



BRIDGE MATTERS



Newsletter of the Caloundra, Coolool and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs September 2014

AROUND THE CLUBS



SUNSHINE COAST

After much planning and debate, the Club's air-conditioning was replaced in August. The committee obtained 4 quotes, and also hired a professional engineer to assist us with understanding the differences in what the various companies offered. We settled on the tender from Climatech, and they did the whole job in 5 days, at a cost in the low \$40 000's.



We now have three plants, compared with the two we had before, and as well as many efficiencies offered by the modern system, we also now have separate controls for each of the 3 units, including separate heating and cooling temperatures, and separate on/off switches for each of the 3 plants. This will allow us to manage the temperature in different parts of the room, and Climatech have promised that the days of the "Frozen North" are over.

There is also an elaborate timer system, allowing us to set start and end times each day, as well as specifying the minimum and maximum temperatures on each day.

The new system also allows for a mix of fresh air which members will appreciate.

It may take a little while for us to find the right temperature settings, and during this period, the committee will welcome feedback from members.



On August 29th Joan McPheat was presented with a Queensland Day Community Award by the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana. The award acknowledges people who have made a difference in the community. Joan was nominated by members of her Wednesday group who wished to show their appreciation for the time and dedication she has put into fostering the love of bridge in our community.

COOLUM

Congratulations to the new committee for 2014/15, elected at the AGM held on July 24.

President: Allison Walker

Vice President: David Nicholl

Secretary: Pat Terrace

Treasurer: Jill Nicholl

Committee members: Monty Dale, Ken Dawson, Dorothy Ferris, Lefley Gage and Brett Middleberg.

We are looking forward to another successful and well run year.

This year Frank Harbison resigned from the committee after serving continuously since 2003. He was president for 6 years during this time He received a small presentation in recognition of his dedication and service to the club.

Our 21st annual Invitation Day was held on September 3rd. A fun day, conviviality, good food and pleasant bridge. Congratulations to the winners: Stephen Jesienowski and Alan Sinclair, who also won the Home Club shield.



CALOUNDRA

Our AGM was held on August 20th and the following committee was elected:

President: Stephen Hughes

Secretary: Bill Smyth

Treasurer: Diane Maltby

Committee members: Pam Beale, Trevor Dowdell, Drew Dunlop, Tom Dunsmuir, Bob Galvin and Judith Leathley.

Congratulations to everybody.

On May 29 Caloundra held its annual Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. 66 members enjoyed a delightful morning of bridge, raffles and a delicious morning tea. The club raised \$1800 towards cancer research. This included a very generous donation of \$500 from Lionel Petersen in memory of his wife Shirley. Congratulations to Jan Brown on a very successful morning.

Denis Moody continues to excel, being part of the winning partnership in the Restricted Pairs at the QBA Barrier Reef Congress held this year in Townsville. Come on Denis, time to move out of the Restricted and start whopping the big kids!

**SYSTEM CLASSIFICATIONS AND SYSTEM CARDS**

Regulations require that each player at the table has an approved system card that opponents can refer to. This is in accordance with the general principle that your opponents are entitled to know everything about your system and agreements that your partner does. Your opponents can refer to your system card and/or they can ask your partner about the agreed meaning of your bid or play.

The system card is divided into several areas:

Basic system

This will be Standard American for most newer players, though it might also be Precision, 2 Over 1, or Acol. There are others but these are quite rare.

Classification by colour: This is a broad classification of your bidding system and refers to your opening bids. Green is the most common, and says that most/all of your opening bids are natural, though there are some exceptions. Short club and Multi-2 opening bids, though not natural, can still be part of a green system. Artificial strong 2 level openings (2♣ and 2♦) can also be in a green system.

Precision players whose 1♣ and 1♦ opening bids are not natural (i.e. 1♣ might not have any clubs, and 1♦ doesn't necessarily show diamonds) will have a Blue system.

Red systems are quite rare, and the only example I have seen here on the Coast is where a 1♣ opening might only contain a singleton club but isn't forcing.

As for Yellow systems, don't even go there! These are known as HUM systems, standing for Highly Unusual Methods, and include things like an opening pass that shows values, or an opening bid at the 1 level which denies an opening hand.

