



# BRIDGE MATTERS



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

## AROUND THE CLUBS



**CALOUNDRA:** Since the last edition, we have welcomed the following new members: Barbara Bainbridge, Herschel Baker, David Clark, Kay Coad, Don and Mary Lou Cole, Trevor Dowdell, Bob Galvin, Peter Innes, Gary Keenan, Trish McBeath, Errol Miller, Robin Peake, Des Shaw, Cherith Suddens, Gilbert Tassin, Petra Vannesta, Evon and Peter Woodward, Andy and Leonne Wills. Welcome back to Bill Down.



Congratulations to Di and Alan Maltby, winners of our Pairs Championship, and to Margaret Welldon and Annette Densley, winners of the President's Trophy.

In June we held our annual Australia's Biggest Morning Tea bridge event, raising \$1000 for the Cancer Council.

At our AGM in August the following committee was elected: Geoff Gulley, president; Bridget Hamer, vice president; Anne Manester, secretary; Kate Balmanno, treasurer; Rosemary Crowley, Maureen Gray, Pat James, Nev O'Brien and Mary Winch, committee members. In recognition of their service to the club over many years, Miriam Hutchinson, Billie Margerison and Van van Altena were made Honorary Life Members.

**COOLUM:** Welcome to Geoffrey Cosgrove.

Following our AGM in August, our new committee is as follows: Ines Dawes, president; Frank Harbison, immediate past president; Ken Dawson, games director; Prue Graham, secretary; Jill Nichol, treasurer; and Steve Jesienowski, Alan Sinclair, Allison Walker, Michael Haseler, Pat Terrace and Monty Dale, committee members.



## SUNSHINE COAST GOES SILVER !!! ♥ ♥

Congratulations to Adrian Mayers, the first and only Silver Grand Master on the Sunshine Coast



## SUNSHINE COAST:

We are glad to welcome the following new members: Val Alder, Sally Blattman, Jacquelyn Brene, Jill and Michael Bruxner, Jenny Carmichael, Ruth Champion, Geoffrey Cosgrove, Graeme Cunningham, Rozelin Drummond, Drew Dunlop, Priscilla Etheredge, Marie Gracey, Cathie Griffiths, Wendy Hardy, Lorraine Kaszas, Gai Kennedy, Vicki Lawrence, Geoffrey Leach, Chris McLardy, Jill MacPherson, Ian Meddows, Debra Niesler, Dianne Norris, Coralie Snowball, Dianne Thatcher, Ryan Touton and Alison Wilson. Our June Congress saw the largest number of pairs for some years. It was particularly pleasing to welcome the number of Brisbane pairs who made the trip. Congratulations to the winners, Ralph Parker and Nathan van Jole, and to the winners of the teams event: Neville Francis, Annette Maluish, Rosemary Green and Maureen Jakes. Winners of our August teams congress: Alison Dawson, Elizabeth Zeller, Herold Rienstra and Errol Miller. Congratulations!

In July we held our Club Teams Championship. Winners: David Harris, Phillippa Barnett, Kendall Early and Timothy Ridley. Well done!!



## FROM THE EDITOR

*Bridge Matters* is very pleased to welcome Susie May, aka *Susie the Floozie* to our staff, as Senior Principal Illustrator in Chief and Head of the Art Department. We know you will be charmed by her delightful sketches. Let it be known that the Floozie will be receiving a salary commensurate with that of the rest of the staff.

We have officially decided to officially disregard our official policy of never officially endorsing anything, by officially endorsing Wendy Cameron's explanation of the Nine of Diamonds as the one true version. That's the wonderful thing about official policies. Ask any politician. Wendy's mother told her this story when she was a little girl so it must be true.

## THE CURSE OF SCOTLAND

**Wendy Cameron**

When Queen Mary of Scotland was on the throne, and her husband, the Earl of Bothwell was in a Danish prison, he wrote a message to her on the Nine of Diamonds, and we all know she was beheaded!!

