



# BRIDGE MATTERS



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

## AROUND THE CLUBS



### CALOUNDRA

On May 29 Caloundra hosted 20 members of the Redcliffe Bridge Club at its weekly Wednesday afternoon session. All went very well after the visitors actually got here, but quite a few, guided by their trusty GPSs, ended up at the beach. Some frantic phone calls were required to land everybody in the right spot. The bridge was fun, the afternoon tea scrumptious, and we are fairly sure everyone had a good time.



Congratulations to Carole Masters, our latest Grand Master, whose favourite convention, by the way, is the Grand Slam Force.

Jan Brown conducted Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on May 30, as she does every year. The event was well supported with 17 ½ tables, endless raffles, a fantastic morning tea and \$1600 raised for the Cancer Council. Well done Jan.

The Caloundra Pairs Championship in June was won by Stephen Hughes & Randall Rusk. Congratulations.

At the AGM on August 21, the following were elected: President: Ruth Mackinlay, Secretary: Pat James, Treasurer: Di Maltby and committee members: David Clark, Tom Dunsmuir, Bob Galvin, Maureen Gray, Stephen Hughes, Judith Leathley & Alan Maltby. Please Note: both sexes equally represented. Caloundra - an equal opportunity club.

### COOLUM

At our recent AGM the following committee was elected: Congratulations to Allison Walker, President: Jill Nicholls, Vice President: Pat Terrace, Secretary: Carole Robinson, Treasurer: with D'arcy Buick, Monty

Dale, Ken Dawson, Dorothy Ferris &

Frank Harbison as committee members. The club expressed its sincere thanks to outgoing president Ines Dawes.



Our Saturday afternoon supervised play session is proving a great success for our lesson graduates and new players from neighbouring clubs looking for another learning session with a helper at most tables. No partner required.

### **SUNSHINE COAST**

Three competitions this quarter: our June Butler Pairs and Swiss Teams Congress, won by Tony Jackman & Tony Hutton (pairs) and Joan McPheat, Reg Busch, Richard Trollope & Tony Walford (teams), our Club Teams Championship in July, won by the same McPheat team, and our Teams Congress in August, where Richard & Ryan Touton, Ken Dawson & Andrew



Slater tied with Larry Norden, Ann Mellings, Maureen Jakes & Penny Sykes. Congratulations to all winners.



On June 20 we farewelled Corry and Adrian Mayers (see below). They will be greatly missed but we expect to see them back to visit from time to time. Adrian is already threatening to show up for our congresses.

### **ADRIAN MAYERS AND BRIDGE ON THE SUNSHINE COAST Ken Dawson**

Adrian and Corry Mayers are returning to Toowoomba for family reasons after a dozen happy years on the Sunshine Coast. All of the coast bridge players will wish them well with many more years at the table.

Experienced players welcomed Adrian's presence at the table. He had been a dominant player on the interstate scene and we were sure that his fine play would benefit all those who played both with him and against him. I rate his partnerships with Rosemary Crowley and Stephen Brookes among the top four partnerships that I have seen on the Sunshine Coast in my 33 years playing here. Adrian's preferred system is a comprehensive Precision system which had sustained him when he represented Queensland. This system has been readily shared with Stephen, Rosemary, Verna Brookes, myself and others. Playing a natural system Adrian has also had a successful partnership with John Fields.

Always a powerful presence at the table, some players may have found uncomfortable the level of concentration required at Adrian's table. Adrian would be disappointed to hear that! In the cards he sought only the best outcome and was always respectful to partners and opponents alike.

We will miss Adrian's bridge directing at SCCBC. Totally unflappable, he adroitly handled both simple and complex rulings, even when players were not in a happy frame of mind when he was called to the table. Although preferring to work in the background, Adrian has always been helpful in any capacity. His skills in the furniture industry have benefited both Caloundra and SCCBC. Adrian made 100 side tables for the two clubs. He sourced the beautiful timber at a great price and passed the savings on to the clubs. He also refurbished the bar at SCCBC.

Indeed, Toowoomba's gain will be our loss.

### **COOLUM INVITATION DAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

This annual event, to be held on a Wednesday this year, is always a great day of entertaining, stress-free bridge, good company and good food. If you have not been before, give it a try this year. You will not be disappointed. Look for the flyers which have been sent to your club.

### **BUSCH BASCH**

**Peter Busch**



#### **ANNOUNCING**

Announcing is now part of the ABF and QBA regulations, and the rules apply at all club sessions and congresses from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013.