Any of these systems can also have a Brown Sticker. This means the system has particular bidding sequences which the regulators feel might need special defence. They are reasonably uncommon, but an example is where you have an opening bid at the 2 level that shows a two-suited hand but neither suit is known e.g. 2♠ shows 5/5 in either the minors or the majors.

Opening Bids

Strength and minimum length: Record the points and minimum length of the suit e.g. 1♣: 12 HCP (3); 1♦: 12 HCP (3), 1♥: 12 HCP (5); 1♠: 12 HCP (5). Don't worry if you might open with a point or two less occasionally – it is assumed that this will happen. Show your 1NT opening HCP range (e.g. 15-18) and if it might include a 5-card major, tick the box.

1NT Responses refers to transfers and Stayman after a 1NT opening by partner. Against 2♣, write whatever version of Stayman you use (simple, extended, puppet). The rest of this space is used to show transfers if you play them – you show the suit responder bids and what it means e.g. “2♦ -2♥” means a 2♦ response to 1NT asks opener to bid 2♥. If you don't do transfers, leave this part blank.

2-level Openings: Here you describe the meaning of all your 2 level opening bids, and there is a huge variety seen here. Be as complete as you can be. If you play all weak 2's except 2 clubs (as taught in the beginners' lessons), you might write “2♣ game force; 2♦ 6-10 HCP 6 card suit; 2♥ 6-10 HCP 6 card suit; 2♠ 6-10 HCP 6 card suit”. But if you play Multi-2's, you might show “2♣ 19+ HCP any shape (or whatever is your agreement); 2♦ 20-22 HCP balanced or 6-10 HCP 6-card major; 2♥ 6-10 HCP 5/5 in hearts and a minor; 2♠ 6-10 HCP 5/5 in spades and another”. Against **2NT** write your HCP range if you play this as strong, or “5/5 minors 6-10 HCP” or similar if you play it as showing the minors. Likewise against **3NT**.

Pre-Alerts

These are things that your opponent should be aware of and would not be expecting. The most common one you see here on the Coast is the “weak re-double” – if your partner opens and your LHO doubles for takeout, your opponents would reasonably expect a re-double by you to show values, but some people play it as showing weakness. As doubles cannot be alerted, the opponents need to be pre-alerted to this situation. Most newer players would not have anything in their system that requires a pre-alert.

Competitive Bids / Overcalls

Here you record how you bid in competitive auctions i.e. an auction where you and the opponents are bidding. To explain some of the terms:

Negative doubles – when your opponent overcalls a major and you double to show the other major, record how high this would apply (up to 2S, 3S or whatever).

Responsive doubles – when your partner has doubled for take-out and your RHO bids, a double by you is a responsive double asking your partner to bid, and you need to record how high this would apply (up to 2S, 3S or whatever).

Jump overcalls – your RHO opens and you overcall at a jump level e.g. 1♦ –2♣. This is usually weak so you would write “weak”.

Unusual 2NT – this refers to a 2NT jump overcall that usually shows the minors or two other agreed suits, and you should record what this shows for you e.g. “minors” or “two lowest unbid suits”.

1NT Overcall Immediate applies when your RHO opens at the 1 level and you overcall 1NT. This usually shows 1NT opening points and stopper/s in their suit and your card should show the range e.g. 15-18 (some players have a different range for a 1NT overcall from a 1NT opening).

1NT Overcall Re-opening refers to the specific situation where a player opens at the 1 level and this is followed by 2 passes. Many players in 4th position will bid 1NT rather than passing and letting the opener play at the 1 level. This is known as a re-opening 1NT bid and sometimes has many fewer points than a full 1NT overcall – typically 9-11. You need to record this on your card as 9-11, or as 15-17 or whatever, if you still play a full strength 1NT in this situation.

Immediate Cue of Major/Minor: A cue bid in this situation is bidding the opponent’s suit. This refers to Michaels Cue-bid and you need to record what it means when your RHO opens at the 1 level and you bid their suit at the 2 level. An example might be “Immediate cue of major: 5/5 other major and a minor; immediate cue of minor: 5/5 both majors”.

Over Weak 2’s and Weak 3’s: Record anything you do differently when your RHO opens weak at the 2 or 3 level.

