



THE QBA BULLETIN

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From the President



Richard Wallis

I HOPE that you all had a very Merry Christmas and can look forward to a happy and prosperous 2020.

Coming up in February we have the 59th International Gold Coast Bridge Congress, acknowledged as one of the premier events worldwide. In addition to a substantial contingent from New Zealand there will be many international players from South Africa, Norway, South Korea, Canada, USA, Sri Lanka, China, Austria, Iceland and the UK. Immediately prior to the GCC we have stage 1 of the Open Trials

for the 2020 ANC in Adelaide. This is earlier than usual due to our crammed program. Stage 2 and the trials for the Women and Seniors will be held as usual after the GCC, please consult the Calendar.

The QBA AGM will be held on April 23 this year, and nominations for any positions becoming vacant close on April 1.

Thanks to Joan Butts for her many years of service to the QBA as the Teacher Trainer, a position that she relinquished at the end of 2019. Also thanks to Neville Francis, for his many years of service to the QBA as the Chairman of the Appeals Committee, from which he will stand down at the AGM in April.

Finally I am happy to report that two teams from the Gold Coast are representing Queensland in the International APBF Congress in Perth in April by virtue of being the top placed Queensland Teams in the recently completed GNOT in Tweed Heads.■



2020 Gold Coast Congress February 21-29

Contents

From the President.....	1
GNOT Final by Richard Ward	1
Teams of Three by Richard Wallis	4
Manager's Travels by Kim Ellaway	5
Teachers' Corner by Joan Butts	7
Novices by Pam Steele	8
Low Level Penalty Doubles by Nik Moore.....	9
Redlands Teams by Nik Moore.....	10
Cuppaidge's Column by George Cuppaidge.....	11
Just Because by Matthew McManus.....	13
25 Years Ago by Bill Hunt	16
Directors' Corner by Jan Peach	17

Getting these decisions right most of the time will win matches for you but sometimes opportunities are scarce. Not so in the 4th-round knockout match between SYDNEY 6 and BRISBANE 2 where consecutive boards 1, 2 and 3 each had challenges. Try these bidding questions before looking at the full deals.

Board 1 – Dealer North, nil vulnerable
You are North holding

♠ KJ1043 ♥ 7 ♦ J1097 ♣ 874

and this is the bidding.

W	N	E	S
	2S	X	3D
4H	?		

2S shows a weak hand with at least five spades and at least four of a minor. The next hand doubles and partner bids 3D, natural, to play and non-forcing. West bids 4H. Your bid?

Board 2 – Dealer East, NS vulnerable
You are North holding

♠ – ♥ 97 ♦ AKQ42 ♣ KQ10965

and the bidding (EW Precision) goes:

W	N	E	S
		1C	P
1S	2NT	4S	P
P	4NT	X	5D
P	P	X	All pass

Board 3 – Dealer South, EW vulnerable

You are South holding

♠ KQ8432 ♥ 5 ♦ 43 ♣ KJ96

and this is the bidding.

W	N	E	S
			2S
4D	4S	5D	5S
6D	P	P	?

2S shows a weak hand with at least five spades and at least four of a minor. West bids 4D which apparently shows a 2-suited heart-diamond hand. North bids 4S and East, having forgotten their agreement, bids 5D. You bid 5S and West bids 6D. This is passed round to you. Do you pass or bid 6S?

... and, from another match:

Even when the experts all agree, they may still be mistaken.

Board 14 – Dealer East, nil vulnerable
You are South holding

♠ – ♥ AKQJ98632 ♦ 9 ♣ KJ6

and right-hand opponent opens a weak 2S. Believing this hand too strong to start with a direct 4H, you double. The bidding proceeds:

W	N	E	S
		2S	X
3S	P	P	4H
4S	5H	5S	?

Do you pass, double or gamble on 6H?

ANSWERS

Board 1.

Dlr N	♠ KJ1043
Vul None	♥ 7
	♦ J1097
	♣ 874
♠ AQ952	♠ 7
♥ AK104	♥ Q853
♦ –	♦ 843
♣ 10952	♣ AKQ63
	♠ 86
	♥ J962
	♦ AKQ652
	♣ J

Our North bid 5D, doubled, down two. At the other table, our EW pushed on to 5H and then doubled 6D for a 5 IMP pickup.

Board 2.

Dlr E	♠ –
Vul NS	♥ 97
	♦ AKQ42
	♣ KQ10965
♠ KQ762	♠ AJ10985
♥ KJ2	♥ A4
♦ 106	♦ J5
♣ J74	♣ A83
	♠ 43
	♥ Q108653
	♦ 9873
	♣ 2

Our NS pushed on to 5D doubled down one over the making 4S contract by East. This was the par result on the hand but, when EW at the other table bid the non-making 5S, that was 6 IMPs away.

Drawing on his fine command of bidding, he said nothing.

Board 3.

Dlr S	♠ AJ1076
Vul EW	♥ A8
	♦ Q5
	♣ 10532
♠ –	♠ 95
♥ KQJ943	♥ 10762
♦ AJ10976	♦ K82
♣ 4	♣ AQ87
	♠ KQ8432
	♥ 5
	♦ 43
	♣ KJ96

Unsure whether or not 6D was making (it wasn't if the defence finds the unlikely heart ruff - but 6H is cold), South took out insurance by bidding 6S. This was doubled and went down 2. At the other table, our EW, not surprisingly, did not bid slam choosing to double 5S. This also went down 2 for a flat board.

Board 14.

Dlr E	♠ A8
Vul None	♥ 104
	♦ Q876
	♣ Q9873
♠ K10954	♠ QJ7632
♥ 5	♥ 7
♦ AK1043	♦ J52
♣ 52	♣ A104
	♠ –
	♥ AKQJ98632
	♦ 9
	♣ KJ6

Our South bid 6H which West doubled. After a top diamond lead this was down 1. At the other table our EW passed out 5H – the par result - so that was an 11 IMP loss. Some people choose never to risk bidding slams in such situations. I am sure they are proven correct in the long run. However, you will note that our EW opponents on Board 3 successfully gambled on the slam in a similar guessing situation which has me pondering (in a sour-grapes sort of way) why bashing slams seems to work more often for our opponents than for us!

If a player's bridge prowess is to be abused, there's nobody like a partner to do it.

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Teams of Three



**Richard
Wallis**

THIS year for the Teams-of-Three at Northern Suburbs Bridge Club on the December 8 I had the pleasure of meeting and playing in C Grade with Karen Amos, Debra Green and Leanne Rooijmans. Debra and Leanne had played together a few times before, but Karen was new to all of us. Thus, to ease them into the new concept of teams play, I started off with Karen, while Debra and Leanne played at the other table.

Our first match was against the Francis team (Craig Francis, Christine Lane, Marg Lane and Jane Lennox) and we had a big win to kick us off to a flying start. Resilience was the aim of the day, and, after this bad start, Francis showed this to maximum effect by finishing first overall. Match 2 was another good win to us, and we were leading the event for the start of the 3rd match.

In matches 3 and 4 I played with Debra, and she was very nervous, which limited her enjoyment, but she still put her best foot forward. A few things did not go our way and we had a modest loss in M3 and a 2 imp loss in M4 to Boyce (Alan Boyce, Tracy Harding, Barb Bennett and Helen Bougoure). The latter was crucial as they just pipped us for 2nd place overall.

