



BRIDGE MATTERS



Newsletter of the Caloundra, Coolum and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs June 2013

AROUND THE CLUBS



CALOUNDRA

Welcome to our new members: Margaret Hannan, Nicole Hawker, Neil Masters, Pat Murgatroyd, Bev Northey, Greg O'Connor, Noel & Roslyn Stevenson and Dianne Thatcher. Happy Bridging.

Congratulations to the winners of our Restricted Pairs competition: Carol & Keith Elphick, and our Tuesday night competition: Marion Bucens & Richard Walsh,

The Caloundra Teams Congress in April was a great success, attracting 24 teams. Congratulations to the winning team: Kim & Ray Ellaway, Claire Green & Cheryl Stone.

On May 26, Caloundra hosted the 2nd Annual Zone Teams of 3. A good time was had by all. Congratulations to the winning team: Joan McPheat, Margaret Robertson, Kiyomi Avunduk & Peter Coppin.



SUNSHINE COAST

We are very pleased to welcome Christine & Piara Atwal, Fred Bittar, Dugald Cameron, Alison Dawson, Brian Finniss, Pikun Kiatphilangcha, Ray Sofio & Albert Taylor as new members.

Only one competition this quarter, our Club Pairs Championship, won by Joan McPheat & Reg Busch. Congratulations.



COMING EVENTS

June 12, 19, 26 Caloundra Club Pairs Championship

June 15, 16 SCCBC Butler Pairs and Swiss Teams Congress

June 23 GNOT Stage 2, SCCBC

July 11, 18, 25 SCCBC Club Teams Championship

July 25 Coolum AGM

August 4 SCCBC Swiss Teams Congress

August 21 Caloundra AGM

Sept 8 Caloundra Butler Pairs

September 4, 11, 18 Caloundra Club Teams C'ship

Sept 9 SCCBC AGM



COOLUM

On March 24th Coolum Bridge Club held its inaugural Swiss Teams event at their current club house at Coolum Waters Retirement Resort. The event was very well supported with the maximum of 30 tables plus several teams missing out and requesting to be put on a waiting list.



It was divided into three divisions and it was very pleasing to see a majority of local teams represented as place getters in each section and, quite unusually, in the B division, there was a tie for first place. Peter Busch was the Director and, as usual, made sure the event ran smoothly.

Congratulations to the winning team: Anne Young, Adrienne Kelly, Trish Norris, & Therese Matthews

Birthday Party

On Friday 7th May 2013 it was 20 years since a few residents of Coolum, enthusiastic bridge players, decided to form a club. On Thursday 2nd May 2013 the Club held a celebration lunch prior to commencement of play and the inaugural President, Robina Condon, along with founding members Keith Styles, Roy Clarke, and Ann Nichols were enthusiastic participants. Two other founding members who rarely miss any session of play, Margaret Scott and Val Longden, booked holidays at an inopportune time and thus missed the festivities.

With the waiving of table fees, provision of copious quantities of food for lunch, together with generous donations by members, champagne and a splendid afternoon tea, the 13½ tables who attended had a most enjoyable and memorable birthday celebration.

Councillor Steve Robinson was able to attend briefly and hopefully will now appreciate how great the Club's need is for a permanent home.

New members: A warm welcome to Kate Tanner and Val Sheehan

COMPETITION WINNER

Name the 5th Suit

After much agonising, door-slamming, hysterics, sulks and threats of divorce our panel of highly qualified and anonymous judges has unanimously and harmoniously chosen STARS as the winner of our amazing prize. Susie May, Anette Wigan and an anonymous player all submitted this entry so they each receive a free game. At this rate we will all be going bankrupt!!

Other entries were darts, royals, castles, knights, skies, suns, crowns, noughts, nuggets, balls, moons, savilles, jokers, bells and rings.

