



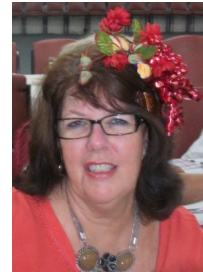
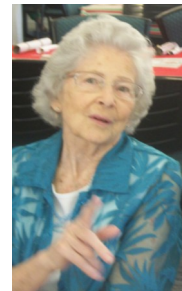
BRIDGE MATTERS



Newsletter of the Caloundra, Coolumb and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs

March 2014

PARTY TIME



SUNSHINE COAST ACES THE QBA SENIOR TEAMS



SCCBC hosted the QBA Senior Teams in February, as it does every year. This year players from the coast took out all three sections!!! Congratulations to all winners.

Open: Richard Perry, Rosemary Crowley, Di & Alan Maltby, Mary Winch. B Grade: Lex Bourke, Harry Walsh, Chris Palmer, Roman

Pawlyszyn. Best under 300 MPs average: Diane Sargent, Gail O'Donoghue, Sharon Silver, Marion Bucens. The event was ably directed as always by Peter Busch and the hospitality totally delicious, thanks to our Queen of Hearts, Annie Kibble and her fine team of helpers

COOLUM TEAMS CONGRESS MARCH 23RD 2014

The club is pleased to have the support of Noosa Bridge Club this year as a venue for our annual teams congress on March 23rd. We have had great support in the past from SCCBC as our venue. SCCBC could not have done more for us. Such friendship from our neighbours is greatly appreciated!

LESSONS

Coolum is delighted to have 26 learners for its 2014 learner lessons which commenced on Feb 15th. The Saturday afternoon time slot is proving a winner combined with a friendly side movement in play each week. Alan Sinclair and his band of helpers are off to a flying start.

Lessons start at Caloundra March 4th and Sunshine Coast March 5th. All welcome, and helpers greatly appreciated. Learners are encouraged to attend any of the clubs to make up a lesson they may have missed.

NEW MEMBERS

Coolum Bridge Club is pleased to welcome Brett Middelberg as a new member, fresh from New Zealand. The club also welcomes back our regular Welsh friends, Bob and Graham.

Sunshine Coast extends a warm welcome to Robert Berry, Clare Benfield, Jacqueline Bonner, Patricia Collins, Warwick Daniels, Gay & John Hull, Janet & John Leggo, Debra Lisle, Gary Petterson, Donna Rix, Jeanette Roughley, Geoffrey Sumner and Pauline Tettler.

Caloundra warmly welcomes Pamela Beale, Jacob Bowles, Monika Conroy, Kenneth Fitzgerald, Farona Harding, Marilyn McKee, Rosemary Mulgrew, Beverley & Jeffrey Rose, Sophie Stewart and Val Welsh.

We wish you all many years of happy bridging.

**WHAT ANNOYS BRIDGE PLAYERS**

I am becoming a grumpy old man. There are things that really annoy me at the bridge table. However, I know I am not alone – I bet that everyone reading this will share at least one of my pet hates and some may share them all. I've listed them in order, most annoying first – your priorities may differ.

Thanking opponents for doubling or pushing you to game when you make it:

No matter how much you mean it in jest, your opponents will feel uncomfortable and may be annoyed at themselves if they've doubled a making contract or pushed you into a making game when you weren't going there yourself. Making a gratuitous comment at this point will add fuel to the fire. If this happens to you, consider yourself lucky but say nothing.

Making gratuitous comments after seeing you achieved a good result: It is the nature of bridge that a good result by one pair at the table equals a bad result for the other pair. So when you get a top board and announce "top board, partner", it is equivalent to telling the opponents they got a bottom. Say nothing. If you like, just pass the Bridgmate to your partner if they seem interested.

