



# GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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## From the President

Well, my second letter as President is harder to compose than the first. I must say bridge has not been my main priority with Christmas and New Year in New Zealand and the Sub-Antarctic Islands. Then a procession of children and grandchildren through January.

I am now back in bridge mode with the Mixed Pairs, Western Region events, normal play and directing through the week. I did get the chance to play on a Tuesday for the first time for ages. What a convivial lot they are, they can talk! It is fabulous to have numbers increasing and even having to knock back some Mixed Pairs players.

In trying to think of something imaginative and stimulating, I sought inspiration from other clubs and, thanks to the Tauranga Bridge Club in New Zealand, I offer this.

In 1931 Mr John S. Bennett from Kansas City, Kansas was playing with his wife against Mr and Mrs Hoffmann. The couple had some serious communication problems that day and rude remarks were made in public about the bidding and playing abilities of each other. Then came the fateful hand when Mr B bid one spade, the LHO overcalled two diamonds, and Mrs B raised to four spades. Mr B did not fulfil the contract and Mrs B became hysterical. Mr B reached across the table and slapped her several times, as reported by witnesses. Mrs B went into her mother's bedroom and retrieved the family automatic weapon, returned to the game room and pointed the weapon at her husband. Mr B raced to the bathroom and slammed the door behind him. But Mrs B fired two shots which went through the wooden door and killed Mr B. The cards were later analysed and it seems that Mr B could have made the contract.

The perils of playing with your spouse! I will attempt to write on a more serious topic next time.

Best wishes

Marion Scambler  
President





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**Club Results**

**Mixed Pairs  
Thursdays 25 January,  
1 February**

1st	K Bailey, G Bailey
2nd	L Frankenburg, C Dodgshun
3rd	P Jones, B Jones

**Western Region Pairs  
Saturday 3 February**

1st	G Topfner, G Del Papa
2nd	R Gillard, M Stokie
3rd	L Piconi, J Sarena

**Western Region  
Teams  
Sunday 4 February**

1st	A Robbins, D Newlands, S Lester, D Newland, G Ridgway
2nd	M Stokie, R Gillard P Jain, G Chettle
3rd	K Bailey, G Bailey, A Gunst, A Feiner

**Open Teams A (qual.)  
Mondays 26 February, 4  
March**

1st	D Newland, S Lester, A Robbins, D Newlands
2nd	K Bailey, G Bailey, P Jones, B Jones
3rd	C Dodgshun, A Gunst, K Graham, J Williams

**Open Teams B (qual.)  
Fridays 1, 8 March**

1st	D Newland, S Lester, A Robbins, D Newlands G Ridgway
2nd	M Stokie, R Gillard, P Jain, G Wilson
3rd	R Lawrie, T Johnston, A Feiner, A Gunst

**Open Teams  
Semi Final Matches  
to be held on  
Wednesday 20 March**

- Newland v Dodgshun
- Bailey v Stokie

## Heard at a Congress last year

A: "I think I recognise you. You're a good player, aren't you?"

B: "Yes, but not at this game..."

## Joan Wilson Trophy Winners

Dec	S Duff
Jan	D Newlands
Feb	P Jain

## HIGH SCORES

Dec	L Frankenburg, C Dodgshun	76.3%
Jan	D Newlands, A Robbins	68.75%
Feb	A Robbins D Newlands	79.9%

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Angela Hede	Jeanette Collins
Sicca Von Shaardenburg	Michael Kinahan

## Intermediate Lessons

The Intermediate lessons have resumed in 2024 with over 30 players at the February lesson, given by Douglas Newlands on **Bidding After a Preempt**.

This demonstrates that GBC players are keen to improve their bridge.



The next lesson on the second Thursday in March will be given by Mike Stokie on **Handling Long Suits**. In April Denny Newland will give one of her lessons, again on the second Thursday of the month. Her lessons were very popular in 2023.

**Put it in your diary! Second Thursday of every month, starting at 11.30.**

## Stephen Lester Our Newest Gold Grand Master

*Interviewed by Denny Newland*

Congratulations on your recent promotion to Gold Grand Master (5,000 Masterpoints). Geelong Bridge Club now proudly boasts two GGM, yourself and Gary Ridgway.



***You are originally a Kiwi, when did you come to Australia?***

I made a couple of tries to come to Australia from Auckland NZ where I was a primary school teacher, specialising in music. I taught piano and played in restaurants and bars to put myself through university. My first attempt was in 1985, but this resulted in going home with my tail between my legs, not being able to support myself well enough.

I came back in 1989, and immediately found a career in bridge, editing Australian Bridge, the national bridge magazine and directing at a private bridge club, Trumps in Mosman, Sydney. I had no masterpoints travel with me, in those days you often had to start at the bottom of the masterpoint ladder again, so it's taken me 35 years to become a Gold Grand Master.

