

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS BRIDGE ASSN INC

NEWSLETTER JUNE, 2010



BRIDGEMATE UPDATE

Our Bridgemates are almost ready for shipment. As soon as they arrive, workshops will be held for directors to become familiar with them and once this happens they will be gradually introduced at bridge sessions. There will be plenty of support and assistance available at all times during this introductory period.

MAY CONGRESS CONVENOR'S REPORT

The 2010 May Congress proved to be very popular with 56 pairs and 32 teams competing.

My thanks to Committee Members past and present who carried out their rostered duties to perfection, making my job as Convenor ever so much easier.

Special thanks also to all Club Members who provided the delicious cakes and slices and for their assistance with the various chores, which contributed to making the weekend such a success.

Congratulations and my heartfelt thanks to you all.

Elaine Moss, Convenor.

MASTER PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following members on their recent master point promotions:

Carolyn Hall	GRADUATE
Joan Charters	CLUB
Mary Cornock	CLUB
John Turner	CLUB
Hilary Engledow	LOCAL
Denise Strain	LOCAL
Annelene Husken	LOCAL**
Bede Tebbutt	LOCAL**
Judith Murray	REGIONAL*
Helen Sligar	STATE

MAY CONGRESS HONOUR BOARD

Colin Choat & John Davies - 1st Open Plate

Margaret Walker & Lesley Easton - 3rd Open Plate

Yvonne Breakwell & Robert Palasthy - 2nd Consolation

Rowan Ferguson, Kay Raicevich, Colleen Berry & Maureen Walch - Best Local Team

Len Pascoe, Margot Nelson, Lesley Neville & Freya Luick - Best Restricted Team

Special Mention: Diana Zanon & Robyn Glover who made the final

BRIDGE APHORISMS

It's a difficult game, and we need all the help we can get. Here are some bridge aphorisms (or truisms, or maxims, or rules-of-thumb):

Trust partner

When in doubt, lead trumps

If 3NT is a possible contract, bid it

Fourth highest of your longest and strongest

When in doubt, bid one more

The queen sits over the jack

The 5-level belongs to the opponents

8 ever, 9 never

6-5, come alive

Lead through strength, lead up to weakness

BRIDGE PARTNERSHIPS

Make no mistake, a bridge partnership is a relationship. It has many parallels with marriage and you need to manage it like you manage your relationship with your life partner.

This is what makes playing effective bridge difficult for married couples. It is tough enough trying to maintain one relationship with someone. Maintaining two is impressive. It is possible to have a personal relationship built on the principles required to play high level bridge successfully. If you have mastered this maybe you can bottle it and sell it for high prices to bridge couples!

NEW DIRECTOR.... Congratulations to Larry Bryant – he is our newest director – in fact Larry completed the Congress director exam at his first attempt. Well done Larry!!

Traffic rules

There has been some discussion among members recently regarding the legality of crossing double lines when turning right from the Club driveway onto Hastings River Drive. According to the RTA we are allowed to make a right hand turn from the Driveway of the Club onto Hastings River Drive, crossing the double unbroken lines in the centre of the road. The difference between our Club's Driveway and the Driveway from Harvey Norman is that the exit from Harvey Norman has arrows painted on the road that must be obeyed.

ON A SOCIAL NOTE

Saturday 12th June

pizzas arrive approx 5.45pm

\$5.00 per person—BYO drinks

Non playing partners invited !

Names on board by 10th June please



Following the success of the last Murder Night we have arranged a follow-up evening as follows

The production is **THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY** & will play at the club on Saturday 31st July after bridge . The ticket price will be \$25 including a 2 course meal.

Watch the notice board for further details - & announcements will be made shortly.

Should be a fun evening!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Pat Sleat.

NEW MEMBERS

The following players have recently joined our Club

Ian Peterson, Clarice Christie, Neville Sowden, Robyn Cohen, Nancy Sadlo, Norman Broomhall

Brenda Burge, Florence Gibbons, Ann Gibbs, Christine Guest, Elaine Howell

Sue Jenner, Pauline Probert, Pat Thompson, Trish Tingey, Joy Whiting

Michele Tredinnick, Jennifer Michael

Please make them welcome

Congratulations to.....