Fiddling with the Bridgmate or scoring sheet before making the opening

lead: After the auction period, the whole table is waiting for the player on opening lead to make that lead. If you have other duties, like entering the details to the Bridgmate or writing on your personal scorer, **make your lead first**. When you have two tasks to do and people are waiting for one of them, it's just good manners to do that one first. Same applies to dummy if they are on Bridgmate duty – spread dummy before fiddling with the Bridgmate.

Not claiming as declarer when the outcome is obvious: If you are nearing the end of play of a hand and it's quite clear that you have all the remaining tricks, it's bad manners to continue to play. The opponents are often squirming, wondering what cards they should keep, and it can be a difficult decision. It's very annoying for them when they later find that anything they did made no difference. Of course, don't claim if you're in doubt, and when you do claim, state what you are going to do "e.g. drawing trumps and the table is high". Similarly if you're in dummy and can't get back to hand and there's a potential loser on the table, the opponents won't be silly enough to throw out the winning card when they can see what's on the table, so saying "I'll give you the last trick" saves everyone time.

Asking questions during the auction when you have no intention to bid:

The laws allow players to ask questions about the bidding at their turn to call. But when you don't intend to bid regardless of what the meaning might be, then don't ask. It just slows the auction down. You will be entitled to a full explanation of the bidding at the completion of the auction so your rights are protected. In fact, asking questions needlessly can have a downside – firstly, the bidder's partner will hear the answer and will know whether or not partner took his bid the right way, and secondly, expressing interest about particular bids, especially alerted ones, suggests to partner that you have an interest in that suit and under the laws of Unauthorised Information, this limits their options when they get on lead.

Saying “having none” when you trump an opponent's trick: This happens typically when you are trumping when the opponents aren't expecting it. The opponents won't be happy about this, and saying “having none” is simply unnecessary, and sometimes seems like tightening the screws. Of course the partner of the player who is trumping can (and should) ask “No spades, partner?”, as this serves a purpose.



(Sadly, this is Susie May's final contribution to Bridge Matters, as Senior Principal Illustrator-in-Chief and Head of the Art Department. She will be greatly missed.)

Putting pen to the bidding pad without knowing what you want to bid:

Bidding often requires thought. While you're thinking, the other players will be looking at their cards and thinking about their next move. When you move your hand to the table, all players instinctively look across to the bidding pad waiting to see what you do, and tend to stay focussed till you make your bid. It can be annoying if you then retract your hand without doing anything, especially if you do it a number of times. It can also result in your left hand opponent thinking you've passed and making their call, which would be an infraction if you didn't actually write anything.

Taking a phone call at the bridge table: This needs no elaboration!

Well, is Peter the only grumpy old man on the coast? How about grumpy old women? We invite you to share your particular grumps, endorsing Peter's or adding others of your own. Results to be published in the next newsletter.

WHAT A TERRIFIC BID !!!

Alan Maltby

My long suffering wife, Di, and I were playing with Randall Rusk and Steve Hughes in the National Life Masters Teams event at the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra. We were pleased to come 4th in the event, but would have done much better except for a monumentally stupid bid on my part.

I was sitting North when I picked up this hand:

♠ -
♥AJ964
♦AKJ7
♣AK96

I opened 1♥, Di responded 1♠ and my rebid of 3NT indicated my strength. Di made the appropriate asking bids, established that I had 3 aces and 2 minor kings and bid 6♠. Now I showed my amazing bidding skills! 6♠? No way says me. I didn't have any spades so I bid 6NT which was passed out. A diamond was led and Di's hand hit the table.

♠AKQT8752
♥ -
♦964
♣J2

I realized what a crazy bid I had inflicted on my team. If the ♣Q was on my left I might scrape out of this. but when I tried the ♣9 it was covered by the 10, J & Q, so I finished going down a heap. When scoring up, Steve and Randall were looking forward to a great result, as at their table the opposition had stopped in 4♠, and they were confident we would go to slam.


I was prevented from jumping under a bus, and my partners are still talking to me, so I consider myself a very lucky man indeed.