This means that whenever your partner opens 1C or 1NT, you must make an announcement to the table.

For 1C openings, the announcement depends on your system. For natural systems like Standard American, simply state the number of clubs it promises e.g. "2 plus clubs" or "3 plus clubs". For Precision players, state "strong, 16 plus" to show the minimum point count.

For 1NT openings, it is just the range that should be announced e.g. "14-16" or "15-18".

It is important that no further information is included in your announcement. The opponents can ask if they need to know.

It is also important not to make unsolicited announcements about other bids like a 1D Precision opening, or a 1NT overcall or 2NT opening bid. They will be alerted if necessary, and the opponents can ask.

An announced bid does not need to be alerted.

In the next few months, I would encourage players to give the opener's partner a gentle reminder if they fail to make an announcement required under the new rules.

### **UNINTENDED BIDS**

If you find you have made a wrong bid, you are not necessarily stuck with it. In some cases, the Director can allow a cost-free correction under Law 25A — Unintended Calls.

What sort of mistake can be considered “unintended”?

For it to be considered unintended, it must have never been in the player’s mind to make that bid. If they opened 1NT with a 16 count then suddenly remembered they’re playing a weak NT, that’s not unintended – they meant to write 1NT at the time they wrote it. Neither is it unintended if they made a bid because they misread partner’s bid, or didn’t see RHO’s intervening bid, or miscounted their points, or had a spade in with their clubs.

Typically, unintended calls result from a disconnect between brain and hand. The brain said “write 1H” but the pen wrote “1S”, and the first the player knows about it is when he sees what was written on the bidding pad. A recent example I’ve seen: partner opens 1H, RHO overcalls 1S and the player intends to write 4H as they have a weak freak with 5 hearts, but writes 4S. Another example: a player passes in first seat with 16 HCP because he heard a player at the neighbouring table say the word “pass” at the precise moment he was about to write 1NT. Both these could be corrected under Law 25A.

A devastating example of when a correction would probably not be allowed: assume you have agreed spades and initiate an ace-ask with 4NT and get the answer of 5D showing one ace. You decide there’s no chance of slam and plan to sign off in 5S, but you pass instead. It is likely in this case you were thinking “pass” but at that instant you drew that oblique line you had forgotten that the last suit to be bid by the partnership wasn’t the agreed suit.

In most cases, the director will take you away from your table, and ask what you had intended to bid, and ask you where you think the bid you made came from. They will make their decision based on the facts – it will not be relevant to them whether or not your pen left the paper. Nor will it be open-and-shut if you didn’t realise the problem immediately, though a sudden realisation is more likely to reflect the inadvertent nature of the bid.

It’s important to remember that just because your RHO has subsequently bid, your fate is not necessarily sealed. An unintended call can be corrected at any time up until the time your partner makes a call.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

A trusted bridge partner is a connection to life, a tie to the past, a road to the future and the key to sanity in game that can be, at times, totally insane.

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Caloundra:** Mavis & Jack Arnold, Margaret Arnott, Brian Davies, Kay Keir, William Mole, Glenys Rousell, Kerry & David Smith and Hugh Wichman. Welcome back to Judy Maltby.

**Coolum:** Rose Barry, Don Cameron, Stacey Daveson, Jeremy Dawes, Sally-Ann Forsyth, Edith Lucas, Harry Nielson, Lynne Short and Lyn Wildman.

**Sunshine Coast:** Jennifer & Peter Birt, Shirley Bullock, Linda Darnell, Barbara Dennien, Hugh Gloster, Jenny Ireland, Coral McVean, John O'Kane, Irene Pawlyszyn, Gwen Pyrke, Brian Stringer, Hugh Wichmann, Barry Williams, Robert Woodley and Maureen Young.

We wish you all many years of happy bridging and hope to see you at all three clubs from time to time.

## SPLINTER BID BY THE RESPONDER

Pat Buch

Opener	Responder	
♠ 4	♠ AK765	Following previous discussions regarding looking at the shape of a hand as well as high card points, this hand, with its 27hcp only, is an absolute slam.
♥ AQJ765	♥ K93	
♦ A76	♦ 3	The usual bidding sequence is 1♥, with partner responding 3♥, 4♥ or using a delayed game raise depending on your system. The bidding sequence using the splinter bid would be 1♥, with the response of 4♦
♣ Q43	♣ A765	

The device of a splinter bid can quickly identify the presence of a singleton in the double jumped suit, as well as trump support (at least 3, preferably 4), and a hand that can tolerate a game level contract., even opposite a minimum hand. It could suggest that, with the right hand, opener might look at slam.

