



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

May 2013

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba 4350
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President's Report



I start this report advising members of the sad news of the passing of our dear friend, Jill Fulloon. Jill was a well known, very popular and very active member of our club, often helping in the club, in organising and tidying up after Congresses and related events.

Jill was a regular supporter of all the local Congresses and Zone events and will also be sadly missed by her friends from these clubs.

Wednesday morning and Thursday night lessons, and Restricted sessions on Monday and Thursday Night continue. New players are the future of our club so please go out of your way to make these new members welcome at every opportunity.

You will have noticed some changes in the clubrooms, namely a new library and lost property area, four new tables and new table cloths so kindly and expertly sewn by Betty Orth.

We welcome four new sponsors of our great club – introduced to us through the work of George McKinnon. The Sponsors Board is the most visible recognition of this. Our Sponsors are:

RetireInvest (part of the RI Advice Group) are a local company who started in 1979 and provide excellent service to the Toowoomba and surrounding community including to:

- Streamline your Finances
- Grow your Wealth
- Reduce your Tax bill
- Manage your Debt
- Get the most from your Super
- Formulate a Retirement Plan
- Protect your Family and Livelihood

I encourage you to approach RetireInvest directly on 4639-3733 for all your financial management matters or via their website:

(www.ritoowoomba.com.au).

My Personal Travel Planner specialises in organising your holiday to Italy, Europe, North America, and to any of the Disney Theme Parks. I am a little envious when I review the brochures they have left on display for us. Perhaps one day I will get my holiday. My Personal Travel Planner have their office at 23 Bridge Street, so feel free to pop around the corner to visit Ainslie, call her on 4637-8235 or visit her website:

(www.mypersonaltravel.planner.com.au).

Freedom Aged Care provide independent or supported accommodation services right through to traditional nursing home care. For more information and help in developing a solution that best suits you, call Freedom Aged Care on 1800-724-953, or review the information on their website:

(www.freedomagedcare.com.au).

LJ Hooker Toowoomba specialise in commercial and residential sales and rentals and can help in all your property needs across the Darling Downs. Give them a call on 4688-2222 or contact them via their website:

(www.toowoomba.ljhooker.com.au).

I am sure you will support our Sponsors and recommend them to your colleagues as well.

Your club continues to grow and it's resources improve; and I extend heartfelt thanks to the efforts of all those members who generously volunteer their time.

Happy bridging,
Chris Snook
President

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Chris Snook
SECRETARY	Lesley Meyer
TREASURER	Lorraine Sutton
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Glenys Clift Shaunagh Cowell Keith Jenkin Jan Lindau Hugh Robinson Ian Steger
CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	Chris Snook
PROVIDOR	Keith Jenkin
CONGRESS CONVENOR	Hugh Robinson
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook / Ian Steger
ZONE REPRESENTATIVE	Chris Snook / Glenys Clift
PRESS OFFICER	Kim Nicoll
LIBRARIAN	Henry Eastment
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Floyd Wilson
CLUB TEACHERS	Trudy Dunne/ Glenys Clift / Elizabeth Zeller
MEMBERSHIP BADGES	Lorraine Sutton
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Shaunagh Cowell
MAINTENANCE CHAIRPERSON	John Clift
GARDENING CHAIRPERSON	Jeff Aitchison
HOUSEKEEPER	Bette Flamstead

Four 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: Led by Jeff Aitchison, this group helps organise all the social events at the club such as Melbourne Cup party, Christmas party, Birthday party and other special events throughout the year.

Maintenance Sub-committee: John Clift and a band of helpers looks after the building. 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 urgent.

Grounds Sub-committee: Jeff Aitchison leads the group that looks after the gardens of the club (and does a considerable amount of the work himself).

Membership Secretary's Report



NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Cliff Hughes
Peter Dawson
Pamela De Verteuil
Val Witenden
Patricia Manning

Membership Subscriptions

As at the ABF cutoff date of 31 March, we had 332 Home members and 76 Alternate members. This is slightly down on the all-time record of last year, but with the current beginner's classes, we are starting to add new members. If you know of anyone interested in joining, please encourage him or her to come and enjoy the fun with you.