In matches 5 and 6 I played with Leanne, which resulted in a 9 IMP loss and a 9 iMP win, so we finished on a high and 3rd place overall. It was a great day, I believe the Director, Alan Gibson, had few problems, and NSBC treated us very well with copious amounts of delicious treats to eat and healthy stuff like fruit as well.

The teams were all very appreciative of the help that each captain was prepared to offer after each match, and I am sure that they came away with new knowledge to use in the future. Will they remember everything? - not likely as there

was much to consider, but hopefully some of it will come back to them over the next year, and I made three new friends.

M 1	♠ 982
Bd 7	♥ A42
Dlr S	♦ 53
Vul Both	♣ AJ542
♠ J107654	♠ A3
♥ Q5	♥ 86
♦ Q964	♦ AKJ72
♣ 10	♣ Q873
	♠ KQ
	♥ KJ10973
	♦ 108
	♣ K96

N
W E
S

W	N	E	S
P	2H	3D	3H
P	4H	All pass	

the short ♣10. I still followed this line when West played the ♣10 on my ♣6, and the ♣J was not covered, but I had 10 tricks for +620 and 10 IMPs.

M 2	♠ Q94
Bd 13	♥ A
Dlr N	♦ AJ76
Vul Both	♣ K8732
♠ AK63	♠ 87
♥ J975	♥ K8642
♦ 105	♦ KQ982
♣ A95	♣ J
	♠ J1052
	♥ Q103
	♦ 43
	♣ Q1064

N
W E
S

W	N	E	S
2H	1C	1H	1S
All pass	X	P	3C

This board was a good exercise in counting out the hand. I bid 3H over the 3D overall more because of my 6-card suit than as a game try, but of course with her maximum hand and two aces, Karen raised to game.

West led the ♦4, normally indicating at least three to an honour, and East cashed out the diamonds, the ♠A, and exited with the ♣3. I led the ♥K, then the ♥J just in case West covered from an original holding of Qxx, but of course the ♥A drew all of the trumps.

It looked like I needed the club finesse for my contract, and East has shown AKJ in diamonds and the ♠A, so I had no clue there, but I thought I may as well ruff the ♠9 back to hand to get a count on the hand, and East showed out!

Now I knew that East's shape was 2-2-5-4 or 2-2-6-3, and either way the ♣Q was favoured to be in her hand, so I decided to play West for

West was very conservative in not bidding 3H over 3C. I expect that most experienced players would have bid more strongly at their first turn to bid. I assumed that Karen was doubling for take-out, as I did not expect Novices to be playing support-doubles.

East confused the defence by leading the ♠7 to the 3C contract, on which Karen played low in dummy and West won the ♠K to lead back the ♥5. Even if East led the ♠8 and got their ruff, EW have to ensure that they get two other tricks, but that should have been easy to do leading to one off.

Since everything was friendly there were no problems in scoring up 9 tricks for +110.

At the other table Debra and Leanne found their heart fit and sensibly stopped in 3H, making 10 tricks on the lucky lie of the cards for +170 and 7 IMPs.

Gold Coast Congress News

Entries are open
Changes to 2020

- Walk Ins every session but Sunday morning
- Rookies Thursday session back to morning
- Seniors' Pairs and Seniors' Teams events have been discontinued
- Seniors' and Women's categories introduced in the Open Teams with their own Finals and PQPs

M 3	♠ —
Bd 18	♥ A5
Dlr E	♦ QJ87654
Vul NS	♣ A1083
♠ K109873	♠ Q52
♥ Q2	♥ K9873
♦ K9	♦ 102
♣ 765	♣ Q94
	♠ AJ64
	♥ J1064
	♦ A3
	♣ KJ2

W	N	E	S
2S	3D	3S	1C
P	4D	All pass	

Debra had an easy 3D bid over the weak-jump overcall of 2S, but understandably she was reluctant to pass my 3NT rebid when she was void in spades.

We were not playing 2/1, so I assumed that she had a bare minimum of 10 HCPs or thereabouts and passed her 4D rebid.

Debra had no trouble making 11 tricks for +150, but since it was West who had the ♦K, it was obvious that my ♣J was protected and 3NT was easy. Also, playing teams, there is not much difference between the IMPs for 3NT and 5D anyway.

Anything to remember? Firstly, with two aces and a reasonable 7-card

suit, I have sympathy for not wanting to play in 3NT, but 5D must be a chance, and on the actual hand even 7D makes if the diamond finesse is on and you pick clubs the right way. Secondly, and this only applies to an experienced partnership, if I had any doubt about 3NT I could have doubled 3S for penalty, or passed 3S and waited for more action, so it is likely I have a double-stop.

M 6	♠ 53
Bd 19	♥ QJ8432
Dlr S	♦ Q
Vul EW	♣ KJ32
♠ AK864	♠ Q
♥ 9	♥ K7
♦ 10976	♦ KJ853
♣ A98	♣ Q7654
	♠ J10972
	♥ A1065
	♦ A42
	♣ 10

W	N	E	S
P!	2H	P	P
All pass			4H

I was tempted for a second to open 1S, but the South hand is not a good hand to open on, despite having two aces and an easy rebid of 2H, so I passed.

The West hand is good enough to open, but a 2H response by East would be a problem with your second bid, so West passed also, and Leanne opened 2H in 3rd seat.

East passed and I jumped to game in hearts, wondering where all of the other points were.

East led the ♠Q, and it was too hard for the inexperienced West to overtake, cash the other spade and ♠A and give East the setting trick with a 3rd spade lead, so they played low and East led the ♦5.

Looking at all of the hands, Leanne could have run this to her ♦Q, taken the winning heart finesse, and discarded her losing spade on the ♦A for 11 tricks, but she wisely rose the ♦A, ruffed a diamond to hand and took the winning heart finesse for 10 tricks and +420. At the other table Debra and Karen stole the hand in 2D by East for +110, so 11 IMPs to us. ■

Manager's Travels



Kim Ellaway

I HOPE you all had a safe Christmas and New Year. As you are reading this I should be a nana again. I moved up to Rocky to assist with nana duties as Alex my daughter will get hospitalised prior to the birth of the new one due to health issues. Zeraya spent Christmas with us and that was very special. Seeing the delight in her eyes at the lights in shop windows and houses is just nice.

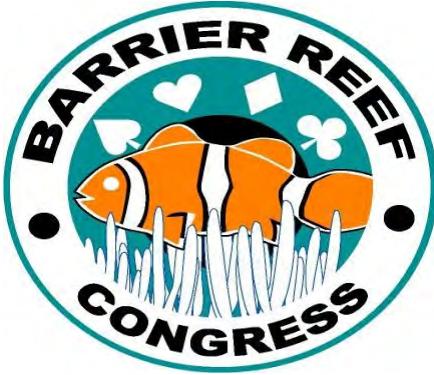
It's the time of year both Ray and I work 20 hours a day getting the GCC ready, and it comes on top of the completion of the GNOT of which Ray is the Tournament Organiser. This means I do all the organising behind the scenes so not much bridge is played. However, I did get to represent QCBC in the annual Interclub Teams. There were four sections and 38 teams participated. As the clubs were playing for the Marion Cooke Trophy it only seemed right that I was there to present Mum's trophy. This year I got to play with Toni Bardon, one of my favourite partners as we both love to bid. QCBC came 2nd overall and my team won the A Section.

At a recent club game the following deal appeared.

