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GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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April 2022

From the President

John F Kennedy once famously said, "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country". This statement embodies the notion that we all have to play our part in creating and maintaining those things that we collectively need and enjoy. This same principle applies to the Geelong Bridge Club, which is run entirely by the collective efforts of members.

Sometimes members offer to help out, without being asked. For example Harvey Webb, at the time a new member, offered to be Treasurer. John Walsh, to direct on Tuesdays as well as Thursdays, Peter Horan, to maintain the bridgemates. Margaret Glover, to be Librarian. Maureen Peck, to take over the GBC website, Nick Wood and Denis McDonald, to sort out IT issues, John Prouse, David Casey, Peter Carland and Jennifer Blyton, to add to the Pool of directors. The above list contains relatively recent volunteers. However there is a much larger group of what I will refer to as "longer term" volunteers. These include:

- Directors
- Match committee
- House committee
- Congress committee
- Maintenance committee
- Newsletter editor
- Card dealers
- Membership and Masterpoints secretaries
- GBC club recorder.

Then there is also the role of the Committee, which consists of 12 members who are charged with the management and administration of the club. Committee membership can change, and elections occur each year at the GBC AGM. Two members of the current committee have foreshadowed that they will retire before this year's AGM, which is scheduled for Sept 7.

Continued next page

As a result we are looking for volunteers for the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. In both cases the hard work of moving our accounts to Quickbooks, (Treasurer), and membership records to Pianola, (Membership Secretary), has already been done. Both programs are stored in the 'cloud', with access being provided via a password. Both the outgoing Treasurer and Membership Secretary will assist their replacements during the changeover. **VOLUNTEERS PLEASE.**

I say to members: "Ask not what Geelong Bridge Club can do for you - ask what you can do for your club". Is there some way you can assist? Perhaps by helping the House committee with catering and kitchen, or the maintenance committee with odd jobs, or weeding the garden, or assisting at beginners' classes, or joining the Committee. Recent members, we need and want you every bit as much as older members.



Put these in your Diary

Official Opening of the Club's Resurfaced Carpark

When: Monday 9 May 2022 at 12pm

More detail to be provided soon

Geelong Bridge Club Congress

When: Saturday 25 June 2022 (Pairs)

Sunday 26 June 2022 (Teams)

Where: Highton Bowls Club

More detail to be provided soon

Saturday Bridge—if you are interested, put your name on the list at the Club.



www.geelong.bridge-club.org/

Club Results

Restricted Pairs (Olga Jacobs Award) Thursdays 3, 10 February

1st	A.Neunhoffer, J.Blyton
2nd	G.Barfoot, P.Carland
3rd	R.Gude, L.Johnston

Western Region Congress Pairs Saturday 5 February

1st	A.Robbins, G.Ridgway
2nd	D.Newlands, D.Newland
3rd	D.Peacock, J.Johnstone

Western Region Congress Teams Sunday 6 February

1st	G.Ridgway, A.Robbins, D.Newland, S.Lester, D.Newlands
2nd	K.Bailey, G.Bailey, P.Jones, B.Jones
3rd	J.Attrill, P.Thomas, J.Sarena, L.Picone

Nationwide Pairs Friday 18 February (Club)

1st	NS: D.Newland, S.Lester EW: P.Jain, M.Stokie
2nd	NS: D.Read, G.Wilson EW: L.Frankenburg, J.Prowse
3rd	NS: S.Napier, J.Keyte EW:

Open Teams Final Tuesday 22 March

1st	D.Newland, S.Lester A.Robbins, D.Newlands G.Ridgway
2nd	S.Irwin, J.Johnstone, D.Peacock, K.Graham
3rd	M.Stokie, G.Wilson, R.Gillard, P.Jain, D.Read

Swiss Teams (Pairs Entry) Thursday 31 March

1st	L.Bennetto, M.Doyle J.Horan, P.Horan
2nd	C.Bowman, W.Dennis D.Shandley, P.Cristina
3rd	R.Gude, D.Casey, B.Rowley, G.Burke

New Members

The Geelong Bridge Club welcomes the following new members:

David Melzer

Paul Heenan

Below: President of the WRBA, Jenny Johnstone, and President of the hosting Ocean Grove Bridge Club, George Del Papa, as they announced the winners.