Over Opponent’s 1NT: There are many different systems played when RHO opens 1NT – Pottage, DONT, Cappeletti, Modified Pottage etc, all of which have the ability to show single suited or 2-suited hands. You need to record which you’re playing if any. If you bid naturally over RHO’s 1NT, then write “natural”.

Basic Responses

These items are reasonably self-explanatory. To define the terms, a “jump raise” is when your partner opens and you agree the suit at a jump level e.g. 1♥ - 3♥. Most players play this as a limit raise i.e. “opposite your opening we have a fit but I don’t have points for game unless you’re maximum”. If this is what you do, write “limit”, otherwise record the agreement you do have. Some players play “inverted minors” where 1♦ - 2♦ shows a strong diamond raise and 1♦ - 3♦ shows a weak diamond raise.

A “jump shift” is when your partner opens and you bid a different suit at a jump level e.g. 1♥ - 3♣. Some players never play this and can ignore this on the card, but others play this as weak or as showing a fit with partner and whatever the agreement is needs to be shown on the card.

Responses to strong openings refers to how you bid after partner opens with your strongest opening e.g. 2♣. If you always make a 2♦ waiting bid, write “2♦ waiting” but if your system allows for other bids to show suits or a point count, record those details here e.g. “2♦ negative, other bids natural”.

Play Conventions

This section deals with what happens during the play of the hand.

Sequence refers to what you lead from sequences in a suit e.g. AK or KQ – most players lead the higher one and therefore should show “overlead”. Your leading style from non-sequences also needs to be shown. People have different agreements about what to lead with the various holdings listed, but an example might be “Four or more with an honour - 4th highest; 4 small - top; 3 small - middle-up-down.”

Discards might be high or low encourage, odds and evens, McKenney.

If you show **Count** on partner’s or opponent’s lead, record “natural” if you discard high-low to show an even number or whatever other agreement you have. If not, leave it blank.

Signal on Partner’s Lead – e.g. high encourage, count, low encourage, etc

Signal on Declarer’s Lead – e.g. count, or leave blank

Slam Conventions

This refers mainly to ace-asking. You need to indicate what method you use (Gerber, Blackwood, RKCB etc) and you should also indicate when it is used if you have an agreement e.g. “4♣ Gerber only after NT bid”. You can also indicate whether you use cue bids (showing or asking for control in a suit) or asking bids (requesting specific information about a suit) after agreeing suit.

Other Conventions

List here any other conventions you employ. The list might include Fourth Suit Forcing, Truscott raises, Lebensohl, Checkback Stayman.

Finally, remember that your opponents are entitled to a full disclosure of your methods. The system card is often only the first step, as your agreements with partner may well go beyond the scope of the information on the card.

In the interest of full disclosure, don't give abbreviated answers to an opponent's questions, even if the card itself is short on detail. Your card might say "Michaels" but if an opponent asks what your partner's Michaels Cue-bid means, don't just say "Michaels", state the full details e.g. "Michaels showing 5 hearts and 5 of a minor and 6-11 HCP"

THE BATH COUP (and how to avoid it)

Arch Morrison

In the early days of bridge (and its forerunner whist) any new gambit tended to be given a name (often based on the name of the person who first played it or the place where it was first played) which then lived on forever in the annals of the game. The Bath Coup probably was named during a whist game played by a group of aristocrats sampling the hot springs in the town of Bath some 200 years ago.

It is a very simple concept and many members of our bridge clubs will have made this play at some time without realising that it has a fancy name. In its simplest form, declarer (South) holds the AJx of a suit (eg hearts) and receives the lead of the K of that suit from West.

	543	
KQ1096		72
	AJ8	

If S wins the A (because "I was taught as a beginner that aces are meant to go on kings") then as soon as E gets in and leads a ♥ there will be four ♥ losers. But if S plays the 8 (THE BATH COUP) W cannot continue hearts without giving S two ♥ tricks. W now needs to get partner in to lead a ♥ through Declarer's AJ. Of course it is safe to continue hearts if E holds something like A72 or J72 but how



A hapless victim of the Bath Coup

is W to know what to do? Many E will say "I played the 7 to encourage you - why didn't you continue?" But what would they have played if their holding was the 87? Or they may say "I played the 2 to discourage you. " But what would they play from the 32? So simple encouraging or discouraging signals are not sufficient - it needs something more definite.

