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GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 3

September 2025

From the President

(With thanks to Toowoomba Bridge Club for ideas.)

The Geelong Bridge Club owes its existence to the efforts of volunteers who have given freely of their time over a long period. Among the 'older' members of the club, it is hard to find anyone who has not served on the committee in various capacities and/or taught classes, directed or given their time in some other way.

Many of us have grandparenting duties but there is still time to contribute to our club. The Executive positions can become time consuming. However putting your hand up for one of these jobs will make good use of the skills which our members have, it will help the club and provide you with some enjoyment.

Taking on a committee position involves a meeting once a month - usually on a Thursday afternoon. If you come on to the committee, you are certain to find your understanding of the game of bridge improves. Yes, there is a risk you will have to volunteer for jobs but this involvement will introduce you to other members and increase your knowledge and enjoyment. While members may occasionally complain to you or draw some problem to your attention, they are overwhelmingly appreciative of what you do.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 16 October. We will soon be calling for nominations for positions. Please give serious consideration to offering your services.

I know this is a slightly contentious issue in the club but I am going to keep the discussion going. I had the pleasure of playing at Moonee Valley recently - a cashless club. I saw what can happen. We sat down, put our ABF numbers into the Bridgmate and played! No filling out forms and checking that they had been filled out correctly, no collecting money, no giving change, no going to the bank or otherwise depositing money. I know that there are a few more issues that would have to be dealt with, but I believe we can work in a cashless club like Moonee Valley and others.

Continued next page

We have a Masterpoints Secretary who collates and calculates the masterpoints for all club events. Masterpoints are intended to be a measure of achievement and can only be issued through clubs affiliated with the ABF (like GBC).

Roger Gillard was appointed Masterpoints Secretary in 2004 and, until recently, has been performing this essential task. He collected results, calculated when necessary and ensured that all relevant data was forwarded to the correct place.

I wish to acknowledge his contribution to the club as he has handed over this responsibility to Jennifer Lehmann.

Marion Scambler
President



Three Gold Grandees



It's not often that you get these three (Arthur Robbins, Stephen Lester and Gary Ridgway) in the same room at the same time and all smiling....well, two out of three ain't bad.

A Gold Grandmaster has earned 5,000 Masterpoints or more. Just think about what it takes in terms of the investment in time, knowledge and dedication to achieve this. We are certainly privileged to have these three grandees as fellow members of our club.



www.geelong.bridge-club.org/

Club Results

Geelong Region GNOT Final Sunday 1 June

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

Western Victoria GNOT Pairs, Geelong Sunday 13 July

1st	R Lawrie, T Johnston
2nd	T Seed, M Kinahan
3rd	A Gunst, D Read

Intermediate Pairs Mondays 16 & 23 June

1st	C Dodgshun, A Gunst
2nd	T Frost, B Giudice
3rd	T Seed, M Kinahan

Men's Pairs Thursdays 24 & 31 July

1st	R Lawrie, T Johnston
2nd	P Jain, G Ridgway
3rd	J Stark, D Newlands

Women's Pairs Thursdays 24 & 31 July

1st	S Duff, G Wilson
2nd	D Peacock, A Gunst
3rd	B Evans, D Read

Australia-Wide Open Pairs Monday 25 August

1st	NS: J Blyton, J Lehmann EW: P Jain, G Ridgway
2nd	NS: A Robbins, D Newlands EW: J Johnstone, D Peacock
3rd	NS: M Doyle, P Dunlop-Moore EW: G Bailey, K Bailey

Rank Promotions

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

Graduate	Darlene Barnett
	Heather Jones
	Barbara Spiller
	Clint Walsh
	Jane Opie
	Juliette Mendelovits
Club	Pat Longland
Local	David Melzer
Silver Local	Glenn Foard
	Jane Skeen
	Peter Carland
Regional	Kathy Thomas
State	David Casey
Bronze State	Stella Jansen
Life	Tony Seed

Intermediate Pairs



Intermediate Pairs winners - Chris Dodgshun and Anne Gunst, standing beside the Honour Board which will soon feature their names.

