



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

March 2012

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba 4350
PO Box 45, Northlands 4350



Editor: Keith Jenkin

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President's Report



Since the last Newsletter, club activities have been fairly routine with all sessions running smoothly (power failure during one session excepted). The kitchen continues to operate with a minimum of fuss, thanks to the

many volunteers who provide delicious afternoon teas and clean up during and after sessions.

Recently, many members of our club attended the Warwick and Dalby Swiss Pairs Congresses and the QBA Gold Coast Congress. Speaking from personal experience, I can only say how impressed I was with the efficient organization of these events – they were all most enjoyable.

All the rain of recent months has had both positive and negative aspects. On the positive side, the grass in the new carpark area has improved dramatically. It still has some way to go before it provides the full cover that is expected, but it is now starting to look presentable. On the subject of the carpark, I would remind members to take care to park only in the marked spaces and to take up only one space. There have been many instances of people parking either in unmarked areas or parking across two parking spaces and this creates hazards for other vehicles.

The negative aspect of the rain has been the prolific growth of weeds in the gardens. However, thanks to the efforts of volunteers who have accepted responsibility for sections of the gardens, this is being kept well under control. Well done to all of the numerous volunteers, especially Ralph, who keeps the grass mowed and the hedges trimmed.

Beginner lessons are underway with Trudy Dunne teaching the Wednesday classes and Liz Zeller teaching the Thursday evening classes. Numbers attending are excellent and this augurs well for the future growth and well-being of the club. We have had some members not renewing their membership for a variety of reasons, but our total membership at last count was 399.

Henry Eastment has been running workshops on Saturday mornings and these have proven to be very popular and well received. For as long as there continues to be interest in these workshops, I am sure Henry will be happy to continue running them. Our thanks to Henry and the teachers for all the time and effort that they put into these activities that are vital to the club.

The Novice Pairs Congress will be over when this Newsletter goes out and this will be followed soon after by the May Congress in early May. The Congress Convenor, Byron, is ably managing organization of both events with assistance being provided by the newly formed Social Sub-committee. Speaking of the Social Sub-committee, they are proposing a social visit to the Warwick Bridge Club for a game of bridge with timing to coincide with the "Jumpers in July" Festival – see the Social Sub-Committee Report in this Newsletter. A flyer will be on the notice board with information and seeking names of people who are interested in participating. I encourage members to support this activity and to approach any member of the Social Sub-committee with their suggestions for future activities – names of the sub-committee members is on the notice board.

Happy bridging,
Floyd Wilson
President



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Floyd Wilson
VICE-PRESIDENT	Bruce Hinchliffe
SECRETARY	Gabrielle Elich
TREASURER	Lorraine Sutton
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Hugh Robinson Ray Moore Robbie Fulton Keith Jenkin Glennis Cowell Chris Snook Byron Longford
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Chris Snook
PROVIDORE	Chris Snook
CONGRESS CONVENOR	Byron Longford
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Chris Snook
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook Byron Longford Floyd Wilson
ZONE REPRESENTATIVE	Chris Snook Byron Longford
PRESS OFFICER	Kim Nicoll
LIBRARIAN	Henry Eastment
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Keith Jenkin
CLUB TEACHER	Trudy Dunne/ Elizabeth Zeller
MEMBERSHIP BADGES	Glennis Cowell
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Bruce Hinchliffe
GROUNDS CHAIRPERSON	Ray Moore
CARPARK PROJECT MANAGER	Ray Moore
MAINTENANCE CHAIRPERSON	John Clift
HOUSEKEEPER	Bette Flamstead

Three 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 cover all facets of bridge play at the club.

Social Sub-committee: 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.

Maintenance Sub-committee: This sub-committee, led by John Clift, looks after the building and surrounding gardens. If you notice something needs repair, then let John know or add a note to the "maintenance register" next to the results noticeboard. Tell the Director if you think the matter is more urgent.

New Master Rankings

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

<u>GRADUATE MASTER</u>	Arthur McMurray Pamela Tam
<u>CLUB MASTER</u>	James Babineau Lynette Bidgood Simone Ferguson Diana McDougall
<u>LOCAL</u>	Barry Copley Judy Hinchcliffe Jack Lloyd
<u>*LOCAL MASTER</u>	Norm Higgs Keith Jenkin Ann Klippe Hugh Robinson Jan Stringer Rozalyn Wright
<u>**LOCAL MASTER</u>	Jeff Aitchison
<u>REGIONAL MASTER</u>	Ralph Geddes Lesley Meyers Majella Wilson
<u>STATE MASTER</u>	Judith Briggs

WELL DONE!



