



# GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 4

December 2023

148-152 Portarlington  
Road, Newcomb VIC

PO Box 1546

Geelong VIC 3220

(03) 5248 2978

[www.geelong.bridge-club.org](http://www.geelong.bridge-club.org)

## From the President

### Bridge brings people together

This was the theme of a speech given at Government House on 15 November (yes, I was there and Philip and I finished 5<sup>th</sup> (E/W) out of more than 40 tables.)

This is my theme for my year as President and it is certainly true of my bridge life.

We have played in Alice Springs (an interesting set of members) and been driven home by a player who insisted it was not safe to walk.

We have not played in London but our guide on a walking tour turned out to be an international bridge director with interesting stories and suggestions for some lesser known sites to visit.

We played bridge whilst working in Hamilton. Instead of staying in a motel, we were invited to stay in a member's B&B. She also organised for us to stay in the Napier Club when her place was not available and for us to play rubber bridge at the Hamilton Club.

We played bridge in Port Douglas and were given a recommendation for a memorable restaurant.

We learnt and played bridge in Birchip - not high quality but made up for socially with many bridge weekends away and country congresses. Who can forget the Donald spreads?

We played bridge at Government House (did I tell you we came 5<sup>th</sup>?) and enjoyed the delicate sandwiches and petit fours.

We play bridge in Geelong and this means enjoyable Wednesday nights with added extras. Through GBC I have enjoyed taking 'older' members to seasons of the Australian Ballet. I have enjoyed social bridge and hospitality at members' homes.

I met my Thursday partner and near neighbour at a VIEW meeting and discovered our bridge common interest.

Through knowing how to play bridge our oldest daughter made many friends and played at the Royal Selangor Club in Malaysia.

*Continued on next page*

I have shared drinks at the Elephant & Castle, laughed and cried with fellow members and celebrated the lives of too many at funerals. We survived COVID lockdowns and maintained contact with members and organised on-line events.

Somehow I have ended up President of our club. Let us continue to be a club that brings people together, no matter how disparate our bridge skills are.

JFK asked the American people to not ask what the country can do for you but what you can do for your country. I will adapt this. Please ask yourself what you can for the GBC but also feel free to tell me what GBC can do for you. Our committee will listen.

Marion Scambler



## Western Region Pairs, Torquay

A very successful Novice Pairs event was held at the Torquay Bridge Club on Saturday 11 November. Twenty-two pairs registered for the day. There were two sections, one for under 50 masterpoints and one for under 100 masterpoints.

Congratulations to Kym Fraser and Lydia Erving who won the under 100 masterpoints and Therese Hume and Lyn Gray who won the under 50 masterpoints. Well done.

The Torquay Bridge Club not only has a very pleasant venue, but also a very friendly atmosphere, which is important for less experienced players, particularly for those who haven't played in an event such as this before. Mike Stokie did a fantastic job directing as did Kym Fraser as convenor. The refreshments for morning and afternoon tea plus nibbles and drinks at completion of play were most appreciated.

Our next Western Region event will be at Geelong :

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 - Pairs event**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - Teams event**

Please make a note of these dates !!!

***Jenny Johnstone***



www.geelong.bridge-club.org/

**Club Results**

**Open Pairs Final  
Wednesdays 4,11 October**

1st	D Newland, D Newlands
2nd	K Bailey, G Bailey
3rd	S Duff, G Temple

**Seniors Festival  
Teams  
Tuesday 31 October**

1st	J Lee, G Lee, D Newland, S Lester
2nd	C Dodgshun, L Frankenburg, J Williams, R Macaulay
3rd	P Jain, R Gillard, G Barfoot, P Carland

**Western Region Novice  
Pairs, Torquay  
Saturday 11 November**

1st	K Fraser, L Erving,
2nd	T Hume, L Gray,
3rd	J Lehmann, G Foard

**Swiss Teams (Pairs Entry)  
Thursday 16 November**

1st	A Blackburn, K Thomas, J Ward, J Powell
2nd	J McGonigal, J Williams, T Seed, M Pilbeam
3rd	R Gude, L Johnston, P Hassett, R Thornton

**Individual Championship  
Mondays 11, 18 December**

1st	G Bailey
2nd	D Read
3rd	P Dunlop-Moore

## Joan Wilson Trophy Winners

Sep	R Gillard
Oct	D Casey
Nov	G&K Bailey

## HIGH SCORES

Sep	D Newlands, A Robbins	74%
Oct	C Dodgshun, L Frankenburg	76%
Nov	K&G Bailey	70.24%

## Rank Promotions

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

<b>Graduate</b>	D Melzer R Hawker P Cochrane P Dunlop-Moore
<b>Club</b>	J Ramage J Powell A Cadd D Frederick S Bennett B Wilson-Browne L Martin
<b>Bronze Local</b>	T McCullough
<b>Silver Local</b>	L Bennetto
<b>Regional</b>	D Casey L Johnston D Strong
<b>State</b>	J Prowse M Doyle

## NEW MEMBERS

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

G Kennedy
A Chidzey
L Lightfoot
P Peck
C Traynor

## 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](mailto:jlbyton@gmail.com) .

Jennifer Blyton

## Bridge in the Ballroom

One hundred and sixty players within Victoria were invited to this event. It was hosted at Government House on 15 November 2023 by Her Excellency, Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria.

