



BRIDGE MATTERS



Newsletter of the Caloundra, Coolum and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs December 2011

AROUND THE CLUBS



CALOUNDRA: Since the last edition, we have welcomed the following new members: Di Cavanaugh, Peter Culley, Lenore Forster, Christine Hasted, Elizabeth Mitchell, Bob Neely, Rona Newham, Julie Robson, Michael Turner and Trish Wysling.

The club was proud to celebrate Dell Wilson's 90th birthday with her.



Congratulations to all our winners! *Club Teams:* Di & Alan Maltby, Carole Masters, Stephen Hughes. *Butler Pairs Congress:* Reg Busch, Joan McPheat. *Novice Pairs Congress:* Kiyomi Avunduk, Casey Slaughter. *Caloundra Teams:* Vilma Laws, Pat Buch, Mary Winch & John Hicks.

The Melbourne Cup was a great success, as usual. It was great to welcome players straight from the classes. Fashion prizes taken out by Emily Zahnleiter, Michael Hamm, Jan Brown, Trish McBeath & Betty Stewart.

SUNSHINE COAST: We are glad to welcome the following new members: Rob Coles, Denise & Otto Hofstetter, Robin Litchfield, Caroline O'Brien, and Cathy Slaughter



At our AGM in September the following committee was elected: Marion Bucens, president; Sonia Sargood, vice president; Jill Boyd, treasurer; Wendy O'Brien, secretary; Peter Busch, Sue Higgins, Helen Killiner, Ross Maher & Steve Murray, committee members.

Congratulations to the winners of our Graded Pairs Congress: Kevin Feeney & David Harris A Grade, Blanche & Casey Slaughter B Grade; and to the winners of our Restricted Pairs Championship, Pam Nearhos & Mary de Wet, and our President's Trophy, Adrian Mayers and Stephen Brookes.

The Melbourne Cup party was a lot of fun, with Anita Knechtle, Robyn McGreevy, Jilly Green, Heather Hodges, Maggie Clark and Wendy O'Brien most glamorous.

COOLUM: Welcome to John Jackson, Paul Mitchell, Fran & John Stuart.

Our Invitation Day was a great success. 28 tables and lots of positive feedback. We raised \$3078. Congratulations to the outright winners, Geoffrey Hart & David Harris and the winners of the Di Dawson Shield (for home club members) Margaret Scott and Monty Dale.



Congratulations also to the winners of our Club Championship: David Harris and Douglas Byrnes.

FACED OPENING LEAD OUT OF TURN - LAW 54

Jo Drake

In our September 2010 issue, we mentioned the particular nicety that Jo discusses for us. We did not, however, mention how it came about. This is because we did not know. Jo has been good enough to enlighten us.

One of the most common infractions of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge is the opening lead out of turn, and, as everyone knows, this results in a number of options for declarer, often to the detriment of the defenders. For this reason players are required to ask partner's permission to face the opening lead.

However, the custom of asking partner's permission to lead dates back to the end of the 19th Century, when a variation of whist was introduced, initially called "Bridge Whist". In this system, instead of turning up the last card to determine the trump suit, the dealer could choose trumps - or no trump, and also the option of passing the decision to his partner. The opponents were allowed to double and the dealer's side could redouble. An infinite number of doubles and redoubles was permitted, resulting in an undesirable gambling element into the somewhat staid game of Bridge Whist.

In keeping with the courtesy of the age, the opening leader was required to ask "Partner, may I lead?", and, if his partner did not plan to double, he would be expected to respond "Pray do". So next time your partner asks if she may lead, watch her expression when you reply "Pray do"!

FREEBIES

Our investigative roving reporter has unearthed two Learn to Play Bridge programs which can be downloaded free from the ACBL website: www.acbl.org. Program 1 is for newer players. According to our reporter: *Program 2 contains a cleverly nasty program when it is teaching you the best percentage play for some common suit holdings. When it lets you play the hand (and irrespective of how many times you replay it), then unless you make the recommended play it will adjust the opposition holdings to ensure that the wrong line doesn't work.* As far as we are concerned, that is pure bloody-mindedness! Nothing wrong with a bit of luck from time to time.

BUSCH BASCH

Peter Busch

When to accept an opponent's infraction...

Many laws governing infractions first allow the infractor's left hand opponent (LHO) the option of accepting the infraction, and if LHO doesn't accept it, then the various rectifications apply.

