



BRIDGE MATTERS



Newsletter of the Caloundra, Coolum and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs December 2014

AROUND THE CLUBS



COOLUM

Pat Feeney and Lois Meldrum between them have raised over \$3000 for the club with their library. The club gave them each an orchid as a thank you.

Supervised play continues on Saturday afternoons. Everybody welcome. A good opportunity for new players to get some extra help and practice.

The club continues to actively work towards obtaining its own club house.



SUNSHINE COAST

Our AGM was held on Monday 8 September and the following committee was elected:

President: John Gosney

Vice President: Steve Murray

Secretary: Pauline Clayton

Treasurer: Robyn Brown

Committee Members: Adrienne Kelly, Ann Kibble, Jackie Lewis, Sue Ramsay, and Ursula Sheldon.

The new committee thanks outgoing President Peter Busch for a very successful year in office and welcomes his continuing involvement as Games Director and Immediate Past President.

The focus of the new committee will be on enhancing the bridge-playing experience for all members, from beginners to grand masters, and members can look forward to a number of initiatives aimed at achieving this objective over the coming months.

From 11 November the club has been trialling a new session on Tuesday afternoons, aimed at more experienced players, though of course anyone is welcome to take part. Each session is part of a monthly event and consists of 2x14 board rounds. Pre-entry is required and players need to play in all sessions in the month, although liberal substitution rules will apply. The nature of the event will change from month to month. The November matchpoint pairs saw 12 pairs participating. December will be imp pairs beginning December 9.

Members of Joan McPheat's Wednesday group expressed an interest in learning how to play teams. Reg Busch was co-opted into giving an introductory talk followed by a teams session. This has continued approximately on a monthly basis. In addition a monthly teams section has been added to the well-attended Friday morning session.

Our annual Spring Pro-Am was held October 28 and was enthusiastically supported as usual. It has become a very popular event. In all, 36 pairs competed.



Chris, Rosemary, Robyn, Susanna, Laurie, Margaret, Barbara Missing: Verna

Congratulations to the winners and runners-up. NS: 1st Susanna Thompson & Verna Brookes, 2nd Laurie Bell & Rosemary Crowley.

EW: 1st Christine McLardy & Robyn Brown, 2nd Barbara Parkinson & Margaret Clark.

CALOUNDRA

In September Alan Maltby initiated a phantom partner scheme where members volunteered to be in reserve to play with anybody who arrived without a partner. The response was very enthusiastic and Alan had no trouble filling the roster until the end of the year when the scheme will be reviewed. To date, it has been working very satisfactorily.

November 4, the club celebrated Melbourne Cup with its usual gusto. Lots of good food, booze, pretty hats, crazy hats, sweeps, good company and quite a bit of bridge.

Winner of prettiest hat was Barbara Karey. A big thank you to Barry Buzza and his team for organizing a very successful event.



BREAKING NEWS !!! CALOUNDRA ACES ACE ZONE PAIRS !!!



A Grade: Stephen Hughes & Randall Rusk

B Grade: Mary Bottomer & Pat James

Well done girls and boys!



Randall, Pat, Mary, Steve

Unauthorised Information

I am surprised to learn that even experienced bridge players are not aware of some of the basic laws of bridge. One example is regarding unauthorised information from partner, and many players seem to be unfamiliar with this concept.

Anything your partner says or does during the auction, except for their legal calls (i.e. bids, doubles, passes), is unauthorised information to you, and you must not factor that into your bidding or play. This includes explanations of your bids they may make to opponents when asked. It also includes their alerts of your bids and also their failure to alert what you believe should be alerted.

The laws says that even though you know you and partner are not on the same page, you are not allowed to know this. You must keep bidding in accordance with your original plan, and only deviate from that plan if it is apparent from the subsequent auction or play that you are at odds.