Opening light – law and bridge aspects

Over time, bridge systems have evolved in terms of the high card points (HCP) needed to open a hand at the 1-level. Back in the 70's it was normal not to open a hand with less than 13 HCP but these days they teach Standard American with 12 HCP openings, and many players today systemically open all hands of 11+ HCP.

It is a fact of life that players will be flexible with this, and even though their system card says 12 HCP, they might open 1S with 11 HCP, or even 10 HCP in third or fourth seat with a good spade suit. Bridge judgement comes into play here.

However, there is a pattern among some players to push the envelope, and consistently open hands at the 1-level with fewer than 10 points, arguing that distribution makes the hand stronger. Some have even opened with 7 or 8 HCP.

There are two aspects to consider here – bridge and the law.

Bridge factors

When your partner opens at the 1-level, you can expect them to show close to 12 HCP. You will base your decision about game raises on this. Also, in a competitive auction, the fact that partner has shown opening points will influence your decision about doubling the opponents' contract. This is especially important if you have agreed a suit and you hold most of the high card points in that suit – that tells you that all partner's high card points should be good defensive points.

Imagine you have 13 HCP and partner opens 1H. Without a heart fit you will be heading for 3NT. What if partner is 6/5 in hearts and diamonds and only has 8 HCP? You might be 2/1 in the red suits, but with a combined 21 HCP and non-fitting hands, 3NT will probably be a disaster, and so will 4H or 5D if your partner pulls it. If however your partner opened that hand 2H, showing 5/5 hearts and a minor, you won't be going to game with your 13 count, and will most likely play in 2H or 3D. The 2-level opening describes the hand much better than any bidding sequence that starts with a 1-level bid.

A good rule is: if in doubt, pass first. When you enter the auction as a passed hand and bid aggressively, partner knows your strength is in distribution. If you

are not a passed hand and need to show a second suit at the 2 or even 3 level, partner will be justified in believing you have reasonable values and you will probably end up too high.

Besides, why open at the 1-level and risk confusing partner when most systems provide 2-level opening bids (and higher) to describe distributional hands with less than opening points? Multi-2's are the most popular, where you can show any 2-suiters or a single suiter in hearts or spades with 2-level opening bids. The purpose of these 2-level bids is (a) to describe your hand to partner, (and they are very descriptive; with one enquiry bid partner knows 10 of your cards and your approximate point count); and (b) to take up bidding space making it harder for the opponents. Opening these hands at the 1-level has neither of these benefits.

Law factors

There are also legal aspects regarding light openings.

Firstly, if your system allows for you to open hands at the 1-level with less than 8 points, no matter how good you think the distribution is, it is a Yellow system, and as such cannot be played at most clubs' sessions and many congresses.

Secondly, you need to make sure that your system card adequately describes the minimum HCPs of your 1-level openings. There is provision on the ABF system card to record the minimum HCPs for each denomination e.g. 1S – 12 HCP, 1H – 12 HCP etc. The HCP value shown here should be the points that you usually open all hands on, so if you will open all 12 HCP hands but will occasionally open 10 or 11 HCP hands, then record 12 HCP here, but record elsewhere that hands with fewer points will be opened with compensating distributional values e.g. "Rule of 20" ¹, or "3rd or 4th seat openings 10+". But having said that, it needs to be recognized by all players – partners and opponents – that everyone will occasionally fudge a point or two here and there.

Remember though that having something on your system card doesn't mean that's your system. If the card states that you open on 12 HCP, but the partnership frequently opens at the 1 level with 9 or 10 HCPs, then that's the system. It comes down to this: if you make an opening bid, and your partner can deduce that the HCP might be as low as 9,(or 10 or 11), then that's your system.

If you fail to describe your system to the opponents (either verbally or on your card), they may claim damage and the director has the power to adjust the score had the opponents been able to achieve a better score with full knowledge of your agreements.

Opening weak hands light

System disclosure is also important in describing the nature of your pre-emptive openings e.g. the 2-levels, Multi-2s or the 3-level long weak suits. The opponents are entitled to know the minimum HCP of these hands, and as with 1-level opening points, what's on the card is irrelevant if the partnership has a habit of opening very weak hands.