HIGH SCORES

Jun	D Newland, S Lester	71.1
Jul	P Jain, G Ridgway	76.92
Aug	D Newland, D Newlands	74.97

Joan Wilson Trophy Winners

Jun	A Gunst
Jul	G Ridgway
Aug	P Jain

NEW MEMBERS

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

Beth	Giudice	Bec	Bain	Eva	Moriarty	Cathy	Cheadle
Paul	Harrison	Anna	Webb	Kevin	Moriarty	Susie	Dickson
Sarah-Kaye	Page	Megan	Schwab	Pauline	Rankin	Keld	Hansen
Sarah	Edwards	Stephanie	Warren	Bob. Bobby	Simic	Flossie	Kent
Merryn	Ratcliffe	Althea	Abraham	Hilary	Williams	Robin	Taylor
Sue	Wall	Catherine	Cheyne	Zara	Brookes	Deborah	Eban
Bill	Rebula						

GBC Beginners Class of May 2025

Wednesday, 27 August saw the May 2025 students 'graduate'. Of the 28 who started lessons in May, four are rejoining the August 2025 lessons as they missed many weeks for various reasons. Two didn't finish for personal reasons and twenty have now joined the Geelong Bridge Club. A response Terry and I are extremely happy with!

These 20 keen and enthusiastic players have finished the ten week Introduction to Bridge classes, followed by four weeks of supervised play. They are now ready to try their hand at what they have learned at some of the regular sessions at the Club. Please take a minute to get to know all the new faces and make them feel welcome at our wonderful Club.

I always tell our students the real learning begins once they have finished lessons. We can only teach the basics. It's now over to all Club members to nurture them and make them feel comfortable and welcomed.

Special thanks to all those who helped with the lessons — Anthea Duthie, Marion Scambler, Jenny Johnstone, Jennifer Lehmann, Valerie Sercombe all assisted at one or more lessons. The biggest thanks must go to Terry Passlow. Lessons would certainly be more difficult without Terry's amazing contribution.

Bernie O'Dea



PS: Of the current graduating group, five played at Pizza bridge on Sunday, eight played on Tuesday, one played on Wednesday night and six played on Thursday. Fabulous response to date .

PIZZA SUNDAYS

The next Pizza Sundays are on
26 October and 30 November 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.

Bridge Victoria Presidents Award 2025

Gary Ridgway is the winner of the inaugural Bridge Victoria (BV) Presidents Award, presented to him at the recent Geelong Bridge Club (GBC) Congress by the Chair BV, Jan Van Riel. The award recognises his contribution over an extended period to the development of bridge, the operation and management of bridge within Victoria and nationally and his contribution to raising overall awareness of the game.

Gary was recognised for making top level bridge more accessible for country clubs, mentoring, teaching, and directing. The BV Working Group made a recommendation for the first recipient of this award at a BV Operations Committee meeting which was endorsed and announced during the recent Presidents' Day.

This is the first time it has been awarded and will not necessarily be awarded every year unless there is an outstanding candidate.

(Sourced from <https://bridgevictoria.au/bridge-victoria-presidents-award-2025/>)

Geoff Chettle spoke at the GBC Congress to Gary's achievements, from information provided by **Arthur Robbins**, Gary's long-time playing partner and friend. The following is a summary.

Gary's Contributions to bridge in Victoria (and Australia)

Around 1973 Jim Borin started up the Federation of Affiliated Bridge Clubs of Victoria (FABCV), with a meeting at the English Speaking Union in Toorak Rd. It was at the Croft Teams day, where bridge clubs around Victoria were sending representative teams. Jim and Gary were concerned about the lack of transparency as to where the club subscription contributions from all Victorian clubs were going, as there was no visible separation of accounts. Gary was on the committee formed for many years, but with little success, as the VBA stymied the process, despite the good will of Margaret Bourke, and later Jenny Thompson!

Several years later, Gary, with the encouragement of John Brockwell, created the Western Region with the purpose of opening up spots in the GNOT finals, a great tournament for all clubs, sadly restructured by the ABF recently! At first, two teams from the region were selected, but the region was then split into Geelong and Western Victoria (because of the dominance of Geelong), and one team from each region was selected.

These were great contributions, but several years later, Gary achieved significant benefits for country clubs, when he pushed for country representation into the Women's team selection, and the Seniors' team selection trials, which has been very successful. As part of the setting up of Regions, in which he was proactive, this led to the Country Teams Championship, with the top team given entry into the Victorian Teams Championship (also known as the Pennant). Thus Gary has contributed to the Progress of Bridge in Victoria for over 50 years!



Jan Van Riel Chair, Bridge Victoria (left) and Gary Ridgway (middle) listening to Geoff Chettle speaking to Gary's contribution to Victorian Bridge.

Continued next page

Gary at a playing level

Gary learnt bridge in 1970, and started playing regularly at GBC in 1971. He has represented Victoria at the Australian Championships eleven times, three in the Open and eight in the Seniors, with some success. He has won multiple congress events across Australia and was the first GBC member to achieve Gold Master ranking!