Dlr N	♠ 1094
Vul EW	♥ 1076
	♦ J10952
	♣ 107
♠ —	♠ AQJ75
♥ KJ3	♥ 82
♦ A6	♦ KQ83
♣ AKJ98632	♣ 54
	♠ K8632
	♥ AQ954
	♦ 74
	♣ Q

There were 12 tables and out of the twelve tables, we suffered a 0% due to the opponents sitting EW bidding 6NT which as you can see is cold on any lead. ■

A: Open B: <750 mp C: <150 mp
All enquiries and entries to QCBC:
3391 3241 - qcbc1@optusnet.com.au Details on the website:
www.qcbc.org.au



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YBC - <http://www.yepponbridgeclub.com/BRG.html>

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Teacher's Corner



**Joan
Butts**

HOW would you bid this hand, which came up at a recent duplicate? In first position you open 1NT holding this hand.

♠ J109
♥ QJ7
♦ K109
♣ AKJ8

and partner transfers to clubs, via 2S. You're using super-accepts, and your vague agreement is to super accept on any three plus cards to an honour in partner's suit. You obviously super-accept here, and partner bids 3NT which duly makes ten tricks.

Partner's hand was

♠ AQ4
♥ 65
♦ J3
♣ Q76432

It made me think about super-accepts and what opener needs to super-accept over partner's minor suit transfer, after a 1NT opening. (I think transfer bids are hard for newer players to understand, in that you bid the suit BELOW the one you really hold! Let alone super-accepts!)

What is a super-accept? Playing transfers to the minors, after partner's 1NT opening, if you, the responder, bid 2S or 2NT (showing clubs or diamonds), partner will usually bid your minor (eg 1NT P 2♠ P 3♣) BUT sometimes, they don't, and instead they bid something else (eg 1NT P 2♠ P 2NT). This is a "super accept", and says they really like your suit. They haven't just forgotten the system!

When partner makes a "super-accept", they show a hand with one or more honours in your suit and usually three cards, and they suggest you might make nine tricks in no trumps with the benefit of this minor suit.

You don't want to struggle in 5♣ or 5♦, so the idea is to hope to take six tricks in the minor, and then find the other three tricks required for 3NT via honours in other suits. If it all works you'll make a great 3NT that you weren't really expecting to. And if partner's hand is very weak without an external entry to their long suit, they will give up on 3NT and just bid their minor. Opener will respect this, and pass.

Tips: What Opener needs to Super-Accept Partner's Minor Suit Transfer

- Axx or Kxx are the classic super accepts in partner's minor suit
- Qxx or xxxx are possible with maximum no trump points (17, not 15)

- Ax or Kx are not enough. Don't super-accept
- AK doubleton? Now responder needs an external entry to make 3NT. (eg QJ10xxx plus A or K of another suit)
- With a small doubleton or three small, do not super-accept, as there is no reason to expect you'll take six tricks in this suit
- If responder had AKQxx of their minor, they don't need to transfer to it at all. Instead they would just bid 3NT
- if you do super-accept and partner simply bids their minor again, then they are telling you that they have a very weak unbalanced hand and do not want to play in game

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In 2020, I will be continuing as the ABF National Teaching Coordinator, but not as the QBA Teacher. ABF Education programmes will all be run through the ABF, and I look forward to seeing teachers and prospective teachers in 2020. There are a number of programmes planned for 2020 already, and these are available for viewing and registration on the ABF Education page of the ABF website. ■

Novices



Pam
Steele

Dear Fellow Novices,

Having now been QBA Novice Coordinator for almost 7 months I thought I would share a few thoughts about my experiences which may help other novices. Part of the Coordinator role is to act as a point of contact for new and returning players and provide encouragement to players to attend Congresses. One of the most daunting areas for "newbies" is the transition from lessons to improver play. As in most areas of life, there are some who proceed at a different pace than others. The important thing is to keep practising. A few months ago, Toowoomba Bridge Club held its first Mentoring Session for Novices and judging from turnout and the comments from Novices and Captains alike, it was a great success and I would encourage all Clubs to think seriously about mentoring.

Now for Congress results. Congratulations are in order for the following:

Noosa Novice Pairs: Alexa Parker and Lesley Cobb (First); Julie Scott and Elizabeth Van Vugt (Second); and Penelope Bailey and Meredith Bunn (Third)

In the BBC Novice Pairs congratulations to Wendy Casey and Barbara Moni (First); my partner

Dennis Lincoln and I came second and Fiona Hosier and Raelene Clark (Third)

Sunshine Coast Novice Pairs: Pauline Clayton and Tricia Merefeld (First); Bob Davies and Bob Hannam (Second) and Gillian Barker and Inta Devine (Third).

QCBC hosted the Novice Teams event which was won by Gordon Plant, Ruth Anderson, Wendy Casey and Barbara Moni; the Steele team of Dennis Lincoln, myself, Joan Mladen and Bob Fulcher came in second and the Wilson team of Rod Wilson, Bernard Trefeu, Patricia Tan and Clive Carter were third.

Attending events is exhausting! However, I have met a number of great people; and connecting with other players also helps to build the wider social network that many of us join bridge clubs to develop. To that end do think about participating in more congress events. The majority of players in clubs are novices so it makes sense for us to be involved.

Joan Mladen, Bob Fulcher, Dennis and I have recently started to play in teams events.

This is great fun and a very different experience from pairs events. Joan and Bob have only recently joined up as bridge partners and are very successful, winning the TBC Club Novice Championship. However, they face the same situations as all Novices - Bob would describe it as being like "bookends" - winning the Novice Championship one day and the next day coming last in the pair datums in the Toowong Novice Teams. We have had great fun as a team, and again it builds friendship as well as player skills.

I am always on the lookout for special hands with particular issues for novices and have been reading Master of Bridge Psychology by Jeppe Juhl. It features a number of hands played by Peter Fredin, a world class player who seems to have made a career out of exciting play and outlandish bluffs. One of these hands is below. The type of dilemma facing East is one that many novices face and are often quite unsure what to do. Fredin is playing South.

Dir S	♠ Q953 ♥ A10542 ♦ 93 ♣ Q5	♠ K2 ♥ 87 ♦ J87542 ♣ 962	N W E S	♠ 10 ♥ 96 ♦ KQ10 ♣ AKJ10874
				♠ AJ8764 ♥ KQJ3 ♦ A6 ♣ 3

W	N	E	S
P	2S	3C	3H
P	4S	5C	5S
All pass			

West led the ♣2 to the ♣Q and East's ♣K. East continued with the ♦K to Fredin's ♦A. There are two losers, one each in clubs and diamonds but the danger was, of course, the ♠K. Looking at the hand I would have thought that South should cross to dummy and take the spade finesse - the odds surely would be that East having been a spirited bidder would hold the ♠K. However, Fredin reasoned that because East had not hesitated when bidding 3C he didn't hold the ♠K. If he did hold something like

♦ Kx ♥ xx ♦ KQ ♣ AKJxxxx

he would have at least considered 3NT. Therefore, at trick three he led the ♣J from his hand. What does West do? Many a novice would rise with the ♠K. However, reasoning from the bidding that South surely held six spades, that would mean there could only be one spade in East's hand (if in fact he held a spade) but what was it? Lots of us have faced the situation where we play high (in the second hand) only to see our partner having to play the ace on our king. West, wise to this dilemma, ducked and played the ♣3 arguing that even Fredin would not lead the jack from the ace-jack. When the jack held, Fredin cashed the ♠A and claimed 12 tricks! What a mind.