*Well, in spite of that nasty one (which he was honest enough to admit to) Alan has been newly promoted to **Grand Master** and deserves our congratulations for a job otherwise extremely well done. Congratulations Alan.*


AN UNLIKELY DEFENSIVE TRICK

Steve Brookes

You are East. The opponents are in 3NT. Which card do you think the most unlikely to win a defensive trick?

NORTH	♠ AQ864
	♥ 6
	♦ J876
	♣ Q106
	EAST
	♠ 5
	♥ KJ732
	♦ Q43
	♣ KJ95

This was board 4 in the afternoon session of the Caloundra Swiss Teams Congress held last November.

Dealer: West	NORTH	
Vul: Both	♠ AQ864	
	♥ 6	
	♦ J876	
	♣ Q106	
WEST		EAST
♠ KJ1093		♠ 5
♥ 10984		♥ KJ732
♦ 92		♦ Q43
♣ 42		♣ KJ95
	SOUTH	
	♠ 72	
	♥ AQ5	
	♦ AK105	
	♣ A873	

I was South and after a heart lead I decided to duck a spade and then later finesse the spade queen. So the play went 2, 3, 4 and 5 of spades. East did not flinch, burst into laughter or display any outward emotion at all, even at the end of the hand. What a polite and lovely opponent. I won't tell you my opponent's full name but her first name is Dana. Of course I should have


played the highest card I could afford, the six.

YOUR LEAD


Steve Brookes

Board 9 in the same congress.

You are North and open the bidding 4♥. The bidding proceeds: pass, pass, 4♠, pass, 6♠, passed out. Your lead:

Dealer: North Vul: E/W		NORTH ♠ Q4 ♥ AKQJ9876 ♦ 984 ♣ —		If you lead a heart the contract makes. The opponents get a ruff and a discard on the opening lead. This is what happened in our match: N/S bid 6♥ - one down, and at the other table E/W bid 6♠ making.
WEST ♠ A98532 ♥ — ♦ J32 ♣ AQJ6			EAST ♠ KJ106 ♥ — ♦ Q765 ♣ K10943	
SOUTH ♠ 7 ♥ 105432 ♦ AK10 ♣ 8752				

CAN YOU DO IT? #5

♠ KQ109		♠ A432
♥ KJ109		♥ A2
♦ KQ109		♦ A32
♣ K		♣ AQJ10

Opening lead: ♣9.

East to make 7NT against any defence or distribution.

YOUR FIRST TRIP TO THE GOLD COAST THIS YEAR? BEWARE!

Beware; last year was a first for a Sunshine Coast husband and wife pair. After completing their first teams match at the Gold Coast Congress they went to lunch, only to find on their return that lunch occurs after two matches not one. So a match not played.

I'm told that when commenting to the Director, who had proclaimed the forfeited match a draw, our pair thought that the decision seemed more than fair. The Director, David Anderson, said "I can only agree".

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

BIDDING THE HAND FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER Rosemary Crowley

Dealer: S ♠ 3
 Vul: Nil ♥ K976
 ♦ KQJ8
 ♣ AK75

♠ AK108 ♠ 9
 ♥ J108 ♥ AQ5432
 ♦ A10632 ♦ 9754
 ♣ 6 ♣ 83

 ♠ QJ76542
 ♥ _____
 ♦ _____
 ♣ QJ10942

Here are the results from the club:

No	Contract	Tricks	N/S	E/W
1	3NT N	7		100
2	3NT N	7		100
3	2S S	8	110	
4	3NT N	7		
5	4Sx S	9		100

Yes! Nobody played in clubs N/S!

Deep finesse, which calculates outcomes using optimum declarer play and optimum defence, did not appear on the printout. I believe it would have looked like this:

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	-	-	2	1
S	5	-	-	2	1
E	-	2	2	-	-
W	-	2	2	-	-

My question in the last newsletter was: What should you, South, open?

