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## **GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

March 2023

#### From the President

Welcome one and all to 2023 at GBC. Hopefully there appears to be some light that increasing numbers are beginning to return on our playing days. I'm asking those members who are already playing regularly to speak to and encourage those who they know have concerns about returning, to come along and see how comfortable they may be.

In recent weeks a Directors' meeting was held and a report written by Mike Stokie has been distributed to all members. If you have not already read it, I would encourage you to do so as it deals with a major issue facing the Club. This report is yet to be ratified by the Committee but once this is done, the expectation of the committee and directors will be that some members take a less confrontational approach towards other players/partners using our Etiquette and Conduct policy as a guideline for members' behaviour.

When looking around our grounds at present it's very pleasing to see the developing trees and shrubs that surround our car park and especially the red crepe-myrtles in front of the building. A big thank you needs to go to the members who designed and organised these plantings along with the reconstructed car-park.

It's now being said that 'covid' is becoming part of normal life for the foreseeable future, and, unfortunately I agree with this comment. The Government's official isolation recommendation is for 5 days after testing positive. However, most medical experts in this field that I have read or listened to, prefer to say people should isolate for seven and even up to ten days. Given that GBC caters largely to an older group of people, several of whom have additional medical complications, let me ask that members who test positive or suspect that they may have covid, judiciously decide when to return to play, given the cohort of fellow members.

In the coming weeks the Committee is planning to distribute a survey seeking members' opinions on a number of issues that seem to have mixed responses when being discussed. The aim is to achieve a clearer indication of how members feel towards the various issues.

Continued next page

#### From the President continued from previous page

Finally let me thank all those who contribute to the running of the club whether it be large or small. As Confucious says - " Many hands make light work!!!!" PS maybe a bulb would help - did he have bulbs in his days?

John Walsh



#### **HIGH SCORES**

Dec	G Chettle P Jain	74.31
Jan	J Johnstone G Del Papa	68.02

#### PIZZA SUNDAYS

The next Pizza Sunday is on

Sunday 26 March at 4pm

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

Joan Wilson
Trophy Winners

Dec Douglas Newlands
Jan Chris Dodgshun

#### **Rank Promotions**

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

Graduate	J Pinto	
Club	L Whittle	
Bronze Local	T McCullough	
State	L Frankenburg	
National	J Breguet	

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

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

M Snow (aff) P Addison

M Benny P Harrison

J Seljak M Fredericks

S Swift

## **Club Results**



# Swiss Teams Monday 5 December 2022

!st	D Peacock, J Williams M Scambler, A Neunhoffer
2nd	A Robbins, P Jain, J Lehmann, L Lee
3rd	M Barrett, V Temple, L & P Young

## Nationwide Pairs Friday 16 December 2022

1st	A Robbins, D Newlands
2nd	A Gunst, A Feiner
3rd	T Frost, M Glover

## Mixed Pairs Monday 23, 30 January

1st	G Bailey, K Bailey
2nd	M Stokie, G Wilson
3rd	V Temple, T Johnston

# Restricted Pairs Thursday 9, 16 February

1st	K Thomas, A Blackburn
2nd	J Prowse, D Casey
3rd	M Doyle, G Barfoot

## Western Region Pairs Saturday 4 February

1st	M Stokie, R Gillard
2nd	G Del Papa, G Topfner
3rd	S Irwin, L Frankenburg

## Western Region Teams Sunday 5 February

1st	S Lester, D Newland, D Newlands, A Robbins
2nd	P Jain, G Chettle, R Gillard, M Stokie
3rd	S Irwin, K Graham, B Fitzpatrick, V Sercombe



The Western Region Event for 2023 was extremely successful—we had thirty-two pairs on the Saturday and fourteen teams on the Sunday. It was lovely to have people from outside of Geelong attend as well, from Ballarat, Warrnambool and Ocean Grove. Thanks to everyone who participated and made it a very friendly and enjoyable weekend of bridge.

It was also very pleasant to end each day with drinks and nibbles to socialise and go over some of the hands and work out where we did the right thing and where mistakes were made - all part of bridge !!!

