



148-152 Portarlington
Road, Newcomb VIC

PO Box 1546

Geelong VIC 3220

(03) 5248 2978

www.geelong.bridge-club.org

GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 2

June 2023

From the President

Dear Members

Earlier in the year I commented that our weekly playing numbers appeared to be on the rise following on from the difficult days of Covid19. However, I have now noticed that our numbers seem to have stabilised in recent weeks. Our Tuesdays and Thursdays are averaging 9-10-11 tables, our Mondays and Fridays are averaging 7-8-9 tables. Wednesday night now appears to be a viable option - all that positive plugging by Marion seems to be working and Saturday is still getting established and hopefully will continue to grow in numbers. Finally Sunday can range from terrific attendances to less so. I also have noticed that at an informal level, on some days players provide their own drinks and nibbles with the intention of increasing social interactions between members. This is occurring sometimes on a Wednesday, Thursday and some Saturdays. Overall the attendance numbers assures the club of its viability, however, one wonders if we'll return to the numbers we had prior to covid-19?

The Survey carried out by the Committee has now been completed and the initial results have been distributed to all members. I wish to thank all those who completed the survey as a solid majority of our regular players did so, hence making the results and findings a true reflection of our active members' opinions. I also wish to thank the members of the subcommittee who put in several hours of work in a short period of time.

I strongly encourage members' support for two upcoming events, namely our Congress in late June and the Beginner classes starting in August.

From the President *continued from previous page*

It seems that the best form of advertising for these events comes directly from word of mouth by our members to other people and other connections. Further details are available at the club or in our publications.

I wish all members a successful card playing winter and hope the weather is not too cold for those who are staying at home in Geelong.

Regards

John Walsh



NEW MEMBERS

The Geelong Bridge Club welcomes the following new member:

Yvonne Gdak

Rank Promotions

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

Graduate	Trish Rudd
	Sue Bennett
	Judy Ramage
	Marta Sinclair
	John Pinto
	Heather Comisel
Bronze Life	Margaret Glover
Silver Life	Jenny Johnstone

HIGH SCORES

Feb	M Stokie R Gillard	71.99%
Mar	D Read A Gunst	72.4%
Apr	S Lester D Newland	75.00%
May	J Ward D Casey	78.2%

Joan Wilson Trophy Winners

Feb	A Blackburn K Thomas
Mar	J Johnstone
Apr	A Gunst
May	M Stokie

PIZZA SUNDAYS

The next Pizza Sundays are on

Sunday 30 July at 4pm
Sunday 27 August 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.

Note: There is no Pizza Sunday in June because the GBC Congress is on Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 June.



www.geelong.bridge-club.org/

Club Results

Open Teams Final Wednesday 22 March

1st	D Newland, D Newlands, A Robbins, G Ridgway, S Lester
2nd	M Stokie, P Jain, K Bailey, G Bailey R Gillard, T Hassett
3rd	J Johnstone, D Peacock C Dodgshun, A Gunst

Swiss Teams (Pairs Entry) Thursday 30 March

1st	C Dodgshun, L Frankenburg D Frederick, D Shandley
2nd	J McGonigal, J Williams L Johnston, M Crosby
3rd	R Thornton, P Hassett G Howell, D McCormack

Western Region Friendly Teams Sunday 16 April

1st	D Newlands, A Robbins L Lee, J Blyton
2nd	T Johnston, S Irwin M Scambler, P Scambler
3rd	G Bell, N Grech G Del Papa, J Del Papa

Helen Drinnan Teams Friday 21 April

1st	D Newland, S Lester D Newlands, A Robbins
2nd	D Read, A Gunst G Bailey, K Bailey
3rd	S Duff, S Robinson R Macaulay, J Williams

Geelong Region GNOT Final Sunday 21 May

1st	D Newland, D Newlands, A Robbins, G Ridgway
2nd	T Frost, G Myers, S Irwin, R Lawrie
3rd	M Stokie, R Gillard, G Bailey, K Bailey

Australia-Wide Novice Pairs (club result) Thursday 25 May

1st NS	A Neunhoffer, J Blyton
EW	A Blackburn, K Thomas
2nd NS	J Ramage, S Bennett
EW	L Smith, T Brunton
3rd NS	L Bennetto, M Doyle
EW	P Hassett, R Thornton

The Western Region Friendly teams were held at Ocean Grove on Sunday 16 April. We had a fantastic day of good bridge and a very friendly atmosphere. A big thank you goes to the Ocean Grove Bridge Club for their hospitality and good catering.