At Geelong he was the club teacher for more than fifteen years, and was chairman of the Match Committee for over twenty years. His name appears all over the club's honour boards, indicating his playing ability over 50 years. Recently his team won the 2025 GBC Congress Teams event!



Battle of the GBC Precision Players

At the recent GBC Congress, two Geelong teams battled in Round 5. At both tables NS were Precision players, Denny and Stephen at one table, Gary and Arthur at another. Board 10 offered an insight into their different methods (Precision is renowned for different treatments by many of its adherents). Here, Gary and Arthur's methods proved superior!

♠ Q8
♥ AKJ
♦ AQ42
♣ AJ76

Average 730 NS

♠ AK93
♥ T974
♦ K983
♣ 9

At Denny and Stephen's table, after two passes, North opened 1C (16+), South bid 2D (8-10 balanced) and they resided in 3NT. At our table, Gary (South) bid 3S after the 1C opening, showing 9-11, and a 4441, singleton club! This excited North, who used Roman Key Card to get to 6D, a reasonable contract needing a 3/2 trump break. Thirteen tricks were made. Gary and Arthur's methods worked!

Arthur Robbins

You find yourself in a grand slam after there has been a keycard accident. There are plenty of tricks but the trump suit has a hole in it being

Q8642 opposite A10953

You are missing the KJ7 but need to play it for no losers. How many holdings can you identify for the defenders so that you can play the suit for no loser? Make a list right now on this page. Having got your list, how would you play the suit?

(answer later).

Having solved that problem, we will rerun the auction but this time you get to stop in the small slam. Now you don't mind one loser (it's teams so making the contract is most important) and you absolutely must not have two loser (yes - making the contract is all that matters).

What holdings can you identify where a careless declarer might have two losers? What play would you make to avoid that ugly fate? Make a list right now on this page. You only get about 4 minutes for the play at the table so this mustn't take too long!

(answer later)

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(In 2024 **Mike Stokie** gave an Intermediate lesson on Long Suit Trial Bids. A number of members wanted this lesson to be reprised, so here it is. Thanks, Mike. Editor)

Suppose you open 1S and partner responds 2S, opponents passing. What now? If you are very strong (18-19), you jump to 4S. If quite a weak opening (11-13), you pass. The mid-range (14-17) is the area of doubt. Beginners might bid 3S and pass the decision to partner. Consider the following South hands (a), (b) and (c). Each has 7 HCP and would bid 2S after North's 1S opening. How do NS decide whether to try for 4S?

North	South (a)	South (b)	South (c)
♠ AKxxx ♥ xxx ♦ x ♣ AQJx 14HCP	♠ Qxx ♥ Jxxx ♦ Axxxx ♣ x 7HCP <i>Max 8-9 tricks, 4S won't make</i>	♠ QJxx ♥ Axxx ♦ xxxx ♣ x 7HCP <i>Likely 10+ tricks, 4S is making</i>	♠ Qxx ♥ x ♦ AJxxx ♣ xxxx 7HCP <i>Likely 10+ tricks, 4S is making</i>

Long Suit Trial Bids enable the partnership to jointly decide whether to bid to game (not either acting unilaterally). If the Primary Bidder thinks that game might be possible provided partner has favourable cards, they:

- ignore their side suits that are short (one or two) or strong e.g. diamonds & clubs in the North hand above
- identify a side-suit that is at risk, always 3+ cards length but some weakness e.g. Hearts in the North hand above
- bid this risky side-suit. This is the long suit trial. It alerts partner (and the opponents) that you have gaps in this suit, and it asks partner to bid game if they can help with this suit or sign off at the 3-level otherwise.

After 1S - 2S, a next bid of 3C, 3D or 3H would each be a long suit trial. Bid 3S to stop or go to the 4S game

After 1H - 2H, a next bid of 2S, 3C or 3D would each be a long suit trial. Bid 3H to stop or go to the 4H game.

Guidelines for the Responder

- Alert the LST bid - it has specific information that there is some weakness in the suit
- Count your losers in the LST suit (H) - 3 in (a), 2 in (b), 1 in (c)
- With 0-1 losers in the LST suit, bid game
- With 2 losers, bid game if maximum, stop at 3-level if minimum [regard (b) as max due to club singleton]

Continued next page

- With 3 losers, always stay at 3-level
- Ignore vulnerability and MP/IMP scoring, but be cautious if opponents are competing
- Always remember to bid 3H/S if you can't help LST - don't be careless and pass.