The lead of the K against a NT contract should be from a suit headed by KQJ or KQ10 (from KQxxx lead 4th highest—you need some help from partner). If your partnership adheres to this agreement then E's course of action is clearly defined. Show your high-card holding on the first round. Overtake the K with your A and lead the suit back - in case W is leading from KQ10 and needs a finesse against declarer's J. If you have the J then pitch it on the K so that partner knows it is safe to continue! The IMPORTANT POINT about doing this is that when you do not do it W knows that you do not have these cards and therefore knows that a switch to another suit is required to avoid being Bath Couped. W must wait till E gets in to lead the suit or until S has to lead the suit himself. Of course, common sense should apply. If dummy tracks with 9xxx and E has the A then it is too expensive to play it on the first round since it gives declarer a trick with the 9. But W can also see dummy and will possibly be able to work out the situation based on the prior bidding (or lack thereof).

Note that the Bath Coup can also work when the holdings are like this

	A43	
KQ1096		72
	J85	

But life does not stand still and in the New York Times of 8 April 2002 Alan Truscott was able to write about a play by Lou Levy at a US Nationals competition in Las Vegas and which has subsequently become known as the Anti-Bath Coup.

A version of this has been written up by Brian Gunnell in Bridge Bites on the American Contract Bridge League site and is summarised below. (go to acbl.org select "learn" and search for Anti-Bath Coup to access the complete article).

	KJ10	
	865	
	72	
	AQ1096	
962		8743
KQ1094		73
J108		KQ953
42		K3
	AQ5	
	AJ2	
	A64	
	J875	

In 3NT on the hand shown, South receives the lead of the ♥K. There is no problem if the club finesse works but South has to cater for what will happen if the club finesse fails. In this case winning the A of Hearts and losing the club most likely means four more ♥ losers for down 1. So play the ♥2 to Bath Coup W? Great idea but when E doesn't play the A or J on the first round W will switch suits and a diamond switch means the loss of one ♣, four ♦ and one ♥ for down 2. Time for the Anti-Bath Coup.

S plays the ♥J and W, reading S for doubleton AJ, continues hearts, won by South's A. Now when S loses to the ♣K East has no more hearts and the contract is made. (Note that if E did have another ♥ then the suit is splitting 4/3 and there are only three ♥ losers).

The contract goes off, of course, on a diamond switch at trick two but why should W do so? Those of you who noticed that E played the ♥3 and drew the correct logical conclusion are destined for higher things. The rest of us can read the solution on p15.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

In our previous edition Steve Brookes discussed the dubious double made by West in the prestigious American Vanderbilt competition. The pair concerned was a very well-established international pair.

S	W	N	E
1S	/	1NT	/
2D	/	2S	/
/	X	/	?

Disagreement as to the intention of the double was shown among top level players internationally and on the Sunshine Coast. We asked Ken Dawson for further information.

“Certainly the X was intended for blood and was pulled by partner to 3♣, believing it was takeout, according to the vugraph operator. The opposition had been pulled from a 5 - 2 spade fit instead of their 5 - 3 diamond fit. 3♣ became the final failing contract.

Some consensus was reached that if the doubler wanted to show clubs and hearts he would have doubled 2♠.”

Thanks Ken

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Caloundra: Pat & William Anderson, Peter Andrews, Jan Dunsmuir, Barbara & Peter Eckert, Max Fenn, Dinny Garnsworth, Libby & Bob Hannam, Carolyn McCarthy, Helen McGlynn, Alana Meisienhelter, Barry Murton, Barbara Saville and Neil Wysling.

Sunshine Coast: Lois Bock, Eva Chambers, Danielle Champness, Jean Clark, Peter Darnell, Jill Duffield, Marilyn Endacott, Christine French, Christine Gilmore, Ted Hobson, Val Logan, Lynette & Timothy Metelerkamp, Julianna & Tim McWilliam, Pat Nielsen, Bernadette & Bernard O’Dea, Geoff Olsen, Brian Salter, Betty Stanley, Fay Stanton, Susan & Alan Stratford, Peg Waldron and Rosemary Whiley.

