

TRUMPED BY THE CURSE OF SCOTLAND!

You could well be excused from thinking that might be Anne McLeod or Jan Brown, but in fact, the Curse of Scotland is the nine of diamonds! No one is quite sure how this came to be so, but Wikipedia offers seven possibilities:

1. It was the playing card used by Sir John Dalrymple, the Earl of Stair, to cryptically authorise the Glencoe Massacre. Certainly there is a resemblance between the nine of diamonds and his coat of arms.
2. The Duke of Cumberland is supposed to have scribbled the order for "no quarter" to be given after the Battle of Culloden on a nine of diamonds playing card.
3. It has also been suggested that it is a misreading of the "Corse of Scotland" i.e. the "Cross of Scotland" or St Andrew's Saltire. There is a resemblance between the pattern of the nine of diamonds and the saltire.
4. Nine diamonds were at one time stolen from the crown of Scotland and a tax was levied on the Scottish people to pay for them - the tax got the nickname "The Curse of Scotland".
5. The game of Comete being introduced into the court at Holyrood, the nine of diamonds, being the winning card, got this name in consequence of the number of courtiers ruined by it.
6. In the game of Pope Joan, the nine of diamonds is the Pope - a personage whom the Scottish Presbyterians considered as a curse.
7. Diamonds imply royalty and every ninth king of Scotland was a curse to his country.

If you can come up with something better, send it along and we'll publish it in the next edition.

AND THAT'S HOW SHE GOT TO BE WHERE SHE IS TODAY!

Anne McLeod tells the story of how, when she and her brother were small children in Scotland, they would sit by the fire in the evening and play bridge with their parents.

Her father, an avid bridge player of the Culbertson school, was quite critical of both his children, but Anne soon came to be the favoured partner. This was because she always manipulated it so that her father was sitting with his back to the window, and, being able to see his hand clearly reflected in the glass from the glow of the firelight, always knew exactly what card to return. Well played Anne!



BRIDGE MATTERS



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

AROUND THE CLUBS



CALOUNDRA: This year to date, we have welcomed the following new members: Tatiana Andreeva, Cherie Butler, Carol Curran Monty Dale, Heather Findlayson, Carol Gray, Patricia Hinchcliff, Barbara and Warren Holmes, Jan Jackson, Steve Jesienowski, Judith Leathley, Bill and Vicki Matchett, Adrienne Millar, Mary Needham, Ann and Robert Pearce, Pat Robinson, Alan Sinclair, Keith Stunden, Rozanne Thomas, Francis Townsend, Gillian Tuckey, Peg Waldron, Gail and Harry Walsh and Richard Walsh. We are delighted to welcome Drew Dunlop back into the fold.



In April we celebrated the 90th birthday of Cassy Teague. Looking forward to the 100th, Cassy.

To date we have held 2 club competitions. Our restricted pairs was won by Randall Rusk and Diane Sargent, and our Tuesday night competition by Lex Bourke and Cherie Butler.

May 21 - 22 was our successful Teams Congress ably directed as always by Peter Busch. Congratulations to the winners: Stephen and Verna Brookes, Ken Dawson and Rosemary Crowley.

COOLUM: New members to our club this year are Kemal and Kiyomi Avunduk, Christina Bringau Janelle Kipping Jacqui Martyn, Ann Mellings, Desley Nixon and Allen and Elaine Patterson. Welcome.

We have entered the 21st century with the purchase of a set of Bridgemates.

Congratulations to the winners of our March Teams Congress: Camille Fludder, Judith Slade, Di and Alan Maltby.



*Now Bridge is a wonderful game,
For some it brings fortune and fame.
Whatever its measure,
It brings me much pleasure,
And Bridge players all feel the same.*



*At Coolum I think you'd agree,
For morning and afternoon tea,
We serve up great food
To brighten your mood
So why don't you join us and*



SUNSHINE COAST: This year to date we have welcomed the following new members: Lesley Beasley, Wendy Bonus, Jean Chapman, Jan Cutler, Jan Dale, Judy Davis, Marilen Gibson, Prue Haydon, Jan Jones, Glenyce Lindsay, Noeline Lloyd, Cate MacMillan, Peggy Quebec-Palmer, Wendy Raleigh, Valerie Reid, Timothy Ridley, Fay Nitschinsk, Deidre and John Richardson, Rob Rowan, Kim Schlecht, Moira Smith, Ross Stewart, Gerry Thomas, Rozanne Thomas, Jillan Tuckey and Barbara Walsh. We hope you enjoy our club!