Example 1

North	South
♠ AQ854	♠ KJ9
♥ A863	♥ K2
♦ A7	♦ 9654
♣ Q2	♣ 8653
16HCP	7HCP

Bidding

1S 2S

3H* 4S (one loser in H)

*LST

The Play

Count to 10 tricks:

5♠, 2♥, 1♦, 0♣ and
2♥ ruffs

Asap: HK

HA

ruff H6

DA

Ruff H8

Now trumps

Example 2

North	South
♠ J	♠ KQ8
♥ AKQ62	♥ JT8
♦ J63	♦ 9852
♣ AQ42	♣ K76
17HCP	9HCP

Bidding

1H 2H

3D* 3H (3 losers in D)

*LST

The Play

Count to 9 tricks

1♠, 5♥, 0♦, 3♣

Can't avoid 3 losers in ♦
and SA.Game is not possible on
good defence, even with
26HCP.**Example 3**

North	South
♠ 8652	♠ 43
♥ AJ83	♥ QT942
♦ K5	♦ A742
♣ A54	♣ K2
12HCP	9HCP

Bidding

1C 1H

2H 3D*

4H (1 loser in D)

*LST

The Play

Count to 10 tricks

0♠, 4♥, 2♦, 2♣ and
2♦ ruffs

Asap: DK

DA

ruff D4

CK

Ruff D7

Now trumps

Reference: YouTube lesson by Matt Mullamphy, Australian Gold Grand Master

Google 'Long Suit Trials Matt Mullamphy'

"If I had my way, I would have children taught bridge as a matter of course, just as they are taught dancing. In the end, it will be more useful to them. You can play bridge as long as you can sit up at a table and tell one card from another. In fact, when all else fails -- sport, love, ambition -- bridge remains a solace and an entertainment."

-- W. Somerset Maugham

<https://kwbridge.com/why.htm> Why Play Bridge

GBC Congress 2025

The Congress was held over the weekend of 28-29 June. The total number of participants over the two days was 240, a slight increase on 2024.

The winners were:

Open Pairs

1st: R Lawrie, T Johnston;
2nd: J Yang, P Ruan;
3rd: K Ferguson, L McKenna

Open Teams

1st D Newlands, J Stark, A Robbins, G Ridgway
2nd P Young, D Gould, L Young, H O'Donnell
3rd C Arul, A Meydan, K Balachandiran, G Ghali

Restricted Pairs

1st: G Foard, D Casey;
2nd: J McGonigal, P Smigowski;
3rd: R Dormann, R Mackiggan.

Restricted Teams

1st: R Dorman, R Mackiggan, H Lindsay, H Cvjetan.



*Restricted Pairs
Winners: D Casey & G
Foard*



*Open Pairs Winners:
R Lawrie & T
Johnston seen here
with M Scambler
(President)*



*Open Teams Winners: G
Ridgway, J Stark, D Newlands,
A Robbins (I paid Arthur to
smile this time—just kidding)*



More from the GBC Congress 2025



Director Martin Willcox
(right) with a suspicious
looking character—oh!
It's Justin.



Val & Heather
doing a great job.



Lots of good bridge at a
very comfortable venue,
good food and keen
competition.



Convenor
—glad it's
done for
another
year.



Social Bridge

The Geelong Bridge Club is introducing a Social Bridge session on Friday mornings (10 a.m. to 12 noon) from Oct 17 until Dec 5. These will be purely social sessions with no director, no pre-dealt boards, no timed rounds or results. Players will not need to come with a partner. The expectation will be that people make up a four as they arrive. Once a group has played four deals, they will find a new group of four. You will not need to be a member of a bridge club to participate.

The sessions will run as a trial for eight weeks and are primarily aimed at beginner or intermediate players who have recently completed lessons, are returning to bridge or who simply don't want to play duplicate (competitive) bridge. Some advice / coaching will be provided for anyone who wants to develop their understanding of bridge. If there is sufficient interest, further sessions will be arranged in 2026.

The Social Bridge sessions will be held at the Geelong Bridge Club at 148-152 Portarlington Road, Newcomb. There will be a \$5 charge per person per session to cover amenity costs. To assist organisational arrangements, please register your interest on the Geelong Bridge Club [calendar](#) or with Social Bridge facilitator Phil Dunlop-Moore at phildunlopmoore@gmail.com. In addition, Phil can be contacted to answer any questions or queries.

Where's our President?



Our President is obviously having a terrible time OS. I bet she, Philip and Anne Gunst can't wait to get home! Shown here slumming it at their digs somewhere in Ireland.

Seeing Double!