**WHY ATTEND CONGRESSES?****August 2011**

Normal bridge sessions are the bread-and-butter of most bridge clubs. Bridge players on the Coast can choose from numerous sessions six days a week and some Clubs attract up to 30 tables to their regular sessions.

Unfortunately, only a small proportion of regular players play in bridge congresses, and I think that's unfortunate. So let me tell you why congress bridge is different (and I think better) than normal club bridge.



- Congress attendees are drawn from all over, and the fields tend to be stronger. This is good for stronger players, but it's also excellent for improving players. Also, you're going to meet players you don't meet every day at the club, and this is good for your bridge, and enhances the social aspect of the game.
- If you're avoiding congresses because you don't want to get beaten up by stronger players, don't worry. Almost all congresses are run on the "Swiss draw" principle, which means that except for the first round, you only meet opponents who are doing as well as you are. Less experienced players will, in the main, meet players of a similar standard, though if you do particularly well, you will be tested with your next draw, but of course if you're doing badly, you should end up with an easier draw.
- Many congresses are run as Teams events. This means that two pairs enter together as a team of four (they don't need to have played as a team before, but are usually of a similar standard). For each match (usually 8 boards), your team is drawn to play another team. The team mates of the pair you are playing are at the other table playing your team mates, but your team mates sit in the opposite direction to you, so that they hold the cards that your opponents at your table hold. Scoring is done solely on how your table result compares to their table result – what happens at all the other tables is irrelevant. This is a very different method of scoring from what is used at regular Club sessions, and many people believe this makes for much more enjoyable bridge. But don't worry if you don't understand how to score this way – the Bridgemates and scoring program work everything out for you.
- Pairs Congresses are either Matchpoint or Butler scored. Matchpoint scoring is the method used at club sessions, but Butler is more like teams scoring, and many people find this an enjoyable alternative to club sessions.
- Masterpoints at congresses are red or gold, and are awarded at a higher rate than normal green point club sessions. Further, the way points are commonly awarded at congresses means that it's unusual for any player to walk away empty-handed, so your Master rank promotion gets just a little bit closer with every congress you play in.

- Congresses are run by non-playing qualified directors, who will have the time to ensure issues at the table are properly dealt with, and that justice is done. This is not always possible at club sessions when playing directors need to get back to their table.

- Let's not forget the prize money. Congress fields are usually divided into categories for prize purposes, so that lesser players aren't competing with the strong players for minor prizes. And there's often a special group at the tail of the field for newer players, so everyone in the field stands a chance of getting a prize.

- Congresses represent excellent value for money. For an entry fee of usually \$30 a player per day, you get a full day's enjoyment, a very nice sandwich lunch, coffee, tea and snacks throughout the day, and a beer or wine with hot snacks at the end.

- If, as a new player, you are still a bit uncertain about all this, dip your toe in the water at one of the Novice or Graded congresses. Noosa, Sunshine Coast and Caloundra Clubs all run one or more Novice Congresses each year, which are specifically for players with fewer than 100 masterpoints. Many new players find this more enjoyable than open events, but it doesn't take long for them to want to move on. In Graded events on the other hand, the field is divided into groups at the outset, and players only play within their group. This is another way newer players can play in a congress knowing they will only meet players of a similar standard.

- In the same way that Congresses are different from normal club sessions, major gold point national congresses are different again. These are very professionally run events, and draw top players from Australia and overseas. The biggest in Australia is undoubtedly the Gold Coast Congress – it is quite something to sit in a room with over a thousand other players all focusing on the play of their hands. You could hear a pin drop! Other top events include the Barrier Reef Congress (North Queensland) and the Summer Festival in Canberra every January, but all States hold at least one gold point event each year.

And finally, let's not forget that congresses represent a way for Clubs to earn money – money that ultimately benefits their members.

Next year, there are 14 one and two day congresses on the Sunshine Coast, and many more in surrounding areas. In our immediate vicinity, clubs at Gympie and Maryborough in the north, and Brisbane, Gold Coast and the Darling Downs to the south and west, all host excellent congresses. Sunshine Coast players have been known to travel far and wide to attend congresses.