This year we had 20 teams which was a remarkable outcome, I think the most we have had at this particular event. The event winners were Arthur Robbins, Doug Newlands, Linda Lee and Jennifer Blyton. Congratulations to you all - well done.

Our next event for this year is the Friendly Pairs at Ballarat on Sunday 13th August - I hope you will be able to attend and support the WRBA. Many thanks.

Jenny Johnstone - President WRBA



Bendigo Bridge Club Congress

The annual Bendigo Bridge Club Congress was held over the weekend of 27 and 28 May. As usual it was very well supported, including eight players from Geelong Bridge Club. In a very competitive field Alison Feiner and Anne Gunst came third in the Swiss Pairs and the Newlands team came fourth in the Teams! Congratulations!



Victorian Women's State Selection Final

Jennifer Blyton and I were completely surprised by our selection to play in the Victorian Women's State Selection Final at Dendy Park. How did we qualify?? We played in the Western Region Pairs at our club rooms back on the 4th February. We came 8th on the day but, as it was a mixed competition, only the women pairs were considered for entry to this event. We were 3rd on that list but as the other two teams were not going to be available on 22nd April we were asked if we would be willing to play. We thought why not?

We made the mistake the night before of looking up the masterpoints for our opponents - of the 11 pairs most players had thousands, some had hundreds and then there was us and one other team from Gippsland who were not even close to one hundred each! Two very nervous nellies turned up early at Dendy Park on the Saturday morning. We were going to be playing with screens across the table, a first for us, so needed some tuition. Laurie Kelso was directing and gave us a warm welcome before Laura Ginnan took us to a table and explained the ins and outs of playing with a screen.

Play started at 9:30 and there were six 10 board rounds to get through for the day. Lucky for us we had a bye for the last round and were able to leave at about 5:30, both absolutely exhausted and having lost all five rounds! Playing with the screens was easy to get used to. After the first couple of hands we had the knack of it.

Back at 9:30 for more punishment on the Sunday - five more 10 board rounds. We were both more relaxed and we actually managed to win one round!

Congratulations to the winners, who will represent Victoria in the Australian National Championships in Perth in July this year. They were:

1. Kym Frazer, Kitty Muntz
2. Penny Blankfield, Sue Read
3. Eva Samuel, Laura Ginnan

Despite all their masterpoints, the other players were very friendly and accommodating of us less experienced players. We enjoyed the opportunity and would recommend that all players have a go if you get the chance.



Linda Lee



The Victorian Seniors State Selection Final was also held on 22-23 April at the new Victorian Bridge Centre in East Brighton. The top three pairs in this event go on to form the Victorian Seniors Team for the forthcoming Australian National Championships in Perth in mid-July. Roger Gillard and I qualified to play in the event as representatives of the Western Region Bridge Association, having won the WRBA Pairs at GBC in February. In an unusually small field, we were joined by 6 other pairs for a round-robin event playing against each other pair twice over the two days. We led the event in the early rounds, dropped to mid-field at the half-way mark but then languished to finish in 7th place (out of 7) by the end. We were not helped by the X-IMPs scoring method which can be somewhat of a lottery with only three tables in play each round. In our post-mortem, we noted that ten cold slams or games had been bid against us that were not bid at the other tables and this resulted in a hefty negative IMP difference for us. But we had several bad results of our own making, so it was not all bad luck. We took some comfort in the fact that we won a match against each of the top three qualifiers, beating one of them twice. The winners were:

- 1st Robert Gallus - Stephen Weisz
- 2nd Quentin Van Abbe - Andrzej Krolikowski
- 3rd George Lovrecz - Martin Willcox.

We congratulate the winners and wish them every success in Perth.

