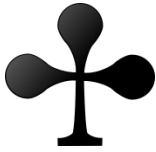


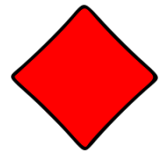


BRIDGE MATTERS



December 2016

Caloundra, Coolum, and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs



COOLUM NEWS

Ken Dawson

Club Championships

Coolum's Championships are conducted using a swiss format of 3 rounds of 10 boards each week for three weeks, with a live draw conducted after each round so that pairs play the pair nearest to them on the ladder. This "live" draw is intended to add to the interest level and all pairs did in fact win some matches and masterpoints this year.

The alternative format where each pair plays, say, 3 boards against each of the other pairs in the field has been considered. However, Coolum's current thoughts are that the swiss format gives a better outcome to more players.

Opinions on those options are welcome!

Results of the 2016 Championships were:-

- Coolum Club Champion Pairs
 - 1..Kevin Feeney - Ken Dawson
 - 2..Stephen Brookes - Adrienne Kelly
 - 3..Chris Palmer - Geoff Olsen
- Coolum Nett Champion Pairs
 - 1..Jill and David Nicholl
 - 2..Michael Barra - Jo Keylar
 - 3..Keith Styles-John Jackson

Coolum's handicaps are allocated according to masterpoint level. Each pair's gross score is reduced by the appropriate percentage to produce nett scores.

Coolum's Accommodation



Sunshine Coast Regional Council plans to offer the old Coolum Cinema building for lease by community organizations.

The building started its life on the David Low Way before being moved to its current location in Jack Morgan Park, behind the Coolum Bowls Club. Council now plans to move the building again onto a small piece of land in Banksia Ave, at considerable expense.

Council believes that there has been plenty of community consultation but nearby residents don't agree, many believing that the trees on the Banksia Ave site are significant.

Coolum Bridge Club has no view on the location of the building but believes that it would be ideal for our activities and that we should be the leading applicant for the leasehold.

Our Club has the finances to develop the building for the community while retaining a "Queenslander" feel. Being an ex-cinema, it has a substantial floor area without posts. The club would be required to give an undertaking to

make the building available to other organizations several days each week.

We have been given no indication of when such applications will be called but our Committee members have been attending Council development programs which provide groups with the skills to lodge lease applications. Those are complex and onerous documents.

Watch this space!

SUNSHINE COAST NEWS

John Stacey

The renovations are complete and really looking great. The use of space is so much better with an extra ladies toilet and the reconfiguration of the kitchen and office has provided more storage without loss of working space.

The cost of the works was \$72,000 and we are grateful for financial support in the form of two grants; \$7000 from Sunshine Coast Regional Council and \$22,000 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

We are hugely indebted to Peter Lewis for preparing the plans and project managing the work and to Pauline Clayton and Bev Northey . for their hard work and skill in obtaining the two grants.

The Presidents Trophy was conducted over three Mondays in November. The winners were Tony Walford and Wilma Hiddins with Gus Connolly and Ken Rogers second.



The Christmas party was a great success and we thank Janice Little and John Burt for arranging the excellent entertainment and to Steve Murray for his excellent organisation of the bridge.

Thanks also to Fay Stanton and her team of helpers for their work in the kitchen and service of the excellent food. All contributions by those who brought a plate were really appreciated.

I have been very impressed by the willingness of so many members to be involved and to lend a hand when needed. It makes a massive difference to the operation of the Club and to the effort required of Committee members.

CALOUNDRA NEWS

Bob Galvin

Leaving before a Session is finished

There have been instances of players departing from the Club before sessions of play are completed.

Players should be aware that such departure requires that scores for the unplayed boards at their table be averaged, that outcome causing distortion of the results achieved by all players participating in the session.

The Rules of bridge allow a penalty for abandonment of play but that action would be unfair to the departing player's partner and to the Director.

Other players would, of course, be forgiving in the event of an emergency; and a Director can call an early finish to a session in the event of approach of a damaging storm.

However, early departure as a result of poor planning of appointments is a serious discourtesy to all other players at the session.

