



BRIDGE MATTERS



Newsletter of the Caloundra, Cooloom and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs December 2015

AROUND THE CLUBS



SUNSHINE COAST

At our AGM on 7 September Joan McPheat was made a Life Member in recognition of her dedication in assisting beginners to make the transition to regular bridge sessions and providing ongoing education for improving players. Thank you Joan.



The new Committee elected at the AGM is John Gosney (President), John Stacey (Vice President), Pauline Clayton (Secretary), Brian Cordiner (Treasurer), Jo Drake, Adrienne Kelly, Jackie Lewis, Paul Mannion, Ursula Sheldon (Congress Convenor) and Faye Stanton. This Committee has been extremely busy in the two months since the AGM.

One of our major tasks this year is to spend some money on a refurbishment project for our clubhouse. A subcommittee under the leadership of Jackie Lewis is investigating improvements to the kitchen and toilet areas of our clubhouse. A prerequisite to this project was an improvement to our water supply and this was provided by the Sunshine Coast Council during September.

Another project which has occupied a lot of our attention is the proposed purchase of a defibrillator. Statistics show that the availability of these machines does have the capability to save lives. Following a great deal of research by Jo Drake we have concluded that defibrillators are not as easy to use effectively as their marketing suggests. We want to proceed with this project but not until we are confident that we have enough members who are able and willing to use CPR and defibrillation safely and effectively.

We will continue to concentrate our attentions on bridge playing issues and will announce some new playing initiatives early in 2016. We are pleased to see that our Tuesday afternoon competition is surviving and recorded its best-ever field for the November competition. We encourage all bridge players on the Coast to speak to those players who have sampled this competition with a view to giving it a try.

Our new policy on unacceptable behaviour resulted in our first-ever formal disciplinary hearing in September and we have dealt with other incidents informally since then. We are determined to ensure that no player at our club

The club has continued to heed the demand of newer and improving players for ongoing education. Following earlier presentations by Joan Butts and Andy Hung, Andy Slater presented 3 workshops in September aimed at assisting new players in the transition from Supervised Play to playing in regular club sessions. Players from Noosa, Coolum and Caloundra were also invited. These workshops were organized by Adrienne Kelly and were greatly appreciated. Meantime, Joan McPheat continues to give her popular fortnightly talks on Friday morning.

COOLUM

Results of our annual club championships :-

- 1..Ken Dawson & Adrienne Kelly
- 2..Ines Dawes & Arch Morrison
- 3..Di Jones & Carole McDonald

Results of our nett championships:-

- 1..Don Cameron & John Richardson
- 2..Dot Ferris & Graeme Partington
- 3..Len & Rosine Gibson



Members are looking forward to our Christmas Party on Monday 14th December Bridge from 9.00am to noon then party.

This year, lunch will be fully catered.

So, please book in with Pat Terrace.

Partners can be arranged.

Cost will be \$5 per player. All monies to charity.

Non-bridge playing spouses are welcome from noon.

CALOUNDRA

Our annual Melbourne Cup party was held with its usual gusto. Numbers were a little down but everyone had a great time. Some of the ladies looked extremely elegant but Barry Buzza was most glamorous of all.



Kay Coad



Anne Gulley



Glamour Boy



Some time Sunday evening, Nov 15, a person or persons smashed a window near the office, jimmied open the office door causing considerable damage then used a sledge hammer to smash the shelf onto which the safe was bolted. They (he/she?) then made off with the safe attached to the broken piece of shelf.

New club policy: **NO CASH HELD ON PREMISES.**

Please inform any burglars with whom you may be acquainted.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

Caloundra: Veronica Anderson, Trevor Dix, Phil Gardner, Ann Hoffman and Sandy Raynes.

Coolum: Judy & Peter Althaus, Jim Burton, Ann Mellings, Pat Mitchell, Geoff Olsen and Brian Shannon.

Sunshine Coast: Garry Bathis, Roger Chalmers, Phil Collins, Judy Des Jardins, Lorraine Gladigau, Rosie & Horst Rohde and Mary Williams.