Mike Stokie



The other day at the Club before play I was talking to Judy Williams (who was the Editor of the GBC Newsletter for a number of years) and Gordon Myers. They were telling me about how the Geelong Congress started and how it has changed. Gordon had a fossick through the Newsletters folder on the Club bookshelf and found an article that he provided to Judy for the August 2013 newsletter. It provides a fascinating insight into the history of the GBC Congress. As this year's Convenor, I would not like to be doing it all by hand as those stalwarts did over half a century ago. Over to you, Gordon. Editor

Five years after the formation of the GBC in 1974, a decision was taken to organise and run a Congress. This was through the urgings of Ern Palfreyman, an early mentor of our club. The organising team of Vic Henton, as convenor, and Jeanne Heweston, as secretary, together with a willing band of helpers, set out to sail into hitherto uncharted waters. It was decided to go for broke and a four day event was arranged for the Queen's Birthday weekend in June 1974. This was the first time a Congress had been mooted outside the metropolitan area.

A couple of days before the event Jeanne decided to fall ill and was admitted to hospital. Ern Palfreyman was installed as Director and did not receive any remuneration for his efforts. Later he was presented with a new shirt. Somewhat less than current Directors! Members of the club were pressed into service making cakes, biscuits and slices in preparation for the big event. Members also acted as meet and greet for players on their arrival. On the Sunday morning a get together was held in the clubrooms. This started a trend that spread to many other Congresses. There were none of the modern appliances that we see today and all draws and scoring were done by hand and took some time to complete.

After a couple of years Vic relinquished his post and Jeanne became convenor with myself as secretary. I can well remember a week or so before the opening events the paucity of numbers was alarming. However our fears were soon allayed and we had capacity fields in most events. On the Thursday evening prior, Arthur Gary and myself met at Gary's house armed with textas and large sheets of butchers' paper. We would then set about formulating the various draws. Scoring would be done after each event and on the Saturday more action with the textas and butchers paper took place to organise the various draws.

When I took over from Jeanne I was given an exercise book with all the details of the early Congresses and also a list of the local churches and mass times. This book was invaluable in the early days as a lot of the pitfalls had been recorded. The final of the pairs on the Saturday was the first event to be run as a barometer with duplicated boards. Scores were recorded on adhesive slips and then the Director would score each round. One year during the pairs final a lady from ESU decided to have a look at what the scores were on some of the boards. She discovered that one player had been destroying the agreed scores and crediting himself with an extra trick. No wonder they were doing well. Unfortunately there were numerous errors in the duplication when the boards were distributed and it was necessary to check all the hands.

Continued next page

Gordon Remembers *continued from previous page*

At early Congresses at Aberdeen Chateau we were in the regime of no alcohol being served on Sundays. I was in the lobby talking to John Abbott (owner of the Chateau) when a number of cars pulled up in the front. Out of these came a lot of men in suits and little hats. They came up to John and told him they had him this time for selling alcohol out of hours. He told them they were mistaken and that there were 250 people playing cards inside. They told him to pull the other leg and proceeded to open the doors. All that could be seen under a blue haze that covered the upper part of the room were the more than 60 teams playing bridge.

We had one interesting Director in Jeff Lathbury who came dressed in a kaftan. It was quite a novel sight to see him standing out the front with his knitting under his arm.

Gordon Myers



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

Bidding a Slam as Overcallers

Have you ever contemplated bidding a slam after your left hand opponent opened the bidding? A quite unusual situation and one to remember. This happened on Wednesday 24 May at the club. LHO opened 1D, partner overcalled 1S, RHO bid 2D. OK already seeing about 26 points!!!

Your Hand:

♠K8
♥AJ98
♦6
♣KQJ654

What to bid? X is a possibility, as it shows both Hearts and Clubs. I bid 3C. LHO bid 3D, and partner Jumped to 5C! What's going on? Is this a sacrifice? No, it shouldn't be, as the opponents have not shown any interest in game. Should I just pass? VISUALISE, what do you expect from partner's bidding? Well certainly the ability to make 11 tricks, so Axxx Clubs, AQxxx(+) Spades, and some distribution, as 3C is constructive, but not GF.