My answer: You should PASS - always intending to bid later. You can be assured of the opportunity to bid later because the hand will

not be passed out. You have 6 HCP. The other 3 players have 34 HCP between them, which means one of them has at least 12.

Secondly, I think you should pass because you do not have an opening bid which adequately describes this hand. Always remember - it is not what you bid that is important. What is important is "What will my partner understand by my bid?"

If you pre-empt in spades (and in my opinion this hand is too strong for a pre-empt) as obviously happened in the club, only 1 North passed a 2♠ pre-empt. One put South to 4♠ which cannot make - you have to lose 4 spade tricks, and the other Norths gambled on 3NT which cannot make.

If you bid 1♠ partner will envisage a 5+ card suit and 12 HCP, which doesn't nearly describe this hand. If you open 1♠ partner may well jump to 3NT. Will you then have the courage to go 5♣?

If you are playing Multi-Twos, South may open 2♠, promising 5 spades and 5 of

a minor, with 6 - 10 HCP. An accurate description? I think not, with two voids. In this case, with a multi opening, North will bid 2NT, an inquiry. If your answer gives strength and the other suit, what to bid? If you bid 3♣, showing 5 clubs and 5 spade and 6 - 8 HCP, will partner have the courage to go to 5♣? You will not get another bid. Should you go 5♣ in response to a 2NT inquiry? A big ask.

If you pass West will open 1♦. North should pass. I know he's got 15 HCP but he should not bid 1NT or X with no tolerance for spades. East will bid 1♥. Now it's your turn. If your system allows a X or 1NT showing the other two suits then that is your bid. If that's not part of your system then you should just bid 1♠. A small fib. Partner will think you have 5 spades and a maximum of 7 HCP. (West has 12, North has 15, East has 6. $(40 - [12 + 15 + 6] = 7)$). Now West may bid 1NT or pass with no clubs. Remember there's nil vulnerability here.

If West passes North will bid 1NT. East will bid 2♥. Will you bid 3♣? If you do, West will bid 3♥. North could well double this and you would have to bid 4♣. If West bids 1NT, North will happily pass - happy to defend against 1NT. East will bid 2♥ and now you must bid 3♣. Now what is North to think? You do not have an opening hand, - in fact you have a maximum 7 HCP - you have 5 spades and you must have 5 clubs to bid at the 3 level with not a word from him. Therefore your hand must be distributionally attractive. You must be 6 - 5 in spades and clubs and he likes clubs. West will bid 3♥ and you or partner should reach your optimum 5♣.

Play of the hand 5♣ by S

Opening lead. West should lead ♥J. Partner has bid hearts twice. Should North cover? I would, but it's irrelevant, South trumps anyway. Now South must take stock of the hand. He has all the top clubs. If he is to make this contract he must try to establish his spades. So, at trick 2, South leads the ♠J. West will cover and lead another heart, which South trumps. South is now down to 4 trumps. He now leads a spade from hand and trumps high. He leads a small club back to hand. Thank goodness!! East and West both followed suit. South now trumps another spade high and leads a small trump back to hand. He now leads another spade, losing to West. The contract is now his, having lost 2 spade tricks.

Another opening bid to contemplate for the next newsletter:

Dealer: E	East	♠	_____
		♥	QJ10874
Vul: N/S		♦	KQ108754
		♣	_____

COUNTING THE HANDS (2)

Reg Busch



To continue this theme from the last issue: to be a competent bridge player, you don't need to know a lot about exotic squeeze situations that turn up often in books but rarely at the table. But you do have to be able to count the hands i.e. be aware of the distribution of suits and HCP in the unseen hands, continually refining your assessment as the hand proceeds. There are some general principles that you as declarer may use. (Remember that there are no absolutes in bridge, and that 'always' means 'nearly always' and 'never' means 'hardly ever'.) You are South as declarer with West to make the opening lead.

If West has bid and he leads his own suit, he will lead from touching honours if he has them i.e. K from KQ, Q from QJ etc. In the absence of support from partner, if he doesn't lead his suit, then he probably does not have touching honours – he may have some sort of tenace combination e.g. AQxxx or KJ10xx.