***What was your introduction to bridge?***

I have played cards all my life, and while my parents didn't play bridge, they played either 500 or Canasta (or later Bolivia), and my grandmother taught me whist, backgammon, euchre, even mah jong, being a gaming enthusiast extraordinaire. This got me into trouble as a teenager at school, where I formed a 500 school and conducted it during form time, earning me endless detentions and a poor grade in most subjects - but I got by.

Bridge participation came when I was 19, some 55 years ago, when I was recruited as a fourth for games at the beach, where Dad's good friends wanted to get him into bridge and my mother wasn't interested. Dad and I went along to a bridge club for players under 30, and he and I won the very first time we played, and as I fulfilled the age requirements, I stayed on and acquired a 16 year old partner from Auckland Boys' Grammar and was winning tournaments almost immediately. Bridge was my life from then on, and I wouldn't change a thing.

*Continued next page*

***What are some of your bridge achievements and some of your opponents?***

I've played for NZ several times, as recently as 2005 in Seoul and I've met and mingled with most of the bridge celebrities. I remember meeting Zia, Garozzo, Tony Forrester, Geir Helgemo and others, and all the superstars at a Calcutta event in London, where I was relieved to be "bought" by one of the bidders at the auction.

***You have been both an editor and have run a bridge club, tell me about these?***

I've owned a magazine and a bridge club in Brighton (now a mainly online club called Gardenvale Bridge Club). I've travelled the world, won many national events both in NZ and Australia as well as being sponsored for overseas bridge trips and won prizes like cruises. Now at 73 I am still playing. My last major win was the Open Teams at the Spring Nationals in 2019.

***Tell me your favourite convention:***

I have played literally hundreds of conventions over the years but by far the most memorable and fun was playing Symmetric Relay, where you could find out down to a jack the honour cards and exact distribution of partner's hand (this is when you were captain and doing the asking). You would know exactly how the two hands fitted together. My Geelong partner Denny and I don't play that, but our version of Precision caters for finding out exact shapes on many deals and most of the top honours in one hand (by the relayer) as well.

What a game!

**But wait! There's more.**

The Geelong Bridge Club should be feeling pretty chuffed. Not only do we have a new Gold Grand Master but Geoff Chettle is a new Grand Master. **Congratulations Chetts!**

GBC now has fourteen Grand Masters (that means each of these people have earned over 1000 masterpoints and fulfilled the requirements of gold, red and green points). Within this cohort there are four Silver Grand Masters and two Gold Grandies.

And there is another who is sooo close to a Grand Master achievement. We can all be very proud of them.



## Mixed Pairs

The Mixed Pairs Championship for 2024 was held over two weeks on January 25 and February 1. In recent years this event had been scheduled on Mondays but entries had been dwindling such that the event was barely viable. This year the Match Committee decided to move the event to Thursdays in the hope of attracting a larger field, and the outcome was highly successful.

There were 32 pairs entered for the event, but week one contracted to 15 tables (a Mitchell with 15 x 2-board rounds) when two pairs had to pull out due to illness. Both pairs returned for week 2 and although they were ineligible for the overall rankings their presence meant that a full 16 table Interwoven Howell could be played. It was very pleasing to see our Clubrooms filled almost to capacity in the best-attended Club event for several years.

Congratulations to all the entrants, from beginners to grand masters, whose participation ensured that the Mixed Pairs was such a rewarding and enjoyable event. And a big thank-you to the several men who stepped up and volunteered to partner women who otherwise would have missed the event. The winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> Kirsten and Gavin Bailey

2<sup>nd</sup> Lynn Frankenburg and  
Chris Dodgshun

3<sup>rd</sup> Pam and Bill Jones

Well done!

**Mike Stokie**  
**Chair, Match Committee**



## Western Region Swiss Pairs



It was a great weekend and going by the atmosphere on both days everyone enjoyed themselves. On the Saturday we had 36 pairs which was a full house and on the Sunday 10 teams. There were many people who contributed and helped over the weekend - I am not going to mention names but I do wish to recognize the people who spontaneously came into the kitchen before and after each event and helped.

Results for the Pairs event:

**1<sup>st</sup> George Del Papa and George Topfner**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Roger Gillard and Michael Stokie**

Best Women's Pairs were **Lyn Frankenburg and Robin Macaulay.**



# Western Region Teams



Results for the teams event:  
1<sup>st</sup> Doug Newlands, Arthur Robbins, Stephen Lester, Gary Ridgway and Denny Newland  
2<sup>nd</sup> Roger Gillard, Mike Stokie, Piyush Jain and Geoff Chettle

Well done to all the winners and thank you to all the people who participated and supported the Western Region Bridge Association.