Carol Briscoe, Barbara Griffiths, Yvonne Cains & Noelle Kebby
Barry Thomas, Larry Bryant, Chris Manser & Arthur Anlezark

eq 1st Country Teams qualifying

Chris Manser, Margaret Walker, Helen Sligar, Hilary Engledow

1st Neville Langford Shield (Anzac Day Teams)

Sue & Arthur Lindner, Mike McElhinny & Tony Woolford

Margaret Thorn, Arthur Anlezark, Colin Choat, John Davies

Eq 1st GNOT Qualifying

Thank you partner...

Bridge is as friendly as the players and it's important to be a good partner and opponent. Thank your partner when she puts down the dummy. Wish the opponents good luck before you start the game. Don't get upset about a bad result. Instead, start afresh with the next 13 cards. Successful partnerships will discuss difficult hands and situations where something went wrong after the session in private. Bridge is a game. Have fun!

BRIDGE FOR BRAIN RESEARCH CHALLENGE

On Thursday 5th May 56 happy bridge players competed in the Australia-wide Bridge for Brain Research Challenge at our club. Fourteen teams played hands set by Ron Klinger and Valerie Cummings especially for the competition. Commentary on the hands, written by Ron and Val, was provided to all those interested.

Afternoon tea donated by several members provided a welcome break during the afternoon – thanks to those responsible for cooking all the yummy cakes and slices.

After the event results were entered online and can be viewed through the ABF website – select “Bridge for Brain Research Challenge” Online Results as well as on our own website. You can see your result compared with those from clubs all over Australia!

Our Club's best performers were Yvonne Cains and Noelle Kebby, who at the time of writing are placed 17th overall (9th Noth-South pair) – a really good effort!

A cheque for \$515 has been sent to the Prince of Wales Medical Research Foundation to help with their research into various neurological disorders including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. The Club is happy to provide the venue and refreshments without charge so that the entire proceeds of the event are directed to the research effort. Thanks to all who participated and helped make the afternoon a really enjoyable occasion.

Margaret Walker, Convenor.

There has never been an addiction with the grip of bridge, unless it be alcohol and of the two, bridge is perhaps the stronger. One knows of reformed alcoholics, but who knows any reformed bridge players?

STOP PRESS

The Club Pairs Championship has been moved to Saturday 10th July (2 sessions commencing at 9am) and Saturday 17th July (afternoon session). This has been necessary because the Country Teams Divisional Final is being played in Ballina on the weekend of 2/3 July.

For advanced players.....

ADJUST-3 HAND EVALUATION

The true value of honor cards.

Traditional 4-3-2-1 point count is not totally accurate. It underrates aces and 10s and overrates queens and jacks. In one of last year's newsletters when I revised the Rule of 20 I discussed the fact that the traditional 4-3-2-1 point count is not totally accurate. Kings are evaluated correctly, but it underrates aces and 10s and overrates queens and jacks. I propose something that is more accurate called Adjust-3.

A quick review of Adjust-3.

- Step 1 Count your high-card points in the traditional way
- Step 2 Underrated honors: How many aces and 10s?
- Step 3 Overrated honors: How many queens and jacks?
- Step 4 Subtract the smaller number from the larger
- Step 5 Consider the result of the subtraction:
 - If fewer than 3, make no adjustment
 - If 3-5 adjust by 1 point
 - If difference is 6 or more (rare), adjust by 2 points
- Step 6 If you have more underrated honors, add: if you have more overrated honors, subtract

Let's look at two examples:

You hold

♠KQ4 ♥AJ95 ♦KJ93 ♣K 10

You have a traditional 17 HCP. You have two underrated honors (one ace and one 10) and three overrated honors (one queen and two jacks). So the formula is: $3-2 = 1$. Look at Step 5 – you don't need to make an adjustment. The Adjust-3 total is 17, the same as the traditional method. The computer says $16\frac{3}{4}$ so 17 is close enough.

You hold

♠A74 ♥10943 ♦AK106 ♣K2

Your traditional point count is 14HCP. You have four underrated honors (two aces and two 10s) and no overrated honors. The formula is $4 - 0 = 4$. Look at Step 5 and you see you should add 1HCP. The Adjust-3 total for this hand is 15HCP. The computer says $15\frac{1}{2}$.

