



# THE QBA BULLETIN

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## From the President



**Richard Wallis**

**M**Y first year back as president has been relatively easy, thanks to the great team I have around me. In particular Kim Ellaway, who is the drive behind the Management Committee, even though technically she does not get to vote. In spite of recent family health problems she has always been not far away when I needed her.

Thanks are also due to the Management Committee who provide great backup for the QBA organization and greatly assist in the smooth running of the various competitions, and youth and teaching programmes.

Most of all I extend my thanks to all of the clubs, directors, teachers and convenors that are part of this great organization, as without them we would achieve nothing.

The holding of the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in April heralded the Commonwealth Nations Event once again in Australia, and this was held just prior to the Gold Coast Congress, to encourage Commonwealth Nations participants to play in Australia's biggest and best Congress.

The Commonwealth Nations Event was a great success. Qld entered two teams, with other States and the ACT fielding one team each, and the ABF four teams. The two Qld teams comprised the first three placegetters in the 2017 Qld Open Pairs Championship and the next highest ranked Qld team in the 2017 GNOT Final at Tweed Heads. There were twenty-four teams from around the Commonwealth.

Just completed is the 57th Gold Coast Congress, the 15th that has had Therese Tully as the Convenor, but that is the end for Therese, handing over the sole reins to Tim Runting at the dinner-dance on Saturday 24th February. During her reign as Convenor the congress has moved from Surfers Paradise to Broadbeach and virtually doubled in size and events available, with over 500 tables in play on the Wednesday, and over 2600 individual players registered. Congratulations Therese for a job well done!

Our next major event is the Barrier Reef Congress to be held in Townsville from May 14-18, followed by the ANC in Tasmania in July. The Open Trials have already started for this, with conclusion in April followed by the Womens and Seniors Trials. ■

## GCC Open Teams

**T**HIS was the 57th running of the Gold Coast Congress and the biggest yet. The Open teams was contested among 226 teams, and with other sections and walk-ins, 516 tables were in play on Wednesday, the middle day of the teams qualifying event.

After 15 years in the convenor's role, this year in association with Tim Runting, Therese Tully has stepped down as Convenor, and from 2019



## 2019 Gold Coast Congress February 16-23

February 15 - Welcome Walk-in Pairs

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Tim will be in the role. Measures introduced by Therese to expand and enhance the Congress will long be remembered, and accordingly I will dedicate this report to matches in which she played with me in the Open Teams. In the other matches I played with Tim.

Our path through the qualifying was up and down, and the only positive was that in 48th place at the end, we did finish slightly above our seeding number of 53. It would have been better except for a 15 IMP loss in our final match.

An unusual feature of our 12 opponents is that only 1 of them, team 48, was seeded above us and we won that by a comfortable margin. Since we had 7 wins and 5 losses, this seems to illustrate that beyond the top 20 or 30, the seeding is a bit random.

M 2	♠ J10
Bd 19	♥ QJ986532
Dlr S	♦ A
Vul EW	♣ 105
♠ AK64	♠ Q985
♥ A74	♥ K10
♦ KQ953	♦ J864
♣ 2	♣ 986

	♠ 732
	♥ —
	♦ 1072
	♣ AKQJ743

W	N	E	S
X	4C!	P	3NT!
4D	P	4S	All pass

South opened with a gambling 3NT and Therese (West) doubled. North, holding the ♦A knew that South's suit was clubs, so 5C from her was a reasonable bid at the favourable vulnerability, but she chose to just bid 4C, and her own 8-card suit went unmentioned.

Therese bid 4D when 4C came around to her and since she had shown a good hand, I took a shot at 4S, to which South led the ♣A.

When dummy went down 11 tricks looked probable, but that all changed when North won the ♦A at trick 2 and returned a heart, ruffed by South, and North ruffed the next diamond, setting up a cross-ruff.

When the smoke had cleared, I had lost 6 tricks for 3 down and -300!

At the other table Tony Jackman played in his 8-card suit and EW cashed their 4 tricks so 4HN was 1 down for -50 and 8 IMPs out.

M 2	♠ 1076
Bd 25	♥ —
Dlr N	♦ Q7
Vul EW	♣ KQ975432
♠ Q92	♠ 854
♥ AQJ432	♥ K10975
♦ 864	♦ KJ9
♣ J	♣ 86

	♠ AKJ3
	♥ 86
	♦ A10532
	♣ A10

W	N	E	S
All pass	3C	P	3NT

North opened with a 3C pre-emptive bid, and with a fair hand but a small defect, South took a shot at game.

Game was a good shot with South's hand, but the small defect came back to haunt him when Therese led the ♥Q and it was obvious to him that we had 11 hearts between us and he did not have a stopper.

When South bid 3NT, I wished that I had been strong enough to overcall 3H over the 3C opening, but at the adverse vulnerability, that would have been folly.

To my absolute delight, Therese led the ♥Q, which held, and I overtook the HJ on the next round, hoping my diamond holding would provide me with an entry.

When the ♥K also held, I continued with the ♥10, and South showed out!

That was 2 off for +100 to go with the +400 from 5CN at the other table.

M 4	♠ J9
Bd 26	♥ J1054
Dlr E	♦ KJ
Vul Both	♣ 107643
♠ AQ8	♠ 10642
♥ AKQ92	♥ 87
♦ 873	♦ Q10542
♣ J8	♣ Q9

	♠ K753
	♥ 63
	♦ A96
	♣ AK52

W	N	E	S
1H	1NT	P	1C
X	P	2D	All pass

I was quietly minding my own business with a weak hand without support for Therese's 1H overcall, when she came back in with a double.

At least I had a 5-card suit, so I preferred that to a 5-2 heart fit when North has already shown a heart stopper.

South led the ♥6 and I won on the table to lead the ♦3, the appearance of the ♦J being a welcome relief. South won the ♦A and cashed the top clubs then led another heart, again won on the table to lead another diamond.

