

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS BRIDGE ASSN INC

NEWSLETTER AUGUST, 2011



SEPTEMBER TEAMS CONGRESS

10th & 11th September. As usual the congress is restricted to 32 teams so early entry to advised. You may enter via the club website www.pmhbridge.com.au or the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/> under congresses, by emailing our congress director Sue-Ellen at sedeacon1@bigpond.com, or by completing the entry form at the club and handing it to a committee member.

Lists are on the board for helpers so if you are not playing and can spare a couple of hours over the weekend it would be a great help. We also need slices, biscuits and cakes – the response for the May congress was fantastic and we received so many appreciative comments from our visitors.

COMING EVENTS

SPRING PAIRS - Thursday, 6th October

PORT MACQUARIE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP (Lindner Shield)

This event will be held on Saturday, 24th September and the format this year will be a SWISS PAIRS competition. Swiss Pairs is run along the lines of Swiss Teams. Pairs play each other in short matches, e.g. 6 boards. As in Swiss Teams, pairs with approximately the same results are then paired against each other for subsequent matches.

BRISCOE SHIELD TEAMS

Please note a change from our original program. This event will now be held on Saturday, 29th October - two sessions
Saturday, 5th November - one session

MELBOURNE CUP DAY

Tuesday, 1st November - more details later

CONGRATULATIONS

Anne Rutter, Barbara Griffiths, Chris Manser & Barry Thomas - 1st GNOT Club Qualifying
Anne Rutter, Jenny Michael, Chris Manser & Barry Thomas - 1st Country Teams Regional Final
Tony Woolford & Noelle Kebby, 1st Club Pairs
Tony Woolford & Mike McElhinny, 1st Winter Pairs
Kristine Howe & Lorraine Robins, 1st Vera Pugh Shield

NEW MEMBERS

We have six new members who have recently joined our Club.....

- Dawne Albano, Roslyn Bingham, Sue Quinn, Moya Wyllie, Margaret Perkins, Robin Tait.

Please make them welcome

MEET & GREET – Neil Badger



Neil & his three sisters



Neil & his family

Neil was born in June 1946 and spent his first 5 years in Washington DC where his father was an economist with the IMF. The family returned to Australia in 1951 and settled in the outer Sydney suburb of Epping. By this time Neil had 2 younger sisters. He attended Eastwood Primary and then went on to Epping Boys High.

In 1960 Neil's father was transferred to London. Neil wasn't happy there and 2 years later he returned to Sydney and stayed with his aunt. She wasn't really equipped to handle a teenage world traveller and consequently his studies suffered. Failing the Leaving Certificate but later passing the Matriculation exam he was accepted into UNSW to study Engineering.

It was here that, as well as many other distractions, a mate and he discovered a card room. There he was introduced to the world of bridge, often playing with Robyn Griffiths who lived next door. Although sowing the seed for a love of bridge it did little for his academic career and combined with partying contributed to an early departure from the halls of academia.

He then moved into the world of computers where he had a successful career spanning 30 years. He first worked for IBM in Sydney. During this time he met and married Megan who was studying at Macquarie Uni. Once she had graduated they deferred her teaching career and headed to Europe for several years.

On returning to Australia Neil set up a small computer company programming for small businesses, a company he still owns today. Rapidly expanding usage of mini computers made this a very successful enterprise.

In 1978, getting fed up with Sydney, Neil took a job with East West Airlines in Tamworth. He was installing their first computer and in his spare time was working with the local office supplier installing computers around New England. Neil, Megan and their 2 young daughters lived on a 100 acre hobby farm just south of Tamworth airport. When East West Airlines folded they had to decide whether to stay in the bush or move back to the city. They chose the country and Neil says that although financially it was not a good decision the lifestyle more than compensated for it.

Neil now concentrated on his computer company which expanded throughout the New England/North West area. Working for himself gave him a great deal of flexibility with time to become involved in company organisations. He spent time as Chairman of the local CYSS and was the P & C President for his kids' schools as well as a term on the executive of the state P & C.

In 2007, with both daughters working Neil and Megan made the decision to retire to Port Macquarie. Megan now works part time at Camden Haven High and Neil is the 'house husband'.

Upon arriving in Port Macquarie Neil looked up Robyn Griffiths and she suggested he attend the Bridge classes at Hastings. Neil says "I hadn't played bridge since Uni so I was a little rusty and some of the bidding basics had moved on since 1964 but whatever the attraction that grabbed me at Uni is still there and you can see me at the Club 3 or 4 days every week".