*Jenny Johnstone - President WRBA*





## Gold Coast Congress 2024

I have been meaning to make the pilgrimage to the Gold Coast Congress for a number of years and this year, even though I didn't have a bridge partner, I decided this was the year I was going to do it. The Congress offers Pairs and Teams contests for Beginners, Novices, Intermediate, Under 750 Masterpoints, Under 1500 Masterpoints and the biggies – the Open, where the rockstars of the Australian Bridge world lock horns (including the Geelong Bridge Club (GBC) team of Ridgway, Robbins, Newlands, Jain, Bailey and Bailey). It also offers Walk-in sessions, where players with or without a partner can get a morning and/or afternoon game and don't have to commit for a multi-day competition. It's big, really big! For example there were 148 tables just in the Open Teams.

I thought the Walk-ins sounded pretty good—I could go shopping, swim, work on my suntan, read a book and play a couple of games of Bridge. Sounded perfect. The day we arrived I introduced myself to Toni Bardon, who organises the partner matchups and said that if she needed a standby at short notice, I was staying nearby. Half an hour later I received a phone call from her. "You're on!". A player in the Under 1500s Teams had to pull out and they needed a substitute for the three full days of competition. Erk!

As expected, it took a day of play to get some sort of system communication with my partner, but, of the twelve matches over three days (yep, that's four 14 board matches per day), we managed to win a few, drew a couple and lost more, but it was a fantastic experience playing in a venue with hundreds of tables. GBC was well-represented and our players (including Geoff Chettle, Denny Newland, Marg Glover and her sister in other teams) acquitted themselves respectably.

The logistics and organisation in running the event so smoothly are massive. The Australian Bridge Federation, the Queensland Bridge Association and all the individuals who helped to make it such a success are to be congratulated. Also, congratulations should go to our own Stephen Lester who was Editor of the daily bulletins. As Editor of the GBC newsletter, I am acutely aware of how much work and coordination go into the making of each bulletin. To get a really good overview of the Congress, read the daily editions, which are still available on the Congress website.

**Jennifer Blyton**



*Photos courtesy of Anne Russell. Open Teams tables (left), winners of the Open Teams (below right) and Open Pairs winners (below left).*



## A Letter to Novices

Do you still do silly things that get you bad scores? Of course you do! And experienced players also make silly errors. But there are two things I have noticed playing against novices, that they really should not do. If you do either of the following, please take this on board:

DO NOT underlead\* an Ace on the opening lead against a suit contract. The old statement was Aces are meant to kill Kings! Find another suit to lead, but if nothing seems ok, LEAD the Ace!!!

DO NOT confuse the methods for leading against NT, and against a suit. Holding KQT4, I have seen many novices lead the 4 (4th highest, you know!). Against a suit contract, often there is no trick to be won on the third round. You need to be aggressive, and lead the King, to set up a trick! Yes, occasionally you lose a trick, but better than giving away an easy trick.

NB \* To underlead an Ace means to lead a small card, when holding the Ace of the suit, generally a No-No on the opening lead against a suit contract.

*Arthur Robbins*

## An Interesting Hand (Part 1 of 3)

### North

♠2  
♥KQ3  
♦AK76  
♣Q10832

This is a good hand from the recent Gold Coast congress. It was played by Dee/Three for those who know him. South dealt and, with silent opponents, reached 5C after carefully avoiding 3NT.

### South

♠Q108  
♥AJ87  
♦983  
♣KJ9

West lead the 3S and East won with the AS and returned the 10H. Dummy won with the KH and played a small club to the king and West's ace. West now switched to the JD.

With two black aces already lost and the third round of diamonds to lose, you seem to be in some strife. Nevertheless, there is some hope. Can you see it? (*Continued next page*)

## An Interesting Hand (Part 2 of 3) *Continued from previous page*

Hopefully you have formed some opinion about how the red cards are lying from the appearance of the 10H and JD. Both look like short suits being led. You also know where the KS is, but the JS is less certain. The hand might look like:

♠2	
♥KQ3	
♦AK76	
♣Q10832	
♠K753	♠AJ964
♥9542	♥106
♦J4	♦Q1052
♣A74	♣65
♠Q108	
♥AJ87	
♦983	
♣KJ9	

After five rounds of clubs, four rounds of hearts, one round of diamonds and one round of spades, everyone is down to two cards. This means that a defender has to keep Qx of diamonds and a defender has to keep the master spade. If the same defender has both of these, they are squeezed and cannot keep three cards when everyone is down to two cards. East clearly has the diamonds and West clearly has the KS so maybe there is no squeeze because the important cards are held separately.

So, declarer's master stroke after winning the KD, is to play a club to hand and lead out the QS. If West ducks the QS is a winner (and dummy's two diamond losers disappear on the QS and the 13th heart). Therefore, West plays the king

and this is ruffed on table. Now the spade threat is the 10S and the JS is the guard, but it is in the same hand as the diamond guard.

