



BRIDGE MATTERS



Newsletter of the Caloundra, Coolumb and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs September 2012

AROUND THE CLUBS



SUNSHINE COAST

Welcome, and happy bridging, to our new members: Susan Allport, Brian Appleby, Harriet & Les Case, Frank Castle, Pauline Clayton, Drew Campi, Brian Cordiner, Nancy Cook, Margaret Fletcher, Julie Gowan, Veronica Hawkins, John Healey, Paul Hughes, Hazel Keeley, Anne Kibble, Diana Maughan, Caroline O'Brien, Adrian Pollock, Shann Sage, Bev Scott, Wendy Scott, Millicent Seddon, Jan Thrupp, Bradley Treadwell, Helen Venter, Ann Viner and Chrissy Wassell.



This year Dot Borchardt and Norine Holloway celebrate their 30 year bridge partnership on the Sunshine Coast! Incidentally, they were both taught by Ingola Meldrum. Anyone who feels they can match or outdo them in longevity, please contact the editor.

Congratulations to Neville Francis & Paul Hooykaas, winners of our June Butler Pairs Congress, and Jim Wallis, Toni Bardon, Pele Rankin & Therese Tully, who won the Swiss Teams. Our August Teams Congress finished in a tie for first place between Geoff Hart, David Harris, Kendall Early & Timothy Ridley, and Susan Rodgers, Diana Stagg, Ann Mellings & Verna Brookes. Congratulations.

Congratulations go also to Kevin Feeney, David Harris, Kendall Early & Timothy Ridley, winners of the club teams championship.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: Olive James, Susie May & Robin A Brown, for CCBC and SCCBC, have produced a calendar for 2013. Entitled *The Best of Both Worlds*, it combines the natural beauty of the Sunshine Coast with our love for the game of bridge, and is a lot of fun.

Available early September. Cost: \$10. Support your club and buy multiple copies. Envelopes available if required for 50 cents.



COOLUM

We would like to welcome Janelle Kipping, Lorraine Vachon, Jim White & Noel Wood to our club.



At the AGM, August 9th, the following Management Committee was elected:

President, Ines Dawes; Secretary, D'Arcy Buick; Treasurer, Jill Nicholl; Games Director, Ken Dawson, with Allison Walker, Michael Haseler, Alan Sinclair, Monty Dale, Steve Jesienowski, Frank Harbison, Dorothy Ferris & Marilyn McKee committee members. We are looking forward to a successful and productive year.

Roy Clark, foundation member, life member and still assistant treasurer, celebrated his 90th birthday with a party at the club August 23. His assembled bridge friends were delighted when he responded to the birthday cheers in his usual modest way: "I can't believe I'm still here." :)



CALOUNDRA

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members: Elma & Mario Cresta, Carlos & Judith Da Cunha, John Daly, Jeff Fanton, George Kruz, Jackie Lewis, Jeff & Mary Margetts, Coral McVean, Gail O'Donoghue, Derrell Picton and Barbara Thompson.

Welcome back to Merry Munchenberg & Ann Smith.

At the end of May, Jan Brown once again organized our annual *Australia's Biggest Morning Tea*, raising \$ 1600 for cancer research. A very successful morning with 22 tables, endless raffles, a delicious morning tea, and, oh yes, we managed to play 33 boards. Join us next year, last Thursday in May.

Congratulations to our winners: Rosemary Crowley & Trish Norris, Pairs Championship, and Wilma Hiddins & Kemal Avunduk, President's Trophy.

COOLUM INVITATION DAY

Tuesday September 11

This is a fun day of bridge, with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea laid on. Prizes of all kinds. A great day's entertainment. If you have never been before we recommend you give it a try. Details are available at your club



**ENTERING CLUB SPECIAL EVENTS**

All Clubs on the Sunshine Coast hold various internal championship events throughout the year: Pairs and Teams Championships, President's Trophy etc.