This happens with insufficient bids, bids and calls out of turn, leads from the wrong hand and others.

When offered this choice by the director, do not accept the infraction just to be nice. By accepting an infraction, no further rectification is awarded, and you can be giving the opponents a benefit they would not normally be entitled to. Accepting an infraction in many cases can actually work against you. You don't want to be that nice!

However, players are specifically entitled under the laws to select the alternative most beneficial to them, and there are some occasions when accepting the infraction can be to your advantage.

Here are a few examples:

Lead out of turn by declarer

Either defender can accept it, not just LHO. If you see that declarer is probably going to take a losing finesse, accept it. (Once you accept it, declarer can't correct it.) Conversely, if you can see that the lead might give declarer a finesse that is going to work, don't accept it, and make declarer set up the finesse themselves.

Lead out of turn by defender

As declarer is playing both hands, they have the option of accepting it no matter which defender led out of turn. Declarer should accept it, for example, if it will give them a ruff and discard, or will be playing around to a tenace¹ in fourth seat.

They should also be aware that if they don't accept it, the incorrectly led card will be a major penalty card and when the infractor's partner gets on lead (which is immediately if they led at their partner's turn), declarer can demand or deny that suit, and this may allow for a free finesse or a safety play around to an unprotected King in fourth seat.

Opening lead out of turn

This is more complicated because (a) the presumed declarer won't know what partner is holding and (b) there are further options once the lead is accepted or rejected.



If the auction has resulted in the weak hand being declarer (e.g. after 1D – 1NT auction), you should probably accept the lead and let partner be declarer. If accepting the lead will play through your Kx, then don't accept it and protect your holding by demanding that lead from their partner. Likewise, if the lead was a suit that you've got losers in, don't accept the lead and deny partner from leading that suit.

Insufficient bid

This can be perhaps the most complicated because it requires some understanding of the laws to help you make the right decision.

As a general rule, you should not accept the insufficient bid, because it allows the opponents to have bid their hand at a lower level than normal, and that may work to your disadvantage.

Further, in some circumstances, after you don't accept the insufficient bid, corrective action taken by the insufficient bidder could bar their partner from further bidding, and this could well work in your favour.

However, there are two occasions when you should consider accepting an insufficient bid:

- (a) Accept the insufficient bid if it will allow you to make a bid that you could not make if the bid was corrected to a sufficient level. For example, consider the auction (1D) – 1S – (1H) ². If you have a minimal hand and support for spades, accept the 1H bid and bid 1S yourself. Your partner will recognise this as showing a fit, but with insufficient points to bid 2S over a corrected bid by the opponents. Knowing about the fit may let them revalue their hand, and may also assist your side with defence. Similarly, if you can't support spades but hold a heart stopper and 8-10 HCP, you might accept the 1H bid and bid 1NT, thus showing a hand you couldn't show after a 2H bid by RHO.
- (b) Accept the insufficient bid if the offender will be allowed to make a cost-free correction, where the meaning of the insufficient bid might be inconclusive to their partner. Insufficient bidders are allowed a cost-free correction to a bid which means the same as the insufficient bid. However, if you accept the insufficient bid, their partner won't know what the correct bid should be. A common example is 4NT – 4H. Were they intending to show 2 aces and should have bid 5H, or did they think they were answering 4C and were showing 1 ace? By not accepting it, the insufficient bid will be replaced with the correct answer to a 4NT ask, and bidding will continue, but by your accepting it, bidding will still continue but the ace asker will not know how many aces are being shown. (Of course, the 4NT bidder could bid 4NT

again and hope for the right answer this time, but no harm has been done by your acceptance of the insufficient bid.) Or you might have a lead-directing double of the artificial 4H, but might be denied this opportunity if the correction to a bid that means the same is to a different suit.

If you're not au fait with the laws, ask the director to explain all the consequences if you don't accept the insufficient bid. This may involve the player being taken away from the table, but only then will you know the implications of accepting and not accepting.

Bid or call out of turn

There are very few occasions where accepting a bid out of turn can work to your advantage, because depending on the circumstances, the rectifications range from mild (repeat bid made at correct turn) to severe (partner is barred from further bidding).

A final word – make sure you call the director when an infraction occurs. Players cannot make their own rulings at the table. Also, be sure to have the director fully explain to your satisfaction all of the options available to you.

