



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER



September 2010

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba 4350

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President's Report

They say “time flies when you are having fun”, “there’s no place like home” and “many hands make light work”. If you don’t like these clichés then try and recall a few of your own ...

Clichés. If you are struggling you might like to use one of our free NEC computers to search the web (<http://www.clichesite.com/> is a good place to start). It is pleasing to see the number of visitors to our website and particularly use of the results pages increasing. The average number of unique visitors per day are (Mon 76, Tue 64, Wed 84, Thu 70, Fri 72, Sat 54, Sun 36). Sunday is interesting given that we rarely play on that day – perhaps it is the day people “catch up” on the week’s results). Technology is increasing rapidly and it is important that we keep up with things as much as possible, so please take this opportunity for lessons and practice time.

Time flies when you are having fun.

Approximately 260 of our members will remember playing in the old Water Street clubrooms, and our last game there was in July 2007. Personally, I find it hard to remember much about play at Water Street as it was over 200 games ago (then again, at work I often have to roam the car parks trying to remember where I left the car). There are a significant number of members who will remember before Water Street

when the forerunners to the Toowoomba Bridge Club Inc played in people’s homes or hired venues. It is important for us to remember our history and to reflect on the incredible growth of the club and the wondrous achievements of its members throughout its history and especially over the past three years (where have they gone!).

There’s no place like home. A further 120 of our members joined since the move and only know Stuart Street as home. They, too, have seen great improvements in the club and club premises, including pre-dealt hands, hand records, Bridgemate electronic scoring, immediate availability of results, website, kitchen improvements and our wonderful water-wise gardens.

The building still has that new look and feel, and the gardens are a showcase for the Garden City which, led by Lise and Ray Moore, have been nurtured and entered into a number of sections in the Chronicle Gardens competition as part of the Carnival of Flowers event. We can expect additional visitors to our gardens over the next month so please make them welcome. We also have a bus load of members from the Northern Suburbs Bridge Club coming to visit on Tuesday 21st September to view our club and gardens and to join in a game of bridge.

Many hands make light work. There are some very visible jobs at the bridge club and we are blessed with the willingness and skills of the people who volunteer for these roles. A lot of good work also goes on behind the scenes. Elsewhere in this newsletter are some comments on “what makes a club special”. That must be some other club – it couldn’t be us, could it?

In my heart of heart I feel “it’s all good” and I would like to thank the many members of the club who do:

Prepare the room and kitchen before play, move furniture when the movement requires it, make visitors welcome, clean up the room after play, collect table money, spot vacuum crumbs from the carpet, close windows after play, look after the

gardens, clean the gutters, water the gardens, sweep leaves in front of the building, mow the grass, help with the restricted and supervised play sessions, shop for the kitchen, cook the cakes and biscuits, bring sandwiches, buy cakes and donuts, replenish the table supplies, sharpen pencils, wash the tablecloths, and the dozens of other important jobs that I have not yet mentioned. The club runs as well as it does and we all get to enjoy our bridge because of your efforts. **So well done and thank you!!!**

Get your social calendar out. We are now coming up to a busy time of the year (for us, and especially for Carol and her helpers), so get out your diary and start planning for the rest of the year.

- **Northern Suburbs Club Visit** is on Tuesday 21st September and they will be paying extra to include a simple lunch. Our regular Tuesday members will pay normal table fees and will join in lunch as my guest.
- Our **Annual General Meeting** is on Saturday 25th September, and will be followed by sandwiches and then normal duplicate bridge for red masterpoints.
- Apparently there is a famous horse race on Tuesday 2nd November, and so we will have our traditional **Melbourne Cup Party** and social play on that day. Entry lists will be available soon (for the bridge, not the horse race) and the cost will be confirmed at that time.
- Our **Christmas Party and Annual Awards Ceremony** will be held on Saturday 11th December. We will be having a “spit roast” lunch, nice treats, perhaps an occasional drink and lots of fun. We might even play a few hands of cards. Cost to members will be \$12.00 and prior entry and payment will be required. Some donations will be most welcome, or additional costs will be met from club funds.