We wish you all many happy years of bridging on the Sunshine Coast and hope you will visit all three clubs from time to time.

BRIDGE MATTERS - A NEW DIRECTION?

The present editor of *Bridge Matters* will be retiring after this edition. Anybody interested in taking over this position please contact your committee. There are no set guidelines. You can make it as long or short as you like and bring it out as frequently or infrequently as you wish.

MORE WINNERS

Moreton Bribie Pairs Congress: Stephen Hughes, Randall Rusk

Caloundra President's Trophy: Fay Stanton, Marion Bucens

Sunshine Coast Graded Pairs Congress A grade: Maureen Jakes, Alison Dawson
B Grade: Cora & Jim Taylor

Sunshine Coast Restricted Pairs Championship: Joan Coughlan, Trish Merefield

Caloundra Teams Championship: Randall Rusk, Stephen Hughes, Andrew Dunlop, Alan & Di Maltby

Sunshine Coast Spring Pro-am N/S: Barbara Parkinson, Margaret Clark

E/W Drew Campi, Joan Coughlan

Congratulations to all.



Cross-imping is a method of scoring Pairs events that is growing in popularity, and is slowly replacing Butler scoring in some jurisdictions. In fact, in Europe, Butler scored events are rarely used, and cross-imp scoring is very popular.

Perhaps the slow take-up in Australia is because it is not widely understood. The purpose of this document is to explain what it's all about.

Any scoring method involving imps uses the actual score at the table, so like teams, the quantum of the score is important, not just the rank in the field.

In Butler scoring, the table score is impeded against the room average (usually with some extremes removed, and sometimes just a part of the room is used.) So if your table result was +420 and the room average was +250, the difference ($420 - 250 = 170$) is converted to imps and you therefore earn 5 imps.

In cross-imping, instead of imping against the room average, the table result is impeded against every other table in the field, and the total is then averaged i.e. divided by the number of tables to determine the imps you earn on the board.

For example, let's look at a simple example of a 6 table field. This calculation will apply to the two pairs sitting at Table 3.

Table	Contract / result	Score		Imps
1	4H/N making 11	+450	$+420 - 450 = -30$	-1
2	3H/N making 11	+200	$+420 - 200 = +220$	+6
3	4H/N making 10	+420		
4	3H/N making 11	+200	$+420 - 200 = +220$	+6
5	4H/N making 9	-50	$+420 + 50 = +470$	+10
6	4HX/N making 10	+590	$+420 - 590 = -170$	-5
			Total	+16
			Divided by 5	3.2

So the NS pair at Table 3 earns 3.2 imps on this board, and EW earns the opposite i.e. -3.2.

The same calculation is performed for each other result, so for the pair at Table 4, this is what happens.

Table	Contract / result	Score		Imps
1	4H/N making 11	+450	+200 -450 = -250	-6
2	3H/N making 11	+200	+200 -200 = 0	0
3	4H/N making 10	+420	+200 -420 = -220	-6
4	3H/N making 11	+200		
5	4H/N making 9	-50	+200 +50 = +250	+6
6	4HX/N making 10	+590	+200 -590 = -390	-9
			Total	-1.5
			Divided by 5	-3.0

So the NS pair at Table 4 earns -3.0 imps on this board, and EW earns the opposite i.e. +3.0.

The advantages of cross-imping include:

- Cross-imping is considered fairer and more akin to teams scoring, as imps are calculated using actual bridge results, not artificial averages. The imp scale was determined using bridge results, so to bring non-bridge scores into the equation is unsound.
- Under Butler, you average first then calculate later, which is mathematically unsound. With cross-imping you calculate first then average later.
- Under Butler the extremes are discarded before computing the average. This is arguably unsound, as it suggests that the outliers are always irrelevant which is clearly crazy. Under cross-imps, the scores at all other tables are used.

Regarding disadvantages, the only one that is cited is that players cannot calculate the match result themselves, which they can in teams events, or in Butler events once the datum has been announced. But this is not a concern – under matchpoint scoring they are unable to score up themselves – it hardly seems a reason to discard an otherwise sound scoring method.