¹ A tenace is a holding of two non-consecutive high cards in a suit, like the AQ or KJ.

² Opponent's' bids are shown in brackets..

SIX SPADES DOUBLED

Geoff Gulley

♠Q	♥KQJ10865	
	♦9	
	♣AQ32	
♠109863		♠AK7542
♥ --		♥743
♦J63		♦KQ74
♣J8764		♣ --
	♠J	
	♥A92	
	♦A10852	
	♣K1095	

Barry Buzza recently had this interesting hand, where shape determines the result more than high card points.

North opened one heart. Barry, sitting East, even with a potential spade overcall, decided to pass and enter the bidding at a later date. South, with its good point count, bid 3 hearts and I, sitting West with two points passed. North then bid four hearts. Being non-vulnerable, Barry now entered the bidding and doubled. South passed and I bid four spades. Bidding continued through the four hands with Barry finally sacrificing in six spades, doubled by South. The opening lead was the HK. Cross-ruffing saw the contract home with a

score of 1210, top board. Not bad for a combined 14 HCP.

(***** or class? Bear in mind the perpetrators of this dastardly deed!*)

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: There is a fine line between playing bridge and mental illness.

LOCAL CONGRESSES 2012

(For your diary)

Feb 11-12 QBA Senior Teams (at SCCBC)
March 18 Coolum Teams (at SCCBC)
April 21-22 Gympie Pairs & Teams
May 26-27 Caloundra Teams
June 16-17 Sunshine Coast Pairs & Teams
July 8 Noosa Teams
July 21-22 Moreton-Bribie Pairs & Teams
Aug 5 Sunshine Coast Teams
Aug 26 Noosa Novice Pairs

Sep 9 Caloundra Pairs
Sep 16 Noosa Teams
Sep 23 Sunshine Coast Pairs
Oct 6 Caloundra Novice Pairs
Oct 14 Gympie Teams
Nov 4 Caloundra Teams
Nov 11 Sunshine Coast Novice Pairs
Nov 17 - 18 Noosa Pairs
Dec 9 Zone Graded Pairs

THE BRIDGE CONGRESS

All boards are dealt
All systems are working
All players are happy

All directors are eager and enthusiastic

And pigs might fly



YOU CAN LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY IN THIS GAME Ken Dawson

- ♠ - I was kibitzing the European Junior Teams Championship when this hand came up. RHO has pre-empted 3S and you come to this ending in your 4H contract. You have the only remaining trump and can afford to lose just 1 trick.
- ♥ -
- ♦KJ32
- ♣Ax
- How do you play the diamonds?
- ♠ - Our kid played small to the king, back to the ace and then his last diamond towards the jack. This play protects against the suit breaking:
- ♥x
- ♦A54
- ♣xx
- T9xx Qx.
- Some people must be born that way :(

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Success is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm. Winston Churchill

(A keen bridge player, he probably picked this up from Supervised Play)

PSYCHIATRIST TO PATIENT: Unrelenting criticism that makes your life hell ... Are we talking about your mother-in-law or your bridge partner?

BRIDGE FOR THE IMPROVER

Ron Klinger

This is the third of a series of articles which appeared in the Gold Coast Bulletins for 2011 and is reproduced with kind permission of the author. If you have not already done so, we urge you to visit Ron's website ronklingerbridge.com. You will be amazed at the variety of helpful suggestions, articles and bridge problems you will find.

Dealer: East	♠ 8 6 3 2	W	N	E	S
Vul: E/W	♥ 5			1 ♥	1 ♠
	♦ 8 4 3	4 ♥	4 ♠	All pass	
	♣ K Q J 10 4				

♠ A 5
♥ 9 7 4 3 2
♦ 9 7 6 5 2
♣ 3

West leads the ♣ 3 - king - two - eight

A trump is led from dummy: nine - king - ace. What next?

Answer: When it is clear, or very likely that partner has led a singleton, your signal should refer to the location of your entry. Here the natural instinct is to switch to a heart, the suit partner bid. However, East's ♣ 2, lowest card, signals that the entry is in the lowest suit, diamonds. This is the complete deal:

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

After ♣ 3, won in dummy, spade to the king and ace, West shifts to a diamond. East wins with the ♦ K and gives West a club ruff. A diamond to the ace is followed by another club, but West has no more trumps. Still, the contract is one down.