These events are always "pre-entry", which means that you enter in advance (usually by putting your names on a notice board list), and there will be an advertised closing date. This is done for a number of reasons:

- The number of entries may determine the structure of the event to be run or the number of boards per round;
- Final numbers are needed to work out how many sets of boards have to be dealt; and
- An additional pair or team may be needed to fill a half-table or make up an even number.

Because of this, last minute cancellations are a problem for directors. The effort in preparing the movement and dealing boards may be wasted if there is a late withdrawal, and this can be disastrous if the withdrawal isn't known till the day of the event.

A similar problem occurs when a pair shows up on the day expecting to play, but failed to enter.

Worse still is when a pair or team withdraws part way through the event, say after one or two sessions have already been played. Replacements may not be available, and even if a replacement can be found, it is unfair that some opponents will have played the original pair and some will play the replacement pair. A still worse case scenario is that the event may need to continue with a half table, and that can result in a long sit-out and be unfair to players who played or didn't play the pair in earlier sessions.

Therefore, entering a club event should be seen as entering an agreement with the Club that you will play in all sessions with the partner as listed, or with a legitimate substitute.

Don't enter the event if it is possible that you will be unable to play in all sessions, unless you have a substitute lined up at the time. Ensure also that your use of a substitute complies with the Club policy which usually (but not always) allows one substitute per pair/team once for the event. Notify the director of the substitute as soon as you become aware yourself.

If the event is about to start or has already started and you find that your partner is unexpectedly unable to play in one of the sessions, it is your responsibility to make every effort to find a substitute. If you have difficulty finding a substitute, contact your club's Partnership Organiser.

Withdrawal from the event once entries have closed should be an absolute last resort.

KEN'S KONUNDRUM KORNER: Number 2

Ken Dawson



What do you make of this auction?

1D (1H) 3NT (P)

4S (P) ?

What can you conclude about the shape of opener's hand?

When responder bid 3NT over 1H, he denied having a 4 card spade suit. He could have shown it first in a natural and forcing auction. Responder would be able to revert to 3NT on the next round of the bidding.

Yet, opener was prepared to bid spades at the 4 level! After the spade denial by responder, this must surely be a five card suit.

So, opener has 5 spades yet opened 1D. Why would he do that?

The inescapable conclusion is that opener has a SIX card diamond suit.

At the table, responder passed 4S and played in a 5-3 fit, making comfortably.

Ethical Note:- The opponents asked for an explanation of the bidding before the opening lead. Responder divulged that the auction must show 6-5. However, this was a conclusion based on bridge logic and not a systematic agreement. As such, the defenders are on their own and are not entitled to the conclusion. However, they are entitled to know that the 3NT bid denied 4 spades. An appropriate explanation would be to say:

"Opener is prepared to bid spades on his own at the 4 level, even though I have denied that suit. You will have to decide what sort of hand he must hold"

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It's a queer world, but the best we've got to be going on with.

Brendan Behan

SOME COMFORT I SUPPOSE: *One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts.*

Alfred Sheinwold

HURRY UP - AND THINK! (Conclusion)

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 concludes an article on Slow Play, which first appeared a while ago in the North Shore Bulletin, and is reproduced with kind permission of the author. For parts 1 & 2, see the Sept and Dec 2011 editions.

Claiming: Many players are nervous about claiming. Don't be: the Laws encourage declarer to claim as soon as the outcome of the hand is clear. It's no disgrace to get it wrong sometimes. If you're on defence and you can see that dummy is good (and you **know** that partner cannot win another trick), concede. It saves time.

Irregularities: There's nothing sillier than players debating over whether the director should be called after an irregularity occurs. Just call him, and keep calling until your call is acknowledged. (There are players who think that you can summon the director by waving, as though they're bidding another hundred in a silent auction. You can't. Yell at him. Even if he's on the phone.)