This hand illustrates a common theme when the defenders have to guard three suits.

Board 23 (1 Aug)

Dealer: S

Vul: Both

♠ A108643 ♥ AJ ♦ K2 ♣ 762	♠ 52 ♥ 8753 ♦ 1084 ♣ AKQ4	♠ KQ97 ♥ 62 ♦ AJ6 ♣ 10983
	♠ J ♥ KQ1094 ♦ Q9753 ♣ J5	

West	North	East	South
			2H
2S	P	4S	AP

South opened 2H showing hearts and a minor. West overcalled 2S and East raised to game. North led the AC, KC and gave South a club ruff while maintaining the QC as a winner over the 10C. South then switched to the KH which was taken by the AH.

West has 6 trumps, AH, AKD which is 9 tricks and one short which is the usual sign to look for a squeeze. West knows where the QH is and also the QC but the QD might be in either hand. Let us run all but one of the trumps and, to show the strength of the ending, let us give both defenders a QD! This is the ending with the defenders still guarding everything.

♠ 3 ♥ J ♦ K2 ♣ -	♠ - ♥ - ♦ Q84 ♣ Q	♠ - ♥ - ♦ AJ6 ♣ 10
	♠ - ♥ Q ♦ Q93 ♣ -	

When the last spade is played, North cannot discard the QC since the 10C will become a winner and so North discards a diamond. Since North has kept the QC, the 10C is now useless and can be discarded.

Now the attention switches to South. If South discards the QH, the JH will become a winner in declarer's hand, so South discards a diamond. Now declarer knows both defenders have only two diamonds and that the KD and AD will drop both queens and the JD will be good!

A nice hand but not a real double squeeze. It is actually two simple squeezes (C+D against North and H+D against South) played simultaneously since you don't actually know which was in effect.

Still it's a nice demonstration of technique.

Douglas Newlands

For Newcomers, it is all about the bidding! An overemphasis on bidding! But of course, you cannot walk into a strange club without some knowledge of Stayman, Transfers over 1NT etc, and limit raises. But for most experienced players, who find the optimum contract, it's about the play of the cards. Often players 'overbid' on the basis that their Left Hand Opponent will give up a trick on the first lead! But often it is about (at Duplicate) finding an extra trick! (or ensuring a contract).

The adage "Draw Trumps" is often correct. BUT! You need to look at losers, and potential losers.

Let's look at a holding of AQJ73, 76, 9842, A7

A reasonable 1S opening. But lots of potential losers!

As Partner, you hold K84, 953, Q53, K643 and raise to 2S. Do you draw trumps? If Diamonds are 3-3, no problem, but if they are 4-2 or worse, you need to do something else (based on a 3-2 trump split!) So DON'T draw trumps! Play on Diamonds, ruffing the fourth one in the short hand if necessary!

On another level, D9842 might offer a discard, if three rounds of Diamonds sets up the 13th Diamond. It happens, but of course, there is a lot happening in the other suits. But be aware, that the 13th card in a suit is a potential winner!!

Now back to another situation. You arrive in a contract and Dummy has AJ743 in a suit, not trumps, in which you hold K5. What are your thoughts? Do you think, goodie, no loser? Or do you think, this might set up for 3 or 4 tricks? To be aware of such circumstances is important to improve your Dummy play. A hand from Wednesday August 27: Board 5, NS Vul (East in 5C!)

West	East
♠ AJ743	♠ K5
♥ T87	♥ AK63
♦ A	♦ Q7
♣ J964	♣ AQT53

EW landed in 5C, quite safe, but is 6C makeable? After the QH from South, and the Club finesse loses to South, how do you play the Spades? In 5C, it is not a problem, but in 6C (not us) you have to find two Heart discards. Finesse, or not? It depends on the bidding! Here, Spades split 3-3 so no problem! Otherwise?

So, reading the cards and understanding card play methods are the secrets to becoming a better bridge player!

PS South made a crazy 3D, vulnerable pre-empt, but it was hard to penalize!!

Arthur Robbins

Hi Jennifer

Just wondering if you could include the following conventions in your next newsletter please. Some beginners are already playing them and I had never heard of them!

Gazilli

Golady

XYZ check back

Have a nice weekend.

Regards XXXX (*name supplied*)

*I received this email from one of our members and asked a few of the senior players if they could provide explanations for the named conventions. Would you believe, when I googled **Golady**, the AI couldn't find anything! It asked me if I meant the **Landy** convention after an opening bid of 1NT. No I responded, Go Lady. Nothing available, the AI said. I had to resort to hard copy books! Remember those?*

Anyway, I hope these explanations help you XXXX.