If East wins the ♠ A and shifts to a heart, South wins, draws the last trump and makes twelve tricks.

East sees that West's ♣ 3 is the lowest card, indicating either a singleton or from an honour. West would not lead a low

club from A x x and so the lead is strongly rated to be a singleton. Therefore East's duty is to signal the entry. If the entry was in hearts, East would play the ♣ 7. Note that if dummy played the ♣ 4 at trick one, East should still play the ♣ 2, lowest card as suit-preference for the lowest suit, diamonds.

ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY PARTNER SAID TO ME:

Every day you play worse and worse, but today you are playing like it's tomorrow.

POET'S CORNER This is from Paul Mitchell, who got it from a friend. That's all we know.

Tw'as the duplicate Christmas party, and needless to say
 The punch and the season had made us quite gay.
 "Find your seats and shuffle," the director had said
 As visions of first place danced in my head.
 When I checked our position I got dry in the mouth.
 We'd just been assigned Table One - North/South.
 Just little old novices, my partner and me.
 We'd placed fourth once, but never three.
 Had fate decided to put us to the test
 With two Grand Masters sitting East/West?
 We took our positions and said not a word
 But I'm certain our heartbeats could surely be heard.
 We shuffled the cards without blinking an eye.
 I dropped one on the floor and thought I would die.

	♠AKQJ1098765432	
	♥--	
	♦--	
	♣--	
♠--		♠--
♥A		♥J2
♦86542		♦AKQJ10973
♣J1098765		♣AKQ
	♠--	
	♥KQ109876543	
	♦--	
	♣432	

For the newer players:

¹ They open all strong twos

² They are cue bidding, showing first round control in the bid suit. First round control is either an Ace or a void. West thinks his partner has the Ace of spades.

As North I was dealer, and though I was green
 I knew that to open one must have thirteen.
 I spread my hand and counted but alas
 With only ten points I had to pass.
 And frankly I thought this was a shame,
 I'd never before had thirteen spades in a game.
 My left hand opponent, East by name,
 Opened "two diamonds"¹ and I thought, what a shame.
 My partner, South, was trembling with fear,
 And the bid of "two hearts" came across to my ear.
 My right hand opponent sat straight up in his chair.
 "Three hearts"² was the bid he chose to declare.
 Now I had a good suit, but alas,
 With no help in hearts I had to pass.
 My left hand opponent now bid "three spades"²

You can imagine now how I was amazed!
 My partner at South bid "four hearts" and shoot
 If they take the bid, I can't lead her best suit!
 My right hand opponent now studied his hand
 And soon "seven notrump" was his command.
 It was my time to bid and just to save face
 I doubled, 'cause they were missing the spade Ace.
 The next three bids were "pass, pass, pass"
 So I was ready to lead a spade, but alas
 My partner was nervous and she led the heart King.
 A lead out of turn, what a damnable thing!
 The director was called and I can still hear his voice
 As he told the declarer he could make his own choice.
 With a singleton heart, you must understand
 This could be the only entry to his hand.
 So he turned to me and looking so smart
 He said, "Lead any suit but don't lead a heart."
 So of course I led my fourth best spade.
 I guess it was the best lead I ever made,
 'Cause on this hand I never lost the lead
 And our opponents, grand masters, had to concede.
 Thirteen tricks we did take, right off the top.
 When we won the board I thought I would pop.
 Now I ask you, with board like this,
 The rest of the game, well how could we miss?
 And I heard the director say "Who was the lass
 Who had thirteen spades and cleverly passed?"
 After winning first place and still full of fright
 "Merry Christmas" we called, and they all said "Good night!"



BRIDGE SLOGANS (and when not to use them)

Reg Busch



Third hand plays high.

Here we are talking about the situation where partner has led (often the opening lead) and you are to play after dummy. First let's be clear what this slogan does **not** mean. As a defender, you play the lowest of equal cards in any situation. 'Equal' cards are such as QJ, KQJ, J109, 9876, AKQ etc. Depending on what you see in dummy, there may be other similar holdings. Thus, if partner leads a diamond, dummy has the AJ92, and you have KQ108, all your cards are 'equals' in sitting over dummy. If dummy plays the ♦2, then you play the ♦8, which is enough to win. You do not play the ♦K because 'third hand plays high!'