After trick thirteen: The scorer must enter the result in the bridgemate first, before he enters the score on his own scoresheet. If North/South want to blab on, I suggest East/West take the bridgemate themselves and present it to them. There is so much opportunity for time to be lost here that all four players should be especially vigilant. Get the job done before discussing the hand at length. Don't let anyone have an extended look at the bridgemate while there are still boards to play. A glimpse or two, or a quick (and quiet) recap of the most popular scores, fine. A comprehensive analysis of who bid the slam against whom, by counting tables to figure out who is pair 13, is not at all proper. Above all, save the post mortems for the end of the round. *

At all times: Be aware of how much time you have before the round is to be called. Directors could do a lot more to help players in this respect. Few directors anymore say "*You should be on your last board*", or something like that. It's better for a director to announce when a round is half over, so that players can speed up if necessary.

The Golden Rule: There is one misapprehension that almost all players share with regards to slow play and that is the fault principle. Too many players refuse to speed up their game (which as we've seen, does not necessarily mean to play fast, but just to avoid playing slowly) after a pair arrives late, since they feel that they were not responsible for the original delay. If your opponents arrive late at your table, for whatever reason, all four of you are responsible for trying to catch up.

** We have updated the original article which refers to travelling score cards.*

The Golden Rule is that **there is only one person responsible for slow play: you**. No matter what the original circumstances, even if you've never been late getting to a table in your life: if you make no effort to catch up, you are **guilty**. If your attitude is "*I won't help because it isn't my fault,*" you are hurting the game more than any slow pair ever could.

Fast players don't play "*fast*". They just slow the game down less often. What we need to do is look for the ways we all slow down the game and get rid of them, filling them with awareness and pauses for thought.

Slow players don't play "*slow*". They lose the thread and take time doing a whole slew of unnecessary things that slow the game down. It takes only one player to cause delays. **Don't let that person be you**. Keep your game moving: hurry up - and think!

MORE ON THE "DEEP NINE" FINESSE

Arch Morrison

The following excerpt is taken from Phillip Alder's article "Can a Computer Program Be Taught How to Falsecard?" which was published in the New York Times on September 27 2009.

				<i>Look at the North-South diamond suit in the diagrammed deal. How would you play it for five tricks, assuming you have no entry problems? Does it make any difference if you are playing against defenders who never falsecard or, if they do, make "textbook" falsecards?</i>			
				<i>This deal arose during the semifinals of the World Computer-Bridge Championship in Washington last month. And that suit combination was discussed by Edgar Kaplan in an article called "The Deep Nine" in the October 1973 issue of The Bridge World magazine.</i>			
				<i>In an isolation tank, you should cash the diamond ace, cross to dummy in another suit and play a diamond to the jack.</i>			
				<i>But against falsecarding opponents, the right play changes. If West has ten-doubleton, he will drop the ten under the ace, trying to convince you that he has queen-ten doubleton. And if East has ten-third, he will play the ten on the second round, hoping you will think he has queen-ten-third and will finesse your jack, not go up with the king to drop his partner's queen. Against these</i>			
				<i>opponents, if you do not see the ten on the first round of the suit or from East</i>			

on the second round, you should finesse your nine, playing for East to have started with Q-10-x-x.

In the match between Wbridge5 and Shark Bridge, both declarers won the heart lead in hand, cashed the diamond ace (West playing the four), crossed to dummy with a heart, then led a diamond to the nine, losing to West's ten. (Maybe those textbook falsecards aren't so clever.)

So the computers were programmed to make the "deep nine" play which Kaplan had recommended on the assumption that West would falsecard with the 10 from 10,4 doubleton - except, as Alder was noting, the computers themselves hadn't been taught to falsecard.

Or perhaps they have! And perhaps here they were playing like real people in the real world who have learned that they should falsecard randomly so that declarer cannot draw a winning conclusion on the basis that "this defender will always make that play". John Swanson's article "A Hand for Deep Blue" in his web site www.johnninaswanson.com provides a detailed analysis of this suit combination and the success probabilities for declarer against the various strategies (including falsecards) employed by the defenders. The "Deep Blue" article notes that the falsecard window is small (between 5% and 15% of the time). Swanson notes that most opponents will falsecard more than 15% of the time which means that finessing the nine will be a significant winner.