In March we celebrated the 90th birthday of Betty Power. Years of bridging to come! Mary Murray, another of our nonagenarians, has been missing from her usual seat for far too long, recovering from a hip replacement, but we expect to see her back fairly soon. Mary Haddon continues to whizz merrily around the golf course.

Congratulations to Stephen Brookes and Adrian Mayers, winners of our Club Championship Pairs, held in May.

FROM THE EDITOR

Bridge Matters first appeared in December 2009 as the newsletter of the Caloundra Contract Bridge Club. Caloundra has agreed to share the newsletter with their northern neighbours and we thank them. The title was the result of a competition, won by Wilma Hiddins.

The success of the newsletter, which appears quarterly, has been due to the high quality of contributions from members, and we expect that, with an extended readership, this can only continue to improve. We welcome articles on all sorts of bridge related topics. We can offer an Agony Aunt service for those who are suffering. We have a team of experts who love to give advice. We appreciate Letters to the Editor on any club related issues. Hand any articles, anecdotes, queries, problems etc to a committee member from your club or, better still, email to wendy_ob@hotmail.com.

The continued improvement in the overall appearance of the newsletter has been due to generous contributions of time and patience from Therese Matthews, Daniel O'Brien and the Messers Fixit, Nev O'Brien and Barry Vassella. Thank you.

Editorial Policy: While *Bridge Matters* is proud to publish a variety of opinions on all kinds of bridge topics, it does not officially endorse any particular one.

INTERESTING HANDS

Rosemary Crowley

These 2 hands, from the GNOT Final last November, were played against the same pair from the Sydney 2 team (seeded 2nd). The first resulted in a score of +1300 for us - a great result in a 14 board match, given the strength of the field.

i) ♠ 106532
♥ AQ872
♦ 1042
♣ ---

♠ J9874 ♠ AK
♥ 109643 ♥ KJ5
♦ --- ♦ AQ9863
♣ 1096 ♣ K4
♠ Q
♥ ---
♦ KJ75
♣ AQJ87532

ii) ♠ J97652
♥ J43
♦ A102
♣ K

♠ KQ84 ♠ A3
♥ A962 ♥ KQ10
♦ 4 ♦ KQJ5
♣ Q1076 ♣ AJ54
♠ 10
♥ 875
♦ 98763
♣ 9832

At our table I was sitting West playing Precision.

N	E	S	W
/	(1C) ¹	(1NT) ²	(2S) ³
/	3NT ⁴	5C ⁵	/
5D	X	All pass	

- 16 pts any shape
- Minors
- 0-7 pts 5 spades
- To play
- Choose partner

5DxN 7 tricks +800

At the other table, our partners, NS:

N	E	S	W
(2H) ¹	3NT	X ²	4H ³
X ⁴	4S	/	/
X	All pass		

- Multi 5-5 hearts and another- less than opening points
- Penalty
- Transfer
- Penalty
- Penalty

4SxE 8 tricks +500

Our table - same match - same opponents

N	E	S	W
/	(1C) ¹	(1NT) ²	(/) ³
2D ⁴	X ⁵	/	3D ⁶
/	(3NT)	All pass	

- Precision 16+ pts any shape
- Minors (BO POINTS11)
- 8 pts any shape
- Preferred minor
- BID!!
- Cue. Partner do you have a ♦ stop?
- Yes

Both tables 3NT E, making 12 tricks

I thought it was extraordinary that the same South would overcall 1NT for the minors with these two hands.

What would you do with such a partner?



The final blow to his career was the arrival on the bridge scene of the young Charles Goren whose HCP system of hand evaluation was far superior to Culbertson's: a combination of honour tricks, plus values and cumbersome rules for assessing the strength and weakness of low cards. After issuing an initial challenge, avidly accepted by Goren, Ely reconsidered his position and withdrew. He fought for a while but in 1954 finally conceded the Goren system was superior.

The Emperor of Bridge died in December 1955, Jo three months later. The crazy days were past and it all got much more disciplined.

BRIDGE FOR THE IMPROVER **Ron Klinger**

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

North
763

West
K8752

When West leads the 5, East plays the jack and South wins with the queen. What can West tell from that?