If West has made a pre-emptive bid or a two-suited bid and doesn't lead his suit, he may be leading a singleton.

If West has not bid, but takes some time to decide his lead, then he has no obvious lead e.g. no singleton against a suit contract, no touching honours in a suit of his own.. You decide this at your own risk of course – perhaps West is just a ditherer. The corollary is that, if you don't hold the top Ace and King in a side suit and West doesn't lead one of them, then East has both or the two are divided between East and West. This may be useful info later.

Let's take this fairly simple example, quoted by Mike Lawrence in his excellent book *How to Read Your Opponents' Cards* (highly recommended). How would your analysis go in this situation? West deals and opens 1S.

W	N	E	S
1♠	P	2♠	3♥
P	4♥	All pass	

West leads the ♠5, East wins the ♠A and returns the ♠10.

♠J764

♥AK10

♦Q104

♣765

♠10

♥J98765

♦K85

♣AKJ

Your thoughts:

- East won with the ♠A. He doesn't hold the ♠K or he would have won with the ♠K, not the ♠A. So West holds the ♠K
- If West also held the ♠Q, he would have led the ♠K from his touching honours, instead of the ♠5. So he doesn't hold the ♠Q.
- So East holds the ♠A and the ♠Q, i.e. at least he has 6 HCP. I can see 22 HCP in our two hands, which leaves 12 HCP for West.
- For West's opening bid, he must have all the remaining HCP.

●Plan: the club finesse probably won't work, but the heart finesse will. Win the ♣A, finesse the ♥10 and draw trumps. Cash the ♣K, and if the ♣Q doesn't drop, then play diamonds by finessing the ♦10. The full hand:

	♠J764	
	♥AK10	
	♦Q104	
	♣765	
♠K9852		♠AQ3
♥Q42		♥3
♦AJ3		♦9762
♣Q4		♣109832
	♠10	
	♥J98765	
	♦K85	
	♣AKJ	

Note that, if the ♠Q hadn't dropped i.e. West held 3 clubs, then his diamond holding would have had to be Ace doubleton, so you play up to the ♦Q and duck back to the Ace. Or, if West had opened light and East held the ♠Q, then finessing the ♦10 will bring home the contract.

Another example:

♠A5
♥K109
♦AJ63
♣9742

♠K87
♥AQJ843
♦K109
♣J

You are in 6♥, with no opposition bidding. West leads the ♠6 to the ♠A with the ♠5 returned which you ruff. There are 11 tricks easily available. The twelfth will depend on the diamond finesse. You could just take an immediate finesse right now and hope. But perhaps you can find out more about the hand before making your decision.

So you play ♥3 to the ♥9, ruff a club, ♥4 to the ♥10 (East discards ♠3), ruff another club (with West's ♠K falling). Now you know that East has a singleton heart and 5 clubs to the Ace. But wait. EW are not fools. You have not yet claimed so they know you have some work to do, and they are not about to be helpful. Could they be false carding?

Could the club distribution in the two hands be ♠KQ106 - A853 with West false carding with ♠K on trick 3? No. To lead the ♠6 from the KQ106 against a slam would be crazy. So West was honest and held three clubs.

So you now play on spades: A, K, and ruff, with West's ♠Q falling on trick 3. Could West have started with QJ102? And false carding with the ♠Q at trick 3? Possible, but unlikely. Holding the ♠QJ102 an opening lead of the ♠Q would be much more attractive than the ♠6 lead against the slam. So West's ♠Q play was probably honest.

So we can safely assume that the suit distribution for East is 5-1-2-5 and West is 3-3-4-3. West holds four diamonds as against East's two, making him twice as likely to hold the ♦Q. So you ruff a club back to hand, draw the last trump, and successfully play West for the ♦Q.