Coolum: John Birt, Linda Cox, Al Diamond and Janice Little.

We wish you many happy years of bridging on the Sunshine Coast.

RESISTING TEMPTATION

Reg Busch



Do optimists or pessimists make the better bridge players? Who knows? But the mathematics of teams scoring requires you to be an optimist. When things look bad as dummy hits the table, you need to be optimistic - decide how the cards must be distributed to make your contract and play accordingly. On the odd occasion when this works, opponents will grudgingly admire your skill at placing the cards. But this was not so much skill as just optimism at work. On the other hand, when your contract looks quite safe, now you must become a pessimist. What can go wrong here? Can I insure against it? To me, this seems more

important in these days of computer generated hands, where there seems to be some demon in the computer who ensures that outstanding cards never break 3-3 (except when you don't need it), and that singleton kings are sitting over your AQ suits.

Here is a hand which I struck at the table in a recent club pairs (directions changed for convenience). I held as dealer South with NS vul:

♠K9 ♥AQ74 ♦Q96 ♣KQ85

Bidding:	W	N	E	S
				1♣
	P	1♦	1H	1NT*
	P	3NT	All pass	
		* 15 – 18		

West led the ♥8 and here are the two hands.

♠10653
♥K2
♦AJ843
♣A3

♠K9
♥AQ74
♦Q96
♣KQ85

I have seven top tricks, and obviously two more will come from the diamond suit provided the finesse works. I have to hope that the finesse will work because I can't afford to let East in to lead through my ♠K9. But wait! East made that

overall with a terrible heart suit – surely he must have values outside hearts? Then I realised that, if the diamond finesse is working, and provided I can afford to lose one diamond trick, I don't need to take the finesse at all. I can play up to the ♦A, then back to my ♦Q. West can win his ♦K, but now I make at least three diamond tricks, however the suit breaks. West can do me no harm. A spade switch just sets up an extra trick for me.

So I resisted the temptation to finesse and played up to the ♦A, dropping East's singleton ♦K! Now the diamond spots allowed me to make all five diamond tricks plus the ♠K later for twelve tricks.

All four hands:

	♠10653	
	♥K2	
	♦AJ843	
	♣A3	
♠J872		♠AQ4
♥83		♥J10965
♦10752		♦K
♣1062		♣J974
	♠K9	
	♥AQ74	
	♦Q96	
	♣KQ85	

Note that, even if I had finessed to the bare ♦K, my contract was safe as the cards lay because of the spade holding. But what would you do as South if East had won the ♦K, and switched to a sneaky ♠4?

Here is another instance of resisting temptation.

Here is your holding in the heart suit. Partner has a huge hand, and has put you into 7H! There are outside tricks to burn but you need to make all six tricks in hearts:

AQ6
987543

Clearly your only hope is to finesse the ♥Q, then play the ace, dropping the ♥K. So you need the finesse to work **and** the suit to break 2/2. Not good odds, but your only chance.

Now suppose you are only in 6H, and need only five tricks from this suit. Do you take the same line? Now you need the finesse to be on **or** the suit to break 2/2 – quite good odds.

We tend to forget that there are two ways of finessing against the ♥K. Thus you can play up to dummy, and play the ♥Q immediately. Or you can play up to dummy's ♥A, come back to hand in a side suit, and then play up to the ♥Q. West can make his king now or later, or, if West doesn't hold the king, East makes it but the suit has divided 2/2 and five tricks are safe. Sometimes you will give up a trick you don't have to lose in order to guarantee your contract.

	AQ6		AQ6		AQ6		AQ6
K2	J10	KJ10	2	J102	K	10	KJ2
	987543		987543		987543		987543
	#1		#2		#3		#4

Some possible layouts above. In #1, finessing the queen and playing the ace will make all 13 tricks. In #4, no matter how you play, you must lose two heart tricks and you are off. In #2, you can successfully play to the ♥Q first (or the ♥A first provided you then come back to hand to play up to the ♥Q next). But in #3, if you finesse the queen at trick one, you now must lose two hearts and are off.

The only play to guarantee your 6♥ contract is to play to the ace first. This will cater for hand type #3. It gives up on your chance of making 13 tricks, but guarantees 12 tricks.