If the responder can show that wonderful singleton diamond etc, opener can now reassess his hand—singleton spade, and now no losers in diamonds.

A splinter bid is defined as: “An unusual jump in the bidding sequence, **which makes otherwise no logical or rational conventional** sense and which guarantees a fit for the last named suit by partner. In addition the bid shows a singleton in the suit in which the jump is made.”

Depending on partnership understanding, many do not make the splinter bid with a singleton ace nor a singleton king as they feel these are working cards.

The splinter bid is always after a suit bid and never after a no trump bid.

## THE BRIDGE EGO RAMPANT

My opinions might have changed, but not the fact that I am right.

## TAROT CARDS AND THE PACK OF 52 PLAYING CARDS

Susie Warren

Most people who play cards don't realize that our modern deck of 52 cards is derived from Tarot cards. In fact, the four suits correspond directly with the suits in a Tarot deck. *No wonder some of our families felt playing cards on a Sunday was taboo!*

The place of origin of playing cards in general and of Tarot cards in particular is uncertain, and speculations about this topic abound. In the twelfth century, hand-drawn cards appeared for the first time, and it was from these that the Tarot cards familiar to us today developed. Tarot showed up in Italy and France in the 14th and 15th centuries, possibly having travelled there from the Middle East. They were used both for games and for mystical purposes, and later they developed into both the modern Tarot deck and the pack of playing cards used today.

Some historians suggest that all card "games" were originally developed in part as a way to hide (from the medieval Church) the more serious application of the cards and symbols. The Church condemned divination and gambling both (in spite of the fact that divination is depicted favorably more often than not in the Bible).

Tarot has been interpreted creatively by artists and sages through the ages, whereas the playing card deck has stayed pretty much the same. Tarot art is a rich and beautiful reflection of history, and it traces the evolution of these universal symbols in different periods and cultures, right up to modern times. Tarot is like a game of spiritual solitaire!

Traditional Tarot decks have 22 "trump" cards, called the Major Arcana, along with 56 "suit" cards called the Minor Arcana. The Major Arcana Tarot cards include powerful archetypes like The Sun, The Moon, The World, The Lovers, The Magician, etc. Briefly, the Major Arcana – 22 cards which parallel the twenty-two letters in the Hebrew alphabet, presents a full symbolic method which was considered to be the key to the mystery and knowledge of the true nature of man, the universe and God. Kabbalistic, Gnostic, Neo-Platonic and other mystic influences can be discerned, all of which contributed to the design of the symbols that appear on the Tarot cards. It represents life's journey, starting with number 0 – "The Fool" [an innocent] and ending with number 21 – "The World" [worldly wise & a loss of innocence].

The Minor Arcana is made up of 56 cards which are divided into four suits of fourteen cards each: Swords [Spades], Cups [Hearts], Pentacles [Diamonds] and Wands [Clubs]. The suit cards correspond closely to the 52 cards in a playing card deck,





except in Tarot they have not only Queen and King face cards, they have Page and Knight cards for each suit, which were combined into the single Jack card as playing cards developed over time.

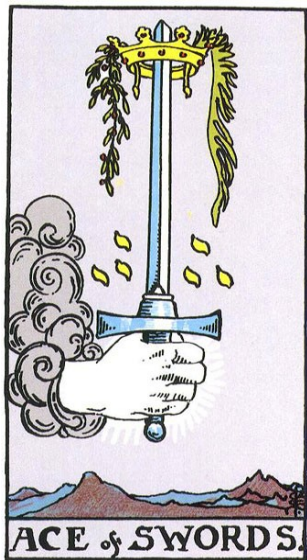
Each suit consists of ten numerological cards (from one [Ace] to ten), three court cards (which are also known as family or royal cards), and one Knight card which has been discarded in our pack of 52 playing cards. In other words, we have forty "Numerological" cards and twelve court cards (which parallel to the twelve signs of the Zodiac). In, addition, there are four Knights cards, whose main meaning is "a new path" or "unexploited ability."