NOW THINK: Control in Diamonds, fit with KS in partner's suit, and the control in Hearts (AH). GREAT CONTROL cards, so, I bid 6C, which was an easy make. The full hand:

Board 27	♠T54				
Dlr: S	♥QT53		♠K8		
Vul: Nil	♦KT92		♥AJ98		
	♣32		♦6		
			♣KQJ654		
	♠A9732				
	♥K				
	♦73				
	♣AT987				
		👤			
	5	♠QJ6	N: 1♥		
11	14	♥7642	S: 1♥		
10		♦AQJ854	E: 6♣4♠1NT		
		♣	W: 6♣3♠1NT		

Arthur Robbins

The following hand was one that caused problems at an online game last year. I gave the hand to Denny to study and she succeeded in solving the declarer play posed. Here I might add that declarer play is my forte and has provided much of my edge at the bridge table. There's nothing better than bringing home a contract most are failing in.

East deals, all vulnerable

♠AJ10	West	North	East	South
♥KQ8			1S	pass
♦Q1095	pass	dbl	pass	2H
♣AQ10	pass	2NT	pass	3C
	pass	3NT	all pass	
♠64				
♥A7543				
♦K7				
♣J953				

In the auction, North has shown 18-19 balanced, and South has implied a five-card suit (else 3NT over 2NT), and enough strength to make game likely. North looks at the boring shape and correctly decides 3NT has more chances than 4H as the game contract.

You are North. East leads 3S to the eight and your 10S. Plan the play. You have two spade tricks on the lead to go with three heart tricks and one club trick. How to swell the total to nine tricks?

Clubs will provide two more tricks once KC has been knocked out, but spades will be set up by that point. Hearts might break, meaning we only have to find one extra trick in clubs or diamonds. We try hearts first. East throws a small club on the second round, and we pause to take stock.

We have an advantage in that we know where the important cards (AD and KC) are. Can we take advantage of that edge?

East deals, all vulnerable

♠AJ10	♠KQ7532	West	North	East	South
♥KQ8	♥2			1S	pass
♦Q1065	♦AJ8	pass	dbl	pass	2H
♣AQ10	♣K42	pass	2NT	pass	3C
		pass	3NT	all pass	
♠98					
♥J1096					
♦9432					
♣876					
♠64					
♥A7543					
♦K7					
♣J953					

Hearts and clubs are not going to bring in our game. Can playing on diamonds work?

Unfortunately for East, yes it will. Because East is cursed with the short JD, he cannot afford to rise with the AD when declarer plays a diamond from hand, without allowing declarer three diamond tricks. JD will fall under the queen and declarer will now score two spades, three hearts, three diamonds and AC. If East doesn't rise AD on the first round, declarer will go back to clubs and score three tricks there, again nine tricks with 2 spades, 3 hearts, 1 diamond and three clubs. If I was to file this deal among my interesting hands it would go in the "Combining Your Chances" folder.

Stephen Lester

Two Slams from the GBC Open Teams Final

Would you have bid these slams with your favourite partner? The first resulted in a swing of 17 Imps, and helped the Stokie team overcome a deficit of 26 Imps to take a 5 imp lead.

Board 21

Dlr:N Vul:NS

North

♠AQ96
♥Q
♦AT64
♣7632

South

♠J8
♥AK87543
♦ -
♣AKQ4

Bidding

North Kirsten B	East Arthur	South Gavin B	West Douglas
1C	1D	2D*	3D
P	P	4D*	P
4H	P	7H	P
P	P		

*2D was a transfer to Hearts. 4D was insisting partner bids 4H. 7H was a reasoned bid, given the opponents had bid Diamonds.

NB: Roman Keycard would have found 2 keycards, and the QH. A bit pushy, as a 4/1 Heart split, or a 4/1 Club split would have doomed it. So be it. At the other table, they stopped in 4H, but even 6H would have been a loss. Well done Gavin!

The second gained 11 Imps for the Newland team.

Board 30

Dlr:E/NV

West

♠AK5
♥JT987
♦ -
♣A6543

East

♠QT7
♥A5432
♦AQ64
♣8

Bidding

North Kirsten B	East Arthur	South Gavin B	West Douglas
	1H	P	2NT*
P	3C*	3D???	3S*
P	4C*	P	4D
P	4H	P	4NT
P	5H*	P	6H

*2N was Jacoby, 3C was minimum, 3D a typically disruptive piece of crap, but it spurred Douglas on! 3S was a slam interest bid, 4C/D = 1st/2nd round control cue bids, 5H = 2 keycards without QH, 6H to play.

