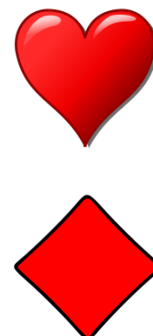


BRIDGE MATTERS

June 2017

Caloundra, Coolum, and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs



SUNSHINE COAST NEWS

John Stacey

We are nearing the end of our year and it has been one of great achievement. The changes to the toilets, kitchen, office, library and book exchange have provided us with much improved facilities in each area with almost no loss of playing area. We have also revamped the exterior of the building with pleasing results. All the improvements are now complete and as the garden grows we will have one of the most attractive bridge premises anywhere.

Bridge is still our reason for being and some important events have been taking place over the past two months. The Club Pairs Championship was held on three Mondays in May and was won by Alison Dawson and Maureen Jakes.

Mid-June was a busy time for bridge on the Coast, with the Noosa Midweek Pairs on the 15th followed by the Sunshine Coast June Congress conducted over the following three days.

We introduced an afternoon Walk-in Pairs on Friday 16th which was a real success, eleven tables playing. The winning pairs were Suzanne Sabados & Ursula Sheldon (N/S) and Alison Dawson and Gabrielle Elich (E/W). This event is now expected to become a permanent fixture on our calendar.

The June Congress Pairs Champions were Toni Bardon and Jim Wallis, whilst the best performed

local pair were Bev Stacey and Michael Phillips who came third. The Plate was won by Marilyn McKee and Terry Beale and the Consolation by Peter and Valerie Robbins.

The Teams Congress, which has been held for the last 37 years, was again a great success with 32 teams competing. This year's event was won by the CARTER team (Malcom Carter, Tony Hutton, Lyn Carter and Martin Doran) with TOUTON second. A blanket of 7.5 VPs covered the next 10 teams. The BROOKES team, of which Ken Dawson was a member, was one of that ten and Ken has contributed an article to this edition of *Bridge Matters* on an interesting hand encountered in play in that event. (See Page 2)

The best performing team from Sunshine Coast was STACEY (Bev Stacey with Michael, Shirley and Lisa Phillips). In the Plate the winners were STANTON (Fay Stanton, Anne Young, Richard Trollope and Barry Midgley). The Consolation was won by SCHAAF (Gerald Schaaf, Gayna Ryan, Margaret and Don Robertson).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Coolum	4.30pm Thursday July 27 th .
Caloundra	11.30 am Friday July 28 th (Please note change from Thurs 27 th)
SCCBC	10.30am Monday Sept 4 th .

Please support your Club by attending its AGM and help to ensure that 'Bridge-on-the-Coast' continues to thrive in 2018.

CALOUNDRA'S BIG MORNING TEA

Anne Manester

This annual get-together could well be Australia's Biggest Morning Tea and the 2017 event, held on Thursday 25 May, was again a great success. In addition to the Thursday regulars, it was lovely to see new players and Sunshine Coast members who arrived bright and early at Caloundra.

A total of \$4099 was raised for the Queensland Cancer Council, as compared to the amount of \$4321 which we were able to donate in 2016.

Thanks are due to Caloundra Bridge Club for donation of the champagne and Devonshire Morning Tea, together with the Table Fees for the day's play.

A big "Thank You" to everyone who donated items for our Bring & Buy Table and especially to Marcia Carpenter for all the plants that she propagated. Something we might not like or want ourselves is another's treasure and the table generated \$190.60 this year.

Once again, thanks to local restaurants and businesses and to resorts in Hervey Bay and The Gold Coast who provided us with some fantastic prizes for our raffle, which was a huge success. Although many of the prizes were won by people outside of the Bridge Club, some of our members will enjoy great food locally. Kay Coad won two nights in Hervey Bay and Don & June Benson will be off to Mermaid Waters.

Sincere thanks to Carol Elphick for running the Bring & Buy Table, to all those members who helped by selling raffle tickets, to The Club, Queensland businesses and members who made donations.

Thanks to generous donations from members and to those who got involved in the auction, which raised \$275; and \$314 was raised from a second raffle, offered to Club members only, of some late donations

And of course; thanks to all those who supported the event on the day. You all played a part in its success.

WHAT A HAND!