Solution

A fundamental principle in defence is when third hand plays high, it denies the next lower card. East's third-hand-high jack denies the ten and so South began with A-Q-10 and still has A-10 left. The full position might be like this:

North
763

West
K8752

East
J4

South
AQ10

When on lead again, West must not touch this suit, otherwise South scores three tricks. West should try to put East on lead so that East can play the suit through declarer's remaining tenace (a combination of two honours with one missing between them as in the above A-10 missing the king).

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW!

Bridge is played at a very social level by a small group at Diddillibah most Tuesdays from 9.30 to 12.30. No partner is required.

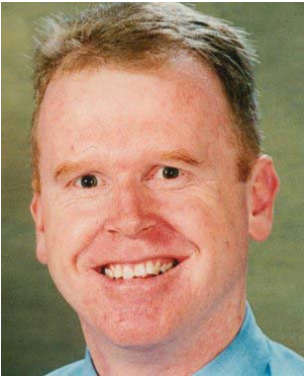
Please call Kim on 040 405 3551 for more information

That's pronounced Did-DILL-ibah.
Not what you thought!

Australian Masterpoint Scheme - How does it work?

In most countries around the world, masterpoints are used as a measure of a bridge player's achievement. In each country the scheme is different.

In Australia, we have 3 grades of masterpoints: Green, Red and Gold. Each bridge event, from national and international congresses right down to normal club sessions, awards masterpoints on a scale based on a number of factors: the number of players in the field, the grade of the event (as determined in advance by the ABF), any restrictions 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 award points on a different basis, for example, events with qualifying sessions. 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 awarded 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.

Every session or event has a masterpoint colour. Club sessions are green, except for specially designated red point sessions. (Each club is allocated a certain number of red point sessions per year.) Congresses are usually red, and some large events, and the GNOT and GNP zone-based events, are gold point events.

As players earn masterpoints, they graduate through the "Master" ranks. After a humbling start as "Nill 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 masterpoint mark, it was decided to introduce two additional ranks - Emerald and Diamond.)

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

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

The Masterpoints Scheme is administered at the club level by a Club Masterpoint Secretary, (Nev O'Brien, Joan McPheat and Di Jones, for CCBC, SCCBC and Coolum respectively), and each state has a State Masterpoint Secretary - Joan McPheat is Queensland's, and has been in that role for many years.

Nationally, administration is handled by the Masterpoint Centre, presently located in Sydney, and which is a division of the Australian Bridge Federation. Throughout each month, the Centre receives masterpoint files from club and congress directors (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 Masterpoint Centre website, where players can look up details of awards issued. 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? You will find all you are looking for, including an on-line and downloadable Masterpoint Manual on the Masterpoint Centre website: www.masterpoints.org.au.

The masterpoint scale can be found on the back of your annual registration card. (Ed)

HOW TO GO ABOUT IT

Adrian Mayers

This hand was played in the club recently. The bidding is not important but E/W reached 3NT by West.

♠ 764	♠ 1082	♠ KJ53
♥ J54	♥ 10932	♥
AKQ6	♦ 109	
♦ AJ3	♣ A876	
♣ J943		♦ K87
		♣ K10
	♠ A Q9	
	♥ 87	
	♦ Q6542	

The opening lead was ♥ 10, (that was me, 😞), didn't find the ♠ lead).

Time for declarer to take stock. You have 6 tricks off the top (4 in ♥ and 2 in ♦), so the first conclusion is that you do need a ♦ finesse.

Your best source for 2 more tricks are the clubs, as only the A and the Q are missing. Win the first trick in dummy, giving the impression you don't have the J, and play a ♦ to the ♦ J. Phew, that worked!

Now play a ♣ to the K. North should duck but it doesn't help. The K wins and a ♣ back should be

ducked by south. North wins with the A but even a ♠ return now is too late.

Note, the only way to beat 3NT played by West is to lead a ♠ on the opening lead. Played by East, it is unbeatable.

Back home, the previously divided bridge establishment united against him, coming up with the *Official Bridge System* to rival his own, and Culbertson immediately issued a challenge. Thus came about *The Bridge Battle of the Century*, 1931. 150 rubbers overall, starting December 8th with a short break over Christmas. The *Official System* team was led by Sidney Lenz, partnered first by Oswald Jacoby, then, after Ozzie spat his dummy and walked out, Winfield Liggett Jr. Ely played mainly with Jo, but when she took some time off to do Christmas shopping, with other partners including Theodore Lightner. Press coverage was world wide, public interest feverish, reporters, newsreel cameras, radio microphones set up. Western Union assigned 8 operators working 24 hours a day to send reports around the world.

