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GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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June 2022

From the President

While our President, Alan Blackburn, was away on holidays, the Vice President was called upon to be acting President. That would be me. It is a credit to Alan's presidency that, in his absence, the Club ran smoothly. There were no catastrophes and everyone just got on with the job in what has been a busy time of the year. My thanks to all those people who contribute behind the scenes, week in and week out, to make sure that Geelong Bridge Club (GBC) continues to be the well-organised club that it is. Marion Scambler and Harvey Webb, the other two members of the Executive Committee with Alan and me, deserve special mention for all the work they do behind the scenes to ensure that the club is an efficiently run organisation.

In April and May we have had the Mixed Pairs, Teams of Three, Helen Drinnan Teams, Geelong Region GNOT Final, Swiss Pairs and all the preparation for the Geelong Congress on 25-26 June, which is a major event in our calendar. Special thanks to Mike Stokie, Piyush Jain, Denny Newland and all the helpers who make these events the success they always are. Ali Neunhoffer and her House Committee team, as usual, have done a fine job.

At the Regional and State level, there were the Western Region Friendly Teams at Ocean Grove, a number of Club congresses, including the Bendigo Congress (in which the GBC team of Kirsten and Gavin Bailey, Richard Lawrie and Douglas Newlands came first). Go team! The Victorian Open Team Playoff, the Victorian Restricted and Open Pairs, the Victorian Women's Team Butler Final and the Victorian Senior Teams Final were also held in May and all had GBC representation. In the following pages there is more information on some of these events.

At GBC we try to cater for players of all levels. Whether you aspire to play at a State and/or National level, or just want to have some fun and make new friends, GBC has Bridge sessions that will suit you. For those newer players who have just come through the classes with Dot and Geoff Read (massive effort Dot and Geoff!), welcome to a game that will continue to give you pleasure (with a little bit of pain thrown in just for contrast) for the rest of your life.

Jennifer Blyton
Vice President





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Club Results

Mixed Pairs Mondays 4, 11 April

1st	V.Temple, T.Johnston
2nd	D.Clarke, M.Clarke
3rd	D.Newland, P.Jain

Teams of Three Wednesday 13 April

1st	A.Robbins, B.Fitzpatrick, S.Duff, V.Sercombe
2nd	R.Gillard, J.Johnstone, D.Peacock, D.Read
3rd	D.Newland, K.Graham, S.Irwin, T.Johnston

Western Region Friendly Teams Saturday 10 April

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

Helen Drinnan Teams Fridays 29 April, 6 and 13 May

1st	A.Robbins, G.Ridgway, D.Newlands, D.Newland
2nd	P.Jones, B.Jones, S.Duff, S.Robinson
3rd	J.Johnstone, D.Peacock, K.Graham, S.Irwin

Geelong Region GNOT Final Sunday 22 May

1st	D.Newland, S.Lester, A.Robbins, D.Newlands
2nd	J.Johnstone, D.Peacock, R.Lawrie, S.Irwin
3rd	B.Jones, P.Jones, S.Duff, S.Robinson

Australia Wide Novice Pairs (Club result) Thursday 26 May

1st	B.Rowley, R.Thornton
2nd	S.Strong, D.Strong
3rd	P.Cristina, D.Shandley

Swiss Pairs Fridays 27 May and 3 June

1st	A.Robbins, G.Ridgway
2nd	D.Newland, S.Lester
3rd	W.Dennis, C.Bowman

HIGH SCORES

Apr	P.Jain, G.Ridgway	68.6%
May	A.Robbins, D.Newlands	75.5%

A Bumper Crop!



Graduation Evening

It was good to see so many members of the club willing to give up their evening to help beginners. One newbie came to me later and told me he couldn't believe he passed on a 2C opening bid! (I'm sure Geoff Chettle has never had a partner not open with so many points before!) I think a lot of them now realise they do have to make the effort to learn the basics. Thank you to those who made the sandwiches which were enjoyed by all.

I think the evening has motivated a lot of them to continue with their bridge and I am looking forward to seeing many on Thursday evenings for supervised play.

Dot Read

(A huge thank you to Dot and Geoff for taking three sets of students through to graduation all at the same time. The amount of time and effort that goes into making the classes a success is a huge credit to them. Editor)

From the Treasurer

This financial year has seen a significant level of capital expenditure. The car park project has been completed at a total cost of \$235,000. This project was only possible with funding of \$153,000 from the City of Greater Geelong (CoGG). Not only has the car park been upgraded and expanded, but serious safety issues have been addressed as well.