One final word about congress participation: My partner and I recently competed in the QBA Individual. The format involved

playing with each of the other three players at the table for three boards. There was a default systems card but you could play agreed conventions if agreement could be reached in the small amount of time between partner changes. I have to admit that it was quite daunting and stressful, playing with and against some of the most experienced players in Queensland. However, the experience was incredible and I would encourage those of you who are very keen to improve your play to participate in 2020. There was only a handful of novices who participated but congratulations must go to Darren Brake of the ABF Youth Team who came 4th in a field of 36 players.

Finally, I wish all novice players the very best for play in 2020. ■

Low-level Penalty Doubles



Nikolas
Moore

It is easier to double the opponents in high-level contracts when they are clearly sacrificing, although not always productive as the distribution tends to be wild. What is particularly satisfying and often profitable is to double the opponents in low-level contracts when they have come into the bidding at the wrong time and lack any safe place to play, such as on this hand from the GNOT Regional Final, partnering Larry Moses.

Dlr W	♠ 4
Vul EW	♥ A764
	♦ A10983
	♣ Q83
♠ K95	♠ A873
♥ QJ3	♥ 985
♦ KQ64	♦ 752
♣ 965	♣ A102
	♠ QJ1062
	♥ K102
	♦ J
	♣ KJ74

W	N	E	S
P	P	P	1S
X	XX	P	P
2D	X	All pass	

Dlr W	♠ 10532
Vul NS	♥ J974
	♦ 876
	♣ J2
♠ AJ	♠ KQ84
♥ Q1083	♥ 65
♦ K1095	♦ J43
♣ 643	♣ AK98
	♠ 976
	♥ AK2
	♦ AQ2
	♣ Q1075

W	N	E	S
P	P	1C	1NT
X	2H	P	P
X	All pass		

After Larry's fourth-seat opening, West made an aggressive double and I redoubled showing some values with penalty interest, being short in partner's suit. After a redouble, subsequent doubles are penalty and it is important to not bid prematurely as it lets the opponents off the hook. Hence, Larry correctly passed 1S redoubled and when West bid his 4-card I had an obvious penalty double. Best defence holds declarer to four tricks. Declarer managed six tricks against us, partly because I didn't trump the second round of spades, as it looked like I'd be trumping a loser, but two off for 500 was still an excellent result with no game on our way, and a gain of 8 IMPs.

Here is example from the NZ Congress Teams, again partnering Larry.

I sat East, and South's overcall looks reasonable but here the opponents are outgunned and they have no fit to run to. This time we got the defence right. Against a part-score contract,

it is often best to lead trumps so I led a heart to dummy's king, and played my other trump when I got in again. Larry was able to get rid of his club loser on the third round of spades, so we kept declarer to three heart tricks and a diamond for +1100 and a gain of 12 IMPs, with the opponents in the other room finding the 23-point 3NT game.

Dlr N	♠ 854
Vul None	♥ A8
	♦ K652
	♣ KQ32
♠ A1092	♠ K76
♥ QJ543	♥ K107
♦ 983	♦ A74
♣ 6	♣ J987
	♠ QJ3
	♥ 962
	♦ QJ10
	♣ A1054

After North opened a weak 1NT, Larry (West) decided to balance with 2C showing the majors. I was interested in game so I first bid 2D asking for his longer major. The opponents interfered and ended up bidding first clubs and then 3NT, clearly an overbid, so I doubled and led my better major, hearts. Declarer won the second round as I unblocked the king, and then could only take one heart and four clubs for +800 to us and a gain of 13 IMPs, as our team-mates defeated 2S. I even won the last trick with the seven of diamonds, as declarer had discarded all the high diamonds! ■



Brisbane Bridge Centre

104 Frederick St, Annerley. Ph: 3392 7933
bbridgecentre@bigpond.com - www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org

Play Sessions	Monday	9.30 am	Duplicate
	Tuesday	9.30 am	Duplicate
	Wednesday	7.15 pm	Duplicate & S'vised
	Thursday	9.30 am	Duplicate
	Friday	9.30 am	Supervised
		10.00 am	Duplicate (Mini Lesson at 9.45 am)
	Saturday	1.00 pm	Duplicate

Redland Teams

LAST year I was a member of the team that won at Redland, when it was graded. This year it was all one field and half the team was different. I was partnering Rachel Langdon, and Murray Perrin was partnering Kuldip Bedi. We had led since the second round and despite losing the penultimate round, managed to hold onto the lead at the end by less than half a VP. Our team-mates played very well, and Rachel and I generally got our defence right, such as on these boards.

Dlr W	♠ K5
Vul EW	♥ K5
	♦ KQJ852
	♣ 975
♠ J93	♠ AQ42
♥ J7632	♥ 10
♦ A107	♦ 964
♣ 104	♣ AQJ86
	♠ 10876
	♥ AQ984
	♦ 3
	♣ K32

North was declarer in 3D after Rachel (East) overcalled clubs. Rachel led her singleton heart to declarer's king and declarer led a top diamond to my ace. Normally I don't like giving partner a ruff here, as I have a natural fourth round heart winner, and partner would be ruffing declarer's loser. Thankfully I realised that declarer, holding only two hearts, can be cut off from the table as long as I send my lowest heart back asking for a club, and

partner obliges with ace and another club, which she did. Declarer can discard a club on a heart, but partner ruffs and continues clubs, leaving declarer stuck in hand with two spade losers, for two off and +100, gaining 11 IMPs because our team-mates managed to take 4C four off.

Dlr E	♠ J10653
Vul Both	♥ Q
	♦ J9862
	♣ Q4
♠ Q	♠ K872
♥ KJ87532	♥ 1096
♦ A	♦ 73
♣ K876	♣ A1093
	♠ A94
	♥ A4
	♦ KQ1054
	♣ J52

W	N	E	S
1H	1S	2H	2S
4H	4S	X	All pass

Rachel's double of 4S is very important, otherwise with my offensive hand and a huge fit, I will bid 5H, which will not be pretty. 4S is in theory a good sacrifice, as 4H can make, but only if I pick the trumps, and it is possible to get out for two off in 4SX, but probably necessary to drop the singleton ♠Q for that to happen.

Rachel led a heart to declarer's ace. Declarer ruffed a heart and played a spade to my queen. Seeing the potential for pitches on dummy's diamonds, I played a club to Rachel's ace and she sent one back to my king. By now all the side suits were good

except for a sure diamond loser, so we repeatedly played hearts giving declarer ruffs-and-discards, which caused problems for declarer in the trump suit allowing Rachel to make two of her trumps, for +800.

With my hand, I was very tempted to overcall 3H rather than 1H, but if I had, partner would likely assume my bid was weak, and not double 4S. This may have happened in the other room, where 4S also went three down, but was not doubled, so we gained 11 IMPs.

This is my favourite defensive hand recently, from a session at QCBC.

Dlr N	♠ K8752
Vul None	♥ 1063
	♦ J963
	♣ J
♠ 96	♠ J4
♥ K4	♥ QJ9752
♦ AQ75	♦ 42
♣ AK963	♣ 872
	♠ AQ103
	♥ A8
	♦ K108
	♣ Q1054

W	N	E	S
P	P	1NT	
2NT	3S	All pass	

My 2NT bid showed the minors, and South did well to pass North's 3S bid. The opponents' spade contract ended up being wrong-sided and partner, Rachel (E), found the killing lead of a diamond.

