



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

May 2011

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President's Report



Our bridge club continues to grow, due to our excellent training and support programs, a diverse and full playing schedule and a first rate venue and playing facilities.

Our showcase events to the wider bridge community are our Congresses, with the most recent event being our three day May Congress with over 100 people playing each day. Toowoomba Bridge Club hosted the first weekend congress of this type in Australia in 1960, and it has always been one of the most important congresses on the Queensland scene.

One of our guests this year was Tony Jackman, who first won the pairs in 1961 and the teams in 1962 playing in a team with Dr George McCutcheon. Tony writes a regular bridge article for the Courier Mail, and in the 7th May edition he reports on our

Congress, noting "The club's new premises are outstanding, as was the hospitality". Our congress convenor, Denise Hartwig, can be justifiably proud of her organisation of such a successful event. Carol Lombardo did an exceptional job with the catering, with quality and variety teasing the palette each day. Behind the scenes, many club members provided help with preparing and tidying the room and helping in the kitchen. I greatly appreciate all of your efforts. Throughout all this, we also managed to play some bridge, and Denise will report on these matters elsewhere in this newsletter.

Ray Moore continues to work tirelessly on the Car Park project, and it seems we are about to see some construction work commence. Please be patient and continue to park sensibly until the car park extension is complete.

In summary, your club continues to grow and its resources improve; and I extend heartfelt thanks to the efforts of all those members who generously volunteer their time.

Happy bridging
Chris Snook ☺
President

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.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Chris Snook
VICE-PRESIDENT	Floyd Wilson
SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
TREASURER	Lorraine Sutton
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Glenys Clift Pam Gebbett Denise Hartwig Bruce Hinchliffe Carol Lombardo Ray Moore Hugh Robinson Floyd Wilson
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Chris Snook
PROVIDOR	Carol Lombardo
CONGRESS CONVENOR	Denise Hartwig
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Glenys Clift
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook/ Denise Hartwig
ZONE REPRESENTATIVE	Chris Snook/ Denise Hartwig
PRESS OFFICER	Kim Nicoll
LIBRARIAN	Henry Eastment
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Floyd Wilson
CLUB TEACHER	Glenys Clift
MEMBERSHIP BADGES	Pam Gebbett
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Bruce Hinchliffe
GARDENING CO-ORDINATOR	Lise Moore
CARPARK PROJECT MANAGER	Ray Moore
MAINTENANCE CHAIRPERSON	Will Higgins
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 Will Higgins, looks after the building and surrounding gardens. If you notice something needs repair, then let Will know (he tends to play Tuesday nights and Saturdays) 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:

GRADUATE MASTER

Coral Apel
Isabella Geldard
Anna Goldsmith
Rachel Klupfel
Diana McDougall
Mary Rose-Miller
Jill Rowen
Gail Dinsey
Gabrielle Elich
John Elich

CLUB MASTER

Elizabeth Cox
Kaye Fisher
Trevor Glasby
Judy Hinchliffe
Jack Lloyd
John Maslen
John Oxenham
Kath Phillips

LOCAL MASTER

Trudy Dunne
Jamie Long
Jan Stringer
Rozalyn Wright
John Clift
Nancy Geiger
Walter Hendriks
Shirley Hooper
Byron Longford

***LOCAL MASTER**

Michael Doherty
Sheryl Haslam
Lesley Meyers
Floyd Wilson
Majella Wilson
Byron Longford
Annette Sullivan

REGIONAL MASTER

Desiree Fenaughty

NATIONAL MASTER

Elizabeth Zeller

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Eileen Josey



WELL DONE!



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.

Arthur Bilby
Peter Bristow
Graeme Dalrymple
Stephen Kealy
George McKinnon
Anita McPhee
Dave Mulherin
Pamela Tarn
Beryl Wright

Happy Bridging!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We currently have 415 members - 344 Home Members, 69 Alternate and 2 Junior members.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR TELEPHONE

In the next newsletter we will include an insert that you can staple into your program book with a list of new members and their contact numbers plus any changes in existing member's telephone numbers.

If you need to update your telephone number, or if we have put it in the program book incorrectly, could you either contact the Secretary (Annette) or fill in the list which will be put on the whiteboard.

Glenys Clift
Membership Secretary



Congress Convenor's Report

The Toowoomba Bridge Club held two Congresses recently, The Novice pairs on the 27th March and the Toowoomba Pairs & Teams from 30th April to 2nd May 2011. Both Congresses were attended extremely well, with a lot of local support as well as many visitors, particularly from Brisbane, which was really great to see.

There were thirty-eight pairs competing in the Novice Pairs event. Floyd and Majella Wilson jumped out of the blocks and won the morning session with 68.19%. Unfortunately they were run down by players from QCBC and finished in third position overall - a great effort.

