report

Players at the Toowoomba Bridge Club have earned 1,318.83 green masterpoints and 202.42 red masterpoints for the first nine months of the ABF masterpoint year (October – June). This is slightly less than for the same period last year (1,330.00 & 229.38). Of course, many players also earned many more masterpoints playing in Congresses.

As an example, if you come 1st in a club session of 10 tables then you earn 0.30 green masterpoints. In a one day Congress with 25 tables, you earn 4.82 red points for coming 1st, approx 1.28 for coming 10th and 0.56 for coming 25th.

It is easy to check your masterpoints on the ABF website. Simply visit:

<http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au>

and click on "Player – Masterpoints Lookup".

You can do this on the club computers at any time. If you feel that you are missing some masterpoints, check with the Club Masterpoint Secretary in the first instance.

Annette Sullivan

Masterpoint Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Budgets are prepared at the beginning of the club's financial year to give an overall perspective of the coming year which is to be completed. At the moment, the management committee is monitoring our obligations to various Government Departments and I am happy to say we are still under the GST threshold for this financial year and will be closely assessed next financial year when the budget is completed.

Our Term Deposits continue to grow but due to the efforts of the Reserve Bank reducing and keeping interest rates down they are growing slowly.

I am happy to say the club is financial and for interested members they are on display on the notice board.



Happy bridging,

Lorraine Sutton

Treasurer

Garden Report

The Committee has appointed Matthew Hawkless from VIP as our new mowing contractor, effective immediately. He will also be used to remove some dead shrubs from the garden to the north of the main entrance on Stuart Street.

Some Pansies and Dianthus have been planted in recent weeks to provide some spring colour. Some pots of petunias will also appear in coming weeks. The new grass to the south of the clubhouse is now well established, although suffering through winter frosts and dry conditions. It will be mown, fertilised and top dressed in August and should be looking lush again in September/ October.

Jeff Aitchison



Providore's Report

I would like to thank all members who have provided afternoon tea on various days.

It would be appreciated if anyone else is interested in contributing also would they please let me know.

It is very good to hear the feedback on the various items I have introduced recently.

Happy bridging.

Keith Jenkin
Providore



Social Report

Watch this space – planning is underway for the next event. Details will be included in the next newsletter.

Ian Steger



SUPERVISED PLAY UPDATE

With the lessons over for the first half of the year I am very impressed with our Graduates who are now coming to Monday Supervised.

They are very keen and best of all, they are all lovely people who will make a great addition to our club.

Trudy is now running the second lot of lessons and I have always recommended that while new members should come to Supervised, it is not a bad idea to go back and do some of the lessons again. Once you start playing, the lessons make a lot more sense.

It is a lot easier, and for that matter cheaper, to use the lessons as your practice time rather than have a group get together in your home. Having said that, having a group come and play at home is lots of fun and I certainly did it when I first started. But in between the laughter, having a good time and the odd glass of wine, I don't think we learnt too much. But as they say, horses for courses and if you can't have fun playing bridge, what's the point.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Ian Jesser is continuing with Wednesday morning, which is proving very popular. Ian would like people to be there by 8.45 and like Monday afternoon, you don't need a partner.

Ian is focusing on using the bridgemates, movements and helping people with their bidding and play.

THURSDAY EVENING

Denise Hartwig has also been running a small Supervised session on Thursday evening and says she is also very impressed with the people who have graduated from her class.

Cheers for now,
Glenys Clift



JUNE – DECEMBER PROGRAM
SUPERVISED PLAY
MONDAY AFTERNOON

JUNE

- 2/6 Responses to 15-17 1NT
9/6 Playing NT promoting winners
16/6 Bidding with a fit
23/6 The Barrier Principle

JULY

- 7/7 Bidding 4 card suits up the line.
14/7 When to draw trumps
21/7 Bidding after suit interference
28/7 Rule of 20 & Shape showing

AUGUST

- 4/8 Responses to Weak Twos “feature showing”
11/8 Responses to 21+ or 4-loser hands.
18/8 Responses to strong balanced hands
25/8 Take out Doubles and overcalls

SEPTEMBER

- 1/9 Negative Doubles
8/9 Coping with Pre empts
15/9 Doubling 1 NT
22/9 Gerber & Blackwood
29/9 Leads against NT

OCTOBER

- 13/10 Penalty Doubles – understanding scoring
20/10 Opening Light in 3rd Position
27/10 Discards & Signals-McKenney

NOVEMBER

- 3/11 Re-Opening the Bidding – Balancing
10/11 Cue bidding the enemy suit
17/11 Michaels Cue Bids
24/11 Unusual No Trump

DECEMBER

- Talks on Bridge Laws & Etiquette

Club Teacher’s Report

The second series of beginner’s lessons commenced on Wednesday 2 July.