Upcoming congresses are listed on the QBA web site ([www.qldbridge.com](http://www.qldbridge.com)). Entry forms for all regional congresses are also displayed on your Club's notice board. You can usually enter by email or regular mail, and most clubs will accept payment on the day.

## BRIDGE FOR THE IMPROVER

Ron Klinger

*This is the second 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](http://ronklingerbridge.com). You will be amazed at the variety of helpful suggestions, articles and bridge problems you will find.*

Dealer: South	♠ K 8 6 5	W	N	E	S
Vul: Nil	♥ Q 6 4 3				1 ♠
	♦ Q 6 3	/	2 ♠	X	/
	♣ 8 7	3 ♣	3 ♠	All pass	
	♠ J 4				
	♥ 10 9 8 2				
	♦ A K J 10				
	♣ A J 2				

West leads the ♣ K. As East, you are to answer the following questions:

- What does that tell you about West's club holding?
- How many club tricks can East-West take?
- How many more tricks do you need to defeat the contract?
- Where can you score those tricks?
- How can you let partner know which red suit to play?

### Answer

- West's ♣ K lead from a 4+ suit should promise the ♣ Q as well.
- Two. Dummy can ruff the 3rd round of clubs.
- South is in 3 ♠, nine tricks. If you collect two club tricks, you need three more to defeat 3 ♠.
- From diamonds, as long as South has three or more diamonds.
- If you play low on the first club, discouraging, West might switch at once, but maybe the switch will be to a heart. That is not what you want. If you play the ♣ J, West will probably continue with a second club. If West plays a low club at trick two and you win, you cannot collect three diamond tricks from your side (unless West started with a doubleton and can ruff the third round).

If West plays the ♣ Q at trick two and you let West have the trick, how can West tell whether to switch to a heart or a diamond?

The answer is that the one who knows, shows. East should take the ♣ K with the ♣ A at trick 1. Then play the ♦ K to show the strength in diamonds. At trick three, lead the ♣ 2 to West's ♣ Q. Now West should have no trouble knowing that diamonds is the suit needed.

**SOCIAL BRIDGE** is played at Diddillibah most Tuesday mornings from 9.30 to 12.30. No partner required. Phone Kim 040 405 3551 for more information.

## HURRY UP - AND THINK! (Part 1)

Mike Phillips

*As well as being a director, bridge writer and occasional teacher on Sydney's North Shore Mike Phillips is secretary/treasurer of the Australian Bridge Directors' Association. The following is taken from an article which first appeared a while ago in the North Shore Bulletin, and is reproduced with kind permission of the author.*

The other thing (*the first was air-conditioning*) that concerns directors is slow play, and that's a shame not only because it's so unnecessary, but because it's one of the things that put people off bridge clubs at a time when it's a struggle to retain numbers.

Bruce McIntyre of Vancouver wrote some pertinent comments some ten years ago, that are just as valid today, and I've borrowed some of them here.

The real keys to playing fast are in forming habits that serve to keep the game moving, and staying alert at the table. To play fast you don't need to play fast; you just need to play slowly less often.

Suppose the auction goes 1NT (15-17) on your right, you pass on an eleven count, LHO makes a transfer. You should see that you are likely to be on opening lead eventually, and you should start figuring out what your best lead might be against notrump, or against the suit that is about to be bid by RHO. Once the auction is over, you can immediately place a card on the table. After your lead is turned face up, you can write the contract on your personal score sheet as declarer studies dummy.

Likewise, you are defending a trump contract, you are short in trumps, and you know that a discard will be needed when declarer draws trumps. Don't wait for this moment to think about your discard - you know what your signals are so you can make up your mind as soon as dummy goes down, so you can play smoothly and quickly when the time comes.

There are many more ways in which precious seconds and even minutes can be saved, which will not only speed up the game but also allow more time to concentrate on the cards.