It is important to recall that numerology developed together with Tarot cards. In the centers of wisdom where the philosophy of Tarot cards was developed, the science of numerology developed as well. Numerological interpretation is based on the Pythagorean theory: "Each number has its own force, which is not expressed merely in the form of the number or in its numerical expressions."

In the playing cards; reds are feminine and the blacks are masculine.

### The Meanings of the Cards

**SPADES** – the Swords suit is parallel to the Spades suit in the regular playing card deck. This suit represents the element of air, and although it ostensibly deals with logic, common sense and decisiveness, it is a difficult suit with multiple meanings. This is because when any of its cards is interpreted, the state of the other cards in the spread must be taken into consideration. To a certain extent, this is the suit that indicates the person's fate.



**HEARTS** – the Cups suit is parallel to the Hearts suit in the regular playing card deck. This suit represents the element of water in nature, and therefore the emotional world, the relationship between the members of a couple, intuitive ability and the ability to share with one's mate. The cards are extremely important in questions concerning happiness and love, and the fulfillment of one's expectations from life.

**DIAMONDS** – the Pentacles suit is parallel to the Diamonds suit in the regular playing card deck. This suit represents the element of earth, and it is therefore connected to practical things like property, the power to implement things, creativity, health, will-power and so on. As this suit has many ups and downs, it is very important to see where the card is located in the spread.

**CLUBS** – the Wands suit is parallel to the Clubs suit in the regular playing card deck. This suit represents the element of fire, and therefore the person's abilities and talents. It is very important in identifying inhibitions and inner obstructions,

as well as pressures from the past, and for understanding the person's inner equilibrium and their status vis-a-vis their surroundings.

## MY JOURNEY TO THE TAROT CARDS

Susie Warren

My first experience with the Tarot cards came about through a reading with a Clairvoyant and was regarded as just one of life's experiences, as you do!

Twelve months to the day after my mother died, I flipped through her Bible for the very first time, and it fell open at Ezekiel, Chapter 1, which I read with some fascination. Four angels, joined as one, each with a different face, featuring a bull, an eagle, a man and a lion, ascending into Heaven - which makes fascinating reading.

A week later, while shopping, I spied out of the corner of my eye a pack of Tarot cards (my first ever), however I ignored them, as one probably should.

An hour later I was at a local Market where I saw a secondhand copy of a book called *All about Tarot*, by Hali Morag. Fascinated by the unusual, I purchased the book, rationalizing that it cost no more than a cappuccino and I thought I would like to know all about Tarot - just for fun. I found to my utter amazement that two



of the cards in the Major Arcana relate to the vision of Ezekiel, Ch 1 - so naturally I still have the book!

Consequently, I think I am meant to understand the Tarot cards, thanks to Mum, and it has been a long journey as initially I felt it conflicted with my religious upbringing.

These are the two cards which caught my attention and part of what is written in the books about them:

### The Wheel of Fortune -

shrouded in clouds in the four corners of the card are the four Kabbalistic symbols of angels (cherubim): man (symbolizing air); eagle (earth); lion (fire) and

bull (water) – which comprise the vision of Ezekiel or of St John. They are all reading a book.

**The World Card** - In the four corners of the card there are the four angels from the vision of Ezekiel and of St John, that appear in the Wheel of Fortune card: the man, the eagle, the lion and the bull. The number four again symbolizes the seasons, the four elements - producing a cyclical feeling, the





inevitability of life as it goes on through eternity. The number four symbolizes a solid base.

It's been nearly nine years now since I purchased my first book *All About Tarot* and it's been a very interesting journey.

## KEN'S KONUNDRUM KORNER Number 6

Ken Dawson



♠ Q5  
♥ KQ2  
♦ QJT6  
♣ KJ97

After a crisp 1NT – 3NT, West leads a low spade. Plan your play.

Despite all those high cards, you need a finesse in one of the minors. Which one?

♠ K8  
♥ AJ6  
♦ A543  
♣ A842

The first move, is to put up the SQ. Why? Because, if it holds the trick, west will probably not know that your SK in your hand is now bare! If you play low from dummy, the stiff queen will be there for all

to see. So, the SQ holds the trick. Now what? If you enter hand to take the club finesse and it fails, the spade return will come through you so fast that it will make your eyes water.

For that reason, you should play on diamonds, not the clubs. When that loses, West will pause for thought while you hold your breath. Chances are, he will try to get to East's hand with a club or heart so that the spade can be led from that side. Now, you grab your tricks.

