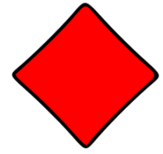


# BRIDGE MATTERS



December 2018



Caloundra, Coolumb, and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs

## CALOUNDRA NEWS

**John Fields' Advanced Lessons start on  
Wednesday January 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Beginners' Lessons start with an Information  
Session on Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please spread the word**



Winners of our October Teams Championships-  
Bill & Maria Lindsay, Trish Norris and Part Buch.

## SUNSHINE COAST NEWS

*Brian Cordiner*

Since September we have had a number of successful congresses: President's Trophy (Tony Walford and Randall Rusk), Graded Pairs (Jim and Lyn Martin) and the inaugural Mary Murray shield for Novice pairs (Mary James and Anita Knechtle).

Our centenarian, Mary Murray, is particular keen on encouraging novice players so she donated her eponymous shield in perpetuity.

A long standing and well-known member of the bridge community in Queensland (Reg Busch) turned 90 during the year and we had a celebratory cake for the occasion.

Our new committee is actively pursuing opportunities to grow the club and encourage membership from all age groups (not an easy task to get young people enthused and working people to take the time out to play)

We join with the other clubs in the Sunshine Coast Zone in wishing our teams the best for the GNOT final in Tweed Heads.

A couple of quotes from famous players:

"Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players and who were willing to keep the game going 24 hours a day." - *Warren Buffett*

"Bridge is the most entertaining and intelligent card game the wit of man has so far devised." - *W. Somerset Maugham.*

## COOLUM NEWS

*Ken Dawson*

Coolum conducts its annual Pairs Championships each November with this year's event living up to reputation for a tight finish. Under this format, all pairs meet each of the other contesting pairs exactly once over the three week event. In the end Di Jones and Ann Mellings were edged out by Steve Brookes and Adrienne Kelly, 1035 matchpoints to 1034. The close third place went to Verna Brookes and Peter Busch. Both Adrienne and Steve have won the event before in 2003 and 2006 respectively but playing with an unnamed third person ☺

Coolum takes pride in making this an event for everyone. A handicap event is run in conjunction with the championships. Each player has a handicap based on the number of masterpoints which they hold. This proves to be a great incentive for developing players and comes with its own shield. This year's winners were great mates, Don Cameron and John Richardson from new players, Dave Richards and Rachel Wagner.

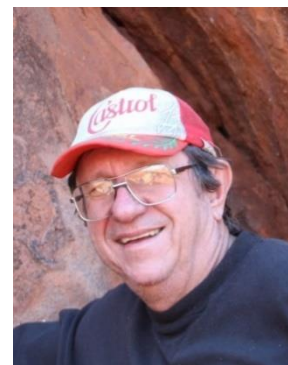


Adrienne and Steve with their trophy.

Net Championship Winners- Don and John

## KEN'S KORNER

*Ken Dawson*



### KEN'S CHESTNUT #13.

**At teams, never risk the contract for the sake of an overtrick.**

AKT2

Q???

6???

743

Against our NT contract, West finds the lead of the Queen. It seems likely that he has led from QJ9x. If we need to make that Ten for our 9<sup>th</sup> trick, then we will finesse and hope for the desired layout. If we don't need it at teams, we will not finesse if we can't afford for our RHO to gain the lead.

At pairs, it is more complex. In general, we take the finesse in search for a valuable overtrick. Remember, the rank order of the scores is of paramount importance. However, there are some cases when we might spurn the chance at an overtrick.

- Is this an unbelievably good contract already and unlikely to be found at other tables?
- Could the defence have easily defeated this contract with the "obvious" alternative lead?
- Could the defence have easily defeated this contract with an easy hold up play?
- Is there evidence that RHO must hold the Jack? e.g. RHO bid the suit or LHO turns up with 11 HCP already yet failed to open the hand

## KEN'S KONUNDRUM #10

These are your trumps:-

**Dummy Axx**

**Declarer QJ9xx**

You lead the Queen which holds the trick. What next?

**Ax**

**J9xx**

If west had started with Kx, he would probably have covered your queen. This will provide his partner with a trick when she holds T9x.

So, west probably started with Kxx and his partner started with Tx.