I look forward to everyone joining in the above events, local congresses and regular club sessions each day. Happy bridging

Chris Snook☺
President



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Chris Snook
VICE-PRESIDENT	Bruce Hinchliffe
SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
TREASURER	Ray Moore
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Glenys Clift Henry Eastment Pam Gebbett Denise Hartwig Floyd Wilson Joyce Ziesemer
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Chris Snook
PROVIDOR	Carol Lombardo
CONGRESS CONVENOR	Denise Hartwig
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Glenys Clift
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook/ Henry Eastment/ Bruce Hinchliffe
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
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 and Fundraising 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 all of the building and surrounding gardens. If you notice something needs repair, then let Will know by having a chat to him (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:

Suzanne Brazier	Kerry Brown
Barry Kopley	Kath Phillips
Jane Tait	Margaret Tucker
David Lynch	Lavinia Minchin
Robert Ramsay	Christine Stiles
Pat Ziebarth	Margina Franzen
Carol Lombardo	

CLUB MASTER:

Julia Fairfield	Jill Guard
Daphne Horsbugh	Gordon Horsbugh
Jan Lindau	Michele Alroe
Sandra Parker	Lucita Whitby
Laurette Reynolds	

LOCAL MASTER:

Denise Hartwig	Annette Sullivan
Jeff Atkinson	Esme Burnie
Pat Fenaughty	Jacki Horne
Jack Burnie	Elizabeth Cavanagh
Sheryl Haslam	

*LOCAL MASTER:

Lesley Meyers	Margaret Vines
Glennis Cowell	Judith Higgins
Majella Wilson	Floyd Wilson
Denise Hartwig	

**LOCAL MASTER

Carmel Powell
Bruce Hinchliffe
Desiree Fenaughty

REGIONAL MASTER

Fay Short
Shaunagh Cowell

*REGIONAL MASTER

Cathy Soares

STATE MASTER

Judith Briggs
Graeme Hodgson

*NATIONAL MASTER

Will Higgins

LIFE MASTER

Patricia Penberthy
Mohan Trada



WELL DONE!



New Members



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

James Babineau	Alison Lewis
Janet Balch	Roger Ley
Jane Bracey	Jack Lloyd
Robert Cheesman	Byron Longford
Rita Churchill	Pamela Mackintosh
Kathleen Clark	Diana McDougall
Josh Davenport	Yvonne North
Diana Drummond	Nuala O'Sullivan
Simone Ferguson	Carmel Purcell
Janeen Gibson	Rosie Rohde
Michael Guillot	Annice Sheppard
Peggy Hansel	Olive Shield
Carol Harris	Jeffrey Smith
Helen Horan	Muriel Tiller
Bronwyn Humphries	Ann Todd
Keith Jenkin	Carol Wilson
Suse King	Jim Wood
Rick Churchill	Kathie Clark
Gail Dinsey	David Tonkin
Lyn Adamson	Trevor Glasby
Paul Barrett	Frances Leeson
Judy Hinchliffe	Con Carlyon
Leonie Spence	Patricia McLarty
Carol Carlyon	

Treasurer's Report

The club is in a sound financial position. We have just over \$12,000 in our operating accounts and \$100,000 in our sinking fund – most of which has been earmarked for our carpark extension.

Thanks to all for paying table-money in notes and gold coins, it is a tremendous help in counting, recounting and banking without 5 and 10 cents.



Ray Moore
Treasurer



Providore's Report

Firstly, I would like to thank all the people who have donated cakes for our Monday bridge days and various other days. We do however need more volunteers on Wednesday and Friday. If you care to donate something, it would be very much appreciated.

We are looking forward to a special Melbourne Cup Day, as we have something different planned for this year. The cost for this fun day will be \$12.00. I look forward to seeing you all at this event. Please book with Carol.