North won the ♦K and returned a heart for South to ruff, but I discarded a spade, and with trumps now drawn, the remaining spades on dummy's hearts for +90. The spade finesse worked anyway.

At the other table EW climbed all the way to 3H, which went 2 off for +200 and 7 IMPs.



## Brisbane Bridge Centre

104 Frederick St, Annerley. Ph: 3392 7933  
 bbridgecentre@bigpond.com - www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org

Play Sessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	10.00 am	1.00 pm
	Duplicate	Duplicate	Duplicate	< 50 MPs	Duplicate (Mini Lesson at 9.45 am)	Duplicate & S'vised
		7.15 pm	Duplicate & S'vised			

M 9	♠ J7
Bd 9	♥ A10
Dir N	♦ Q97642
Vul EW	♣ KQ4
♠ Q983	♠ K10542
♥ 92	♥ KQ876
♦ AJ1083	♦ —
♣ 92	♣ J3
	♠ A6
	♥ J543
	♦ K5
	♣ A10875

M 9	♠ KJ8
Bd 10	♥ AQ9
Dir E	♦ J2
Vul Both	♣ A10842
♠ 109652	♠ AQ3
♥ 106	♥ J854
♦ K105	♦ Q864
♣ Q96	♣ J7
	♠ 74
	♥ K732
	♦ A973
	♣ K53

W	N	E	S
	1D	2D	3C
3S	4C	P	4NT
P	5H	P	6C
P	P	X	All pass

W	N	E	S
		P	P
P	1NT	P	2C
P	2D	P	3NT
All pass			

My Michael's 2D cue-bid established that we had a good spade fit early on, but the adverse vulnerability kept us out of the high-level bidding, even if NS had not gone slamming.

Expecting South's 3C response to be at least a 5-card suit, and without a spade stop, North bid the obvious 4C over Therese's 3S, and this incited South to go for slam. Once he invoked Blackwood, slam was inevitable.

When 6C came around to me I doubled for a lead of dummy's first-bid suit, and Therese led the ♦A and another diamond for me to ruff.

A spade back may have led to 3 off, but the ♥K was more obvious and declarer was able to pitch the spade loser on the ♦Q, but 2 off was +300.

At the other table 3NT made exactly, in spite of the spade lead and another +400 was 12 IMPs to us.

A long held aversion to leading away from Jxxx (thanks Mike Robson) and a suggestion by South that he had at least one 4-card major pushed me to lead the ♦4 to North's 3NT instead of the ♥4.

Declarer played low in dummy and Therese won the ♦K and returned the ♠10, covered by declarer. I won the ♠Q and set up the suit, which made it imperative that Therese be kept off lead.

This can be accomplished by entering dummy with the ♠K and leading the ♣3 and covering Therese's card, but declarer tried the hearts first, and when they did not break we emerged with 6 tricks for +200.

At the other table East led the ♥4, and the safety play in clubs set up the clubs for 4 tricks and at the same time end-played East to give declarer the 9th trick for +600 and 13 IMPs.

Double-dummy, 8 tricks is the limit in a NT contract, but I doubt that the lead of the ♥4 sets off the defence on the right path.

M 10	♠ AJ43
Bd 17	♥ 9
Dir N	♦ J63
Vul None	♣ KJ1084
♠ 10	♠ KQ7652
♥ K86	♥ A107
♦ AK82	♦ 1054
♣ A7652	♣ 9
	♠ 98
	♥ QJ5432
	♦ Q97
	♣ Q3

W	N	E	S
	P	2S	All pass

I opened the East hand with a weak 2S and, without a fit even though she has a reasonable hand, Therese passed, and North had nowhere to go, so also passed.

South led the ♥Q and I won in hand and entered dummy with the ♦A and led the ♠10, running it when North played low.

Next I ruffed a club to hand and led the ♠K, this time won by North who led a top club which I ruffed with the ♠5, knowing the only higher spade out was the ♠J held by North.

I still had a diamond, a heart and a spade to lose, so that was 9 tricks and +140.

At the other table West either did not know about the poor fit, or got carried away and finished in 3NT, which has no chance and finished 2 off for +100 and 6 IMPs. ■



## ANZAC DAY SWISS TEAMS

### Wednesday April 25

ENTRY FEE: \$120 per team  
DIRECTOR: Jan Peach

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## QLD GRADED TEAMS

### Sunday July 15

A: Open B: <750mp C: <150mp  
\$120 per team - Director: Jan Peach

All enquires and entries to QCBC: **3391 3241 - qcbc1@optusnet.com.au**  
Details on the website: **www.qcbc.org.au**

## GCC



**Nikolas Moore**

In order to make a contract, it is sometimes necessary to cut communications between the defenders' hands. This occurred on a board during the Teams.

Dir E	♠ Q876
Vul EW	♥ AJ84
	♦ 7
	♣ 9643
♠ 10	♠ KJ52
♥ Q10653	♥ K97
♦ AJ1096	♦ 85
♣ A10	♣ QJ52
	♠ A943
	♥ 2
	♦ KQ432
	♣ K87

W	N	E	S
		P	1D
1H	X	2D	3S
4H	X	All pass	

As West, my hand was strong enough for game opposite a cue-raise and has chances despite partner's wasted spade values.

North led his singleton diamond to the queen and ace. I led the ♥10, covered with the jack and king, followed by a club to the ten and a heart to the seven, South discarding. I led dummy's remaining diamond. South won and played another diamond, won in hand as North discarded a spade.

At this point I have the ♥9 in dummy opposite Q 6 5 in hand, North holding A 8. If I lead a trump from hand, North can beat the contract by rising ace, leading a spade to his partner's ace and then another diamond from South will beat the contract by allowing North's eight of trumps to take a trick. To prevent this, I cut communications between the defenders' hands by leading a spade, known as the Scissors Coup. Now, having won South's diamond exit, it was safe to lead a trump to North's ace, as whatever North returned I could win in hand and draw his last trump, for +790, and a gain of 12 IMPs opposite -170 at the other table.