PLAN YOUR PLAY Part 1

Eddie Kantar

Giving a class on how to get rid of losers, I prepare a lesson hand and then ask this lady how she plans to get rid of her losers. She says:
 “I am going to lose them right away so I don’t have to worry about them any more.”

KEN'S KONUNDRUM KORNER #12

Ken Dawson



This time, you are defending, sitting South.
Partner leads ♥ 2 and declarer plays low from dummy.

Which card do you play?

♥ 2

♥ AT6

♥ Q97

You should play ♥ 9.

Usually, it's "Third Hand High". Not this time. Partner almost certainly has an honour – either ♥ J or ♥ K. Same for declarer.

If declarer has the ♥ J, he will win the first trick cheaply and still has the ace to come making *two* tricks in the suit. If you had risen with the ♥ Q, you would have won the first trick but declarer will now finesse your partner for the "marked" ♥ K. Again, declarer makes *two* tricks in the suit.

Look what can happen if you play ♥ Q and declarer has ♥ K. Declarer will swallow your ♥ Q and then finesse ♥ T against partner. Now, he makes *three* tricks in the suit.

Occasionally, there may be a reason to rise ♥ Q and hope partner has ♥ K. This is when you have a really important lead to make and no other entry e.g. Your partner has overcalled 1S and you hold ♠ QJx. There is nothing in dummy in spades and you suspect declarer, in No Trumps, has ♠ Kxx. That would explain partner's failure to lead his own suit. You want to grab the lead with ♥ Q, and bang down ♠ Q. If you insert ♥ 9 and declarer wins ♥ J, that may be his 9th trick.

PLAN YOUR PLAY PART 2

Eddie Kantar

Playing with Mike Lawrence we arrive at 6C. The clubs in dummy are Q10xx and I have Axx. We are also off a cashing ace, When the opponents aren't looking, Mike sort of mouths to me, asking if I have a play.

"Yes, Mike." I say aloud. "If the KJ9xxx of clubs is singleton, I have a play."

CLASH OF THE TITANS

Goren disliked Sam Stayman and never would call the Stayman convention by name in his column - instead, he called it the 2C convention.

BRIDGE FOR THE IMPROVER**Ron Klinger**

This is the sixth of a series of articles which appeared in the Gold Coast Bulletins for 2012 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.

N

♠ K 9 7

♥ 8 6 5

♦ Q 10 8

♣ A K 10 7

E

♠ A Q 5

♥ Q 3

♦ 6 5 3

♣ Q J 9 4 3

Dir: S

Vul: E/W

W	N	E	S
			1♥
/	2♣	/	2♦
/	2NT	/	3♦
/	4♥	All pass	

Lead: ♠3: Declarer plays low from dummy and East wins with the ♠Q, South playing the ♠J. How should East continue?

FOURTH COMING

N

♠ K 9 7

♥ 8 6 5

♦ Q 10 8

♣ A K 10 7

W

♠ 10 8 6 3 2

♥ K 9 2

♦ 7 4

♣ 8 6 2

E

♠ A Q 5

♥ Q 3

♦ 6 5 3

♣ Q J 9 4 3

S

♠ J 4

♥ A J 10 7 4

♦ A K J 9 2

♣ 5

Declarer plays low from dummy and East wins with the ♠Q, South playing the ♠J. East is expected to deduce from West's fourth-highest ♠3 that West began with at most five spades and therefore South has another spade. Failure to cash the ♠A at trick 2 will allow declarer to discard the other spade on the clubs.

East cashes the ♠A and, since any other suit would be futile, continues with a third spade. Declarer wins in dummy and leads a heart to the jack and king. West plays a fourth spade, East ruffs with the ♥Q (uppercut) and so promotes the ♥9 for West as the setting trick.

PSYCHE BIDDING...BE WARNED!

Andy Slater

On September 20 I played in the SCBC Graded Pairs with my partner Ken Dawson. After some early hiccups we were doing pretty well, and were into Match 5. On Board 1, Dealer North, nil vulnerable, after two passes the bidding had come to me, South.