After 10 tricks won by AS, KH, AC, AD, JC, Ruff of QS/KS and two more rounds of trumps and then the QH and AH, we come down to:

♠ -	
♥ -	
♦ K76	
♣ -	
♠ -	♠ J
♥ 954	♥ -
♦ -	♦ Q10
♣ -	♣ -
♠ 10	
♥ J	
♦ 9	
♣ -	

At this point West is irrelevant. When South plays the fourth heart (JH) and throws the 6D, East has to give up the guard in either spades or diamonds and South makes 11 tricks.

Declarer did well realising his QS was not a useful threat since the KS was known (from the play at Trick 1) to be with West. There was no guarantee that the JS was with East, but the only chance of making the contract was if the JS was with the long diamonds.

This kind of play is called 'transferring the threat'. It's easier to remember plays if you know the label for them! Lastly, Deep Finesse says only 10 tricks can be made in clubs. How did the defenders go wrong? (*continued next page*)

### 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 [jlbylton@gmail.com](mailto:jlbylton@gmail.com) .

Jennifer Blyton

## An Interesting Hand Part 3 of 3 Continued from previous page

Defending against squeeze plays usually involves attacking the entries. Notice that the KD was the entry to the 7D in the last diagram. The defenders need to play two rounds of diamonds early in the play. If a diamond lead is not possible (and this is not unreasonable), then East needs to switch to diamonds at Trick 2. When West gets in with the AC, West must return a second diamond to break the squeeze position!

Yes, Deep Finesse gets all this kind of analysis correct even though it has no idea of playing technique. It just builds a game tree of all possible plays at all stages and evaluates them with the Minimax Algorithm. (*Which is, I asked? Go look it up, he answered. Editor*)

*Douglas Newlands*

## Heading to the State Competition

You may recall that GBC hosted the Western Region Pairs and Teams competitions back in early February. Janet Attrill and Penny Thomas from the Warrnambool Bridge Club qualify for the Women's State Selection Trial. **Jenny Johnstone** found this article about the pair in the Warrnambool newspaper. Good luck girls.



## What makes for a good bridge partner?

Did you know Bill Gates plays Bridge? Jennifer Lehmann came across a post on one of his websites and thought our members might enjoy it.

Bill Gates learned to play Bridge from his parents, but it became one of his favorite pastimes after he began playing with Warren Buffett.

He said he is lucky that he gets to play with bridge players who are dramatically better than he is, and who are nice enough that they will understand his game and appreciate why maybe he led the wrong thing or didn't shift to the right suit or evaluated the hand just slightly wrong. They'll make comments that add to his knowledge, increasing the chances he might do it right next time. And that's a lot of fun. This sounds a lot like Bridge at our club as well.

Bill said he was amazed that some of these bridge players remember all the hands. "You play 50 or 60 hands in a day, and you go to dinner that night, and they know every single one." he said. (Sound familiar?) Bob Hamman, one of the greatest bridge players of all times, is kind of the ultimate of that. If Bill misplayed some hand three years ago, he can still tell you the spot cards that were in there. Bob himself misplayed very few hands when Bill played with him. Bill makes sure to remember those ones so he has his modest defense ready.

The classic form of the game is the team format where you have four people and you're playing for the normal game-type scores. Warren Buffett prefers that, because it's just the traditional form of the game, and doesn't make a big deal of the small differences of a no-trump contract versus a suit contract.

Bill likes both team and match point formats. He likes match points because there are just two of them playing, so there are slightly fewer variables. They usually get hand records afterwards, and a lot of tables play the same hand, and so they can look at all those different scores and see what happened. And because it's so excruciatingly important to take every trick they can, match point highlights any sloppiness in defensive or declarative play. He said " it forces you to think, okay, I've got to learn about squeezes, I've got to keep track of the shape of the hands I don't know as the hand goes on, and take full advantage of that."

He really likes the mix of the two. If they get the right team of four, that's a lot of fun because it's a social thing as well as kind of a mental challenge.

By Bill Gates | August 06, 2010

<https://www.gatesnotes.com/What-Makes-for-a-Good-Bridge-Partner>

### **PIZZA SUNDAYS**

The next Pizza Sunday is the 24 March at 4.00pm  
Please come along and join in the fun, but be sure to put your name on the list if you wish to attend.

**The latest beginners lessons started on 2 March 2024. We wish them all the best.**

What would you say is the best part of an expert's game? It's not that an expert can pull off an esoteric squeeze. Experts win for three reasons:

1. their focus lets them keep avoidable errors to a minimum;
2. their judgment is sharp, based on experience; and
3. their fundamental skills are rock-solid.

Give an expert a problem in basic bidding or play, and he will go right. Always.