So how fortunate for our Club that he made this decision. In his unassuming, pleasant, competent manner he makes a great contribution to our Club. As well as being the publicity officer, he looks after the web page, assists with the bridgemates and is a Director.

We all remember Neil with purple hair, then no hair, raising money for cancer research. Neil, all members of our Club thank you for your efforts.

NEWS OF VERA PUGH.....

Many members will be pleased to hear that Vera is well and happy and living in her own unit in Melbourne. Margaret Rien recently spoke to her and reported that although Vera is now over 95 she is very active, walks everywhere and asked to be remembered to all her friends at the Club.

<p><i>Congratulations to the following members on their recent masterpoint promotions</i></p>
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Nellie Oonk	Graduate Master	June Cook	Club Master
Neville Sowden	Graduate master	Pat Thompson	Club Master
Maree Don	Club Master	Narelle Young	* Local Master
Wayne Hall	Club Master	Deborah Carmichael	** Local Master
Neil Black	Local Master	Anne James	** Local Master
Beverley Elliott	** Local Master	Denise Strain	Regional Master
Robyn Glover	*State Master	Rod Easton	National Master
Chris Sinclair	*State Master	Peter Club	Life Master
		Jenelle Francis	Bronze Life Master

FROM THE NSWBA RULES updated 1st July, 2011.

- *The bidding pad should not be marked to designate the dealer/vulnerability.*
- *The bidding slip shall remain on view until the third player has played to the first trick. Dummy may then remove the bidding slip from view.*
- *In framing questions about the auction, special care must be exercised to avoid pointing to one particular bid which could induce a call or a lead based solely on the question. The Director should be called immediately any player feels a "pointed" question has been asked.*

Congratulations Carrie.....

**Carrie recently competed in the Masters' Rowing Championships in Hobart
winning two gold and one silver. Well done!!**

<p>TEMPO/HESITATIONS</p>

It is good to acquire the habit of playing 'smoothly' and in tempo. Avoid hesitations by being consistent and deliberate in your bidding. A hesitation followed by a pass places an extra burden on partner to justify continuing with the bidding as this may have communicated information to one's partner.

If you have a difficult decision you have a right to think but partner cannot take advantage of the knowledge that you had a problem. So if your partner takes time to bid/bids out of tempo and then passes, you should pass too unless that action would be totally illogical considering your hand.

21 more easy ways to become a “Superior” bridge player

June’s newsletter gave a very ‘tongue in cheek’ article on 21 easy ways to become a “superior” bridge player. Well, as promised, here are yet another 21 easy ways - just when you thought it was safe to come to the bridge table...

1. Hurry up slow players by “table hovering” while watching them play
2. When this doesn’t work stand even closer and start tapping their chair
3. Try pacing up and down meaningfully with sighs of exasperation
4. Wave arms and loudly mutter, “Why are they **so s l o w**?”
5. Next time, be a slow player yourself - just to teach everyone a lesson
6. Start playing a board after the timer bell - as though nothing happened
7. Practice your gamesmanship – especially on inexperienced players
8. Remember to intimidate: Never show a friendly smile and just grunt
9. Signal partner with a sigh by saying “I just don’t know what to do”
10. Bid with small letters to show low points, large letters to show high
11. During play - look at partner pointedly to show you want that suit back
12. If the above does not work, hold the card up high before tabling it
13. Ask “is that a short club?” to indicate to partner you have clubs
14. Immediately question any bid – even though you never intend bidding
15. Pass – then say “I never meant to do that”. A good 12 point indicator
16. Rebuke partner as often as possible on bad card play so that he learns
17. Take more time to tell partner what an idiot he is for doing ... whatever
18. Tell partner that you can never understand his unusual play or bidding
19. Show your knowledge of the game by often giving unsolicited advice
20. Continuously whine that you are the only one never getting decent cards
21. Tell everyone they should have easily made at least one more trick

There you have it – a total of 42 steps (call them stepping stones) to becoming a superior bridge player. There are a number of ‘superior’ bridge players whose job it is to teach inferior players on how to bid and play the game properly

In the next issue we look at how long-established players believe they can teach others, whilst taking no notice of more qualified grand-master teachers

An inferior bridge player

YVONNE'S CONVENTION CORNER

INVITATIONAL CUE BID

One of the most important applications for cue bids is to show a good raise for partner's overcalled suit. It promises At least LIMIT RAISE VALUES + support or an OPENING HAND + own suit. When you have support for partner you should show it as fast as you can.