North's double gave away the trump position, but was reasonable as his trumps appear to be well-placed, and if he passes then South bids 4S, which can be defeated three tricks. 4H can be defeated if South ducks the second round of diamonds allowing North to ruff.

The Ivy Dahler Butler Pairs featured a very strong field this year. During

the second last round, an opening lead gave me a losing option.

Dir W	♠ K9862
Vul NS	♥ Q6
	♦ Q84
	♣ J96
♠ 107	♠ AQ3
♥ AK10853	♥ J42
♦ K52	♦ AJ10
♣ 75	♣ K832
	♠ J54
	♥ 97
	♦ 9763
	♣ AQ104

Sitting West, I declared the normal contract of 4H. If I play on spades myself, my only option is to finesse the ♠K, which wins. As North led a spade, the presence of the ten in my hand made it more inviting to play low in dummy, as this succeeds if North holds the jack and even better if the king too. As it turns out, South held the jack.

Ducking the first spade also improves the chance of an endplay. South made the only safe exit of a trump, and after I drew trumps and led a club, North saved her partner from being endplayed by playing the nine, forcing the king and South's ace, allowing the defence to safely continue playing clubs. I ruffed the third round, crossed to the jack of hearts, ruffed another club back to hand and played another trump, both opponents unhelpfully discarding spades at every opportunity.

At this point I could and probably should have finessed the ♠K - the spade discards strongly suggested that North's lead was fourth best

from an honour - but instead played a spade to the ace in case South was down to the bare king. Out of other options, I scraped home by playing North for the ♦Q as her numerous spade discards suggested that she was protecting this card.

During the last round, a brief lapse in concentration was very costly.

Dir W	♠ 8542
Vul Both	♥ Q98
	♦ Q975
	♣ K4
♠ KQ6	♠ A10973
♥ 6543	♥ J2
♦ A108	♦ J643
♣ 932	♣ J5
	♠ J
	♥ AK107
	♦ K2
	♣ AQ10876

On the bidding, South showed at least 5-4 in clubs and hearts, and ended up in 4H. I began by leading the king and queen of spades forcing declarer to trump, otherwise he simply draws trumps and has ten tricks. He played AK of hearts then ran his clubs. My plan was to wait until he led a diamond, then rise ace and play a trump removing both enemy trumps and leaving us with a spade winner. Unfortunately I failed to notice that partner only had two clubs and therefore declarer had six, with enough tricks to make the contract by the time he had to lead diamonds. I should have ruffed the fourth club, which would beat the contract as declarer has severe problems getting back to hand.

Double dummy the contract makes

## QCBC

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**Sessions:** Mon 10.00 am Duplicate & Social  
 7.30 pm Duplicate & Supervised  
 Tue 10.00 am Duplicate & Supervised  
 7.30 pm Duplicate  
 Wed 10.30 am & 7.30 pm Duplicate  
 Thur 10.30 am Duplicate  
 Fri 9.30 am Supervised 10.00 am Duplicate  
 Sat 1.00 pm Duplicate

legitimately by ruffing another spade in hand, drawing three rounds of trumps and now when I trump a club I have to lead a diamond.

As a result we lost 11 IMPs instead of gaining five. The only decent game is 5C, which few pairs reached. ■

## GCBC International Pairs



Joan  
Butts

THIS was held at the GCBC on the eve of the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Competition and what a wonderful night this was! The idea was to welcome the visiting players to our shores, for the locals to meet some stars and for the visitors to enjoy some Aussie hospitality.

Festooned with flags, the GCBC has never looked better. The room was full to capacity with players from all over the world. We played twenty-four boards (cross-imp scoring), and then enjoyed the all-Australian spread! The evening was the brainchild of Phillip Roberts (President) and his committee and the menu was conceived and produced by Di

Hodges with Cheryl Hensel, Melanie Mills, and Lesley Sutherland.

Here's the menu (all Australian produce and favourites).

Prawns; lamb and rosemary chipolata sausages; kangaroo/beef sliders; corn meat and home-made peach chutney on damper; bacon and egg mini-quiches; Aussie sausage rolls; Australian cheeses with fruit and nuts; avocado dip with crudites; wattle seed and spinach damper dip; Vegemite and cheese damper; mini-meatballs with dipping sauces and dessert was Aussie pavlova with tropical fruit

The results can be viewed on the Gold Coast Bridge Club website, and here's a hand from the night; from Ron Klinger.

Dir E	♠ Q103
Vul Both	♥ 8654
	♦ 9
	♣ KQ1052
♠ K98754	♠ J6
♥ K3	♥ A7
♦ Q64	♦ KJ10853
♣ A9	♣ J86
	♠ A2
	♥ QJ1092
	♦ A72
	♣ 743

W	N	E	S
1S	4H	All pass	1H

Against 4H, West has no attractive lead. A heart was out the question (although it works fine here) and a spade is very risky. A diamond was the least dangerous. Starting with the ♣A and ♠9 has potential, but unless dummy has the ♥A, you have a heart trick without the need for a ruff.

A low spade lead turned out to be fatal. Declarer won with dummy's ♠Q and played the ♦A, a diamond ruff, the ♠A, another diamond ruff and a heart. With the ♠A onside doubleton, South came to ten tricks, +620.

On a diamond lead or ♣A and ♠9, 4H can be defeated as long as East plays a spade when in with the ♥A. There were eleven pairs in 4H, making five times, including once doubled. Making 4H undoubled was worth 9.24 Imps, Making it doubled gave North-South 11.36 Imps. Taking 4H one down = 5.3 IMPs to East-West.