You **must always** play the lowest of equals. The only exception is perhaps later in the play where it is essential to deceive declarer and deceiving partner can't matter.

Supposing I lead a diamond through dummy's AJ103, dummy plays the ♦J, and you play the ♦K, I *know* that you don't have the ♦Q (if you did, you would have played it), and that there is no joy in diamonds for us. But if you play the ♦Q and it holds, I know that you have the ♦K (unless declarer is mad), so will lead them again when next on lead.

This 'lowest of equals' is an essential understanding in defence. So often one sees it ignored (perhaps to trick declarer). But it also tricks partner, and damages partnership trust.

A more general philosophy of defence is this one: *your high cards are meant to capture declarer's high cards, not his 2s and 3s*. Thus: if declarer leads ♣2 up to the ♣K43 on the table, rising with your Ace is bad defence.

K43
A972
Q842

Your Ace has captured declarer's 2 and 3, and set up 2 tricks for him.. Better to wait and play low— next time it may capture declarer's Q. This is the rationale for '*second hand plays low*'.

Some examples where third hand should not play 'high'.

Hand # 1 ♥Q92
♥5
♥A103

The bidding has gone 1NT - 3NT. Partner leads the ♥5. Dummy has ♥Q92 and plays the ♥2. You hold ♥A103. Which card do you play?

You remember the slogan 'Third hand plays high' so you play the Ace. But you would be wrong. The correct card is the 10.

Hand #1

♠86	
♥Q92	
♦KQ76	
♣K65	
♠Q754	♠J103
♥KJ654	♥A103
♦5	♦9832
♣QJ9	♣872
	♠AK92
	♥87
	♦AJ104
	♣A1043

Here is the full hand:

Note that, if you play ♥A then another you have established dummy's ♥Q for declarer's ninth trick. If you play the ♥10, then ♥A and another you win the first five tricks.

How do we know that partner has the ♥J? We don't. But, if declarer can beat the ♥10, then he always has one stopper in the suit, no matter what partner's holding is. Playing the 10 can't cost. So, one exception to the slogan 'third hand plays high', is: ***When you hold an honour sitting over dummy's honour and***

dummy's honour is not played, keep that honour sitting over dummy's honour, provided you have a card at least as high as the nine that you can play.

Hand #2

♠83	
♥A43	
♦AJ1065	
♣1074	
♠Q10943	♠AJ6
♥Q65	♥J982
♦87	♦K93
♣Q83	♣J95
	♠K75
	♥K107
	♦Q42
	♣AK62

After 1NT – 3NT auction, South is in 3NT. You are East, and partner leads the ♠4. In the standard play, you win the Ace, then play the Jack and six, declarer holding up until trick 3. Now he loses the diamond finesse to you, but you have no useful return, and declarer winds up with his nine tricks.

Here is another exception. Analyse the hand. Partner can't have many HCPs. And it seems unlikely that he has an entry to cash his now established spades. It looks likely that declarer will need to finesse in diamonds to establish his nine tricks. What if

you play the ♠J at trick 1? Declarer can't afford to hold off – he doesn't know that you have the Ace. If he holds off he may never make a spade trick. So he'll take his trick, hope the diamond finesse works, and will go off. This is a special case, where you are deceiving both partner and declarer, because you can judge that it is likely to work well.

BRIDGING THE GAP

WITH FOOD FOR THOUGHT

OLIVE JAMES CCBC

When is a salad not a salad? When it is, in fact, a delicious tangy dessert. Served with a good quality vanilla bean ice cream, this is just the right dish to serve during the summer, perhaps to end a special luncheon, and you will be rewarded by its beautiful freshness and mystic flavours.

MOROCCAN ORANGE SALAD

Serves 4 - 6

Ingredients

6 oranges (incorporate 2 blood oranges for extra colour)
12 large fresh dessert dates
2 tablespoons icing sugar
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup orange juice
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon rosewater
a little cinnamon
some peeled pistachio nuts

Method

Peel the oranges and remove all the white pith
Cut each orange into very thin slices, removing seeds as you go
Cut each date into about 4 pieces, removing the seeds
Arrange the orange slices into a serving bowl, not too deep, then scatter on some date pieces
Build up layers of orange and dates, finishing off with dates on top
Mix the orange juice, lemon juice, icing sugar and rosewater together and pour over the top of the orange/date mix
Shake the bowl gently, so the liquid flows through. The salad may look a little dry at this stage
Chill, covered, for at least 6 hours but preferably overnight. This will allow lots of juice to form
Before serving, scatter the top with a little cinnamon and some pistachio nuts, just a light sprinkling of both

Enjoy!