To test your basic bidding, try this quiz.

1. You hold: ♠J76 ♥A5 ♦76 ♣KJ10853. Your partner opens 1NT (15 - 17 HCP). What is your call?
2. You hold ♠Q5 ♥754 ♦A10632 ♣K53. Your partner opens 1♣, you respond 1NT and he bids 2♥. What is your call?
3. You hold: ♠74 ♥AQ ♦A10764 ♣AQ76 You open 1♦, partner responds 1♣, you bid 2♣ and partner returns to 2♦. You try 2NT, and he bids 3♦. What is your call?
4. You hold : ♠AQ54 ♥4 ♦AQ762 ♣KT5. You open 1♦, partner responds 1♥, you bid 1♠ and he rebids 2♥. What is your call?
5. You hold: ♠AQ52 ♥J63 ♦63 ♣8532. Your partner opens 1♥. What is your call?
6. You hold: ♠AJ63 ♥K4 ♦53 ♣AQ43. Your partner opens 1♥. What is your call?
7. You hold: ♠764 ♥10742 ♦AKJ4 ♣A104. You open 1♦, and your partner responds 1♥. RHO overcalls 1♠. What is your call?

### Answers

1. Bid 3NT. Rarely, 3NT will fail when a club contract would have been better, but the nine-trick game is more likely to make. To play at notrump might be essential at matchpoint scoring.
2. Take a "false preference" to 2♣. To pass might work if opener has a minimum with 5-5 in the majors, but if he has 5-4, to play at the 5-2 fit will usually be better. Moreover, you have a decent hand, so give partner another chance if he has extra strength.
3. Pass. You tried for game, partner rejected. Respect a signoff.
4. Pass. Partner has long hearts but a poor hand. You have no game, and his hand may be worthless unless hearts are trumps. Don't fight a misfit.
5. Raise to 2♥. You suggest a trump suit and limit your strength promptly. A 1♣ response would do neither. To raise would still be correct with ♠AJ432 ♥Q52 ♦65 ♣543.

6. Bid 2♣. You have the ammunition for several bids, so bid your long suit first. With ♠AJ64 ♥K4 ♦53 ♣Q10543, to respond 1♠ would be correct ; locating a fit in the other major would be a priority.

7. Bid 2♥. Your hand is a minimum, but you can't suppress a fit for partner's suit. In some situations, a "free bid" may suggest a sound hand, but a "free raise" has no such implication.

*Thanks to Stephen Lester for pointing out this series of lessons given by Frank Stewart on his website <https://www.baronbarclay.com/frank-stewarts-daily-bridge-column/>. I encourage you to have a look at this website for more lessons. There will be more next issue of the GBC Newsletter. Editor*

## Vale

### Heather Mary Scott

05/01/1942 - 09/02/2024

Much loved wife of Bob (dec), and much loved mother of Lisa (dec) and Anthony. Heather joined the Geelong Bridge Club in the late 1990s. She immediately became a good student of Bridge. Her name appears on the Honour Board when she partnered Roger Gillard in 2010 to win the Mixed Pairs. Heather was a pursuer of excellence in many fields, especially golf, tennis and embroidery.

Heather was a member of 'The Mob', a social Bridge playing group started many years ago by Betty Boyd. Jean Lever offered her Bridge knowledge to all eight members. Kathryn said that she believes the finest food was served and it was an honour to be invited to play. She was a regular player at the Club until the last few years and we miss her.

*Thanks to Ros Thornton and Kathryn Graham for these memories of Heather.*



*Thanks to Pam Jones for this special photo of Heather and Pam in their tennis team.*

## Double is a Two-Edged Sword

Many years ago, Gary Ridgway and I were on a State team. Our non-playing captain, Simon Hinge, produced a sheet for us to answer about Doubles (X), about 40 questions. It was the best aid to our preparation. I no longer have that sheet, but the sentiments are still valid today. Knowing many methods about Doubles is fundamental. Unfortunately, many players are tied into the 'Opening Points Syndrome'.

What is that? I have "opening points", so I double to show 12+ HCP! Yes, this has some occasional successes, but partner doesn't know what your hand might be like, leading to some poor results.

Have you perished at the two level in a 4-2 fit? Have you jumped to three Hearts after 1S-X, only to find Partner has a flat 12 HCP, or even worse, only two Hearts? Then you have been a victim of the 'I have Opening Points Syndrome'. To improve your bridge, you need to be consistent with your use of X. It is a powerful weapon, but used imprudently, it leads to poor results. Used appropriately, it is a great weapon in contested auctions. Whether it is used on the first round of bidding, or a subsequent round, the key is **SHORTAGE** in the doubled suit, and enough values to compete in any of the other 3 suits. It doesn't promise an opening hand, but the right shape and enough points to compete!