I won the queen and did not immediately recognise the lead as a doubleton, but couldn't see anything better to play back so I continued ace and a small diamond, giving partner a ruff. Partner returned a club to my king, and finally I played my last diamond to declarer's jack, ruffed and overruffed, and declarer still had a heart to lose.

On any other defence this makes. Although our +50 does not look like much, we scored 96% of the match points, with everyone else who was in spades making 9 or 10 tricks. ■

You gotta trust your partner (despite the experiences you have shared).

QCBC

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www.qcbc.org.au

Sessions: Mon 10.00 am 7.30 pm
Tue 10.00 am 7.30 pm
Wed 10.30 am 7.30 pm
Thur 10.30 am
Fri 10.00 am 7.30 pm
Sat 1.00 pm

Supervised: Mon 7.30 pm
Fri 9.30 am

Cuppaidge's Column



**George
Cuppaidge**

Space saving following 2C

It is hard enough to get to the best contract following a natural 1C opening. It can be a nightmare when the opening bid is 2C. This simple suggestion is a huge space saver which solves many common problems. At the top of the list of these problems is finding that 4-4 fit, not necessarily in a major. The ability to bid accurately to minor-suit games and slams is rare amongst even the world's best Standard players. While strong club players may do better here, they suffer enormously both in constructive and competitive situations from the loss of the most valuable natural bid of all, 1C natural or balanced. (A little commercial here, with a flat ten count, it is completely safe to use 1C to announce to partner that you have something of value, use the entire one-level to find a safe spot and subside if nothing higher appeals. The safe spot may be 2C or 2D, rarely available to Precision players. And it is not open to those who open 1NT at every half-opportunity. Often enough your opponents, particularly the "disciplined bidders," have missed their chance to bid and have no idea if they have a combined 15 or a combined 25.)

Only one small change to basic methods is needed, following a 2C opening use the cheapest descriptive bid to show balanced.

The additional space so provided permits us to learn more about the strength of the balanced hand before the level of 2NT is left behind.

For the purposes of this article I use my own favoured requirements for opening 2C and for giving a positive response. Adjusting to suit your own preference is easy.

To open 2C requires 20+ hcp. Only rarely should hands with lesser high-

card strength be upgraded. (I will not attempt to justify this usage here but some advantages are obvious, in particular, limiting the strength-range of a one-bid.)

The negative reply is 2D which denies 3 controls, AK or KKK. It follows that a 2D reply may contain as many as 18 hcp.

A positive reply promises 3+ controls, but see the last section for an alternative treatment, when your hand is balanced.

If either player shows a 5+ card suit, this denies 5+ cards in a higher-ranking suit. For bidding space economy, we either show the higher-ranking suit first or treat it as a 4-card suit. Limited bidding space makes it virtually impossible to do otherwise.

The scheme

When making the first shape-showing bid both partners use the cheapest bid to show a balanced hand. A minimum bid in NT shows the denomination so used. So following 2C or 2C-2D; a 2H bid shows a balanced hand and 2NT shows 5+hearts. 2S, 3C and 3D are natural.

Following the balanced reply, the cheapest bid is shape-ask, with the main focus on 4-card majors. (It is not recommended that a "balanced" bid from either partner can contain a five-card major.)

Over the shape enquiry, 2S over 2H, the five-denominations are used to achieve this object effectively. The meaning of a minimum bid in each of the five denominations is always the same in reply to a shape-ask. If there is intervention over the shape-ask, pass shows the denomination below the last bid, double or redouble shows the last-bid and the next three bids have their usual meaning.

- 2NT both minors.
- 3C clubs only, 3-3-3-4 or 2-3-3-5.
- 3D diamonds only.
- 3H 4 hearts, possibly 5 spades.
- 3S 4 spades not 4 hearts.

If 3C is the shape-ask and it is doubled, pass shows 4-4 in the minors and double shows clubs only, hearts shows hearts and maybe spades, spades shows spades, not hearts. When the first cheapest reply shows "all minimums," pass shows

this and double shows the last-bid denomination.

The partnership can stop below game when opener is minimum and balanced. After 2C-2D; 2H, showing all 22+ balanced and responder bids 2S shape-ask, opener bids 2NT, first step, when in his minimum range, 22-24. Other bids describe, as above, and show 25+. Stayman and transfers apply when opener bids 2NT and the bidding can stop short of game when responder has nothing.

When the first descriptive bid, whichever partner makes it, shows a suit, the cheapest bid from partner, again, shows the balanced hand with minimum NT showing the denomination so used. The huge advantage here is that in an auction such as

2C - 3C or 2C - 2D; 3C or 2C - 3D or 2C - 2D; 3D over the cheapest bid, showing balanced, describer can show a second 4-card diamond, heart or spade suit at 3NT or below. It follows that in each of the auctions above, when first-describer's partner bids 3NT, and not the cheapest bid, it shows 5+ cards in that suit. It is important to note that the 3C or 3D bidder, above, will not hold a balanced hand. He will hold at least 6 cards in his suit, or 5+ cards and a second 4-card suit, when diamond, heart or spade, 4+ cards when clubs. A minimum NT bid will show 4 cards in the suit used to show balanced.

After 2C-2S or 2C-2D; 2S, 2NT shows balanced allowing the 2S bidder to further describe.

2C-2NT (hearts) or 2C-2D; 2NT, 3C shows balanced, 3D/H/S are natural, 3NT shows 5+clubs.

The last two of the following examples demonstrate further, the powerful potential of this simple adjunct.



**ANZAC DAY
SWISS TEAMS
Saturday April 25**

Examples.

♦ 3	♠ 76
♥ AK76	♥ J1042
♦ AK	♦ 8732
♣ KQJ632	♣ 1075

2C	2D
3C	3D ¹
3H	4H

¹Balanced

An everyday hand. In standard methods East would bid 3NT over 3C. West might guess to remove, but there is no guesswork here. With West's majors reversed, we play in 5C, which is superior to 3NT. If you don't open 2C, you play in 1C.

♦ AK62	♠ 7543
♥ AK765	♥ 84
♦ K3	♦ A6
♣ A8	♣ J7653

2C	2D
2NT ¹	3C ²
3S	4S

¹5+ hearts

²Balanced. Responder could, instead, bid 3NT showing clubs, but the poor suit and the presence of the 4-card spade suit suggest otherwise.

♦ 54	♠ 62
♥ KQ76	♥ J982
♦ AK	♦ 643
♣ AKQ43	♣ 8752

2C	2D
3C	3D ¹
3H	4H

¹Balanced

Perhaps we have been lucky here, the system forced us to find the major fit and play game in it. For those who open 2NT on the West cards, partner will conclude that he is not strong enough to launch a Stayman enquiry. This is not a flat 21 count; it is a two-suiter. The difference between a 5-4 and a 5-3 is immense.

♦ AK4	♠ 76
♥ 5	♥ K76
♦ A832	♦ QJ754
♣ AKQ32	♣ 765

2C	2D
3C	3NT ¹
5D	P ²

¹5+diamonds. Better, surely, than showing balanced and concealing the club fit.

²Surely East, with the ♥A instead of the ♥K, would bid one more on this auction.

Interchange West's red suits, and West will pass 3NT.

♠ KQ76	♠ 854
♥ Q32	♥ KJ654
♦ AKQJ3	♦ 2
♣ A	♣ 8765

2C	2D
3D	3NT ¹
4H	

¹Since 3H shows balanced this bid shows 5+hearts.