While the numbers are much smaller than in the first half of the year, the enthusiasm is just as strong. I also expect to have many of the past students revisiting at times for lessons that were missed or not totally understood.

While I am overseas for many of the lessons this time, I am very thankful to Glenys Clift who has volunteered to take them for me. Our Club is so lucky to have members so dedicated to helping at any level.

Many members have often expressed a desire to have more intermediate or advanced workshops so as to be able to improve their knowledge base and playing skills. We are very fortunate to have Byron Longford offering a service on Fridays, before the afternoon playing session. From 11:30, Byron demonstrates the optimal bidding and playing for some boards that were played the previous week. These sessions are well received by a growing number of keen players.

Happy bridging

Trudy Dunne



Congress Convenor’s Report

Novice members are reminded that the Novice Teams Congress is now only a month away - Sunday 3rd August. Don't leave it until the last week to organise your team as it may be too late to make up a team you feel comfortable to play with.

As usual, we will require volunteers to help in the kitchen and to prepare the club for the day. Although it is a bring-your-own-lunch day food donations will be appreciated. If you are able to help in some way please let Ritamay Roberts or Lesley Meyer know. We look forward to a full clubhouse and a successful congress.

Hugh Robinson



Winners are Grinners

The "Monthly Winner" awards are displayed on the noticeboard and on the club website. This is a good way to celebrate the high performing players in each session and also provide additional green masterpoints to those players who play regularly in club sessions. They are officially called "multisession individual eclectic events".

April Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	John Cox & Geoff Buckham
Tuesday	Corrie Mayers & Jackie Henderson
Wednesday	Henry Eastment & Adrian Mayers
Thursday	Lennie Goodson & Harvey Billing
Thursday Night	Jill Cory & Lyn Vary
Friday	Byron Longford
Saturday	Henry Eastment

May Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	David Lynch & Barry Copley
Tuesday	Adrian Mayers & Byron Longford
Wednesday	Henry Eastment & Adrian Mayers
Thursday night	David Lynch & Judy DesJardins
Friday	Ian Jesser

June Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	Bob Cheesman
Tuesday	Jean Crandell
Thursday night	Hugh Robinson
Friday	Lee Hore
Saturday	Chris Snook & Glenys Clift

In local competitions:

Tuesday Night Perfect Teams

Henry Eastment, Frank Elston, Edwin Willey & Harvey Billing

Thursday Perfect Teams

Henry Eastment, Ian Jesser, Edwin Willey & Bruce Meakins

Tuesday Night Singles Championship

Edwin Willey

Thursday Singles Championship

Edwin Willey

Clive Berghofer Pairs Championship

Adrian Mayers & Henry Eastment

Joyce Benson Cup

Laurie-Marie McRoberts & Judith Briggs

Ivy Dahler Novice Pairs

Geoff Buckham & Dave Edwards

Ivy Dahler Novice Teams

Barry Copley, Kath Phillips, David Lynch & Judy DesJardins

And on the congress scene:

Stanthorpe Butler Pairs

3rd Ian Jesser & Rhondda Dean

Darling Downs Novice Pairs

B 2nd Michael Doherty & John Hede

B 3rd Nick Willems & Toni Tod

C 2nd Geoff Buckham & Dave Edwards

Join me in congratulating all these players for the success they have enjoyed.

Chris

In the Zone

Queensland Open Pairs

Players from all zone clubs played in the state qualifying event held on **Sunday 15th June** hosted by the Warwick Bridge Club.