These two plays are types of 'safety' plays. The aim in the first example is to keep the perceived danger hand off lead. In the second example it is to cater for possibly rare distributions to guarantee your contract. Do you always use safety plays? At teams scoring, it is a no-brainer. **Always** use safety plays at teams. You may often make 1430 as against -1460 for a 1 imp loss. But occasionally, when the hand is as in #3, you will score +1430 and +100 for a +17imp win.

At matchpointed pairs scoring + 1430 from your safety play is being compared with perhaps lots of +1460s. Safety plays that give up a trick unnecessarily to cater for unusual distributions will only occasionally pay off as good scores and most of the time will score poorly. So at matchpoints, safety plays of this type are only for hands where you assess that just making your contract will be a good score.

STUFF-UPS GALORE

Newer players get such a sense of reassurance when an experienced player makes a mistake. They see it can happen to everybody, and this encourages them to keep trying. So come on, you big kids. Don't be coy. Send in your major stuff-ups so we can all feel better. Maybe we could even start a Stuff-Up column.

Against stupidity the gods themselves contend in vain.

Friedrich Schiller

THE AMNESIA DOUBLE

The lead-directing double you make when you forget you will be making the opening lead.

WINNERS

Sunshine Coast Club Pairs Championship: Vilma Laws & Jilliana Bell

Caloundra Club Pairs Championship: Wilma Hiddins & Tony Walford

Caloundra Graded Pairs Congress : Rosemary Crowley & Richard Perry

Sunshine Coast Butler Pairs Congress: Toni Bardon & James Wallis (for the umpteenth time in more than 20 years of competing at the event).

Sunshine Coast Teams Congress (June): Toni Bardon, James Wallis, Yolanda Carter & Patrick Bugler

Sunshine Coast Club Teams Championship: Kendall Early, Susan Rodgers, David Harris & Timothy Ridley

Sunshine Coast Teams Congress (August): Di & Alan Maltby, Stephen Hughes & Andrew Dunlop

Caloundra Butler Pairs Congress: Andrew Dunlop & Stephen Hughes (for the second year running).

WHERE IS THAT QUEEN?

Ken Dawson

A challenge for the improving player

♠A5432 ♠T9876

♥A32 ♥K4

♦K2 ♦A43

♣AJ2 ♣KT3

Contract 6S by East

Opening lead ♦Q. Plan your play.

Don't you hate that club holding? If you have to finesse, half the time you will lose a trick to ♣Q. Declarers try to avoid taking a finesse where possible. Wouldn't it be great if NS led a club! Then, you can be certain to find the ♣Q by following the well-travelled road, *second-hand-low*. Either ♣Q shows up or you win the first club trick cheaply. How can we make NS start the clubs?

Firstly, win ♦K, and cash ♠A. That leaves one opponent with a top trump which must be our only loser. Now, we set about eliminating the red suits. Play ♦A and ruff ♦x. Now, play ♥K, ♥A and ruff ♥x.

With only black cards remaining, exit with a trump. The opponent winning this trick might lead a club which will suit us. If he leads a red card, we can ruff it in one hand and pitch the losing ♠x from the other hand. Now a club can be ruffed. East has avoided the guess.

BRIDGING THE GAP

WITH FOOD FOR THOUGHT

OLIVE JAMES CCBC

TASTY SANDWICH FILLING Today's recipe is quick and simple but big on taste

Take equal amounts of ham and cooked corned beef and mince or cut very fine. To this add chopped gherkin (very fine). If I used approx. 1 cup ham and 1 cup corned beef then I would use 4 or 5 gherkins.

This amount would make about 4 rounds of sandwiches.

It's very tasty and can be kept in a sealed container if not all used.

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D SEEN IT ALL

Olive James

It was "egg day", the biggest one yet, and we were all running around checking every egg, co-ordinating orders and labelling with about half an hour to go before we were finished, when Randall Rusk and Drew Dunlop arrived, with a 2 burner portable BBQ, 2 frypans and 2 shopping bags in tow. They set about making the best, tastiest and spiciest omelettes using the broken eggs which we have every egg day (2/3trays). My



volunteers and I were so thrilled - it was without a doubt the BEST omelette I have ever tasted- onions, mushrooms, bacon, chilli, capsicum and more.