THE ELVIS PRESLEY COUP

When LHO leads from his A - Q around to your K-x. The King is no longer dead !!!!!

ANGELA'S ANAGRAMS

Angela Watts

Can you solve the following anagrams? They are all words heard at the bridge table.

<i>No of Words</i>		<i>No of Words</i>	
1. Walk Cob Do	1	11. Belle Nosh	1
2. Brr Gee	1	12. Circling Took Nuts	3
3. Deserve Bris	2	13. Bristled Spin	2
4. Greenies Bras	2	14. Beagle Video Nut	2
5. Plea Tic Pelt	1	15. Fake Whist Jump	3
6. A Syntax Demented	2	16. Broads	1
7. Malaria Dyed Geese	3	17. Cub Side	2
8. Ran En Fly	1	18. The Gems	1
9. Canary Jobs Frets	2	19. Mid Beach Sluice	3
10. Nicer Pois	1	20. Rim Nos	1
21. Begs Guy Horror	3	<i>Solution p 15</i>	

LOCAL PROGRAMMER TO UPGRADE ABF MP CENTRE COMPUTER PROGRAMS.

Buderim programmer, and SCCBC games director, Peter Busch, has contracted with the ABF to upgrade the software for the ABF National Masterpoint Centre. This will amount to almost a full re-write of the programs, and is something of an achievement for country Qld. Work has been under way for some months, and it is expected that the new programs will operate by early January, 2012. Players and officials will find a new public face for the MP website and will find it easier to get information from, and communicate with, the Centre.

Peter started his professional life as an accountant, became interested in programming, and produced and promoted a successful accounting program for small business. He moved to the Sunshine Coast about 8 years ago, took up bridge, and became interested in scoring programs. Joan McPheat, another SCCBC member, had pioneered scoring programs in Qld and written Compscore which was widely used here. She passed her programs on to Peter. He substantially upgraded them and added the facility to work with Bridgemates. Now the program is Compscore2, and has a dominant position in scoring in Qld.

Interestingly, recently Robin Palmer, ex Mackay, moved to the Coast and joined the SCCBC. Robin was also a scoring programmer, and produced Rapscore which has had a strong following. So that the SCCBC now actually has as members all three of the programmers who have featured in the history of computer scoring in Qld.

EIGHT EVER, NINE NEVER: The status quo when you raise 2NT to 3NT.

HURRY UP - AND THINK (continued from last edition)**Mike Phillips**

The Play: The opening leader should have the contract written down by the time the thirteen cards in dummy appear. At this point, no matter how obvious the play to the first trick, declarer should think for at least 10 seconds before playing. Opening leader's partner may also wish to take some time, either before or after he plays his card. Time taken at the first trick is not time wasted; this is virtually always a time of planning and deep thought. Later in the hand, however, there are all sorts of needless irritating time-wasting tactics that happen frequently:

- declarer thinks for a minute, then leads towards an ace-queen in dummy, LHO follows smoothly and declarer now goes into the tank again. Surely during the first tank he should have considered that the most likely outcome was a low card from LHO. His decision whether to finesse or not should already have been made.
- a player pulls a card from his hand, holds it unseen in mid-air, then replaces it again. Ten seconds later, the same act with a different card (or is it the same one again?). Some declarers even go so far within their blue funk of deep thought as to play a card at a speed of about 3 millimetres a minute, until everyone in the club can see what it is, only to pull it back at the last moment! This often causes the opponents to throw their cards on the table in disgust, which undoubtedly contributes to the time-wasting, but under such circumstances, who can blame them?
- many inexperienced players (especially when trying to learn from a better partner) go out of their way to make the 100% perfect and proper signal on defence on every card. This results in ten seconds to decide whether to play the five or the three first, as declarer runs his solid nine-card suit. Partner is usually so zonked by the repeated tanks he doesn't even notice the signals.

The solution is to stay ahead of what is happening. Don't detach a card until you're sure you want to play it. Don't lead up to dummy without some idea of what card you'll be playing in the likely circumstances. If you cross to dummy, or to your hand, know what card you intend to lead next. Keep your signals simple. If you're in trouble, long thinks won't make the impossible work, so if you're going down, go down gracefully - and quickly. Gazing at the ceiling won't help you.