Golady

This convention originated as a 2C response to 1D in a 2/1GF system.

It will work similarly in the sequence 1C-2C.

The responses to 2C are

- 2D shows 4 hearts
- 2H shows 4 spades
- 2S shows a club fit
- 2NT shows a balanced hand
- 3C shows a long diamond hand

The advantages are that you can

- agree hearts at the 2 level (1D-2C-2D-2H) and start cue bidding
- agree spades at the 2 level (1D-2C-2H-2S) and start cue bidding
- agree clubs at the 2 level (1D-2C-2S) and start cue bidding (or bid 2NT to suggest a balanced hand with interest in 3NT)

The only disadvantage is that you cannot cheaply rebid 2D but 1D-2C-3D still shows good long diamonds. Do you currently do any cue bidding of controls?

If yes, you might consider this method.

If no, then don't even think about this!

We (Arthur and Douglas) started looking at using this method but somehow it just devolved into playing 1M-2C as a **range ask**.

The current responses are

- 1S-2C-2S shows minimum (11-13) and 6 card spades
- 1S-2C-2H shows 4 hearts and 5 spades but says nothing about range
- 1S-2C-2D shows minimum without 6 spades and without 4 hearts

Continued next page

This is useful for invite hands with a 3 card fit or flattish hands with a 2 card fit where Jacoby might be too much in that playing in 3M might go 1 off. In either case, if partner shows a minimum, just play 2M in the 5-3 or 5-2 fit. We even play this **range ask** after 1D-2C but our 1D bid shows 5 cards essentially all the time (4441 precisely is the only exception).

Gazzilli

It is a convention for opener's second bid named after Leo Gazzilli. There are two styles of playing it but I shall describe only one. The Gazzilli bid is 2C in the sequences 1M-1N-2C and 1H-1S-2C. It is either natural 11-16 and shows 5+M and 4+C or it is 17+ and any hand with at least 5M. Since 2C has no upper range, it is forcing so you cannot pass 2C.

Responder's continuations after 2C are:

- 2D any hand with 7+hcp and the auction is FG if opener has 17+.
- opener rebids 2M with 11-16 and the auction can stop quickly and naturally in 2M or 3C.
- Opener bids anything other than 2M with 17+ and the auction continues naturally to game.
- 2H or 2S shows maybe 5-7 hcp and suggests stopping unless opener has 19+ by bidding 2NT or a new suit.

Opener's rebids other than 2C show:

- 1H-1S-2D shows 11-16 and x54x or 11-13 and x55x
- 1H-1S-3D shows 14-16 and x55x
- 1H-1S-2H shows 11-13 and x6xx
- 1H-1S-3H shows 14-16 and x6xx
- all hands with 17+ start 1H-1S-2C or 1M-1N-2C

This division of hands into 11-16 or 17+ is the same as what strong (Precision) 1C bidders achieve with their 1C opening. The difference is that we open our main suit then use Gazzilli 2C to define the range whereas the strong 1C bidders open 1C and are sometimes embarrassed by pre-emptive overcalls before they have shown their main suit. Even more embarrassingly, they often don't have a penalty double to punish overly zealous overcallers!

The main problem that this convention solves is the wide range of opener's non-jump rebid in a natural system viz.

- 1H-1S-2D is 11-18 which is difficult to deal with and leads to ideas like false preference with hands like 4234 and 5-9 hcp when you would really like to pass 2C! This (false preference) is to give opener another bid in case they are 17-18 and want to make a game try.
- 1H-1S-3D is 19+ and FG but takes up too much space and can make agreeing a suit and starting cue bidding problematic.

Thus Gazzilli defines opener's 2C bid in a similar way to how XYZ defines responder's second bid of 2C or 2D. These two conventions are very useful but need clear prior agreement. Another related area is dividing opener's range bid by reversing and then using Blackout to sort out, simply, which sequences are FG and which ones are trying to stop as quickly as possible.

Continued next page

Coincidentally, Arthur Robbins had already submitted an article on the different types of Checkback for this issue, and Douglas Newlands gave an Intermediate lesson on XYZ earlier this year, which I found extremely useful and use with all my bridge partners now. Here is Arthur's contribution.