Gates opened at 2.00pm and following identity checks we were then directed to our name badges in the foyer then through to the ballroom. We had many photo opportunities prior to the 2.30 commencement when Her Excellency gave the opening address. This was followed by Laura Ginnan of RealBridge whose initial approach helped make all this possible.

With Laurie Kelso directing, we then played four rounds of two boards before breaking for a delicious afternoon tea. Another three rounds followed till 5.00pm. Our Warrnambool friends were announced as winners of EW with Marion and Philip finishing an impressive 5th EW.

It was a privilege to be included in this momentous event held in the most stunning venue and one which I'm sure none will forget. Even peak hour traffic (a two hour drive home) could not dampen our satisfaction.

*Thanks to Dot Peacock for the words on behalf of Western Region representatives, particularly Jenny Johnstone and GBC representatives, Marion and Philip Scambler. Also thanks to Philip Scambler for the photos.*



## 2023 Annual General Meeting

The 2023 Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 18 October. The President and Treasurer’s Reports were received. The outgoing President, John Walsh, awarded Peter Carland and Gary Barfoot as joint recipients of the President’s Trophy for their continued excellent work on the Maintenance Committee and gee, they have earned it!

The incoming President, Marion Scambler, gave a gracious acceptance speech and introduced the GBC Committee for the upcoming year. It is comprised of:

President - Marion Scambler; Vice President - Denny Newland; Secretary - David Strong; Treasurer - Anthea Duthie.

Ordinary Members—Kath Adams; Gavin Bailey; Gary Barfoot; Peter Carland; Wendy Dennis; Jenny Johnstone; Jennifer Lehmann; and Val Sercombe.

There were four resolutions under Special Business, three of which were agreed by members. They dealt with the promotion of Bridge at all levels at the Club, that GBC permanently retain the Honour Boards and that GBC maintain a range of competitions, in line with, but not limited to those provided by the ABF. The fourth resolution dealing with the issue of play on days when there is an official event running, was referred to the Match Committee for consideration.

A number of trophy presentations were made, detailed on the following page.

Almost a full house.



Outgoing Executive



Incoming President, Marion Scambler, giving acceptance speech.

Presentation of President’s Trophy to Gary Barfoot and Peter Carland (latter not pictured).

## 2023 Annual General Meeting *continued from previous page*

The trophy winners were:

Open Teams Championship 2023— A Robbins, G Ridgway, D Newland, D Newlands, S Lester

Helen Drinnen Matinee Teams 2023— G Ridgway, A Robbins, S Lester, D Newlands, D Newland

Mixed Pairs Championship— G& K Bailey

Restricted Pairs Championship 2023— K Thomas, A Blackburn

Intermediate Pairs Championship 2023 — M Doyle, B Kroger

Men's Pairs Championship 2023— M Stokie, R Gillard

Women's Pairs— M Glover, W Dennis

Restricted Teams Championship 2023—A Neunhoffer, J Blyton, W Dennis, C Bowman, J Prowse

Open Pairs Championship 2023— D Newlands, D Newland

Swiss Teams 30 March 2023—C Dodgshun, L Frankenburg, D Shandley, D Frederick

Swiss Teams 17 July 2023— S Robinson, R Gillard, S Bennett, J Ramage

Swiss Teams 25 August 2023—C Dodgshun, M Glover, L Lee, J Blyton



## Most Improved Player 2023

Geelong Bridge Club has a trophy for the Most Improved Player each year. This is determined by the increase in ABF Masterpoints (MPs) from November to November using the formula:

$$\text{Improvement Score} = 100 \times (\text{MPs this year}) / (\text{Total MPs} + 50).$$

Several members, especially affiliate members, score many of their MPs at other clubs or congresses, so there is a local rule that members must score MPs at GBC events in at least 4 months of the year to be eligible. The score is set to zero for new members with an incomplete year.

The top-ranked members for 2023 are:

Rank	Name	Score
1st	Maureen Peck	22.47
2nd	David Casey	20.34
3rd	Hank Gregory	19.82
4th	Linda Lee	19.06
5th	Jennifer Blyton	17.59

Congratulations to the place-getters on their impressive achievement. Detailed results for all members are posted on the GBC Noticeboard.

**Mike Stokie**  
Chair, Match Committee

## Defibrillator Training

On Thursday 30 November a number of members attended a workshop on the use of the defibrillator that is kept at the club. This is extremely important, both that we have a defibrillator and that there are people at all bridge sessions who know what to do if there is an incident. Thanks go to Gary Barfoot for organising this. The most important thing I learned is that there is a downloadable app called **Emergency+**. If you don't have it on your phone, get it.

**Jennifer Blyton**





## McManamny Teams

A very successful McManamny Inter-Club Teams event was held at Moonee Valley Bridge Club on Sunday 24 September. There was a capacity attendance of 32 teams from 8 clubs: BWOOnline, Geelong, Kooyong, Moonee Valley, Northern, Royal South Yarra, Waverley and Williamstown. The event was closed well ahead of the closing date when entries reached the maximum capacity of the venue. So, if your club wishes to participate next year, get in early.