Welfare Officer

Please contact Glenda Filbee on her home phone (4636-7622) or at the club if you know of a member who is ill, hospitalized or suffering a bereavement and Glenda will respond suitably on behalf of the Club.



Membership Secretary's Report



NEW MEMBERS

We would like to give a very warm welcome to the following new members who have recently joined the Toowoomba Bridge Club.

Glenda Downie
Jeffrey Gold
Sydney Gold
Carol Harris

Happy Bridging!

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

The census date with the ABF and QBA is the 31st March. On this day, the annual registration fee of \$11.00 to the QBA and \$12.00 to the ABF is paid for each "Home club member". This is why it has been so important for Toowoomba Bridge Club member to pay their subs.

Our current membership numbers are:

2 Junior members
66 Away members
327 Home members
4 Life members

This total of 331 Home members is down a little from the 361 last year, but the number of tables that played bridge during the year was the highest ever.

Happy Bridging!

Chris Snook
Membership Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Our gross income in comparison to last year's figures is the same, which is good news. However, net income is down by 16.5% due to increasing expenses, with the exception of the kitchen expenses, which are down 34%.

The expenses that went up substantially are:

Cleaning of the clubhouse is up 60% due to a change in the cleaning contractor last year and an increase in the cost of carpet cleaning.

Auditor fees are up 22% due to a change in Auditor but we have engaged a new Auditor for this financial year and the cost will drop 60%.

Electricity as we all know is not going to go down so it is up 25%.

Repairs & Maintenance is up substantially due to electrical and plumbing problems and repainting the white lines in the old car park

Despite the above doom and gloom we are still financial with a gross income of \$28,789 for the year. We still have a liability of approximately \$10,000 that is due to be paid in the next couple of months.

I am available if anyone is interested in knowing more about the accounts.

Happy bridging

Lorraine Sutton
Treasurer



Providore's Report

The arrangements in the kitchen appear to be working well because of the excellent efforts of so many members.

If you are helping in the kitchen and feel we need to purchase more supplies, please write these up along with your name, on the note board inside the pantry door. We buy most items in bulk so please also check the other shelves in the pantry first☺ I'm at the club at least every second day and check this list regularly. We are spending approximately \$200 per month on supplies (although much of this is soft drink).

Quite a few people bring in cakes, biscuits or other treats and these are greatly appreciated by all the players.

Happy bridging!

Chris Snook



Congress Convenor's Report

The Club's first event for the year, the Novice Pairs is fast approaching as I write this report but will be over when you are reading this. It is being held on Sunday 25th March and is open to all players under 100 Masterpoints, as of the 31 Dec 2011. I'd like to draw to the player's attention that out of those eligible players, the majority are actually under 50 Masterpoints! Thus, I hope to see a lot of players from the Monday afternoon and Thursday night sessions there. Entry forms are available at the club or you can phone me direct on 0452-259-690 to nominate.

Entry forms are also available now for the Toowoomba Pairs & Teams commencing on 5th May. Early entry forms and payment would be greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Events

Toowoomba Novice Pairs 25 March
Toowoomba Pairs & Teams 05 May – 07 May

Byron Longford
Congress Convenor

Masterpoint Secretary

What are Masterpoints?

Masterpoints are a measure of how well you are going in your bridge career, and these masterpoints are accumulated throughout your career. Also, the ABF collects fees for each masterpoint that is awarded (currently \$1.65 per green point and \$1.35 per red point).

What types of masterpoints are there?

There are three types of masterpoints available:

- **Green** for regular club play
- **Red** for major club events and championships; and for Congresses
- **Gold** for major National events such as the GNOT, GNP, Gold Coast Congress, Australian Festival of Bridge, etc.

Master Rankings

Masterpoints won by players over their lifetime are used to determine each player's **Master Ranking**. Players receive an official ABF certificate with each promotion within the

masterpoint scheme. You can see a list of these rankings and the number of masterpoints required for each on the back of your ABF membership card.