*(You were never going to avoid a loser if west started with KTx)*

So, you should now run your jack, hoping to smother east's ten. This makes your nine the winner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trick and avoids having a trump loser.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



#### Caloundra

Lisa Savage

#### Coolum

Hedo Balci

Peter Busch

Julie Terrason

#### Sunshine Coast

Helen & John Barton

## ZONE DATES 2019

**GNOTS** (Your only opportunity to earn **GOLD POINTS** without spending a fortune)

### **QUALIFYING ROUNDS**

SUNSHINE COAST-

Sat. & (All Day) Sun. 2nd/3rd March

CABOOLTURE-

Tuesday 5/12/19th March

NOOSA-

Thur/Fri. & (All Day) Sun. 14/15/17th March

CALOUNDRA-

Friday 29th March, 5/12th April

MORETON BRIBIE (1)-

Saturday 13/20/27th April

COOLUM-

Wednesday 1/8/15th May

MORETON BRIBIE (2)-

Wednesday 8/15/22nd May

### **GNOT SEMI-FINAL-**

Sunday 9th June (Noosa\*)

### **GNOT FINAL-**

All Day Sat & Sun 31st August/1st September (Caloundra)

### **ZONE PAIRS**

Sunday 8th December (Sunshine Coast\*)

### **INTER-CLUB TEAMS-**

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> August (Noosa)

### **COOLUM INVITATION DAY**

Wednesday 4th September

\* Venues subject to confirmation.

# A SIX-CARD FIT? NO WORRIES!

Mike Phillips



On Deal 1, as North-South, what contract do you want to be in?

Dir S		♠ K84							
Vul EW		♥ AJT98							
		♦ A9							
		♣ AK9							
♠ 72		N		♠ JT95					
♥ 7652		W	E	♥ KQ4					
♦ Q2		S		♦ JT84					
♣ QT865				♣ 42					
		♠ AQ63							
		♥ 3							
		♦ K7653							
		♣ J73							

3NT is the obvious contract and makes comfortably; perhaps with an overtrick..

Sometimes, however, the bidding goes awry even in experienced partnerships. Suppose you find yourselves in 4 hearts, is that a problem? No, that makes easily on your 5-1 fit. Even if the opponents lead a spade and come later to a spade ruff, the club position can give you three tricks in that suit, or you can squeeze East in spades and diamonds.

Congratulations if you bid to a Moysian six spades. No worries – cross-ruffing hearts and diamonds produces seven tricks, plus the heart, two diamonds and two clubs..

So, can 5 diamonds be defeated? Surprisingly, no; the contract can be made in a variety of ways, including one that prettily squeezes East in spades and hearts.

OK, let's say that there has been a total bidding fiasco and somehow you have finished up in the ridiculous contract of 5 clubs, on your 3-3 fit. Curses, how many does that go off? Don't panic, you can make it! There are several lines of play for eleven tricks, and no defence.

No lead can hurt you, but suppose that West leads a heart. You take the ace, cash ♦ A, and ruff ♥ 8 with ♣ 3. Cross to ♠ K and ruff ♥ 9 with ♣ J (you will see why). Cash ♦ K and lead ♣ 7 towards dummy's ♣ AK9. West should insert ♣ 10 to force ♣ K – otherwise finesse ♣ 9. Cash ♣ A, discarding a spade from hand (even ♠ A if you want to rub your opponents' noses in it). Cash ♥ J and cross to hand with a spade. You have the first ten tricks, and when you lead a diamond from hand in this 3-card ending West has no answer.

		♠ 8							
		♥ T							
		♦							
		♣ 9							
♠		N		♠ J					
♥		W	E	♥ JT					
♦		S		♦ JT					
♣	Q86			♣					
				♠					
				♥					
				♦ 765					
				♣					

Other variations on this line of play succeed just as dramatically, as long as you play West for his actual club holding. Poor East-West. There is no defence to any game that you care to bid on your combined 29 HCP with no fit!

Now look at Deal 2.

Dlr S	♠	53		
Vul N-S	♥	Q43		
	♦	K976		
	♣	J872		
♠	Q6			♠ AKT8
♥	K87			♥ AJ95
♦	AJT2			♦ Q85
♣	QT63			♣ A4
	♠	J9742		
	♥	T62		
	♦	43		
	♣	K95		

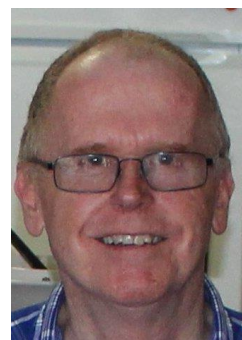
This time East-West have the cards and can make, on a 6-card fit, 4 clubs or 4 spades, or on a 7-card fit 5 diamonds, or 6 hearts or no trumps if played by East. Either small slam comes home via a black suit squeeze on South.