Out of the seventy-six players competing, forty-six of these players had fewer than twenty-five masterpoints. It was really great to see such a large number of relatively new players entering the Congress and prepared to have a go, as these players are the club's future. So, many, many thanks to all who took time out to play on the day.

The Toowoomba Pairs and Teams event was also near full capacity with fifty-four pairs and twenty-six teams competing over the three days. Once again there were many visitors, with over half of the players from visiting clubs.

In the Pairs, the best Toowoomba performers were Val McClement and Eileen Josey. They were placed third in the Championship as well as winning the trophy for the Highest Ladies Pair and the Highest Toowoomba Pair. The Pairs event was won by a Sunshine Coast pair, Adrian Mayers and Stephen Brookes. Second place went to Eileen Li (QCBC) and James Evans (Ipswich). Another Toowoomba pair who performed really well was Pat Penberthy and Merna Atkins, who won the morning session.

The Teams event was of a very high standard, including players such as Tony Jackman and Richard Wallis. The best performing Toowoomba team was the Snook Team, consisting of Chris Snook, Pat Larsen, Liz Zeller and Alison Dawson (QCBC), finishing in fourth place overall. Well done.

The winners of the Teams Championship were:

1 Parker Team (Ralph Parker, Sheila Parker, Ian Halford, Michelle Radke) – All from QCBC

2 Jackman Team (Tony Jackman, Richard Wallis, Richard Ward, Lynette Vincent) – All from QCBC

3 Morrison Team (Arch Morrison, Lex Bourke (Sunshine Coast) and John Morris, Sharyn Birrer (Redlands)

Carol Lombardo, Helen Walsh and the other members who assisted in the kitchen over the three days, did a superb job of organising and serving the main meal with continual snacks throughout the day. Thanks very much for a job well done.

Thirty-six boxes of boards were dealt for the three day event, so many thanks to Fleur Hopkins, Alison Snook and Jessica Betts who spent many hours at the dealing machine.

There are many others who assisted in making the May 2011 Congress a huge success, so thank you to everyone involved.

Denise Hartwig
Congress Convenor

Providore's Report

The May Congress went quite well and without any problems in the kitchen, thanks to all the special people who helped in the kitchen and all the super cooks and bakers who donated cakes and savouries.

Carol Lombardo
Providore



NEXT BRIDGE LESSONS

Trudy Dunne will run beginner bridge lessons each Wednesday for 14 weeks from 9:00am to 11:00am starting on 1st June.

Any members who would like to attend for revision are also very welcome. This will be the last lessons for 2011.

The program is as follows:

Week 1: Introduction to Bridge (lesson 1)

Week 2: Open 1NT (lesson 2)
Week 3: 1NT and a fit in a major (lesson 3)
Week 4: Revision of no trumps (3a)
Week 5: Open a major (lesson 4)
Week 6: Open a minor (lesson 5)
Week 7: Balanced hand (lesson 6)
Week 8: Revision of basic bidding (6a)
Week 9: Benjamin 2s weak (lesson 7)
Week 10: Benjamin 2s strong (lesson 8)
Week 11: Overcalls and takeout doubles (lesson 9)
Week 12: Negative, penalty and balancing doubles (lesson 10)
Week 13: Pre-emptive bid (lesson 11)
Week 14: Looking for slam (lesson 12)

WORKSHOPS

JUNE: Splinter Raises

Splinter bids are used to show good support for the last bid suit and a singleton in another suit. It is a game force bid with slam possibilities
Plus: **Roman Key Card Blackwood**

JULY: Drury

This convention allows you to find out if your partner opened light in 3rd or 4th position, or if they had normal opening values.
Plus: **End Plays - strip and throw technique**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Provided there is enough interest, I am happy to run a five week course on Multi Twos.

TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

I recently received an email from Joan Butts from the Australian Bridge Federation advising that she will be doing 4 Teacher Training programmes this year, for anyone interested in teaching bridge or running Help with Play sessions.

The Queensland session will be held in Brisbane on July 16th and 17th.

These courses are 9 hours long, and consist of 6 hours on the first day, and a workshop with a real class the second day, given by Joan, followed by a one hour discussion with the group. The course concentrates on the methodology of teaching bridge, and aims to help teachers move towards being the most professional they are able to be.

If anyone has aspirations of becoming the club

teacher at some time in the future, or helping out with club teaching, they should consider attending one of these training programmes. If anyone is interested, they are most welcome to talk to me about it.

Cheers,
Glenys Clift
Club Teacher



Project Manager's Report

Car Park Extension

At last we have been able to lodge with the Toowoomba Regional Council the engineering plans and amended landscape plan plus a cheque for \$2,997 plus numerous council completed forms and paperwork.

Hopefully we will obtain a partial refund of up to \$1,000 from the Council Community Fund Application that has been submitted.