	♠ Q5	
	♥ KQ2	
	♦ QJT6	
	♣ KJ97	
♠ AT732		♠ J964
♥ 864		♥ T973
♦ K9		♦ 872
♣ T63		♣ Q5
	♠ K8	
	♥ AJ6	
	♦ A543	
	♣ A842	

**Tip:** When experienced pairs play :-  
*"When the opening lead is won in dummy with an honour, partner gives count".* Here, East plays S9, ready to play high-low to show an even number of cards in the suit. West considers all four cards before turning over his card and quitting the first trick. He will be thinking :- *"Where are the small cards? Partner must be preparing to play high-low! If he has four, my ace will deck the SK."*

## THE LOSING TRICK COUNT

Reg Busch



You open 1S. Partner raises to 2S. You like your hand. Do you make a try for game? And what if the bidding goes 1♠ P 3♠? Do you bid game or pass?

Or, partner opens 1S. You have spade support with a good 10 HCP, or perhaps a poor 11 HCP. Do you raise to 2S or 3S?

These problems (and others) are made much easier if you understand the principles of the Losing Trick Count (LTC). This is a system of hand valuation that is almost as old as contract bridge itself, but has been given new

life by Australian teacher and writer Ron Klinger. He has written widely about it, and one of his publications should be in your club library.

I won't pretend to improve on Ron's presentation, but merely to summarise so that you will be tempted to read the original. The LTC is not a primary method of hand valuation. For most of us, this will still be the HCP count. But the LTC is a valuable addition to your armamentarium.

Principle: Take each suit in your hand. For every A, K or Q that you don't have in that suit, count one loser, with a maximum of 3 losers in each suit. There are no more losers than the number of cards in the suit. Thus xxxx or xxx = 3 losers, Axx, Kxx, or Qxx = 2 losers, AKx or AQx = 1 loser, AKQ = no losers. xx = 2 losers, x = 1 loser. On this basis, the most losers you can have is 12 (three in each suit). This similarly applies to partner's hand, so that the partnership could have at most 24 losers. On any one hand, you know the losers in your own hand, and partner's bid will give you a good estimate of his losers. Add your losers to partner's, subtract the total from 24, and this will tell you how many tricks the partnership can make. Thus the average opening hand has 7 losers. If partner also has 7 losers, our total is 14, subtract from 24, and we can make ten tricks. (I'm more used to thinking in terms of the contract makeable, so I subtract from 18, so 14 from 18 is four, so we can make 4S).

So:

1. Count your losers.
2. Add this number to partner's losers.
3. Subtract from 18. This gives you the level of the contract you can make.
4. The average opening hand (12-15 HCP) has 7 losers (occasionally 6). The minimum responding hand (6-9 HCP) has 8 or 9 losers. (Occasionally 10).

There is no guarantee about this. In bridge, 'never' or 'always' should not be part of our vocabulary. Most of the time, the above will be true.

How do you know about partner's losers? If partner is the opener, you may not know this until you hear his rebid. Let's classify opening hands as

- A. Sound opening (12-15 HCP) = 6-7 losers
- B. Strong (16-18) = 5-6 losers
- C. Super (19-21) = 4-5 losers.
- D. Game force(22+) = 3 or fewer losers

So:

1♣    1♥	1♣    1♥	1♣    1♥
2♥ = sound(6-7)	3♥ = strong (5-6)	4♥ = super (4-5)

1♣    1♥	1♣    1♥
3♣ = strong (5-6)	2♦ = strong (5-6), reverse with 5/4 in ♣ and ♦

*Note that the LTC does not apply to no-trump type hands. Here you still use the HCP. Let me repeat: the LTC applies only when you have found a suit fit.*

Note also that 5 'losers' does not = 8 playing tricks. Thus:

♠J108753 ♥Q9764 ♦- ♣AK is a potentially powerful hand with only 5 losers but only 2 playing tricks until you find some sort of major fit with partner.

Note that you don't use the LTC as your main guide to opening strength. If you do, you'll reach the ludicrous situation of not opening this hand because it has 8 losers:

♠Axxx ♥Axx ♦Axx ♣Axx

or opening this hand because it has only 7 losers:

♠Qxxxxx ♥xxxxx ♦x ♣x

**Modifications:** There are some finer points in assessing your LTC which I don't have space to cover here, but do read them. For example, Qxx has two losers theoretically, but counts as 2 ½ losers unless you also hold the J, i.e. QJx. And sometimes the degree of trump fit may vary your LTC.