Laurie Kelso did a wonderful job as director, ensuring that the 9 x 6-board Swiss rounds went off without a hitch. Everyone enjoyed the lavish spread of refreshments before, during and after the game. And all at the very modest cost of \$50 per team.

The results were:

### Stokes Trophy (best individual team)

1. Royal South Yarra 1 Caroline Marshall, Leslie Dicker, Anthea Bickford, Joan Gray
2. Geelong 5 Arthur Robbins, Douglas Newlands, John Prowse, David Casey
3. Williamstown 2 Lanny Chan, Harry Blamires, John Robertson, Chris Lamb

### Croft Trophy (club with best average across all teams)

1. Kooyong Lawn Tennis BC 66.26 average VPs
2. Moonee Valley BC 65.03 average VPs
3. Geelong BC 62.52 average VPs.

*Mike Stokie*

## Card Reading 1

Consider the following hand:

S 63	K742
H KJ1065	AQ4
D A65	K32
C K64	A32

How do you play 4H from the West hand in these three cases?

- NS did not bid and N leads the QC? We have five top tricks in hearts, two in diamonds and two in clubs making a total of nine, so we need a plan to develop one more trick. This plan must involve the spade suit and the best chance is to lead spades towards the KS and hope the AS is with N.
- NS did not bid, N leads the QS. The lead strongly suggests the AS is with S so nothing can be gained by covering. However, if S has only two or three spades, we can get a spade trick by playing low twice and ruffing the third round and hopefully dropping the AS. Now the KS can be used to discard a club or diamond loser.
- S opened the bidding with 1C and N leads the 10C. This time the opening bid tells us where the AS is (there are only 13 points which we cannot see!) so we must play as in the example above.

*Douglas Newlands*

After two weeks of qualifying heats on Mondays and Fridays, ten pairs progressed to the final of the Open Pairs Championship 2023 - the Club's premier pairs event. The final over two weeks consisted of nine 6-board matches against each other pair, using Match-point scoring. The final was conducted as a barometer event, in which all tables play the same boards simultaneously. This allows the scores to be calculated after each 6-board match and the results are shown on a large display ladder on the main whiteboard. In this way, each pair can watch their names rise and fall on the ladder after each round, depending on whether they have done well or not so well.

These progressive results add to the interest and intrigue of the event - as new leaders often emerge as the rounds go by. In 2022, good fortune (and good play) favoured Kirsten and Gavin Bailey and they emerged as the winners by just one Match-point. This year the bridge gods were not so kind to Kirsten and Gavin and, after leading for most of the final, they slipped back to 2nd place pipped by just one Match-point.

The place-getters were:

1st Denny Newland; Douglas Newlands 251 Match-points

2nd Kirsten; Gavin Bailey 250 Match-points

3rd Sue Duff; Geoffrey Temple 227 Match-points

Congratulations to the place-getters and to all pairs who made the final.

*Mike Stokie*



## Report on the 2023 GNOT Final, Brisbane

Sixty teams from all over Australia converged at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club on Friday 1 December to contest the GNOT final. This is an event, started By John Brockwell about 24 years ago, to enable ordinary club players to compete in an Australia-wide teams competition. Although it started in 1999, we did not have an entry until 2002, as Henty (Western Victoria). Since then, our region has changed from one team to two teams, Geelong (once called Barwon) and Western Victoria. The selection process is controlled by the Western Region committee and this year, the second team was an under 500MP team. This was good experience in a very strong field. The Geelong team had a successful tournament, narrowly missing out on the finals, finishing 7<sup>th</sup> overall. The process is such that it is a knockout event, with a repechage side event, allowing a backdoor entry into the finals. The results were:

Round 1: Geelong d Darling Downs 50/27

Round 2: Geelong d Mountains 2 57/16

Round 3: Geelong d Melbourne 3 46/43

Round 4: (Q/finals) Sydney 1 d Geelong 69/36

Geelong was now knocked back into the repechage:

Repechage Round 7: Geelong d Adelaide 2 28/8

Repechage Round 8: Geelong vs ACT 1 12/12 draw!

At this stage, we were lying 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Repechage, but

Repechage Round 9: Tablelands/Illawarra 1 d Geelong 42/36

So Geelong missed out on the entry back into the finals by 2VP! The team was Arthur Robbins, Denny Newland, Douglas Newlands, Gary Ridgway and Stephen Lester.

Unfortunately the Western Victoria team of Trish Frost, Margaret Glover, Penny Thomas, Janet Attrill struggled, but I am sure they enjoyed the experience.

On the Sunday in the GNOT Swiss Pairs, Stephen and Denny won the best Provincial Pair. **Congratulations are now in order for Stephen Lester, who has become the second Gold Grand Master at the Geelong Bridge Club, a rare achievement for a country club!**

A Bridge Report without a hand? Never, so here is one featuring Gary and Arthur against an old foe from SA, Roger Januszke. Gary held, as West.