From the Sunshine Coast Team Congress

Ken Dawson

BD: 17		♠AJT	Dir: N	
		♥K75	Vul: None	
		♦96		
		♣KQJ87		
♠K75			♠843	
♥QJ862			♥A93	
♦AJ5			♦KT742	
♣64			♣T2	
		♠Q962		
		♥T4		
		♦Q83		
		♣A953		
	♣	♦	♥	♠ NT
N	3	-	-	2 -
S	3	-	-	2 -
E	-	2	2	- -
W	-	2	2	- -
				14
				11 7
				8

On this board, I declared 1NT from the North hand against the fine father and son pair, Richard and Ryan Touton. Richard led ♦4-3-J-6. Ryan, at West, had a bit of a think while I mentally prepared my discards from diamonds. I was happy that the long diamonds would be won with Richard at East protecting my ♥K.

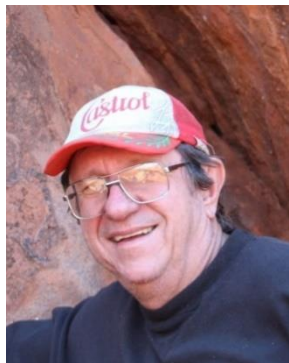
I was happy until Ryan failed to cash his top diamond. Instead, he placed ♥Q on the table.

I ducked twice, hoping that East had started with just ♥Ax. No such luck. After Richard won his ♥A, he didn't panic and returned his 5th diamond, ♦2. When the dust settled, the defence had 10 red winners.

I admired the sparkling defence but didn't take it well. No other declarers in No Trumps suffered such a mauling. I notice that, if EW declared No Trumps, NS can collect the first 9 black winners.

KEN'S FORCING CHESTNUTS

Ken Dawson



A new suit at the 3 level is forcing.

Most pairs play this chestnut as *true*: though there are exceptions. Its logic is based on the fact that three level bids occupy a lot of space. To play them as non-forcing makes for "tortured" auctions when you would like a sequence to be forcing. e.g.

1H – (2S) – 3C

Here, the opposition has made a weak jump overcall, cramping our bidding space. Of course, there are hands where responder is long in clubs and very weak. With those hands, you would like to be able to bid 3C for partner to pass. However, there are a great many other hands where you will be unsure of the final contract and need more information from opener. Hence, most pairs play the 3C above as forcing; (2S) – 3C

This time, you have overcalled their weak 2S bid. You are showing the values for a solid overcall at the two level. Partner will have to decide whether to bid or not.

1H – (P) – 1S – (P)
3D – (P) - ?

Here, opener is showing a strong red hand, probably 5-5. Responder is obliged to find a bid – return to 3H, 3S (six carder), 3NT(must have clubs stopped) or bid 4D.

1H – (P) – 1S – (P)
2H – (P) – 3C – (P)
?

Here, opener is obliged to find another bid. He may feel that he has described his hand already. However, responder hasn't had enough yet!

(1H) – X – (P) – 3C
(P) - ?

It would require a specific agreement to be able to pass this jump response. Most pairs play it as forcing for one round.

(1H) – X – (2H) – 3C
(P) - ?

Most pairs would not play 3C as forcing here. 3C is simply showing a response to partner's double. The 3C is probably about 5 – 9 HCP with five clubs.

A change of suit by an unpassed responder is forcing.

This chestnut is by partnership agreement. It is meant to apply to uncontested auctions which haven't started with 1NT or a pre-empt. (When our auctions start with 1NT or a pre-empt, our responses have different meanings).

1H 1S
1NT 2C
?

Here is a typical auction where opener must keep bidding. Responder's hand is unlimited.

On the contrary :-

1S 1NT
2C 2D

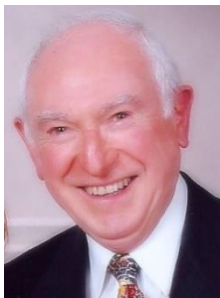
This 2D bid "begs to be dropped". Responder has shown less than 10 HCP, at least 6 diamonds and hopeless holdings in opener's black suits.

1S (2C) 2D

Whether 2D is forcing depends on partnership agreement. Here, the opponents have overcalled at the two level showing a goodish hand. Many pairs play 2D here as a Negative Free Bid showing about 8 – 11 HCP and a 5 card suit, not forcing.

MIKE'S HANDY HINTS

Mike Phillips



Sunshine Coast Bridge Club is unusual for the wide variety of bidding systems used by the members.