Suppose, for example, East has declared 6NT, South leading a diamond, ducked to North's king. Now East can take eleven tricks via three spades, four hearts, three diamonds and a club, but South must find three discards, giving up another trick in spades or clubs.

The play in 4 spades is also neat. Declarer gives up a diamond and a club, draws two rounds of trumps, and then plays off winners, end-playing South in trumps. Once again, the defence is helpless against virtually any contract that the declaring side settles in. It's not hard to make these tricky contracts on paper: if only one could get them right at the table.

## The Busch Busch

### ALERTING



#### Peter Busch

It is an essential principle of the game of bridge that you may not have secret agreement with partner, either in bidding or play. Your agreement must be fully available and fully disclosed to your opponents.

The laws of bridge allow the individual bridge regions to make their own policy on alerting. Zone 7 (Australia and New Zealand) has established their own set of alerting regulations and these are available on the ABF and QBA web sites.

Some bids are specifically non-alertable (and should not be alerted even if they convey a special meaning). These are:

- All bids beyond 3NT (the exception is any opening bid that is not natural e.g. a 4D opening which is a weak spade hand, sometimes referred to as "Namyats")
- A cue bid (defined as any bid in the same denomination bid or shown by an opponent)
- Doubles and redoubles
- 2C in response to 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction, no matter what the meaning

#### Examples

The regulations go on to provide some examples of common bids that are **alertable**:

- 1C opening where the club holding may be as few as 2.
- Relays e.g. a 2D waiting bid after a 2C opening
- Transfer requests

- Transfer acceptances if the receiver has different ways of accepting a transfer e.g. super accepts
- Bids that show 2 suits even if one of the suits is shown e.g. opening bid of 2S showing spades and minor
- All responses to a Stayman ask, except 2H / 2S when Simple Stayman is being used
- Jump response that is weak and non-forcing e.g. 1D – 2H
- Any free bid (i.e. non-forcing) as responder's first bid when a non-passed hand
- A "pass or correct" bid
- Other less common examples – 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing, splinters below 3NT, Jacoby style responses, a natural NT bid that may not promise a stopper in the immediate seat, pass-out seat 1NT bid.

These bids are **not alertable**:

- Transfer accepts if bidder has no option as to how to accept
- Giving a suit preference even if the bidder may not have a natural holding in the suit (e.g. 2NT by partner (alertable) showing the minors, 3C by you preferring clubs over diamonds is not alertable)
- Jump response that is strong and forcing
- Natural weak 2-level or higher opening bids or jump overcalls where only the actual suit is shown

### **How to alert**

Alerting is done by circling your partner's bid and saying "alert". Both of these things must be done. It's actually to your advantage to say "alert" as soon as partner makes the bid even before you have circled it – if you're a bit slow to move your hand to the bidding pad and an opponent makes their bid and then requests a change because of a supposed late alert, having said "alert" as soon as the bid was made is your protection.

If your partner forgets to alert, do not say anything at the time, but keep bidding as though the alert was made. The opponents should be advised of the failure to alert either at the end of





bidding if your side is declaring, or at the end of the hand if your side is defending. The director should be called if damage may have resulted.

### **Pre-alerts and delayed alerts**

Pre-alerts are conventions that your opponents would be entitled to know if they came up, but you are unable to alert them during the bidding for example, any self-alerting bids like cue bids or doubles. These should be announced at the start of the round. Your NT range should always be part of your pre-alert. An example would be "we play 15-17 no trumps and have a weak redouble". There is also provision in your system card for pre-alerts.

Such items usually give rise to delayed alerts. The declaring side should offer a full explanation of the bidding to the opponents at the completion of the auction, especially regarding self-alerting calls and unalerted calls over 3NT. Matters of partnership style should also be raised here. Examples are "4NT is a keycard ask in spades and partner is showing 2 aces without the spade queen" or "partner's 3H bid shows a weakish raise as we have other methods to show a strong heart raise".