An important point though – if you open at the 2-level, and systemically (i.e. per the system card or by past experience) the low end of the range is less than 5 HCP, any conventional bids that may be available to partner will classify the system as Brown Sticker. A typical example is a 2NT bid after partner opens 2D in Multi-2s – this asks partner to describe their hand further, and as 2NT here is conventional (i.e. not natural), the system is Brown Sticker. The restrictions with Brown Sticker systems are not as severe as they are if you play a Yellow system, but your system card must disclose that it is Brown Sticker.

So, make sure your system card describes the possible range of your 2-level openings. Further, if your opening or jump overcall pre-emptive bids may be weaker than expected, or a 3-level bid may not hold the expected 7-card suit, these too should be on your system card.

¹ The "Rule of 20" states that if the sum of your HCPs and the length of your two longest suits reaches 20, then the hand can be opened at the 1 level. There's also a "Rule of 15" that says you add your HCPs and the length of your spade suit and if that reaches 15, the hand can be opened at the 1-level, (generally used for 4th seat openings).

CAN YOU DO IT?

		North	Contract : 7♥ by South	

		10 9 8 7 6	Lead: ♠K	
		A K		
		A 9 5 4 3 2	If you need help you are	
West			allowed to phone a friend.	
K Q J 10 6				
5 4 3 2				

K Q J 10			(You could try Jo Drake, Vilma	
			Laws, Adrian Mayers, or John	
			Hicks).	
		South		
		A 8 7		
		A K Q J		
		Q J 10 9 8 7		

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WINNING AND LOSING

Peter Gill

Concentration, Distraction, Partnership Handling, Decision Fatigue & Temperament

Twenty years ago, a bridge magazine polled 50 bridge experts. Among the questions was:

Which 3 of the following 15 items are most important to be a really top expert at bridge (rank 1-2-3 please)?

Declarer Play * Defence * Bidding System * Bidding Judgement * Partnership Handling

Bidding in general * Card Sense * Temperament * Bidding Conventions * Bidding Discipline

Concentration * Competitive Bidding * Opening Leads * Counting * Card play signals

Giving 3 points for 1st, 2 for 2nd and 1 point for 3rd, Concentration totally dominated the vote, scoring about 130 points of about 150, followed by Temperament and Partnership Handling, with a gap to 4th place.

Given these results, shouldn't our improvement at bridge include coaching in these areas? Hence this talk. If you like the talk, please email me at petergill909@gmail.com so that there will be follow-up talks at Nationals in future.

1. Concentration

Distraction and fatigue are among the main causes of poor concentration.

Distraction can occur when emotion from what just happened interferes with one's concentration.

I think Mike Lawrence in this bridge tip <http://www.haroldschogger.com/lawrence.htm> called Ecstasy gives great advice – that you have to beware after any triumph (the distracting emotion = ecstasy) or disaster (the distracting emotion = despair).

Trick One is a very important time for all players – as soon as dummy comes down, thinking and concentrating is very important. Yet this is a time when many dummies distract declarer by saying something like: "Sorry I didn't use Stayman. I guess I should have." Or the like. Many declarers cannot concentrate fully when they listen to partner's comment. Here is a sample hand:

You hold KJ974, 1095, 86, AKQ. RHO opens a weak 2H, vulnerable. You

overcall 2S. Pass by LHO, and your partner raises to 4S. Pass, Pass by you, Dbl, all pass. LHO leads HJ and dummy comes down with: A5, Q43, AK105, 5432. If you say to partner "Why didn't you bid 3NT?" you fail. If partner (dummy) makes a comment to you, he has erred. The solution is that you should duck HJ with as few hints of desperation as you can manage. RHO, playing you for a singleton heart or xx in hearts, might duck HJ. Now you can make 4SX for a huge score. LHO had Q10863, J, Q975, J108. Any form of distraction at Trick One reduces your chances of smoothly finding the only play that gives you a chance. If HJ is ducked, you can make 4S in various ways that involve cashing winners then end-playing West who has to trump his partner's hearts in the ending.