Ely played the press for all it was worth. One evening, the first hand barely dealt, the Culbertson children, aged 4 and 2 arrived, all cute in blue nightgowns, to kiss their parents goodnight. The press went wild and proceedings were stopped while the children were interviewed. Jacoby observed that they were the first to utter any sense during the entire match.

Once again the Culbertsons won easily and that was the end of the *Official System*. Culbertson, however, was broke again, spending as much money as he took in. He chased the cash wherever he could, writing a pamphlet that was given out with each packet of Chesterfields. Wrigley's printed some of his system on their wrappers. Fortunes started to look up again and by 1932 he had 10,000 teachers, articles syndicated in over 150 newspapers world-wide, and the Blue Book, selling wildly, translated into 12 languages. Ely, at last, was a millionaire,

and Jo was independently wealthy as well.

A second British challenge was issued by Col Beasley in 1933 accompanied by all the usual hype. Again the Culbertsons won comfortably.

Ely became known as *The Emperor of Bridge*, but continued to face challenges from home and abroad, The Red Book came out in 1934. With the Gold Book, 1937, his career peaked.

By this time, his marriage was wearing thin and they finally divorced in November 1938. After this he lost his zest for the game. His companies ran themselves and money was no problem.



Ely, Lady Doris Rhodes, Col G G J Walsh (umpire) Jo, Col H M Beasley, 1933.

PERSONALITY PROFILES

ELY CULBERTSON 1891 - 1955

Born in Romania to an American father and a Russian mother, educated in Russia, Paris and Switzerland, Ely spoke 6 languages fluently, with a reading knowledge of seven others. In 1921 he arrived in the USA determined to make his fortune at auction bridge and poker. In 1923 he married Josephine Dillon, a leading female bridge player and teacher. They had two children.

After Contract Bridge was introduced to the country by Howard Vanderbilt during a Christmas Caribbean cruise in 1925, Culbertson was quick to see the potential of the new game and set about, with true entrepreneurial pizzazz to corner the market, with articles, lectures and radio broadcasts on the subject. In 1929 he launched his magazine *The Bridge World*, which became an immediate success, with himself as President, Board of Directors, Editor and all contributors.



Monopoly of the bridge market was not handed to him on a plate. He took great financial gambles leaving his wife frequently at her wits' end. As an outsider he had to contest with an entrenched bridge establishment, but by the end of 1930, the Culbertson system was being taught and played in NY, Miami and Hollywood, and he had graduated 3000 teachers, proud possessors of the Culbertson Teacher Diploma (for which, of course, they had paid).

In 1930 he accepted a challenge thrown out by Lt-Col Walter Buller of the British bridge establishment, who considered American methods "unethical and worthless". His much heralded but to date unwritten Blue Book was completed in the taxi as he and Jo were heading for the dock, and he yelled the dedication from the ship's rail: *To my wife, my favourite partner.*

In England the event was given full media coverage, Ely delighting the British press with his brazen cockiness:

Q: Who, in your opinion, is the greatest living player?

A: Me.

Q: Are there any other great players?

A: Yeah! The rest of my team

The Culbertson team won hands down. He returned famous, He continued to sell himself in every possible manner and by 1931 he had 4000 teachers and over a million pupils.



THE CHAMPS Well we all know they won the Gold Coast Novice Teams 2011, and yes, it was back in March, but there's still plenty of time to bask in the reflected glory.

COMING EVENTS

- June 8, 15, 22** Caloundra Club Pairs Championship*
- June 18-19** Sunshine Coast Butler Pairs and Teams
- June 26** GNOT Stage 2 Caboolture
- July 14,21,28** Sunshine Coast Club Teams Championship*
- July 15,22,29** Caloundra GNP
- August 7** Sunshine Coast Teams
- August 8,15,22** Caloundra President's Trophy*
- August 9,16,23** Sunshine Coast GNP
- September 6** Coolum Invitation Day
- September 2,9,16** Caloundra Club Teams Championship*
- September 11** Caloundra Butler Pairs
- September 25** Sunshine Coast Graded Pairs

* In order to play in this event you must be a member of that club. If you wish to play it is very easy and not expensive, to join as a non-home member.