I would like to thank the people who helped tidy and clean up on the Sunday. Their help was much appreciated.

Our next Western Region event will be at the Ocean Grove Bridge Club. The Friendly Teams on Sunday 16 April. We hope many of you will be able to come.

The winners in the Pairs played on the Saturday were:



1st: R Gillard, M Stokie



2nd: G Topfner, G Del Papa

The Teams winners on the Sunday were:



1st: D Newlands, D.Newland, A Robbins,

S Lester (not shown)



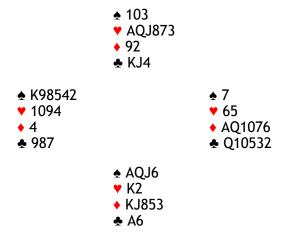
2nd: G Chettle, M Stokie, P Jain, R Gillard (not shown)

Jenny Johnstone - President - WRBA

## An Expert at Work

We are fortunate to have Stephen Lester as a member of our club, as he has represented both Australia and New Zealand. In the afternoon session of the Western Region Teams there were four slam hands NS and Stephen bid every one of them. They earned us a bag full of IMPs, as they were not bid at the other tables, though one went off in a grand slam when only 12 tricks were available.

Bd: 23

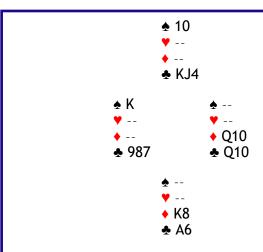


Having landed in 6NT by South on this hand after South opens a strong club, how would you go about the play? The auction:

West	North	East	South
			1C <sup>1</sup>
2S <sup>2</sup>	3H	pass	$3S^3$
Pass	4C <sup>3</sup>	pass	4NT <sup>4</sup>
Pass	5C <sup>5</sup>	pass	6NT
All pass			

- 1. 16+ HCP, any shape
- 2. Weak jump overcall
- 3. Cuebids
- 4. Key Card for hearts
- 5. 1 or 4 controls

West led 4D, won with the ace and a diamond was returned. The diamond finesse had to be taken, so Stephen inserted JD and West showed out. West's 2S bid meant East had a singleton spade and five diamonds. Thinking far ahead, Stephen cashed AS after considerable thought. He then cashed KH, crossed to dummy and ran all the hearts. On the third heart, East threw a club, confirming her shape as 1-2-5-5, while West's shape was 6-3-1-3. Stephen threw all his spades and came down to the following ending, with the lead in the North hand:



East had been feeling the pressure on the run of the hearts, and came down to a doubleton QC (the other choice was unguarding diamonds). Stephen crossed back to hand with AC and cashed KC, on which West threw a club (she had to keep KS else the 10S would be a trick).

Stephen could now discard dummy's 10S, as it had done its job in squeezing West down to two clubs. Knowing clubs were now 2-2 in the opponents' hands, Stephen could go up with KC, dropping East's queen, certain that this was 100% guaranteed to bring down the queen. Masterful play!

**Denny Newland** 

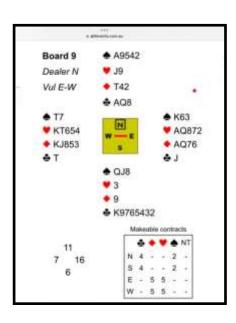
#### What Would You bid?

This hand has some interesting problems. North opens 1S and you look at your hand as South. What is best to bid here, holding Spade support and an 8 card suit. Points become slightly irrelevant when deciding what to bid. The options:

- 2S ... seems a little weak
- 2C ... unsystemic, for us anyway & could be misleading
- 3C ... unsystemic & misleading
- 35 ... OK, but doesn't show the value of the hand
- 4C ... whatever that means
- 4S ... at least in game but not a comfortable bid.

However East overcalls 2H & you have to rethink the options. 3C, 3S, 4C, or 4S. I chose 4S, but this concealed the Club suit. West raised in Hearts to the 5 level. What next? I weakened and passed out. Bidding 6C may lead partner to bid 6S!

What would you bid?