The background which led to Kaplan's "Deep Nine" article is interesting. The following excerpt is from the notes to the "Deep Blue" article:

In the 1973 Vanderbilt National Team of Four Championship a team sponsored by Bud Reinhold was hopelessly behind another team sponsored by Sam Stayman. They were so far behind, 69 IMPs, that Reinhold, who had already played his required number of hands, played the last 18 anyway despite being the weakest player on his team by a considerable margin. In a miracle finish, the Reinhold team scored 75 IMPs to their opponents 3, winning the match by 3 IMPs. One of the pickups was a four spade contract with the example suit as trumps. Larry Cohen finessed the nine on the second round of trumps, picking up the suit with no losers when his RHO proved to hold Q10xx. That play, only slightly inferior to the theoretically optimum finesse of the jack, is just the kind of action one seeks when behind by a large margin.

Johnny Crawford, one of Cohen's opponents during the fateful last 18 hands, didn't see it that way. Due to this hand and others in which his opponents demonstrated uncanny accuracy, Crawford protested to the American Contract Bridge League's Board of Governors the next morning that his team had been cheated. This was an unacceptable forum for such an accusation. Crawford was barred from tournament play for three months.

A few months later, writing in The Bridge World, Edgar Kaplan analyzed the combination in his article, "The Deep Nine", with the assumption that "the defenders would not falsecard correctly."

In his analysis Kaplan suggested that defenders aged less than 20 or over 60 would always falsecard while defenders between these ages would not. When I



previously provided this "Deep Nine" information to our esteemed (what a crawler I am) editor in December 2010 she somehow decided that my absolutely rational analysis of the advantage which women have when playing this holding could in some obtuse manner be construed as a slight to some of the ladies of the club (probably learned from Murdoch's *News Of The World* that controversy sells more copies) - so I won't repeat these comments here since I am trying to make sure that this time I don't annoy her or invite her ire. If you want to see the comments, you will have to read the back issue of the December 2010 Bridge Matters.

The Archer slays the Arch - Fiend.

SOME TIPS ON DEFENCE

Reg Busch



Lavinthal signals

Hy Lavinthal is a famous name in bridge. He devised the 'suit preference' signal. You may know one example of this as the McKenney discard. In this signal your first discard shows where your strength is without wasting a possibly important card in that suit. For example, defending a spade contract, a discard of a high heart suggests a diamond (the higher of the other two suits), and a low heart suggests the lower suit (clubs). This was popularised by McKenney, but the concept should be credited to Lavinthal. The Lavinthal principle extends much further than just to discards.

♠76	
♥8654	
♦K763	
♣A62	
♠Q83	♠5
♥2	♥KQJ10973
♦9854	♦QJ10
♣QJ854	♣73
	♠AKJ10942
	♥A
	♦A2
	♣K109

Here is a famous hand from years ago, showing a rather spectacular example. East opened with 4H and NS bid to 6S by South.

West led the ♥2 to the 4, 7 and Ace. South played three rounds of trumps, with West now on lead. He had to choose between diamonds or clubs. As you can see, a club lead would be fatal. But West had no trouble finding the

diamond lead and the slam went off. How did he pick it right? Because East told him. On the second and third leads of spades, East played the ♥K followed by

the ♥3. This strong high/low signal in hearts (Lavinthal style) strongly suggested diamonds. East knew that a diamond lead was safe, and West got the message.

There are some other lessons to be learnt from this hand. In giving signals to partner, don't pussyfoot around. The KQJ109 are all equals. You may think that playing the Q or J may convey the same message. But make the message for partner totally clear.

Another common situation where the Lavinthal signal is vital to your defence:

You hold ♠872 ♥A ♦AJ9872 ♣954. You have shown diamonds in the bidding. The opponents are in 4S and partner leads the ♦2 which you decide is probably a singleton. You cash your ♦A. What card do you return for partner to ruff?