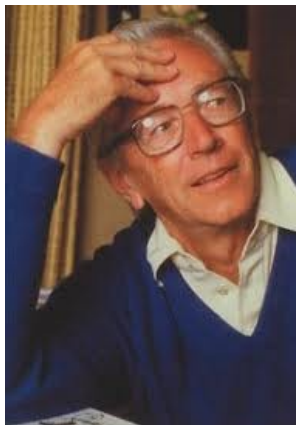
MORE BRIDGE PLAYING RULES FROM GEORGE CUPPAIDGE (continued)

Rule 7: Assume partner does not hold the ace, when playing third in hand to partner's lead of a small card against a suit contract. Holding KJx, for example, insert the jack. If it does not force the ace you know that you will have to look elsewhere for tricks and that that suit will not provide an entry to partner's hand. However, if your holding is Qxxx, don't woodenly withhold your queen. This may be one of those hands where partner may have broken rule 6: *don't lead away from an ace*.

PERSONALITY PROFILES

SNOOPY AND WOODSTOCK

Charles M. Schulz (1922 - 2000), creator of the world famous comic strip ***Peanuts***, was an avid bridge player, and from time to time Snoopy is portrayed



Charles M. Schulz

sitting on the roof of his dog house, playing bridge with his feathered friends. You can imagine Schultz' delight when, in 1997, Snoopy and Woodstock were made Honorary Life Masters by the American Contract Bridge League, the only two players to have ever been so honoured.

Schultz celebrated the occasion with a comic strip showing Snoopy in flying gear, in his alter-ego as the great WW1 flying ace, playing bridge in his off duty time with Woodstock and two other friends all helmeted. ready for action. As declarer in 3NT, and in deep trouble, Snoopy stops the game.

"Sorry, men. We'll finish that hand when I return."

He flies off on the dog house, dodging a deadly barrage of anti-aircraft fire, back to base.

"Flying Ace Snoopy reporting, mon capitaine. Yes sir. Everything went bad. Perhaps the capitaine could tell me where I went wrong."

Snoopy makes the perilous flight back to the bridge game, where the troops are patiently waiting.

"He said I should have led a low heart to the queen."

On such occasions Schultz' non-bridge-playing fans were at a loss as to what was going on, but they never seemed to mind too much.

WHY BRIDGE IS BETTER THAN SEX

1. There are no bridge-transmitted diseases (except the compulsion to play more bridge).
2. It is perfectly acceptable to play bridge with a total stranger.
3. Nobody expects you to keep the same partner for the rest of your life.
4. Partner doesn't become upset about people you played bridge with long ago.
5. Your partner will never say, "Not again! We just played bridge last week. Is that all you ever think about?" Oops ... maybe they will!

1.	BLACKWOOD	8.	FLANNERY	15.	WEAK JUMP SHIFT
2.	GERBER	9.	JACOBY TRANSFER	16.	BOARDS
3.	REVERSE BIDS	10.	PRECISION	17.	CUE BIDS
4.	BERGEN RAISES	11.	LEBENSLOH	18.	GHESTEM
5.	CAPPELLETTI	12.	LOSING TRICK COUNT	19.	MICHAELS CUE BID
6.	EXTENDED STAYMAN	13.	SPLINTER BIDS	20.	MINORS
7.	DELAYED GAME RAISE	14.	NEGATIVE DOUBLE	21.	BUGGER, OH SORRY

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Competition Winner

Congratulations to Estelle England for her adaptation of this Christmas song.

*On the first day of Christmas my partner said today:
A game of bridge we have come to play..*

2nd: *Let's sit north - south*

3rd: *Open with a psyche bid*

4th: *Query all their multis*

5th: *Try to steal contracts*

6th: *Double all their slams*

7th: *Trump all their leads*

8th: *Lead out of turn*

9th: *Call for a penalty*

10th: *Claim a concession*

11th: *Dispute director's ruling*

12th: *Check the results*

And we finish up with:
*A game of bridge we
have won today!!!*

Estelle is the proud winner of one free game of bridge !!!

AND FROM THE HIGHLY OVERPAID STAFF OF *BRIDGE MATTERS*