Annette Sullivan
Membership Secretary

Masterpoint Secretary's Report

Since the ABF Census date of 30 September 2012, we have processed 1020.01 green masterpoints, slightly less than for the same period last year. For the same period, there were 136.28 red masterpoints, slightly more than for that period last year.

If you would like to earn more masterpoints, it is easy - play more bridge or better still, have more friends play with you in each session. Our Tuesday night and Thursday afternoon sessions are sadly lacking in numbers. Why not add one of these sessions to your agenda?

Don't forget that it is easy to check your masterpoints on the ABF website at: <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.

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

GRADUATE MASTER

Carmel Barrett
Judy Giesemann
Wendy Jackson
Deborah Jones
Jill Temple
Maisie Clapham
Barbara Davies
Ann Downs

CLUB MASTER

Frank Cooper
Jill Cory
Tony Dunne
Ritamay Roberts
Rachel Klupfel
Pamela Mackintosh
Jill Rowen
Lyn Vary

LOCAL MASTER

Pam Hosfield
Steve Hosfield
John Laker
George McKinnon
Ian Steger

*LOCAL MASTER

Glenda Filbee

**LOCAL MASTER

Margaret Bradford
Judy Hinchliffe
Jacki Horne
John Oxenham
Joyce Ziesemer
John Hede

STATE MASTER

Graeme Dalrymple
Gabrielle Elich
John Elich
Bruce Hinchliffe
Ann Klibbe
Helen Holmes
Floyd Wilson
Majella Wilson

NATIONAL MASTER

Jean Crandell

**NATIONAL MASTER

Gloria Collins

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Elizabeth Zeller

WELL DONE!

Enjoy your bridge

Annette Sullivan
Masterpoint Secretary



Treasurer's Report

I am happy to report that the club finances are in great shape. We continue to increase our reserves which are invested in Term Deposits. Expenses are continually monitored and comparative quotes ensure costs are kept down to a minimum.

Everyone is doing a wonderful job of recording income which makes my job easier.

Due to the efforts of George McKinnon and others we now have four sponsors, who collectively will be contributing \$4,500 for this year. The advertising/promotion budget was increased and the outstanding efforts of Glenys, George and others who distributed brochures to the community to attract learners to the club. The club has three teachers.

The management committee approved the purchase of new shelving to house the clubs library books for \$2,450 and Henry does a wonderful job of updating the library by purchasing & maintaining the books and DVD's.

Cost cutting continues where possible and with printing companies being very competitive we are making savings.

For many years, I do not know how many but Ralph Geddes did exceptional work in the grounds both at our new and old club houses, every time I saw him he was either on the roof, up a tree, mowing, cutting hedges, emptying the bins, and bringing eggs to sell, to name a few things he accomplished, I think he lived at the club. We cannot thank him enough; he has saved the club thousands of dollars. Ralph has hung up his lawn mower and we now have our lawns mowed by a contractor, so gardening costs have risen.

The financial statements are recorded in the minutes every month for members to look at.

Happy bridging,
Lorraine Sutton
Treasurer





SUGGESTIONS

I would like to invite interested club members to make recommendations about bridge playing sessions as we want to keep in touch with what members are thinking and feeling about their bridge.

We would like to gauge member sentiment about what you would like to see happen, change or improve at bridge sessions to make bridge as enjoyable as possible for all our members.

All recommendations will be considered by the Tournament subcommittee.

Your feedback will help the Management committee to better understand your bridge needs and wants.

We would love to hear what you have to say, so please put your recommendations in the suggestion box near the front door.

*Lorraine Sutton
Committee Member*

Provider's Report

I am really enjoying the Provider's position, as I am getting to know a lot more people.

The innovation of cheese and bikkies has been a tremendous success. Whilst some members provide goodies for Wednesday and Friday afternoon teas, I would appreciate it if many more members could help out.