Community Notices

The Low Self-Esteem Support Group meets every 3rd Thursday, 7pm, at CCBC. Please use the back door.

Anxiously Overweights Anonymous meets on 2nd Tuesdays at 7 pm at SCCBC. Please use the wide entrance at the front of the building.

The Coolum Bridge Players will present Shakespeare's Hamlet at SCCBC Friday July 8 at 7.30 pm. You are invited to come and witness this tragedy.

Sunshine Coast has purchased eight new bridge tables, due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some of the older ones. **Lonely Hearts: Dapper Gent, mid 60's**, performs better some days than others, seeks playmate for Tuesday mornings while his wife is visiting her mother. Forward expressions of interest to the editor, accompanied by a

COOLUM INVITATION DAY September 6th

This is a fun day of bridge accompanied by a really delicious lunch. A great day's entertainment! If you have never been before we recommend you give it a try. Details will appear in the clubs shortly.

LESSONS

Beginners lessons finished mid May, Caloundra graduating 30 learners and Sunshine Coast 42, so the future of bridge on the Sunshine Coast continues to look healthy. It would not have been possible to manage such large numbers without a dedicated and willing team of helpers in both clubs. Thank you!

21 RULES OF BEING A GOOD PARTNER

Marty Bergen

(The following is taken from *Bergen for the Defense*: Bergen Books 2004 and is reproduced with kind permission of the author. If you are not familiar with Marty's website: www.martybergen.com, we recommend a visit.)

I have always believed that your attitude toward your partner is as important as your technical skill at the game. (Rixi Marcus, one of the all-time great players)

- 1 Do not give lessons, unless you are being paid to do so. *According to an evening paper, there are only five real authorities on bridge in this country. Odd how often one gets one of them as a partner.* Punch
- 2 Never say anything to your partner unless you would want him to say the same to you. If you are unsure whether your partner would want you to say something, don't.
- 3 Never "result" (criticize your partner for a normal action just because it did not work this time).
- 4 Unless you positively can't wait, avoid discussing the hand just played until later. When you go over it, be discreet.
- 5 Remember that you and your partner are on the same side.
- 6 Don't forget that your partner wants to win as much as you do.
- 7 If you feel an urge to be nasty, sarcastic, critical or loud - excuse yourself and take a walk.
- 8 When you do have time between hands, do not discuss bridge.
- 9 When you want to consult another player about a disaster, ask about your hand, not your partner's.
- 10 Never criticize or embarrass your partner in front of others.
- 11 Remember that bridge is only a card game.
- 12 Have a good time. *Bridge is for fun. You should play the game for no other reason. You should not play bridge for money, to show how smart you are, or to show how stupid your partner is ... or to prove any of the several hundred other things bridge players are so often trying to prove.* Goren
- 13 Trust your partner; do not assume that he has made a mistake.
- 14 Although it may be unfashionable, it really is ok to be pleasant to a partner with whom you happen to live.
- 15 Think twice before analysing a hand. Do not embarrass yourself with a hasty, inaccurate or inappropriate comment.

Remember: *The worst analysts and the biggest talkers are often one and the same.* Frank Stewart

BRIDGING THE GAP

WITH FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by OLIVE JAMES CCBC

ZUCCHINI PANCAKES WITH BACON AND AVOCADO

INGREDIENTS

1 cup S.R. flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1 egg
1 1/2 cups buttermilk
1 zucchini (coarsely grated)
Olive oil spray
3 rindless bacon rashers (trim fat)
Punnet cherry tomatoes (quartered)
1 avocado, halved, peeled and sliced
1 cup fresh basil leaves
1/2 red onion, cut into thin wedges
1 clove garlic, crushed
2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar

METHOD

Sift flour and baking powder into bowl. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Make a well in the centre and whisk in egg and butter milk, until just combined. Add zucchini (wring out excess juice first) and stir to combine. Heat a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat, then spray with oil. Stir in 1/4 of the zucchini mixture. Tilt pan until a large pancake forms. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cook for 3-4 minutes, or until bubbles appear on the surface. Turn and cook on the other side until golden and cooked through. Transfer to plate, cover with foil and keep warm. Repeat with the remaining mixture, reheating pan between batches. Meanwhile, heat a small non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Fry bacon for 3 - 4 minutes until crisp. Tear into large pieces. Combine tomato, avocado, basil, onion, garlic and vinegar in a bowl. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve salad and bacon pieces on top of pancake. Serves 4.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Man plans. God Laughs.