The clubrooms have also received attention, for a total outlay of over \$12,000. The exterior was repainted in October and the carpet replaced in February.

Despite these expenditures, the club remains in a very healthy financial state. I would expect cash reserves in excess of \$110,000 at financial year-end. The club owns its own premises and is debt free.

A first draft of the budget for the next financial year has been prepared but not yet discussed at committee level. Suffice to say that given more normal conditions, a return to an operating surplus is anticipated.

Harvey Webb
02/07/2022

Bendigo Bridge Club Congress



Geelong Bridge Club was very successfully represented at the recent Bendigo Bridge Club Congress held over the weekend of 28-29 May.

The Teams section on the Sunday was won by the Lawrie team, consisting of Richard Lawrie, Douglas Newlands, Gavin and Kirsten Bailey. Not far behind them in 4th place was the Johnstone team of Jenny Johnstone, Dot Peacock, Shannon Irwin and Alison Feiner. Well done all!

Joan Wilson Trophy Winners

Apr	G.Ridgway
May	S.Lester



The Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) is a major event in Australia in the ABF calendar. Sixty teams, by invitation only, participate in the finals, to be held in November in Brisbane this year.

The final for the selection of the Geelong team for GNOT was held on 22 May 2022. Six teams played off in the event which was won by the Newland team - Denny Newland, Stephen Lester, Arthur Robbins, Doug Newlands and Gary Ridgway.

Piyush Jain

Victorian Seniors and Women's Selections

On the weekend of 14-15 May, two teams represented Geelong Bridge Club. Denny Newland and Doug Newlands were to play in the Seniors, however they had to withdraw due to illness. This left Jenny Johnstone and Dot Peacock to fly the flag for our club in the Women's competition. They placed a creditable fifth on the day, against a strong field. Jenny pointed out this interesting hand. How would you bid and play it?

Board 16

<p>♠105 ♥K10943 ♦10982 ♣75</p>	<p>♠98762 ♥7 ♦5 ♣109863</p>
--	---

<p>♠AKQJ ♥J ♦AJ763 ♣AKJ</p>	<p>♠3 ♥AQ8652 ♦KQ4 ♣Q42</p>
---	---

	C	D	H	S	NT
N	6	1	-	6	1
S	6	1	-	6	1
E	-	-	2	-	-
W	-	-	2	-	-

I had a few attempts at it but kept on being left with two losing tricks. In frustration I handed it over to a slightly more experienced player. To see what that player could do with it, turn to page 17.

Geelong Bridge Club Car Park Opening

Councillor Peter Murrihy opened a new 64 space car park at the Geelong Bridge Club on Monday 9 May. The car park replaced an old 45 space car park that was constructed when the club first developed the site 40 years ago. The Council of Greater Geelong awarded the club a \$155,000 Infrastructure grant for the project, that being two thirds of total cost, with the club paying the remainder. The grant included the cost of landscaping the car park surrounds with native plants. Thanks go to all the members involved in the project, from submitting the grant application right through to the organisation of the opening and the continuing work being done on the garden surrounds.



Barrier Reef Congress 2022

This year's Barrier Reef Congress was held in Townsville and the Geelong team of Doug, Piyush, Gary and Denny (Arthur a late withdrawal) arrived in Townsville to an unprecedented wet week. Umbrellas, not sunscreen, were the order of the day!

The Teams events comprised of just over 200 players and the return of face to face bridge at a national tournament was a welcome sight. The Geelong contingent did well in the walk in pairs with Gary and Piyush third and Doug and Denny fifth.

The Open Teams returned an eleventh placing and the only trophy was a nice dose of Covid! This hand from the Teams found Gary and Piyush in fine form. It's nice when your partners bring home a grand.

West (Gary)

♠A74
♥J
♦AK63
♣AK742

East (Piyush)

♠J6
♥AKQ96543
♦8
♣103

Bidding

W	E
1C (precision)	1H
2C	3H
7H	

Denny Newland

NEW MEMBERS

The Geelong Bridge Club welcomes the following new and re-joining members:

P.Bowden	M.Henzi	P.McGrath	M.Sturrock
G.Casey	R.Keegan	C.Millar	S.Swander
M.Drutchinin	J.Laffan	E.Ogilvie	F.Thomas
A.Duthie	K.Lavelle	K.Peart	M.Thomas
D.Eban	J.Lehmann	L.Robinson	R.Thornton (aff)
G.Foard	J.Ling	J.Skeen	C.Walsh
M.Gdak	L.Madden	L.Skeen	A.Watson
B.Hayat	A.McCardel	B.Stewart	B.Lee

At the recent Victor Champion Cup (Pairs event) the following Board came up with an interesting end play. The contract was 4H by West, with EW having won the first eight tricks.