HIGH SCORES

Feb	D.Newland, S.Lester	77.0%
Mar	D.Newland, S.Lester	76.0%

Joan Wilson Trophy Winners

Feb J.Prowse

Mar M.Stokie

Western Region Friendly Teams 10 April 2022

What a fantastic day, ably hosted by Ocean Grove Bridge Club (President George Del Papa and his Committee). We were pleased to have fourteen teams participating, from Geelong, Ocean Grove, Ballarat and Torquay clubs. Thanks to you all for your support of WRBA.

Despite an early hiccup (keying issues with CoGG), everyone pitched in with setting up, which enabled us to start not long after 10 a.m.

There were six matches, each of nine boards, with the best performers being:

- 1st D.Newland, P.Jain, P.Jones, B.Jones.
- 2nd S.Irwin, A.Robbins, J.Prowse, D.Casey.
- 3rd B.Fitzpatrick, V.Sercombe, G.Ridgway, M.Stokie.

A huge vote of thanks to our director Stephen Lester and our two volunteer caddies, Graeme McAlpine (a.m) and Anne Gunst (p.m). Thank you also to George Del Papa for the day's organisation and Ocean Grove members for the excellent catering.

Our next events are Friendly Pairs at Ballarat on Sunday August 14 and Novice Pairs at Torquay on Saturday October 15 when your ongoing support would again be appreciated.



Dot Peacock, Secretary, WRBA



The finalists in the Open Teams 2022 held in mid-March were:

Wednesday heat

NEWLAND: D.Newland, S.Lester, D.Newlands, A.Robbins, G.Ridgway

IRWIN: S.Irwin, J.Johnstone, D.Peacock, K.Graham

Friday heat

DUFF: S.Duff, S.Robinson, T.Frost, M.Glover

STOKIE: M.Stokie, R.Gillard, G.Wilson, P.Jain and substitute D.Read

The NEWLAND and IRWIN teams won their semi-finals and in the final their 32-board match was very close with both teams level at the $\frac{3}{4}$ -time break before NEWLAND drew away over the last 8 boards. The final placings were:

- 1st NEWLAND
- 2nd IRWIN
- 3rd STOKIE
- 4th DUFF.

Well done to all finalists, especially the winners.

This year all four finalists are eligible to contest the Geelong Region Final of the Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) held Australia-wide. Similarly, the top four teams from the Helen Drinnan Teams (scheduled for April-May) also qualify for the Geelong GNOT Final as do three teams from Ocean Grove Bridge Club. Torquay Bridge Club is not participating this year. The winner of this event, to be held on 22 May, will represent the Geelong Region at the National GNOT Final in Brisbane in late November.

The Western Victoria (WV) Region, which overlaps Geelong, also sends a team to the National GNOT Final. The WV Region final will be held as a Pairs event on July 17 at Geelong BC. This year it is open to all players from the WV region, without any Masterpoint restriction.



Mike Stokie

How to make your Partner's Jaw Drop

(Or why I deliberately passed a Transfer bid)

OK, for good or bad, I passed my partner's Transfer bid, What would you have done?

You hold: JT, -, AKTxxxx, AKT Yes, a 15 count. Now to the problem. Your RHO opens 1D. Truly! What to do? Cannot bid 2D (Majors), 3D looks pre-emptive, so I decided to bid 1NT!!!! (Points right, stopper right, but??). Anyway, my poor partner tries to transfer me into Hs, via 2D. Stiff. I passed, rightly or wrongly! Partner duly made 11 tricks.

Turns out RHO had mis-sorted his hand, and actually had 5Hs. 3NT can make!! A most unusual hand. When did you last pass your partner's transfer bid??

The full hand, with South as the dealer.

Board 15 Dlr: S Vul: N-S	♠ Q7532 ♥ 62 ♦ ♣ Q87642	
♠ JT ♥ ♦ AKT75432 ♣ AKT		♠ K86 ♥ KJT974 ♦ 98 ♣ 53
4 15 7 14	♠ A94 ♥ AQ853 ♦ QJ6 ♣ J9	N: 3♣2♠ S: 3♣2♠ E: 5♦3NT W: 5♦2NT

Everyone in the field finished in Diamonds, but not all made 11 tricks, so a 71% result.