♠ KJ92

♥ -

♦ AJ8

♣ KJ9643

The bidding started (S) (1N)-P-(2D\*)-P-(2N\*) At this stage, W has shown a super-accept for the H transfer!. Now Gary bid 3C (double was also possible!), and N bid 3D (retransfer, to get S to play the hand.

*Continued on next page*

Now I came into it, holding:

♠ 43  
♥ AT8  
♦ T632  
♣ AQ75

Obviously my cards are a good fit for partner, so I bid 4C, and Gary bid 5C, which was doubled, and easily made. Roger was furious with his partner! We picked up 11 Imps!

The full hand:

<b>Board 14</b>	♠ T765		
<i>Dealer E</i>	♥ QJ9742		
<i>Vul None</i>	♦ 75		
	♣ 8		
		<b>14 D</b>	
♠ KJ92			♠ 43
♥ -			♥ AT8
♦ AJ8			♦ T632
♣ KJ9643			♣ AQ75
	♠ AQ8		
	♥ K653		
	♦ KQ94		
	♣ T2		

They were playing Precision, so the Super-accept was based on a maximum of 15HCP.



Provincial winners Denny Newland and Stephen Lester



*Arthur Robbins*

# Christmas Party 2023

*This year's Christmas Party was held on Wednesday 13 December. Thanks to Val Sercombe for all these wonderful photos. What can I say - I'll let them tell the story. Editor*





# Happy Festive Season



Each year, the winners of the Country Teams Championship join the three metropolitan qualifiers in the round-of-four of the Victorian Pennant. The Pennant is the premier teams event in the state of Victoria. The semi-finals and finals were held on consecutive days in the Dendy Park Bridge Club.

This year the Country Teams Championship winners were the Newlands Team (Douglas Newlands, Denny Newland, Arthur Robbins and Stephen Lester). The semi-finals are 64 board matches and we drew Hollands (Pete Hollands, Eva Samuel, Ben Kingham, Sylvia Schwarcz, Martin Willcox, Kevin Chan) in the semi-final. We had beaten this team in the final last year and easily disposed of them 204 to 93 .

The other semi-final featured Thomson (Ben Thomson, Robert Fruewirth, Bill Jacobs, Neil Ewart, David Becket) against Sharp (Stephen Sharp, Danny Sharp, Diana Smart, Andrew Macready-Bryan, Jenny Thonson, Eva Caplan) but that too was rather one-sided and Thomson won by 177 to 66.

One board which you might like to consider how you would bid was this one.

**Board 28**

**Dlr W, Vul NS**

<p>♠3</p> <p>♥T3</p> <p>♦AKT862</p> <p>♣J943</p> <p>♠KT98654</p> <p>♥4</p> <p>♦74</p> <p>♣Q87</p>	<p>♠AQJ7</p> <p>♥K97652</p> <p>♦J3</p> <p>♣2</p>
<p>♠2</p> <p>♥AQJ8</p> <p>♦Q95</p> <p>♣AKT65</p>	



In this kind of event, the bidding is fast and furious and might be:

W	N	E	S	In case you are not sure what was happening,
3S	P	4S	X	the X of 4S is take out and 4NT says “two places to play”.
P	4N	P	5S	5S was because South thought 5C (or 5D) might not be enough
P	6C	6S	X	and asked North to bid one of his suits.
P	P	P		East thought to sacrifice at this vulnerability with his extra
				shape. South knew what to do now.

In fact, 6C or 6D was going to be too high as the QC was unluckily placed.

Anyway, we had to play Thomson in the final. Last year we beat them in the semifinal, but this year they won 122 to 59, when we never really got going in the final.

***Douglas Newlands***

## Seniors Festival Teams

The Seniors Festival Teams event was held on Tuesday 31 October 2023. This annual event is supported financially by the City of Greater Geelong as part of the Geelong Seniors Festival, now re-badged as the Positive Ageing Program.

The event is conducted on a “friendly” basis and players of all abilities and experience are most welcome. The event is open to seniors and non-seniors alike, with invitations extended to teams from across the Greater Geelong region and beyond. This year we welcomed participants from Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove and Torquay as well as many local members from Geelong. It was pleasing to have several of our less experienced players participating.

There was a capacity field of 18 teams, with the entries having to close well ahead of time due to strong demand. The entry fee was set at \$16 per player which included lunch and refreshments at the end of play. This low cost for two sessions of bridge with lunch and drinks was made possible by a generous grant of \$500 from CoGG. A great many players commented on how much they had enjoyed the day and the superb lunch drew particular praise. A big thank-you is extended to Kath Adams who co-ordinated the lunch, ably supported by 23 volunteers who supplied a variety of sandwiches, slices, cheeses, dips and drinks. A wonderful time was had by all.

The event comprised six 8-board matches played in a Swiss-movement. Congratulations to the placegetters:

1 st Jenny Lee, Gary Lee, Denny Newland, Stephen Lester

2 nd Chris Dodgshun, Lynn Frankenburg, Judy Williams, Robin Macaulay

3 rd Gary Barfoot, Peter Carland, Piyush Jain, Roger Gillard

4 th Jenni Ham, Joy Craig, Jane Keyte, Sue Napier.