In any given session one is likely to encounter all of Standard American, Two over One, Acoll and Precision, in each case with or without multi twos (say nothing of the Phillips family's own quirky system).

This variety makes for very interesting bridge sessions but it means also that your defensive mechanisms must be able to cope; or you might even think of broadening your own game by adopting some or all of these possibilities.

Here are some examples .

TRANSFER RESPONSES

The Phillipses play these and you are also likely to encounter them at any major congress.

After an opening bid of 1♣, any one level response is a transfer bid. Thus:

- 1♣ - (P) - 1♦ shows 4+ hearts
- 1♣ - (P) - 1♥ shows 4+ spades
- 1♣ - (P) - 1♠ shows no 4+ major
- 1♣ - (P) - 1NT shows 5+/4+ in the minors

Recommended defences for the player sitting in the fourth seat are:

- Double means that Responder pinched your bid.
- Bidding the next suit up - Responder's real suit - is equivalent to a takeout double of that suit.
- Above that, bid naturally.

For example, the auction begins:

1♣ - (P) - 1♦ (showing hearts)

In fourth seat if you hold:

- ♠xx ♥Kxx ♦AQJxxx ♣Qx- Double

- ♠KJxx ♥xx ♦AJxx ♣QJx- Bid 1♥ (= takeout double of hearts)
- ♠KQJxx ♥xx ♦KJxx ♣Ax- Bid 1♠

Some "experts" you may meet in congresses play a system of transfer opening bids, against which this defence is equally appropriate.

(If you want to know more about these transfer responses, see *Bridge into the 21st Century* at <http://www.abf.com.au/newsletter/Mar2013.pdf> (p20) or email me at mike@thephillips.com.au.)

TWERB (also known as TOXIC)

Many pairs play a version of Capaletti (also known as Hamilton) over opponents' strong 1NT opening, but have no particular defence over a strong 1♣ or 2♣.

Twerb is a simple universal gadget that can be used effectively against all three of these strong opening bids, by the defender in the second seat. The acronym stands for Two-Way Exclusion Relay Bid. The purpose of Twerb is more to disrupt the opponents' auction than to fight for the contract.

Double shows a strong balanced hand, most often used against 1NT. Any overcall in a suit at the lowest level shows *either* 6+ cards in the next suit up, *or* at least 5/5 in the two higher suits above that. (The suit you actually bid is *excluded* from your possible holdings.) A 2NT overcall shows two non-touching suits: either hearts and clubs, or spades and diamonds.

If Responder passes, your partner must bid the next suit up the line - pass or correct. If Responder bids or doubles, your partner can pass, or double (or redouble) for more information. Obviously, with the opening bid known to be extra strong, the overcaller will be relying more on the power of distribution than on high card points.

For example, RHO opens 1NT (15-17), and you hold:

♠KQTxxx ♥Kxx ♦AJx ♣x, bid 2♥, pass
partner's mandatory 2♠ reply

♠x ♥Kx ♦AQJxx ♣KJxxx, bid 2♥, rebid 3♣ if
you get the chance

♠x ♥KQJxx ♦AQJxx ♣xx, bid 2♠, rebid 3♦

RCO TWOS (RCO stands for Rank, Colour, Odd)

'RCO Twos' is a variant of Multi-Twos, referring to an opening bid showing a weak 2-suited hand.

It used to be popular and can still be encountered at congresses.

2♦ is a normal multi opening, to which you will already have a defence. 2♥ shows both majors or both minors. 2♠ shows both reds or both blacks. 2NT shows either hearts and clubs, or spades and diamonds.

Ron Klinger gave me this effective defence to RCO opening bids when, in second seat, you have a hand strong enough to overcall, with two suits in the same pattern as that of the opener's hand. If one of your suits is clubs, bid 2NT (or double their 2NT opening).

If neither of your suits is clubs, bid 3♣! In either case your partner will now know exactly which suits you have.

Some examples will make this clearer.

RHO opens 2♥. If you hold:

- ♠x ♥Kx ♦AQJxx ♣KJxxx- Bid 2NT
- ♠KQTxx ♥AKxxx ♦Jx ♣x- Bid 3♣

RHO opens 2♠. If you hold:

- (c) ♠x ♥KQJxx ♦AQJxx ♣xx- Bid 3♣
- (d) ♠AQJxx ♥Kx ♦x ♣KJxxx- Bid 2NT

RHO opens 2NT If you hold:

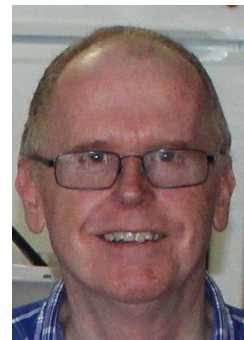
- (e) ♠AQJxx ♥Kx ♦KJxxx ♣x- Bid 3♣
- (f) ♠x ♥KQJxx ♦xx ♣AQJxx- Double.