For the lower rankings, all of your masterpoints are combined to meet the total requirement, in other words you can count Gold and Red as Green. As you get to the middle rankings you must also meet the minimum requirements for Red, and Gold may also be counted as Red. In the highest rankings you must also meet the minimum requirement for Gold.

To progress to State Master and higher, you will have to earn some red points by playing in major competitions or Congresses. To progress to Life Master and higher, you need gold points as well and will have to play in National events (and the GNOT, Grand National Pairs and Gold Coast Congress are the best way to do this).

There are now two "Emerald Grand Masters" in Australia (more than 10,000 masterpoints) and Queensland has three "Gold Grand Masters" (more than 5,000 masterpoints) : Bill Hunt, Tony Jackman (who writes the Courier Mail bridge column), and Neville Francis. How high can you go?

How are they allocated?

I will use an example of a normal club session with a ten table Mitchell movement. Normal club play is called an E-grade event and earns **green** masterpoints with a 1.5 multiplication factor. A single session award is 0.02 green points per table. In our example, Each NS and EW winner will earn (0.02 x 1.5 x 10) = 0.30 green masterpoints per player. Second place always receives 70% of the winner award,. Third place earns ½. Fourth place earns 1/3, etc, with awards being made to the top half of the field. So in our example

1 st NS earns 0.30	1 st EW earns 0.30
2 nd NS earns 0.21	2 nd EW earns 0.21
3 rd NS earns 0.15	3 rd EW earns 0.15
4 th NS earns 0.10	4 th EW earns 0.10
5 th NS earns 0.08	5 th EW earns 0.08

- Club Championships are called D-grade and are green masterpoints with a 2.0 multiplication factor.
- Supervised play is called F-Grade and are green masterpoints with a 0.75 multiplication factor (new players not yet registered with the ABF are given

temporary “blue” points by the club and these are converted to green points later).

We also run Red masterpoint events, and I will use an example of a seven table Mitchell. These are B4c-grade events with a 2.5 multiplication factor (the factor is larger because of the higher status of the event). Each NS and EW winner will receive ($0.02 \times 2.5 \times 7$) = 0.35 red masterpoints. Each second receives 0.25 and each third receives 0.18.

Howell and other movements with one winner are calculated in a similar manner but with 0.04 masterpoints per table.

So, for example a red point 4-1/2 table Howell produces ($0.04 \times 2.5 \times 5$) = 0.50 red points for the winner. Second receives 0.35, third receives 0.25, fourth receives 0.17 (unfortunately we round up).

When an event runs for more than one session, there are overall awards for the top half of the overall field in addition to the awards earned each week.

Why can't we have more red point events?

Red masterpoint events are a higher status than regular club play and each Club in Australia is only awarded a certain number of red masterpoint sessions. The actual number allocated depends on how many green masterpoints the club awarded the previous year. The rationale behind this is that the number of green points is a truer indication of the size of a club rather than the number of home club members. We are allocated 1 red point session for each extra 65 green points our players earn the previous year. The Tournament Subcommittee shares these red point days out amongst all the sessions the club currently runs.

What about teams?

If a match is 7 boards or longer, then masterpoints are allocated per “win”. If matches are shorter than 7 boards then the teams are ranked in order and masterpoints are allocated to the top 1/3rd only. It is essential that all matches are longer than 7 boards, because players earn more masterpoints that way.

As an example – a Teams Championship event (D-grade) is held and we are playing 10 board matches. Each win is worth ($0.008 \times 1.5 \times 10$) = 0.12, and each draw with worth 0.06. In

general, it is easier to win more masterpoints in a teams event.

Who processes Masterpoints, and When?

Each club elects a **Masterpoint Secretary** (here in Toowoomba it is Chris Snook), who is responsible for all masterpoints within the club. Green masterpoints are processed a few days before the end of each month and submitted electronically to the ABF. Red masterpoints are processed locally, but then sent to the Queensland State Masterpoint Secretary (Joan McPheat) for approval. Joan processes all Gold masterpoints and all red masterpoints from Congresses.

You can check your masterpoints on the ABF website at:

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

and click on “Player – Masterpoints Lookup”. If you feel that you are missing some masterpoints, check with the Club Masterpoint Secretary in the first instance – I don't bite.