If you had played on diamonds earlier, you may have thought that East, having a singleton heart, would be more likely to have diamond length and wrongly played him for the ♦Q. By seeking more information at no cost, you have much improved your chances of success. The full hand:

	♠ A5	
	♥ K109	
	♦ AJ63	
	♣ 9742	
♠ Q102		♠ J9643
♥ 762		♥ 5
♦ Q854		♦ 72
♣ K106		♣ AQ853
	♠ K87	
	♥ AQJ843	
	♦ K109	
	♣ J	

BRIDGE FOR THE IMPROVER

Ron Klinger

This is the first of a series of articles which appeared in the Gold Coast Bulletins for 2012 and is reproduced with kind permission of the author. If you have not already done so, we urge you to visit Ron's website ronklingerbridge.com. You will be amazed at the variety of helpful suggestions, articles and bridge problems you will find.

A MATTER OF TRUST

Dealer: South	North	
Vul: All	♠ A Q 10 5	
	♥ 10 9	
	♦ J 8 2	
	♣ J 7 6 3	
	East	
	♠ 9 7 6 3	
	♥ ---	
	♦ A 10 7 5 4	
	♣ K Q 10 5	

South opens 4♥ and all pass. West leads the ♣A, followed by the ♣2, which you win with the ♣10. On the ♣K South follows and West plays the ♦6, even card discouraging. What do you play at trick four?

	♠ A Q 10 5	
	♥ 10 9	
	♦ J 8 2	
	♣ J 7 6 3	
♠ J 8 4		♠ 9 7 6 3
♥ J 6 2		♥ ---
♦ K Q 9 6 3		♦ A 10 7 5 4
♣ A 2		♣ K Q 10 5
	♠ K 2	
	♥ A K Q 8 7 5 4 3	
	♦ ---	
	♣ 9 8 4	

Datum (average) on this deal from a national selection event was N-S scoring 590. At one table West made 5♦ for +600 (+15 Imps). Another West was in 6♦ doubled for –200 (+9 Imps) and one West was in 5♣ doubled after an auction which was definitely not for the fainthearted for –1700 (–15 Imps).

The other five tables played in a heart game, all making. Four made 680 on a diamond lead. At two tables the bidding went:

W	N	E	S
			4♥
/	/	/	

When West led the ♦K declarer soon had twelve tricks and +3 Imps. At the other table West appreciated the value of the ♥J-x-x and started with the ♣A. He struck gold and continued clubs. East won trick 2 with the ♣10 and cashed the ♣K. On this West discarded the ♦6, a discouraging signal: 'Don't play diamonds.'

East should continue with the fourth club to defeat 4♥. In practice East switched to the ♦A despite partner's signal. Declarer ruffed and soon scored +620. You can see what East was thinking: 'I'll cash the ♦A and then play the fourth club', but trusting partner is high priority.

PARTNERSHIP MISUNDERSTANDING?

I was matched with another player when my partner failed to show up. All through the session, whenever I made a mistake, he would say "No man is perfect!"

Later I found out his name was Norman.

KEN'S KONUNDRUM KORNER Number 8**Ken Dawson**

These are your trumps:-

♥ AJ43

♥ Q652

How do you plan to play trumps?

You should lead ♥2 to the ♥J.

Your trumps are not good enough to lead ♥Q planning to run it. You have no "stuffing" in the suit. For that play, you would need ♥T also. If you lead ♥Q here, West, holding the ♥K will simply cover it promoting the ♥T or ♥9 in either his own or partner's hand.

If ♥2 to the ♥J holds the trick, things are looking better. Now, bang down the ♥A and on a good day, ♥K will drop from West's hand giving no loser in the suit. The layout which you seek is:

♥ AJ43		
♥ Kx		♥ xxx
♥ Q652		

or

♥AJ43		
♥ K		♥ xxxx
♥ Q652		

Here, your thoughtful play holds the suit to one loser.