The following two pairs will now be supported to play in the State Open Pairs Championship on October:

Edwin Willey & Bruce Meakins (1st overall)

Chris Snook & Mohan Trada (3rd overall)

The highest placed Novice Pair were John and Gabrielle Elich, who will receive support to play in two Brisbane Novice Congresses.

No Bleach, please

There are a number of members for whom individual needs are addressed. One of those needs is to avoid anaphylaxis, being a severe and life-threatening reaction to certain chemicals. The Management Committee has previously determined that NO BLEACH or cleaning products containing bleach are EVER to be purchased, brought into the Club in containers or as residue on items or used for any purpose. Alternative, low-allergen products have been purchased to reduce the risk of anaphylaxis.

Dealing with Strong 3-Suited Hands

by Edwin Willey

Strong three-suited hands are often difficult to describe in most systems and thus perhaps deserve special attention. Some agreements have ways of showing them, *e.g.* multi-two 2D openers include such an option, which are shown at the three-level. With some of my regular partners, we use a 2D* opener which **only** shows a strong 3-suiter. It is a green system and typically shows 17-22pts with any 4441 **or** 18-22pts any 5440 **or** 20-22pts any 5431. Responses are an indication of length of suit holdings: 2H* only 4-card suits and 2S* 5⁺-card suit. Should opponents interfere, the two steps are PASS*(=2H) and X(=2S) over a suit call and PASS*(=2H) and XX (=2S) over a double. Openers rebids are 2NT* with either 4441 or 5440 and a suit-bid with the 5-carder in a 5431. From here the auction proceeds naturally.

The 2D* opener promises to keep the auction open until either partner passes or game is reached. This commitment by opener seems extreme; however, this is based on the high probability of responder holding 6+point. This would bring the combined point count of both hands to a minimum of 23, sufficient values for a major game given a fit. Interestingly, from many years of experience, the 2D opener has consistently produced good results (even up to 7D) and have never resulted a poor ones. If responder holds very poor values, the auction will rarely go above the three level, usually playing in a 4-3 or even 4-4 fit.

Such 2D openers do not arise often, in practice perhaps once in two hundred deals. Very occasionally, they may turn up more often as they did in the Tuesday night session on 10 July (Boards 14, 18 and 26).

Bd 14
Dealer: E
Vul: None

	972	
	KT64	
	QJ83	
AT	T8	KQJ5
J7		A82
AT964		5
7542	8643	AKQ93
	Q953	
	K72	
	J6	

Auction:

2D* ¹	n.b.	2S* ²	n.b.
3C* ³	n.b.	3D ⁴	n.b.
3S* ⁵	n.b.	4C* ⁶	n.b.
5H* ⁷	n.b.	6C ⁸	End.

- 1 Strong three suited hand.
- 2 North will bid a 5-card suit next round.
- 3 5431 shape with 5 clubs and 20-22pts (admittedly only 19, but it has great sequences in the blacks).
- 4 5-card diamond suit. Yes: there is 5-4 club fit, but with West's values this hand deserves further exploration. Partner still has to keep the auction open.
- 5 Partner has four spades and has not supported diamonds so has a singleton. So East has 4(spades), 3(hearts), 1(diamond), 5(clubs).
- 6 This bid is below game so East is still obliged to continue bidding. Also 4C cannot be suit preference and thus can only be Gerber, with a weaker hand of this shape, West would pass (or stab 5C) instead of bidding 3D.
- 7 Two odd aces and two kings!!!
- 8 A great contract, which in the event made 13 tricks.

Most other auctions would reach game, but may not locate the 5-4 club fit and thus not reach slam.

Bd 18**Dealer: E****Vul: NS**

	KQT83	
	A9	
	K753	
A	JT	76542
KQ542		T3
A98		QT64
AK95	J9	Q4
	J876	
	J2	
	87632	

Auction:

n.b.	n.b.	2D* ¹	n.b.
2S* ²	n.b.	3H* ³	n.b.
3S* ⁴	n.b.	3NT ⁵	n.b.
4H* ⁶	End.		

- Strong three suited hand.
- North will bid a 5-card suit next round.
- 5431 shape with 5 hearts and 20-22pts.
- 5-card spade suit, in the hope that partner has 3 or 4 spades.
- No luck, partner has only one spade.
- Better option than 3NT; spades are useless and the minor Qs are gold.