Arthur Robbins

Rank Promotions

Congratulations to the following members who have received new Masterpoint rankings.

Graduate	Pam Smigowski Dianne Renshaw Genevieve Burke Harry Payne Peter Carland	Silver Local	Jean McGonigal Linda Johnston Janice Coventry Pam Jones
Club Local		Bronze Life	

There are a number of different 2D openings from opponents at the table. These need a range of treatments for you to be able to compete satisfactorily.

1. 2D - weak 6-9 HCP with generally 6 Diamonds
2. 2D - MYXO. (unlikely to meet this one, but good to know it exists)
3. 2D - multi : weak either major OR strong 19-20 HCP
4. 2D - both majors 5/4 either way, generally 8-11 HCP
5. 2D - showing 5 spades and 4+ of another suit
6. 2D - 19-20 flat : (not common, but old Goren style, pre-1985).

Each requires a different treatment :

1. Overcalls : 2H, 2S, 3C, 3D are natural, showing a good 5+ card suit with 11+ HCP.

: 2NT = 15-18 with stop....Lebensohl continuations, system on

: X = t/o , showing both majors OR very good suit to be bid next round

: 4D = both majors, at least 5/5, asking partner to choose. (4NT ?)

2. Overcalls : bid next suit, i.e. 2H as takeout; (assumes a weak 2H by opener)

: all other bids natural.

3. Overcalls : various options here, but I like this

: X = takeout of Spades, showing 4H, 12+ HCP ; Lebensohl ongoing

: 2H = artificial, takeout of Hearts, showing 4S, 12+ HCP ; Lebensohl ongoing

: 2S , 3C, 3D all show a natural good suit

: 2NT = 15-18 with stops in both majors,

: 3H, 3S show a long suit, not a lot else.

4. Overcalls : X = takeout for minors

: 2H = takeout with longer Clubs than Diamonds

: 2S = takeout with longer Diamonds than Clubs

: 2NT = 15-18, Lebensohl continuations.

5. Overcalls : X = Diamond suit with 10+ HCP

2H = natural good 5 card suit, 12+ HCP

2S = takeout with 4H, 12+HCP, Lebensohl continuations

2NT = 15-18 with stopper in Spades.

6. Overcalls: whatever system is used over strong openers. I like TWERB (two way exclusion bid).

Over strong openers like Precision 1C, standard 2C, strong NT, etc, then the bid suit shows length in the next suit up OR 5/5 in the two suits above that, e.g the Precision 1C. Overcalls of say 1D= Heart suit or 5/5 in the black suits, then partner's next bid is pass or correct - generally alertable (unless cueing the opener's suit).

Note: Responding is clinical, in that here bidding Spades or Clubs shows tolerance for Hearts at the next required level, similar to responding to a multi 2D opener. Similarly for higher level responses.

Gavin Bailey



From the Office

How much do you know about the technology that underpins our regular bridge game? Members are well accustomed to pre-dealt boards, hand records and results on the web-site, but how does all this come about?

Pre-dealt boards

An expensive (~ \$4,000) dealing machine is used for board dealing. Packs of cards are loaded into a hopper and the machine optically reads and sorts these through a set of gates into the board cartridges that end up on your table. The dealing machine is controlled by a software app called '**Dealer 4**'.

Until two or so months ago, a separate app '**DealMaster Pro**' (DMPPro) was used to randomly generate the set of hands for each session (called the 'deal file'). This was loaded into the dealing machine for dealing. For some special events, e.g. AustraliaWide and NationWide Pairs, the deal file is generated elsewhere and downloaded to Dealer 4 from the internet.

Unfortunately, the DMPPro app failed during March, its founder had died last year and the new UK owner has still not responded to our email for help. Catastrophically, it seemed initially that we would be unable to generate any pre-dealt boards and hand records until DMPPro was fixed or replaced.

Fortuitously Paul Lavings told us that deal files can be generated through the Dealer 4 app itself, independently of DMPPro, and we were able to recover without any loss of service. It did require some lessons and practice to bring our card dealers up to speed on the modified procedure.

A big thank-you to the card-dealing team: Margaret, Robin, Jean, Pam, Nick, Denis, Peter, Philip and Margaret. And for Pizza Sundays: Pam, Bill, Geoff and Dot.