Pianola Partner Finder at Caloundra

To enhance the opportunity for Members and visitors to find partners, either ad hoc or permanent, Caloundra Club has introduced the partnership elements of the Pianola Online Bridge System, though viewing or analysing bridge results on Pianola will not be possible.

Briefings on how to register online and use Pianola have been given prior to bridge sessions over the past a few weeks and an invitation to register online for use of Pianola has been sent to all Members who have previously provided the Club with an email address.

Shona Sandes and Judith Leathley, whose phone #s are in the 2017 Program Booklet, have agreed to act as Partner Secretaries, available to assist with registration to use Pianola and placing partnership requests online for visitors or members who do not have computer access.

Any player who is already registered for Pianola at another Club may connect to Caloundra Club, via Pianola, using their existing user name and password.

2016 Bridge Classes

The second 2016 series of evening beginners' bridge classes commenced in September with tuition provided by our bridge sensei, Randall.

Thirty nine aspiring players started the course, reducing to a steady number of about thirty.

Two weeks of Supervised play have been completed and the final two weeks will be played early in the New Year. Congratulations to those who survived the course, an event found testing by most who have undertaken any bridge lessons for the first time.

Table Fee Increase

Caloundra Club has increased its table fees, commencing on the 1st January, to \$5 for members and \$7 for visitors.

Team Sessions

Caloundra Club is to introduce Team Sessions in 2017, with the objective of increasing the social aspect of the Club and to demonstrate the potential enjoyment of playing in teams of four.

Team events will replace one of the Club's advertised Sessions each month, alternating through the days of the week, so that there will be twelve Team events per year.

Players will participate in their normal pairs, arriving as normal and being joined with other pairs to form teams for the Session. A phantom pair will be arranged to be available for each Team session since sit-outs cannot work for Teams.

A Team event is also scheduled for a few Tuesdays' restricted play Sessions. This will be a Team of 3 format, where Tuesday players form teams of 3 plus one volunteer, experienced player to assist in the foibles and fun of team play.

The Team Sessions are shown in the 2017 Program booklet.

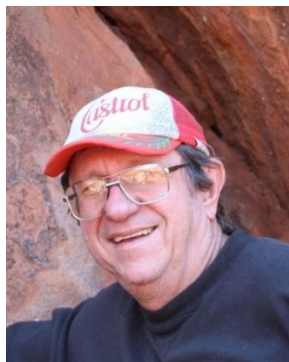
Phantom Player

A Phantom Player system is in operation at Caloundra for Tuesday afternoon, Thursday Twilight, and Friday afternoon sessions. Players can arrive alone and will be guaranteed a game by either pairing up with another lone player or with the Phantom player, depending on the number of players being even or uneven.

While it is keeping Drew Dunlop busy maintaining a roster, there are willing members who fill up the roster. If any one wishes to assist in the roster, please contact Drew and it will make his life more leisurely.

KEN'S KORNER

Ken Dawson



Ken's Chestnut- 8 Ever; 9 Never.

This chestnut comes from whether you should play Ace and King when you are missing the Queen or whether you should finesse.

Case 1:-

AJT43

K92

With 8 trumps here, the odds favour finessing for the Queen rather than playing Ace and King and hoping that the Queen drops doubleton.

Case 2

AJT43

K972

With 9 trumps, the odds favour playing the Ace and King, expecting the Queen to drop singleton or doubleton. But: be warned, playing for the "drop" is only marginally better than finessing.

In each case, you should give yourself an extra chance. Advance the Jack first. A sleepy RHO may play the Queen and solve your problem.

The main problem with this chestnut is that **it presumes that you have no other knowledge.**

This is rarely the case :-

- If one opponent has pre-empted, it means they are more likely to be short in your suit. Finesse their partner for the Queen.
- If one opponent has opened a strong 1NT, they are more likely to hold your Queen.
- If one opponent has already showed 10 HCP and didn't open the bidding, they can't have your Queen.

However, the most common reason to play Ace and King even though you have only eight trumps is that you cannot afford to lose the lead while there are trumps out. The opening lead and play has convinced you that an opponent will get a ruff.

Be aware that, when you breach this chestnut, you may be heading for a different score to the rest of the field. Most will follow this chestnut and you need to be prepared to back your judgment!

Ken's Konundrum #4

How will you play these suits in order to make a trick?