♠ A6	♠ 3
♥ K6	♥ QJ75
♦ AKQ76	♦ 854
♣ A854	♣ KJ732

2C	2D
3D	3H ¹
4C	5C/6C ²

¹Balanced

²A major suit here notionally agrees the lower suit, correctable.

♠ K6	♠ Q32
♥ Q1053	♥ KJ7
♦ AKJ105	♦ 43
♣ AK	♣ J6532

2C	2D
3D	3H ¹
3NT ²	P

¹Balanced
²4 hearts

Opener is most unlikely to have both majors. If he has, he will show spades first in this auction, and then bid 4H, given another chance. It won't happen in your bridge lifetime but, if it did, you know you are facing 4-4-5-0. You can make a sensible choice of where best to play.

♠ A6	♠ 43
♥ QJ	♥ 9542
♦ KQJ9842	♦ A75
♣ AK	♣ 9764

2C	2D
3D	3H ¹
4D ²	4NT ³
P ⁴	

¹Balanced

²This is a game forcing auction so 4D sets diamonds and invites a cue bid. Minimum NT shows a diamond card, A, K or Q.

³♦A, ♦K or ♦Q no A or K in a major.

⁴Partner has denied a card in a

major meaning 5D is no play. He does not need much in hearts to make 4NT cold.

Hands like West's, a long near-solid suit with shortage in two or three of the other suits, and facing a weak hand, will almost certainly fail in 3NT unless partner has the missing honour. If East has a Yarborough, two down in 5D is not going to be any great disaster, and will score better than 3NT. The opponents have 3S, and possibly 4S. Give East the ♥A instead of the ♦A, and 5D is on a finesse at worst, with 3NT doomed on the probable spade lead. Open 1D and unless partner belongs to that school that responds to a one-bid with any ace you miss a stone cold game.

Bypassing 3NT on hands like this is unlikely to cost and may gain enormously.

♠ A	♠ 432
♥ AK6	♥ QJ53
♦ AKJ9765	♦ Q2
♣ A8	♣ 9654

2C	2D
3D	3H ¹
4D	4NT ²
5C ³	5H ⁴
5S ⁵	6H ⁶
7NT	

¹Balanced

²Diamond honour, denying a major suit A or K.

³♣A. Still interested, notwithstanding the above information.

⁴Having denied the ♥A or ♥K, East can show ♥Q

⁵♠A.

⁶Inferentially encouraged by the last bid.

If the ♥Q is of value, then the ♥J must be too. (But not in a 2 or 3-card holding.)

A further adjunct.

Point-count is at its most effective when hands are balanced. A straight-forward extension of the above methods gives much greater point-count accuracy.

Responder's balanced positive is reduced to 5+ points (or 1 ace). 2S asks for further description. 2NT shows all 5-9. Holding 10+, responder uses the five denominations to describe, as above.

Over 2NT, the partnership employs its usual methods, 3C Stayman, 3D/H transfers. If responder gives a negative, and later shows balanced, you can expect 0-4.

ONE of the joys of bridge is that sensible, logical, thinking is so often rewarded. Perhaps my analysis here is a little far-fetched?

Consider how you would play this hand in 6C after diamond, diamond ruffed, trumps drawn.

♠ AJx	♠ Kxxxx
♥ Ax	♥ QJ9xx
♦ x	♦ xx
♣ AKQJxxx	♣ x

2C	2S
3C	3H
4NT	5C
6C	

Aside. Would you give a positive with my cards? My own preference is 3+controls but since I had no agreement with my bbo partner I felt I may as well give us the best chance to play in the correct strain. To no avail, our 8+card spade fit was blissfully ignored. As a further aside, consider how you might play 6S on say, diamond club.

I would open 1C on this hand. Anyone else? The more familiar bidding counter-balances the remote chance of 1C being passed out and I need "something" for game to be on. And of course I want to play in 4S. Do I rebid 2H after 1C-1S? (confident that if partner raises my hearts, we have an 8-card spade suit.)

Here is my analysis of how you could, and perhaps should, make 6C. Don't read on until you have thought about it.

There is no distribution which will have you able to avoid taking the heart finesse. So grit your teeth and take it immediately after entering dummy with the ♠K. With the extraordinarily favourable lie, ♥K 10 onside doubleton, the play of the ♥Q means you make when the ♥Q is covered. You combine the chances of ♥K 10 doubleton, or the spade finesse. What are the holdings from which rho will cover the ♥Q? I don't have the inclination to examine that

question. But to cover immediately strongly suggests the possession of the ♥10.

If the ♥Q is not covered and the ♥10 appears (miraculous defence) perhaps you should conclude he wants you in dummy and return the compliment by dropping the ♠Q!

In 6S, on the defence mooted, it is hard to justify doing other than finessing in spades for one down. I guess my partner's decision to ignore my bidding was vindicated? ■

don't count or count carelessly. If at the end you find you are missing one or more, expect the worst when the director comes.

Just because the opponents gave you the wrong information about the meaning of one of their calls, it does not mean that the director will adjust the final score in your favour. For the director to award an adjusted score, first he has to establish that the explanation you were given was not according to their system, and then you have to demonstrate how the wrong information adversely affected your side. Only then will the director consider changing the score.

Just because you think it is freezing cold, it doesn't mean everyone else does. Please remember! Just because everyone has turned over the cards, it is not too late to correct a revoke. In fact, a member of the non-offending side may even have led to the next trick and it can still be corrected. The moral of the story is: if you revoke, say something as soon as you realise it. The sooner you say something, the less bad it is likely to be for your side.

Just because you have a board left to play in the round, it doesn't mean that you have the absolute right to play it. If your table is slow, the director has the power to – and should – tell you not to play the board and take an average, or make some other ruling about the board (eg. maybe average plus or average minus). The biggest and most frequent complaints that the director usually encounters are about slow play. One of his responsibilities under the Laws is to ensure the orderly movement of the session. If you are told not to play a board, you should accept this gracefully.

Just because a player hesitates, this does not mean that you call the director. A hesitation, a break in tempo, longer than usual thinking are all a normal part of the game. They do not constitute an infraction or mean that the player has done anything wrong. If you do wish to draw attention to the hesitation, you can ask the partner if they agree that a break in tempo occurred. If they do not agree, it is *their* responsibility to call the director at that point.

Just Because ...



Matthew
McManus

PART 2

CONTINUING on from the last article, here are some more common misconceptions and examples of inaccurate conventional wisdom. Just because you think you know the laws, be prepared....

Just because an opponent concedes one more trick to you, it does not mean that you will get it if there is no possible way that you could win it. For example, declarer claims saying, "I have got the rest apart from your high trump". Declarer has forgotten that neither you nor your partner has any more trumps. It is unethical to accept this trick which you could not possibly win. And similarly....

Just because an opponent claims a certain number of tricks, it does not mean that that is the result if they have already won more than that. For example, declarer is in 1NT and takes the first seven tricks. He then concedes the rest, saying, "One off". You have a responsibility to correct him - "No, you made your contract."

Just because you say you counted your cards, it doesn't mean that you will have 13 of them at the end of the hand. The Laws require players to count their cards before looking at them at the start of the hand. It also requires that this count ensures that you have 13. Many players either

Just because a player hesitates, it does not mean that his partner must pass. This is one of the most misunderstood and misquoted aspects of the Law. There is a responsibility on the partner to not take advantage of any information they get from the hesitation, but there is definitely no requirement to pass.