Computer Scoring

For some decades, GBC has used the app **ASE Scorer** to manage movements and computer scoring. ASE Scorer was developed by Ian McKinnon. It was no longer being supported and therefore had become an operational risk for the Club. To redress this, the Committee decided to switch to a different scoring package, **Compscore**, which was commissioned in July 2021.

Compscore is used by many clubs, congresses and national events around Australia. GBC has purchased the Compscore2 version and expects to soon upgrade to a newer version Compscore3, which is being used already by Ocean Grove and Torquay Bridge Clubs.

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From the Office *continued from previous page*

Compscore manages the particular movement determined by the director of the event, receives contract and player details from each table and scores the overall event. The package comes with a vast array of possible movements but even so we have found it necessary to write and install templates for a few movements used at GBC but not already in Compscore e.g. 12-table revenge and 7.5 table switch rover (2 board sit-out) events. Also a few movements in Compscore are different to the ASE Scorer versions, so new table guide-cards had to be prepared where required e.g. Interwoven Howells.

There has been a big learning curve for all directors even for standard Duplicate events but especially so in situations such as multi-session pairs and teams events where Compscore methodology differs markedly from ASE Scorer. Guide sheets and training sessions have been provided for directors.

A big thank-you to the directing team: Anne, Marion, Mike, John W, Arthur, John P, David and occasionally Terry, Sue, Douglas, Denny and Gary. And for Pizza Sundays: Pam, Bill, Geoff and Dot.

Bridgemate Server

This small white box is the 'nerve-centre' of the scoring communication system, connected by cable to the scoring computer with the Compscore 2 app and wirelessly to each Bridgemate on the playing tables. Contract and player information is entered at the table, collected in the server and then imported to Compscore2.

When Laurie Kelso did some director training at GBC recently, he noticed that our 8-year-old server was defective. As a result, the club bought a new server (cost ~ \$260) to secure our necessary operations. The old server has been recommissioned and is now available as a back-up for GBC and neighbouring clubs should the need arise.

Web-site

The GBC web-site has been hosted at www.bridge-club.org for many years and is used mainly for results, on-line entry to selected events and general information and documents. GBC also uses Pianola to manage the members' database, subscription renewals and emails to members.

There are other web-hosting services available, including Altosoft (linked to Compscore), Pianola and BridgeWeb which the Committee has looked at from time to time. However members are accustomed to the current web-site and any change would be onerous.

Maureen Peck has volunteered to lead an upgrade of the current web-site to modernise its appearance through a superior customised web version, still hosted by bridge-club.org. The underlying functionality for results will be preserved. The new web-site should be available later in the year. Thank you Maureen.

Mike Stokie

(A big thank you to Michelle Stokie for the really impressive photo, both the subject and her photographic technique. Editor)

Checkback

What is it and why do I need it?

This is a method which allows one to proceed with clarity and confidence after opener rebids 1NT. Consider 1S-1NT-2H and 1S-1NT-3H. Which one is forcing to game, which one is invitational and which one can be passed? It is impossible to fit 3 meanings into 2 bids so playing without some form of checkback just isn't possible! If you want partner to know whether you are weak, invitational or game forcing you need some kind of checkback! Looking at partner's body language or noticing hesitations is an easy substitute but is illegal. You might just think it is 'psychology' but it's cheating! A proper method is needed.

How is it done?

Historically, there was a method invented by Eric Crowhurst and, unsurprisingly, called 'Crowhurst'. It has passed into history and is a very unusual sighting nowadays. A more modern method is called '**new minor forcing**'. There are several versions of it which differ in the definition of how forcing a sequence is. Note that the lack of a single definition leads to dangerous misunderstandings. The best method comes with a clutch of names such as:

- 2 way checkback (2wcb) because there are 2 things to remember;
- 3 way checkback (3wcb) which is almost identical to 2wcb but has 3 things to remember;
- 2 way new minor forcing which is essentially the same as 2wcb; and
- XYN which is meant to represent two 1 level suit bids followed by 1NT as in 1X-1Y-1N or 1C-1S-1NT.

I will use the name XYN but if you call it 2wcb or 3wcb, you will not have any problems. Why did I settle on XYN? There is a wonderful convention called XYZ which is just the slightest extension of XYN because it applies after any 3 bids at the 1 level and the third one doesn't have to be 1NT. Every expert pair playing a natural system (almost all of them do this) plays XYZ and it is close to indispensable. Playing XYN and calling it that will enable you to change to XYZ easily later. I will write about it in the future!