If your two suits do not fit the pattern disclosed by the opening bid you will know that one of your suits matches one of the opening bidder's. You should then sit tight, find out which suits your RHO holds, and consider defending instead.

With a single-suited hand bid naturally. With 16+ HCP you can double their 2♥ or 2♠ opening, but if the opening bid is 2NT you will have to wait and double at your second turn.

THE BUSCH BASCH

Peter Busch



DEFENDING AGAINST PRECISION

You may not play Precision but you will undoubtedly come across opponents who do play it, and it's handy to know the basics and to also have some means of competing against it.

The two big things that are different in Precision are the 1C and 1D opening bids.

A 1C opening simply promises 16+ HCPs, and says nothing about shape. With less than 8 HCP the partner will respond 1D but with more, they will make a different bid, sometimes natural and sometimes artificial. Once responder has bid anything apart from 1D, they are in a game force auction.

Many players play a defence to 1C that is similar to a defence against 1NT i.e. showing a single suited hand or a 2-suited hand. One method is known as Mathe where 1NT overcall promises both minors, X promises both majors and any other bid is natural and shows a 6+ card suit.

An alternative is to use CRO overcalls, where the three hand types that CRO can describe (i.e. two suits of the same Colour, same Rank or Other) are shown by X (same colour), 1D (same rank) and 1NT (other).

Remember though that Precision players will have the ability to double your interfering bids for penalties so make sure you have a hand that can stand the heat, especially when vulnerable.

The Precision 1D opening is a little different. It simply shows 11-15 HCP and in almost all cases won't have a 5 card major and in many cases won't have a 5 card club suit either.

You could treat 1D Precision opening by the opponents as natural, as in many cases it will be, or you could treat it as a minimum opening showing no suits and just bid naturally, including overcalling diamonds to show that suit. A takeout double should show support for all suits unless you have a different agreement with your partner. One important thing to remember is that because all 16+ HCP hands are opened with 1C, you know that when a Precision player makes any opening bid other

than 1C, they have a maximum of 15 HCP (except for the strong balanced option under multi-2's). In many cases the opener will become the declarer, and given that you can see two hands (yours and dummy's) and you know that declarer won't have more than 15 HCP, you can get a pretty good idea how many HCPs your partner has. This is useful in planning your defence.

A PAUCITY OF POINTS

IS THIS THE WORST BRIDGE HAND YOU'VE EVER SEEN?



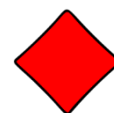
Picked up by Mike Phillips in April at Sunshine Coast. That ten rather tends to spoil the picture, doesn't it!



Please contact
the Bridge
Matters Editor:



Peter Bishop
pjbishop@aapt.net.au
5437 6009
with:



Contributions: or

Queries you might have on tricky aspects of our game (rules, systems, bidding, play, defence, or etiquette), which will be referred to our panel of experts.

NEW MEMBERS

Coolum

Kiyomi AVUNDUK

Rhonda KINGSTON

Mary SAUVARY

Elizabeth SCHRODER

Cherie GRAHAM

Irene PAWLYSZYN

Lynne SCHOUTON

Christine TRIMBLETT



Sunshine Coast

Colette ALBERT

Christine BIRCH

Brett MIDDELBERG

Lesley & Kim ROUSE

Graham BATES

Mary-Anne HEAP

Jeff WHITE

TWO DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEMS

Even when able to view all four hands, it might be difficult to find winning lines to these two.

Double Dummy Problem #1- From *Bridge Base Online*, via *Ken Dawson*

The goal is to make 7S while looking at all 4 hands, assuming best defence.

Free For All
Composed by Fred Gitelman In 1997

N North

W West

E East

S South

7♠ South NS 0 EW 0

- (1) Ruff HA with SA, pitching CA from hand. (2) Ruff Cx with SK. (3) Cash SQJ while pitching D98.
- (4) Cross to DA. (5) Lead CQ. If covered ruff small. Cross to DK and run the clubs until East ruffs and overruffs. Draw the remaining trump and diamonds are high.