David Lusk from Adelaide gives excellent advice in an article called Focus on page 14 of the ABF Newsletter at <http://www.abf.com.au/newsletter/Nov11.pdf>. David says he counts his cards multiple times, in order to "clear my brain of all extraneous thoughts". David recommends that you develop a focusing routine such as that, and use it at the start of play, after disaster, and after protracted breaks in play. Mike Lawrence's Tip means that it should also apply after +1100 or slam success (Ecstasy), before the last board (keep focusing on the bridge, not on the lunch break), and whenever you are distracted.

My personal "focusing routine" is that I say internally to myself "Next Hand" or "This Hand" multiple times, so that I forget about the previous hand. After I had done that for a few years, it has become automatic and I no longer notice doing so – my brain has re-trained itself to do so on virtually every hand.

For more information on re-training the brain and brain plasticity, see Norman Doidge's book *The Brain That Changes Itself*. If time permitted, we could discuss applications of that book to bridge improvement. Recent research suggests that you need to do an activity like bridge more than one session a week in order to re-train the brain, so this Gold Coast Congress should be good for your brain.

Two of the regulars in recent Australian teams consulted a sports psychologist in order to improve their concentration. Their excellent subsequent bridge results speak for themselves.

Jen Auken from Denmark says in a Tip at <http://www.haroldschogger.com/auken.htm> that you should try to develop the ability to spot Kill Points, i.e. points in the bidding or play when stopping to think are crucial. That's not so easy to do, and Jens gives little advice on how to do so. A topic for later?

At Eastern Suburbs bridge clubs in Sydney that serve cappuccinos, whenever your opponent is paying for the coffee as they play cards, the chance of them

playing the wrong card is greatly enhanced. Ever since I noticed this, when I'm directing and collect table-money from tables, I try to collect it between hands so that the players are not distracted by my activity into making errors. I think players also become distracted when the Director is at the table and can thus often get confused and play wrong cards or say wrong things to the Director or misunderstand what the Director is saying.

Decision Fatigue, or even general tiredness which is something different, can also cause concentration errors. This New York Times article - http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/21/magazine/do-you-suffer-from-decision-fatigue.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0 – describes Decision Fatigue. When you are suffering general tiredness, Zia's advice is to take it easy and let partner be in charge, let partner make most of the decisions.

2. Partnership Handling

When Jeff Meckstroth is asked in this 3 minute Youtube interview <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjZM7j7EJMw> if he and Eric Rodwell (the world's best pair) ever get angry, he replies "just about every hand". But "we're very good at rooting for each other", he adds.

Handling of team members also is important. Kate McCallum, an American who won the 2008 Gold Coast Teams wrote in a training paper for female internationals, among other good advice, that you have to take care of your weakest team member(s), to make sure they are in their Comfort Zone and don't feel like they are letting the team down in any way. The same applies to partners.

3. Temperament

Getting upset with partner is an anger management issue which we will skip past here. Getting annoyed with oneself is more common and is a serious problem, partly because when you are annoyed with yourself, you are more likely to lash out at partner, especially if partner could have prevented your own error which upset you. This happens a lot at bridge. My friend from university days Jon Free asked me recently whether I still get annoyed at the bridge table. That made me think about how annoyed I used to get.....

Avi Kanetkar at a neighbouring table once noticed my veins reacting as I got very annoyed with an opponent. After the match, Avi advised me that this can cause strokes. Having seen a husband die of a stroke at the next table to me in a NSW Country Congress many years ago after a match when we couldn't help notice him berating his wife loudly, I have tried to heed Avi's advice. Avi is in the 2013 Australian Open Team and Australian Senior Team, so his advice is worth following. Easy does it.