Dummy

♠Q2

♠J43

If you have to play the suit, you will need a lot of luck. Your best chance is to lead towards one of the hands and hope that AK is onside. Say you lead towards the queen. You hope LHO has AK. You have one more chance, particularly if this is a side suit against a trump suit contract. LHO may have king only. Thinking you may be leading away from the ace, west may pop the king to make sure of a trick in the suit.

Dummy

♠QT2

♠543

Here your best chance is to lead towards the ten, hoping that LHO has the jack. If LHO plays low, insert the ten.

Putting up the queen will only work when LHO has AK and not the jack.

This will happen half as often as LHO holding the jack, with or without a top honour.

MIKE'S MUSINGS

Mike Phillips



MAKING INSUFFICIENT BIDS WORK FOR YOU

Have you ever seen a pair make the same bid three times in one auction? This came up in a club pairs.

	♠ 954	
	♥ J7	
	♦ J9632	
	♣ A78	
♠ AK63	Dir- West	♠ QT72
♥ 542	Vul. - Both	♥ Q963
♦ T874		♦ AKQ
♣ K7		♣ 94
	♠ J8	
	♥ AKT8	
	♦ 5	
	♣ QJ6532	

N (Shirley)	E	S (Mike)	W
			Pass
Pass	1C ¹	2C	Double
Pass	1H ²	2C	1NT ²
2C !	2S	3C	4S !!
All pass			

1 Alerted, could be a short club

2 Director called – insufficient bid accepted

West's leap to 4♠ reflected exasperation rather than judgment and the contract deservedly went two off. On this particular board Shirley and I were just having fun, but there is a more serious side to be considered.

Does your partnership have a strategy for dealing with your opponents' insufficient bids (IBs) at the one or two level? Your opponent's error provides an opportunity for more descriptive responses than usual, and you should take maximum advantage.

First, call the Director. Next, either accept the IB, or reject it. Then, pass, double or make a bid yourself. Each action should have a systemic meaning.

If you intend to pass, *do not* condone the IB.

If you want to bid, *accept* the IB and then bid:

- at the lowest available level to show minimum values - i.e. you could not have come in at the next level
- one level up – i.e. "I was going to bid this anyway", or
- two levels up if you have extra values to show

If you want to force to game, *don't* condone the IB, and then bid over RHO's corrected interpose.

Let's look at some examples.

N	E	S	W
1S	1D	Below	
South's hand:-			
964	9864	9864	K864
T9	QT	KQ	KQ
872	87	87	87
A9654	AJ654	AJ654	AJ654
Accept IB, bid 1S	Accept IB, bid 2S	Accept IB, bid 3S	Don't accept IB, bid 2S (Note 1) over East's 2D.

(Note 1- Partner can now explore slam possibilities at sub-game level or, with minimum values, simply bid 4S.)

N	E	S	W
1S	1H	?	
South's hand:-			
964	98	98	98
T9	QT	7	K872
872	K87	KJ87	Q43
A9654	AJT654	AKJ654	KT76
Accept IB, bid 1S	Accept IB, bid 2C	Accept IB, bid 3C	Accept IB, bid 1NT

Similar principles apply when opener has to deal with the IB rather than responder. Study these examples.

N	E	S	W
1S	Pass	2H	2C
?			

North's hand:-

AKQT63	AK543	KJ975	AQJT5
5	KJ92	J6	7
Q86	KQ6	AQJ83	KQJT9
JT9	3	3	K4
Accept IB, bid 2S	Don't accept IB, bid 3H over 3C	Accept IB, bid 2D	Accept IB, bid 3D

Insufficient bids occur frequently, but most players simply ask RHO to correct the bid without considering the opportunities that their opponent has presented them with. A reasoned strategy for dealing with insufficient bids can be a potent weapon in any partnership's arsenal.