My hand was ♠QT742 ♥T43 ♦J6 ♣T94.

Not my best hand, but some things I already knew, or could assume. If North and East had average 10pt hands, West was sitting with 17 pts, probably more. Also, EW had a certain game on with 27 combined points. Could I do anything to dissuade them from getting there?

If I were to bid anything at all, it would be a “psyche” bid i.e. a bid that would be flagrantly outside any normal bounds of bidding, and certainly nothing aligned to what was on our bidding card. So I bid 1♠.

West had a big think, and then doubled. Ken redoubled to show 10+ pts and no spade fit. East contributed 2♥, and an unsurprising pass from me. West was clearly worried at this stage, and asked me the meaning of the redouble, but finally bid 3♣, and we all passed. One off. 3NT was the winning contract, which would have made 9 tricks.

Okay, we did well on the board, but that is not the purpose of this article. I would like to say a few things about such a bid as my 1♠ with three high-card points.

1. A psyche bid should be very rarely used. It would be about two years ago I last psyched. If one of the partners constantly does this, then it runs the danger of being an ‘accepted’ part of their bidding system. So, if a player makes a psyche bid and in the ensuing auction the partner of the psyche bidder makes an unusual or abnormal bid, such as passing with support for the psyche suit, then s/he runs the risk of being accused of ‘fielding’ the psyche, by having extraneous information based on past history. This is why such a bid should be rarely used – partner will accept the bid as genuine and bid accordingly. Not to do so would be highly unethical. In the above case, Ken was bidding his hand knowing I had a 5 card spade suit, and whilst possibly light in third seat, certainly having values. With his ten points and nowhere to go, Ken was perfectly correct in passing the 3♣ bid, and hoping that we had enough combined points to defeat the contract.

2. Never, ever psyche in first or second seat. Your partner would of course assume you were full bottle for your bid, and you may well find yourselves in an impossible game or slam, when a simple part score may be the par contract. You may, in effect, have psyched against your partner.

3. Never psyche when vulnerable, and preferably when they are red and you are not. In the described hand, at least we weren't vulnerable and I knew they had game on, or more. Because partner had already passed, I didn't think there was too much danger of our getting too high, even if doubled. When vulnerable, the risk of getting caught out is just too great.

4. Never psyche if you are playing a weaker pair than you, and you would be expected to win the board anyway. There is simply no need. But, in a graded competition when you are playing a pair doing as well (or as badly!) as you are, all is fair, in bridge as well as in love or war.

5. It is dubious to psyche in a normal session of club duplicate bridge. These are players who may only play once or twice a week, and so they don't need some smart-alec player coming along and making outrageous bids. They would not think it at all fair, and would feel cheated or robbed of the enjoyment of bidding and playing the hand as it should be. These are players who make up the vast majority of club players, and they should be treated with respect. They need to play 'normal' bridge. Of course, if you happen to end up playing against two smart-alec players, then go for it! (but only if the aforementioned conditions are favourable).

Even though we won Match 5 well, we had three losses in the last three matches. Was this some kind of Karma? Who knows, but be warned – you make psyche bids at your own peril!

The full hand:

Dir:N, Nil Vul

	N	
	♠ K9	
	♥ K75	
	♦ AT743	
	♣ 873	
W		E
♠ AJ3		♠ 865
♥ AQ		♥ J9862
♦ KQ8		♦ 952
♣ AQJ52		♣ K6
	S	
	♠ QT742	
	♥ T43	
	♦ J6	
	♣ T94	

Andy wishes it to be known that he followed the correct procedure and reported his psyche to the director at the end of the round.

Law 40 C.1 (The Laws of Duplicate Bridge) deals with psyche bids (see p10).

MEMBER PROFILE**IRIS DOWDELL****Therese Matthews**

Iris Dowdell was born in 1918 at Rockhampton. She was taught to play bridge by her brother-in-law at the kitchen table. She was 13 years of age.

Later Iris moved to Brisbane where she was employed at the Electricity Commission as a secretary and I am told she was very good at her job.