We all have problems and we all try to deal with our anger. At bridge, making a massive effort to take it easy and not get upset is necessary if you want to become a really top expert.

Peter is one of Australia's leading bridge players and a member of a well-known bridge family which includes his sister Barbara Travis, who is playing top level bridge, and her daughter Lauren Travis, a top level youth player.

This article appeared in the Gold Coast Congress Daily Bulletin no 2, 2013 and is reproduced with kind permission of the author.

KEN'S KONUNDRUM KORNER Number 5

Ken Dawson



You are declarer in 4H after your LHO opened a strong 1NT, always 4-3-3-3 shape. Plan your play after West cashes ♣AK and ♦A

You can lose no more tricks. So, the trumps must be brought home without loss. West is marked with ♥Qxx.

Contrary to all logical finessing play, the winning line is to lead ♥J. West must cover or you will duck in dummy, giving no trump loser. So, West covers and you win ♥K.

Now, you play ♥2 from dummy and hope that East started with ♥Tx. West's 3rd trump will fall under ♥9.

♠ AQ86
♥ K92
♦ K2
♣ J943

♠ K9
♥ AJ543
♦ Q5
♣ QT85

♥Q86	♥K92	♥T7
	♥AJ543	

STOP PRESS !!!

NEW ALERT REGULATIONS

Later this year, the ABF will be introducing a change that involves "announcing". This requires your partner to announce basic information about your 1C and 1NT opening bids.

Specifically, when you open 1NT, your partner will need to state its range (e.g. "14-16"), and when you open 1C, your partner will need to state the minimum suit length if using a natural system (e.g. "3+ clubs") or the minimum HCPs if it's a strong or Precision 1C (e.g. "16+, strong"). The argument supporting this change is that opponents are inclined to ask about the bid then pass, possibly providing their partner with unauthorised information. Mandatory announcing will mean many of these questions won't be necessary, making for a much cleaner auction.

Queensland will adopt these changes from the commencement date decided by the ABF, and your club will apply them at that time also.

TRUMPS TO SPARE

Reg Busch



There are times when you are dealt a hand with lots of trumps in both hands e.g. 5-4 or 6-4 fits and, having drawn opponents' trumps and ruffed your losers, you still have spare trumps. It is good declarer technique not to just sit on these trumps, but to play them out to force opponents to find discards. Often they will discard badly and allow you to establish a side suit they weren't aware of. But remember to retain one trump in case you have to lose the lead at any time.

Having said that, there is another option that comes up often. Here is the classical situation:

♠ QJ104
♥ A3
♦ K86
♣ AJ103

♠ AK983
♥ K42
♦ A7
♣ 754

You are South. Partner has put you into an ambitious 6S, with the ♥Q lead. You can see 11 tricks (five spades, two hearts and a heart ruff, two diamonds and a club). It seems your best chance is for split honours in clubs – finesse the ♣10, and if it loses finesse the ♣J the next time. This is about a 50% chance. So you win the ♥A, draw trumps, finesse the ♣10 which loses to the ♣Q, East returns a heart to your king, you finesse the ♣J which loses to the ♣K. One off.

The full hand:

	♠ QJ104	
	♥ A3	
	♦ K86	
	♣ AJ103	
♠ 65		♠ 72
♥ QJ105		♥ 9876
♦ Q954		♦ J1032
♣ 986		♣ KQ2
	♠ AK983	
	♥ K42	
	♦ A7	
	♣ 754	

There is a 100% line to make this slam. Try it. Win the ♥A. Draw trumps in two rounds. Play ♥K and a heart ruff, ♦A, ♦K, and a ♦ ruff finishing in hand. Play a small club to the ♣10 with East winning the ♣Q. This is the end situation:

	♠ Q	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ AJ3	
♠		♠
♥ J		♥ 9
♦ Q		♦ J
♣ 98		♣ K2
	♠ A3	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ 75	

Poor East is stymied. If he leads a club he gives you the last two club tricks. If he leads a heart or a diamond, he allows you to ruff in dummy whilst discarding a club loser from your own hand.. Whatever he does, he presents you with your twelfth trick.