After this I'm sure to have the volunteers queuing up!

Thanks Randall and Drew

OOPS !!!

The writer of this one has elected to remain anonymous

When I started bridge lessons, one of the first things my teacher told me was, as declarer, always pause before playing to the first trick. Perhaps my partner (West) should have done that the last time we played. I can't really blame him because he was probably in shock when I tabled my light opening.

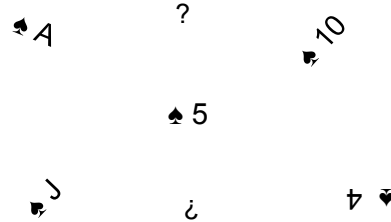
This was the auction	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		/	1♦	/
	3NT	/	/	/

The lead was the ♠10 (not exactly normal), then the 2 from dummy and, for some strange reason, the 5 from South. My partner, (still in shock and also temporarily

blind in one eye) assumed it was the ace and played the 4 from J74. He could have made 13 tricks for an outright top but only managed 3 tricks for a straight bottom after the opponents took their 10 trick in the majors. Here is the full deal:

	NORTH	
	♠ A Q 10 8 6	
	♥ Q J 9 4 3	
	♦ 10 3	
	♣ 6	
WEST		EAST
♠ J 7 4		♠ 9 3 2
♥ 10 2		♥ 7 5
♦ 2		♦ A K Q J 9 4
♣ A K Q J 10 9 5		♣ 4 2
	SOUTH	
	♠ K 5	
	♥ A K 8 6	
	♦ 8 7 6 5	
	♣ 8 7 3	

After getting over his initial annoyance with himself, partner and I had a good laugh, we still won the session and we each had bridge story to tell our friends. Incidentally, our opponents are still together. My partner *may* have saved a nasty end to their relationship at the bridge table.



The Sunshine Coast Bridge Club gratefully acknowledges the support of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council for a grant of \$6000 over the past 3 years through the

Sunshine Coast Council Grants Program to assist with administration and ongoing costs.

HASN'T BEEN A VERY GOOD DAY

Things are getting worse and worse. And they are more likely to get more worse than less worse.

BATH COUP solution from p9

W should recognise that the ♠3 is East's smallest card which means that S has the ♠2. E also does not have either the ♥A or ♠J because E would have played it on top of the ♠K. So South's holding is A-J2 yet he hasn't played the ♠2 to accomplish the obvious Bath Coup. W should reason "Why has S false-carded with the J? Aha he wants to avoid me making the obvious switch which I would make if he made the Bath Coup after E has denied having the ♥A or ♠J. So I'd better make the switch that he is worried about".

TO BE SURE, TO BE SURE

- Last Friday we bid easily up the line and I settled for a comfortable 1NT. But my partner pulled it to 2 ♦. She never lets me play a NT contract.
- I know. She told me about it. She calls it a safety play.

THE 50 - 50 - 90 RULE

- I thought the finesse was supposed to work 50% of the time. It never seems to work for me.
- Ah but you are not up to date on Murphy's latest 50 - 50 - 90 rule. *Any time you have a 50% chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.*

WE ARE NOT AMUSED

- Every time that smart aleck comes to our table he rips me to shreds. One day I swear I will get the last laugh on him.
- Maybe. But the problem is, he who laughs last thinks slowest.

SOMETIMES YOU JUST CAN'T WIN

- Well that was a shocker! I really thought our interference over their 1NT opening was foolproof.
- I'm afraid nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

OVERHEARD

- Partner, do you think you could stop wearing black all the time at the bridge table? I find it quite depressing.
- I'll stop wearing black when they come up with a darker colour.

IT'S ONLY A GAME ?

- I can't believe I am playing so badly. It is so demoralizing. I am seriously thinking of tossing the whole thing in.
- Come on, cheer up. After all, it's only a game.
- A game? Only a game? Are you insane? Bridge isn't a game. It's a life style!

PSYCH OR PSYCHIC?

It says here 25% of psych bids go unreported. How could they possibly know?

IT'S ABYSS-MAL

Arguing with my partner is like trying to leap a chasm in two bounds.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If you can't spot the sucker in a card game, then you're probably it. Amarillo Slim