Checkback

The concept of a CHECKBACK system has been around for a long time, and most modern partnerships have such a method. The problem arises often in bidding sequences such as:

1C-1S-1N Most partnerships would bid this way with (11)-14 HCP and may hold three card Spade support. What should responder do, holding AT753, K864, K7, Q5? Partner may have three card Spade support, or may have four Hearts, or may be 11HCP with minors. What is the way forward? Cannot pass, as Opener might have good cards! Bash 3N? Bid 2N? Jump to 3H? (surely not on this ragged suit!). Hence the need to be able to investigate potential fits, via a Checkback method.

Using the example above, here are some methods:

Crowhurst 2C

One of the earliest methods. After 1C-1S-1N-2C, opener bids hands up the line:

- 2D= doesn't have four Hearts, or three Spades, minimum hand
- 2H= has four Hearts, minimum, may have three Spades
- 2S= has three Spades, doesn't have four Hearts, minimum
- 2N and bids above show 13-14, and use similar structures.

NB Responder would normally have 11+hcp to investigate. The problem with this system: you cannot get back to 2C/D, as it focuses on the majors!

New Minor Forcing (NMF)

Using the sequence above, Responder can get back to 2C to play. 1C-1S-1N-2D is NMF. Partnerships need to decide how forcing this is: F1 or Forcing to 2N, or GF. What does it mean if the auction goes 1C-1S-1N-2H? By not using NMF, this has to be weak!

XYZ

This is a relatively new Checkback system, used by many advanced players. The name refers to the first three bids by the Opener's side. So after 1C-1S-1N, XYZ uses the following bids to advance: failure to use either limits the hand.

- 2C is a transfer to 2D (responder has either a weak hand with 5+ Ds, or an invitational hand (11+))
- 2D is a Game Force hand (13+). Enabling the partnership to investigate where to play (or to investigate slam).

After 1C-1S-1N, you can get to 2D/2H/2S to play but need a quirk to get into clubs! It is still a powerful method!

Arthur Robbins & Douglas Newlands

A bit of shape in this hand! It occurred at a club night (1 August) recently.

Board 16
Dealer: W
Vul: EW

♠ 9842
♥ K1085
♦ K109
♣ 74

♠ AKJ10765
♥ AJ742
♦ Q
♣ -

♠ Q
♥ -
♦ AJ765
♣ AKQJ852

♠ 3
♥ Q963
♦ 8432
♣ 10963

West	North	East	South
P	1S	2N	P
3D	3H	5C	5H
P	6H	7C	P
P	X	AP	

With two hands having a bit of shape, it's unsurprising the auction was headlong! East showed both minors and West showed a preference for diamonds. When East preferred to play 5C, it was clear that his clubs were 2 cards longer than his diamonds and so East was xx57 shape at least.

Meanwhile, North's 3H bid had shown he was 55xx at least since he would double with only 4 hearts. Over 5C, South can see his hand is going to help declarer ruff the spades if necessary and he can fill in the heart suit. North is rather pleased with this and bids the slam. East, thinking his partner will provide help in diamonds, takes the dive in 7C which North doubles.

Now attention turns to South. If a heart is led, East will get out for one off against a slam, it seems, but it is clear that two people are 7-5 and South finds the spade lead and overruffs the continuation and plays the QH, KH, AH and ruff and East draws trumps. Perhaps deceived by the auction, East places South with four diamonds and finesses the 10D and loses to the queen going three off.

Does 6H actually make? No! The intermediate trumps held by West are just too much to take care of. Does any slam actually make? Yes, but only the unobvious 6D by West. As one would expect, the scores were very varied viz., 7CX-3 by E, 4SX= by N, 4S= by N, 5H-2 by N, 4C+1 by E and 6C= by E.

Douglas Newlands

A Simple Exercise—Answers *continued from page 8*

All possible holdings for the defenders are

Q8642

1	KJ7	-
2	KJ	7
3	K7	J
4	J7	K
5	K	J7
6	J	K7
7	7	KJ
8	-	KJ7

A10953

Answer to Question 1

Assuming the defenders know they only have to capture 1 trick to defeat your contract, you can play the suit without loss in only 3 situations:-

Layout 4: play the ace to drop the singleton K

Layout 5: play the ace to drop the singleton K

Layout 6: lead the queen and run it if not covered; if it is covered, the jack is smothered.

So which is the correct play when you know nothing about the layout of the defenders' cards? Clearly, it is correct to play the ace since it works twice as often as running the queen!

Answer to Question 2

This time you can accept one loser but must avoid two losers. Clearly, if you play the ace on the first round, you will succeed in Layouts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

What about Layouts 1 and 8? If you play the ace first on Layout 1, you can then play small to the queen and see what West plays before committing the queen. Unfortunately, this line loses horribly in Layout 8. Let us try small to the queen first. If both defenders follow suit, playing the ace on the second round will clean up the suit for one loser.