Gavin Bailey



Last week was the 61st anniversary of Australia's most popular national congress, the Surfers International. Held at the Convention Centre in busy Broadbeach, a mecca for young and old, the congress is a week of top class bridge incorporating all levels of skill.

On the first weekend, there are several shorter events, and the Rookie Pairs pits absolute beginners against players with very little experience - you must have very few Masterpoints. Local Ocean Grove member, Stella Jansen was at the Gold Coast, prepared to be part of the 'Bridge Companions' group (basically a euphemism for those whose spouses are playing, while the other half finds something to keep them occupied).

Stella enquired at the Hospitality Desk if there was somebody available to play bridge on the Sunday. Tournament organiser Kim Ellaway and her dedicated team put her together with Daria Dalley. Daria is the young wife of the eventual winner of the prestigious teams event, the Open Teams. She had never played bridge before, but after having seen and heard what her husband does with his time, she was prepared to give it a go.

## **2023 Gold Coast Congress**

Stella came up to me quite excited after their first session. "She's never played before, but she's really good, I'm having a great time!" In the event, Stella and Daria won by 3% over the rest of the field with a 63% game.

Board 6 Dealer: E Vul: EW



Sitting East-West on the deal above, good bidding and stunning declarer play gave Stella and Daria a top (99%) board. Stella was East, the bidding was p p 1C p 1D p 1S all pass (they stole the contract), then West made 10 tricks on spades for a 99% board. I watched a NS pair in 4S go 4 down,-400.

### Stephen Lester

(Stephen Lester is the Editor of the Welcome Bulletin and nine Daily Bulletins published during the 2023 Gold Coast Congress. You can find them at:

https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/306#program

Or just go to the ABF website, click on Events, choose the 2023 Gold Coast Congress, then follow the prompts.

They contain a treasure trove of articles by a number of well-known players discussing Bridge in general, hands from the previous day's play and some interesting articles relevant to Bridge tragics. Editor)

It's Not What You say...

Why did you play that card?

Vs

WHY DID YOU PLAY THAT CARD!!!?
...It's How You Say It.

## Another Incorrect Play at Trick 1

#### You are sitting N, holding:

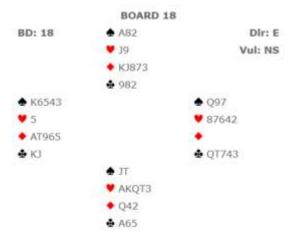
- ♠ A82
- ♥ 19
- ♦ KJ873
- ◆ 982

East opens the bidding with 2S, which showed 5/5 in Spades and Diamonds, or 5/5 in Hearts and Clubs. Partner, South, bids 3H, P from W and it's your bid. It looks like E has Spades and Diamonds, so I bid 3N. The Opening lead is 4C, and you see (remember, I am playing 3N from N):

- **★** A82
- **♥** J9
- ♦ KJ873
- ◆ 982
- **♦** JT
- ▼ AKQT3
- Q42
- ♣ A65

What to do? If I duck, I think West will win and return a Spade, and the South holding is tenuous at best, so I'm hoping Clubs will split 4/3. I won the AC, and played on Diamonds to set up my contract. WRONG. West unblocked the KC (ominous!!) and when I played on Diamonds, won the AD and returned the JC, I was 1 down. If I had ducked, West may have switched to a Spade, but the 8S becomes a second stopper! Bummer!!

The full hand: (Match 8 vs Team 8, Buchen)



What a filthy 2S opening by East! But it worked. At the other table, 3N by South made 11 tricks on a Diamond lead. Fortunately we still won the match.

**Arthur Robbins** 

## The Most Basic of Basics

An expert declarer has a wide range of techniques at their disposal including endplays and squeezes. These advanced techniques involve playing two or more suits in conjunction with each other to get extra chances. Before one aspires to such technical mastery, it is important to learn to play single suits to maximum benefit.

There are 3 guidelines to playing a single suit.

#### Use the honours in the short suit first.

Consider AK42 opposite Q53.