NEW MEMBERS

Caloundra

Jens Andersen	Bob Small
Sisi MacFarlane	Elizabeth Templeton

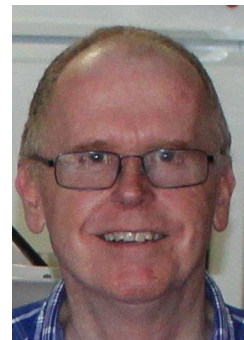
Coolum

Trish Gatt	Tim Ridley
Mary Sauvary	Pat Wakeford
Maureen Wright	

Sunshine Coast

Maureen Cass	Lydia George
George Blacklock	Eva Jungland

AUSTRALIAN MASTERPOINT SCHEME – HOW DOES IT WORK?



Peter Busch

Around the world, masterpoints are used as a measure of bridge players' achievements though the method of application varies between countries.

In Australia, we have 3 grades of masterpoints: (Green, Red and Gold) and a colour is assigned to every session or event. Club sessions are green, except for specially designated red point sessions. (Each club is allocated a certain number of red point sessions a year.) Congresses are usually red, and some large events, including the GNOTs, which are zone-based, earn gold points.

Every bridge event, from national and international congresses right down to normal club sessions, awards masterpoints to successful entrants.

The scale of award is based on the number of players in the field, the grade of the event (as determined in advance by the ABF), any restriction on entry (seniors, women's etc), and in some events, the strength of the field.

Points are usually awarded to the top half of the field, based on placing. First place gets the most, and awards for subsequent places diminish but are proportional to first place. Some events, such as events with qualifying sessions, award points on a different basis. Some events also award points based on an overall result in addition to the awards for sessions that make up the event. And in some circumstances, points can be award on a "wins" basis per match instead of the normal "top half" formula. This is common in Teams events, but can also be done for Pairs in some circumstances. Some events also carry additional weightings, increasing the basic awards.

As players earn masterpoints, they graduate through the "Master" ranks. After a humbling start as "Nil Master" a player will be conferred the status of "Graduate Master" after earning 2 points, which for a beginner can seem an unattainable goal. The scale

goes all the way to Diamond Grand Master when a player reaches 15,000 masterpoints. (As an aside, until recently, the scale used to end with Gold Grand at 5,000 points, but as some prolific players passed the 10,000 masterpoints mark, it was decided to introduce two additional ranks – Emerald and Diamond.)

Once you reach Regional Master (50 Masterpoints), further promotion depends not only on the total number of points earned, but also that the total includes a certain number of red points. Likewise, to reach Life Master and beyond, promotion requires a minimum number of both red and gold points.

There is an ongoing competition for the player from each master rank who earns the most masterpoints in a calendar year. This is run nationally (called the McCutcheon Award) and a similar one is run for Queensland players, called the James O'Sullivan Award. Progressive totals are published on the Masterpoints Centre and the QBA web sites after each month end.

The Masterpoints Scheme is administered at the club level by a Club Masterpoint Secretary (Peter Busch, Joan McPheat and Brett Middelberg for Caloundra, Sunshine Coast and Coolum respectively) and each state has a Masterpoint Secretary, currently Peter Busch.

Nationally, administration is handled by the 'Masterpoint Centre' division of the Australian Bridge Federation, presently located in Sydney. The Centre receives masterpoint files from clubs and congresses (via the Club or State Masterpoint Secretaries), and at the end of each month, these are allocated to player accounts, and new point balances are uploaded to the Masterpoints Centre web site. Various reports are then produced and sent to each club, and promotion certificates are issued for the lucky players who've moved up a rank.

Want more information or find your own status? The ABF web site www.abf.com.au/masterpoints contains a wealth of information about the Masterpoint Scheme, including an on-line and downloadable Masterpoint Manual.



BRIDGE ACROSS THE TASMAN

Sunshine Coast Club was well represented at the New Zealand National Congress which took place at Hamilton in the last week of September.

Peter Busch served as Chief Scorer, for the fourth year; while Ken Dawson, Steve & Verna Brookes, and Adrienne Kelly played as a team and in pairs.

It was a big event with about 500 players, which is about the same size as the Canberra Summer Festival, and about fifty of the players were Australians.

The most obvious difference to playing in Australia is that the majority of New Zealanders play Acol.

Also, BridgeNZ mandates some differences in alerting practices to those to which we're accustomed.

There was a high standard of play and the Congress Organisers produced a quality Bulletin every day, some of the interesting hands from that publication being attached.