Let's go over the ground and look over a single deal and how time wasted can be extra time saved:

**Arriving at the table:** This is where most of the time goes. Smokers must go outside or to a smoking room, where they can't hear the round being called. Some clubs have toilets, or coffee areas that are far away from the tables. Some clubs even have less washroom space than they need and queues result. None of these is any excuse for arriving at the table late. The only excuse for arriving at a table late is that you were still playing boards when the round was called. Even this is not an excuse if you finished the boards late then went to get a leisurely

refreshment while your opponents were waiting (although biological urgency is an exception, provided you follow it up with bridge urgency to make up for lost time.)

**Greeting the opponents:** Too many of us don't greet our opponents. But some of us do with such warmth that by the time the first bid is made, other tables have played three tricks already. The happy medium is to greet and pull cards from the slot simultaneously. This keeps everybody happy. If someone wants to tell a story, simply save it for the end of the round, and almost certainly you will have time - trust me.

**Bidding:** Check the dealer and vulnerability on the board before sorting your cards. The number one timing problem in bidding consists of players not realising it is their turn. Either the dealer hasn't seen that he is the dealer, or the player due to make the next bid is waiting for LHO to say something. If you are next to call and are thinking for more than a few seconds, it is a good idea to give some indication that you know it is your bid, to put minds at rest.

**Before the opening lead:** Once the bidding is over, the players should write the contract down on their personal score sheets - except the player who is making the opening lead, who should open the proceedings first. Likewise, dummy should not delay tabling the cards to record the contract.

*To be continued*

## IN YOUR DREAMS!

Apologies to Groucho Marx



Last night I dreamed I was playing bridge with an elephant in my pyjamas. How he got into my pyjamas I will never know.

## \*\*\*\*\* SURE BEATS CLASS

Alan Maltby

♠ 972

♥ A9872

♦ K5

♣ A93

♠ AQJ104

♥ 654

♦ 864

♣ 106

♠ 863

♥ KQ103

♦ QJ1072

♣ 7

♠ K5

♥ J

♦ A93

♣ KQJ8542

Diane and I were playing in the first round of the Caloundra Club Championship when this hand came up. I was North, and although we may open with a hand like this when it is imps scoring, I decided against opening this minimum hand in a match points event. East passed, and Diane opened 2 ♣, showing either a 23+ hand or one with 8 playing tricks in any suit. (OK, she only has 7.5 tricks, but it is also rather pre-emptive when it is likely the opposition have the majors.)

West passed and I replied 3 ♠, which shows 2 Aces of mixed rank and colour, so she knew I had club and heart Aces. Di

now counted her hand, 7 club tricks, 1 heart, 1 diamond and a stopper if spades is led, so she bid 3NT, though systemically this shows 23+.

I could not work this out. If she did indeed have 23, and I had at least 8, why did she not use one of our forcing bids to find out more about my hand, rather than sign off in 3NT? I suspected she may have had a long minor to run, and I had the diamond King, which she would not have expected, given that I was a passed hand. I thought I would make a highly invitational bid, and wrote 5NT. Di was able to contain her shock/horror, and wrote 6 ♣. This was passed out. The ♥ A was led, and Di wrapped up the next 12 tricks without any drama.

As it turns out, 6 ♣ makes on any lead, since there are enough entries to my hand to set up the 5th heart trick for a spade discard.

## OH ESTIMABLE BEAST!

Next time you make the same error in declarer play you made the week before, next time you forget that tricky little convention you forgot last month, consider the old Dutch proverb:

*A donkey never trips over the same stone twice.*

## MULTI TWO BIDS with Ken Dawson and the Coolum Bridge Club.

Learn to play with and against Multi Twos! Two lessons, September 14th and 21st at Anne Finney's house, 5 Seagull Ave, Coolum. 8.45 - 12.30. Phone 0432414583, or 0421461814 or email [banksia9@gmail.com](mailto:banksia9@gmail.com) to book. \$5 per lesson + \$2 for notes.