At this point I hope your thoughts are "that wasn't so bad at all". Both examples that illustrate Adjust-3 have more in common than the fact that they represent opening bids with identical distribution. After applying Adjust-3, both are balanced hands with 15-17 HCP and I would, therefore, open each one of them with 1NT (if you and partner are opening 1NT with 15-17HCP).

An **EASY** way to remember this method of evaluation.

If you like shortcuts, here are some Adjust-3 quickies for HCP based on Adjust-3.

With three underrated honors, add 1HCP.

With three overrated honors, subtract 1HCP:

Therefore: three aces = 13HCP two aces + one 10 = 9HCP three 10s = 1HCP one ace + two 10s = 5 HCP	Therefore: three queens = 5HCP three jacks = 2HCP two queens + one jack = 4HCP one queen + two jacks = 3HCP
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Many hands require upgrading or downgrading, and accuracy is a must. This is especially true on slam deals, because good slam bidding is extremely difficult. That's not an opinion – it's a fact. Even with the best expert partnerships often fail to hit the mark. Adjust-3 can be the first step in good hand evaluation.

Friday Teams

There are usually between 10 and 20 players attend each week. Depending on numbers we usually play a Teams competition with players of varying ability and experience being spread through the teams. When there is a half table we try to play a Howell movement which is also beneficial for new players to learning how the movement works, in addition to playing pairs.

Most Fridays Rowan Ferguson gives a half hour talk on particular aspects of the game that provoke our thoughts and helps in our practice. Players can ask Rowan's advice on particular hands they had difficulty with. Bob Jess has also come along on occasions when Rowan was unavailable. Bob is an extremely talented player who is able to easily share his knowledge with us. After Rowan and Bob have finished their discussions they usually leave for other appointments. That leaves me and a couple of other more experienced players, like Neil Badger, Margot, Lesley Neville, Jo-Anne Marzato to act as mentors as we play during the afternoon.

I must stress that play on Friday afternoons is VERY relaxed allowing players to discuss hands and bidding as they play. The competitive edge has been dulled, and players realise that they are there to help each other and to improve their own knowledge of the game. We even allow bidding to be changed during play if an error, or a better bid, is available.

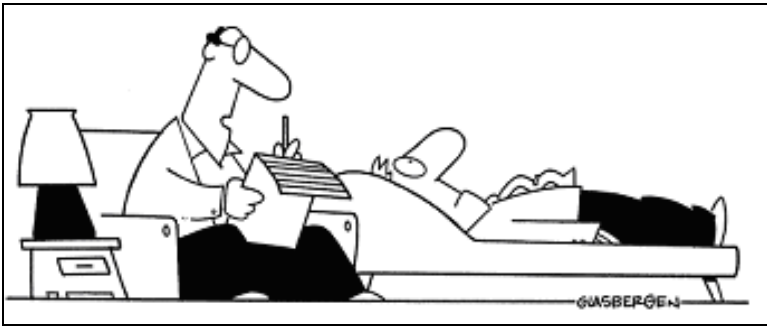
Rod Easton has volunteered to come to our session once a month to stay the afternoon and be of assistance to all players. This will be a great asset to the session as he has a very good understanding of the play of the cards in a hand for maximum benefit. He has been to one session a few weeks ago and stayed for a half hour or so. This whetted his appetite for sharing his knowledge and showed us what an excellent asset he will be.

Recently we have had a growing number of learners from Yvonne's current class. They will be nurtured and encouraged to become members of our Club. We hope that as a result of their participation in these sessions they will not be so daunted making the BIG step into other competitions in our Club. Some members of the Friday group will soon be moving full time into the other sessions our Club provides.

Len Pascoe.

A SENIOR'S PRAYER by Jill Allanson

As I bow my head to pray
I ask for help at Bridge today
It's not the usual thing I know
But my brain is getting kinda slow.
The opponents get in a stew
When I miss the occasional alert ... or two.
Conventions I love and they are fine
When I happen to remember them in time.
My especial problem is the lead,
And signals I sometimes fail to heed,
And declarer play is not too hot
When I lose a trick as like as not.
It's hard to keep a partner when
I make the same mistakes again
I know it is a lot to ask
But I'm mighty tired of second last!