Our Christmas party will be held on 11 December at 11.30am. We are planning on a spit roast with a choice of 3 roast meats, potatoes and a choice of 5 fresh salads, plus desert, hot finger foods and dips. I am sure a great day will be had by all who attend. The cost of this Christmas party will be \$12.00 per person and has to be booked and paid for before 3 November. I will be taking all the bookings and monies. My phone numbers are 4630-1487 or 0412-007-783. **NUMBERS WILL BE RESTRICTED TO 130** so it is important to get your booking and payment in early so you don't miss out.

Again, I would like to send out a very big thank you to all those people who have donated for our events during the year. With your help, I believe it ahs helped make all our events smashing ones.

One last thank you goes to Elizabeth van de Syde who tirelessly prepares our afternoon teas each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I think we can be very grateful for all the work she does each week.

Thank you.

Carol Lombardo
Providore

Welfare Officer

Please contact Glenda Filbee on 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.

Vale

Since the last newsletter, regular club players, Jenny McGrath and Eric Gray passed away. Our condolences to their families.

Secretary's Report

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 10am on Saturday 25 September 2010. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting, stay for a light snack and then play bridge in a red masterpoint event.

The management committee of the Toowoomba Bridge Club shall consist of:

President

Vice-President

Honorary Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

and up to seven (7) other **Committee Members**

In addition, the Association elects the following three positions:

Masterpoint Secretary

Congress Convenor

Providore

Nominations are invited for the above positions and shall be made in writing using the nomination forms on the members' noticeboard. Nominations close at 10:00am **Saturday 11th September 2010**, and will be put to the AGM on **Saturday 25th September 2010**.



NEC Broadband Kiosk

The two computers in the NEC Broadband Kiosk in the western hall are available for use by all club members. Online training in basic computer, internet and email use is available and a number of members have already taken advantage of this. If you are interested in the training, please add your name to the list on the noticeboard in the foyer. If you are already computer literate, and don't have access to a computer at home, why not check out your results from recent sessions, or look up something of interest.



2011 Programme Book

We are starting to prepare the programme book for 2011. If you have changed your contact details, either telephone number or address, please update your details on the list on the whiteboard in the eastern hall.



Congress Convenor's Report

Since my last report, The Toowoomba Pairs & Teams was held over the long weekend from 1-3 May 2010. There was excellent support from both Toowoomba clubs as well as visitors from various Brisbane clubs and country clubs such as Stanthorpe, Warwick and Dalby. In all, there were 52 pairs and 26 teams who participated in the three day event.

This year the club requested members to donate items suitable for raffles. This was a huge success, with 23 prizes in all as well as 5 lucky door prizes. Many thanks to everyone who contributed. Very special thanks also go to Barbara Wippell, who so kindly organised all the items into groups and then wrapped and presented them so beautifully.

In the Pairs event, one of our members, Elizabeth Zeller, and her Brisbane partner, Alison Dawson, were successful in being placed 2nd in Category B. We also had success in Category C with the winners being 1st: L McRoberts & J Leathley, 2nd: R Fulton & L Sutton, 3rd: B Wippell & K Nicoll. Congratulations to all players who participated in the 3 day event, because without you all, the event would not have been so successful.

The Novice Teams Congress was also conducted recently and was held on Sunday 1st August 2010. There were 16 teams who participated, including players from Lockyer, Dalby and Toowong. The day ran very smoothly under the guidance of Director, Chris Snook.

Carol and Elizabeth did an excellent job in the kitchen, organising and serving the main meal with continual snacks throughout the day. What makes it even more special is that they performed all the work in the kitchen on their own; so many thanks to Carol & Elizabeth.

The winners of the Novice Teams were:

1. Charles Leicht, Melba Leicht, Judith Briggs, Laurie-Marie McRoberts
2. Anneke Bierenbroodspot, Helen Holmes, Carmen Powell, Judith Leathley
3. Peter Hooper, Win Logan, Richard Drouin, Norm Higgs



Up-Coming Events

Sat 4th September & Sat 11th September
Ivy Dahler Novice Pairs (under 50 masterpoints)

Sunday 26th September
Darling Downs Swiss Pairs

Saturday/Sunday 9th & 10th October
Dalby Pairs & Teams Congress

Sunday 24th October
Toowoomba Swiss Teams

Sunday 7th November
Warwick Spring Pairs

Sunday 14th November
Grand National Pairs Regional Final
(hosted by Toowoomba Bridge Club and for qualifiers only).