I have placed a list for the above on the Notice Board; however, very few names are appearing on the list. So please look at the Notice Board and place your name on the list. Anything would be very much appreciated.

To those members who have helped out providing some goodies, I say thank you very much.

So far as help in the kitchen I am overwhelmed by the help being offered. Thank you to all that offer their services from time to time.

Happy bridging everyone,

Keith Jenkin
Provider

FORGOTTEN CLOTHING

There appears to be quite a lot of jackets etc which have been left behind by people using the building. Please check to see if anything belongs to you as clothing which has

Congress Convenor's Report

The Toowoomba Butler Pairs Congress, which took place on Sunday 28th April, was a very successful congress. Nominations had the clubhouse full to capacity with players competing on 31 tables leaving helpers limited room to move around the clubhouse. Of the 124 players who participated 53 were visitors from other clubs, including 18 from the Queensland Contract Bridge Club, 11 from Dalby and 10 from Toowong. Congress director, Chris Snook, graded the competition into 3 categories with 21 pairs competing at the A level, 20 in B level and 21 in C level. The A category was made up of some very experienced players, including one Gold Grand Master.

Competition for the Championship was very tight, particularly during the final stages. It was not until the end of the eighth and final round that Jocelyn and John Steele from the Gold Coast just managed to pip our local pair, Ed Willey and Bruce Meakins, by one point and take out the Championship. Congratulations to everyone who played and particularly to those who did well.

Results

Championship

- 1 Jocelyn and John Steele
- 2 Edwin Willey and Bruce Meakins
- 3 Kim and Ray Ellaway

Category B

- 1 John Erlandson and Will Higgins
- 2 Richard Fox and Andrew Woollons
- 3 Rosemary Kelly and Laurie-Marie McRoberts

Category C

- 1 Lesley Meyer and Jeff Aitchison - Michele Alroe and Hugh Robinson tie
- 3 Lesley Meyers and Trudy Dunne

On behalf of the management committee, I wish to thank all our members who helped to make the congress a successful day. In particular, a special thanks to those members who gave up some of their Sunday time to come and help in the clubhouse. Looking after 124 players kept them busy and we know from experience now that two more helpers from mid-afternoon would have been welcome.

We also owe thanks to the members who donated the beautiful food the players were able to enjoy during the breaks and also to those members who donated prizes for the multi raffle.

To see so many players nominate from other clubs must be an endorsement for the standard and management we have at the Toowoomba Bridge Club. For this reason, I encourage members to take the opportunity and support other clubs by attending their congresses. I know that some of our members do travel, but we can't always rely on them. I also know we like to welcome new faces here and I'm sure that feeling is shared at other clubs. Novice players, please note, there is an opportunity to play in the Toowong Club's Novice Butler Pairs congress later this month on Sunday 19th. Let's see if we can organize several car loads of players to attend?

Hugh Robinson
Congress Convenor

Players who nominate to play in congresses should be aware that they are responsible for ensuring that their nomination has been entered on the club's official nomination list. Our nomination list can be accessed on the Club's website prior a congress. If you don't have a computer than you should ring the convenor to check. Don't rely on letters or emails to end up where they are meant to go or people to always remember a phone call. It's also important to notify the convenor of any cancellation or change in a nomination prior to a congress. In fact, convenors are required to report nominated players to the Qld Bridge Federation if they do not turn up to play in a congress. They maintain a list of unreliable players.

Vale – Jill Fulloon

As mentioned in the President's Report, it is with great sadness that we advise members of the death of one of our best-loved members, Jill Fulloon.

Jill originally joined the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 1987 as a pupil of Enid Busch and subsequently became one of our most valued members. Her contribution to the club was all encompassing. From helping Jackie Henderson and Mary McConachy when they were providor, to being part of the fund raising committee for the new club house and always offering her time whenever she saw a need. But what I remember her most for was the kindness, patience and encouragement she showed towards new and inexperienced members.

She was an extraordinary lady and will be greatly missed.