Congratulations to the Gold Coast Bridge Club committee for putting this wonderful night together. ■

## Commonwealth Nations Bridge Competition



Richard  
Ward

THERE was a total of 36 teams playing in the CNBC in the days leading up to the Gold Coast Congress. 18 of these were Commonwealth teams and the rest were 'trans-national' teams and included those from the states together with other sponsored teams. Three days of head-to-head matches qualified 8 teams for the finals and these were, in qualification order:

- PRESIDENT'S TEAM (Roger O'Shea - Derek Patterson - Jason Hackett - Justin Hackett - Paul Hackett)
- AUSTRALIA SENIORS (Terry Brown - Avinash Kanetkar - Bruce Neill - Ian Thomson - Peter Buchen - Ron Klinger)
- AUSTRALIA GOLD (Phil Markey - David Wiltshire - Joachim Haffer - Max Henbest - Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer)



Di Hodges, Cheryl Hensel, Melanie Mills and Lesley Sutherland

- SCOTLAND WHITE (Iain Sime - Barnet Shenkin - Derek Diamond - Gerald Haase - John Murdoch - Victor Silverstone)
- LEIBOWITZ (Tony Leibowitz - Ashley Bach - Justin Mill - Liam Milne - Nabil Edgtton - Tony Nunn)
- INDIA A (Kiran Nadar - Jaggy Shivdasani - Keyzad Anklesaria - Rajeshwar Tiwari - Sunit Chokshi - Bachiraju Satyanarayana)
- TASMANIA (Hugh Grosvenor - Ann Paton - Hilton Francis - John Bailey)
- ENGLAND A (Steve Eginton - Bill Hirst - Brian Callaghan - Chris Duckworth - Gary Hyett)

The two Queensland teams did not fire at any stage, but, thankfully there are always some positives to report.

Dir E	♠ Q93
Vul NS	♥ AJ872
	♦ —
	♣ KQJ93
♠ A65	♠ J1084
♥ K1054	♥ Q963
♦ AKJ52	♦ 9874
♣ 5	♣ 7
	♠ K72
	♥ —
	♦ Q1063
	♣ A108642

When this hand appeared on BBO, the ISLE OF MAN vs INDIA A, in one room West opened the bidding with 1D; North overcalled 1H - all pass. This contract was not a success, making only 5 tricks. In the other room, once NS had reached 5C, EW thought that the sacrifice in 5D would not be disastrous but lost 800 for their trouble.

Jill Magee and Terry Strong were playing NS for QUEENSLAND MAROON on this board and did even better. After some vigorous bidding, West also went to 5D which North passed, forcing, showing a willingness to go on if South agreed. Looking at his heart void and diagnosing partner's diamond void, South bid 6C for +13 IMPs. Only one other pair, Avinash Kanetkar and Bruce Neill for AUSTRALIAN SENIORS, bid this slam.

This hand was played by EW in 3NT at all but one table.

Dir E	♠ KQ42
Vul Both	♥ QJ6
	♦ 1064
	♣ 872
♠ A1076	♠ 98
♥ 9	♥ AK853
♦ K852	♦ AQ9
♣ AQ96	♣ KJ5
	♠ J53
	♥ 10742
	♦ J73
	♣ 1043

The lone exception was the QUEENSLAND MAROON pair Lyn Carter (East) and Richard Wallis (West) who bid:

W	N	E	S
1S	P	1H	P
3C	P	2NT	P
4D	P	3D	P
6D	All pass	5D	P

A convoluted, mysterious sequence to get to the Moysian 4-3 fit slam. Wallis made 13 tricks favoured by the 3-3 trump break but was confident that he could overcome a 4-2 break as well.

This hand was well bid by Magnus Moren (North) – Neville Francis (South) in their match against one of the Queensland teams.

Dir W	♠ K984
Vul NS	♥ K54
	♦ KJ1062
	♣ K
♠ AQ1076	♠ J52
♥ AQ7	♥ 109832
♦ Q5	♦ —
♣ J62	♣ Q8754
	♠ 3
	♥ J6
	♦ A98732
	♣ A1093

Francis was South in 4th position and heard 1S - (2D) - pass. What would you bid now? He tried a practical 3S - which asks partner to bid 3NT holding a spade stopper - the heart suit will have to look after itself! Moren obliged with 3NT which was an easy make with both major suit aces onside.

Only 7 of the 36 teams bid the NS cards to game so it was a great 11 IMP pickup for MOREN.

Alan Gibson (QUEENSLAND GOLD,

South) had the opportunity to shine in defence in their match against SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Dir W	♠ 9632
Vul None	♥ J
	♦ 96432
	♣ J93
♠ QJ4	♠ K105
♥ 94	♥ K7532
♦ AKJ10	♦ Q5
♣ A852	♣ K64
	♠ A87
	♥ AQ1086
	♦ 87
	♣ Q107

The EW SA pairs had bid 1NT - 2D; 2H - 3NT; all pass, so when dummy appeared he was fairly certain that declarer had a doubleton heart and partner a singleton.

Trick 1 went: ♦6 - ♦5 - ♦8 - ♦10. Trick 2 was a club ducked all round to Alan who now found the master play of the ♥Q. This play would set up 3 heart tricks for the defence, even if declarer held ♥Jx, to go with one club and one spade.

And finally, here is an indication of just how tough some of the opponents could be. From the match INDIA A vs MOREN.

Dir W	♠ Q6432
Vul Both	♥ 107
	♦ J6
	♣ 7432
♠ 5	♠ AK1097
♥ J832	♥ 94
♦ Q1083	♦ K972
♣ AKQ6	♣ J8
	♠ J8
	♥ AKQ65
	♦ A54
	♣ 1095

W	N	E	S
1C	P	1S	2H
P	P	X	All pass

Note West's expert pass of partner's take-out double. The defence was merciless: ♣A, ♣K, spade switch to the ♠K then a heart return led to -800 to the Australian pair. Who would have thought that a routine 2H bid could lead to such grief?

In the quarter finals, AUSTRALIA GOLD def. TASMANIA 86-55;

SCOTLAND WHITE def. ENGLAND A 91-81; INDIA A def. LEIBOWITZ 112-75; PRESIDENT'S TEAM def. AUSTRALIAN SENIORS 109-59.