A hand with 9HCP and shape is far better than a flat hand with 12HCP for competing. Discipline, the ability to pass with a good hand, but the wrong shape, is important!

'Double' is the most important weapon in modern competitive bridge. Players need to sort out the meanings of their Xs in many bidding sequences as a way to improve their bidding.

Do you understand X in these cases (bids in Brackets are the opponents)?

1. (1C)-X
2. (1C)-X-(1H)-X
3. (1S)-X
4. (1D)-P- (1H)-X
5. (1C)-P-(1N)-X
6. (1H)-X
7. 1H-(1S)-X
8. (1S)-X-(2S)-X
9. (1N)-X

There are many more sequences involving Doubles, which need to be discussed with your regular partner.

*Continued next page*



**Answers**

1. At least 4/3 in the majors. This is a modern treatment to allow competition.
2. Denies four Spades, and a Heart stopper, but shows values, say 7-10, (Though for some, it might show four Spades, but not five Spades).
3. Promises four Hearts. If you bid 2H, and partner bids something else, this shows a very strong hand.
4. Shows four plus Spades and four plus Clubs, good values in the other two suits. (Or like in number 2 above, it shows four Spades, but not five Spades, depending on your agreements).
5. Shows both majors, about 6+HCP
6. Promises four Spades, short Hearts, and support for other suits.
7. Depends on your methods, but shows at least 4/4 in the minors, not enough to bid 2C and usually two Hearts.
8. This is a Responsive X, It shows about 8-10 pts, but less than four Spades (other treatments are possible).
9. Against a weak 1NT, (rare), it is penalties. Against a strong 1NT, it could be penalties, but many have special meanings. The worst meaning is: "I have an Opening hand". A reasonable meaning is "I have a good, 6+, minor". Or something else!

**Arthur Robbins**

**Where's Patricia?**



I don't normally comment on people's comings and goings from the Club. The newsletter would be pages longer as we all do seem to travel a lot. But this one is a little unusual. You may notice that Patricia Cristina is not at the club during March. That is because she is riding her bike across to Western Australia, staying a couple of weeks, then riding home. What a wonderfully brave thing to do. Good luck Patt and come home safely. Thanks for this tip **Judy Williams**.

Entries are the means of placing the lead where you need it to be. Preserving an entry or entries is essential in dummy play: for instance, declarer may need to set up a long suit, but that won't help if there is no entry to the long cards after they become established.

How would you declare this slam?

♠Q 3 2

♥A 4 3

♦7 6

♣A J 6 5 2

♠A K J 10 5 4

♥K 8 6

♦A Q

♣7 4

West	North	East	South
			1S
Pass	2C	Pass	3S
Pass	4S	Pass	5D
Pass	6S	All pass	

Opening Lead: JD

Your QD wins. The opening lead is helpful, but you still have a certain club loser plus a heart loser. You can hope to set up dummy's fifth club for a heart discard, but if the missing clubs break 4-2, you will need three dummy entries: two to ruff clubs plus one to return for the good fifth club. Those entries are there - QS, AH and AC, but you can't draw trumps or use AC until you are ready to start ruffing clubs.

Take the AS. Assuming East-West follow, play a low club from both hands. If a defender leads a heart, win with the king, take KS, then go to the AC and ruff a club high. Go back to QS and ruff a club. You can return to AH to discard a heart on the good club.

What about this 6S?

♠A 4 2

West leads QH, and you take the ace.

♥8 6 4

You have 11 tricks and need to set up a long club again, but this time dummy has one fewer entries. If you take AC, KC and ruff a club, you will be sunk if the suit breaks 4-2.

♦J 5

♣A K 6 4 2

To get an extra entry, in effect, lead a club and play low from dummy. If a defender returns a heart, win then cash KS, QS. If trumps break 2-2, you can take the AC, KC to discard a heart, then ruff a club if necessary and return to the AS to discard a diamond on the fifth club. If trumps break 3-1, lead to the AC, ruff a club high and get to dummy with the AS to discard on the good club.

♠ K Q J 10 9 5

♥A K 2

♦A 7

♣7 3

*Thanks to **Stephen Lester** for pointing out this series of lessons given by **Frank Stewart** on his website <https://www.baronbarclay.com/frank-stewarts-daily-bridge-column/>. There'll be more here next month. Editor*

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## Did You Spot the Defence?

Pairs in the club.

Dealer: E

Vul: NS

		W	N	E	S
♠ K8752					
♥ 652				1NT	P
♦ 2		3NT	P	P	P
♣ 7652					
♠ J4	♠ A3				
♥ K73	♥ AJ9				
♦ AQ654	♦ J1073				
♣ J98	♣ KQ103				
	♠ Q1096				
	♥ Q1084				
	♦ K98				
	♣ A4				

You are South and find yourself on lead after the above auction. What would you lead?