Denise Hartwig
Congress Convenor



Club Teacher's Report

Approximately 30 beginners attended bridge lessons in the second half of this year. Some had attended lessons previously, but many attended for the first time.

The lessons, designed by Glenys Clift, were adapted to be used as Power Point slides. A copy of these lessons were then emailed to each beginner after the lessons so that they could go through the lesson again at their leisure, along with a copy of the boards played to reinforce each lesson. These emails were appreciated by those who attended the lessons as well as those who missed a particular lesson.

At the conclusion of the 14 lessons, six weeks of supervised play are planned to further assist the beginners to progress to competition bridge.

It is hoped that the Power Point lessons might eventually be placed on the Club website to be available for all members.

Trudy Dunne
Club Teacher



Club Librarian's Report

I am planning to re-catalogue the library's books over the next three months in order of Author. If you are returning a book, you may find it has a new card as part of this process. If so, please use the new card to indicate your return of the book.

I would also like to thank Denise Hartwig for looking after the Library in my absence.

Keep borrowing and enjoy your Bridge!



Henry Eastment
Club Librarian



Car Parking

Ray is continuing to work towards receiving approval from the planning department of Council for our car park extension, but there are still some hurdles to overcome. Until this project is completed, we need to continue to be careful and considerate in our parking. Our car parks are clearly defined so please park correctly between the lines. If these parks are full it would be appropriate to use the parking area along Stuart Street adjacent to Horn Park. Please don't park on the small grass area next to the driveway as it obstructs visibility for other club members entering or leaving the premises.

The club has a "sinking fund" to cover future development of the club and to cover replacements and repairs when they are necessary. Most of these funds will go on the new car park when we receive approval. We are in a good financial position but must continue to be careful if we are to deliver this project and still plan for our future.

A Council Town planning sign has been erected at the clubs frontage in Stuart Street. After 15 days of displaying the sign, Council will assess our application and hopefully approve it.

Chris Snook



A Challenging Hand

If you want to test your wits, have a look at the following hand. You are South playing a 7♥ contract. The lead is K♣ from West. How do you play the hand?

♠ A Q 7 ♥ A K Q J ♦ Q J 10 9 8 7 ♣ Void	♠ K J 10 8 6 ♥ 5 4 3 2 ♦ Void ♣ K Q J 10	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		♠ 9 5 4 3 2 ♥ Void ♦ 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ 4 3 2 ♠ Void ♥ 10 9 8 7 6 ♦ A K ♣ A 9 8 7 6 5
	N											
W	E											
	S											

Contract 7♥ by South: Lead ♣K.

See next page for solution.



GOOD HEALTH IS NOT TO BE SNEEZED AT!

Many of our members are more susceptible to cold and flu germs than we would like. I know we all love our bridge, but if you are at the contagious stage or have a persistent cough or sneeze, then please stay at home and rest rather than coming to the club.

The Club Gardens

We have entered the gardens in "The Carnival of Flowers", trying to be part of the celebration of spring.

What a wonder with the rain last week. I had only said: "The gardens are suffering from lack of water". I spent two hours watering just the bed near the clubhouse, showing Chris just how hopeless the flow of water is, we have now been promised a bigger pump.

I have planted quite a few Dianthus in the bed near the clubhouse just for colour and show, they mainly need water to get going & will survive quite dry conditions.

Plants & shrubs that had died in the drought were also replaced. I think the gardens look lovely despite the drought, and the limited water we had, and remember, it is only 3 years since we started.

Last weekend we had a quick tidy-up & weeding. Ralph was fantastic as always and a big thank-you to Joyce, Noela, Bruce, Ray and to Will for the wood chips. I could not have done without their help.