Notice also that you may sometimes have a respectable first round raise with more than 9 losers, for example a raise of 1♠ to 2♠ (6-9 HCP) on

♠K753 ♥9042 ♦J43 ♣A76 or ♠QJ86 ♥Q43 ♦762 ♣Q42

Both these hands have 10 losers. Partner will probably expect 9 losers. With hands of this type, pass any invitation by partner.

A typical sequence: You hold ♠AK743 ♥83 ♦J862 ♣AK. You open 1♠ and partner responds 2♠. Where to from here? You have 6 losers. Partner has shown a probable 8-9 loser hand. If partner is at the top of his range, then game may be on. So you make a game try. Your methods will vary according to your system. Simplest would be a free raise to 3♠. This says to partner 'I have 6 losers, not 7. If you have only 8 losers, bid game. Otherwise pass'. Or you may make a side suit trial bid, or bid 2NT to show extra values. Here the LTC is often a useful extra aid to judgment.

Another example: Partner opens 1♠. Here are two possible hands you may have, both awkward to bid, and both with 10 HCP.

Hand A. ♠KQxx ♥AJx ♦xxxx ♣xx      Hand B ♠K9xx ♥AJx ♦Jxxx ♣Jx

10 HCP hands are a bit too good for a single raise (1♠ - 2♠) but not good enough to jump to 3♠. Traditionally we try to temporize with a two over one bid to show our 10 HCP, then support spades. But neither hand has a decent side suit to bid.. Count your losers. Hand A has 8 losers, and hand B has 9 losers. Bid 3♠ with A, but only 2♠ with B.

This is particularly helpful when you are a passed hand. When partner opens a major, your prime duty is to show support if any. With 4 card support, or 3 card support playing a 5 card major system, raise partner's suit immediately. The LTC fills the bill. If you don't raise, e.g. you bid 2C or 2D, partner is entitled to pass with a minimum hand.

You will find the LTC useful in competitive bidding, pre-emptive bidding and deciding whether to sacrifice ( my answer – rarely).

Here is an example of the LTC in action in a recent teams event.

Bd 13      ♠AQJ4  
Dir N      ♥J4  
Vul both    ♦A753  
             ♣972

♠72	♠963
♥AQ102	♥965
♦1086	♦K92
♣QJ103	♣A864
	♠K1085
	♥K873
	♦QJ4
	♣K5

The bidding:

N	E	S	W
1D	P	1H	P
1S	P	3S	All pass

In a teams event, it's hard to stay out of game after this auction. But this is the sort of spot where we rely on the LTC. North has a poor opening hand with 8 losers. South's raise to 3S was exact, and North could not justify a raise to game. In the field of 34 tables, only nine pairs stayed out of the unmakeable game.

## CAN YOU DO IT? # 2

	North		Contract : 7 ♠ by South				
	♠ Q 2		Lead: ♣ J				
	♥ K 3 2		If you need help you are				
	♦ A 9 8 3 2		allowed to phone a friend.				
	♣ A 3 2						
West		East	(You could try Alan Maltby,				
♠ - - -		♠ J 10 8 4 3	who sent this crazy one in.)				
♥ 9 8 7 6 5 4		♥ J 10					
♦ - - -		♦ 10 7 6 5 4	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
♣ J 10 9 8 7 6 4		♣ 5					
	South						
	♠ A K 9 7 6 5						
	♥ A Q						
	♦ K Q J						
	♣ K Q						

## YOUTH BRIDGE

At the 2013 European Youth Teams Championship held in Poland in July the results were as follows:

Girls (under 26): 1st France, 2nd Netherlands, 3rd Italy

Boys (under 26): 1st France, 2nd Poland, 3rd Italy.

Youngsters (under 20): 1st Sweden, 2nd Israel, 3rd Netherlands

But of course the Australian team wasn't there.

But they were at the World Youth Championships in Atlanta in August, taking 4th and 5th place in the pairs, 4th in the Swiss Teams and winning Silver in the Board-a-Match Teams.

And, at the end of August, the same team played in the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Youth Championships in China, coming from behind in the final round to defeat the host country and win the Gold !!!!

The team is made up of Max Henbest, Peter Hollands, Justin Howard, Nathan Howard, Ellena Moskovsky (all from Victoria) and Lauren Travis of South Australia.

Go Aussie !!