The only interest in the play was to run the JH, to guard against a 3/0 H split, onside!! 6H duly made for an 11 Imp pickup! The 3D bid by Gavin allowed Doug to see the potential of his hand (though half of Arthur's HCP were in Diamonds!!!).

NB: Distribution and controls are more important than HCP. Here there were only 24 HCP!

Arthur Robbins

No Rush to Cash Winners

It is important for defenders to keep an eye on whether losers might be discarded on a long suit. If this is the case, you may need to cash potential winners immediately. As a corollary, if there are no discards available, it is not necessary to rush to cash side suit winners.

That's a bit of a mouthful so let us look at an example. The auction is fairly normal. Some Norths might prefer to bid 2S rather than 3S, but South would still bid game at teams scoring. West decided to lead the QH. While this lead is often unattractive, it has not done any harm here. When dummy comes down, declarer might wish they were in 4H since the spades will furnish a diamond discard and remove the possibility of two diamond losers. However, today it's 4S. What is your plan?

Winning the AH, drawing trumps and knocking out the KH gives eight tricks. Knocking out the AC gives nine.

Teams, All vul, Dealer East

♠AJ105 ♥J953 ♦62 ♣Q65	♠43 ♥K62 ♦A743 ♣8432	W N E S P 3S P 4S all pass	♠92 ♥Q8 ♦Q10985 ♣AJ109 ♠KQ876 ♥A1074 ♦KJ ♣K7
--------------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------

It seems you need them to foolishly cash the AC or to pick the diamonds for a tenth trick. So, win AH, draw trumps and play hearts. East wins the king and returns the two diamonds. Not really what declarer wanted this early. If you guess to play the king, it's easy but there is no reason why you won't play the jack which loses to the queen.

Now the focus shifts to West. At the table, West played AC and, despite East discouraging, another club presenting declarer with the contract. The question West should ask himself is how can the diamond suit be lying? Is there any way the club losers can be discarded? East did lead a small diamond but, even if South started with AKJ, there is no way to discard two club losers from the table! If East has the king of clubs, the tricks from the ace and king cannot go away.

It is clear to play back a diamond, no matter who has the AD, and reward partner's play!

Douglas Newlands

Intermediate Lessons



Some of our best players at the club have been giving up their time to provide us with the benefit of their experience in the free Intermediate lessons on Thursday mornings.

First off, a big thank you to Arthur Robbins, who gave two big lessons earlier this year on **Playing a Suit Contract** and **Playing a No Trumps Contract**. When you are missing one or two honours in a suit, how to play the suit to maximise the number of tricks you can expect.

For the last five weeks we have had a half hour lesson before Thursday play. These have been extremely popular, averaging around thirty people each week looking to improve their bridge playing. **The lessons will now continue once a month on the second Thursday of the month.**

The first in this series was given by Stephen Lester on the **Law of Total Tricks (LOTT)**. South is dealer and the bidding goes 1H/1S/2H/2S.... You are sitting there at North agonizing over your next bid. To bid or not to bid? What tools do you have to help you make the decision to keep bidding or play safe and pass? The LOTT is one of them.

The second lesson was given by Denny Newland on **Discards and Suit Preference Signals**. How many times have you wondered, while playing against the top players in the club, how they seem to know what suit to play to give their partner a trick? Well, it could be because their partner has given a signal with the first discard. When you can't follow the suit being played, you discard a card from another suit. Make sure that card tells your partner which suit you want played when they win the lead. Denny walked us through some of the ways you can do this without sacrificing a card in your long suit.

The third lesson was given by Douglas Newlands on **Signalling at Trick 1**. When partner is on lead and plays a card, if you are not trying to win the trick after dummy plays, how do you indicate that you like/don't like that suit? **Attitude**. Attitude is everything, someone once said. Your partner must watch for this card, to know whether to continue with the suit or switch to another suit.

The fourth lesson was given by Denny, this time on **Count** and why it matters. Simply put, playing a high spot then low tells partner you have an even number of cards, low/high tells partner you have an odd number. This can be important if, for example, partner is wondering whether to play their Ace or duck. Once again, every card you play is providing information to your partner.