One aside: I hear people saying "experts may play that, but we are not experts so we will not play it." This is a silly point of view. It assures you of staying exactly where you are in the pecking order. This convention is simple and will markedly improve your bidding by replacing guesswork with a mechanical method!

This is XYN

The XYN bid is responder's rebid after three bids at the one level with the third one being 1NT. The arrangement is simple and the 3 things to remember are underlined:

2C forces a 2D rebid and responder's next bid is exactly invitational. 2C means this even if opener opened 1C;

2D is an artificial game force and the auction continues naturally but must reach game. 2D means this even if opener opened 1D. Two of a major is passable and is less than invitational;

2NT forces 3C.

All jumps to the 3 level are game forcing and promise 5-5 if in a new suit and 6+cards usually 7+cards) if a rebid of a suit.

Continued next page

What is the difference between a game force via a jump and one via 2D? Shape! Going via 2D denies being 5-5 or better in two suits and denies a 7 card one-suited hand or a 6 card one-suited hand where the suit needs real support for slam. Let us examine some auctions without fits.

1C-1S-1N-2S shows less than invitational values with a one suited hand (5+). Opener will pass.

1C-1S-1N-2H shows less than invitational values with 5+spades and 4+hearts. Opener will pass or prefer 2S.

1C-1S-1N-2C-2D-2S shows an exactly invitational hand with 5+spades.

Notice that the invite is refused by passing 2S, so you play 2S or 4S but never 3S.

1C-1S-1N-2C-2D-2H shows an exactly invitational hand with 5+spades and 4+hearts.

Again, the invite is refused by passing 2H or giving preference to 2S and accepted by bidding 4H or 4S. You play 2H/S or 4H/S and never 3H/S.

1C-1S-1N-2C-2D-2N shows an exactly invitational hand with 4 spades and less than 4 hearts. You must not forget this sequence!

1C-1S-1N-2D-2H-2S responder's artificial 2D bid made this auction game forcing then opener showed 4 hearts and responder showed 5+spades and denied a heart fit. The auction will continue to 4H, 4S or 3NT if there is no major fit.

1C-1S-1N-2D-2H-2N responder's artificial 2D bid made this auction game forcing then opener showed a flat hand 43xx or 42xx.

Some important sequences

1H-1S-1N-3S this jump is forcing to game (FG), sets spades, and wants to employ the partnership's slam methods.

1H-1S-1N-3H this jump is FG, sets hearts, and wants to employ the partnership's slam methods.

1H-1S-1N-2D-2S is FG but spades are not set unless opener shows some support.

1H-1S-1N-3D is FG and the auction continues naturally. Opener might agree spades with 3S or diamonds with 4D or bid 3NT or bid 3H to show worry about clubs (can't have 6 hearts after rebidding 1NT).

There are two tricky auctions

These both take care of things that you already do but can't bid properly. Suppose you hold a weak (i.e. less than invitational) hand, say 8 hcp, with a 4126 shape and partner opens 1D, what do you do? You respond 1S of course and partner rebids 1NT and you have no sensible bid because 2C is probably forcing for you and, if you bid 2C, partner will expect 5+S and 4+C (because you would pass 1NT with 4 of both) and prefer spades to clubs.

This method, XYN, gives you a way out.

1D-1S-1N-2N-3C-P remember responder's 2NT rebid is a puppet to 3C just to get rid of this problem hand.

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The other problem is the 4162 hand of, say, 8 hcp when partner opens 1C. Someone has told you to bid majors before minors with these hands because major fits are important! This approach is often called 'Walsh'. (*No relation in case you are wondering—Editor*). Again, XYN gives you a sensible way to handle this hand.

1C-1S-1N-2C-2D-P lets you make the 2C puppet to 2D but sneakily you don't make a next bid to handle this weak hand nicely!

Oddities

1D-1H-1N-2S is strange. Opener has denied 4 spades so, to make it worth showing them, responder must have 5. Responder's first bid is 1S with 55xx so this sequence must be 56xx and less than invitational values.