In the semi-finals: AUSTRALIA GOLD def. SCOTLAND WHITE 99-49; INDIA A def PRESIDENT'S TEAM 157-62

In the finals INDIA A won 2 of the 3 segments to finish worthy winners over AUSTRALIA GOLD. ■

## Canberra



**Richard Ward**

### Canberra Summer Festival Diary

**T**OURNAMENT organisers had taken the decision to change the venue for the Summer Festival of Bridge from the QT (formerly Ridges formerly Lakeside) to the smaller Canberra Rex Hotel. Played mainly in two areas, the Grand Ballroom and the Great Room (both excellent bridge-playing venues), meant that entries had to be restricted. Even so, movement around the room was quite congested and directors were sometimes seen struggling to negotiate a path between the tables.

The National Women's Teams attracted only 21 teams. Queenslander Jessica Brake was delighted to be invited into the powerful BOURKE team where she paired up with top Canberra player, Jodi Tutty together with Margaret Bourke-Sue Lusk. This team won the round robin and then went on to win the semi-finals and finals by 22 IMPs. Congratulations to them.

Other Queenslanders in this event were Pele Rankin and Paula McLeish, whose team narrowly missed making the semi-finals, and team ZELLER (Elizabeth Zeller, Alison Dawson, Maha Hoenig and Greer Tucker) who came 8th. Hoenig-Tucker were the highest ranked Qld pair in the qualifying rounds datums, just ahead of Alida Clark-Rankin.

The National Senior's Teams had 44




**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual**

# Barrier Reef Congress



## Townsville

### Monday 14 May to Friday 18 May 2018

An ABF approved Gold Point Event Hosted  
By  
Townsville Bridge Club

**Featuring**

**Walk-in Pairs**  
**Open and Restricted Pairs – 2 Sessions**  
**Celebrity Speakers – 1 Session**  
**Open and Restricted Teams- 4 Sessions**

**Venue**

**Townsville Stadium**  
**40 – 48 Murray Lyons Crescent**  
**Annandale**

**Chief Director: Laurie Kelso**

**Tournament Organiser: John Tredrea 07 4775 1879**

**Email: [bridgeclub@westnet.com.au](mailto:bridgeclub@westnet.com.au)**

teams, with Qld teams finishing in the top half represented by HUTTON (David McLeish – Richard Wallis, Malcolm Carter – Tony Hutton) and a mixed international team including Edda and Tom Strong. Queenslander Paul Wyer kept the flag flying playing in the FREE team (Jonathan Free – Ron Klinger, Robert Krochmalik – Paul Lavings, Kim Morrison – Wyer) which came 3rd in the round robin and went on to win the event over a South Australian team.

The TBIB National Open Pairs Championship, 4 sessions of 11 x 9 board matches, had 194 pairs. Winners were Craig Gower and Alon Apteker, a pair of South African

internationals, just ahead of Sophie Ashton and David Wiltshire. With one round to go, Qld's Therese Tully – Richard Ward were in 1st place with Martin Doran (Qld) – Michael Polowan (USA) handily placed in 5th position. In the last round, both Qld pairs had small wins, but Gower-Apteker won by a massive 33 imps and Ashton-Wiltshire by 17 imps. This relegated Tully-Ward to 3rd place, just .06 VPs behind 2nd and Doran – Polowan to 4th.

Other Qld pairs who figured prominently at various times included Joan Butts – Geo Tislevoll, Tony Hutton – Malcolm Carter and Ann Mellings - Larry Norden.

This hand came from the match between Ashton-Wiltshire (NS) and Tully-Ward (EW)

Dir E	♠ 852		
Vul Both	♥ J76543		
	♦ 42		
	♣ 95		
♠ AQ9		♠ K6	
♥ K1092		♥ Q8	
♦ Q8		♦ AJ75	
♣ AK82		♣ QJ1063	
	♠ J10743		
	♥ A		
	♦ K10963		
	♣ 74		

W	N	E	S
X	P	1C	1S
4C <sup>1</sup>	P	2D	P
4NT <sup>3</sup>	P	4D <sup>2</sup>	P
6C	All pass	5D <sup>4</sup>	P

<sup>1</sup>Sets clubs

<sup>2</sup>1st/2nd control

<sup>3</sup>Key card

<sup>4</sup>1 or 4

South's overall made it likely that, not only would a spade finesse probably work, but also opener's points should be in the right places. So when dummy went down after a small spade lead, the contract appeared to depend on the diamond finesse which would most likely fail.

Undaunted, declarer drew trumps in 2 rounds, played off the spades pitching a heart, then led a heart to the singleton ♥Q and ♥A. South now led a diamond, away from his ♦K which allowed the slam to make. Why do you think a top player would do that? Here's the whole hand:

At that point, South had only spades and diamonds remaining. Either suit return would provide the 12th trick. People who always lead aces against slams would have been successful here as the ♥A is the only lead to defeat 6C.

The South West Pacific Teams comprised a field of 122 teams which included many Queenslanders. Playing 20 board matches is a great test of skill and endurance. The added advantage is that, should you go for a big penalty on one board, there is still sufficient time in the match to recover on the others. Our team had a roller-coaster of a ride, alternating wins and

losses. Wins are nice but the better you do, the tougher your next match. And so it came to pass that, midway through the event, we found ourselves up against notorious South Australians, Phil Markey and Joe Haffer. They play a very aggressive form of Acol with a 9-13 no-trump opening with some meaningless 2-level responses which could occasionally be in the 0-6 range. No doubt they run into some big penalties sometimes, but catching them speeding is not so easy playing normal defensive bidding. That said, both players went out of their way to alert bids and to explain what was happening as clearly as possible. Somehow that did not help all that much!