One of the ways you as declarer can make an extra trick is via the 'ruff and discard' or 'ruff and sluff'. This occurs when you and dummy are both void in a side suit, and you can ruff the lead of that suit in one hand whilst discarding a loser from the other hand. Obviously you can't do this for yourself, but careless opponents often give you the chance, or a good declarer may force a defender to do it for him. In this hand, why did the first line lose but the second win? Because declarer saw the need to first eliminate the two side suits from his hands so that East when on lead has no safe exit card. This technique is called 'stripping' the hand. So the tip for today: **when you have trumps to spare in both hands, think 'strip and end play, and perhaps ruff and discard.'**

Incidentally, here is a tip for you if you find yourself in the same situation as poor East. If you are forced to give declarer either a free finesse or a ruff and discard, *opt for the ruff and discard*. It will give declarer an extra trick, but perhaps not enough. For example, in our hand above, supposing the club suit was a little different:

	AJ103	
86		KQ2
	9754	

You win the ♣Q. Returning a club now will give declarer the last three tricks. Playing a ♦ or a ♥ will give allow declarer to discard one ♣ from hand and ruff in dummy, but he still has a club loser which he can't get rid of.

BRIDGE WISDOM

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.

SHAPE OR POINTS?

Alan Maltby

When we learn to play bridge we are told to count points, and to value our hands accordingly. However there is a lot to be said for giving consideration to the shape of your hand, particularly in finding game when we do not have the “magic” 25 high card points.

		♠ 5	Dir: E
		♥ AQ	Vul: None
		♦ KQ642	
		♣ AKJ93	
♠ A872		♠ KQJ104	
♥ J874		♥ K63	
♦ 9		♦ AJ73	
♣ Q876		♣ 5	
		♠ 963	
		♥ 10952	
		♦ 1085	
		♣ 1042	

Board 30 at the Caloundra March Teams Congress is a great example. East will start with a 1S bid, South will pass, and now West has to think. Only 7 HCP but the hand has a singleton and 4 spades.

There is only one bid for West to make. Immediately jump to 4S and the bidding will subside. In fact, at our table, North doubled. This was left in, making 11 tricks. If South did try to scramble into a 5 level contract their score would have been even worse.

There is no hard and fast formula for making these “shape” bids to game with a hand which is light in HCP. My rule of thumb says that when partner opens a major and you have a singleton or void plus 4 trumps plus 6 to 8 HCP, bid game. Of course you have to be sensible and give proper thought to your hand.

Good luck!

BRIDGE QUIZ *If you want to become a good bridge player it is really important that you know the answers to these questions. Answers on p12*

1. How many eyes can be seen on a pack of cards? 12, 24, 48, 42
2. Which of these stars of the golden screen was a bridge player?
Bette Davis, Errol Flynn, Laurence Olivier, John Wayne
3. Omar Sharif represented Egypt in bridge and which other sport?
tennis, chess, soccer, badminton
4. Which of these old comedy teams often had scenes of a bridge game in their films?
Abbott & Costello, Laurel & Hardy, Dean Martin & Jerry Lewis, the Marx Brothers
5. The open team that represents Australia in international competitions consists of how many players? 6, 8, 4, 10

THE ACE OF SPADES AND STAMP DUTY

Jo Drake

In 1615 James 1st of England imposed a duty on imports and in 1628 Charles 1st decided to expand this tax to manufactured goods as another source of revenue. During her short reign in the early 18th century Queen Anne extended taxation to other items, which also included imposing a stamp duty on playing cards.

Over the years, many methods were employed to ensure that duty had been paid on a pack of cards, and in 1712 it was decreed that a card in every pack should be stamped with the Royal Coat of Arms when the appropriate tax had been paid.