This can be tricky in some cases. For example assume you open 2NT strong which your partner alerts and tells the opponents it is 5/5 in the minors and weak. They respond 3C which is, they believe, a simple preference for clubs over diamonds. You know this because of the explanation you have heard, but you must not base future bidding on it - you must assume partner knew you were showing a strong balanced hand and has bid 3C in response. For most people that would be some sort of Stayman bid asking for a major, and you would need to respond accordingly, even though you know it's not. Likewise if they bid 3D meaning to prefer diamonds over clubs, you need to interpret that based on your original plan and this may be a transfer to hearts in your system. Where it goes from there depends on many factors including the hands themselves and the partnership agreements, and in some cases you might legitimately end up in the best contract.

The confusion may become evident to the opponents who are allowed to make any deductions they like from this - for example if they ask partner about your 2NT opening and partner says "minors and weak", and ask you about partner's 3C bid and you say "Stayman", they will know there's a problem and this is authorised to them, even though it's not authorised to you or your partner.

An interesting way to look at this is to compare it to when players play behind screens, which happens in major events. A screen is placed diagonally across the table in such a way that you cannot see your partner and can only see one of your opponents (your screen-mate). The difference with alerting is that you alert your screen-mate of your own alertable bids and your partner's alertable bids in a way that your partner cannot see, and when the bidding pad or box moves to the other side of the screen, your partner will do the same. Likewise with

explanations - when asked for an explanation by your screen-mate, you do not speak to them but you write down the meaning, and your partner will do the same with their screen-mate. This way neither player knows whether or not their partner has alerted their bid, nor do they know how their partner has interpreted their bid. This is a very "pure" environment, and it is a test that will be applied by the director at your table to help decide if UI was a factor in your subsequent bidding.

BEGINNERS' LESSONS 2015

Lessons at the clubs will begin on the following dates:

Coolum: Saturday February 14

Caloundra: Tuesday March 3

Sunshine Coast: Wednesday March 4

For more information check the websites, email or phone the clubs.

No partner is required and no previous experience is necessary.

Tell your friends!!!

WINNERS

Caloundra Teams C/ship: Andrew Dunlop, Alan & Di Maltby, Randall Rusk

Sunshine Coast Graded Pairs Congress: A: Rosemary Crowley, Richard Perry; B: Louisa Kwok, Andrew Chan

Caloundra President's Trophy: Patricia James, Ivy Timms



David & Doug

Sunshine Coast Restricted Pairs: Paul Mannion, Jenny Turner

Caloundra Teams Congress: Geoffrey Hart, David Harris, Richard & Ryan Touton

Sunshine Coast Novice Pairs Congress: Bob & Christine Thomas

Coolum Pairs C/ship: Doug Byrnes, David Harris

Sunshine Coast President's Trophy: Outright: Vilma

Laws, Jilliana Bell **Handicap:** Adriana Kienhuis, Noeleen Stewart

THE FAMOUS CASE OF BERGEN'S DUBIOUS CLAIM

"You make two trumps," said declarer, Bergen, to Ross, West, showing his cards. "I'm not going to do anything stupid," said Bergen, in the process of doing something stupid, since he claimed without considering the position if West should win and lead a diamond.

Edgar Kaplan

*Edgar Kaplan (1925 - 1997) was an American bridge player and one of the principal contributors to the game. His career spanned 6 decades and covered every aspect of bridge. He was a teacher, author, editor, administrator, champion player, theorist, expert Vugraph commentator, coach/captain and authority on the laws of bridge. He was the editor and publisher of **The Bridge World** for more than 30 years. With Alfred Steinwold, he developed the Kaplan-Steinwold bidding system. He was merciless in exposing the faults and foibles of top international players.*

KEN'S KONUNDRUM KORNER: #9**Ken Dawson**

♣ QJ9642
♣ A73 ♣ K85
♣ T

After opening one-of-a-suit, South became declarer in 3NT. There was one outside entry. In the mid-game, declarer led his ♣ T. Both players ducked and that was declarer's 9th trick.

So, whose fault is this debacle?

West reasoned that, in such a situation, he will be giving count. So, East knows that West has three clubs and the exact layout. So, it is ok to take the first club.

East countered that West would have still ducked with this layout:-

♣ QJ9642
♣ A3 ♣ K85
♣ T7

This is because taking the first club would allow the king to be driven out without wasting that precious outside entry in dummy.