Notice that the declarer play is the same for:-

♥ AJ4

or

♥ AJ74

♥ Q6532

♥ Q6532

ANNOUNCING**Jemma Puddlewick**

When Jemma began her bridge career, there were no bidding pads. Bids were spoken. Later this was changed. Here are her thoughts on the latest announcing regulations.

*What would your answer be -
if the future you could see -
when told that bidding must be silent?
Who would guess that down the line -
they will brazenly opine -
Ignore the wisdom of the Gods -
eschew the demagogues of yore -
forget the ante-rules and lore -
We've spoken!!
suddenly they switch their preaching*

*going hard against their teaching -
making you announce it now -e
Pity pundits don't give tuppance -
Hope one day they'll get their uppance
-Lot of god-forsaken hicks -
----- (Line censored!!)
Worse than flipping politicians -
give me back the old patricians
What's next?*

BRIDGING THE GAP

WITH FOOD FOR THOUGHT

OLIVE JAMES CCBC

WHITE CHOCOLATE MOUSSE WITH BLUEBERRY COMPOTE Serves 6

This is a rather decadent dessert, rich and yummy but quite easy and quick to make. With blueberries still available I thought it appropriate.

INGREDIENTS

Compote

250 gr blueberries
1 tblspn caster sugar
1 tblspn finely grated lemon zest
1 tblspn lemon juice

White chocolate Mousse

200 gr white chocolate - chopped
4 large eggs - separated
2 tblspn caster sugar
160 ml thickened cream - whipped

To make the compote, combine all the ingredients in a small saucepan and cook over a low heat for 3 - 4 minutes, or until softened and syrupy.

Remove from heat and set aside to cool.

Once cooled, divide mixture between 6 glass goblets or dishes (using glass allows you to see the colour combination).

To make the mousse, gently melt the milk chocolate in a glass bowl over a saucepan of simmering water. Remove from heat and set aside for 10 minutes.

In a mixing bowl, beat egg whites and sugar together until soft peaks form.

In another bowl, whisk egg yolks until pale, then gently fold into the chocolate.

Fold the egg whites, then the whipped cream, into the melted chocolate mixture and stir until all combined.

Spoon on top of the blueberry compote and set in the fridge for at least 3 hours.

For a really beautiful presentation, place each goblet onto a side plate which has a small paper doyley.

Now split a strawberry in half and finely slice (about 5 or 6 strips) and place on doyley at the foot of the glass.

Holding the top of the strawberry, press down with your thumb until the strawberry fans out (both halves).

To finish, place a mint sprig on top of the white chocolate mousse.

Sit back and wait for the accolades.

DID NAPOLEON EVER HAVE TROUBLE KEEPING BRIDGE PARTNERS?

Even if what I say is disagreeable to everyone, it is my will.

Napoleon Bonaparte

OVERHEARD

- Why on earth didn't you go for the drop instead of trying for the finesse? You would have made your contract!

- OK, it probably wasn't a good idea, but I think I am old enough to make bad decisions.

PARTNERSHIP UNDERSTANDING

- My partner never says a word when I do something foolish. She doesn't need to. Her face preserves the immobility of judgement withheld.

NAUTICALLY SPEAKING

- Your partner wasn't playing at all well last night.

- You're right. He wasn't rowing with his oars entirely in the water.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.

HOW GOOD DOES IT HAVE TO GET?

- Are you good for next Tuesday?

- I'm good.

- Good. It's good that you're good. Good is good.

VALENTINE'S DAY 2015

Get in early. Your club is offering a massive discount on Valentine cards for next year. The inscription reads: *You are my One and Only.* 4 for \$5.00.

ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS !! ACTION REQUIRED !!

Those of us who are discriminated against in the following matter wish to draw the committee's attention to the fact that the placement of toilet paper dispensers in the club toilets unfairly favours right-handed members.

While we are not considering legal action at this stage, we would like the possibility to hang over you like the Sword of Damocles.

A DULL PARTNER?

- What does your partner do?

- He drills for oil.

- Isn't that boring?

(Sorry about that one.)