Lavinthal applies. Lead of the highest card suggests that partner, when he ruffs, should return a heart (the higher of the non-trump suits). So you lead the ♦J, partner ruffs and returns a heart. You take the ♥A, and return the ♦9 (your now highest diamond), partner ruffs and returns a heart for you to ruff. Your signalling has allowed you to take the first 5 tricks before declarer gets into the action. Had your outside Ace been the ♣A, then you would have returned your lowest diamond. If you didn't have any preference for partner's return suit, you would have used a middle diamond, the 9 the 8 or 7)

Some more Lavinthal situations:

- Against a suit contract, partner leads an Ace to trick 1, and a singleton appears in dummy. It seems likely that partner will want to shift suit. Show him what you would like.. A low card suggests a shift to the lower of the non-trump suits, and a high card suggests the higher of the non-trump suits. A 5, 6 or 7 tends to be neutral

- Partner knows from the bidding or play that you have a long suit that is now not relevant e.g. you now have the ♥J9652. Against 4S, in discarding, show your preference – the ♥J shows diamonds, the ♥2 shows clubs, and the 6 or 5 is neutral. No need to use a potentially useful card in another suit as a signal when you have an otherwise useless suit to give a strong signal.

- Occasionally against a suit contract you will find yourself with AK doubleton in a side suit. If your normal lead from AKx is the Ace, then to show the doubleton you would play the King, then the Ace. If from AKx you lead the King, then from the doubleton you play Ace, then King. Whatever, on the second lead partner should know you have AK bare. At trick 2, he should give a Lavinthal signal to suggest a switch to get him in to give you a ruff.

The Rule of 11

We learn this as beginners, but should always be using it routinely. It applies where partner is making the standard lead of the fourth highest of his long suit. Presume partner leads the $\spadesuit 6$. The rule says: subtract the six from 11, and that tells you the number of cards (in this case, five) in the other three hands (including yours and declarer's) higher than the 6.

For example, against 3NT partner leads the $\spadesuit 6$ and you see the $\spadesuit 98$ in dummy. You hold the $\spadesuit Q105$. So do your sums. $11-6=5$. There are 5 cards in the other three hands higher than the 6. You can see 4 of them – the 98 in dummy and Q10 in your hand. So declarer has only one card higher than the 6. You play the $\spadesuit Q$ and declarer plays $\spadesuit K$. You now **know** that your side can take all the rest of the spade tricks. Here was the distribution:

	98		Why 11? Whilst there are 13 cards in each suit, the cards run in effect not from 1-13, but from 2-14, with 11,12,13 and 14 being J,Q,K, and A. If you lead the 6, there are 14-6 i.e. 8 cards in the whole suit higher than the 6. We know that, if we are leading fourth best, then 3 of these are in the leader's hand.
AJ763		Q105	
	K32		

To allow for this, let's subtract 6 from 11 (instead of 14) to see how many are in the other hands.

If you were leading third highest instead of fourth, there would be two higher in leader's hand, so you would use the rule of 12. If leading fifth highest, you would use the rule of 10.

Tips for rare occasions.

A few tips for rare occasions, but, when they do arise, will pay off in gold.

You are on lead against 3NT, and you hold $\clubsuit AKJ1073$. You may or may not have an outside entry. How do you play this?

Tip: have this agreement with partner. When I lead an Ace against 3NT, I want you to drop an honour under the Ace if you have one (remember a 10 is an honour). Otherwise give me a count showing an odd or an even number of clubs. (lowest card = odd number and highest card = even number).

If partner drops the $\clubsuit Q$, you are delighted and will probably be able to run off the top 6 tricks. If the $\clubsuit Q$ doesn't appear it is best to switch and hope that partner can get in early to return the club through declarer's Queen. Of course declarer may have the Queen doubleton and partner's count card may indicate this. You may not always get this right, but you will more often than not.

You would adopt the same approach with $AKQ10xx$, but not $AQJ10x$.