“Unrelenting criticism that makes your life hell...are we talking about your mother-in-law or your bridge partner?”

YVONNE'S CONVENTION CORNER

In the last newsletter I covered Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKB) used in major suit auctions. As well Keycard can be used in other situations:

ROMAN KEYCARD GERBER (RKG)

It is recommended that you use RKG over 1NT and 2NT openings.

1NT – 4C Replies (1430) 4D – 1 or 4

4H – 0 or 3

4S – 2 + min range of points

4NT – 2 + on top of range (see Hand 3)

RKG AFTER A MINOR SUIT AGREEMENT

After a minor suit agreement at the 2 or 3 level 3NT is to play. After a minor suit agreement 4NT RKB can push the partnership too high when 2 key cards are missing. One way to overcome this is to treat a minor suit raise to the 4 level as RKG: 1S – 2C – 4C asks for key cards with clubs as trumps (see Hand 1)

Another situation where RKG is used is when partner has removed 3NT to 4 of a minor (the suit agreement is inferred): 1S – 2D – 3NT – 4D* - * RKG with D as trumps

ASKING FOR KINGS

Discard Q ask when using minor suit RKG and use the revolving bid to ask for kings. Use standard replies:

Step 1 = none, Step 2 = 1, Step 3 = 2, Step 4 = 3. e.g.

1S – 2C – 4C – 4D (1KC) 4H* (how many kings?) 4NT (1 king)

OTHER STRATEGIES WORTH CONSIDERING: Weak Keycard Responses...

When there is a 2C opening partner often has few points and few key cards. It can be useful to show a different set of replies in this situation:

Step 1 = no key card – no trump Q Step 2 = Trump Q but no key card

Step 3 = 1 key card + no trump Q Step 4 = 1 keycard + trump Q

Step 5 = 2 key cards (see hand 4)

After a Demand Opening:

If opener supports responder after a game force opening treat the raise as RKG. Responder shows key cards at once.

HANDS KEYCARD GERBER + MINORS DEMAND OPENING

<p>Hand 1 Dealer North</p> <p>♠AKJ83 ♥8 ♦9 ♣AK9862</p> <p>♠Q109 ♥QJ654 ♦842 ♣J10</p> <p>♠654 ♥K1097 ♦AQ10765 ♣ -</p> <p>♠72 ♥A32 ♦KJ3 ♣Q7543</p> <p>1C - 3C 4C - 4D (1 keycard) 6C</p>	<p>Hand 2 Dealer East</p> <p>♠Q1075 ♥109 ♦1098653 ♣5</p> <p>♠AKJ2 ♥3 ♦42 ♣1098763</p> <p>♠8 ♥AKQJ2 ♦AQJ ♣KQJ2</p> <p>♠9643 ♥87654 ♦K7 ♣A4</p> <p>2C - 2D 2H - 3C 4C - 4D (1 keycard) 6C</p>
<p>Hand 3 Dealer South</p> <p>♠AJ3 ♥QJ4 ♦KQ6 ♣9742</p> <p>♠10985 ♥753 ♦J872 ♣86</p> <p>♠642 ♥10986 ♦953 ♣AJ95</p> <p>♠KQ7 ♥AK2 ♦A104 ♣KQ103</p> <p>2NT - 4C 4NT - 6NT (2+top range)</p>	<p>Hand 4 Dealer East</p> <p>♠10852 ♥A1097 ♦Q103 ♣J82</p> <p>♠KQ73 ♥J2 ♦J8652 ♣43</p> <p>♠AJ964 ♥4 ♦AK ♣AKQ52</p> <p>♠ - ♥KQ8653 ♦974 ♣10976</p> <p>2C - 2D 2S - 3S 3NT - 4S 6S</p> <p>New bids by responder after 2C opening: Step 1 = no keycard no trump Q</p>

	Step 2 = trump Q only Step 3 = 1 keycard no trump Q Step 4 = 1 keycard + trump Q Step 5 = 2 keycards
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YVONNE has kindly agreed to hold a special 'brainstorming' session on ROMAN KEYCARD GERBER starting at 12 noon on Saturday, 12th June. Don't miss this opportunity!

HAPPY BRIDGING 😊