If East shows out, the queen will have won and the ace will clean up the suit for one loser. If West shows out, East will win the king but when you next win the lead, you can play a trump from dummy and catch East's J7 with South's A10 and succeed for 1 loser.

Perhaps that's a new approach to playing a suit for you. It is definitely correct in teams or imp-pairs. In matchpoint pairs, you should play a slam safely like this unless you are sure that at least half the field will have bid the slam. In Geelong, that is extremely rare even when there are 15 top tricks!

Douglas Newlands

Vale

Judy Fielding

26/11/1933-23/08/2025

Judy was born at Red Cliffs, Victoria and educated at Mildura and the Methodist Ladies College, Melbourne. She was married to Garnet in 1957 and had three children, Sussan, Tom and James.

She joined our club in 1991 and in 2001 joined the Committee with me. For many years we were on the House Committee together. She was a very valued member of our club and contributed in many ways.



Judy was my bridge partner for over 30 years and in 1995 we managed to get our names on the honour board for the Improvers Pairs. We used to play on Fridays and always sat East West as did Helen Drinnan and Jeanne Heweston (now deceased). We played against each other for 'chocolate frogs' - the pair with the lowest score had to buy the frogs - it was good fun but handing over two frogs to the other pair was like handing over two gold nuggets !!!

Judy was not only my bridge partner but also a very dear friend. We shared many special times together, memories which I will always cherish. To me she was the "Queen of Hearts". How lucky am I to have had such a special person in my life.

May she rest in peace.

Jenny Johnstone

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

Coming Up

Mondays 15 & 22 September

Fridays 12 & 26 September

Sunday 28 September

Wednesday 1 & 8 October (12.30pm)

Thursday 16 October (11am)

Sunday 26 October

Tuesday 28 October

Thursdays 6 & 13 November

Saturday 8 November

Monday 17 November

Monday 24 November

Sunday 30 November

Mondays 8 & 15 December

Wednesday 10 December

Open Pairs A (qual.)

Open Pairs B (qual.)

McManamny Inter-Club Teams

Open Pairs Finals (no Bridge at 7pm)

Annual General Meeting (followed by free Bridge)

Pizza Sunday

Seniors Festival Teams (No rookies' Duplicate)

Restricted Pairs (<100 MPs)

Western Region Novice Pairs Torquay (<100MPS)

Intermediate Teams (qual.)(<500 MPs)

Intermediate Teams (final)

Pizza Sunday

Individual Championship

Christmas Party (6pm)

No.1 Pinkhill, Edinburgh



The absence of Kirsten and Gavin Bailey was noted over the last couple of months. As have a number of our members, they travelled to what they hoped were sunnier climes. Seen here is a bridge club, New Melville BC, where they played one night. I love the address—1 Pinkhill, Edinburgh. They said it was a nice club, well laid out and friendly with competitive players.

Even Good Players Make Mistakes

1253. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ 542
 ♥ AQ7
 ♦ T97
 ♣ 9863
 ♠ Q86 ♠ KJ7
 ♥ JT965 ♥ 83
 ♦ 6 ♦ J85432
 ♣ KQ74 ♣ 52
 ♠ AT93
 ♥ K42
 ♦ AKQ
 ♣ AJT

West	North	East	South
			2NT ¹
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1. 20-21 points

South had a blind spot on this deal, largely because he failed to recognize an important trick was guaranteed. West led the jack of hearts.

Declarer counted eight top tricks and focused on the club suit to make a ninth. He took this in dummy with the queen and then led a low club from dummy to his ten and West's king, a card that distracted declarer enough for him to place the queen of clubs on his right.

Declarer took West's heart return with dummy's ace and played a club to his jack. West won with the queen of clubs, to declarer's obvious distress, and cleared the heart suit. There was now no chance of making a ninth trick as the cards lay and declarer had to concede down one.

This was a case of declarer having a complete brain fade. Once the ten of clubs lost to the king, the lack of a second entry to dummy meant that there was no chance of making three tricks in the club suit by finessing the jack of clubs at trick four. Once East followed with a low club for a second time, that play would generate at most two tricks in the suit and courted the danger of only making one trick in the suit. Declarer should have won the second round of hearts in hand with the king.

The guaranteed way to make a ninth trick was next to play the ace and ten of clubs. West could take his queen of clubs but dummy's club nine would then be a winner, with the ace of hearts as the entry to cash it. Of course, if West let the jack of clubs win then declarer would have nine tricks.

Tim Burke

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