*George has come up with a set of 24 rules, and has kindly given us permission to publish them. We will print a selection over the next few editions.*

When you first learn bridge you are inundated with rules, *third hand high, second hand low, do not finesse against partner*. None of these "rules" are a substitute for working it out for yourself. They are a starting point for your thinking processes. Here I put forward a set of such rules. They are so often right that it needs a very good reason not to follow them. There is no "never" in bridge but you should ask yourself "Why?" before you do otherwise. Expert readers of this publication will have considered all of them already and possibly come up with a different view. Less experienced players should consider them carefully and discard them only when they are satisfied that they know better. If you are just starting out it will take a very long time to work them all out for yourself. Perhaps even carry a copy in your pocket. There are so many exceptions to *second hand low and third hand high*, that they are not included in this list at all.

1. If your partner opens or overcalls in a suit, lead it. Alfred Sheinwold said that there is only one reason for not leading your partner's suit. If you don't already know what it is, find out. This rule should really be rule 2, 3, 4 and 5 as well.
2. Never lead a singleton trump. Yes, Garozzo once led a singleton king of trumps, which was destined to win a trick had he not led it, but it was the only lead to defeat the slam contract. So perhaps modify the rule, but only if you are Garozzo. You don't want to have to double a grand slam, holding Qxx in trumps, just so partner won't lead one.
3. Never lead a trump. This not quite so absolute as rule 2, but almost. So often a vital tempo is wasted just because your partner, not you, won't make an aggressive lead. You need a reason for leading a trump and "unattractive" leads in other suits is a very weak one.
4. Do lead aggressively, not only against no trump contracts. The more you hold in a suit, the less you need from partner to set up tricks. If you persist in leading "safely" you will find, too often, that the suit you establish is declarer's.
5. Do lead the unbid suit. The opponents usually haven't bid it, or no trump, for a reason - they don't have it. Get your winners cashed while you can.
6. Do not underlead an ace against a suit contract at trick one. This rule can be broken if the king is likely to be in dummy and partner will co-operate by playing the queen if dummy's king is not played. These are big ifs.

## **RULES FOR LIFE**

1. Don't worry about what people think. They don't do it very often.
2. If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning.



When we start to learn bridge, we learn a few slogans to guide us. For example: *Cover an honour with an honour. Second hand plays low, third hand plays high. In finessing, eight ever, nine never. When in doubt lead trumps. Always return partner's suit.* (these last two never were very good advice).

These are useful guides when we start, but there are no 'always' and no 'nevers' in bridge. You will find that there are many important ifs and buts that you must also learn. This series of articles will attempt to clarify the ifs and the buts. First, we'll discuss :

### **Cover an honour with an honour.**

The big proviso: **But only if it may promote a defensive trick for one's side.**

Here is an obvious example where you would not follow the slogan. Declarer (LHO) has opened a weak two in spades and his partner has raised to 4S Declarer wins the opening lead on the table and leads the SJ from dummy. Do you cover?

J108

K75 (you)

How many spades does partner hold? One only. There is no way that playing the king could ever promote a trick for your side, and indeed it may cost dearly. If partner's singleton is an honour, playing the king will be disastrous. The play will go J,K,A,Q (thus presenting declarer with a no loser suit). Or it could be worse: J, K, small, A. Partner will love you for compressing two certain tricks into one.

K9 (you)

J

AQ1053

In a NT contract, West leads the DJ. You are North. Both your diamonds are doomed, so is there any point in covering? Perhaps not, but partner just may hold 8xxx and will take the fourth trick. So cover – there is nothing to lose and just a possibility of gain.

There are less obvious situations. In a club side suit dummy holds QJ93. You hold K52. Declarer leads the Q from dummy. Do you cover?

The answer is No. Let's look at what could happen.

#1

1086

A74

QJ93

K53 (you)

Change the layout a little.

Now your King is doubleton, and declarer leads the CQ. You still mustn't cover. If declarer needs five tricks in this suit and you cover with the King, he has no choice but to finesse with the 9 to the next trick. But if you hold off with the King, look at declarer's problem. The layout may be:

He has to pick either the King or the 10 to be doubleton if he wants to make 5 tricks in the suit. In (1) he must lead small from the table (dropping the doubleton King), in (2) he must lead the Queen, thus pinning the doubleton ten. To make life harder for him, an alert partner holding the 1086 will play the 8 to trick1 to give the impression of the 10 being doubleton. Declarer may still get it right, but at least you have made him guess. And sometimes he will guess wrongly. That's the aim of the game.