Since the Ace had the largest blank space of all cards, this was considered the obvious choice to bear the stamp. At the time the most popular order of cards in a new pack had the Ace of Spades at the top, and so the Ace of Spades became the card selected to be imprinted with the official stamp once the tax had been received.

However, collecting the tax became a burden on the Commissioner of Stamps, and in 1765 the Stamp Office decided to issue their own ornate version of the

Ace of Spades which also incorporated the Royal Coat of Arms. These, of course, had to be "purchased" by the manufacturers of playing cards who had been prohibited from creating their own Ace of Spades.

It wasn't long before wily manufacturers of cards began forging the official Ace of Spades to evade the tax, but if discovered the penalty was severe the hangman's noose!

Although a sales tax on playing cards still exists, they no longer have to be officially stamped. But the custom of printing the ornate Ace of Spades continues today, and most manufacturers of playing cards have replaced the Royal Coat of Arms with their own trade marks.

PARTNERSHIP UNDERSTANDING

Giving a man his physical, the doctor noticed several dark, ugly bruises on his shins, so he asked, "Do you play hockey, soccer, or some physical sport?"

"No," he answered. "I play bridge with my wife."

Answers: 1) 42 2) John Wayne 3) soccer 4) Marx Brothers 5) 6

BRIDGE FOR THE IMPROVER

Ron Klinger

This is the seventh 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

♠ 10 6 4 3 2

♥ K 3

♦ K 7

♣ A Q 5 2

SOUTH

♠ K J 8 7 5

♥ J 9

♦ A 10 6

♣ K J 4

Dealer: South

Vul: Nil

	West	North	East	South
--	------	-------	------	-------

				1 ♠
--	--	--	--	-----

Pass	2NT*	Pass	3 ♠	
------	------	------	-----	--

Pass	4 ♠	All Pass		
------	-----	----------	--	--

* 2NT was a Jacoby raise showing

4+ spades and 13+ HCP

West leads the ♠10. Which card do you play from dummy?

Answer: With a choice of whether to win in hand or in dummy, declarer often will choose to win a trick in the hand which has fewer cards. That can be useful to make sure a suit does not become blocked. It is not necessary when you have plenty of entries to each hand.

If you would like the opponents to

continue a suit it does not pay to advertise that you have great strength in that suit. On this deal South would be happy for the defenders to continue clubs later. Therefore South should take trick one with ♣A in dummy.

If you play low from dummy and win either with the jack or the king, both defenders will know that a club continuation later is futile. If West gains the lead and knows a club continuation is not warranted, West might shift to a heart. That might be expensive for declarer.

STOP PRESS !!!

NEW VP SCALE

Later this year there will be the replacement of the 0 - 25 Victory Point scale (as used in teams and Butler Pairs) with a new scale. The new scale has two key differences:

- the range is 0 to 20, with a draw being 10/10 (as opposed to 15/15 in the old scale); and
- the scale is continuous so that every different number of imps converts to a different number of VPs, and as a consequence introduces decimal places.

The second point is significant. Under the old system, with 8-board matches, winning a match by 2, 3, 4 or 5 imps resulted in a 16/14 score, which some would argue is unfair. The new scale has different VPs for each number of imps, so a 2 imp win converts to 10.86/9.14 and a 3 imp win equates to 11.27/8.73 etc. Even a 1 imp win gives the winner more VPs than the loser (10.44/9.56) whereas under the old scale both teams earned 15 VPs. (However, a 1 imp win is still a draw for masterpointing purposes.)

Queensland will adopt these changes from the commencement date decided by the ABF, and they will be applicable to QBA congresses after that date, though congresses will still be able to use the old VP scale until the end of the year.

GADGETS

We corralled as many grand masters as we could round up and put to them the following proposition:

Consider your system card. Everything on the front page, relating to opening bids, and competitive bidding can remain unchanged. On the back page, all information regarding basic responses, leads, signals, discards and ace asking conventions can remain the same. However, at the bottom of the page under Other Conventions, you have listed all the various bells and whistles you like to use. From now on, you can only keep one of them. All the others have to go. Which one will you retain?