Some other tips against 3NT:

- A double of an uninterrupted auction to 3NT (where no suits have been bid

e.g. 1NT – 3NT) says to partner 'Lead a spade. I have a running spade suit.' Hasn't turned up yet, but one day it will if we live long enough!

- A double of 3NT where dummy has bid a suit says 'Lead dummy's first suit'.
- In a competitive auction, a double of their 3NT says: if we have bid only one suit, lead that suit. If we have bid more than one suit, lead your suit and not mine.

WELL, WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE PLAY BRIDGE?

Bridge is essentially a social game, but unfortunately it attracts a substantial amount of anti-social people.

Alan Truscott

We believe that contract is particularly attractive to people with a scrappy disposition.

Frank Perkins

In bridge, deception is considered to be a wonderful personality trait, and its owners are looked upon as the wise, the good and the honest.

Bill Hunt

If you have the slightest touch of masochism you'll love this game.

Frank Perkins

I'm not sure whether glory or masterpoints is first on the list, but I know learning to play is definitely last.

Eddie Kantar

Must be the adverse effects of colder climes. Up here, on the Sunshine Coast, we are all absolutely lovely!

MY WORST NIGHTMARE

Carole Masters

I was asked to fill a little space in the newsletter by writing up the most whopping blunder I have ever made, but I have made too many of those so decided to present a partnership (or termination of partnership) error. Needless to say one must agree with partner on system plus conventions. No system is perfect, but partnership trust is essential. I will never forget the following hand:

♠ Qx	Dealer W; E/W Vul.
♥ AKxx	Playing ACOL, North has a standard 1H opening. If partner responds 1S the rebid is 1NT, if 2D the rebid is 2NT, etc. Lowest
♦ QJ10	level NT rebid promises 15/16 HCP.
♣ QJxx	We were using a convention called <i>Grand Slam Force</i> . Examine
♠ AKx	South's hand. Evaluating the points, plus distribution, 7H should be
♥ QJ109	cold if partner has AK of hearts. Using <i>GSF</i> , South bids 5NT, which
♦ ———	demand North to bid 7H with 2 of the top 3 honours. If opener has
♣ AKxxxx	only 1, the rebid is 6H. This conventional bid rarely occurs, but when
	it does, it's magic.

Needless to say, 5NT was the final contract, because partner "took a view". 7H was lay down. To make matters worse it was a teams event and the other side was in 6H. We should have been in 7 !!!

BRIDGE FOR THE IMPROVER

Ron Klinger

This is the fourth 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.

Dealer: North	♠ Q 6 4	West	North	East	South
Vul: E/W	♥ A J 3 2		1NT	Pass	4 ♠
	♦ A K Q 10	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♣ 7 4				

♠ A 9 5
♥ 9 8 6 5
♦ 2
♣ A K 9 8 3

West leads the ♣ Q. How should East plan the defence? Which four tricks does East hope the defence will take?

Answer: East can see two club tricks and the ♠ A. The best chance for a fourth trick is from a diamond ruff. East should trust West's ♣ Q lead to be from a Q - J sequence. Overtake the ♣ Q and switch to the ♦ 2. Win the ♠ A and play a low

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

club to West. A diamond return will allow you to ruff to score your fourth trick. This might be the full deal.

If East plays low on the first club, declarer can make ten tricks unless West is clairvoyant and switches to a diamond at trick two.

Note that the defence works equally well if the lead is ♣ Q singleton.

LUCK: *We must believe in luck, for how else can we explain the success of those we don't like?*

Jean Cocteau

A READY REPLY: *I was gratified to be able to answer promptly. I said: "I don't know."*

Mark Twain

BRIDGING THE GAP

WITH FOOD FOR THOUGHT

OLIVE JAMES CCBC

Ah Spring, when a young (& old) man's fancy turns to FOOD.

Today's recipe is easy to make & can be cooked in one large earthenware dish & taken to the table to serve. It is delicious simply served with a green salad & crusty bread to soak up the juices.