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.

Club Teachers' Report

DAY CLASSES



Thanks to an inspired marketing approach in 2013 by Glenys Clift, we have the largest group ever of beginners at the lessons on Wednesday mornings.

While a couple of starters did not persevere as they were surprised by the amount of learning involved, the group has a wonderful dynamic and we have a great time.

There are over 7 tables each lesson and I am impressed with the thoughtful questions that arise from the absolute beginners through to those more experienced players who visit for a "refresher".

There is a two-week break from any new

knowledge to give the learners playing time to practice their "1 level" opening bids. We recommence lessons on 15 May when we introduce "2 level" opening bids.

Happy bridging,
Trudy Dunne

EVENING CLASSES

We have a very nice group of people attending the evening class who hopefully will stay the course and will be warmly welcomed when they start playing bridge. Of those that started and dropped out, some have gone overseas, one couple has moved interstate, another couple have found work commitments have prevented them from coming and in a couple of cases, some were shocked to find that it wasn't simply playing cards but involved some learning!!

Even though I have been brought kicking and screaming into the 21st century with powerpoint, I freely admit that I do miss a blackboard as I prefer to talk off the cuff rather than keep to the script on powerpoint. So I am on a learning curve as well.

At the end of the evening classes, as long as there is enough interest, we will have a couple of weeks of general play and getting used to bridgemates. Then I will make myself available if they need help with the bidding when they start playing in a bridge session.

Cheers,
Glenys Clift

Grounds Maintenance

With the arrival of autumn and cooler weather the gardens have been under less heat stress. Consistent rain through March and April has allowed recent plantings to consolidate and provided a good basis for winter. Annuals will be potted up over the next few weeks and planted out during June to provide splashes of colour in the spring.

Ralph Geddes has been busy in recent weeks trimming the Murraya Hedges and new equipment has been purchased to assist in this process. Ralph has also been hard at work taming the Jasmine over the structure on the western side of the clubhouse.

The Toowoomba Regional Council recently trimmed the Avocado tree near the southeast corner of the clubhouse at our request. They have

declined our request to trim the tree further to the east, stating that "it was fine and did not require trimming".

A few volunteers have been active in weeding some of the gardens and their assistance is appreciated. If anyone else wants to experience the therapeutic effects of fresh air and exercise the Mondo grass garden immediately to the south of the clubhouse could do with a tidy up. Please contact me if you are looking at other challenges.

Jeff Aitchison
Grounds Co-ordinator

Librarian's Report

Many of you will have noticed that the Library is now located in the North East corner of the Western room. Please continue to use the library in the appropriate manner.

I will be away from Toowoomba until late August and Denise Hartwig has agreed to look after the Library during that time as she has done in the past. Thanks Denise.

If you wish to borrow an item that is overdue, please check its card to see who has borrowed the item and call them to let them know that you would like to borrow the item.

Remember, the Library operates on an honesty system and is for the benefit of all members.

Enjoy your Library and your Bridge.

Henry Eastment
Librarian

Workshops 2013

The first group of Workshops for 2013 ended on Wednesday 17th April.

The workshops held are listed below.

Wednesday 6th, 13th and 20th March

Wednesday 3rd April Declarer Play in No Trumps

Wednesday 17th April Declarer Play in Suits

I have enjoyed presenting the Workshops but would have liked a few more participants.

However, the participants seemed to enjoy the workshops and I am sure their play will improve as a result.