Board 24 Round 8

North	
♠ -	
♥ -	
♦ AQ64	
♣ 8	
West	East
♠ -	♠ 6
♥ 1073	♥ -
♦ 32	♦ 10975
♣ -	♣ -
South	
♠ -	
♥ J9	
♦ KJ	
♣ K	

Play by the leading team (NS Fruewith - Thompson), defending a 4H contract by EW. Declarer (W) has arrived at an end position with 5 cards remaining and requiring two tricks to make the contract. Declarer can lose two Diamonds and two trumps. Having won the previous trick, declarer is in an awkward position - trying to get two ruffs or end play South. Declarer (W) played a small Diamond from his hand towards four small in dummy. North took some time and ducked to South's JD. What should South play next?

He played KC, West ruffed, led another small Diamond and claimed (for a flat board). This end played South, who can only win one trump trick.

Note: If South, on winning trick 9, continues with another Diamond then Declarer is end played and South wins two trump tricks. Contract goes down for a gain of 12 IMPs to NS. This is a simple example of end play, that can be achieved by either side.

Gavin Bailey

Rank Promotions

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

Bronze Life	Bill Jones	Graduate	Ann Cadd
Silver National	George Del Papa		Judith Jenkins
Regional	Wendy Dennis		James Powell
	Kym Fraser		
	John Prowse		
Silver Local	Judy Munro		

Lies, Deceit and Larceny

Basic Technique for 3rd Hand at Trick 1 (T1)

Firstly, let us get some basic declarer play to T1 correct in our minds. Declarer's objective is to win the trick but keep the defenders unclear as to who holds the next important honour card in the suit. You have to learn to play these cards automatically.

♠743
♠5 led ♠Q played
♠AK6

Declarer must win with the ♠A leaving defenders in doubt as to who has the K. Playing the K makes it obvious you have the A since West wouldn't underlead the A in a trump contract and East would play the A at T1 if he had it. East is expected to play the Q from KQ and should never play K from KQ.

The above is contained in:-

Rule 1: with only touching honours, 3rd hand plays the lowest of touching honours.

Rule 2: with a higher honour which is not touching, play the higher honour e.g. AJ10, KJ10, K109, Q109 when dummy has no significant cards. When dummy has a significant honour card and partner has led 4th best (which promises the J or better), one can usually finesse safely. Now consider:

♠652
♠4 led ♠J played
♠KQ7

Declarer must win with the K to leave defenders in doubt as to who has the Q. Playing the Q makes it obvious you have the K since East would play the K at T1 if he had it (Rule 2). East is expected to play the J from QJ (Rule 1). He should never play Q from QJ since that contravenes Rule 1. Also consider:

♠762
♠5 led ♠10 played
♠AQJ

Declarer must win with the Q to leave defenders in doubt as to who has the J. Winning with the J makes it obvious you have the A and Q since East would play them at T1 if holding them. East is expected to play the 10 from J10 (Rule 1). East should never play J from J10 since it contravenes Rule 1. East has denied the A (Rule 2). Note that honour cards (like East's ♠10) are never attitude signals.

Lies

Despite the absolute correctness of Rule 1 and Rule 2 for the defenders, declarer can tell lies to good effect. Consider this hand:

Dealer North, None Vul, Teams

♠ AK1074	W	N	E	S
♥ AQ3		1S	P	1NT
♦ J6	P	3NT	all pass	
♣ KQ4				

♠ 93	♠ QJ62
♥ 108752	♥ K96
♦ K72	♦ AQ103
♣ 763	♣ 92

♠ 85
♥ J4
♦ 9854
♣ AJ1085

Continued on page 12

The annual Geelong Bridge Club (GBC) Congress was held on 25-26 June, after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Despite being hit with Covid withdrawals right up to the Saturday morning we had a most successful two days.

There were 48 pairs in the Open event and 10 pairs in the Restricted section. In the Teams event there were 19 Open teams and 2 Restricted.

GBC performed admirably especially Piyush Jain in the Open and Linda Lee in the Restricted.