Quite so. There is *no* right answer to this problem.

However, there are a few strategies involved :-

- On an ethical note, West should not need a big think before playing ♣ 3. It is the mid-game and West has had plenty of time to observe dummy and decide his carding in advance.
- Declarer should make sure that he is almost home before making this play. Do it too early and the defence may have time to recover and get their club tricks when they get the lead in another suit. Do it too late and the defence will realize that two club tricks will defeat the contract.
- Don't waste East's energy on a post-mortem of this hand during playtime. You will just drain his batteries for a board that has already gone. Do it after play.

MORE KAPLAN NUGGETS

- *At Table 2, the Graves-Mittleman auction to 6 ♣ was natural, if inexplicable; certainly Mittelman didn't know what Graves was doing, so why should I?*
- *West (...) entered the auction with the sort of take-out double I thought only my wife made.*

BRIDGE FOR THE IMPROVER**Ron Klinger**

This is the second 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.

Dealer: South

West

North

East

South

Vul: Nil

Pass

3 ♣ [1]

Pass

2NT

3NT [2]

Pass

Pass

Pass

West

♠ K J 10 7

♥ A 9 7 4

♦ Q

♣ Q 8 6 2

[1] Enquiry

[2] No 4 or 5 card major

What should West lead?

TAKE THE LEAD OUT

♠ 9 4

♥ K 10 6 3

♦ 9 7 5 4

♣ 7 5 3

♠ K J 10 7

♥ A 9 7 4

♦ Q

♣ Q 8 6 2

♠ Q 8 6 3 2

♥ J 5

♦ 10 6 3 2

♣ J 4

♠ A 5

♥ Q 8 2

♦ A K J 8

♣ A K 10 9

Against no-trumps, with two suits of equal length, it is often better to lead the one without the ace. That would indicate a spade lead, not a heart, and that would be enough to defeat 3NT.

Both Wests began with the ♥ 4- ♥ 3- ♥ J- ♥ Q. One South cashed the ♦ A and ♦ K (to check whether the queen was singleton or doubleton), and then led a heart. West took the ♥ A and shifted to a spade. Too late. Declarer

ducked, won the second spade, cashed two hearts and finessed against East's
♦ 10. He finished with eleven tricks for +460.

At the other table South returned a heart at trick 2, dummy winning, followed by a diamond to the jack. Ooops.

West switched to the ♠ 10 and the contract was one down.

STATE MASTERPOINT SECRETARY RETIRES

Reg Busch

Local bridge identity Joan McPheat has been the QBA State Masterpoint Secretary for 25 years. She has announced that she is to retire from the position as from the end of this year. There would be few, if any, to equal this length of service to bridge.

Joan took over the position just as the national scheme was being computerised. But she well remembers the days when every club masterpoint secretary was issued with books of tickets (green and red) and filled out individual green or red slips for each player in the club. They were then placed on the notice board for players to collect. They had to save them and then hand them in (or post them) to the state MP Secretary for recording. You won green points only if you came in the first third of the field at your club. Red masterpoints were available only at open congresses and state events. Gold points did not then exist. Even in Brisbane there was only a handful of open congresses where you could win red points..

Joan's task was to masterpoint all congresses and state events and send the data to the ABF Masterpoint Centre. As the ABF in its wisdom permitted red MP events within the clubs, she was required to check the accuracy of all these hundreds of red MP sessions.

Initially all results came by post. Her task was to enter the names, masterpoint the event and send on the awards. It became increasingly onerous with the multiplication of congresses and club red events. But computerisation eased the load, and now almost every communication is by email and the scoring software does most of the masterpointing.

Over all these years, Joan has had to teach and assist a small army of club masterpoint secretaries of varying degrees of skill, with most personnel changing every year or two.

The QBA has appointed Peter Busch, another local bridge identity, to fill her spot. Joan and Peter will be able to liaise, so the transition will be seamless.

IDLE CHATTER AT THE BRIDGE TABLE

- My doctor told me to start killing people.
- Killing people?
- Well not in those exact words. He said I had to reduce the stress in my life. Same thing really!