Quotations have been received from two paving suppliers for the supply and laying of the pavers, plus the soil fill and grass seeding. The grass removal, earthworks and concrete works will be a separate contractor, but quotes cannot be called until Council has approved the plans.

We hope a start can be made by early June.

Ray Moore
Project Manager

Garden News

The weather has been kind and watering has not been necessary apart from the replacement shrubs and some small plants recently planted in the main garden.

The Lillypilli donated by Charlie and Mel Leicht has been planted in the back of the clubhouse and makes a welcome addition to the other trees planted in 2007. Thanks to the Leichts for such an advanced tree and Ralph Geddes for

digging and planting.

We have planted the Photinia hedge along the frontage of the new car park extension plus an advanced bottle tree in line with the others all with the help of Ralph. What would we do without him.

Everything else, apart from the removal of the existing garden bed and, unfortunately, the frangipani, will have to wait until the car park is completed.

Lise Moore
Gardening Coordinator

Individual Fun Day Saturday 21st May 2011

We introduced Fun Days as a way to welcome to the club new members who had just finished classes. They are not days for the serious bridge player but rather an opportunity for people to mix and allow our more experienced members to make people who have just finished lessons feel welcome.

In an individual event you will normally move to a table and play one board partnering each of the three people at that table. Then you move to a new table with three new people, and partner each of them for one or two boards. It's all a lot easier if everyone plays the same system – obviously the one taught in the recent lessons.

There is an entry list on the main noticeboard for people who would like to participate to put their names down. It is important that we have a lovely mix of new and experienced players. Running an Individual movement is not easy as special guide cards need to be prepared in advance – but the positive response of all participants makes it all worthwhile.

Let's make a special effort for afternoon tea and perhaps have time to socialise and have a little drink afterwards.

Rather than add a further workload onto our Provider, we will be asking our members to contribute to the afternoon tea.

Cheers,
Chris Snook

Winners are Grinnerers

March Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday Byron Longford
Wednesday Jean Crandell
Thursday pm Trevor Glasby
Friday Pat Penberthy
Saturday Merna Atkins & Pat Penberthy

April Monthly Eclectic Winners

Tuesday Ian Jesser
Wednesday Jackie Henderson
Thursday pm Trevor Glasby
Friday Edwina Willis
Saturday Merna Atkins & Pat Penberthy

Ivy Dahler Cup

Val McClement & Eileen Josey

Wednesday Handicap Cup

Ray Moore & Lise Moore

Thursday Perfect Teams

Phil Dobney & Chris Snook & Val McClement & Eileen Josey

Badges.

The magnets that hold badges in place should not be placed on the side containing any Pacemaker or other magic gadget that can be inserted into the body to help us live longer!

It is also recommended that the magnets do not come into Contact with Credit Cards. If anyone has lost their magnet, I have a couple of spares, cost \$1.50 each.

Pam Gebbett

Rules Reminder

- Players should be seated 10 minutes prior to the start of play for a session.
- The Director makes the final decision on seating arrangements and on playing arrangements in the room (eg windows, airconditioning).
- No notices are permitted on the noticeboards unless approval is given from the club Executive.
- No trading is permitted on the club premises unless written permission is given via the Management Committee.

Date Claimer – Zone Events

Queensland Open Teams – Sunday 19th June hosted by the Darling Downs Bridge Club, with the winning teams playing in the State Final on 27-28th August.

GNOT – Grand National Open Teams – Club qualifying round – Sunday 3rd July.

GNOT – Area Final – Hosted by Dalby Bridge Club – Sunday 11th September.

GNP – Grand National (Restricted) Pairs – GNP Club qualifying heats A – Wednesdays 6th, 13th & 20th July.
GNP Club qualifying heats B – Saturdays 6th, 13th & 20th August.

Queensland Open Pairs – Sunday 24th July, with top pairs playing in the state final on 15-16th October.

GNP – Area Final – Sunday 13th November.

Auction Etiquette: a personal view!!!

by Edwin Willey

We all enjoy our Bridge, but we must ensure that partner and opponents enjoy their time at the table; they too came to enjoy themselves. This is where etiquette comes in, both its normal social aspect and additional aspects pertinent to Bridge. At the table, social aspects must bow to the additional requirements of Law 74. This treats aspects of conduct and etiquette, both socially (Law 74A.1, A.2) and specifically to behaviour at the table (Law 74A.3 to C.8). In summary: yes, be polite and respectful but refrain from chatter, reaction and other acceptable social behaviour during the auction and play; there is time for that when the cards are in the board.

The overriding principle of the required formality is stated in Law 74A.3: "Every player should follow **uniform** and **correct** procedure in calling and playing" (my bolds). Departure from required formality might be seen as giving **unauthorized information**. Without going into details, Law 16, especially Law 16B.1(a) makes conveying unauthorized information unacceptable.