BAKED PRAWNS WITH TOMATOES, PEPPER & GARLIC

Ingredients

500 gr green (raw) prawns, peeled and deveined, keeping tail shell intact.
1 onion, cut in half lengthways & finely sliced along the grain
1 green (bell) pepper, seeded & finely sliced
2 - 3 cloves garlic, chopped
1 fresh red chilli, seeded & chopped
1 small bunch flat leaf parsley, chopped
125 gr grando padano or mature (sharp) cheddar cheese, grated
2 - 3 tablespoons olive oil
1 - 2 tablespoons coriander seeds
1 - 2 teaspoons sugar
splash of white wine vinegar
2 x 400 gr cans chopped tomatoes
salt & ground black pepper to taste

Method

1. Heat the oil in a heavy pan, stir in the onion, green pepper, garlic, coriander seeds & chilli, and cook until they begin to colour.
2. Stir in the sugar, vinegar, tomatoes & parsley, then cook gently for about 25 minutes, until you have a chunky sauce. While the sauce is cooking, preheat the oven to 200° C, 400° F or Gas 6.
3. Season the sauce with salt & pepper then toss in the prawns, making sure they are mixed in well.
4. Spoon the mixture into one large earthenware dish & sprinkle the top with the grated cheese.

Bake for 25 minutes or until the cheese is browned on top.

OVERHEARD: *My partner always comes to the right decision, having tried everything else first.*

(apologies to Winston Churchill)

PLAYER PROFILE

RIXI MARKUS 1910 - 1992

Ask any player who was the best woman bridge player of all time in Europe, and top of the poll would be Rixi Markus.

Patrick Jourdain: *Rixi Markus - Obituary.*

Rixi was born Erika Scharfenstein in 1910, into a prosperous Jewish family in that part of the Austro-Hungarian empire that is now Romania. In 1916, ahead of the Russian advance, the family fled to Vienna.

At the age of 12, Rixi picked up bridge while holidaying with an uncle in the Netherlands, but kept her new passion from her parents, who "would not have considered it at all a proper pastime for a young girl".

At the age of 18, Rixi married a shoe-maker, twice her age. Unfortunately her husband, an inferior bridge player, was jealous of his wife's skills, and accused her of flirting with her partners. This was only one factor contributing to the total failure of the marriage.

In 1935, Rixi played in the winning Austrian team in the first ever European Women's Teams. Before the onset of WW2 she had won 2 European and 1 World title for Austria.

In 1938, when Hitler's troops entered Austria, Rixi was at the bridge table as usual. A few days later, as Hitler entered Vienna, she and her young daughter managed to escape to London, where her parents had settled in 1936. Her husband joined them a few months later but the couple separated soon after the outbreak of the war. Rixi worked as a translator for the Red Cross, supplementing her income with her winnings at the bridge table.

In 1950, Rixi became a naturalized Briton and joined the British Women's team, winning the European championship 7 times. Her partnership with Fritz Gordon has been described as *one of the most excitable and voluble in bridge.* (Jourdain)

Victor Mollo: *Where Rixi Markus is fiery, Fritz Gordon is icy cold. Where Rixi takes her contracts by storm, Fritz makes hers through meticulous efficiency.* They came to be known as *Frisky and Bitchy*. In 1962 they won both the World Women's Pairs and the World Mixed Teams, followed 2 years later by winning the Olympiad in New York. At the 1974 World Women's Pairs in Las Palmas, they could be heard arguing from the farthest corner of the room, yet they won by a margin nobody has come near since. Rixi became the first Woman World Grandmaster. Their last major title was the Europeans in 1975 and later that year Rixi received the MBE from the Queen, "for services to bridge".

Away from the bridge table Rixi has been described as a loveable, endearing character and a loyal, generous friend, but when it came to bridge, her colourful character exerted itself more aggressively. At one time, when the team captain enquired as to the best line-up, Rixi replied, "I must play at both tables!" She was the centre of numerous stormy scenes, even a famous libel case (where the jury could not agree).