Take this hand for example:

Dir W	♠ KQ43		
Vul EW	♥ K104		
	♦ K6		
	♣ J943		
♠ A1072		♠ J95	
♥ 852		♥ AQ3	
♦ A10872		♦ J94	
♣ 10		♣ AQ86	
	♠ 86		
	♥ J976		
	♦ Q53		
	♣ K752		

Markey (N) opened one of their ubiquitous 1NT openings and the East hand did not fit any of our defensive systems and so passed. Haffer (S) is systemically not allowed to pass this so tried 2C. North bid 2S and everybody passed. Double by either East or West would have been take-out and, since neither had a spade shortage, we were fixed. Making just 5 tricks was not too damaging as, fortunately, there was no game on for us.

You are West on this hand.



## QLD BUTLER PAIRS

**Saturday & Sunday**  
**9 & 10 June**  
\$120 per pair  
Director: Alan Gibson

Dir N	♠ Q9		
Vul EW	♥ K10762		
	♦ 32		
	♣ KQ84		
♠ 864		♠ K102	
♥ AQJ53		♥ 94	
♦ A86		♦ Q1094	
♣ AJ		♣ 10975	
	♠ AJ753		
	♥ 8		
	♦ KJ75		
	♣ 632		

W	N	E	S
X <sup>3</sup>	1NT <sup>1</sup>	P	2H <sup>2</sup>
??	2S	P	P

<sup>1</sup>9-13 HCP

<sup>2</sup>Transfer, could be very weak

<sup>3</sup>Shows hearts

You really have to bid 3H for fear of missing a vulnerable game, and everyone passes.

The good news is that they can make 2S. The other good news is that -300 is better than -800 since they did not double us. The bad news is that we lost 5 IMPs.

Then another one.

Dir N	♠ Q3		
Vul None	♥ 1063		
	♦ A1083		
	♣ QJ65		
♠ K		♠ 8752	
♥ AKQ94		♥ J752	
♦ J74		♦ Q962	
♣ 10973		♣ K	
	♠ AJ10964		
	♥ 8		
	♦ K5		
	♣ A842		

W	N	E	S
??	1NT <sup>1</sup>	P	4S

<sup>1</sup>9-13 HCP

So you pass and hope for the best.

You are relieved to see that there are only 8 tricks in hearts and, as declarer finds a way to take only 9 tricks, that turns into a 4 IMP gain instead of an 8 IMP loss when 4H was played in the other room.

They bid well on this one to pick up 7 IMPs.

Dir S      ♠ QJ109  
 Vul EW    ♥ 62  
           ♦ KJ642  
           ♣ 65

♠ K87654      ♠ 32  
 ♥ KJ974      ♥ A8  
 ♦ 3            ♦ Q987  
 ♣ Q            ♣ J9742

N	E
W	S

♠ A  
 ♥ Q1053  
 ♦ A105  
 ♣ AK1083

W	N	E	S
2C	P	2H	1C
P	X	All pass	P

Six tricks was the limit of the hand for -500 when the same contract and number of tricks was undoubled at any other table in the room. 7 IMPs away.

At the halfway mark the best placed Qld (or part-Qld) teams were FRANCIS 6th; BUTTS 14th; and WATERS 16th.

On the final day of the qualifying rounds our mixed Qld-ACT team came up against the FRANCIS team. It was a bloodbath for us which included a hand where we managed to push the McLeishes all the way to a making 6D. Well done us!

That 12 IMP loss was self-inflicted but the McLeish system paid big dividends for them on this hand.

Dir S      ♠ AK97643  
 Vul EW    ♥ J3  
           ♦ 653  
           ♣ 7

♠ 8            ♠ 105  
 ♥ AK10976    ♥ Q852  
 ♦ -            ♦ AK942  
 ♣ J109632    ♣ 54

N	E
W	S

♠ QJ2  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ QJ1087  
 ♣ AKQ8

W	N	E	S
2NT <sup>1</sup>	3H <sup>2</sup>	4H	1D
5H	5S	All pass	4S

<sup>1</sup>5-5 in lowest unbid suits  
<sup>2</sup>Showing spades

By transferring the declarer to South,

the only defence is to underlead the ♥AK at trick 1, which could be very silly and naturally was not found. 11 tricks, -7 IMPs. At other tables, with North the declarer, East has an easy double and there are only 9 tricks available for NS.

When the dust settled at the end of the qualifying only the BUTTS team remained to fly the flag for Qld. Best other results were: Andy Hung's team 9th (just one place off); WATERS 10th; FRANCIS 20th; and COLLINS (Paul Collins - Normand Maclaurin, Carmel Martin - Sue O'Brien) 35th.

Weariness plays a big part in events such as these. You could sense that the number of director calls for revokes, leads out of turn and so on were more prevalent on the final day. We had two of those stupidities in our last match resulting in NS and EW playing in spades at both tables, but both going down 3. A rare event!! Here it is for your enjoyment.

Dir N      ♠ AK64  
 Vul None   ♥ K32  
           ♦ 74  
           ♣ AKQ9

♠ Q1052      ♠ -  
 ♥ 94            ♥ AQ1086  
 ♦ J108        ♦ AK9653  
 ♣ J876        ♣ 102

N	E
W	S

♠ J9873  
 ♥ J75  
 ♦ Q2  
 ♣ 543

W	N	E	S
2S	1C	2C!!	P
	All pass		

At our table, North opened 1C and I overcalled 2C showing both majors - a very senior moment - the bid is 2NT. I have learned over the years that there is no point in trying to recover from these catastrophes and so had to suffer the mortification of tabling dummy for partner playing 3S.

In the other room, our brave and forgiving team-mates discovered their spade fit, which had some play perhaps but ended up down 3 for -150 at both tables.

Meanwhile Joan Butts was demonstrating the principle that one person's disaster is another's triumph. She was South.

Dir E      ♠ 8  
 Vul None   ♥ J7  
           ♦ AJ1093  
           ♣ AQJ105

♠ AJ109543    ♠ K2  
 ♥ 82            ♥ Q109543  
 ♦ Q74        ♦ 8  
 ♣ K            ♣ 9742

N	E
W	S

♠ Q76  
 ♥ AK6  
 ♦ K652  
 ♣ 863

W	N	E	S
P	4NT	2H	P
		P	??