Summary

This is an easy convention to learn and it only applies to responder's second bid after opener rebids 1NT. Just remember what 2C, 2D and 2NT rebids are and you can work everything else out. This is an indispensable convention since it provides weak, invitational and game forcing bids over a 1NT rebid by opener. Importantly, it lets invites be refused at the 2 level.

If you later progress from XYN to XYZ, then this becomes true for all auctions starting with 3 bids at the one level.

Douglas Newlands

Coming Up

Club and Regional Events

Friday 29 April and 6 May	Helen Drinnan Teams (Gold Point, GNOT qualifier)
Friday 13 May	Helen Drinnan Teams (Final)
Sunday 22 May	Geelong Region GNOT Final
Thursday 26 May	Australia-Wide Novice Pairs <100 MPs
Friday 27 May and 3 June	Swiss Pairs
Sunday 29 May	Pizza Sunday
Saturday 25 June	Geelong Congress (Pairs)
Sunday 26 June	Geelong Congress (Teams)

State and National Events

Saturday 7 May	Victorian Restricted Pairs (at VBA)
Saturday and Sunday 14-15 May	Victorian Women's and Seniors Butler Finals
Saturday and Sunday 28-29 May	Bendigo Congress
Friday-Sunday 3-5 June	Moonee Valley Congress

Ears, Your Ears. Listen to the Bidding.

One of the most important senses you have in bridge is your Ears/Eyes. How often do you play against a pair, when one member bids a suit, and the other member leads something else? I'm not talking about an obvious lead like KQJ of a side suit, but a non-lead of partner's suit, especially when partner has overcalled. (If you don't want partner to lead your suit, why overcall, unless you have at least an opening hand?)

No, I'm talking about what partner is telling you, and what you can infer from the bidding. Here are two examples from Pizza night, with anonymous players.

Hand 1. The bidding starts 1S from Partner (N), 3D from E, 3H from you, P, 4D from Partner. What is going on? Obviously this is a game going bid, but, here is a Quiz. If Partner had bid: 3S/3N/4C/4H/4S, what would each bid have meant? Think about it, before I reveal the answers.

3S: I am forced to bid, but I don't have 3 Hearts, I don't have a Diamond stopper, I might have only 5 Spades, up to you partner. (You also bid this in case Partner has a Diamond stopper).

3N: No great fit with Hearts, I have at least one good stopper in Diamonds.

4C: No Heart fit, no Diamond stopper, probably 5/5 in the Blacks, but might be only 5/4.

4H/4S to play.

So what is 4D? What is partner trying to tell you? Why bid their suit? To any strong player, it is obvious. A singleton in Diamonds, and at least 3 card support for Hearts!!! Unlocking a shortage in the opponent's suit is the pathway to slam bidding, failure to do so in reasonable strength hands denies a control!!

So here is your hand:



Are you interested in slam? Bid 4N (the suit is Hearts).

Partner's hand:



6H was cold. If partner had bid 4H, you may have tried an Ace ask, but you would never know about the Diamond shortage. Listen to what your partner is telling you!!!

Continued next page

Ears, your Ears *continued from previous page.*

Now listen to the opponents' bidding!

A second hand from Pizza night. Your RH opponent opens 3H. You hold (not a great holding on the bidding):



Rightly or wrongly, you bid 4C. LH opponent bids 4H, Partner bids 5C, RH bids 5H, partner reluctantly bids 6C?? You receive the QH lead (luckily, because a Diamond lead kills the contract). Here are your two hands:



Not a great contract, but it might make on that lead. First error: do not ruff the losing Heart!! This will never go away. Concentrate on the Club suit. What do your ears tell you about the Club suit? Who is more likely to have 3Cs (including the QC) on the bidding? It doesn't matter if they are 2/1, but you need to avoid losing a Club trick! So at trick 2, the correct play is KC. After you pick up QC, you play on Spades, set up the long Spades, and enter Dummy via a Heart ruff. 6C made! Listening to the bidding was the secret to making 6C (I know, a Diamond lead would defeat it). You have to take your chances when they arise, but listening to the bidding is an important skill to have!

Arthur Robbins

Consider holding this recent hand, as South, and hearing the accompanying auction (with silent opponents) where 2H shows 11+HCP:

♠ KQ975	S	N
♥ -	1S	2H
♦ AK1075	3D	4NT
♣ K102	?	