Often you don't have the luxury of seeing the hand on lead. Example:

Declarer, the closed hand leads the Q. Do you cover? Technically declarer should not be leading the Q unless he also has the J. Bearing in mind #1 above, if you cover you may be establishing a no loser suit for declarer. However, declarers don't always play correctly, and I would cover because we may be establishing a defensive trick. Otherwise you may find yourself in the position of North in the next hand.

11

West was an experienced player playing against experienced players. He needed to salvage two tricks from this suit. The normal way to play this combination is to hope for the King to be on your right and to lead small from the table. But he had good reason from the bidding to place the HK in the North hand. So he led the HQ from hand. North 'knew' that West, to play this way, had to hold the HJ and possibly the H9, and that he should hold off covering until the second round. So he 'correctly' held off allowing West to 'steal' his two tricks in hearts. This is a deceptive tactic that would work only against good players.

This is what we used to call a 'Chinese' finesse. These days, this would be a very un-PC term, but I don't know what the language police today would call it. Whatever, it's best to **cover an honour unless you can actually see the touching honours**.

## THIS ONE IS PURE CLASS

Alan Maltby

Wilma Hiddins and Tony Walford gave us a great example of having meaningful conventions and using them well. In this hand from the Caloundra club pairs

♠ 84		championship, Di and I were silent throughout the
♥ 109		auction. Tony opened the East hand with a
♦ K974		Precision 1C bid. Wilma responded 3H, which
♣ J10762		shows 8+ HCP, a singleton Heart and 4 of the
♠ K1076	♠ AQ32	other suits. Tony bid 3S, Wilma raised to 4, and
♥ 4	♥ AKJ8762	Tony used Blackwood to discover Wilma had no
♦ 10862	♦ A5	Aces and 2 black Kings, so they finished in 6
♣ KQ95	♣ --	Spades. We led a trump 9, so that meant the
	♠ J95	trumps were likely to behave. Tony put on the 10,
	♥ Q53	which held. He now called for the Club King,
	♦ QJ3	hoping North had the Ace, but when the Ace did
	♣ A843	not appear, he threw his losing Diamond. South
		took the Ace of Clubs, but that was the end of the

hand. Tony drew trumps, ruffed out the Heart Queen and claimed.

All the other pairs played in Hearts, which cannot do any better than 11 tricks.

## BRIDGE REASONING #4

Ken Dawson

**Scenario:** Your LHO opened 3S and is now defending your 4H contract.

♦ AQ4      **Challenge:** Plan your play.

Opening lead ♦ 2

♦ J53

If it is ♦ Kxx, then it is clearly correct to play low and collect the entire suit!  
However, think out that pre-empt. Do you really think he holds ♦ Kxx?  
I don't think so. That ♦ 2 will be a singleton!

# BRIDGING THE GAP WITH FOOD FOR THOUGHT OLIVE JAMES CCBC

## SCOTTISH BLACK BUN (Photo on display)

In 1983, I opened my Patisserie/Coffee Shop in Paddington (Brisbane). "*Spridgers - A Taste Of Nostalgia*", based on old English tea rooms. In my first year, interest rates kicked in at 13.5% and within 3 years, were up to 21%.

This recipe was one of my Christmas/New Year range.

Great keeping qualities (whisky), and placed on a paper doiley, wrapped in cellophane and finished with a tartan ribbon, makes a very desirable gift.