4NT was clearly a strong bid with both minors, so she simply blasted straight into 6NT. Had she known that, at the other table, 3NT had made just 6 tricks, she may have rethought this decision!!

East obliged with the ♥10 lead - this choice representing a 6 trick difference!

Declarer, Geo Tislevoll, was up to this challenge, taking the diamond finesse for an "easy" 12 tricks and 15 IMPs. Sadly, not all hands went so well and their opponents, the APPLETON team, won this match 107-99 and went on to the semi-finals where they lost to the CORNELL team.

In the end it was KANETKAR (Avinash Kanetkar - Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer, Arjuna De Livera - Andy Braithwaite) against CORNELL (Mike Cornell - Ashley Bach, Michael Wibley - Matthew Brown, Tony Leibowitz - David Beauchamp). Three of the four 16-board stanzas were very close, but a couple of non-making slams for KANETKAR in one set meant a well-deserved win to CORNELL by 30 imps. Congratulations to both teams.■

## Friday Night Youth Bridge

ALTHOUGH duplicate bridge is dominated by we older players, it is the young players who are the future of our game. Many of the leading players of today started their bridge careers in youth competition, including Bruce Neill, current

president of the ABF. For this reason, the ABF and QBA encourage young players by offering subsidised state, national and international competition exclusively for players under 25. The ABF has appointed David Thompson as the National Youth Coordinator and locally Paul Brake coordinates youth bridge for the QBA.

So, it is with an eye to the future that a group of QBA members hold regular sessions for young players at the QCBC every Friday night from 6:30 to 9:00. The sessions are a combination of lessons and supervised play. The players are usually divided into two groups – those learning to play bridge, and those who have some experience at the table.

The youth lessons are unlike those offered to adults. Young people do not generally want to have more classroom-type lessons after the school day is over, so we teach them at the table, keeping the 'chalk and talk' to an absolute minimum. We start by teaching the lively game of Oh Hell!, where they encounter trumps, tricks and estimating the trick-taking potential of a hand. We then introduce them to bridge, learning through playing. Each student is given a 'cheat sheet' that summarises the first couple of rounds of bidding and is guided in how to use it. It takes longer to teach the game this way, but it ensures that the young people enjoy the lessons and keep coming back. Another advantage of this method is that new players can join the group at any time – they do not have to wait for the start of a series of lessons.

For the more advanced players, we have supervised play sessions, often partnering with an experienced player, where we can discuss the bidding and play, as needed, after each hand. On occasions, we start these sessions with some intermediate lessons on bidding and card play.

Also popular is the break in play when we order pizzas for dinner.

Recently we have had two tables of beginners, aged from 9 to 15, and one of older intermediate players. Some bring along their bridge-playing parents and/or grandparents, who say that they also benefit from listening to the lessons.

We welcome new players at any time, and we can try to help with getting to and from the club in Ipswich Rd, if needed. There is no charge for the sessions.

The sessions are coordinated by Malcolm Carter and myself, with the regular assistance of Jim Evans and Richard Wallis, and occasionally by Therese Tully, Andy Hung, Patrick Bugler and Richard Ward. Anyone who wants to join the team is always welcome, although we are required to ask you to apply for a Queensland Government Blue Card for Working with Children (available free for volunteers in community groups).

If you have a child/grandchild/niece/nephew who might be interested, please contact Malcolm Carter (0417 200 217), Therese Tully (0409 870 324), Richard Wallis (0409 109 080) or Paul Brake (0490 117 482). Kim Ellaway (0412 064 903) at the QBA and Toni Bardon (3391 3241) at the QCBC can also direct enquiries to the right person.

■ Lyn Carter

## Novices



Shelley & Chris Farr

**A**LREADY there have been four congresses this year, as well as the Gold Congress Congress in February. These events had good attendances from lower ranked players, which is encouraging for the future. It is pleasing to see clubs delivering prizes deep into the field, therefore providing encouragement to our most important group. It is clear players are enjoying the competition they are providing for each other. Our opponents expect tough opposition, so give it your all. It is a challenge to keep up, but this is where bridge can drive us to constant improvement. While we are pushing the performance limits it is most important not to lose sight of our greatest goal - fellowship.

For Novices, the element of luck can

often play a major role in the result of a board. Unfortunately, your good luck is usually someone's bad luck, so perhaps an acknowledgement of this luck effect might lift the spirits of your opponents, who at best may be scratching their heads.

Coming Soon is the QBA Novice Pairs at Sunnybank Bridge Club

The State title event this year will be held on the 6th of May. The entry fee is \$50 per pair, BYO lunch. They have advertised 3 Categories for prizes, meaning there is something here for all levels of experience. Get prepared for this big event. Pam is ready to accept your entry now - all details are on the QBA website. The winners of the Championship will have their names engraved on the shield.

### Results of the QCBC Novice Pairs

The Championship: 1st Beryl Manders and Beth Belton (QCBC), 2nd Bruce Gough (Toowong) and Eugene Pereira (Northern Suburbs), 3rd Jennifer Finigan (QCBC) and Mary Simon (Beenleigh).



Mary Simon (Beenleigh) and Jennifer Finigan (QCBC)

Category B: (Under 15 Masterpoints) 1st Martin Grgic and Lucia Grgic (Redcliffe), 2nd Fenna Cooper and Ian Sobey (QCBC), 3rd Clare Gleeson and Heather Todd (Kenmore).

Best Pair not in the prize list was Bernadette Dwyer (Sunnybank) and Fiona Gillies (BBC), who were 8 places better than their rank.

### Results of the Kenmore Novice Pairs

The Championship: 1st Mary Fletcher and Kerry Raymond (Kenmore), 2nd Robert Olander and Rick Webster (Kenmore),



*Mary Fletcher and Kerry Raymond  
(Kenmore)*

While Kenmore did provide category prizes, they chose to allow for more than one prize per pair. Therefore B and C category prizes were also presented to Mary Fletcher and Kerry Raymond. This is not a common method of distribution. Most clubs only allow one prize per pair.