Just because a player hesitates and his partner makes a bid after that, it does not mean that you call the director then. The appropriate time to call the director is when the player's hand is revealed and you believe that he may have taken an action influenced by the hesitation. Occasionally, it will be when dummy comes down, but most of the time it will be at the end of the hand.

Just because a defender leads a card after you tell them it doesn't matter what they play, it doesn't mean that you will benefit if it turns out there is a better lead. Your statement that it doesn't matter constitutes a claim under the Laws. When a claim is made, there is no more play. (BUT see Law 68D2 for another option at this time). If it is disputed, the director determines the result of the hand. The fact that the opponent may have subsequently played the wrong card will probably not affect the director's decision.

Just because the opponents revoke, it does not mean that you will do better than you would have normally done. Again, there is a set of rules which the director applies. In many cases (and ideally), this will mean that the result which should have happened is also the final result. There is no automatic penalty simply because there has been a revoke. Telling the director "but that's what we would have got anyway" is not going to get you anywhere. The director's primary responsibility is to ensure that the opponents do not benefit when they revoke against you.

Just because, as dummy, you can clearly tell that partner has forgotten that your two of clubs is good, you can't play it for them. Nothing more to say! ■

Reprinted from the eCongress News of the NSW Bridge Association.

WANTED at the Gold Coast Congress

House Players

Pairs who are prepared to turn up at the start of an event and, if necessary, play in the event. For the teams which is played on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday I need a partnership to turn up half an hour before play starts on the Tuesday which is a 10.00 am arrival time and if needed, to play in all six sessions of bridge. If you are not required, you will be invited to play in the walk-ins available at every session.

If interested, I need 20 partnerships of different levels – please contact Kim Ellaway 0412 064 903 or manager@qldbridge.com.au

Emergency Substitutes

Single players who are prepared to turn up upon receipt of a telephone call. This is for individual sessions or at times to complete the event due to illness etc.

If interested, I need 50 different players of different levels – please contact Kim Ellaway 0412 064 903 or manager@qldbridge.com.au. In 2019 most of the players on our books were used as substitutes.

Caddies

Caddies required - contact Kim Ellaway

Coming Events

Jan 24-27	Townsville Australia Day Swiss Butler Pairs & Teams
Jan 24-27	ABF Aust Mixed Team Playoff
Jan 26-27	Kenmore Graded Matchpoint Pairs & Graded Teams
Feb 1	QBA Senior Teams (Sunshine Coast)
Feb 2	Toowoomba Novice Matchpoint Pairs
Feb 2	Toowong Imp Pairs
Feb 8-9	QBA Open Selection Trials (Stage 1)
Feb 16	Arana Teams
Feb 21-29	2020 Gold Coast Congress
Mar 7-8	QBA Mixed Teams (Noosa)
Mar 7-8	Dalby Swiss Matchpoint Pairs & Teams
Mar 8	Toowong Novice Imp Pairs
Mar 14-15	QBA Open Selection Trials
Mar 14-15	Rockhampton Matchpoint Pairs & Teams
Mar 21-22	QBA Open Selection Trials
Mar 22	Sunshine Coast Graded Teams
Mar 26-29	ABF Tasmanian Festival of Bridge
Mar 26	QBA Management Meeting
Mar 28-29	QBA Women's Selection Trials
Mar 28	Mackay Swiss Matchpoint Pairs
Mar 28	Surfers Paradise Novice Matchpoint Pairs
Mar 28-29	QBA Seniors' Selection Trials
Apr 4-5	QBA Womens/Seniors Selection Trials
Apr 4	Townsville Matchpoint Pairs
Apr 5	Toowoomba Imp Pairs
Apr 5	Redland Novice and Restricted Teams
Apr 10-13	Cairns Easter Congress
Apr 12-13	BBC Graded Matchpoint Pairs & Graded Teams
Apr 15-22	APBF Event - Perth
Apr 18-19	Gympie Imp Pairs and Teams
Apr 19	Northern Suburbs Imp Pairs
Apr 23-26	Cleveland Bay Diggers Congress MP Pairs & Teams
Apr 23	QBA Council Meeting
Apr 25	QCBC Anzac Day Teams
Apr 26	Warwick Swiss Imp Pairs
Apr 30-May 4	ABF Autumn Nationals - Adelaide

Airlie Beach Interclub Congress

THE Airlie Beach Bridge club hosted this annual event at the Reef Gateway Hotel on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 of December.

There were 56 players attending from as far away as Cairns and Rockhampton, and most towns in between, with one repeat visitor from the Sunshine Coast and one from Newcastle.

There were 60 hands played on Saturday and 30 on Sunday morning.

Saturday night saw a change of atmosphere with players and guests dressed in their “tropical” themed gear, initially enjoying a multi-choice buffet, with singing and dancing. Townsville said they will be back next year.

Meanwhile back at the bridge competition, the overall winners were Mackay’s Noel Bugeia/Ian Afflick first, Monica Darley/Del Ryan second and Bowen’s Betty Andison/Ellie Sheffield only 0.1% behind in 3rd place.

Airlie Beach pairs Renate Feige and

QBA Individual



Winner: Laurie Skeate



Dianne Crossley, Rhonda Millar, Ian Johnston, Renate Feige, Eric Bottle, Di Dobbins, Chris Johnston, Jane Mather, Peter Mather, Linda Priday (President), Neil Cawthorne and Bev Gage

Neil Cawthorne came 2nd in Division 2, Linda Priday and Carol Dunlevie came 4th in Division 3, and Jane and Peter Mather came 2nd in Division 4

It has now become renowned as the fun congress to finish off the year. A couple of visiting players saying, “we really just come for the party!”

But I did ask my club members for a memorable hand, and there were a number of long major suit hands that didn’t get the imagined result,

The following was a stand-out.

Now here’s the problem, does North open 4S and miss the potential slam?

Dlr W	♠ AKJ1097432
Vul None	♥ 93
	♦ A10
	♣ –
♠ Q8	♠ 6
♥ KQ854	♥ AJ72
♦ J432	♦ 98765
♣ J8	♣ K62
	♠ 5
	♥ 106
	♦ KQ
	♣ AQ1097543

The slam fails on a heart lead but five pairs got lucky and made 12 tricks.

YOUTH BRIDGE PLAYERS



Subsidised (or FREE!!) entry fees and accommodation

Entry Fees: All players born in 2000 or later get free entry.

All players born between 1995 and 1999 get a 50% discount.

Accommodation: The Gold Coast Congress offers heavily subsidised accommodation

in high-rise holiday units to youth(ish) players. The cost is only \$17 a night for those born in 1995 or later.

\$27 a night for older youths (up to 32 years or so).

For details or to book accommodation, contact Jessica Brake on **0414 134 888** or **jessicabrace@hotmail.com**. Accommodation places are limited. Preference is given to those born in 1994 or later, or “older” youth players not in full time employment.

Your state based bridge association or local bridge club may also offer a subsidy – it doesn’t hurt to ask!

25 Years Ago



**Bill
Hunt**

HAD arranged to play with Magnus Moren in the 1994 Queensland Men's Pairs, even though I hadn't played with him before. But I had often played against him and knew him to be a dangerous opponent. I believed that, both liking to have a go and take our opponents on, we would be a completable partnership. This view was borne out by bookmaker Ralph Parker who would not give us odds of better than 6-1 on ourselves, despite the strong field.

Failing to get 16-1 (the odds I thought were fair), I decided to reject his offer. What a pity! With us winning the event, it became a total skinner for Ralph. He won the lot! I expect a commission in the mail shortly.