Double Dummy Problem #2- From 2009

Coffs Harbour Congress, via Mike Phillips

♠ 3	♠ AT64	♠ KJ7
♥ 8	♥ K74	♥ AQT653
♦ AQT53	♦ K82	♦ J7
♣ AKJT86	♣ Q94	♣ 75
	W N E	
	S	
	♠ Q9852	
	♥ J92	
	♦ 964	
	♣ 32	

You are West, declarer in 5 clubs, with no opposition bidding. North leads the ♠A, South playing an encouraging card. What is your plan to make eleven?

There seem to be three losers. ♠A and ♣Q are inescapable, so what can be done about the ♦K? Two diamond pitches are available on a spade and a heart, but that's not enough. The heart suit can be established with the finesse and a ruff, but there is no immediate entry to dummy to enjoy it.

The answer is what is called a stepping stone play. At trick 2 play ♠J from dummy, covered by the queen and ruffed in hand. Next play ♥8, finessing the queen, then ♥A, pitching a diamond in hand, and ruff a heart back to hand, clearing the suit. Now cash ♣A and ♣K, and throw North in with ♣Q. North, having only spades and diamonds left, is helpless and must put you in dummy via the ♠K or the ♦J. Your losing diamonds disappear on the long hearts and the ♠K. That juicy looking diamond suit was a red herring.

QUESTION CORNER

Three questions, all related to bidding, were received in response to the initiation of this facility in the March issue of *Bridge Matters*. They must have been good questions as they elicited spirited responses from our panel of experts.

Collations of those responses are set out below.

A PARTIAL BID OUT OF TURN

Question- *Dealer's partner jumped the gun, writing the figure '1' on the bidding slip. He immediately recognised his mistake, verbally acknowledging that Dealer should have opened the bidding.*

My Partner called the Director to claim a 'Bid-out-of-turn'.

Director instructed that the figure '1' should be disregarded, as it did not constitute a bid, and that Dealer should open the bidding which should then proceed as normal.

On later discussion, partner and I felt that the writing of the figure '1' had informed Dealer that his partner had an opening hand and should have been treated as an improper bid.

Was the Director's ruling correct?

Expert Assessment-

An incomplete bid is not a bid unless it was only heading in one direction. For instance; a figure '1' followed by the left and right downstrokes of an H is clearly 1H. In all other cases, it is not a bid so there is no infraction.

However, this dealer was in receipt of the unauthorised information (UI) that partner had an opening hand. The Director's ruling was thus incomplete and the Director should have stayed to observe the beginning of the auction.

The general principle is that dealer would be precluded from making a bid suggested by the UI

unless it is a clear cut action (defined in the laws as one that 75% or more similar people might make).

If the player with UI has a marginal opening hand that some would and some wouldn't open, the law says that he must not decide to open on the basis of his "unauthorised" knowledge of the strength of partner's hand. But if he had a stand-out opening hand that anyone would have opened then of course he can bid it with risk.

Likely outcomes are:

- If the auction begins with two passes, Dealer's partner can bid anything except that, in the unlikely event that he chooses to pass, the UI rule still applies.
- If Dealer opens the bidding on a suitable hand and partner's response is appropriate for an opening hand; no problem.
- If Dealer passes, RHO opens and D's partner bids as if holding an opening hand, e.g. takeout double, no problem, but if he passes the UI rule still applies.
- The incomplete bid is authorised information to the non-offending side. As always, the non-offending side have the right to recall the Director if they believe they have been damaged by the incomplete bid.

BIDDING WEAK HANDS

Question- *The ABF system card requires advice on the meaning of a 2H or 2S opening bid but does not ask for explanation of a 3 or 4 level Major opening bid. However, the usual understanding is that, if the 2 level bid means 6-10 HCP and 6 of the suit, then a 3 or 4 level bid means 6-10 HCP and 7 or 8 of the suit respectively.*

I recently had 7 H but a very weak hand, with only 6 HCP and 1 honour. I didn't feel brave enough to open more than 2H, which became the contract and made.

On conclusion, an opponent asked how many Hts I'd had and, on being told 7, he protested that I'd given a misleading bid.

Is there any rule for exactness in such a pre-emptive bid?