### Ingredients: Pastry

3 cups plain flour  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 250 gr butter  
 1 egg yolk  
 4 tablespoons water (approx.)  
 1 egg yolk extra  
 1 tablespoon water extra

### Ingredients: Filling

500 gr raisins  
 125 gr blanched almonds  
 60 gr mixed peel  
 500 gr currants  
 1 tspn ground ginger  
 1 tspn cinnamon  
 1 tspn mixed spice  
 ¼ tspn finely ground black pepper  
 ½ cup whisky  
 ½ cup honey  
 ½ cup milk  
 2 eggs  
 1 ½ cups plain flour

### Method: Pastry

Sift flour and salt and rub in butter.  
 Use hand to mix in combined egg yolk and water.  
 You may need to add a tspn more water, but pastry must be very firm.  
 Refrigerate while preparing filling.

### Method: Filling

Finely chop raisins, almonds & peel, then combine in large basin with currants, spices, pepper, whisky, honey, milk, beaten eggs & flour. Mix well with hand or wooden spoon.

Roll ⅔ of pastry on floured surface to line base and sides of 9"x 5" loaf pan (greased).  
 Ease pastry down sides of tin and into corners very gently with fingers. Do not break or stretch.

Press out folds in pastry with fingertips.  
 Bring pastry above edge of tin, trim so pastry is ½" all around above edge of tin.

Press filling firmly into pastry case. Level top.  
 Roll remaining pastry about 1" larger all round than top of tin, trim with sharp knife to rectangle ½" larger all round than inside measurement of tin.

Brush pastry in tin with combined extra egg yolk and water.

Carefully place rectangle of pastry over filling.  
 Pinch edges of pastry together, using fingers (crimp into pattern.)

Do not cut slit in top of pastry.

Brush surface with egg yolk - water mix.

Bake in a slow oven 3 - 3 ½ hours or until golden brown.

Leave to cool in tin until completely cold.

To remove from tin, stand tin in hot water for one minute.

Carefully remove bun from tin, and wrap in glad wrap and foil until required.



Question: Who are the only two bridge players to have been made Honorary Life Masters by the American Contract Bridge League? Answer next edition

## AT THE GRIFFINS CLUB

*We play quickly, for we feel that it is more dignified to make mistakes through lack of forethought than after mature deliberation.*

BiM p11

Rabbit	
♠ 9873	
♥ J	
♦ AKQ	
♣ AQ874	
N.P.	Papa
♠ KJ10	♠ Q4
♥ 10987	♥ 5432
♦ 432	♦ 108765
♣ J102	♣ 93
Hog	
♠ A652	
♥ AKQ6	
♦ J9	
♣ K65	

Victor Mollo introduces us to the Griffins Club in *Bridge in the Menagerie* (1965), (T. Batswood Ltd, London, 1990). On this present occasion, the Hideous Hog (the best player in the club), is playing with the Rueful Rabbit (*perhaps the worst player in the Western Hemisphere, and certainly the luckiest* p17.) Through a series of bumbling, blustering, blundering bidding, they arrive, in the following hand, at a final contract of 7 ♦. No, that is not a typo. The contract is 7 ♦ !!! You will be spared the bidding.

To make 13 tricks, the Hog has to take 4 heart tricks, the Ace of spades, Ace, King, Queen of clubs and ruff separately with

all 5 diamonds. However, the 3rd club trick is going to be ruffed!! So here's how the cunning and crafty old Hog goes about it.

The lead of the ♥ 10 is taken with the J. Over to the ♠ A. He then plays AKQ of hearts, discarding dummy's spades. He now pretends a club finesse. But he wants to make sure West doesn't play any card that might suggest to East that something fishy is going on. So, as he leads a low club to the Q, he offers West a cigarette, thrusting the packet right into his face. Non-smoking West, disconcerted, automatically plays low, and the Q holds!!! ♣ A from dummy, followed by a low club. East, convinced by the "finesse", that his partner has the K, and wishing to hold on to his diamonds, discards a spade. The Hog wins with the King, ruffs a ♠ in dummy, then a ♣ with his ♦ 9. He continues to cross ruff, over-ruffing East all the way, for 13 tricks.

Of course, with correct bidding, he could have made 7 clubs or 7 no trumps, but, as he said, 7 diamonds was far more exhilarating.