Our top twenty masterpointed players are

Member	Rank	Points
Enid Busch	Grand	1780.09
Val McClement	Gold Life	1111.76
Jackie Henderson	Gold Life	960.12
Henry Eastment	Silver Life	779.64
Lee Hore	Life	771.31
Edwin Willey	Silver Life	716.38
Phil Dobney	Silver Life	701.54
Val Buchanan	Bronze Life	597.34
Jim Wood	Silver Life	593.94
Eileen Josey	Silver Life	593.32
Glenys Clift	Bronze Life	558.51
Jenni Buckley	Silver Life	555.14
Pat Penberthy	Life	531.07
Chris Snook	Bronze Life	500.70
Merna Atkins	Life	461.38
Margaret Keating	Bronze Life	455.34
Carol Wilson	Life	441.39
Diane Wenham	Bronze Life	440.85
Nonie McCay	Life	439.90
Pam Gebbett	National*	408.73

Cheers

Chris Snook

Masterpoint Secretary



Tournament Subcommittee

The most visible facet of the Tournament Subcommittee is, of course, the day-to-day conduct of all our events by the Tournament Directors. There is also considerable activity behind the scenes in ongoing professional development and in meetings to organise the events of the club. The most recent meeting was 18th February, and one of the most critical issues is discussed below:

Psyches

We continue to see concerns at the table regarding “psyches”. By definition a psyche is a deliberate and gross misstatement of honour strength and/or suit length. Some people call them their “trick bids”. To make it easier for players to understand the TC has determined that:

A psyche is a call that is more than a king deviation from the promised strength or more than two card deviation from the promised length.

So, if your opening 1H call promises 5 hearts and 12 HCP, then opening 1H with 5 hearts and 7 HCP would normally be defined as a psyche. The deviation goes both ways – some psyches can occur when a player has a strong hand but undercalls its value.

Law 40C1 allows a player to deviate from his sides announced system always provided that his partner has no more reason to be aware of the deviation than have the opponents, so there is nothing wrong with an occasional psyche.

However, a problem does occur if your partner knows that you often do this and thus they don't bid as they normally would. In effect, this psyche calling has become part of your implicit system and should be disclosed to the opponents! To watch for these patterns, the club has a psyche register to record such happenings. So if you do psyche – please make sure you report it to the Director, and they will help you fill in the relevant form. If an opponent psyches against you, then feel free to gently remind them of their obligation to report.

Please also remember that occasionally players make a genuine mistake in their bidding. It is

highly inappropriate to accuse such players of cheating. Just gently refer the psyche/misbid to the Director and they will determine the most appropriate action.

Review of a Directors Ruling

We use playing Directors in most of our events and this does place additional pressure on them to make a quick decision to keep the game moving and so they can get back to their table to continue their hand. If you think that the Director has made an error in the application of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, then you are within your rights to say so. It is not appropriate to try and argue with the Director at the table – to do so will incur a disciplinary penalty (that cannot be overturned).

Instead, tell the Director that you are requesting a review of their ruling. If they can do so immediately, the Director will then consult with any other senior Directors in the room, and if necessary change their decision immediately. If there is no one to consult – their decision will stand and play will continue. The Director will consult with me as soon as they can, and if an incorrect decision was made then Law 82C will be applied and in most cases an adjusted score will be awarded. It is important to note that this process involves the review of a decision by another Director.

Appeals Process

A contestant (individual, pair or team) also has an absolute right to appeal for a review of any ruling made at his table by the Director. Often this is when the decision involves some judgement (eg what might a player have called if an infraction did not occur). Laws 92 & 93 cover this and the process is well defined in the Club By-Laws. If you are in this situation you should quietly tell the Director that you wish to appeal their ruling. They will help you fill in the necessary **appeals form**. The appeal will normally be heard at the end of the current session and will involve **players** of an appropriate standard. Whilst it is good for at least one person to understand the laws of the game – it is not a panel of Directors.

The Tournament Subcommittee reviews all Rulings and Appeals as part of the ongoing training of all Directors.

Requests for Review of a Directors Ruling and Appeals are not common in regular club play, but I thought it important that you understand

the process and your rights, in case you ever need them.

OK – now I'll put away the rule book.

Cheers

Chris Snook

Chief Tournament Director

Club Teachers' Report

BRIDGE LESSONS

WEDNESDAY

Trudy Dunne

Commenced on 15 February 2012 at 9:00am.