*Mike Stokie Convenor*





At the moment, I am mentoring a pair of recent class graduates, and it has become obvious that some methods I take for granted are not part of their methods. I think an understanding of useful competitive methods is necessary for their improvement.

**1 Cue Raises:** These allow more aggressive bidding in competition. In the following, bids in ( ) are the opponents.

The bidding starts **1H-(2D)-?** Obviously 2H retains its normal meaning, but what about 3H? Do you want it to retain its early meaning (10-12), or to put some pressure on the opponents with four card Heart support, and about 6-9 (this is the normal competitive style), so a bid to replace the 10-12 meaning is necessary. This is the Cue Raise. It doesn't mean I have a good Diamond suit (in the above), rather it shows an invitational hand with 3+ card support, freeing up light raises. For example:

♠ A74	♠ J4
♥ Q83	♥ Q842
♦ 52	♦ 85
♣ KQ94	♣ A7532

In the first hand, you wish to show an invitational+ hand, so bid 3D. In the second hand, you want to make it harder for the opponents, and also tell partner about your hand, so bid 3H. It also makes it harder for the opponents to find their Spade fit! With the cue raise, **1H-(2D)-4H** is never strong! This also applies to **1H-(3D)-4H**, as **1H-(3D)-4D** is the strong hand.

Note that **1H-(2D)-3D-(P)-3H** does not stop the bidding, if you have a very strong hand, It merely says stop if you are only invitational!

If you decide to use these bids, remember, you have support, and this is the strongest bid you can make with support.

**2 Trial Bids:** (Long suit trial bids)

Playing early methods, **1H-(P)-2H-(P)-3H** is invitational, saying are you minimum (6-7) or max (8-9)? Sometimes the hands fit, and sometimes not. A better method is to use a trial bid (also called a help-bid), a new suit where you need some help from partner to reduce losers. It might be Qx, or a singleton with 4 trumps, even Kxx, a fitting honour. With this support, bid 4H.

Sometimes you can say "I don't have that, but I do have good cards in this suit" (below 3H), called a counter try - do not do this with a minimum hand!

**1H-(P)-2H-(P)-3C-(P)-3D** (a counter try!)

Failure to make a trial bid allows bidding to make it difficult for the opponents to compete:

**1H-(P)-2H-(P)-P**

At this point, the opponents sense you have minimum values, and can compete. (Remember, one of the maxims is to force opponents to the three level!)

*Continued next page*

To stop this, **1H-(P)-2H-(P)-3H!** This is an obstructive bid, making it difficult for the opponents to balance. Opener should have a six card suit, but it is NOT INVITATIONAL. Using trial bids is the method to invite.

♠ Q7	♠ A7
♥ AJT642	♥ AKJ532
♦ KQ5	♦ KT54
♣ J4	♣ 5

In the first hand, you are not interested in game, but concerned about the opponents. A 3H bid makes it harder for the opponents! In the second hand a 3D trial bid might lead to game. Trial bids can also be used in competitive auctions.

**1S-(2C)-2S-(3C)-3D** is a game invite bid! If there is no room, a X can be used.

**1S-(2H)-2S-(3H)-X** is a Game Try Double! This means 3S is purely competitive!

All of these bids enable the distinction to be made between a competitive bid, and a game try invitational bid. As bridge is a competitive game, such methods are important.

### 3 Better Use of Negative Doubles:

Essentially, this says I have some values, but not enough to bid my hand normally. Often it shows the other two suits, but can be used to show a single suiter.

At the One Level: The important decision is here:

**1C-(1H)-X** Some partnerships use this to show four Spades, others to deny four Spades, but with points to compete (say 7-10), but not enough to bid two Clubs/Diamonds (11+HCP). You need to decide this with your partner!!

**1C-(1S)-X** Normally, this is used to show 4+ Hearts, and about 7-10 HCP. It is the start to finding a 4/4 fit in Hearts (It can be even 13+ HCP, but is still used to look for the 4/4 Heart fit!) 2H would be 11+ with a 5 card suit!! If the bidding continues **1C-(1S)-X-(P)-2C-(P)-2H**, this shows a weak hand with 5+Hearts, and is non-forcing (could not bid 2H originally).

At the 2 level, **1H-(2C)-X** This is a common auction. The X promises (normally) 7-10 HCP, and 4/4 in the other two suits, and usually not three card support for partner! Problems occur with different shape hands, especially 5242 shapes, when a 5/3 Spade fit is missed! This is a difficult area, but sometimes it is obvious.

**1H-(2C)-X-(P)-2D-(P)-2S** This shows a long Spade suit, normally 6+, but less than 10 HCP. When you don't know what to bid, and you hesitate, a X can get you out of trouble. It can mean: I have points, but don't know what to do. This is certainly better than hesitating then passing!

Put these Methods into your toolkit, and get your partners to play them as well! Apart from that, bid your hand once, and involve your partner in your decisions!

*Arthur Robbins*

It's well known that expert declarers tend to prefer playing to set up long suits rather than taking finesses or ruffs. This has a defensive corollary in that defenders must try to keep equal length with declarer's side suits.