Only issues relating to auctions will be discussed, under the headings of (a) general aspects, (b) auction protocol, (c) bidding methodology and (d) tempo. Written silent bidding will be assumed, which we generally encounter at clubs and congresses. In no ways will be complete, and others would write it very differently and even at greater length.

General Aspects. We should treat partner, opponents, and the Director with respect. We show this by being courteous and attentive (Law 74A.1&2;B.1;C.6) – natural characteristics of most individuals. Yet, as humans, some of us lose control in the heat of the moment in a difficult hand.

Auction Protocol. Firstly, it is **silent**; there is no need to speak except either to alert partner's call or to describe a bid on the request of the person next to call.

Refrain from comment (Law 74B.2), keep them till after the auction and play. Admittedly some auctions can take unusual turns, or become

amazing or are utterly bizarre; but do not comment or react till later.

What ought never occur is a preface to your written call – whether spoken or indicated by body language. "I don't know" or a similar phrase is often heard before or when a call is written; the truth is that even top players are never entirely certain. Do not writhe in your seat before or when writing a call, nor have your pencil hover close to the bidding pad, remove it, to return it to hovering pattern. Yes! You do want to make the right call. So please consider what it is to be, then make the call decisively and purposively. Do not emphasize your indecision: you have already indicated it by stopping to think.

Comment, preface, action or addition –verbally or in body language- during the auction is unwarranted; neither are shows of approval or disapproval of an action (Law 74 C.2) nor is glaring at partner or opponents (Law 74C.5) acceptable.

Bidding Methodology. One ought to be uniform and correct in written bidding. Calls should conform as follows; they should:

- be written in successive boxes, starting in the top left of your section of the slip.
- if a bid, it comprises a number (1-7) and NT, S, H, D or C.
- occupy the best part of the box.
- be within the box, so as not to confuse what may be written in other boxes (whether they might be used or not).
- be written clearly, neatly, in even tempo, and in a way showing it is your chosen call.
- have no flourish in action or in the writing.
- use a consistent font – Roman capitals.
- be written with even pressure throughout auctions (not faint nor bold nor variable).

In other words, aim to be uniform (Law 74C.1) with respect to what other players generally use – although we all have our idiosyncrasies (but keep to it uniformly) ... and I know that the bidding slips do not remain still at times.

Tempo. Tempo involves even progression of calls in the auction, *i.e.* the uniformity of Law 74A.3, C.7. Calls should be made with neither

delay nor haste (unless the table has agreed to catch up with play). Slowing of the auction's progress may be seen as hesitation; a long halt is certainly hesitation. Hesitation followed by a pass falls into the realm of conveying "unauthorized information". The hesitator conveys the idea that there was something to think about; the pass, however, gives no clues as to what was in mind. We may be distracted by other thoughts (is it time for afternoon tea?), however, while involved in the auction (or play) we ought to show respect to the other players at the table by concentrating on proceedings.

What can happen after a hesitation is partly illustrated by situations in which I often find myself. One of my usual partners will regularly hesitate. He knows that his hesitation might restrict my options in the auction; so if his hesitation is obvious, he will often relieve any restriction on me by making a bid. None-the-less, he has hesitated. However, were he to pass and I felt that I have a bid in my hand that I wish to make, I will call the director, report my partner's hesitation and tell the director that I wish to reserve the right to make a bid; and if I bid, firstly: I would require better values than if I bid after partner's in-tempo pass, and secondly: opponent are entitled to appeal at the end of play if they feel that my bid disadvantaged them. Regardless, if there is an agreed hesitation, it is best to call the Director.

Conclusion. When I have to look at other player's cards (violation under Law 74C.4), I will cease to enjoy Bridge and I will give it up. But in preparing this article I found that a thing I often do (folding my cards) is a procedural violation under Law 74C.6), which says it shows 'an obvious lack of further interest in a deal'; I had not thought of it that way. And then I often lay them face down on the table – an even worse violation? Despite this, it is never my intention not to play a hand out unless claimed or conceded, and I never complain about poor cards; good cards overcomplicate one's life: they require extra attention!

So follow uniform and correct protocol in your auction (and in your play); enjoy your Bridge; let others enjoy theirs too. And avoid visits by the director to your table to redress issues arising from failure to follow the required auction etiquette; but if you break the rules of

uniform and correct calls and play, by all means call the Director.

Perhaps we all ought to take some of these issues on board and think more carefully about what each one of us does. I plan to do so.

Happy Snaps from the May Congress



Merna Atkins and Pat Penberthy – winners of the morning pairs session.



Happy bridge players.



The Club's immediate past President (Henry Eastment) and the current President (Chris Snook) combined their efforts to cut a birthday cake during the session on Tuesday night 5th April. Chris turned the big 50 whilst Henry is just a tad older than that!!!