Old Yiddish saying

BRIDGE REASONING #3

Ken Dawson

Scenario

Challenge

♠ AQT8753 E S W N
♥ J4 / 3H / 4H
♦ QT
♣ A4

♠ 64 Lead: ♠ 2
♥ AQT9876
♦ K4
♣ 75

1 What do you make of the ♠ 2 lead? It could be a singleton or it could be from KX2.

2 If you decide it is a singleton, then you need to rise ♠ A and finesse in hearts. If that fails, you will lose a trick in each suit. One off.

3 Rightly or wrongly, our declarer inserted ♠ Q losing to the ♠ K. Back came the ♠ 9 for LHO to ruff. LHO exited with the ♣ K won by ♣ A leaving this position:

Plan your play

Solution

♠ AT875
♥ J4
♦ QT
♣ 4

♠ --
♥ AQT9876
♦ K4
♣ 7

1. The tempting scenario is to run ♥ J finessing RHO for ♥ K.
 2. However, even when this works, the contract is one off - losing 2S+1C+1D
 3. The only way to make this contract is to play for ♥ K to now be singleton. i.e. the original layout was: ♥ Kx ♥ xx, or ♥ xxx ♥ K
- When the ♥ K drops under ♥ A and ♥ 4, declarer can re-enter dummy with ♥ J drawing the last trump and claim 11 tricks by pitching the minors on the now established spade suit!
- Mind you, if RHO had started with ♥ Kx, declarer will now emerge with 8 tricks in a contract that was originally cold for 10!

THE OLD BRIDGE PLAYER'S BEAUTIFUL TREES Heinrich Heine (with apologies)

I am the most easygoing of men. All I ask from life is a humble thatched cottage, so long as there's a good bed in it, and good victuals, fresh butter and milk, flowers outside my window, and a few beautiful trees at my doorway; and if the dear Lord cares to make my happiness complete, he might grant me the pleasure of seeing six or seven of my enemies hanging from these trees. *Gedanken und Einfalle 1848*

HOW WOULD YOU HAVE PLAYED IT?

While playing at his club one night, George Kaufman expressed his extreme dismay with a fellow member's play.

"All right, George," the offender said at the end of the hand, "how would you have played it?"

Replied Kaufman: "Under an assumed name!"

- 16 When you voluntarily choose to play bridge with someone, it is not fair to get upset when partner does not play any better than usual.
- 17 Never side with an opponent against your partner. If you cannot support your partner, say nothing.
- 18 If you think you are too good for a partner and don't enjoy playing with him, do everyone a favour and play with someone else. That is clearly much better than being a martyr. However, be careful before burning bridges - another player's grass may not be greener.
- 19 Learn your partner's style, regardless of how you feel about it. Do not expect your partner to bid exactly as you would. When your partner makes a bid, consider what he will have, not what you would.
- 20 Don't throw tricky bids at your partner. Seek the bid or play that will make his life easier.
- 21 Sympathize with partner if he makes a mistake. Let your partner know that you like him.

DOWN AND OUT FURTHER DOWN UNDER

Ken Dawson

You meet some lovely people in this game. After an evening game at the Tasmanian Bridge Association rooms, I walked my partner to her car a few minutes away. When I returned, the TBA was locked up tighter than a drum with my scooter behind a set of gates. Frantically, I rang the number on the wall - only to hear the phone ringing inside the building! As I contemplated my fate, someone walked past and I recognized him as a player from the field. Now to find a keyholder. Dallas Cooper, secretary of the TBA, got out of her bed at 11.00 pm and drove the 20 minutes from her home to get me out of bother. Not surprisingly, a Thank you card and a Tattsлото ticket have been sent to her plus an offer of a game, should she ever find herself on the Sunshine Coast. I have promised not to lock her in!

I recently had a game at the Williamstown Bridge Club, Vic. I just couldn't help myself. The club always has a spare player available so the tragics can just walk in and get a game. You can imagine my surprise when the spare player was none other than former Sunshine Coast player, Jimmy Todd.



We had a pleasant game and finished 3rd. More importantly, Jimmy's health is good and his leg, which gave him so much trouble, is much improved. As always, he was in good spirits and sends a big hello to all his friends on the Sunshine Coast.