Open Pairs:

1st: Piyush Jain, Geoff Chettle
6th: Stephen Lester, Denny Newland

Restricted Pairs:

1st: Linda Lee, Jennifer Blyton
2nd: Wendy Dennis, Catherine Bowman
3rd: Alan Blackburn, Kathy Thomas

Open Teams:

1st: Lester - Stephen Lester Denny Newland Arthur Robbins Douglas Newlands
2nd: Jain - Piyush Jain Gary Ridgeway Mike Stokie Roger Gillard
7th: Johnstone - Jenny Johnstone, Dot Peacock, Shannon Irwin, Kathryn Graham

Restricted Teams:

1st: Blackburn - Alan Blackburn, Kathy Thomas, Sue Taylor, Linda Lee



Denny Newland



Left: Ali Neunhoffer and her House Committee as well as numerous helpers were essential in making the Congress a very successful event.

Left: Director Martin Wilcox and his Director's Assistant, Becca.

West leads the 5H and you have 8 top tricks. How will you play? You need a 2nd heart trick so it's clear to finesse and you let it run round to the J. Unlucky, it's offside and East switches to a small diamond and puts you one off. Was it unlucky or was it bad play? Playing a small heart from dummy makes it clear you have the JH and forces E to find a switch. Play the QH at T1 and E will play his partner for JH and return one! Perhaps defenders shouldn't lead 4th best from a worthless suit but declarer should certainly make the opponents pay for playing a dubious leading method!

Deceit

Dealer South, None Vul, Teams

♠ A7		W	N	E	S
♥ 96					1NT
♦ Q1043		P	3NT	all pass	
♣ AQ103					
♠ J10965	♠ 843				
♥ A1052	♥ KQ4				
♦ K8	♦ 752				
♣ 85	♣ 9742				
♠ KQ2					
♥ J83					
♦ AJ96					
♣ KJ6					

West leads the JS and you have 8 top tricks but will make 11 tricks if the diamond finesse wins. East will play the 3S which is attitude saying "don't play this suit"! Unfortunately, the diamond finesse is failing and you are going off. Unless...well, are you getting the knack yet? You know hearts are your weakness but West doesn't. Can you deceive West and make spades look like your weakness? Win the AS at T1 and drop the Q looking like you hold KQ doubleton. So, after winning the KD, West will continue spades while he still has his AH as a late entry.

Larceny

Dealer South, None Vul, Teams

♠ Q62		W	N	E	S
♥ 96					1NT
♦ Q1043		P	3NT	all pass	
♣ AQ103					
♠ K1083	♠ AJ97				
♥ K10752	♥ J83				
♦ K8	♦ 75				
♣ 85	♣ 9742				
♠ 85					
♥ AQ4					
♦ AJ962					
♣ KJ6					

West leads the 5H and you have 7 top tricks. All will be OK if the diamond finesse succeeds. QH beats the JH and declarer leads a sneaky 6C to the Q and then leads the QD and runs it. Unlucky, it's offside and the contract is 1 down. Was it bad luck or bad play? When West wins the KD, it is clear who has the AH (Rule 2 says E doesn't have it!), so West is forced to switch to spades and beat you. Suppose you, deceitfully, win T1 with the A. Who will West think has the Q? West will apply Rule 1 and play his partner for the QH and he will play a small H to his partner's Q! Unfortunate for EW but delicious for declarer. Larceny is wonderful!

Douglas Newlands

While you may make deceptive bids, intentionally or otherwise, so long as partner is not party to the deception, playing your cards in tempo, without reason to think, is really important. Trying to be deceptive in your play of your singleton is not part of the game, even though you really want to deceive the declarer!! (Btw, don't touch a card in your hand until it is your turn to play. At least one club member is well known for this!)

Playing a singleton is a most vexatious problem, whether it is to play a winner, as declarer, or to follow suit as a defender. Try to play in tempo (not really fast, nor really slow). The rules allow adjustments for playing out of tempo. **Variation of tempo** (i.e. hesitating to try to deceive) **is not part of the game!!**

Of course, the worst situation is when LHO hesitates on a singleton. The rules do allow for a score adjustment in some situations! In a recent game, declarer held a singleton KD, with AD in dummy. No reason to deliberate about which card to play. No haste, no long thought, just play in tempo! You have to play it, so no thought is needed. You don't have to rush, but you certainly should not tank! Learning to play in tempo is something players aspiring to play at a high level need to master. Beginners and less experienced players need to learn about it and incorporate it into their Bridge play.