RESPONDING TO AN OVERCALL USING THE INVITATIONAL CUE

You hold

K84 J843 53 K1072	1D – 1S – 2D – 2S	2S shows 6-9 pts
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KJ42 Q843 3 10972	1D – 1S – 2D – 3S	3S shows a pre-emptive raise – weak hand with shortage and 4 trumps
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K84 AQ32 53 K1072	1D – 1S – 2D – 3D	3D (invitational cue) as you are not a passed hand you may have a limit raise for partner or an opening hand with your own suit. Note: a passed hand cue always promises a limit raise
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JUMP CUE	1D – 1S – P – 3D	Jump cue shows 4 card support and at least a limit raise
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K3 AK976 53 K1072	1D – 1S – P – 2D – 2S -3H	2D here shows an opening hand + own suit. When partner rebids 2S to show a minimum overcall, the 3H bid shows an opening hand and is forcing for one round.
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REBIDS BY OVERCALLER

After the invitational cue bid the overcaller must not pass unless his RHO bids or doubles – in which case he may pass without something useful to say.

- Rebid of original suit confirms a minimum overcall and is non-forcing e.g.

KJ875 963 KQ109 8	1H – 1S – P – 2H – 2S	Your natural bid is 3D but that requires extra strength so rebid 2S to show a minimum overcall.
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- Any rebid below your original suit is ambiguous in strength e.g.

AQ1086 K1093 84 103	1D – 1S – P – 2D – 2H	Even though your overcall is minimum, it is possible to show your heart suit below 2S.
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- Any rebid beyond your original suit shows an opening hand e.g.

KQ976 AQ7 K8 985	1H – 1S – P – 2H – 2NT	By bidding past 2S, 2NT shows extra values
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REBIDS BY THE CUE BIDDER

- Preference to overcaller's suit shows 10-12 pts and is not forcing. e.g.

Q108 A3 A1094 7642	1C – 1S – P – 2C – 2H – 2S	You show a limit raise type hand.. with a good opening hand you must jump to 3S or 4S
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- A new suit after a cue shows at least 13 hcp and a 5 card or longer suit. This is forcing for one round. e.g.

AK984 A3 K1076 97	1C – 1H – P – 2C – 2H – 2S	Here you show 5 spades and an opening hand partner must bid again.
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OTHER RESPONSES TO OVERCALLS

- New suit without a cut shows 5 cards + 8-11 hcp and is non-forcing e.g.

83 KQJ84 743 A107	1C – 1S – P – 2H	Opening may pass but with a good hand and support can raise
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- Jump in a NEW SUIT shows 10-11 HCP + good 6 card or longer suit e.g.

A97 93 AQJ1087 93	1C – 1H – P – 3D	The jump to 3D denies heart support and invites to game – possibly NT if opener holds stopper in club suit
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97 AK10972 A45 108	1D – 1D – P – 2H	2H invites game in hearts and is non-forcing
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ALL NT BIDS retain their usual meanings:

- INT shows 8-11hcp
- 2NT shows 12-14 hcp after a 1 level overcall and 9-11 hcp over a 2 level overcall
- 3NT shows 15+ hcp and a source of tricks

INVITATIONAL CUE IN COMPETITION

If RHO bids or makes a negative double the principle of the cue bid and its related responses are still in effect. The level of bidding may sometimes be higher but it still pays to follow the structure whenever possible.

KJ7 72 1043 AQ854	1D – 1S – 2D – 3D	You show a good 10-12 pt spade raise. With a minimum partner must bid 3S in which case game will be avoided. Had you instead jumped to 3S that would be pre-emptive
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87 A754 KJ75 QJ4	1H – 2D – X (neg) – 2H	Here your cue bid guarantees a diamond fit. Without diamond support you would REDOUBLE to show a good hand.
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If your RHO bids a new suit you have a choice of cue bids. You cue the suit in which you are STRONGER. Partner can then judge the usefulness of any honours he holds in that suit. He may even bid NT, especially if the overcall was in a minor suit.

KQ10 A765 Q1083 85	1C – 1D – 1S – 2S	You chose to cue 2S indicating strength in that suit. Partner may now bid NT without a spade stopper.
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THE INVITATIONAL CUE IS ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL CONVENTIONS IN COMPETITIVE BIDDING. ONCE YOUR PARTNERSHIP ADOPTS THIS CONVENTION YOU WILL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF GREATER ACCURACY AND COMPETITIVE SITUATIONS.

GOOD LUCK & HAPPY BRIDGING ☺