Please save your free Council plant voucher and give it to club, if you are not going to use it, a lot of plants were had last year by donated vouchers, very appreciated thank you.

Lise Moore

The Birthday Club

The birthday Club runs very smoothly, I think. However, there are one or two people who receive their cards on the wrong date. I would be grateful if those people could advise me of the error so that the club's records can be corrected. Also, if you have changed your address, it would be appreciated if you told the Secretary.

Pam Gebbett

PS: I'm always prepared to look for partners for members, even if it is not my day for liaising.



Solution to "A Challenging Hand"

The key element is for South to discard his/her Ace and King of diamonds. One can go on the A♣, but what to do with the other? The answer is to discard it on the last trump from Dummy. After South has ruffed two spades, his trumps will be shorter than North's. The play goes:

1. Win A♣ (discarding the 7♦).
2. Play a trump to A♥.
3. Ruff 7♠.
4. Play a trump to K♥.
5. Ruff Q♣.
6. Play a trump to Q♥.
7. Play J♥, drawing West's last trump and discarding the K♦.
8. Play A♣, throwing A♦ and North's hand is high.



WINNERS OF CLUB COMPETITIONS

Joyce Benson Cup (Wednesdays)
Jackie Henderson & Val McClement



Thursday Singles Championship
Edwin Willey



Presidents Cup
John Erlandson & Will Higgins



Tuesday Night Teams Championship
Chris Snook, Mohan Trada,
Will Higgins & John Erlandson



Clive Berghofer Pairs Championship
Val McClement & Eileen Josey



Oxymorons

Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?

Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?

If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?

If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?

Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?

Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?

Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?

Why do "tug" boats push their barges?

Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?

Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?

The May Congress

Australia's longest-running bridge congress, the Toowoomba Bridge Club's May Congress, celebrated its 51st year in 2010.

Our president Chris Snook said Toowoomba hosted Australia's first weekend Congress, when it was run 51 years ago. The congress scene has since flourished and now major Congresses are held around the country every weekend. The Toowoomba May Congress has continued to be one of the more prominent features on the Australian Congress calendar and every year pits the best of players from the Darling Downs region against high calibre players from the rest of Queensland and beyond.

"Toowoomba has gained national recognition for the excellence of the congress and the superb venue at 55 Stuart Street in which it is held," Chris said, and commended the efforts of Congress Convenor Denise Hartwig on bringing this year's Congress to a successful conclusion.

May Congress Results



Winners of the Toowoomba Teams are (l to r) Peter Nilsson, Cheryl Stone, Tony Treloar, Deborah Nilsson, with Congress Director Trevor Strickland at back. The team won the 51st "Hiley-McCutcheon Shield".

The girl was supposed to write a short story in as few words as possible for her literary class and her instructions where that it had to discuss Religion, Sexuality and Mystery.

She was the only one who received an A+ and this is what she wrote

"Good God, I'm pregnant, I wonder who did it?"

Novice Teams Results



Three of the four person team that won the Toowoomba Novice teams - plus the congress convenor Denise Hartwig. They are Mel and Charles Leicht and Laurie-Marie McRoberts. Judith Briggs was the fourth member of the team, but she was camera shy!

Visit by Manager of QBA



The Manager of the Queensland Bridge Association, Kim Ellaway and her husband Ray, were made welcome by Club President Chris Snook when they visited the Toowoomba Bridge Club on Tuesday 10th August 2010. They enjoyed a friendly game of bridge with the regular Tuesday players. It comes as no surprise that they came first.

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write and they won't let me talk!"

Lockyer

AN interesting, informative and disastrous situation arose for NS at the Lockyer Bridge Congress held at Laidley on June 27.

Twenty-three tables participated under the directorship of Alan Gibson. The event was won by Nathan Van Jole and Pranjal Chakradeo with local pair, Richard Drouin and Rosemary McCormack winning the Plate.