The same goes for bidding. Watch the fast or slow raises! The cards you play, the bids you make, are the weapons of the game. Don't abuse them. Make sure you understand your methods! Don't make "slow bids" sometimes, and "fast bids" at other times (this can be a bit more difficult!). A slow bid in the passout seat is common (do we compete or not?) but this is not an indication of anything else than a desire to compete!

On another point, watch your hesitations, then make a pass. Try to assess the potential of your holding earlier. This will help you to assess the potential of your hand, and the ability to make a constructive bid. Remember, err on the side of being conservative, as partner can still bid. The rules give some protection to the opponents when partner tanks, then passes. You really need extras to bid on! You know partner has some values, after the hesitation.

Basic Rule: If you hesitate, find a bid!! Don't pass. If you don't have anything to think about, decide quickly!

Arthur Robbins

Coming Up

Club and Regional Events

Wednesday 6 and 13 July	Heidenfeld Teams
Friday 8 July	Duplicate Nationwide Pairs
Sunday 17 July	Western Victoria GNOT Pairs
Monday 18 and 25 July	Intermediate Teams
Friday 12, 19 and 26 August	Team of 4 Combo
Sunday 14 August	Western Region Friendly Pairs, Ballarat
Monday 29 August	Australia-Wide Pairs

The defence went awry in this hand in a club event. North-South had an effective auction that got to the right spot without giving anything away. West led the AH and took the 6H as showing natural count. Knowing there was a singleton in South's hand, West thought to try for a club ruff by playing two rounds of clubs. However, East played the 2C under the AS and West took that as discouraging. This left only diamonds to try and East won the KD but that was the end of the defence.

A lot has gone wrong with the defence here, so let us look at it more closely.

The standard expectation in signaling is attitude then count and then suit preference. This is normally interpreted to mean that when our side has made the first lead of any suit, if the third hand is not trying to win the trick, the card played is attitude about a continuation. Thus, when West led the AH, the 6H is an attempt to get West to continue the suit and implies holding a touching honour (or a doubleton and wanting a ruff).

Pairs, EW vul, Dealer East

<p>♠743 ♥8732 ♦A9 ♣QJ83</p>		<p>W N E S</p> <p>P 2S P 4S</p> <p>all pass</p>	
<p>♠9865 ♠10 ♥AK109 ♥Q654 ♦643 ♦K7 ♣A5 ♣K97642</p>			
<p>♠AKQJ2 ♥J ♦QJ10852 ♣10</p>			

After the play of the AC at trick two, the play of the 2C was an attitude signal again saying "don't play this suit". If West is not clear about what to do, partner has said to play hearts and not to play clubs and West should play another heart.

The problem is that West hasn't seen the setting trick and has fatuously gone looking for a club ruff. Look what happens on a heart continuation when declarer is forced to ruff. If he draws trumps, then when he loses the KD, the defenders will cash hearts. If he plays diamonds first, the defenders will play another heart and force declarer to ruff again and West's 9S becomes the setting trick.

As a general principle, the defenders should consider forcing declarer to use his long trumps to ruff when trumps are splitting badly (like 4-1 here). The Forcing Defence is a very strong defence and usually much better than looking for a ruff. When East signaled for a heart continuation, West should have been pleased to continue hearts both because the suit was good and trumps were breaking badly.

Douglas Newlands

Vale

Anne Garratt

16/12/1924–20/05/2022

It is with great sadness that we farewell a long-time member of the Club.



Brought up in Eastern Victoria, Anne trained as a school teacher, married and had four children, Kay, Heather, Ian and Bruce. Together they gave her eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren so far.

Heather said her mum was active in a number of sports during her life, including tennis, golf, bowls and bridge. She was also a devoted Mahjong player, conducting classes at U3A for a long time.

Anne had a number of bridge partners over the years and she embodied the qualities in a bridge player that we all should aspire to—respect for her partner, a welcoming smile to whoever sat down at her table, and a competitive streak not to be taken lightly.

Most recently, as a resident at Brentwood Nursing Home, she oversaw the graduation of one of the staff there, Fiona Thomas, into the wonderful world of Bridge.

Anne will be missed by all who knew her.



PIZZA SUNDAYS

The next Pizza Sunday is on
Sunday 31 July 2022.