So, using 1430 RKC, are you bidding 5C, 5H or 5S? Make up your mind before reading on. Are Hearts trumps so you need to bid 5C with one keycard? Are Diamonds trumps so you need to bid 5H showing two keycards but no QD? Are Spades trumps so you need to bid 5S showing two keycards and the QS?

It's all a bit of a nightmare with three possible trump suits and three different responses. This conundrum reinforces that trumps must be set before using RKC. If you play 2/1 as game forcing then the auction should start:

1S-2H-3D-3S to set Spades;

1S-2H-3D-4D to set Diamonds; or

1S-2H-3D-3H to set Hearts.

If, like most, you play 2/1 is 11+ and forcing to 2NT then you must realise that after 1S-2H, opener has to rebid 2S, 2NT or 3H with a minimum. All other bids show non-minimum and the auction becomes instantly game forcing.

So, after a new suit (3D here), responder can bid 3S or 4D to agree that suit before using RKC on the next round. Similarly, a bid of 3H cannot be passed and RKC is for Hearts on the next round. If you think that 4NT in the above sequence is actually quantitative because no suit is agreed, when one might easily be, then you have my agreement.

Douglas Newlands

PIZZA SUNDAYS

The next Pizza Sunday is on

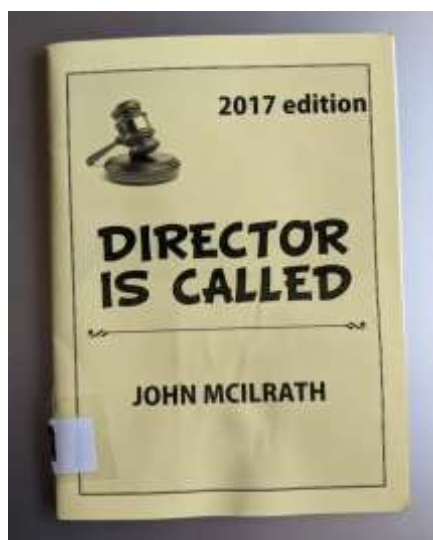
Sunday 29 May 2022

Please come along and join in the fun, but be sure to put your name on the list if you wish to attend.

Lessons

The next beginners lessons are starting on 03 October 2022.

Members are encouraged to take a flyer to give to their friends.



Book Review

This might seem a strange book (booklet, really) to recommend to members, but it is one of those publications that as Bridge players, we really need to read, understand and become very familiar with.

In the last issue of this newsletter, the **2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge** (the Laws) was presented. This book takes time and dedication to fully understand. It is written in legal terms, references other paragraphs, definitions and covers the field of the game of Bridge.

The book, **Director is Called**, by John McIlrath, doesn't seek to summarise the Laws. Instead, it is written with the Director in mind and focuses on the seven most common Director calls and points to the relevant Law that is the authority in each case.

I should put a caveat here. There is no substitute, or short cut, to understanding the laws of Bridge. If you are serious about learning Bridge, you need to know the Laws.

Most of us have experienced the Director being called to our table to adjudicate on a particular issue. The Director listens to the problem, then gives the options, if there are any, and the relevant player chooses between them. But in the middle of bidding or play it is hard to take in everything the Director is saying and we don't always make the right, or most advantageous, choice for our side.

Wouldn't it be good to be familiar with the most common calls and to understand how the Director comes to a decision and by what authority? This is what McIlrath seeks to do in this publication.

For example, Call Number 2— Lead out of Turn. Immediately McIlrath references the appropriate Law, in this case Law 54. He briefly uses an example to illustrate the issue — North is the Declarer but West incorrectly places a card face up, thinking he/she is on lead. McIlrath then summarises the options available that the Director should offer and briefly refers to variations of the lead out of turn. All done in one page.

Well, almost. There are eight appendices that provide a wealth of information, including table movements (Mitchell, Howell, etc) and comparable calls. This is one of those publications that will help all of us understand why the Director is called and it will help us to understand and accept their rulings.

Jennifer Blyton

A note from the editor

As the editor, I would like to encourage you all to pass on anything you think will be of interest to the members regarding the Bridge Club. Thanks again to those who contributed information and interesting articles for this edition. Contact the committee or me at jlbyton@gmail.com.

Jennifer Blyton