The fifth lesson in the series was given by Douglas on **Later Leads and Signals**. Having played and won the first trick, what now? It's all about giving new information to your partner. If you switch to a new suit, what are you telling your partner and which card in that suit do you lead, again, to tell your partner something?

Continued next page

Listening to the theory then working through examples over all these lessons gave me quite a few light bulb moments. It may not happen perfectly every time, but adding to our communication should improve my partners' and my Bridge play. Hopefully.

Next Lessons

8 June: Douglas - Leading to a No Trump Contract

13 July: Denny - Defensive Card Play

10 August: Stephen - Tackling the Right Suit in No Trumps

14 September: Douglas - Some Basic Cardplay Techniques

12 October: TBA

9 November: TBA

14 December: TBA

Jennifer Blyton

Vale

Harry Broekman

9/11/1933–15/03/2023

Harry Broekman was an excitingly adventurous man who was deeply devoted to his family, friends and faith. He lived by his principles of fairness, acceptance of and belief in others. He was known for his humour, charm and wit. Harry loved sharing his life with others.

Harry was the second of five children. From an early age he joined his parents in playing a variety of card games, including Bridge.

After the war, life in Europe was difficult. Despite completing an accounting course and his national service, Harry and his brother dreamed of exploring the world and finding new opportunities abroad. In 1956 they landed in Australia with their entire family in tow.

With few options open to them, their enterprising acumen led them into the smallgoods and manufacturing industry. They knew a man in Geelong who had been a butcher in Holland and he taught them the trade. Thus Hollandia Smallgoods was born to great success.

Playing cards remained a central part of Harry's social life after he married Mary in 1960. They played with friends and family each week and taught their six children and twelve grandchildren how to play. Harry and Mary joined GBC and appreciated the patience and support of club members as they learned how to make calls and become competitive. Unfortunately COVID disrupted their life and Harry became too unwell to return to the club.

Harry enjoyed the challenge of playing cards, but loved most the wonderful company and connections all club members provided. Mary has now returned to playing and looks forward to enjoying all aspects of the club.

Mary Broekman



Remember in your prayers the soul of

Henricus Petrus Broekman

Husband of

Maria Gijsbertha Elisabeth Broekman Van Wees

Born 9 November 1933 in Utrecht, Netherlands

Died 15 March 2023 in Geelong, Australia

Father of Francis, Theresa, Paul, Robert, Michael and Mariska.

Miss me a little - but not too long And not with your head bowed low.

Remember the love that we once shared, Miss me - but let me go.

For this is a journey that we all must take And each must go alone. It's all a part of the Master's plan, A step on the road to home.

To my wife and children, do not weep over my death, but rather rejoice that I have been received into the house of my Heavenly Father, there to receive the reward of my works.

One of the hardest topics in bridge bidding is balancing. There are two essential situations, one in the Pass-out seat at the one-level, the other with the aim of not letting your opponents play at a two level. You have to be judicious in your choice!!! Too often, after balancing, I have found my opponents in game, when I could have passed!!

Situation 1:

Your LHO opens 1C or 1D, and the bidding goes eg:1C-P-P-? What to do? Here are some hands to give some guidance:

1	2	3	4	5
A73	742	A752	52	AKQ752
KQ64	A93	KJ32	AK643	A64
J852	KQ5	8653	J62	KJ2
62	QJ62	7	963	4

The danger with balancing is that you will allow your opponents to find a better spot. The usual things to look at are:

A: your length in the opponents' suit, (if you have length, then partner doesn't, so why not a X? Obviously not enough values, so don't compete); and

B: the number of spades you hold (the boss suit). A shortage in Spades, especially with minimum values is a huge detraction from balancing.

You need to learn to X with as low as 8HCP, with the right shape! You also need to adjust your ranges for the double and the 1NT overcall, specifically 1NT= 11-15 (occasionally 10-16), usually with a stopper in the opener's suit, though some play it without a stopper, trusting partner to hold one! After 1NT, it is usual to play all of your methods, as if partner had opened 1NT (this should also be true, if partner overcalls an immediate 1NT), ie system is on after a 1NT overcall (Stayman, transfers, etc).