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

Beginners Lessons

The next beginners lessons are
starting on

Monday 3 October 2022.

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

Partnership Methods

After play ended on Friday 3 June (the 2nd week of the Swiss Pairs), several players approached me with a bidding problem: **Board 22**.

Dlr: E, Vul: EW

♠ -	♠ Q6
♥ AQJT832	♥ -
♦ J842	♦ AT9765
♣ 76	♣ JT543
	♠ AJ9752
	♥ 94
	♦ KQ
	♣ KQ2
	♠ KT843
	♥ K765
	♦ 3
	♣ A98

What do you bid, holding - , AQJTxxx, J8xx, xx after partner opens 1S? This brings us to what methods you are using, having discussed and agreed them with your partner. But perhaps not with all of your partners?! Quite a few different approaches are possible, but you may be limited by some of your other methods, which might be more useful agreements. Here are some possibilities.

The Direct Method:

1S-4H (to play), works really well here, but it will not be frequent, and you need to define what type of hand it is, say 7/8 cards, only one honour missing, not much else. You cannot use this if normally this is a splinter bid!!! There are quite a few documented cases of pairs playing in a 1-1 fit because of a misunderstanding with this (it can't be a splinter, as I only have one, so partner must have forgotten).... Sorry, Nooo!

The Beginner's 1NT:

1S-1NT, I have 6-9 HCP, but less than 10HCP, so must keep the bidding alive and hope I get another chance to show my suit. Unfortunately, partner often passes -YUK!

Weak Jump Responses:

Some players already play 1C-2H, 1H-3D etc as a weak jump, non-forcing. These have their moments, especially if played very weak, (say 3-8 at favorable vulnerability, and the opponents have the majority of points), but that doesn't describe the playing strength of this hand. This method cannot be used if you are using the jump as a splinter.

Two Over One Bidders and Forcing No Trumps:

Works well here, as opener MUST bid again, and you can show your hand 1S-1N-2C/D-3H (timid) or 4H(preferable).

Acol Style (2 level bids occasionally as low as 8 HCP)

It means the bidding can start 1S-2H-2N-3H , playing this as non-forcing, a long suit but not the usual HCP. This is more frequent with the minors: 1S-2C-2D-3C (NF).

Whatever methods you decide on, make sure you both are familiar with them. I hope this will lead to fruitful discussion.

Arthur Robbins

Board 16 Solution—from page 5

It's not a great slam with one top loser and needing a finesse and it's difficult to imagine how anyone would reach it with one hand being valueless. It seems to me that 2C-2D-3D-3S-4S looks a plausible auction but the opponents might intervene leading to:

W	N	E	S
			2C
P	2D	2H	X
4H	4S	P	4NT
P	5D	P	6S

It still seems like a gross overbid by South!

Let's assume that the defence leads a heart and switches. There is no long suit in dummy on which to discard the JC from hand and there is no long suit in hand on which to discard three clubs on table. Thus you are committed to taking the club finesse and need the queen onside (or singleton offside).

So draw trumps in two rounds (or 3 rounds if necessary), cash the AC (to take care of the singleton QC offside) then AD and a diamond ruff to reach table. Now, finesse the JC then play the king dropping the queen and dummy is good.

The only complication is if clubs are 0-4 and West shows out on the AC: just follow the above line and, when the QC doesn't fall under the king, ruff a second diamond to reach the table and lead the 10C. When it is covered, ruff and dummy is then good with an entry via the third diamond ruff.

Certainly, you can play to just ruff up diamonds as the cards lie but they might split badly and never become set up and you have wasted the entries via diamond ruffs and cannot then switch back to the good line. Setting up the diamonds never removes the need to take the club finesse, so why waste time - draw trumps and play the clubs.

Lastly, the club finesse is a 55% proposition (onside 50% of the time and singleton offside just a little over 5% of the time). Playing the AKC to try to drop a doubleton queen is a 32% chance (2/5 of 68% [3-2 split] plus 1/5 of 28% [4-1 split]). If you don't like the maths just consider the position after you cash the AC. There are 3 clubs missing and the queen is going to be in the doubleton two thirds of the time and won't drop under the king. Only one third of the time is the queen a singleton and going to drop under the king. The drop is a silly line succeeding only 32% of the time while the finessing line succeeds 55% of the time.