In the morning session, Board 20 was the one in question. EW were playing RKCB. Whether the bidding was correct is immaterial to the lesson to be learnt for not calling the director.

Dir W	♠ Q109864
Vul Both	♥ 74
	♦ 76
	♣ 1054
♠ J2	♠ —
♥ AKQJ1095	♥ 2
♦ AK3	♦ QJ982
♣ A	♣ KQJ7632
	♠ AK753
	♥ 863
	♦ 1054
	♣ 98

W	N	E	S
2C	P	2D	P
2H	P	3C	P
4NT	P	5S	P
7NT	P	P	X
All pass			

North was on lead and, attempting to pluck the ♠4 out of his hand, accidentally dropped the ♠6. Notwithstanding North's expletive comment which followed and all players realising it was a mistake, the lead stood as North thought it was a penalty card and could not be picked up.

Declarer made 7NTX (scoring 2490). If North (who shall remain nameless) had called the director he would have been informed it was a minor penalty card and in the circumstances the lead could have been retracted. He could have led the card he intended and NS would have scored 1700. It was a rather expensive turnaround of 4190 points and a salutary lesson for not calling the director. After all, that is what he's there for. ■

July - August 2010

Adjacent is a clip from page 9 of the latest QBA bulletin. Robbie Fulton brought it to the attention of a recent session at the club, admitting he was the transgressor who gave away 4190 points!!



And he can still smile!

More Oxymorons

Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?

Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?

Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?

Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?

Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?

If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?

If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?

Why is bra singular and panties plural?

Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?

Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?

How come abbreviated is such a long word?

Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Why do they call it a TV set when you only have one?

Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway?

Speeding up play

The perennial problem of slow play remains. Here are some tips to speed up everything else so you can take your time to play the cards:

1. **Move immediately this is announced by the Director.** This is the time to be sitting at the table ready to play the next boards and opponents. If an opponent is not there, sit anyway. We could almost guarantee that by the time you return they will have been sitting waiting for you.
2. **Tell the opponents your basic system and put your system card on the table.** Quite a bit of precious time can be lost by the opponents having to ask what your no-trump is or for you to go fishing in your handbag for your system card.
3. **Start bidding immediately.** As soon as all are at the table, position the board, remove and count your cards and start the auction.
4. **Don't put the pencil down after each bid.** You will need it again in a few seconds anyway for your next bid, so hang on to it. Besides we have a few compulsive tidy upperpers who might put it on the side table out of your reach. Also, there might be a claim that you have put your pencil down to signify that you want partner to realize you have nothing else to bid and you might hold the pencil to signify further interest.
5. **Make the opening lead face down asap.** If you are in charge of the Bridgemate then LEAD FIRST – then whilst other stuff is happening at the table you can enter data. Lead face down so that less time will be lost if you have attempted to lead out of turn. Still call the Director but their explanation will be a lot shorter.
6. **Put dummy down asap.** If you are in charge of the Bridgemate then put down dummy and then enter data.
7. **Agree on the number of tricks before gathering your cards.** If there is later dispute on this it can take quite a few minutes to reconstruct the hand especially if you need to call the Director.
8. When you have finished playing all your boards, **stack them in order in the middle of the table** (or elsewhere if so instructed by the

Director). This makes it quicker and easier to move boards, and lets the Director see from afar if you have finished the round.

9. Do not start bidding a board after the three minute warning bell. Call the Director and let them decide what to do. This has always been a club rule.
10. When (8) is complete, you may choose to quietly discuss the hands provided you do not berate partner or yourself, nor talk over the opponents as if they were not there. Or you may go get a drink, etc.
11. If you are running a bit late, then speed up to catch up! Don't take your time because another table looks slow or because someone arrived late to your table.

If we all follow these simple steps, we will reduce the problems with slow play and all enjoy our bridge more.

Cheers
Chris



Bridgemates

I've been working with Peter Busch (the writer of our scoring software) to extend the capability so we can score teams events using Bridgemates and produce appropriate results printouts. The most recent trial was on Tuesday nights and after a number of glitches it seems to be working a lot better. The process is more complicated than a regular pairs event so please be tolerant if your Director takes time to set up the session.