Also, you need to play intermediate jumps, as this takes the pressure off, with good strong hands. **DO NOT make a weak jump overcall** in the Pass-out seat, better to pass and let them play at the 1 level! But you could still bid at the one level with a weak 6 card suit, preferably Spades. Remember, Partner has some points, but Opener usually has more! Now to the hands above:

Hand 1: this is a typical X, nothing special.

Hand 2: Bid 1NT (11-15). If partner has a good hand that couldn't be bid originally (you need to always think: why couldn't partner bid over 1C?!). In these days, when opponents open 1C (2+), partner often cannot bid when holding long clubs, and not enough for 1NT, or the wrong shape to X.

Continued next page

Balancing *continued from previous page*

As an aside, the modern approach to X over 1C does not require a shortage in clubs, nor 4/4 in the majors. It is enough to have 4-3 in the majors, and perhaps even 3Cs. Usually this will be with 11/12 HCP. After all, competition is the hub of bidding!

Hand 3: X - this is a standard balancing X, minimum strength, but support for all suits. The Spade holding is really important (NB it is important to also have some potential tricks, not be all Qs and Js, as partner might pass!).

Hand 4: While it is tempting to bid 1H, the lack of length in Spades is a problem. Yes partner can get off to the best lead, but the bidding could go:
1C-P-P-1H: 1S-2H-2S-P: 4S (I have seen this quite a few times!) Remember that 1C can be made with 18/19 HCP, and shape, and is often looking for a Major fit. You pay your money, you take your chances!

Hand 5: Bid 2S. This is the sort of hand for an intermediate jump.

Bidding after 1C-P-P-X

This is also a difficult area for the partner of the Doubler, as the Doubler might have only 8 HCP, so adjustments need to be made. The easiest thing is to think of Doubler borrowing a King from you, so temper your responses as if you had a King less. Don't jump with 9 HCP (remember Doubler may not have 4 cards in that suit), but with 12 HCP. If you have both majors, use a 2C cue bid to ask partner for the 4 card suit (this should never be a wanting to play in Clubs- bid 1NT/2NT with that hand). The 2NT response should be 13-14 HCP (you would have bid 1NT with 15-18). DON'T punish partner for balancing!

What if you hold a 16-18 HCP hand in the balancing seat? Some just keep it simple by using the 1NT overcall as the same in both seats, but it is less flexible.

Start with X, then bid NT at the cheapest level, with system still on.

For example (1C)-P-(P)-X-(P)-1S-(P)-1NT: this shows the 15(16)-18 balanced hand, which is not shown by a 1NT bid in the pass-out seat. Similarly:

(1C)-P-(P)-X-(P)-2H-(P)-2N. Partner has shown a good 5 card suit, with about 10+HCP, 2NT is not to play, and does not show a minimum X, but shows 15-18 balanced, allowing further description.

Situation 2:

One of the important guiding principles in Matchpoint pairs, is to force the opponents from the comfort of a 2 level contract to the 3 level (though this can backfire as well). Again it applies to the Pass-out seat eg: (1S)-P-(2S)-P-(P)-?

Continued next page

Balancing *continued from previous page*

What methods are available to you? Obviously X, or a 3 level overcall (why not earlier, at the 2 level?) or some method to show TWO places to play.

For example: ♠K72 ♥J9 ♦K985 ♣AQ96 Partner doesn't have much, perhaps at most, 9-10 HCP, but rates to have only 2 Spades. It is worth risking a little to try to force them a level higher (watch the vulnerability). Discuss with your partner the meaning of X, and 2NT (not to play, that's crazy), but one of them should say: I want to compete, and I have two places to play (as in two 4-card suits). X is probably better, as 2NT can then be used to start locating the suits (perhaps only a 4-3 fit is available!), while a suit bid shows a 5 card suit.

Remember, it is a RISK/REWARD situation, but you don't get rich allowing the opponents to play at the 2 level. Have you noticed how often the stronger players keep forcing you up, and why you dislike playing against them - they take you out of your comfort zone!

Arthur Robbins



Bridge at Lythgo's Club in the 1930s

Recently Linda Lee and I were in Melbourne competing in the Victorian Women's Selection Final. The owner of the house we stayed in showed us a photo of her grandfather, Mr F F Kowarzik (1898-1995), sitting at left in the photo, playing bridge at the Lythgo's Bridge Club in Melbourne in the 1930s.