The 1S opener showed eleven to fifteen points and 5+cards. North responded with a version of Jacoby 2NT which shows four, or more, trumps and at least invitational values. This is a reasonable way to play as it allows 1S-3S to be preemptive (or mixed) rather than being your invitational raise. South rebid 4C showing a shortage in clubs and a non-minimum hand. With only a working nine count, North should simply have bid 4S but cue bid 4H. As well as showing a first or second round control, this shows interest in slam, prompting South to ask for keycards and bid the slam. North apparently showed the QS because the ten card fit, as it appeared to North, means the queen is likely to be irrelevant. At the table, West lead the quiet JS.

Pairs, NS vul, Dealer East

	W	N	E	S
♠ K8652				
♥ A73			P	1S
♦ Q4	P	2NT	P	4C
♣ Q63	P	4H	P	4NT
♠ J3	P	5S	P	6S
♥ Q10952	all pass			
♦ J10				
♣ AJ85				
♠ -				
♥ K86				
♦ 98753				
♣ K10942				
♠ AQ10974				
♥ J4				
♦ AK62				
♣ 7				

Declarer drew two rounds of trumps on which East threw two small diamonds and the defence was immediately finished as the 6D was now promoted. What went wrong? As mentioned above, the defenders must keep equal length in any suit that declarer might set up, like the diamonds here. Failure to keep equal length gave declarer the contract on a plate!

After that 4C shortage showing bid, East can discard two clubs and still keep the same club length as dummy has and the same diamond length as declarer may have. In practice, declarer will duck a club at trick three and win the red suit return in dummy. Now, ruff a club, cross with the other red suit winner and ruff the last club. When declarer now runs trumps, there is still a legitimate chance if East has the long diamonds and the KQ of hearts.

However West should signal to show some heart cards and East should know to keep the diamond guard and bare the KH to avoid the pseudo-squeeze. The basic message is that the defenders must try to keep the same length as declarer or dummy in the side suits.

***Douglas Newlands***

## Little Things...Make a Big Difference

Recently I've noticed several issues at the table where a better understanding of small things would perhaps get greatly improved outcomes.

Things like:

1. Bidding on a weak hand when partner is in 1NT;
2. Protective doubles;
3. Understanding when doubles are penalty or take out; and
4. Knowing the red & green (vulnerable and non-vulnerable) impacts on bidding.

### **Bidding when partner is in 1NT**

If partner bids 1NT, either opening or as an overcall, or as a rebid to your one level response, then holding minimum points (could be zero to a 1NT overcall), or just five to eight if you responded to a one level opening from partner.....then it is imperative to bid or rebid your suit with 5 cards. \*-Even with five small cards in a major, these can be powerful to play at the two level. I've heard people say - " oh I thought my hand was too weak to bid", as they watch partner struggle in 1NT going two or three off - for a terrible score.

*\*Notably that may only be in the majors if you are playing check back with minor rebids. I think that early on in bridge careers keeping these bids natural is probably preferable.*

### **Protective Doubles**

The idea of weak two and pre-emptive three or even higher bids, is to give partner information but mainly to make life difficult for the opponents to find their best contract. Thus when you get a pre-emptive bid on your right (either as an opening or as an overcall of your partner's bid...what to do? If you're holding values in the pre-empted suit, it is normal to pass...smoothly. This means in tempo, no questions and no alarm. This tells the opponents nothing and if the pre-emptor's partner passes then your partner should, within reason and having an ordinary sort of hand, DOUBLE. This is the protective double and your options are many.

- Pass - for penalties, if holding that suit and points elsewhere. Particularly when the opponents are vulnerable.
- But when opponents are not vulnerable, perhaps the following:
  - Bid a 4/5 card weak suit;
  - Bid 2NT with 10-12, holding no values outside the pre-empted suit; or
  - Bid 3NT with 13+, with stops in the pre-empted suit and additional values.

Of course you can bid game knowing there will be distribution issues with the other suits. Again the shape of the hand also has to be an influence on the bidding.

*Continued next page*

### Understand Partner's Double

- Knowing when doubles (X) are for penalty and not asking partner for some action is critical. This is for partnership agreement and should be established early on. Some established players use VTP, meaning that the first X shows Values, the second X (by either partner) is for takeout, the third X is always for penalty...looking for lots of blood. There are some variations to this.
- Know at what level Xs are not for takeout and are now for penalty. Each to their own arrangement. There are national players who have played any X at the two level is for penalty, while others and most play varying levels from 3H to the seven level where the X changes.
- Personally we play doubles to 4H are for takeout and a double of 4S and above penalty, with 4NT being for takeout over 4S, other than some specific cases where doubles are systematically penalty.

Of course there are occasions when penalty doubles are obvious at a lower level.

### Bidding Vulnerable vs Non-Vulnerable

One of the earliest things you will learn, other than counting your cards and values, is to take note of the vulnerability. This is most important as it controls or at least impacts on your bidding. Vulnerable situations are precarious if the auction is very competitive. If you are vulnerable, you need to be sure of the contract or at least very hopeful, because the penalties are painful.