Responses are listed in alphabetical order (almost):

Dorothy Beil: <i>Truscott</i>	Steve Brookes: <i>Lebensohl</i>
Verna Brookes: <i>Negative Free bids</i>	Pat Buch: <i>Splinters</i>
Reg Busch: <i>Checkback Stayman</i>	Rosemary Crowley: <i>Lebensohl</i>
Ken Dawson: <i>New minor forcing</i>	Kevin Feeney: <i>Support X and XX</i>
Camille Fludder: <i>Lebensohl</i>	Wilma Hiddins: <i>Flint</i>
Adrienne Kelly: <i>Lebensohl</i>	Maurine Lamont: <i>Unassuming cue</i>
Vilma Laws: <i>Checkback Stayman</i>	Ruth Mackinlay: <i>Negative Free bids</i>
Adrian Mayers: <i>Lebensohl</i>	Joan McPheat: <i>Checkback Stayman</i>
Arch Morrison: <i>Long suit trial</i>	Ken Rogers: <i>Weak XX</i>
Richard Trollope: <i>Unassuming cue</i>	Mary Winch: <i>Reverse Michaels</i>
Tony Walford: <i>Unassuming cue not necessarily promising support</i>	

So if you want to know more about all or any of the above, you know who to ask.

MORE BRIDGE SLANG

These two you are unlikely to need to use. "Going for a telephone number" refers to suffering a big penalty like 1100 or 1400. But you won't need that expression because you have a partner who does "ambulance service" and rescues you from impending disasters!

From Marilyn Hemenway *Bridge Slang 2006* Omaha Bridge

OH PARTNER, MY PARTNER !

My partner never stops talking. She burbles on like a blabbing brook.

My partner has become so much nicer since he joined *Alcoholics Unanimous*

My partner is a vast suppository of information.

My partner sometimes makes bids that are totally beyond my apprehension.

Lately we have been playing so well together. We have plummeted to the top!

Most important of all is partnership bondage.

THE GAME

Syd Leach

Syd has just completed the beginners course at SCCBC. These are his thoughts on the matter.

A friend I knew true loved the game
And thought that I should be the same
And so I judged to my real shame
A ten week course would damn bridge tame.

There's Up the Line and Slams and Ruff
Alerts to signal bidding bluff
And then in case that ain't enough
There's Fit and Balance (just more stuff).

It seems I mistook weeks for years
(A grown man now reduced to tears)
Brain cells quickly in arrears
And smoke in volumes from my ears.

There's Majors, Minors and Voids too
Takeout, Penalties (Doubles two)
And High Card Points (you need a few)
And lots of rules you wish you knew.

The Times crossword in cryptic style
I sometimes finish (takes a while)
And hard Sudokos don't me rile
But playing bridge doth stir my bile.

Waksod three times a week I play
(Is that golf I hear you say)
And push and motor bikes both weigh
Upon my time most every day.

There's bids of varied types you see
Game and Force and one called Free.
There's Weak Freaks (maybe that means me)
And Overcalls and Empts called Pre.

So should you get the Bridge disease
You'll need to put spare time on freeze
Enlightenment's not all you seek
You'll need a bloody eight day week!!!!

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Two Grand Masters playing as partners got into a vehement argument after a certain deal. The dispute waxed hotter and hotter until one of the masters raised a hand and said, "Wait. We'll put it up to our opponents and let them decide who's right."

"That's silly," answered the other. "Anybody can see they don't know the first thing about bridge."

"And anybody can see that we're sloppy too," answered one of the opponents. Whereupon he picked up a glass of water and dumped its contents all over the contemptuous one's head.

OVERHEARD : We had a 75-percent game last night! Three out of four opponents thought we were idiots.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

People with small minds talk about other people. People with ordinary minds talk about events. People with great minds talk about ideas. People with warped minds talk about bridge hands.

BRIDGE TIP

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.