Careful play brought in ten tricks for a top result.

Bd 26**Dealer: E****Vul: Both**

	QJT952	
	JT	
	J7	
A	875	63
A875		Q962
AKQT9		862
K93	K874	A962
	K43	
	543	
	QJ6	

Auction:

n.b.	n.b.	2D* ¹	n.b.
2H* ²	n.b.	3D* ³	n.b.
3H* ⁴	n.b.	4H ⁵	n.b.
n.b. ⁶	End.		

- Strong three suited hand
- East only has 4-card suits
- 5431 shape with 5 diamonds and 20-22pts
- 4-card heart suit.
- West also has 4 hearts.
- Where else?

And here is a bizarre recent example.

Bd 10**Dealer: E****Vul: Both**

	87432	
	Q8	
	9854	
A6	96	K5
954		K762
KJT2		Q763
T853	QJT9	AJ2
	AJT3	
	A	
	KQ74	

Auction:

n.b.	2D* ¹	n.b.	2S* ²
n.b.	2NT* ³	n.b.	3S ⁴
n.b.	4S ⁵		

- Strong three suited hand.
- North will bid a 5-card suit next round.
- 4441 or 5440 shape.
- 5-card spade suit.
- Lovely.

Lead: D3 Result: 10 tricks, +620.

Novice Pairs Congress

The QBA Novice Pairs Congress was held at the Toowoomba Bridge Club on Sunday 27th April 2014. Nominations were received from 44 pairs, made of both Toowoomba and visiting players who came from a number of Clubs in South East Queensland.

Chris Snook directed what was a successful and enjoyable congress. It was the visiting players who enjoyed the lion's share of success when the final results were lodged. Rebecca Knight and Naureen Gearon (Dalby Bridge Club) won the championship in a close fought battle from Bill Szumidlo (Kenmore) and Mick Fawcett (Sunnybank) with the well known Toowoomba pair, Judy & Trevor Glasby, filling third place. Jeff Aitchison and Lucy Parker were the only other players from the Toowoomba Bridge Club to enjoy success by filling third place in the B section.

The day was sponsored by "My Personal Travel Planner", and the company's Principal, Ainsley Hardie, made the presentations.



The Congress in full swing.



The top table contenders, Rebecca Knight and Naureen Gearon vs trevor and Judy Glasby.



Jeff Aitchison, Ainsley Hardie and Lucy Parker



Trevor and Judy Glasby with Ainsley Hardie



The winners, Naureen Gearon and Rebecca Knight, with Hugh Robinson, Ainsley Hardie and Mick Fawcett



Chris Snook presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Ainsley Hardie for their sponsorship of the event.

Remember to (be) Alert – Part 2

I wrote an article on the requirement to alert unusual calls for the January newsletter. I repeat some of that information here and elaborate with a few examples.

1. Bridge is not a game of secrets. All agreements must be fully available and fully disclosed to the opponents.
2. Regulations enforce this by requiring each player to have a legible approved system card on the table at all times [It should be accessible to the opponents without them having to move handbags, cups, bridgemates, etc].
3. Regulations also require a player to **alert**, which is a process to draw the opponents' attention to any call from partner that has a **special meaning**, or a **meaning the opponents may not expect**.
4. The fact that the system card explains the meaning of a call does not remove the obligation to alert it when required by these regulations.
5. Players should adhere to the principle of full disclosure (as required by the Laws) in following these Regulations and in explanations of calls. The principle is to disclose, not as little as you must, but **as much as you can**, and as comprehensibly as you can.
6. Merely to name a convention (e.g. Michaels, Lebensohl, etc.) is not an acceptable explanation. There are many variations of most conventions, and a more specific explanation is normally required. Similarly, the use of "Standard" or "Natural" to describe calls, signals or leads is rarely sufficient – nor are the terms "Weak", "Strong" or "Intermediate" - without appropriate qualification.
7. A **conventional call** is a call that, by partnership agreement, conveys a meaning other than willingness to play in the denomination named (or in the last denomination named), or high-card strength or length (three cards or more)

there. However, an agreement as to overall strength does not make a call a convention. All opening bids and overcalls that show two or more suits, even if one of the suits is named, are by definition conventional.