Henry Eastment

Winners are Grinnerers

February Monthly Winners

Monday Mary Rehburg & Jean Bendall
Tuesday Judy Hinchliffe & Bruce Hinchliffe
Wednesday Desiree Fenaughty
Thursday pm Barry Copley
Saturday Pat Penberthy & Merna Atkins

Col Martin Shield

Chris Snook & Mohan Trada

March Monthly Winners

Monday Jack Lloyd & John Laker
Thursday pm Jack Lloyd & John Oxenham
Friday Laurie-Marie McRoberts
Saturday Robbie Fulton

Ivy Dahler Cup

Laurie-Marie McRoberts & Jackie Henderson

Wednesday Handicap Cup

Margaret Raymond & Mary McConachy

Thursday Perfect Teams

Edwin Willey & Bruce Meakins
& Henry Eastment & Sheryl Haslam

April Monthly Winners

Monday Bob Topp & Annette Topp
Tuesday Shaunagh Cowell
Tuesday pm Edwin Willey
Wednesday Rhondda Dean & Glenys Clift
& Jackie Henderson
Thursday Henry Eastment
Thursday pm Trevor Glasby and Judy Glasby
Friday Lee Hore & Val Buchanan
Saturday Pat Penberthy

Well done everyone !

Chris



In the Zone

Grand National Open Teams

The GNOT is a gold masterpoint teams competition comprised of three rounds. The first is a qualifying heat that runs in every club in Australia, then each zone runs an area semi-final, and then the top 64 teams play in the National Final (hosted at Tweed Heads at the end of November).

We ran our qualifying heat for this event on Saturday 6th and 13th April with nine teams competing. The top two teams progress to the Zone Area Final that will be hosted by the Warwick Bridge Club (provisionally on 27th October). The winner of that event will represent the Darling Downs Zone at the National Final at the end of November. The winning teams from our club heats were:

1. Ian Jesser, Edwina Willis, Lorraine Sutton and Robert Fulton
2. Glenys Clift, Jackie Henderson, Laurie-Marie McRoberts and Carol Wilson

Queensland Open Teams

Players from all zone clubs can play in the qualifying event held on Sunday 16th June hosted by Dalby Bridge Club. The top two or three teams will then be supported to play in the State Championship on 24/25 August.

Queensland Open Pairs

Players from all zone clubs can play in the qualifying event held on Sunday 8th September hosted by the Toowoomba Bridge Club. The top two or three pairs will then be supported to play in the State Championship on 19/20 October.

Queensland Novice Pairs

Numbers have been low for the Queensland Novice Pairs for some years, so as a trial it will be hosted by the Hervey Bay club on **Saturday 17th August** – please support this event if at all possible. In 2014, Toowoomba Bridge Club will be hosting the event.



Congress and Red point Calendar

Local Congresses

1-2 June Goondiwindi Swiss Pairs Congress
 7 July Lockyer Pairs Congress
 14 July Stanthorpe Inaugural Pairs Congress
 21 July Darling Downs Swiss Pairs Congress
 4 August Toowoomba Novice Pairs Congress
 18 August Warwick Spring Pairs Congress

Brisbane Congresses

26 May Brisbane Bridge Centre Graded Pairs
 7-10 June Barrier Reef Congress (Mackay)
 23 June Brisbane Bridge Centre Novice Pairs
 30 June QBA Graded Teams
 28 July Brisbane Bridge Centre Graded Team

Toowoomba Club Competitions

Joyce Benson Cup (R): Wednesdays 5,12,19 June
 Thursday Singles Championship: 6,13,20,27 June
 Ivy Dahler Novice Teams: Mondays 17,24 June
 Presidents Cup (R): Tuesday Nights 9,16,23 July

Toowoomba Red Masterpoint Sessions

Joyce Benson Cup on three Wednesdays in June
 Presidents Cup on three Tuesday nights in July
 Tuesday 30 July
 Friday two weekly: 2,9 August
 Wednesday 14 August
 Monday (Restricted session) 19 August
 Thursday 29 August



An Interesting Hand

Here is an interesting hand from the club GNOT qualifying round that caused joy (or better) for the teams involved:

BD: 17	♠A863	Dir: N
	♥8	Vul: None
	♦753	
	♣AQ985	
♠T2		♠J4
♥AJ972		♥KT6543
♦T862		♦J94
♣J4		♣72
	♠KQ975	
	♥Q	
	♦AKQ	
	♣KT63	
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
N	6 3 1 6 1	10
S	6 3 1 6 1	6 5
E	- - - - -	19
W	- - - - -	

Most North's behaved themselves and passed, as did East (more on this later). It is interesting to consider what others might do with this hand (especially if you ever play at other clubs or in Congresses). Here we see all the gadgets in the world are just a means to an end.