In summary, you alert any bid that is not natural or has an unexpected systemic meaning that might not be apparent to your opponents. The principle is that an opponent is entitled to know as much about the meaning of your bidding (and play for that matter) as is your partner.

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## Bridge of Spies

From our perennial Bridge Tourist- Pauline Clayton.

What better way to follow up a day of bridge than by taking a stroll in the sunshine, across the infamous Glienicke Bridge.

Recently, fourteen Aussie bridge players did just that, before heading off for lunch and shopping in the German town of Potsdam.



Pauline at the Peterhof Palace, with Robyn Steinhardt, Andy Hung, and Karen Elmer

The bridge spans the Havel River, which formed part of the border between East and West Germany and was the scene of spy swaps during the infamous Cold War. Back in Berlin, the group from QCBC, Arana, Kenmore, Sunshine Coast (Qld), Mount Waverly (Vic), Tura (NSW) and Albany (WA) clubs, were introduced to Café Bridge.

This event, described by Andy as a 'café crawl' was hosted by Berlin Bridge Club master, Klaus Maass. The day of play started at his club on Kantstrasse in the heart of the Berlin CBD, where we were joined by German players, every pair being given a movement card, a detailed map and the address of a cafe.

Each cafe was only a few minutes' walk from the next where a table was set up with boards, and of course drinks and snacks were available. The vaguely circular route took in Indian, Vietnamese, Italian, German, and Luxembourgish eateries along with Berlin's famed Cafe Phoenix which is noted for its cheesecake.

The 'café crawl' ended up back at the Berlin Bridge Club for the prize giving (many boxes of chocolates) and champagne.

Andrew and Susan Sharp from Kenmore Club took out first prize.

Our base in Berlin was Hotel Seehof, right on Lietzensee Lake and park, a comfortable ten minute stroll to the CBD.

Notably, the cost of food and drinks in Berlin was much cheaper than in Australia despite the fact we were paying \$1.60 for one Euro.

In 10 days I spent just seven Euros (approx. AUS \$12) a day for my drinks and the few meals not covered in the Andy Hung tour package. Admittedly I only had one or two glasses of champagne daily.

After ten days in Berlin, taking classes at the hotel, sight-seeing, (if not daily, every second day), the Australian group accompanied by a couple of German players upped camp and travelled on to Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, as Europe's record breaking extended summer continued with clear skies, and an average temperature of 23C each day.

Different language, different currency but a short four hours in a comfortable coach.

Here, we joined Czech players at their club, walking distance from the super-efficient metro and the street markets.

Our host, Milan Macura, President of the Czech Bridge Federation presented prizes to winners of the day, Arana club members Cynthia Sharp and Carol Bellis.

Then with Andy Hung, Milan took us all for lunch at a rather bizarre café in Wenceslas Square where our meals and drinks were served by train carriages running down tracks across the tables.

Between classes and games, we explored this historic city which, back in the time of the Habsburg Monarchy, was the third-largest city by area in Europe (after Rome and Constantinople).

For some players, Prague ended their Andy Hung bridge tour and they headed off to various parts of the globe or home but seven of us re-joined Andy in Saint Petersburg a week later.

In between a couple went to Vienna, others to Warsaw and the UK.

In St Petersburg we were joined by more players from Australia and a group from Lubeck, Germany with their tutors Russian-born Alexander Smirnov Jnr and Snr.

Again, perfect late summer weather, and unusually for this city on the Baltic, blue skies.

Touring included a full day trip to Peterhof Palace and between bridge classes and duplicate games a guided tour of the famed Hermitage Museum - The Winter Palace.

There was time to shop on Nevsky Prospect, a short four-stop metro ride from the Holiday Inn Hotel which is also walking distance from one of Alex's favourite local restaurants, the Fire Station.

Here we celebrated the end of the tour with prize giving and much food, wine, vodka and good will.

For me, travelling alone, this four-country holiday was the perfect way to do-my-own-thing within the safety of a well organised group, learn better bridge, play with better players and make new friends, both Australian and European.

Player skills ranged from those with my modest 20 points to a QCBC member with 1600.

Next year, Andy is considering Croatia. Keep posted at : [www.andyhunbridge.com](http://www.andyhunbridge.com)



# MAGIC MELBOURNE-CUP MOMENTS

OR

Who said Caloundra doesn't have CLASS?