If one plays the AK first, then when one subsequently takes the Q, you are in the wrong hand to cash the last card in the suit when they fall 3-3. The first guideline stops you blocking the suit and being stuck in the wrong hand.

#### Lead small cards toward high cards.

Consider KQxx opposite Jxx

Assume the suit is not 3-3 since anyone can play the suit then and 3-3 occurs 36% of the time, whereas 4-2 occurs 48% of the time — much more often! The time we are trying to account for is when the Ace is doubleton. This is done by leading small to the king. If that holds, return to the other hand and lead small to the Queen. If the ace is doubleton onside then it will pop up on the first or second lead and  $3^{rd}$  hand can play small and win three tricks with the K, Q & J.

Notice that you cannot do this leading towards the J, because you can do that only once. If you duck the second round you look silly when you lose to the 10 and the suit was 3-3.

#### Try to leave a tenace available for the second round.

A tenace is two cards which offer a finesse. The most common position is K10xx opposite Qxxx.

One starts by playing small to the queen. If it wins then lead back towards the tenace and put in the 10. There is no point playing the king as you know fourth hand will win with the ace. On the previous trick 4<sup>th</sup> hand didn't beat the queen with the ace, so they don't hold it! If the queen loses to the ace, one must still lead towards the K10 and insert the 10.

Another common place where this occurs is in a trump holding of AJ42 opposite K653. One starts by playing small to the king and everyone follows. Now play small to towards the AJ and insert the J. I commonly see people putting up the ace but that is very wrong. After the first round there are 3 cards missing and if they are 4-1 we are going to lose 1 or 2 tricks but it is beyond our control. Therefore, we concentrate on when they are 2-1. The queen will be in the 2 card holding 2/3 of the time and be singleton 1/3 of the time. Playing the ace works only on that 1/3 of the time i.e. 36% whereas finessing for the queen wins half the time when it is onside, i.e. 50%. What do you want to try? The 36% chance or the 50% chance?

Perhaps we should look at it as a table of possible layouts of the Q and two small cards designated as x and y. There are 8 layouts:

	West	East
1	Qxy	-
2	Qx	У
3	Qy	Х
4	Q	ху
5	ху	Q
6	х	Qy
7	у	Qx
8	-	Qxy

So we play small to the A in South and we are going to lead the KJ in North. On item 4, both lines catch the queen and on items 6,7, 8 both lines fail so we can ignore them and look at the others. Only on item 5 does playing the ace win by dropping the queen. However, the finesse wins on items 2 and 3 and minimises the damage on item 1.Clearly, the finesse is much better than playing the ace in an attempt to drop the queen. It's not even close! If you want to play well you need to get these three things correct all the time!

\*\*Douglas Newlands\*\*

### Seen in a Park in Columbia

Our grandsons are now keen bridge players (tho' still beginners) and with their parents are travelling in Colombia. Christmas decorations are not always very Christmassy but often beautiful. They were much taken by the four Aces and the Queen of Hearts in a park in San Gil, a display with an Alice in Wonderland theme.

Looks like my daughter was taking the photo with the boys and their father between the displays. The cards often come out while waiting for food to arrive in the restaurant. It cuts down on the amount of time spent on electronic devices!





#### The Black card aka XX = Redouble

In the December 2022 newsletter, Douglas Newlands explained how the redouble can be used. Here's another take on that same little ole black card. (Editor)

Interestingly I pulled the redouble card the other day and the opponents wondered what it was! The considered explanation was given and seemed a little confusing to the opponents, so I thought a few words of explanation may be useful, and perhaps even helpful for future reference.

The redouble (XX) card in the bidding box aka the "black card" has various uses and implications. It can be used as a defensive instrument or an offensive bid or sometimes even a confusing bid (just ask Denny).