On the back of the photo is a brief biography of Mr Kowarzik. The reference to the Australian Bridge Federation prompted me to go looking for further information about Lythgo's. It's a bit tricky, but if you go to the Australian Bridge Federation website and click on About the ABF, you will find a history of bridge in Australia and a number of biographies, including S N Lythgo's.

MR. F. F. KOWARZIK (1898-1995) (1898-1995)
 For history of bridge development and Lythgo's club in the early 1930s at Lythgo's Bridge Club in Melbourne.
 Mr. Kowarzik was born in 1898, moved to the Victorian State in 1928, and joined the club with the purpose of playing bridge. He was introduced to the club by Mr. S. N. Lythgo, who was then the Club Manager. Mr. Kowarzik played bridge at Lythgo's Club from 1928 to 1995. He was a member of the Victorian Bridge Federation and the Australian Bridge Federation. He was also a member of the Lythgo's Bridge Club. He was a very active member of the club and played bridge regularly. He was a very good player and was a member of the Victorian State Bridge Team. He was a very active member of the club and played bridge regularly. He was a very good player and was a member of the Victorian State Bridge Team. He was a very active member of the club and played bridge regularly. He was a very good player and was a member of the Victorian State Bridge Team.

Jennifer Blyton

Gavin's Squeeze

When playing a hand, declarer tries to combine chances in two or three suits. Normally, this means trying one side suit and, when it fails to produce extra tricks, trying the next suit. A good playing plan is constructed to take as many successive chances as possible.

However, there are a group of plays that combine chances in two suits so that an extra trick materialises when one defender can't safely guard both suits. In this group, there is a vast range of squeezes and today we see one of these.

North-South were Kirsten and Gavin Bailey who were amongst the top players in Tasmania till they left for the north island! The auction didn't stress Gavin with his huge diamond suit and the par contract was quickly reached. West led the 10C and East won with the ace and South dropped the king to try to deflect a possible ruff. East knew they lead the 7, and not the 10, from 1073 and returned a club in case the club was singleton.

Teams, NS vul, Dealer West

<p>♠QJ10763 ♥A54 ♦J3 ♣Q2</p> <p>♠K9854 ♠A ♥K1082 ♥J973 ♦94 ♦8 ♣107 ♣AJ98654</p> <p>♠2 ♥Q6 ♦AKQ107652 ♣K3</p>	<p>W N E S</p>	<p>P 2S 3C 5D</p> <p>all pass</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------------------------

Declarer won the QC, played a diamond to the ace and one back to the jack. Now he led the QS off the table and East won the ace, perforce. Now East has a problem as to who has the 10H. To avoid giving away the heart position, he played another club. South ruffed and ran the trumps reaching the ending shown, with the last trump to play.

<p>♠J ♥A5 ♦ - ♣ -</p> <p>♠K ♥K10 ♦ - ♣ -</p> <p>♠ - ♥Q6 ♦2 ♣ -</p>	<p>W N E S</p>	<p>♠ - ♥J9 ♦ - ♣9</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------------------

Now West is in trouble on the last trump. Discarding the KS promotes the jack and discarding a heart means the king drops. Well played for 12 tricks!

Douglas Newlands



Geelong Bridge Club 2023 Congress **Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 June 2023**

**Venue: Highton Bowls Club - cnr Roslyn & North Valley Roads, Highton
Vic 3216**

Director: Martin Willcox
Recorder: Arthur Robbins

Entries on Bridge Unlimited: bridgeunlimited.com
Entries close Friday 5pm 16 June 2023

Cost: \$100 per pair, \$200 per team
Payment will be by **cash only** on the day of play

Program

Saturday: 10am start - Swiss Pairs Open and Restricted

Restricted: <100 Masterpoints as at 31 March 2023

Sunday: 10am start - Open and Restricted Teams

Restricted:<100 MPs per player as at 31 March 2023

Cash prizes

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided. Bar open at end of play with nibbles provided. Please notify Convenor of any dietary requirements at least one week prior to play.

Convenor: Jennifer Blyton jblyton@gmail.com
Mobile: 0409 852 538

Highly artificial systems not permitted. System cards mandatory.