PLAYING CARDS FROM DUMMY

Laurie Kelso

(Laurie has been Chief Tournament Director at the Gold Coast Congress for the past several years. This article appeared in the GCC Bulletin 2014 #8, and is reproduced with kind permission of the author.)

As a declarer playing from dummy, a card is played if you name the card or deliberately touch a card in dummy. An exception to the latter is if you, as declarer, are re-arranging dummy, or if you accidentally touch another card, when selecting the one intended. (Laws 45B, 45C3)

There are a couple of issues that arise from calling for cards from dummy that need to be noted.

What happens if dummy picks up the wrong card from their hand and a defender plays a card before it can be corrected? For example, Dummy may be a bit deaf and hear "8" instead of "Ace".

This is covered by Law 45D. "If dummy places in the played position a card that declarer did not name, the card must be withdrawn if attention is drawn to it before each side has played to the next trick, and a defender may withdraw and return to his hand a card played after the error but before attention was drawn to it."

As in the example, if the "8" was played from dummy and a defender plays the King before dummy's error is pointed out, then the defender can take the King back into their hand when the correct card is played by Dummy. If declarer had also played a card to the trick then declarer can change their card after the defender has played their new card. If the defender does not change their card, then neither can declarer.

Sometimes we become a little lazy with how we call for cards from dummy and say things like "diamond" or "low". Declarer "should clearly state both the suit and the rank of the desired card" (Law 46A), however when the call is incomplete these are the restrictions that apply:

- "High" means the highest card in the suit.
- "Win the trick", means use the lowest card that will win.
- "Low" means play the lowest card in the suit.
- Naming a suit and not a rank means play the lowest card in that suit.
- When leading from dummy, naming a rank and not a suit means play the card of that rank from the same suit which won the previous trick.
- In all other cases declarer must play a card of the rank designated, if one exists, and if two exist then declarer decides which one.
- When declarer nominates a card not in dummy, the call is cancelled and declarer gets to try again.

- Finally, if declarer instructs dummy to play 'any card', then this is the only situation where either defender may designate which card is to be played! (Law 46B)

MISTAKES THE EXPERTS DON'T TELL YOU ABOUT

Regrettably the author has elected to remain anonymous, arguing that he/she wishes to continue playing bridge and be welcome in the club.

- (1) Deciding to learn to play bridge after seeing the ten lessons advertised.
(*Come in sucker*).
- 2) Being under the impression it is only a game of cards.
- (3) It's good for the brain. *Perhaps. But not if you cherish your self esteem and nervous system.*
- (4) It's a good social experience. *There are some days when a trip to the Gulag Archipelago looks good.*
- (5) Speaking to a Grand Master without a formal introduction.
- (6) Mentioning social bridge.

You have committed all these gaffes and haven't even started to play yet. Once you have decided to play the game and have found a suitably deranged partner, you will meet the directors. These are the experts who will adjudicate on one of the myriad mistakes at your table, a lead out of turn being an example. Once he or she has made their decision, it is agreed by all at the table that the idiot doesn't know what they are talking about.

My first experience with a director was as a novice with three lessons under my belt.

East opens 1NT. As West I am so excited because I know what to do! I have the required 8 points and a four card major. I am going to bid 2 ♣. Unfortunately the person on my right bids 2 ♣. This isn't supposed to happen! I am in total disarray. I think long and hard and I mean long. Galsworthy wrote *The Forsythe Saga* while I was thinking. In the end I do the honourable thing and pass. The person on my left now bids 2 ♦, and my partner bids 2 ♠. All of a sudden I am besieged by the person on my left, calling "Director! Hesitation! Director! Hesitation! Hesitation!" I am totally confused. All I can think of is that they have Tourettes Syndrome.

How my partner knew I had 4 spades I was none the wiser. Needless to say we

were suitably punished.

Some things the director can't help you with:

- Playing in the wrong contract. You have played in NT, forgetting the agreed contract was spades.
- Playing with 5 suits in your hand.
- Playing as defender and not noticing there are 2 dummies on the table, (an easy mistake to make especially when you and your partner are still holding on to your cards). I kid you not, this actually happened.
- Thinking other people's bids mean the same as yours.
- Thinking everyone plays the same conventions you were taught and in the same way. Big no-no.