THURSDAY

Liz Zeller

Commenced on 16 February 2012 at 7:00pm.

The class has 14 beginners. Several of the supervised class have expressed an interest in doing revision as the class progresses.

WORKSHOPS FOR 2012

The three workshops on Defence in February were well attended with attendances of 63, 56 and 43. I have had a lot of good feedback about these workshops and it appears that they have been helpful to many of our members and that is gratifying. Many thanks to Will Higgins, Jenni Buckley, John Erlandson and Ian Jesser for their help.

Should any participants have any constructive criticism about the workshops, I would like to hear it so they can be improved before they are next offered.

Registration is still open for the workshops in March and April so please add your name to the Registration Sheets on the Notice Board in the Foyer or contact me if you are interested in attending. Classes start at 9 am and finish by 11.30 am. Cost is \$5 per person.

I need to know who is coming so I can prepare handouts etc. If you intend to come, please print your name on the REGISTRATION SHEET on the Notice Board at the Club for the appropriate session.

Any session attracting fewer than four players a week before its scheduled date will be cancelled.

March 31st - Transfers over 1NT Opening
April 14th - Hamilton/Capelletti overcalls after 1NT

Provided there is enough interest, I may be able to run a five-week course on Multi-twos in September/October/November.

Further Information

If you require more information, please see the Notice Board at the Club or contact me on 4635-6496 or at:

henrypatsy.eastment@bigpond.com.

Henry Eastment

Project Manager's Report

CAR PARK

No vehicles are to be parked other than in the designated and marked car spaces. Your car is probably not going to be covered for any damage caused if the car is not parked correctly.

Thanks for your cooperation

Ray Moore

Carpark Project Manager

Grounds Maintenance

Roof guttering was cleaned by our President, Floyd.

Ralph Geddes has continued to mow the grounds and trim the hedges.

The Monday bridge volunteers are continuing to do a splendid job weeding and maintaining sections of the gardens and landscaping.

The car park grassing is progressing and has been fertilised to help continued growth.

Fortunately we have continued to have reasonable good rainfall and watering has not been necessary.

Ray Moore

Grounds Sub-committee Chair

Winners are Grinnerers

January Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	John Vines & Margaret Vines
Tuesday	Pam Gebbett & Shaunagh Cowell
Wednesday	Ian Jesser
Thursday	Eileen Josey & Val McClement
Thursday night	Jack Lloyd
Friday	Val McClement
Saturday	Charles Leicht

February Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	Rozalyn Wright
Tuesday	Gwen Francis
Wednesday	Denise Hartwig
Thursday	Val McClement & Eileen Josey
Thursday night	Jim Babineau & Simone Ferguson
Saturday	Chris Snook & Glenys Clift

Col Martin Shield

Chris Snook & Mohan Trada

Friday Handicap Cup

Pat Penberthy & Merna Atkins

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

Chris Snook

Social Sub-Committee

The Social Sub-Committee is arranging a day out on Thursday 26th July to visit Warwick for the Jumpers and Jazz in July Festival.

We will leave the Club at 8.30am for Warwick where we will play bridge with the Warwick Club members in the morning for approximately 3 hours.

On conclusion of play we can all make our way to have lunch and look at the trees dressed in jumpers and visit the various activities in the town.

We will leave Warwick approx. 4pm for return to Toowoomba.

The cost will be \$35 including morning tea and we will be limited to 24.

In this early stage the bus is more than half full so your early indication would be appreciated.

Suggestions Box

A suggestions box is placed on the left hand table as you enter the Club.

If you have any suggestions of any kind please place it in the box provided.

The Committee will then look at any suggestion etc at its next monthly meeting.

What Should I Bid?

The ABF Management Committee is pleased to announce that Andy Hung has kindly agreed to facilitate this forum on the front page of the ABF web page. It will commence again in April with a \$30 prize on offer to the winner each month to be spent either with Paul Lavings Post Free Books or with Nick Fahrer at the Bookshop.

STOP PRESS

The Novice Congress proved to be a highly successful event thanks to the many volunteers who assisted with the running of the day. The kitchen functioned extremely well and the food provided was excellent - we received many compliments. Thank you to all involved. The photo below shows the overall winners of the day, sisters Denise Hartwig and Mavis Simpson with Floyd Wilson (President) and Byron Longford (Congress Convenor).