THE SUNSHINE COAST OPENING 2C

Reg Busch

When I moved to the Sunshine Coast, I was struck at how commonly used is a 2C opening to show a 19-21 HCP hand. I had rarely seen it elsewhere, but presume it has been taught locally in the past. At the risk of making myself unpopular, I must say that I find this a terrible convention. Take a hand like this, where you have opened 2C, partner responds 2D and you rebid 2NT:

♠ AKQ ♥ AJ93 ♦ K85 ♣ K73

LHO leads the ♠ J from J1094, gets a discouraging signal from his partner. Dummy goes down with no HCP. You are already far too high. Against good defence you will manage 4 tricks or at best 5, off 3 or 4, when opponents have nothing to make. Opponents, once they see dummy, will know you are in trouble. They will simply continue with spades. You will have to lead every time from your own hand. A combined 26 HCP will normally make 3NT, but only if they are distributed between the two hands. Many hands with 26 HCP will fail opposite a Yarborough unless there are 9 top tricks.

Similarly, if you rebid a suit e.g. 2C - 2D - 2S, you may already be too high, especially if dummy has no spade support. Even if partner has some values, you are already too high to usefully exchange information to find the best spot. In modern bidding practice, opening 2's are weak "spoiler" bids designed to make life difficult for the opponents. When we use this 2C bid, we are pre-empting against ourselves. Furthermore, it is quite unnecessary.

Let me suggest a simple scheme that works.

For opener, there are HCP ranges to remember:

Minimum = 12 - 15

Intermediate = 16 - 18

Strong = 19 - 20

Super = 21+. There are further ranges within this group (21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30)

Rule: Save your strong 2 level openings for super hands where game is a good chance, even if partner has less than minimal responding values.

Open a major with a 5 card suit. Give up on better minor, and open 1D on 4 or more. Open 1C on any other 12 - 20 hand. Partner will respond only if he has 6+ HCP.

16 - 18 Open 1NT

21 - 22 Open 2NT (if you are wedded to the multi-2D, the 2NT rebid shows 21 - 22)

2C opening shows either 8 playing tricks in a suit or 23+ HCP.

2D opening is game forcing and shows 9+ playing tricks or 25+ HCP.

2C - 2D - 2NT = 23 - 24 HCP

2D - 2H - 2NT = 25 - 26 HCP

2C - 2H - 3NT = 27 - 28 HCP

2D - 2H - 3NT = 29 - 30 HCP

Again, if using multi-2's, you will have to rely on 2C for the really big hands, and possibly miss the occasional slam.

So: after 1C - 1S, you bid 1NT with 12 - 15, 2NT with 19 - 20 (this is now safe because partner has promised 6+ HCP). This is forcing to game. You could rebid 3NT but this removes some bidding space. (See Checkback Stayman below).

Warning: if playing a 'short' 1C, don't be tempted to respond without responding values 'in case opener may be left in 1C.' You are likely to find yourself in an unmakeable game in your suit or in 3NT. Simply pass. Much of the time, opponents will compete or opener will have clubs, but, if not, can make 1C by dint of top cards.

Further caveat: After partner's two over one response e.g. 1S - 2C, don't rebid 2NT unless you have 15 HCP (or a very good 14). Instead bid a good three card minor or at worst rebid 2S (doesn't promise 6 card suit but a minimum hand).

Checkback Stayman:

Example: After 1C - 1S - 1NT.

After opener's 1NT, bid 2C, asking 2 questions:

1. Do you have 3 cards in my major or 4 in the other major, and
2. Are you minimum (12 to a poor 14) or maximum (good 14 - 15)

Your answers: 2D: I have both and minimum (3D for maximum)
 2H: I have a heart suit and minimum (3H for maximum)
 2S: I have 3 spades and minimum (3S for maximum)
 2NT: I have neither and minimum (3C for maximum)

After opener's rebid of 2NT, similar response, but only at the 3 level, (no range answers).

Caveat: you should use checkback only if you have the values to invite to game.

This is just an outline of an essentially natural system. If any readers are interested I'm happy to discuss this further.

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WELL GUESS WHO MISSED OUT

I am sorry I have not learnt to play at cards. It is very useful in life. It generates kindness and consolidates society.

Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)



THINKING IT ALL OVER

I wrote somewhere once that the third-rate mind was only happy when it was thinking with the majority, the second-rate mind was only happy when it was thinking with the minority, and the first-rate mind was only happy when it was thinking.

A.A. Milne