Of course this is why we were given the gift of speech, so my advice to you is ask, ask, ask, until you have extracted every piece of information they are unwilling to give you.

Even after all these trials and tribulations I am still playing bridge 12 years on and will continue to do so until my partner gets it right.

MOVING ON

Wendy O'Brien

Starting as a brand new director can be just as daunting as starting as a brand new player.

I will never forget my first day as a director.

Summoned to a table, my very first call, I arrived feeling inadequate, insecure and totally lacking in confidence. I was stared down by a very haughty and arrogant female. This was quite a feat on her part as she was seated and I was standing over her.

"This is an obvious case of inadvertency, if you know what that means."

Now that was an unkind cut as I had just passed the directors' exam.

Fortunately my sense of humour kicked in and I was about to burst out laughing when my partner, one of Queensland's leading directors, who had followed me to the table, stepped in, disallowed the inadvertency, and made the offender play out the contract in the wrong suit. Naturally, a disastrous result.

There are times in one's life when one is blessed with a moment of incredible sweetness.

SWEETNESS OR REVENGE?

Of course, we are all creatures radiating sweetness and light. But are there not moments, having been outrageously humiliated at the bridge table, when dark thoughts of vengeance creep in, to sour the sweetness and shatter the light?

One is ashamed. One is filled with guilt for such unworthy feelings.

Well, forget the shame, forget the guilt. Othello, obviously a keen bridge player, had it over you in spades (and probably clubs, diamonds, hearts and no trumps as well.)

My thoughts of revenge are flowing through me like a violent river, never turning back to love, only flowing toward a full revenge that'll swallow them up." Act 3 Sc 3

Go, Othello!

BRIDGING THE GAP

WITH FOOD FOR THOUGHT

OLIVE JAMES CCBC

Tantalizing Toppers

1) Into 250 gr of soft and beaten butter crumble approximately 150 gr of blue vein cheese. Mix together, then form into a roll and wrap tightly in plastic film. Wrap again in foil and freeze. Cut disks off as required, then return to freezer.

2) Into 250 gr of soft and beaten butter add a small tin of drained anchovies, and mix. Prepare as the above recipe.

Beautiful when used on top of steak, fish or poultry.

Sadly this is Olive's final contribution to Bridge Matters. She is deeply missed.

COURT CARDS

In today's standard deck of playing cards, the kings, queens and jacks wear clothes from the period of the English King Henry VII who ruled in the late 15th century. But did you know the early decks of cards had 4 picture cards - king, queen, jack and knight?

America invented the Joker in the card deck. It originated around 1870 and was inscribed as the "Best Bower" the highest card in the game of Euchre. Since the game was sometimes called "Juker", it is thought that the Best Bower card might have been referred to as the "Juker" card, which eventually evolved into "Joker".

ON LEAD

Edgar Kaplan

If I were South, I would probably have led the ♣A, to look at dummy. I wouldn't have liked what I saw.

TIPS FOR DEFENDERS

Reg Busch



You are West on lead against a suit contract. You lead the ♦9 from 9872.

AJ1039 (dummy)

9872 (you)

The play goes 9, 10, Q 4. Who holds the ♦K? Obviously partner does, else declarer would have taken the ♦Q with his ♦K.

What if the play had gone 9,10,K,4? Who has the ♦Q? Clearly declarer must, else East would have played the ♦Q. Perhaps, perhaps not. Time and again in our club games, I've seen Easts who, holding both the diamond honours, win the first trick with the ♦K. When queried about this, they will say 'The diamond honours are equals, so it doesn't matter which one I play!' But East doesn't realise that, to his partner, this is not obvious. If my partner's ♦Q holds the trick, I **know** that he holds the ♦K (unless declarer is mad). But, if partner must play his ♦K to win the trick, then I **know** that he does not have the ♦Q (why use the ♦K when the ♦Q would do?). So declarer must hold it, and I must look elsewhere (wrongly) for defensive tricks.