Extraordinary upon extraordinary are the bridge happenings at the Griffins Club. Senior Kibitzer, Oscar the Owl, maintains a running commentary:

*Curious hand. Both sides can make 4 hearts.* p139

*An unusual hand. Both the best defence and the best dummy play, it seems, consist in blocking one's suits.* p121

## PERSONALITY PROFILE

VICTOR MOLLO 1909 - 1987



Victor Mollo was born in St Petersburg, into a wealthy Russian family. He was 8 years old when the Revolution broke out. He and his family escaped to Finland, using forged Red Cross papers. They finally ended up in London.

Like many before and since, he neglected his studies and devoted himself to bridge. He was employed in the European service of the BBC, and began to write books and articles on the game of bridge. At the time of his death he had written 30 books and hundreds of articles.

His life style was quite extraordinary. He would play rubber bridge at his club each afternoon, enjoy a gourmet dinner and wine with his wife, (the *Squirrel* at the Griffins Club and his eagle-eyed proof reader), then work all night until 6 am, when he would take a brief sleep. He occasionally competed at Duplicate bridge, winning four national tournaments, but much preferred the cut and thrust of rubber bridge.

He is perhaps best known for his *Bridge in the Menagerie* series, and was recognized in his day as the most entertaining writer on the game.

*Card Play Technique - The Art of Being Lucky*, 1955, co-written with Nico Gardner, is regarded by many as the best book ever written on Declarer Play. We have no hesitation recommending it to you. There is a copy in both Caloundra and Sunshine Coast libraries. It begins as follows:

*Fortune only smiles on the brave. She positively beams on the skilful, versed in the technique of wooing her. For to be lucky is an art which can be mastered like any other.*

**R.R:** *Experience over many years showed that it saved endless trouble to fall in with partner's wishes. One was still cursed afterwards, of course, if it went wrong, but not so vehemently and not for so long.*

BiM p105

**H.H:** *Brilliance comes to me naturally, and I can claim no credit for it.*

p113

**R.R:** *One gets used to abuse. It's waiting for it to come that is so trying.*

p 90



## COMPETITION !!!!!

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A magnificent prize (one free game in a club of your choice, provided it is one of ours), for the best adaptation of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* to a bridge theme. A second free game if you sing it at one of our Christmas parties! Entries need to be in by November 1st. Email [wendy\\_ob@hotmail.com](mailto:wendy_ob@hotmail.com) or hand it to someone.

## MAYBE IT BEGAN THIS WAY

A cave man was sitting in his cave, replete from his dinner of semi-raw bison, blood dripping from his moustaches, bored out of his mind. So he said to his cave wife:

"I know! I'll teach you to talk! That couldn't hurt, could it?"

Well, the cave wife learned to talk. She learned to criticize, complain, whine, whinge and nag, and she did it non-stop. Finally, at his wits' end, in a desperate effort to distract her, he said:

"I know! I'll teach you to play bridge! That couldn't hurt, could it?"



## THE ART OF LOSING

*There is too much stress everywhere on the art of winning and not nearly enough anywhere on the art of losing. Yet it is surely the more important of the two, for not only do the losers pay the winners, but they clearly enjoy doing it. Were it otherwise they would have stopped playing - or taken to winning - long ago.*

V.Mollo BiM, p11

## IN MEMORIAM

Old bridge players never die. They just shuffle away.

## AN IDEAL PARTNERSHIP?

*My wife probably cannot play bridge at all. She does not know for she has never tried.*

V.Mollo BiM p9

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Sitting at a bridge table doesn't make you a bridge player, anymore than standing in a garage makes you a car.

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Tri-Club Singers** will present *Frolics by Moonlight* 11pm next full moon in the parking lot. Plenty of very boozy punch. Bring a blanket and sin along with us.

**Childminding.** For those of you who have children and don't know it, we provide a nursery service on Friday mornings.

**Nomi Trump and Jack Diamond** were wed in the club last Saturday. So ends a beautiful friendship that began when they met at their very first bridge lesson.

**Save the Club Suit.** Donations are being collected again for this most worthy cause. We have upped our contribution. Up yours!

**Wanted:** Proofreader/copy editor