A side effect of this was a forced upgrade of our software late on a Tuesday night (aka Wednesday morning) and in the process the option to show percentages was not enabled (it is off by default and we are one of the very few clubs that show percentages) and this was not realized until into the first round of the Wednesday session later that day when it was too late to change. There were some queries about the lack of percentage but most people expressed that it is a nicer and faster game without them. Thus the Tournament Subcommittee has decided to leave this option switched off at present.



What Makes a Club Special

What do you think makes a Club, any Club, something special? Initially you might think “Oh the amenities and what the club offers to its members”. Well, I suppose that helps, but it certainly isn’t what makes it special. For that you have to look to the people who make up the membership and what they give to the Club and to each other. If every member of a Club made a point at least once a year of giving a little of their time and energy to the organisation, well that is truly special.

One of the biggest problems some Bridge Clubs, Bowls Clubs, etc, have is getting people to volunteer. I think that is based on the old truism that the more you give people, the more they expect and the less they expect to do in return! Thank goodness we haven’t got to that point as we do have a lot of volunteers – but invariably they are the same people time and time again. And I know from the past that whenever I have asked people for their help, they have been more than willing to contribute and I don’t think that has changed.

I was really taken back when I heard that not one person had offered to help with our Novice Congress. Not that Carol and Elizabeth needed any help – apparently they managed beautifully and maybe no-one asked for helpers. But it is still nice to get the offers. I find it difficult to comprehend that the odd few actually complain about afternoon tea - complaining about there being no brown bread sandwiches, egg sandwiches, or running out of sandwiches because they haven’t had lunch. Sorry, but I think people are supposed to have lunch at home. We are so lucky to have Elizabeth who greets everyone with her lovely smile and does such a wonderful job. So if you have to complain – see Carol, not Elizabeth who doesn’t deserve that.

If you get a biscuit with your afternoon tea, that’s great. If you get anything else – well I would have thought that’s wonderful. Others complain that we should have sandwiches and a paid helper in the kitchen for all sessions - and I can assure you that these same people have never, to my knowledge, ever gone in the kitchen to clean up anything. So I am not sure why they are complaining. I thought we came here to play bridge, meet people, have a laugh and enjoy ourselves. At least Thursday night players have organized a roster for supper and cleaning up the kitchen which works really well.

And if someone forgets, so what, there are always biscuits.

While lots of people do make an effort at the end of a session to help clean up, there are always some who just walk out and never think to get rid of their rubbish. Maybe they simply forget or perhaps are unaware of what is expected.

So I have a suggestion. How about at the end of a session, all 4 people at the table help clean up. Someone takes the boards and bridgemates back, someone empties the rubbish, someone straighten up the chairs and someone else sharpens the pencils and fills the bidding pad for the next session. This would only take a minute or two and would make an enormous difference.

If you notice the rubbish bins are over-flowing, perhaps take it out to the wheelie bin. Believe it or not, Ralph is not the designated rubbish man. I know he does it and bless him for it – but he won’t be deprived of a job if other people do it occasionally. And if you have a spare five minutes at the end of play, it would really help to have the dishwashers emptied and ready for the next session. Perhaps the Director of the day should nominate people for that job, because I know most people would be happy to do it.

Now having said all that, I would now like to compliment those people who have taken it on themselves to offer their time with little or no recognition because quite honestly, the club would not function without you. By the way, our lovely President said this article is much too growly and should not be published and he probably has a point. Because as I mentioned before, I know that if you ask most of our members, they are more than happy to help.

So the moral of this little story! We have a club with a great atmosphere and wonderful amenities which will only get better and better. And to parody those famous words from John Fitzgerald Kennedy - It is not what your Club can do for you, it is what you can do for your Club that makes a Club special.

Glenys Clift



*The greatest thrill in bridge is making an
unmakeable contract.
The greatest mistake is to assume it was because
of your brilliance.*