With 11 points on table, 11 in your hand and at least 15 in declarer's hand, partner has 3 at most. When Stayman has not been used, it is normal to lead a major and here we hope to find partner with a king to have a chance of beating the contract or a jack to have avoided giving anything away in the suit led. Your spades are better than your hearts so you lead spades. The 10S is the correct lead from this holding.

Dummy plays small and partner wins with the king. On partner's continuation of the 5S (original 4<sup>th</sup> best), declarer wins the ace. Now declarer plays a small club towards the Jack. Are you going to beat this contract?

It is important to keep a count of how many tricks each side has so that you know if you can duck or not. On this hand, you know, after trick 1, where the AJH, KQC and JD are. Partner has played his only honour and you can see dummy. So the rest must be in Declarer's hand.

You also know declarer only had two spades and so has 3 or 4 cards in every other suit. Also, since you are a defender, you know the diamond finesse is working.

If declarer is making 5 diamond tricks and you duck the club, declarer has 9 tricks (1S, 2H, 5D, 1C). This means you cannot afford to duck the first club.

If partner has 10x in diamonds, then declarer only has 3 diamond tricks and needs 3 club tricks and three major tricks to come to nine tricks. If this is the case, you gain nothing by ducking the first club since declarer will play them till you take it.

So you win the first club and cash the rest of the spade tricks.

I hope you saw all this at trick 2 and made sure you unblocked the spades by unblocking the 9S (or QS) under declarer's ace! Did you?

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## Did You Spot the Defence? *continued from previous page*

In practice, declarer will probably take the 5 diamond tricks after winning the AS and then play the KH and take the heart finesse. Check that you can afford the 4H and 4C as discards on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> diamonds and that you are always beating the contract.

Declarer might manage to take 5 diamonds and, after South discards those two fours, endplay South with the AC. If South hasn't unblocked the spades, they get the AC, cash two spades only and then have to lead away from the QH. An ugly way to be caught!

At the table, everyone played 3NT and the lucky declarer who got the 4H lead made 12 tricks. One made 9 tricks after the lead of the 6S since it is now impossible to unblock the spades. One declarer went down on the 6S lead. At your table, the 10S lead to beating the contract nicely.

*Douglas Newlands*

## Coming Up

Intermediate Lesson	11.30 Thursday 14 March (Mike Stokie)
Open Teams Semi-finals	12.30 Wednesday, 20 March (no Bridge in evening)
Pizza Sunday	4.00pm Sunday 24 March
Open Teams Final	12.30 Wednesday, 27 March (no Bridge in evening)
Intermediate Lesson	11.30 Thursday 11 April (Denny Newland)
Intermediate Lesson	11.30 Thursday 9 May (TBC)
Helen Drinnan Teams (qualifying)	Fridays 12, 19 April
WR Friendly Teams (Ocean Grove)	Sunday 14 April
Pizza Sunday	Sunday 28 April
Pizza Sunday	Sunday 26 May
Intermediate Pairs	Mondays, 27 May, 3 June
Intermediate Lesson	11.30 Thursday 13 June (TBC)
Geelong Region GNOT Final	Sunday 16 June (rescheduled from 19 May)

## Weak Two Bids

(Including Multi-Two Diamonds)

This style of bidding is quite popular at the moment, and yes, it does put pressure on the opponents. And in many cases at club level, they do not have methods to counter it, but rely on previous methods (X= opening hand), and sometimes flounder into a good contract. But what about the opener's problems?

While opener may have a suit such as KJTxxx and a bit more, a good weak two bid, the problems come when Opener has 6/4 in the majors. Obviously AQxxxx, xx, Kxxx, x is good to open 2S, but is AQxxxx, Kxxx, xx, x still ok to open 2S?

Debate has existed about this for years. At first, it was never acceptable to open two Hearts/ Spades (H/S) with four cards in the other major, and this still applies to some players today, especially if you do not have a method to find the second suit.

On the other hand, when partner has limited values, not enough to enquire, the second suit is irrelevant. So what does that mean for opening 2H/2S, or multi-two Diamonds (multi-2D), a possible six card major? Vulnerability and position around the table (eg sitting in third position) should affect your decision. But looking at first or second position, the relative strengths of the two suits helps guide your decision:

- AQJTxx, Jxxx, xx, x and Jxxx, AQJTxx, xx, x are obvious 2S and 2H openings, a good main suit, and a weak other major.
- Kxxxxx, KQxx, xx, x or KQxx, Kxxxxx, xx, x are probably better passed in first or second seat, but are ok in third seat (not with a weak two bid, but a one level opening. Don't be scared to open a little light in third seat!)

NB: A 2D/H/S is never a weak 2 bid in 4<sup>th</sup> seat. Discuss with your partner, but normal is a good 14+, six card suit (apart from 2C).