Such Easts are quite oblivious to the fact that bridge is a partnership game. Defence is the most difficult part of our game, and good partnership understanding is essential here. It would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that every card you play in defence carries some sort of message to partner. To me, the logical way to play cards that are 'equals' is to play the lowest of the sequence. In that way, partner can place the higher cards as probably in my hand.

If your aim is to be a competent bridge player, remember this when you sit down at the bridge table: for the next few hours the most important person in your life is your bridge partner. Make life easy for him. Don't force him to guess. Thus: against a 4♠ contract, partner leads the ♠K (promising the ♠Q), taken by dummy's Ace. You hold ♠J987. Play the ♠9 (not the 8 or 7 because they look "high enough") to tell him it is safe to continue when he gets in again.

Below are a few not uncommon situations where you and partner would be co-operating in defence, but first let's introduce an old term.

The Peter

This is an old fashioned but useful term from the days of whist. To peter is to play high/low in a suit. In standard methods, to peter is to show that you like partner's lead when he leads from honours. When discarding it shows that you have values in the suit you play. In this context, a peter is an 'attitude' signal

(I like/dislike your lead). In other situations, a peter may be a count signal showing how many cards you hold in the suit.

Giving partner a ruff

In a recent article, we covered the matter of Lavinthal type signals. Thus, having bid spades during the auction, you hold ♠AK962, and, against a 4H contract, partner leads the ♠8, presumably from a doubleton. You cash the K, A and then the card you lead for him to ruff signals where your other entry may be. The 9 would show diamonds, the higher of the non-trump suits, and the 2 would show clubs, the lower suit. The 6 would be a neutral card, giving no preference. From this particular holding, partner would have little difficulty in reading your signal. But, if your holding had been say AK543, how many partners would read the 5 as suggesting diamonds? So: **when anticipating a ruff, keep track of the spot cards in partner's suit, not the honours,**

Giving count

You are West and hear South open with 1♥, North bids 4♥ and South bashes 6♥. You hold the ♠AK72, and hopefully lead the King, promising the Ace. Play goes: K,4,9,J

	Q54	
AK72		9
	J	

Declarer's ♣J may be a false card – any sensible declarer with a doubleton J x will play the Jack – he has nothing to lose. So you are in a quandary! Do you try to cash the Ace at the risk of having it ruffed and thus establishing dummy's Q to discard a loser? Your only problem is 'Will the play of my Ace hold up?' Partner can solve this if you have this agreement with partner:

When partner plays the King promising the Ace, and Qxx is in the dummy, you *always* give partner count in the suit. High /low for an even number, low for an odd number.

So partner's ♣9 shows an even number of clubs, either 2, 4 or 6. It can't be 6, as South would be void. Whether it is 2 or 4, then it is safe to cash your Ace and take the contract off. .

Below the slam level it may not always be right to cash your Ace at this time, but at least you will know that it *is* cashable.

Giving count #2

South opens 2NT (21-22 HCP) and North bids 3NT. West leads the ♠9, which declarer wins. Then declarer leads the ♠10 partner following with the ♣2.

Here is the club suit:

KQJ54

A97 (you)

There are no other likely entries in dummy. Do you win the Ace? If not now, then when?

This is the classical hold-up play. You aim to hold up your Ace until declarer has no more clubs. Declarer holds at least 2 clubs for his 2NT opening, so we hold up. Now declarer leads the ♣8, partner the ♣3, and dummy the ♣J. Do we take our Ace now?

Yes. Partner, by playing the ♣2, then the ♣3, has told us that he holds three clubs. So declarer has only two and we can confidently take our Ace. Had partner held an even number of clubs, he would have petered with the 3 then the 2. This is a vital understanding we must have with partner when there is a long suit in dummy. To take our Ace too soon is to allow declarer to make four club tricks. To take it too late may have presented him with his ninth trick.

So: when there is a long suit in dummy a peter will show an even number of cards.

This applies also when declarer has a presumed long suit. Remember that declarer is not always the stronger hand.