When to reopen

7 Dir: S Vul: Both

NORTH ♠ J1098 ♥ 762 ♦ 864 ♣ Q98	EAST ♠ 742 ♥ A3 ♦ KQ10 ♣ 105432	SOUTH ♠ 53 ♥ KQ5 ♦ 7532 ♣ AKJ6	WEST ♠ 13 ♥ 9 ♦ 15 ♣ 7
--	--	---	---

Pass ?

What are your options here?

Really at any form of scoring to reopen vulnerable with the East hand risks terrible consequences.

On this hand East-West can make a comfortable 3♣. But too many bad things could result from reopening.

- Allow your opponents to find a spade fit.
- Encourage partner to try for a No Trump game
- Encourage partner to compete in without a spade fit.

16 Dir: W Vul: E-W

NORTH ♠ K965432 ♥ K753 ♦ 82	EAST ♠ 10 ♥ Q108753 ♦ J ♣ KJ765	SOUTH ♠ J7 ♥ KJ962 ♦ A1094 ♣ AQ	WEST ♠ 6 ♥ 15 ♦ 12 ♣ 10943
---	--	--	---

3♣ Pass Pass ?

Ironically it may be safer to reopen here.

Unusually EW (Kieran Crowe-Mai and Bob Sebesfi) don't have an opening bid to show a major/minor two suiter.

So after initially passing Kieran was able to back into the auction with 4♥ at adverse vulnerability, implicitly showing this sort of hand.

What happens after you have reopened?

On this hand Ashley Bach and Michael Cornell showed how to handle this situation.

12 Dir: W Vul: N-S

NORTH ♠ KJ2 ♥ K93 ♦ A4 ♣ Q9753	EAST ♠ 954 ♥ 1076 ♦ 965 ♣ 10842	SOUTH ♠ 13 ♥ 0 ♦ 16 ♣ J6	WEST ♠ 11 ♥ 11 ♦ 11 ♣ 11
---	--	---	---

Pass Pass X Pass

2♦ Pass 3NT

1♦ was Precision. Some players might double with the North hand. But without four cards in either major it is reasonable to pass.

On this hand a double from North would lead to a juicy penalty for N/S but once he passes, this opportunity is lost.

On some hands South might prefer to pass 1♦ and let EW play in this misfit, but here the risk of missing game is too great and +250 is not good enough. A reopening 1NT shows an 11-14 count hand, so here the only option is to double intending to bid 1NT if partner bids either major.

Now North has a problem, jumping to 3♣ would show a weaker hand with a better club suit, jump bidding to 2NT would be right for values but the diamond stop may not be enough, and often the no trumps will play better from the South hand.

(Note that a psychic 1NT response from East may make the auction difficult for N/S. When you hold a near-Yarborough opposite a limited opening, try to stop the opponents bidding their easy game!)

From the 'Daily Bulletin' of the NZ National Bridge Congress
September 2016

15 ♠ 863 ♥ A106 ♦ 876 ♣ 8654 Dlr: S Vul: N-S
 ♠ AQ7 ♥ 943 ♦ AJ532 ♣ 107 Jamie
 ♠ KJ52 ♥ 1092 ♦ 19 ♣ KJ93 Rose
 ♠ 107 ♥ 8654 ♦ 876 ♣ 8654 Ella
 ♠ 107 ♥ 8654 ♦ 876 ♣ 8654 Michael
 ♠ 107 ♥ 8654 ♦ 876 ♣ 8654 1NT

“Chickens” was Michael’s comment when 1NT was passed out. It was going to be the sort of battle of the part-score that he excels at. Jamie lead ♦3, round to ♦Q. Michael played ♠K which seems an unusual card but will gain when an unwary defender without the ♠Q may duck, and also when ♠109 doubleton, ♠Q singleton, ♠Q doubleton and even ♠Qxx. In any case to play spades from dummy would remove the only entry ♥A and open up that suit.

Michael tried a club from dummy, and was perhaps surprised to see Ella win her ♣K and then cash 2 heart winners and the chickens had come home to roost. With the final two tricks ♣Q and ♦A resulting in 1NT -2.