For our partnership agreement we use XX in a number of ways:

- 1. If partner bids and the opponent doubles, then XX shows values, i.e. this should be our hand partner, as you opened and I am showing you 10+ points and denying a fit; opponents' 3 level bids and above should be doubled, with considerations.
- 2. As a support to your partner's response to your opening, which has been doubled by opponents, then redoubling shows 3 card support- similar to a support double if opponents interfere. For example:
  - 1D (pass)- 1H (1S)- X = 3 card H support .....a support X
  - 1D (pass) -1H (X) XX = 3 card H support.... a support XX.
- 3. As a rescue mechanism when you arrive in a contract and you need partner to bid after being doubled, XX ASKS partner to find another place to play.
  e.g. oppo's open (1D)- 2C (pass) pass X pass (pass) XX....= please bid something else, anything else, (unless it is a standout solid overcall), as the other suits have some support in my hand.
- 4. In competitive auctions at high level, if you contemplate bidding slam but subside at the 5 level and get doubled or are doubled at the 5 level whilst in the process of bidding 6, then the black card may be the appropriate option.
- 5. Then at higher level and advanced bidding, there is DOPI and ROPI.. where you find yourself bidding towards slam and you get an interference bid, say at the 5 level, then Double X = 0, Pass = 1 keycard (DOPI). Or you are doubled when bidding 4NT but want to show controls Redouble XX = 0, Pass= 1(ROPI).... Particularly useful with minor suit fits as it keeps the level as low as possible.
- 6. When you wish to intimidate your opponents in the bidding and think they may run somewhere else.

Notably when a redouble occurs after your partner doubles, you are often best served to pass and let your partner take action, particularly if you are weak....let partner decide where to play or give you another option. There was an occasion recently that partner opened 1D  $\cdot$  (X)  $\cdot$  XX  $\cdot$  p  $\cdot$  p  $\cdot$  p. .....making overtricks for a mammoth score.

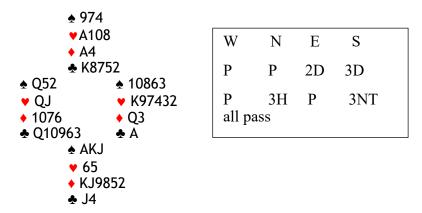
Some players are of the opinion that the Black Card is too confusing, but like all bridge bidding, a sound understanding and firm agreement along with logical analysis is mandatory.....or else do a lot of passing. Enjoy XX.. the additional weapon in Bridge.

Gavin Bailey

## **Showing Stoppers in Competition**

This hand has two interesting points in the bidding.

Teams, none vul, Dealer West



North might have opened but didn't and East opened proceedings with 2D showing both majors. South's diamond suit might have been better for the 3D overcall but the compensating values in spades make the overcall clear. EW were clearly playing 2D as 5-4, or better, in the majors and West didn't want to risk a 4-3 or 5-2 fit and left the field clear for NS. While North has a maximum pass, the important thing to see is that, with the diamond honour, there are likely to be six tricks in the likely to be running diamond suit and that 3NT must be very close.

The key thing is to tell partner that you have a heart stopper and that you need partner to have a spade stopper. There is a standard method for all auctions where there are two suits of concern. The first player bids the suit in which they hold a stopper and partner is expected to consider their holding in the other suit.

This is clear for two reasons. Firstly, when a minor is bid or agreed and the auction is below 3NT, all bids are assumed to be trying to get into 3NT. Secondly, if partner had both suits stopped, they would just bid 3NT! Since EW have laid claim to the majors, they are the suits of concern here and clubs are of no concern. Thus, South has an easy 3NT bid. With a partial spade stopper, they might bid 3S asking for help but not here.

West led the 6C hoping the sneak attack might be successful but declarer ducked it to the ace and there was no further problem when the QD made an appearance on the second round. In the event, almost half the field (92/208) bid 3NT and a third (62/208) played in a diamond part score. Other auctions led to a wide variety of contracts.

There are two more things to notice. When you overcall a minor at the 3 level, the suit should be good since a partner with a top honour will bid 3NT assuming the suit will run. Also, fancy two bids are like a two edged sword, NS were pushed into 3NT by the 2D bid!