Petering to show an even number of cards is a good practice for defenders. Against a declarer who doesn't bother to watch the cards it's fairly safe to do it routinely. But against a good declarer, it is often more useful to him than to us. So give count only when you think it important for partner.

Giving Count #3

Against a NT contract, partner leads the ♣3. Here is the situation

AQ6

3

965

Declarer plays the ♣Q. What card do you play?

It is clear that you would have played the King if you had it. There is no possible reason to hold off. Here you don't give partner an attitude signal, you give him a count signal. In this case, you play the five to show three. If you had a doubleton, you would play the nine. In showing your count, you are also telling partner declarer's count, which may help partner in establishing his suit.

So: on partner's opening lead, where you can't beat dummy's card but would obviously do so if you could, you give partner count.

Petering in trumps

Another good understanding with partner. Say partner has bid spades and you

are defending 4H. You lead your singleton ♠4, taken by dummy's Ace (partner encouraging), and declarer leads trumps. You hold ♥982. You peter by playing the ♥9 then the ♥2. This says to partner 'I have three trumps and am interested in a ruff'. If partner gets the lead in time he may be able to give you a ruff. If you don't peter he knows you probably don't have three trumps. Even if your lead had been from a doubleton, you would do the same, as a ruff is still possible.

The same would apply if, for example, you had led any singleton against a suit contract. Partner may not be sure whether your lead was a singleton, but your trump peter reinforces the message.

So: **To peter in trumps shows three trumps and a desire to ruff.**

GNOT FINAL

As *Bridge Matters* goes to press the following teams will be representing the Sunshine Coast Zone at Tweed Heads:

Sunshine Coast 1: Rosemary Green, Philippa Barnett, David Harris, Timothy Ridley

Sunshine Coast 2: Stephen Brookes, Ken Dawson, Adrienne Kelly, Rosemary Crowley, Verna Brookes

Sunshine Coast 3: Drew Dunlop, Alan Maltby, Di Maltby, Stephen Hughes, Randall Rusk

Don't forget to check their results online.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Caloundra: George Blacklock, Claire Dowling, Anne & Norm McCabe, Allan & Fay Stanton. Welcome back to Bill Down

Coolumb: Don Goodey, Geraldine Howard, Peter McNamee, Tracey Murray, John Richardson, Ken Smith, Birte Spences, Dick Trollope

Sunshine Coast: Collette Anderson, Judy Carr, Josh Law, Denise Lawson, Anne & Peter Lengenber, Peter Logan, Billee Moore, Pepe Schwegler

We wish you many happy years of bridging on the Sunshine Coast. (*Ignore the article on page 9*).

KAPLAN ON PRE-EMPTS

Edgar Kaplan

The young activists remember only the occasions on which the enemy fall on their faces, owing to the clever pre-empt; if the enemy get to a better spot than the other table, or make a contract down there, *that* is owing to the usual ineptitude of teammates, (...). In my opinion, the strictly *pre-emptive* effect of three-bids breaks out about even over the long run, with lucky and unlucky results about in the balance (perhaps the spade pre-empts show a small profit, the others a small loss). Three-bids can show a decent profit, though, from their *descriptive* effect: if partner knows within narrow limits what the pre-emptor holds, he can take informed action while everyone else is groping in the dark.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

- I can't believe your partner. She's at you from the moment she sits down at the bridge table until 10 minutes after play finishes. Nag, nag, nag! How can you possibly put up with it?

- Oh, I'm used to it. As soon as I enter the bridge club I just slip into my accustomed role as rear end of the pantomime horse.

IT'S ALL IN THE TIMING

- *His bidding is ridiculous. His defence is impossible for his partner to follow and his declarer play totally illogical. Yet he gets good results. He's like a clock that points at 2 and strikes 4, when it's really only a quarter to 12.*

A SQUISHY CONSOLATION

- I know somebody has to be the sucker but why, oh why does it always, always, always have to be me?

- Never mind. Imagine how deep the oceans would be, if there weren't any sponges.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Albert Einstein (on bridge players?)

Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

AND FROM THE STAFF OF BRIDGE MATTERS