12		♠ 2 ♥ J9652 ♦ J54 ♣ K1076	Dir: W Vul: N-S	WEST Jamie 1♣ Pass	NORTH Rose Pass Pass	EAST Ella 1♠ X	SOUTH Michael 3♣ =	
♠ A765 ♥ 107 ♦ AQ ♣ J9842		♠ 98 ♥ AKQ3 ♦ K10963 ♣ 53	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT N - - - - E 1 3 2 1 3 S - - - - W - - - -				♠ 84 ♥ 872 ♦ AQ ♣ 1043	
5 11 12								

Consider a possible play: ♥Q, followed immediately by ♦10, again ♦Q and ♦A, now and ♥7 to ♥K, and ♦K on which West discards a high discouraging club. After a short think East might work out the best defence of a 4th diamond giving a useless ruff and discard to declarer. If declarer fails to ruff high West scores a cheap trick, and if he ruffs high West discards and gets a promoted ♠7.

9

Bid boldly, play safe.

21	♠ J8532 ♥ 96 ♦ AKQJ86 ♣	Dir: N Vul: N-S	WEST 1♦ Pass 5♦ =	NORTH 1♠ 5♦ =	EAST Pass Pass Pass =	SOUTH 1♥ 6♣ 4NT 6♣
♠ 4 ♥ J1082 ♦ 10942 ♣ 6532	♠ KQ9 ♥ K74 ♦ 53 ♣ Q9874					
11 1 10 18	♠ A1076 ♥ AQ53 ♦ 7 ♣ AKJ10	N 3 6 4 5 6 S 3 6 4 6 6 E - - - - W - - - -				

The lead doesn't matter much, you discard your possible heart loser. Now the only possible problem is the trump suit. It can be helpful to know the percentages – a 2-2 break is slightly more frequent than a 3-1 break. There are three competing lines:

- Cash ♠A hoping to drop an honour singleton offside.
- Small from dummy to ♠10.
- Small from dummy to ♠6

Let's quickly deal with the idea of running the ♠J. This is only best in one case 4 trumps onside. But it fails with a singleton honour onside 2 cases.

What should you do if East plays the ♠4? If you play the ♠10, you lose to singleton honour in West. If you play the ♠6, you lose to KQ-94, because you will finesse the ♠10 next time. However, you will also pick up void-KQ94 in East. This makes it slightly preferable to play the ♠6.

What if East plays the ♠9? Now it might be better to win the Ace, since that only loses to 4-KQ9 and picks up KQ-94. A final thought... imagine you are the defender with KQ94 and declarer plays small from dummy. Maybe you should play the ♠9 to steer declarer wrong.

Regardless, a quick analysis shows that most Intermediates who bid the slam also made it, well done.

Recovery under pressure

11	♠ 6 ♥ QJ9653 ♦ 95 ♣ AQ85	Dir: S Vul:	NORTH Carlos 2♥ 3♥ The lead: 7♥	EAST Val 1♠ 2♠ 4♥ =	SOUTH 1♣ 2♣ 4♥ =	WEST Pass Pass =
♠ 842 ♥ A2 ♦ K842 ♣ KJ97	♠ K1075 ♥ K107 ♦ J10 ♣ 6432					
9 11 7 13	♠ AQJ93 ♥ 84 ♦ AQ763 ♣ 10	N 1 2 3 2 2 S 1 2 3 2 2 E - - - - W - - - -				

After the heart lead and 2 rounds of trumps 4♥ looked dire. With a spade switch Carlos needed a few things to go right. First the spade finesse worked. He took A♠ ruffed a spade and took the diamond finesse which lost. At this point West needs to guard both the diamonds and clubs. If there is a diamond return the squeeze no longer works but quite understandably he tried the J♣. Carlos again took the finesse, A♣ and ran his trumps. On the last of these West is squeezed.

Great Lead Directing Double

Or "Sometimes it is better not to know". Richard Solomon brought me this hand for board 13. On a multi auction with several bids alerted by no explanations sought you hear an alerted 3♥ and you hold ♥KJ9643. It must be a good time to double to suggest a lead right? Oops... the opener passes the double to show hearts! But thankfully partner has a great hand with a heart void and this contract goes down 3 tricks.

From the 'Daily Bulletin' of the NZ National Bridge Congress
September 2016