## YOUR COMMITTEE : HERE TO SERVE

But what is a committee?? And how does it function?? We checked Google.



*A committee is best composed of three people, with one who is always sick and another who is always absent.*

*A committee is composed of people who individually can do nothing, who come together to conclude that nothing can be done.*

*A committee is an entity that keeps minutes and loses hours.*

*A committee is an animal with four back legs.*

*John le Carré*

### And some useful advice:

*If you see a snake, just kill it. Don't appoint a committee on snakes.*      *Ross Perot*

And of course your club and your committee can only survive with the support of our wonderful volunteers.

But what is a volunteer?? Well, Google once again provided enlightenment.

*A spindly little sparrow is lying on his back in the middle of the road. A horseman comes by, dismounts, and asks the sparrow what he's doing lying upside down like that.*

*"I heard the heavens are going to fall today," said the sparrow.*



*'Oh," said the horseman, "and I suppose your spindly little legs can hold up the heavens!"*

*"One does what one can," said the sparrow. "One does what one can!"*



Thank you, all our amazing little sparrows.

## BUSY BUSY BUSY

It is difficult to make an appointment with a bridge player. They are like great conductors and operatic sopranos. You might find they are free on Tuesday February 3, the year after next, but only if you are lucky.      *Keith Dunstan and Geoff Hook*

My partner has become so busy since he took up bridge, he is thinking of taking on another man.



## BURN'S LAWS

As posted on the internet by Mr David Burn of the UK

### Burn's 1st Law:

When you are declarer, the total number of trumps held by your side should be greater than the total number of trumps held by your opponents.

### Burn's 2nd Law:

1. During the auction, ascertain how many aces are held by your opponents.
2. Subtract this number from 7.
3. Do not bid at the level given by the answer.

### Burn's 3rd Law:

You cannot make 3NT on a cross ruff.

## AD LIB VERSES 2

Lucas Ludicrous

It was suggested that I might  
Take some time to sit and write,  
Write about the game of bridge!  
But it's been said and said and then  
Said and said and said again.

Robbie Burns was heard to say,  
"On your knees to God and pray  
To see ourselves as others see us!"  
That such is wisdom don't deny it  
So who am I to even try it?

To sully such exalted pages  
As are filled by our "sages"  
With their inky pens a-mutter!  
Offering up their weighty prose  
Looking cross-eyed down a nose.

To enter into competition  
Nay, they'd class it as sedition.  
They are seers, not our peers!  
Here we have the paraphrastic  
Couched in terms most bombastic

Emphatically in their own eyes  
Words they write are wondrous wise  
Even tho they're oft repeated!  
But those received ex "little git"  
Could never be allowed as wit.

Submissions would be decimated  
Hung, drawn, quartered and cremated.  
Holy Cow, They'd raise a ruckus  
Never could there be such schism  
Caused by flagrant plagiarism.

Should you publish this rendition  
'twill assign me to perdition  
Purdah for the malcontent!  
So for a while I'll hold my peace  
Correspondence will now cease.



## IT'S THE FINAL VICTORY THAT COUNTS

*A computer once beat me at bridge but it was no match for me at kickboxing.*

## **LAW 74 CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE**

### **A. Proper Attitude**

- 1. A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.**
- 2. A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.**

Yes indeed! Absolutely! *Bridge Matters* stands firmly behind Law 74 A 1 & 2.

At the bridge table.

But maybe afterwards, in the parking lot ...

*"I could have made that slam but he tricked me!! He false-carded and tricked me!!*

*May the cat eat him!!*

*And may the devil eat the cat!!"*

## **THE LOGIC OF BRIDGE 1A**

### **Arriving late**

- *I noticed you were late to bridge this afternoon.*
- *I was only late because they started before I got there!*

## **THE LOGIC OF BRIDGE 1B**

### **Leaving early**

- *Hey you can't leave now. There are still 2 rounds to go.*
- *You know what they say. When the going gets tough the tough get going. Well, it's getting tough, and I'm going!*

## **MORE BRIDGE LOGIC**

- *You know you really shouldn't worry so much. It's affecting your bridge.*
- *But you don't understand. Worrying really works! 90% of the things I worry about never happen!*

## **AND HERE'S A WORRY, WHEN FLYING TO DISTANT CONGRESSES**

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

## **HELP WITH PLAY**

Jack Diamond was a good man,  
He went to church on Sunday.  
He prayed to God to give him strength  
To win at bridge on Monday.