Rixi had a 13 year romance with Harold, later Lord Lister, a member of the Wilson government, who was also a bridge player. It was she who launched the annual House of Lords v House of Commons bridge match, that is hotly contested to this day. As of 2011, Lords led 20 - 17. *

Overall Rixi won 7 European and 4 World titles for Britain. She authored several bridge books, seven of which can be found in the Sunshine Coast library and three at Caloundra. She also published her autobiography *The Vulnerable Game*. She died of a heart attack at the age of 81.

* It should be noted the Commons are at a considerable disadvantage in this event as they keep losing key players to elections. Alas the fickleness of the British public!

THE AGING BRIDGE PLAYER

Benito Garozzo

The following is taken from an interview with Mabel Bocchi, when Garozzo was 78.

B: We know everything about the Garozzo of the old days, how is the new one?

G: Getting older, unfortunately, means to lose speed, you don't succeed any more in those brilliant plays that disorient the competitors, especially in defence. And it would be fine if it would only be this; but you also become less patient and, faced by a mistake, be it yours or your partner's, I easily explode. In bridge this isn't a good mood as it takes you to make more mistakes. Fortunately the brain resists and so does the memory; and I compensate for the diminished coldness with a better technical experience that in the course of years cannot do anything than increase, if you go on applying and studying.

We would be very interested to hear comments from any members who feel that growing older has affected their bridge in any way.

BRIDGE

Somerset Maugham

Bridge is the most diverting and interesting card game that the wit of man has so far devised. I would have children taught it as a matter of course, just as they are taught dancing; in the end it will be more useful to them, for you cannot with seemliness continue to dance when you are old and pot bellied.

Nor for that matter, can you with satisfaction to yourself or pleasure to your partner, continue to play tennis or golf when you are well past middle age.

But you can continue to play **Bridge** so long as you can sit up at a table and tell one card from another.

In fact, when all else fails ... sport, love, ambition ... **Bridge** remains a solace and an entertainment.

*Maugham wrote a wonderful short story about bridge - or rather people playing bridge. Have you read **The Three Fat Ladies of Antibes**?*

SO SWEET: "You must be such a lovely person to play with. I notice you are always smiling at the bridge table."

"I smile all the time because I haven't the slightest idea what's going on."

PIGEON PAIR: Squelching through the soggy fields on my way to bridge the other day, I chanced upon a local farmer wearing wellies - one green, the other black.

I risked a remark upon the oddity of such an arrangement.

"Not at all," came the reply. "My son has a pair exactly the same."

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF BRIDGE *as revealed to the Maryborough Bridge Club*

1. Thou shalt not come to the club with a streaming cold.
2. Thou shalt not come to the club looking as though thou has just been jogging.
3. Thou shalt not come to the club at the very last minute, unless it is completely unavoidable.
4. Thou shalt not arrive at a table without greeting thine opponents.
5. Thou shalt not leave a table without thanking thine opponents.
6. Thou shalt not gloat over a favourable result.
7. Thou shalt not argue at length over a previous board.
8. Thou shalt not tell opponents how they could have made a contract.
9. Thou shalt not end the session without thanking thy partner, however badly he or she may have played.
10. Thou shalt not leave the club without tidying the table & thanking the director.

OVERHEARD : "You know, arguing with my partner is like fighting a curtain."

"I know what you mean. Trying to get my partner to stick to the system is like trying to nail jelly to a tree."

A SMILE

poem by an unknown author, adapted by Estelle England

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu.

When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

*I moved to another table, where people saw my grin
And when they smiled I realised I'd passed it on to them.*

*I thought about that smile, then recognised its worth -
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.*

So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.

Let's start an epidemic, and get the club infected.

Fundraiser

The Friends of Bridge on the Sunshine Coast, (the FOBSCIES) are organising a fun run. Candidates will assemble on the outer perimeter of the parking lot Saturday next, and at a given signal, make a beeline for the front door.

*Walking frames permitted.
For further information, or to register, phone Di Jones.*