A basic **Standard American** auction might peter out as:

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	3S	P	4NT ¹
P	5H ²	P	5S ³
P	P	P	

1. We have 19 HCP and partner has shown a further 10+, so it is worth a try – so ask about Aces (with replies up the line).
2. We say we have 2 Aces
3. We are missing an Ace and don't have quality in the club suit – so with two ways to go bad we chicken out.

A more common Toowoomba auction based on **Standard American** requires some creative accounting:

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C ¹	P	3S ²
P	4S ³	P	4NT ⁴
P	5H ⁵	P	???? ⁶

1. Showing 10+ HCP and with no other suit to show at the two level – might or might not show clubs. Does not deny spades.
2. We have to get creative somehow, but being scared of hearts, we trust partner will keep the auction alive and lie about the length of our spades.
3. Partner finally behaves by bidding game in spades (but partner might only have 2 spades because of our lie – but then again, they did not have anything else to bid, so could be showing delayed support).
4. Our hand is so strong and with a singleton heart, we decided to ask for Aces. We've run out of room so use Blackwood (up the line).
5. The response is showing two Aces.
6. Here we decide how much of a gambler you are. What hands can North have with 10 HCP and still see you in trouble? In teams most players will out and out gamble and bid the slam. Provided the slam works more than 50% of the time, this approach will help you win the occasional match.

Standard American with splinters and CRO responses to Blackwood, shows an auction as:

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	4H ¹	P	4NT ²
P	5H ³	P	6S ⁴
P	P	P	

1. Showing 10+ HCP, 4+ spades and a singleton heart (thus with ruffing values).
2. Straight into Blackwood Ace asking
3. Two Aces of the same colour.
4. Partner has a singleton (loser) in hearts, and has the Ace of spades and the ace of clubs. Also, partner must have some length in either diamonds or clubs (the singleton hearts strongly suggests this) – thus we bid slam.

Standard American with cue/control bids, shows an auction as:

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	3S ¹	P	4D ²
P	5C ³	P	5D ⁴
P	5H ⁵	P	

1. North shows 10+ HCP and four card trump support (all non-game bids are now going to be cue bids).
2. South shows first round control in diamonds (either an Ace or a void).
3. North shows first round control in clubs, and denies first round control in hearts). North did not sign off in game, so still has interest in going further.
4. South shows second round control in diamonds (either a King or it was only a singleton).
5. North shows second round control in hearts (a supported king or a singleton).
6. South bids 6S, on the basis that North has 10+ points, but has only had first round control in clubs and second round control in hearts ... so must have good spades. We have the KQ so there is a good chance North has the Ace.

Ivy Dahler's Precision:

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1C ¹
P	1NT ²	P	2S ³
P	3S ⁴	P	4D ⁵
P	4NT ⁶	P	

1. 16+ HCP any shape.
2. 8+ HCP, and five or more clubs and not five or more of a major.
3. 5+ spades.
4. Trump ask because we have two Aces and a two suited hand and 10HCP. North asks how many and how good are Souths trumps.
5. South says I have five trumps including two of the top three.
6. North now uses Blackwood.
7. South's reply shows 1 Ace.
8. North has an excellent picture of the South hand, and is happy to bid a slam with a better than 50% likelihood of success.

Standard American with a semi strong 2C bid based on trick taking potential:

W	N	E	S
	P	P	2C ¹
P	2D ²	P	2S
P	4C ³	P	4H ⁴
P	5C ⁵	P	

1. South shows 8-1/2 playing tricks or any 21+ HCP hand.
2. Just a waiting bid.
3. North should avoid being cute and showing their own 5 card suit, and instead rejoice in the fit. Asking for aces if you use Gerber.
4. South shows one Ace.
5. North asks for Kings.
6. South shows three Kings (as 5D using CRO responses or 5NT if up the line).