8. A **natural bid** is a call that is not conventional. It conveys a willingness to play in the denomination named and shows high card strength or (at least 3 card) length in the named suit. A **natural NT** conveys a willingness to play in NT and conveys no other information about particular suit holdings. A **natural pass** does not convey any message about suit nor playing strength.
9. **Self Alerting Calls** are sufficiently strange such that they carry their own alert and should not be separately alerted. These include:
 - (i) Doubles
 - (ii) Redoubles
 - (iii) Cue bid of the opponents suit that they called or the suit that they have shown (eg a transfer)
 - (iv) All calls at the 4 level or higher (except conventional opening bids)
 - (v) Any 2C response to a 1 NT opening in a non-contested auction.
10. Players alert their partner's calls, not their own. Alerts should be made immediately after the alertable call has been completed. Alerts are made by audibly saying, "Alert" and circling the call on the bidding pad. Circling a call provides prima-facie evidence that it has been alerted.

Some examples which require an alert:

Opening 1D: Alert 1D if it may, by agreement, contain less than 3 diamonds. Of course you should have also told the opponents when you first sat down.

Precision 1D opening: This typically shows (11)12-15 HCP and no five card major. It may or may not contain diamonds. There is no willingness to play in diamonds and the call

contains other information thus 1D must be **alerted**.

Precision 1D response to 1C: In a normal auction 1C-P-1D would show (5)6+ HCP and typically 4D+. The Precision 1D response must be **altered** because it is not a willingness to play in diamonds and is 0-7 HCP, which most people will not expect.

Inverted Minors: In a normal auction that proceeds 1D-P-2D you would expect responder to have around 6-9 HCP's and if the auction proceeds 1D-P-3D for responder to have a fit in diamonds and 10+ HCP. If a partnership is playing "inverted minors" such bids are reversed so that 1D-P-2D shows 10+ and 1D-P-3D is a limited hand with 6-9. This is not what most people would expect and thus opponents might not compete in the bidding – thus the inverted minor response must be **alerted**.

Negative Free bids: Using traditional systems, responder requires (10)11+ HCP to bid at the two level after the opposition has interfered in the bidding. Eg:

1H-(1S)-2C (the 2C bid shows 11+) or 1S-(2C)-2H (the 2H bid shows 11+). Some partnerships are playing "negative free bids" and their 2C bid is less than 10HCP and some partnerships will play down to 0 points. They usually have some other response (like a double first) to show a positive hand. These negative free bids are done on playing strength the opposition might not expect and must be **alerted**.

Weak Jump Responses: While not so common nowadays, a jump response used to show an opening hand opposite Openers hand, or at least is forcing to game. Other pairs play that a jump shift response shows a weak hand. eg 1H-P-2S shows a very weak hand only worth playing in spades (it might be 0-4 HCP and 6 spades). This is certainly not what most people would expect and thus such weak jump shifts should be **alerted**.

Multi-two bids: Any 2-level bid with a multiple meaning is **alertable**. The

conventional responses, including correctable bids are also **alertable**.

Strong 2C or 2D: Alert these strong artificial bids.

Weak-twos: Do not alert a 2 level bid if it shows a single suit, no matter whether the bid is weak or strong (eg 2H showing 6 hearts).

Alert : Forcing 1NT response

Alert : Jacoby 2NT

Alert : Transfer bids below 4C

Alert : Unusual NT

Alert : Natural NT overcall that does not show a stopper

I understand beginners make mistakes so Directors will be gentle if you try to comply with the Alert Regulations but make the occasional boo-boo. Experienced players, however, are expected to know and comply with the Alert Regulations at all times. If such a conventional call is not alerted and the non-offending side's score could possibly have been damaged by the failure to alert, then the score will be adjusted in all cases.

Happy and transparent bridging!

Chris

Thanks to Our Sponsors

A reminder to members that we enjoy sponsorship support from the following companies:

RetireInvest

My Personal Travel Planner

Freedom Total Life Care

LJ Hooker Real Estate

For contact details and other information provided by these companies, please refer to the sponsorship noticeboard in the club rooms.

Please support the companies that support us.