Expert Assessment-

If you open at the 2 level with a weak 7 card suit as a matter of course then it should be on your system card but it is permissible to do this occasionally if partner expects only a 6 card suit with a 2 level opening. The suggested treatment of 6-, 7-, 8-card holdings is not an immutable rule but is simply the way most people play and some partnerships might 3 of a minor with 6 cards or 4 of a major with 7.

The basic principle is: you can bid pretty much what you like as long as your partner is as much in the dark as your opponents are. You are not bound to stick to the system card provided that the deviation is not based on an undisclosed partnership understanding. If you have done this more than once before with this partner then either the system card should specify "6+" or your bid should have been alerted, but opening 2H on your hand is not in itself an infringement

Also, even if it was decided that your system allowed this but it wasn't disclosed to the opponents there is no automatic penalty. Your opponents could claim damage if they wished but it's hard to see how that can apply in this instance- That's bridge.

You could, of course, have said "Sorry, I had a heart mixed in with my diamonds," or "Sorry, I meant to write 3, not 2," which turns the whole thing into a non-event!

OPENING WITH AN ACE-ASK

Question- *Two of my recent partners have chosen to show strong hands by opening the bidding with 4C, intended as an Ace Ask.*

On neither occasion was my hand very good so I took the soft option of assuming that they were showing weak hand with 8 Clubs.

What is the opinion of the Expert Panel on opening with an Ace Ask, given that it should be agreed and shown in the System Card if it is to be a normal part of play.

Expert Assessment-

The gravest sin in bridge is probably to make up the rules as you go along. In other words: don't put your partner in the position of trying to work out what you mean by a bid which hasn't been agreed in advance, an ambiguous bid in particular.

However, both a pre-empt and showing partner a very strong or distributional hand are potentially valuable openings and it is worthwhile for a serious partnership to discuss the options and decide how to handle the situation.

Very occasionally you will pick up a hand that is so distributional that the only information you need from partner is the number of aces, and possibly kings, in their hand. There is an efficient method for eliciting that information called the Kabel Convention. An article on that method can be read on the next two pages.

Those who don't feel like mastering another convention for a rare occurrence can resort to the proven methods:

- Open 4C If you have 6-10 HCP and 8 Clubs; or
- If you pass the Rule of Twenty, open strong to find out what partner has to offer and then decide if you should ask for Aces.

KABEL- BETTER THAN GAMBLING

Mike Phillips

♠A4 ♥AKQT87432 ♦-- ♣53

These freak hands come along once in a blue moon, so you and your partner should have a system that's easy to remember if you are to make the best of them. I was dealt the above hand in a game in Sydney some years ago. I sat South,. East dealt and passed.

Many players have a gambling 3NT opening bid in their system which, as the song goes, 'ardly ever 'appens. I prefer Dr Kabel's convention which is ideal for these rare hands where immediately locating not how many, but specifically which, aces and kings your partner holds is the key to whether a slam is on. The opportunity for a Kabel opening comes up only occasionally but when it does it is so satisfying! This is an excellent example of Kabel in action. It's a hand where you either want to be in a slam or in 4♥, so you can't afford, say, to open 2♣ and eventually use a Blackwood bid.

On the hand above, after the dealer passed I opened 3NT. This is the Kabel asking bid. West passed and North was required to show which one, two or even three aces she held, if any. As you can see, the ♦A is not much use. In fact she replied 4♣, which shows either no aces or the ace of clubs alone. At this stage, if the ♣A is of no value you can sign off somewhere, or else continue with the system, bidding 4♦ to ask about the ♣A. As I was obviously very interested I planned to bid on but pesky East came in with a 4♦ bid. No worries, I simply doubled, meaning he pinched my bid, please carry on. To deny the ♣A North would make the next bid up, 4♥, but here she said 4♠: "yes, I have the ♣A." Now we're cooking with gas! My next call was 4NT, which asked about any kings that partner held. Incredibly, she responded 6♠ which showed the kings of spades and clubs! I could confidently bid

the cold grand slam in hearts. Here is the amazing full deal.

	♠KQT53	
	♥J	
	♦8	
	♣AKQT9	
♠876		♠J92
♥96		♥
♦		♦
KT9763		AQJ542
♣2		♣8764
	♠A4	
	♥AKQT87432	
	♦--	
	♣53	

This convention is comprehensive and logical.

The full range of responses is shown on the next page.