When in favourable vulnerability ie. the opponents are red (vulnerable) and your side is green (non-vulnerable) you are able to be a little bolder in the part-score auctions. Indeed knowing the vulnerability is key to many sacrifice situations. Going two off doubled and vulnerable for minus 500, against letting opponents play a non-vulnerable game for plus 400/420, or even with overtricks for 420/430/450 ...is not a wise move. Unless you just don't want the opponents to play any hands no matter the cost.

Enjoy your bidding. Remember that if you bid a lot, you need to have the skills to play the hand or risk some punishment.

**Gavin Bailey**

#### **PIZZA SUNDAYS**

The next Pizza Sunday is

**Sunday 28 January 2024**

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

**The next beginners lessons are starting on**

**Saturday 10 March 2024**

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

## The Laws of Bridge

*(Over the last year I have been learning the art of directing Bridge sessions. Some of the things I have learned have come as a revelation and it occurred to me that players might also benefit from some of this knowledge. Penalty cards are a case in point. Editor )*

### **PENALTY CARDS (Law 50)**

Any card prematurely exposed by a defender becomes a penalty card. 'Exposed' means that it is in a position where their partner COULD POSSIBLY have seen it (even if the partner says they didn't see it). A penalty card must remain face up on the table until it is correctly disposed of. Declarer can never have a penalty card.

If a defender accidentally drops a card or accidentally plays two cards to a trick and the card is not of honour rank, it becomes a MINOR Penalty Card. If it is of honour rank, it becomes a MAJOR Penalty Card. If one defender has more than one Penalty Card, all penalty cards become MAJOR Penalty cards.

#### **Disposition of a MINOR Penalty Card**

It does NOT have to be played at the first opportunity. However, it must be played before any other card of non-honour rank (2-9) in its suit. The offender's partner is not subject to any lead restrictions.

#### **Disposition of a MAJOR Penalty Card (10,J,Q,K,A)**

1. A Major Penalty card must be played at the first available opportunity. If the player has two, or more, Major Penalty cards, the declarer directs which one is to be played.
2. When a defender is on lead and their partner has a MAJOR Penalty Card, the player may not play until declarer has selected from the 3 options:
  - a. requires a lead of the suit of the penalty card and the penalty card is restored to the player's hand and is no longer a penalty card;
  - b. requires the player not to lead the suit of the penalty card for as long as they hold the lead and the penalty card is restored to the player's hand and is no longer a penalty card;
  - c. makes no requirement or prohibition on the next lead and the MAJOR Penalty card remains on the table.
3. When a penalty card is restored to a player's hand, the knowledge of its whereabouts is authorised for declarer but unauthorised for the defender's partner, so they must take care not to make any choices that presume knowledge of the card.

#### **Failure to Play Correctly**

If a player plays another card when they should have played a penalty card, they may NOT withdraw the erroneous card and

- a. declarer may accept such a lead or play, and
- b. the penalty card remains a penalty card.

*Continued next page*

## The Laws of Bridge *continued from previous page*

### Danger Area (Law 57)

If a defender PLAYS OUT OF turn to a trick before their partner plays or if a defender LEADS TO THE NEXT TRICK before their partner has played to the current trick then that card becomes a MAJOR Penalty Card and declarer has these options:

1. require offender's partner to play the highest card he holds of the suit led;
2. require offender's partner to play the lowest card he holds of the suit led;
3. require offender's partner to play a card of another suit specified by declarer;
4. forbid offender's partner to play a card of another suit specified by declarer.

These options can be quite punishing so avoid playing out of turn. There are a few other, uncommon, wrinkles but they are only of interest to directors.

*Douglas Newlands*

### Card Reading 2

Consider this hand.

♠ KQ85	♠ A32
♥ AQ6	♥ 543
♦ AQ103	♦ KJ74
♣ J9	♣ 643

West is in 3NT with three top tricks in spades, four top tricks in diamonds and one top trick in hearts making a total of eight tricks, so we need to develop one. This is not a good contract on a club lead, but opponents do not always find the best lead.

**NS have not bid and N leads a diamond.** The best plan is to develop a trick by length in spades so play three rounds. If they have divided 3-3, cash the last spades and, if not, try the heart finesse. This is a good line combining chances in the spade suit and the hearts suit.

**NS have not bid and N leads the 9S.** One could reasonably play as above but consider that S seems to have the JS and 10S. If this is the case, win the AS and finesse S for the J10S by leading small and insert the 8 if S does not play an honour. Repeat this a second time.

*Douglas Newlands*

Here are two instructive hands from Monday 27 November:

### Board 14

East opens 1NT (15-17), followed by P, P. You hold as North:

♠ A875  
♥ A984  
♦ AJ75  
♣ Q

What to bid? In the Pass Out seat, X is ok, as partner will have some values (W passed), but you have little to develop tricks (3 Aces is not great), so I bid an off-shape 2C, both Majors, normally 5/4 in H/S. Partner bid 2D (you pick), so I bid 2H, where we played. On the helpful lead of KD, here is what you see:

N	S
♠ A875	♠ K43
♥ A985	♥ Q75
♦ AJ75	♦ 862
♣ Q	♣ K653

Count the points. Total of 23, and East has 15-17! This hand made 9 tricks! While most EW played 1NT for 6/7/8 tricks. Moral: be willing to occasionally distort your methods enabling you to compete!