So the considerations are for hands like:

- AQxxxx, KJxx, xx, x Open 1S in any seat;
- KJxx, AQxxxx, xx, x Open 1H in any seat.

Don't be scared to change your rules for opening, even with only 9-10 HCP, especially in third seat. When considering whether to open a weak two, look at the strengths of your suits, especially if both are majors. If both are good, open at the one level.

**A Defence against a Multi-2D bid** (weak 6 Hearts/weak 6 Spades/ 20-22, is the normal structure!)

- **2D-X** here is 16 plus HCP, with Lebensohl. (You may not know Lebensohl, so bid normally).
- **2D-2N** this is the other strong bid, showing 16-19, stoppers in both majors.
- **2D-2H/S** normally, a five card suit, about 10-15, limited. It is dangerous to commit when you do not know their suit.

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## Weak Two Bids (Including Multi-Two Diamonds) *continued* from previous page

If second seat passes, eg (2D)-P-(2H)-X, or (2D)-P-(2H)-P-(2S)-X, this double from either side is for Takeout, showing a shortage, and is competitive. It might be as low as 10 HCP with the right shape.

There are a number of defences to the Multi-2D, but most club players do not have any methods. Even one is enough!

*Arthur Robbins*

### Another Hand From the Gold Coast Congress

This hand is from the GCC event and caused a big loss.

Dealer W	♠ KQ9	
NS vul	♥ A632	
	♦ J7	
	♣ AKJ4	
♠ J7		♠ A853
♥ KJ1074		♥ Q9
♦ K963		♦ AQ5
♣ 63		♣ Q872
	♠ 10642	
	♥ 85	
	♦ 10842	
	♣ 1095	

At one table the auction was

W	N	E	S
2H	2N	X	P
P	XX	P	3D
P	P	X	P
P	P		

2H showed Hearts and another which is a common method. 2NT showed 15-18 flat. (This is never unusual 2NT). XX said get me out of here. 3D showed diamonds and unfortunately there was no way to show 2 places to play. Unfortunately, this went three down for -800.

In the other room, the auction was

W	N	E	S
2H	2N	P	P
P			

This contract drifted two off for -200 and a 12 imp loss overall. What went wrong?

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In the first room South might have gotten out for two off after the 6C lead, but it's not obvious and South was fearing -1100. The key is in the second room. East should see that partner has 6+hcp, North has 15+hcp and East has 14hcp. Therefore, South has 5 or less hcp i.e. probably one entry if they are lucky and most likely none.

2NT played from North is going to have declarer leading from his own hand all the time and it is going to play terribly. The other thing East should notice is that they will lead partner's suit and the Q9 are wonderful to start from and the defensive heart tricks will set up quickly. East has a clear double of 2NT and will beat 2NTX easily.

When NS run, all contracts should be doubled because these contracts will similarly play poorly and be easily beaten.

Playing pairs, one might get away with passing 2NT to gain 200 but it's not certain to be a top where 2NTX-2 is more likely to be. At teams, doubling is absolutely necessary to maximise the score on the board and offset your partners' misfortune in the other room.

*Douglas Newlands*

## Match 10, Board 19 at the Gold Coast

Dlr:S	♠ K832
Vul:EW	♥ 987
	♦ 87
	♣ Q1073
♠ Q765	♠ AJ1094
♥ AJ10654	♥ KQ2
♦ J2	♦ Q5
♣ 9	♣ 654
	♠ -
	♥ 3
	♦ AK109643
	♣ AKJ82

I can't resist. It was such an unusual hand played at the Gold Coast. I was sitting South and was the dealer. Playing with a partner I had met for the first time the day before, I was at a loss to describe my hand. So I opened 1D, West passed, partner passed, East bid 1S, I bid 2C, intending to return to the diamonds after the next bid. West bid 3S, pass, pass, I bid 4C, showing five clubs, all pass. Making 12 tricks. #\$\$@!!! Luckily in the other room the slam was missed so the score wasn't as bad as it could have been! Both 6C and 6D were possible.

What would you have bid? After play finished I asked my betters what happened at their tables.

A couple of possibilities, they agreed.

- 2C-X-P-4S-4NT-P-5C (Double was both majors, 4NT showed both minors); or
- 1D-1H-P-2S-2NT-4S-5C is also possible. South should probably bid slam when North bids 5C voluntarily.

So now I know, if I'm ever dealt a shape like this again.

*Jennifer Blyton*

# WESTERN REGION FRIENDLY TEAMS: 2024

*This is a RED POINT Event*



Ocean Grove Bridge Club cordially invites clubs in the Western Region to enter teams in the 2024 Friendly Teams event.

**DIRECTOR: MIKE STOKIE**

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 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024**

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: 0400114936

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