(Thanks to Jenny Johnstone for supplying the Board and Douglas Newlands for the correct solution. Editor)

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

Vale: Elwyn (Leslie) Clark-Samuels

21 May 1935 - 8 May 2022

In May 2022 we lost one of the stalwarts of the Geelong Bridge Club. Leslie was born in North Queensland and educated at Brisbane Girls Grammar. She married Neil Samuels in 1958 and they had two boys, Ian and Steve. They moved to the Geelong region when Neil began work with Alcoa. Leslie had a number of interests including philosophy, oil painting and she was a voracious reader of crime fiction, especially during the Covid lockdown. She represented Australia in Paris at an International Conference of Inner Wheel of Rotary countries and became Chairman of District A60 (all Victoria).



*Shannon Irwin spoke beautifully at Leslie's funeral.
Here's what she said. Editor*

I feel honoured to be able to talk to you about Lesley's Bridge life, but I don't really feel qualified to speak to you on behalf of the Geelong Bridge Club as I have only known Lesley a mere 20 years, whereas many others have been playing with her for over 40!

Looking back at her Bridge playing days I found that she began playing the game when she was a teenager, so it was something that was with her throughout her adult life. And she took pleasure in sharing her love of the game, always welcoming new players and generously giving help on bidding and play.

Lesley was Treasurer of the Club from 1987-1999. I'm told she was fastidious in the role and always presented her Treasurer's report in beautiful handwriting. She was quick witted and could work out numbers at lightning speed. Lesley also directed the Thursday afternoon sessions for many years and was very helpful and patient, mentoring Terry Johnston, John Walsh and myself when learning to become directors.

Lesley was an accomplished player, as shown on the Leaderboards in the Club. Over the years she features in the Ladies Championship in 1984, 1986, 2005 and 2011, Mixed Pairs in 2009 and 2012 and Open Teams in 2009 - quite a record!

She travelled to many places following her love of Bridge. Most notably, for many years she went to the Canberra Festival of Bridge. But perhaps her finest achievement was playing in the Victorian Women's Team with Gub Wilson. Gub fondly remembers them swimming in the hotel pool to get some gentle exercise in preparation for the Bridge marathon, with Lesley throwing back her head and laughing uproariously over a shared joke or two.

On a personal note I'd like to say I found Lesley one of the most open-minded and open-hearted people I have had the privilege to know and I shall miss her positivity and good humour.

Thanks Shannon.

Do you hate it when the opponents interrupt your plan to bid something constructive, after your partner has opened the bidding 1H or 1S, and your RHO butts in with 2NT (minors). You can of course just bid 3H/3S, but have you discussed whether your bid is forcing or not? Or do you just guess (often successfully, no doubt)? The “Unusual over Unusual” convention helps to sort this out.

So the bidding starts 1H/S-(2N). Responder systemically bids as follows:

3C= Forcing with the other major(5+)

3D= Good raise in opener's major (invitational or better, say 10+ and good support)

3M= Competitive raise in partner's suit (this allows you to compete, but it is strictly NF)

3OM= Good suit (usually 6+), but not forcing. It is constructive, not weak. It should be alerted because opener does not have to bid!!

How to use a double (X) is again up to the partnership. Some play it as - I have a penalty X of one of their suits. Others play it as - I have 4+ of the other major, <3 of opener's suit, and about 7 cards in the minors.

Like all conventions, it sometimes works really well, but it can lead to accidents, and needs to be well understood in the partnership.

Arthur Robbins

A Message from Seattle

Hi folks

Sorry to hear there don't seem too many committee members in town for the Congress - while we have a fine old time in Seattle . . .

Made it to bridge on Thursday, quite a different operation. The centre is a business owned and run by an individual (Nick). Sessions at 10.30 am on most weekdays, a Saturday pm session which attracts some high school students. Table fees are about A\$15 but that includes some snacks for lunch, even though there is no break for lunch.

Nick does everything. Leases the building, deals the boards, directs, calls in a partner on standby to avoid a half table if needed, cleans and provides the snacks. Fortunately this centre is about a ten minute drive from our house. Most of the others around Seattle failed during pandemic . . .

Cheers

David & Sue Strong





WESTERN REGION BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Friendly Pairs

Ballarat Bridge Club

1101 Eyre Street Ballarat

Sunday 14th August 2022

10am start - \$25 per player

Director: Martin Wilcox

Entries via:

Email: ballaratbridgeclub@bigpond.com

Website: www.ballaratbridgeclub.com

BYO lunch. Morning & afternoon refreshments provided. Drinks & nibbles at completion of play.