**Douglas Newlands** 

## Bridge in Hamburg

In 2017 **Arthur Robbins** travelled to Germany and provided this article for the GBC Newsletter at the time. He thought current members might be interested in hearing about Bridge being played in another country. (Editor)

During my overseas trip this year, I managed two games of bridge in Hamburg. I located the club details on the internet, and made contact with Dr Lev Koss to see if a partner could be found, and he generously lined up for a game with me on the first occasion. Playing time was 3pm and finished soon after 6pm. The club rooms are on the first floor of a building near the Dehnhaide Ubahn station. I arrived about 2.15 and found about half a dozen people sitting around drinking coffee, discussing bridge and other things.

After introducing myself, I had a chance to look around. They have 3 main playing rooms, holding about 9, 5, and 5 tables, plus a common room with bar and coffee machine, plus a library room and an office, so plenty of space. My partner, who turned out to be the director and a very good player, handed me a piece of paper with a basic system on it (all in German of course), and left me to sort out which bits to play, and I was still unsure about our signalling methods when play started. Even though we had several misunderstandings, we managed to sneak a win, and I won a Picolo of Sekt. He also arranged for me to play with Frau Erika Tamm (a solid club player) on the Friday, when we came 5<sup>th</sup>. Both games were friendly and enjoyable, and many opponents were interested in my travels (sometimes even in English)!



Paarturnier - Hamburger Bridge Center - 23.08.2017

Now for some interesting observations

As in all of Europe, the use of the STOP card is mandatory. It was strange to me to have to pull out this card from the bidding box, place it on the table, then make my jump bid. Even 1C - (P) - 3NT had to do this.

No one had a system card. Erika explained to me that in the club they essentially all played similar systems and didn't bother, but used them in tournaments. Everyone played weak jumps, even 15 - (P) - 3D was weak, and all played low encouraging when partner led an honour. I couldn't work out if that included all situations in the play or not. All used Lavinthal signals (McKenney to us) for discards.

Even though there were 9 tables, they still played a Howell with 2 board rounds and there was a lot of movement around the room. Boards were returned to a central table, and it was North's job to collect the boards and return them.

They had daily prizes - a tiny bottle of Sekt was my prize, but on the Friday there was a normal bottle. They also took a photo for their website (Find Hamburger Bridge Center on the internet, and look in Archiv).

They had set boards, but no paper hand records, and used bridgemates. Also, the scoring computer was in the playing room and it was possible to see your running score at the end of each round, so there was a lot of movement past it.

Coffee and cake was available in the common room, also drinks from the bar (to be paid for of course).



**Arthur Robbins** 

Rang	Nr.	Paar	MP	%	CP
1	5	Hr. Dr. Koss, L. – Hr. Robbins	263,0	63,22	24
2	17	Fr. Hinzer, E. – Fr. Fuhrmann, I.	262,0	62,98	18
3	14	Fr. Tamm, E. – Fr. Reiher, B.	253,0	60,82	14
4	9	Hr. Pagels, G. – Fr. Maasch, I.	252,0	60,58	10
5	13	Fr. Kwasny, R. – Fr. Fichtner	243,0	58,41	8
6	4	Fr. Dr. Pohle, A. – Hr. Dr. Pohle, G.	221,0	53,13	(
7	6	Hr. Arasli – Fr. Arasli, F.	220,0	52,88	
8	11	Fr. Richter, H. – Fr. Feeser, IM.	219,0	52,64	

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 jlblyton@gmail.com . Jennifer Blyton

## Western Region Friendly Teams: 2023

This is a **RED POINT** event



Ocean Grove Bridge Club cordially invites clubs in the Western Region to enter teams in the 2023 Friendly Teams event.

**DIRECTOR: STEPHEN LESTER** 

The event will be played at the MARCUS HILL HALL, BELLARINE HIGHWAY, MARCUS HILL

Six 9 board rounds, 3 in the am and 3 in the pm.

**DATE:** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL

Session times 10am to 1.00 pm then 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Cost: \$25 per player/ BYO LUNCH

Refreshments provided during and at the conclusion of this event.

Enter through the OGBC website; calendar; tournaments

Or contact: George Del Papa on: 0400 114 936

Email: <a href="mailto:delpapa.george@hotmail.com">delpapa.george@hotmail.com</a>