(Confession: Our auction started as above but I inexplicably allowed myself to be spooked by East's 4♦ interference and we actually finished in 6♥. Alas!).

THE KABEL CONVENTION

An opening bid of 3NT asks partner to show his specific ace holdings, thus:

<u>Response to 3NT</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
4 clubs	No ace, or ace of clubs only. <i>Then, if you need to know, 4♦ asks for ♣A, 4♥ response = No, 4♠ = Yes</i>
4 diamonds	Ace of diamonds only
4 hearts	Ace of hearts only
4 spades	Ace of spades only
4NT	2 aces in non-touching suits
5 clubs	2 aces – clubs & diamonds
5 diamonds	2 aces - diamonds & hearts
5 hearts	2 aces – hearts & spades
5 spades	2 aces – spades & clubs
5NT	Any 3 aces

After a 4-level response, opener can ask for specific kings by re-bidding 4NT.

<u>Response to 4NT</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
5 clubs	No king, or king of clubs only. <i>Then, if you need to know, 5♦ asks for ♣K, 5♥ response = No, 5♠ = Yes</i>
5 diamonds	King of diamonds only
5 hearts	King of hearts only
5 spades	King of spades only
5NT	2 kings in non-touching suits
6 clubs	2 kings – clubs & diamonds
6 diamonds	2 kings – diamonds & hearts
6 hearts	2 kings – hearts & spades
6 spades	2 kings – spades & clubs
6NT	Any 3 kings

If responder's first reply is 4NT or higher, opener can rebid 5NT to ask for kings:

<u>Response to 5NT</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
6 clubs	No king, or king of clubs only. <i>Then, if you need to know, 6♦ asks for ♣K, 6♥ response = No, 6♠ = Yes</i>
6 diamonds	King of diamonds only
6 hearts	King of hearts only
6 spades	King of spades only
6NT	Any 2 kings

As always with asking bids: Don't ask the question if the wrong answer could put you higher than you want to be.

BRIDGE FOR THE UNINITIATED

Nana Ollerenshaw

Four poker faces form a circle at the card table. So poker, they do not move or smile. In silence they bid clockwise on paper and once the contract is declared, four pairs of hands do their ritualistic dance. But when the round is finished:

"You should have taken the finesse and run your diamonds – they were all good!!"

"Why raise me with only five points?"

"Your lead cost you at least two tricks!"

Contract Bridge lovers are *serious players*. For many their performance is their identity. They are proud of their skills. A careless or stupid partner drags them down.

Because of the game's possibilities and complexities, they become willingly possessed.

Enjoyable Bridge can be played at different levels if partners are matched. The game expands or contracts depending on the experience and ability of the players.

Derived from whist, rules and conventions still evolve. Directors resolve disputes. Small computers deliver results and compare all the teams.

Bridge is like Life. Players bid for contracts (goals) based on their resources (cards). Through a language of signals partners add their points together and decide if they have enough to make their bid. It's risky. It doesn't always work. Or it makes more than expected. They need to be optimistic. The winners are the ones who invest. Success depends on their opposition's ability, luck and the positioning of cards. As well as their frame of mind that day. heating can happen with a wink, a cough or a glance. Pedantic protocol attempts to prevent this.

For beginners Bridge is confusing. A bid of four clubs has nothing to do with clubs. Two hearts can really mean spades. A 'double' has three different meanings.

Bridge is hierarchial . In a suit contract of four spades an Ace takes a King takes a Queen takes a Jack, takes a ten. In a no Trump contract a two can knock dead the Ace, King, Queen, Jack of another suit. Major and minor suits have different values. Bridge is strewn with ladders of priority.

The game is exciting and satisfying entertainment for all ages but a saving grace for older people. And the sedentary. It can highlight precociousness in the young.

Two pairs of women combine bridge and wine at a Sunshine Coast Bridge Club Christmas party. Soon gales of laughter erupt from their table. Bidding finds new dimensions. Before long no one gives two hoots for making the contract. They are helpless with merriment.

They tell jokes they would not normally tell. Disapproval ripples through nearby tables but their gaiety is cheering .

A few tired players escape finally from too much concentration. They think of the King in his counting house counting out his money, the Queen in the parlour eating bread and honey. Or Lewis Carroll's 'Wonderland' when, frustrated by the Queen of Hearts,' Alice scatters fifty two cards into the air and says firmly in her no nonsense way: "You're nothing but a pack of cards!".