When WW2 broke out, Iris's boss was seconded to the War Effort and sent to Melbourne to be in charge of the Rationing Board – Iris went also and took charge of the department in a very efficient manner.

After the war finished Iris returned to Brisbane and a few years later met her husband and together they produced triplets. You could say that Iris has always been good with numbers!! One of those triplets, Trevor, is a current member of the Caloundra Bridge Club.



Looking after three babies must have taken a huge effort on the part of Iris and I know that her sister, Ann, helped her during those early times. Iris did tell me that when they cried, she cried also. There was no government funding or assistance available at this time, not like today!!!

Iris has been involved in many other sports, apart from bridge, and one that she enjoyed for many years was golf.

Iris and her husband came to Golden Beach, Caloundra, in the mid 1970's and soon she was playing Bridge. She remembers playing bridge at other venues before the current club house was built. She played with Betty Hannam whose son Bob is a current member of the club.

I met Iris in 1990 when I joined the club and she was always ready to help out the new members discover the joys of playing bridge. She has always been a very pleasant and gracious opponent at the table and certainly a very capable bridge player.

I asked Iris what was her favoured bid at the table and what she liked most of all about bridge and she told me "3NT" and she enjoyed the friendship and company of the other members.

THE LAWS OF DUPLICATE BRIDGE - LAW 40 C.1

A player may deviate from his side's announced understandings always provided that his partner has no more reason to be aware of the deviation than have the opponents. Repeated deviations lead to implicit understandings which then form part of the partnership's methods and must be disclosed in accordance with the regulations governing disclosure of system. If the Director judges there is undisclosed knowledge that has damaged the opponent he shall adjust the score and may award a procedural penalty.

WHAT DOES THE DOUBLE MEAN?

Mike Phillips

You are sitting North in a teams congress holding these cards:

♠ T92
♥ J752
♦ 987
♣ 943

With your side vulnerable South is the dealer and passes. West opens 1NT (12-14), you pass and East bids 3NT. Your partner doubles and 3NTX becomes the contract. What should you lead?

This deal comes from the Brisbane Water (NSW) Congress in July 2009. Ordinarily there is no obvious lead from your very ordinary collection, though you should usually pick a major as East did not Stayman.

However, your partner's double changes things. It is now commonly agreed that the double of a 3NT contract asks partner to lead a spade. If you lead a spade here, North-South will take the first five tricks. On any other lead declarer will have twelve tricks off the top.

The full deal is shown below. Of course, at IMPs scoring East-West should be in five diamonds, and if they had been playing a strong no trump system they may have got there, but that's beside the point.

This was the full deal.

	♠ T92	
	♥ J752	
	♦ 987	
	♣ 943	
♠ J6		♠ 754
♥ AQ8		♥ KT
♦ A654		♦ KQJT2
♣ QJ62		♣ AK5
	♠ AKQ83	
	♥ 9643	
	♦ 3	
	♣ T87	

WHERE IS THAT MISSING QUEEN?

Many players have their own little ways of deciding which way to finesse for a missing queen. Some play that the queen always lies over the jack; hungry players finesse toward the kitchen, romantic players finesse toward the bedroom, practical players finesse toward the bathroom.

Eddie Kantar

INSPIRATIONAL STUFF

Did you hear about the bridge teacher who dreamt she was teaching her usual morning beginners' class, and woke up to find she was?

Then the most amazing thing happened. Her class woke up and found she was too!

AN EASY WAY TO RETAIN YOUR SANITY

Another Beginner Bridge Course is starting early next year. If you missed the last one, this is your golden opportunity to miss it again!

SOME THOUGHTS ON MANAGING PARTNERSHIP DISAGREEMENTS

Everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but they are not entitled to their own facts.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

It is pointless to give advice. The foolish don't listen and the wise don't need it.

Friendship will not stand the strain of very much good advice for very long. R. Lynd

A FINAL CHRISTMAS BLESSING FROM YOUR RETIRING EDITOR

From ghoulies and ghosties
And long-leggedy beasties
And things that go bump in the night
Good lord, deliver us!