Either way we are now committed to slam in Spades.

Standard American with Chris and Mohan:

W	N	E	S
	P	P	2C ¹
P	3C ²	P	3S
P	4C ³	P	4H ⁴
P	5C ⁵	P	

1. South shows 8-1/2 playing tricks or any 21+ HCP hand.
2. North shows five or more clubs and 10+ HCP.
3. Asking for Aces using Gerber with extended CRO responses.
4. South is showing 1 or 4 Aces (and North suspects it is not 4).
5. North asks for Kings with responses up the line.

The response is 5NT showing 3 Kings and we bid the small slam Spades.

You will note that most of these auctions have a very natural feel about them. How does your bidding go?

And now for the closing comment. I know some club players think they are oh so clever if they chuck in a Heart call from East. You might get away with this occasionally, especially against beginners. In this situation, however, you will not be able to stop partner also coming in and you will no doubt compete to at least the 5 level. You can only make six tricks, so will be 5 off and give

away a score of 1100 when doubled. Even if your team mates did bid and make the slam they will not be happy when their +980 evaporates under your -1100 for a total of -120 (or 4 IMPs).

System Cards

Did you know that it is compulsory for each player in a partnership to have a correctly completed “system card” in all QBA Congresses and Sanctioned Events?

Did you know that it is policy at the Toowoomba Bridge Club that you display a correctly completed system card for all red point and competition events longer than one week? We also prefer that you use them at every club session.

The system cards of both partners must be identical, and both cards must be displayed at the table prior to play commencing. Bridge is not a game of secrets and the system card is used to tell the opponents about the system and conventions that you are playing so they don’t have to ask about every bid. A side benefit is that before play commences you and your partner can use the card to help remind yourself about the system and conventions that you are playing.

If you don’t have a system card, then you and your partner should complete one each as soon as you can. Ask your friendly Director or a senior player (who are also friendly) to help explain how.

System Classifications

Systems are classified according to the characteristics of their opening structures and this must be indicated on your system card. A colour scheme is used to quickly identify between system classifications: GREEN, BLUE, RED and YELLOW. You must make sure you correctly identify your system!!

You determine your system classification by applying the green, blue, red and yellow criteria in order.

GREEN: This will be most natural systems such as Standard American, Goren and Acol.

- One level bids promise at least 8 HCP.

- One level bids are natural and promise at least 3 cards in the suit named. (Except that a 4-4-3-2 hand may call the short club).
- One no-trump must be balanced.

BLUE: Typically a Precision system, or other systems that have a strong artificial one bid.

- One level bids show at least 8 HCP.
- One no-trump is natural.
- One club (or diamond in some systems) is artificial, forcing and **always** strong.
- The other minor may or may not be artificial.
- One level major bids are natural.

RED and **YELLOW** are highly unusual systems and are **not permitted during normal club play**.

Those additional conventions !!!

The following types of conventions are allowed and do not change the basic system classification:

- European-type multi-two Diamonds (showing strength plus 4441, weak major or a strong no-trump hand);
- Opening 2NT showing both minors
- Transfer pre-empt bids

Brown Sticker

Some tricky agreements are indicated by adding a brown sticker to your system on your convention card. These include un-anchored multi-meaning 2 and 3 level openings, some un-anchored overcalls, and 2 and 3 level two-suited bids where one of the suits might be 3 cards or shorter.

Summary

You should make sure you have completed and correctly classified system card with you at all times during play. Make sure you alert all conventional bids, but do not alert doubles, redoubles, cue bids or bids at the 4-level or higher. Give a full explanation of the meaning of a bid if asked by an opponent.

Full details are available in the **QBA System Regulations** (see the www.qldbridge.com website). There is also a link to this information from our own website.

In addition, the ABF have created a new PDF version of the approved system card. I strongly

recommend you access the ABF website and complete a copy for yourself and your partner.

Happy reading and bridging,

Cheers,

Chris