### Board 28

East opens 1NT (15-17), Partner bids 2D (single suiter Major), you bid 2H, and get to play there. Yelp! You have a 3 count, and only two Hearts. How do you like your chances?

N	S
♠ J7652	♠ K9
♥ T5	♥ KQ7632
♦ T754	♦ A3
♣ Q4	♣ A52

You get a favourable lead from East, the 7C (a lead away from the KC!!). I run it to my QC, back to AC, then ruff a Club. Lead towards KS, it wins, then another Spade. They switch to a Diamond, win the AD, and lead a Diamond. Now all you have is 6Hs on the table, and they have to lead. Nine tricks! Without leading trumps!

The point of these hands, is that even though the opponents open with 15-17 1NT, you need methods to compete, and there are a number of them available!

*Arthur Robbins*



## Vale

### Shannon Irwin

17/05/1950 - 20/09/2023



Shannon was born in Kenya, but on the death of her father, a world famous photographer and mountaineer, she was sent to boarding school in England, aged five. One of Shannon's wishes was to go to Nepal where her father had died whilst training for a high altitude trek. This she achieved a few years ago with two of her children. As well as completing a trek herself, she met the sherpa who looked after her father while he was ill.

Shannon was an excellent cook, specializing in spicy foods which she sold at local markets and later in life she had a business making beeswax cloths, an excellent environmental alternative to Glad Wrap!

Shannon was my Bridge partner for nearly twenty years. She was very helpful to new players, both in advising and playing with them. She was always on the lookout for new conventions for us to trial. Sometimes they worked, sometimes they didn't... or one of us forgot! She started playing over twenty years ago and enjoyed success with many partners, both at Club, Regional, State and National events. For many years she served on the GBC Committee and was responsible for the regular catering and cleaning of the Club.

Golf was one of her recent activities and we had several friendly games with Bridge friends, Trish Frost, Douglas Newlands and Richard Lawrie at different local courses.

I still find it hard to believe she is no longer with us. She was playing Bridge until two weeks before her death! Her funeral was a private one, attended by her family and close friends.

*Kathryn Graham*



Shannon at a recent Bridge event with Val Sercombe, Kathryn Graham and Brig Fitzpatrick.

Consider the following hand.

♠ 983	♠ Q107
♥ QJ4	♥ AK2
♦ J1054	♦ AKQ3
♣ AJ4	♣ 1032

How do you play 3NT from the West hand in these three cases?

1. NS did not bid and North leads a heart? We have three top tricks in hearts, four in diamonds and one in clubs making a total of eight so we need a plan to develop one more trick. This plan must involve the spade suit and the best chance is to lead spades towards the Q107 and finesse for the J being with North.
2. NS did not bid, North leads the KS which wins and then switches to a heart. Now we know that North has lead from the AK of spades (lead an honour from a sequence of touching honours but lead 4<sup>th</sup> best with only one honour, remember!). Our best chance now is to develop the QS by position by leading towards it. It is now a mistake to finesse for the J since we know where the A is!
3. North opened the bidding with 1C and now leads a heart. Our side has 27 points and North has 13 since he opened (12 if we want to be conservative and we will find many people opening 12 when we play in the club). So if North has all the missing high cards (AKJS, KQC) he has 13 points. Even if we let him have only 12, he still has to have AKS and KQC so the correct line is to lead a spade to the Q and promote it by position. Do not be tempted by the finesse of the J since it is slightly unsafe and promotion of the Q by position is completely safe.

*Douglas Newlands*



Well it certainly has been a busy three months! I'd like to thank all the people who donate their time and effort to contributing to the production of this newsletter, whether it be the contributors, proofreaders, photographers and especially you, the readers. I hope you enjoy it and perhaps improve your bridge play at the same time.

Let's finish the year, and this newsletter, with a little un-PC humour. Thanks to **Jenny Johnstone** for spotting this and sending it to me.

*Jennifer Blyton*

Editor

# THE WESTERN REGION BRIDGE ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO THE FOLLOWING EVENTS AT THE GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB

**148-152 Portarlington Rd., Newcomb 3219**

**Date:** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 - Pairs Championship 10am start  
Swiss Pairs

**Date:** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - Teams Championship 10am start  
Swiss Teams

## RED POINT EVENTS

**Cost:** \$25.00 per head, per day

Fees will be collected at the table prior to each event

**Director : Mike Stokie**

**Please enter via Geelong Bridge Club website (calendar)**

**Any queries please contact Dot Peacock (Secretary)**

**Email:** [dotron26@outlook.com](mailto:dotron26@outlook.com) **Mobile:** [0409 169 282](tel:0409169282)

**BYO lunch.** Morning and afternoon teas, nibbles and drinks at completion of play provided.

**PAIRS:** The leading Women and Senior pairs win the right to compete in Stage 2 of the selection trials for the relevant Victorian Interstate Teams.

**TEAMS:** The top 2 teams qualify to represent our region in the Country Teams Championship, the winner of which earns a place in the semi-final of the Victorian Pennant.

## **Cleaner wanted!**

**We need a cleaner for the club! Do you know of someone? If so, call Marion Scambler on 0407 336 250.**