The penultimate round saw us with a handy lead, but facing Richard Wallis and David Lee. We knew it would be on, since no one at the table was shy. Maybe we were looking for problems that were not there. Magnus started by going off in 1NT with a combined 22-count (good defence plus a wrong guess or two), then I managed to make 12 tricks in 6NT when the room was making 13. So it was vital that we scored well on Board 12.

Dlr W	♠ Q10984
Vul NS	♥ K42
	♦ 92
	♣ J96
♠ AKJ72	♠ 653
♥ 1095	♥ 3
♦ 86	♦ AK1073
♣ A73	♣ KQ102
	—
	♥ AQJ876
	♦ QJ54
	♣ 854

Magnus and I arrived in 4S after Richard (South) had overcalled at the 2-level. The double wasn't long in coming from North. Unfortunately for him, he had to follow to all the

minor honours, and the throw-in virtually played itself.

+590 got us back into it, with 35 out of a possible 90 on the set. Still, the gap was closing, and we had to take on David Appleton/Murray Green in the last round.

David and Murray were playing Moscito (4-card majors, canape style, with 10-14 hcp opening bids) and they are not shy of bidding either, so we expected some action.

This was not long in coming, the opportunity presenting itself on the first board. Fortunately, it came our way and got us off to the flying start we wanted.

Dlr E	♠ 72
Vul EW	♥ 76
	♦ K754
	♣ AQ1092
♠ AKQ5	♠ 64
♥ 10942	♥ AKQJ853
♦ QJ9	♦ 86
♣ 76	♣ K8
	♠ J10963
	♥ —
	♦ A1032
	♣ J543

W	N	E	S
		1H	1S
2C (forcing?)	P	3H	P
4H	X	P	P
XX	All pass		

David could hardly be blamed for his double, believing that he was sitting over the clubs. +1080 in the bag gave us a warm feeling. The redouble was enough to keep us in front by a nose.

David and Murray then played catch-up bridge, resulting in a top to each pair, with their 2DX going for 1100 on one board, and their 7NT making on another (the grand slam took 19 bids).

The Women's Pairs was contested by a very large field, with the Sunshine and Gold Coasts bringing in their big guns. Ralph had Therese Tully and Joan Butts at very short odds. Sure, on past performances they would have to be favourites, but the large field would make it tough going for anyone. I held a healthy respect for the mother/daughter combinations of Cooke/Ellaway and Ward/Vincent and had a little wager on each.

With three rounds to go, the money appeared to be in the bag. Cooke/Ellaway were well clear of the field. However, Margaret Millar/Robbie Clayton emerged out of the pack in the straight to swamp them on the line, relegating Cooke/Ellaway to 3rd place with the favourites holding on to second. ■

General News

Even though the October Bulletin looked nice with all its colour – no one really noticed that it was so it will be black and white in future.

Club News

Stanthorpe
received \$1,000 from city council

Caloundra
received grants from:
the Gambling Benefits Fund;
the Sunshine Coast Council for fans of \$1,500;
a grant of \$4.200 from the Federal Government via their local member Terry Young, in September last year towards modernising the ladies' toilet facilities.

Redland
grant from the Gambling Benefits Fund

Rockhampton
grant from the Gambling Benefits Fund

Townsville
grant from the Gambling Benefits Fund

Mackay
Mackay Regional Council as part of their SmartyGrants program gave sponsorship of \$5,778 to cover the replacement cost of one of the large air-conditioning units for the club house. The air-conditioner has been installed and is in operation.

Results
Open Pairs Winners - Tony Hutton and Ralph Parker
Senior Pairs Winners – Richard Ward and Ralph Parker
Queensland Wide Pairs – North South Rita Groom and Penny Trenerry from Dalby
East West Unis Suliman and Steve Parkes from Kenmore
Australian Teams
Congratulations to Andy Hung and Paul Wyer – Australian Open Team

Directors' Corner



**Jan
Peach**

THE annual director get-together during the Gold Coast Congress will be held upstairs from 8.30 am to 10 am Wednesday, February 26. All players and directors are most welcome. The format will be Q&A.

The Australian Bridge Federation has decided that all their events will use reviews instead of appeals from 2020. This means our Gold Coast Congress will be one of the first cabs off the rank however very few of us will even notice the difference given that the number of appeals has steadily declined world-wide over recent years. The ABF review process looks quite rigorous. Essentially the reviewer checks that the director has followed best practice but need not agree with the ruling. There will now be Review Consultants instead of Appeal Advisors at Gold Point events. Details of the review process may be found at <http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/tournregs/ABFEeventsReviewProcess2019.pdf>

Regulating authorities have had this option available to them for some time. I understand the states are not rushing down the review path. Each Queensland club is the regulating authority for its own green point and B4c red point events but the review hurdles get higher the smaller an event becomes. Large events have one important characteristic that suits the review process. There are several directing staff available to

consult on judgement rulings and the majority view that is taken back to the table is essentially already a committee decision and not that of a single director.

While I train solo directors to discuss judgement rulings with someone, anyone, whether it be a knowledgeable player or "phone a friend", it is more difficult to have a consultative process.

Other hurdles may not be insurmountable. The possible need to deal with an off-site reviewer would add to the complexity of the process. It's pressure enough to deal with an appeal during a one-director-event without having to deal with a review.

As we embrace the 2020s, it is a good opportunity to revisit some perennial law and regulation problems of the last decade. The ones that just won't go away.

- "We have no agreement but I'm taking it as ..." has no validity as an explanation. If there is no agreement then that's all the opponents are entitled to know. If a player surely knows what the partner's call means then that is the partnership understanding and is not to be qualified by, "I'm taking it to mean".
- Call the director when attention is drawn to an irregularity. This includes breaches of Law 74 Conduct and Etiquette. The recorder's primary purpose is to hear about the almost unspeakable matters.
- When written bidding is being used, the bidding slip is concealed when third hand has played to the first trick. The laws preclude players from reviewing the auction after playing to the first trick. Concealing the bidding slip is as close as it gets to preventing breaches of Law 20C2: Declarer or either defender may,

at his first turn to play, require all previous calls to be restated.

- Not playing all boards as directed is an irregularity subject to penalty. Keep things moving. Making the opening lead, displaying dummy and playing a card should all be done before fiddling with personal record sheets and bridgemates. Don't educate others and avoid post mortems during the round. Do not read out scores. Don't waste time going back through quitted tricks during play to see if there has been a revoke. Firstly, doing this is contrary to the laws and secondly, an established revoke can't be corrected anyway.

- The recommended time to call the director when there has been a break in tempo is after the hand is finished. By all means note the BIT but save serious discussion for when all the facts are available. Who knows? The player who had unauthorised information available might have held a powerful hand, or, if there is an offence, the non-offenders may receive a good score from it.

- Suspecting that partner's call may not match your published systemic agreements, because they often don't, means you have a partnership understanding. This is seriously naughty territory if steps have not been taken, or are not taken, to tell the opponents. No one should want to win using secret partnership understandings. ■

QBA

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Fire Appeal

As we have done for the drought and flood victims in the past, we as a bridge community in Queensland will organise a state-wide donation to the fire appeal.

Clubs of the QBA raised over \$25,000 for drought victims in

2018 and just under \$20,000 for the flood many years before that. If you wish to contribute you can encourage your club to have fundraising events.

The QBA will start the ball rolling with a donation of \$2,000.

D E A D

APRIL 6 (noon)

Contributions to:
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L I N E