Best Pair not receiving a prize was Barbara Barlow and Gloria Newton (Kenmore) with 12 places above their ranking.

#### **Results of the Kenmore Novice Teams**

1st Andrew Sharp, Susan Sharp, Jill Dunning and Sue Ziegenfuss, 2nd Sue Noble, Chris Williams, Ruth Anderson and Gordon Plant.

#### **Results of the Toowoomba Novice Pairs**

The Championship: 1st Bruce Gough (Toowong) and Eugene Pereira (Northern Suburbs), 2nd Shelley Farr and Chris Farr (Toowong), 3rd Trevor Henderson and Carmel Caton (Toowoomba).

Category B: 1st Alison Banks and Michael Mumford (Toowoomba),

2nd Ken Orange and Pam Davey (Toowoomba)

Category C: 1st Beverley McCasker and Ross McCasker (Toowoomba), 2nd Carmel Purcell and Margaret Wyche (Toowoomba)

Best Pair not in the money was Helen Kemp and Carol Dashwood (Toowoomba) were 18 places above rank.

#### **Queenslanders at the Gold Coast**

Many thanks to Anne Russell and David Stern for the Gold Coast photos.

#### **Rookie Events**

Sunday Rookies: N/S 1st Jenny Sanders and Keith Sanders, 2nd Rex Meadowcroft and Eugene Pereira, 3rd Cecelia Hains and Mimma Fazio.



*Keith and Jenny Sanders*

Sunday Rookies: E/W 1st Daphne Leggo and Peter Leggo, 2nd Jane Gordon and Marjory Harms, 3rd Tom Ferris and Lee Chenoweth.



*Peter and Daphne Leggo*

Thursday Rookies: N/S 1st Yvonne Kergan and Maura Reilly, 2nd Robyn Hawkins and Julie Lowe, 3rd Nick Bricknell and Bernice Cooper



*Yvonne Kergan and Maura Reilly*

Thursday Rookies: E/W 1st Vesna Markovic and Voyko Markovic, 2nd Jenny Sanders and Keith Sanders, 3rd Andrew Gordon and Andrew Arthur.



*Vesna Markovic and Voyko Markovic*

#### **Under 50 Events**

Tuesday under 50: N/S 2nd Georgina Blum and Paulette Bourke, 3rd Lynette Miles and Devi Thillainathan, 6th Maxim Wilson and Bruce Stephens.



*KBC Novice Teams winners: Jill Dunning, Sue Ziegenfuss,  
Susan Sharp and Andrew Sharp*

Tuesday under 50: E/W 1st Keith Cohen and John Kelly, 2nd Karen Sweep and Rhonda Henry, 3rd Fenna Cooper and Sandra Aring.

Wednesday under 50: 4th Keith Cohen and John Kelly, 5th Robert Olander and Rick Webster, 6th Upasana Shanti and Lynda Laffan

**Under 100 Events**

Friday Novice: 1st Wendy Crombie and Julie Stockley, 2nd Neville Mcdonnell and Laurelle Mcdonnell, 3rd David Mc Evoy and Ron Adam



Wendy Crombie & Julie Stockley

Championship Novice Pairs: A grade. 3rd Bruce Gough and Ian Manly, 7th Andrew Sharp and Susan Sharp, 11th Sybil O'Keeffe and Pam Sexton.

Championship Novice B grade: 1st Lena Darlington and Dudley Darlington, 2nd Alan Anderson and Greg Kerswell, 5th Michael Main and Peter Goldman.

Championship Novice C grade: 1st Lynn Kelly and Marie Buckley, 3rd Robyn Green and Ann Smith, 4th Ruth Sargent and Grace Ireland.

Championship Novice D grade: 1st Glenys Tipler with Peter Muller, 6th Peter Allingham and John Doyle, 9th Moira Smith and Drew Campi.

Novice Teams: 6th D. Mathieson, J. Gilbert, C. Van Kruistum and J. Gryg, 7th S Reilly, J. Gillis, M. Toogood and J. Toogood, 8th J. Carter, H. Andrews, H. Mikelsons and H Himsted.

**What's coming up**

- April 7, Surfers Paradise Novice Pairs
- April 8 Redland Novice Teams
- May 6 QBA Novice Pairs at Sunnybank
- May 12, Townsville Novice Pairs
- May 20, Toowong Novice Pairs

**Toowong IMP Pairs**



Nikolai Moore

AFTER two and a half years of playing together, Abby Wanigaratne and I won an Open Congress, an IMP Pairs event held at Toowong on Sunday, February 4. We started slowly with two small wins, and a small loss to the top seeds in round four, but finished with four good wins. Abby's defence was particularly impressive, such as on this hand in round four where it is vitally important to force declarer to ruff.

Dir E	♠ 94		
Vul EW	♥ J843		
	♦ 83		
	♣ K9532		
♠ J85		♠ Q32	
♥ AQ975		♥ K1062	
♦ 954		♦ KQ	
♣ A4		♣ Q876	
	♠ AK1076		
	♥ —		
	♦ AJ10762		
	♣ J10		

W	N	E	S
2H	P	1C	2C
P	4S	3H	4D
		All pass	

South's overall showed spades and another suit. With the cards well-placed for North/South declarer, if not forced, can make four spade and five diamond tricks and potentially a club trick.

As it was, Abby in the East seat led a heart forcing dummy to ruff. Declarer played ace and another diamond. Abby won and played another heart, reducing dummy to three trumps and taking trump control off declarer. Declarer played AK of spades and a third round of diamonds, trumped by Abby, who played a club to my ace. I drew dummy's remaining trump and played a low heart to Abby's king to stop the suit from blocking, taking the

contract four off, +200 and a gain of 5.36 IMPs.

EW have enough points to double 4S, the problem being that NS might run to 5D, where South has sufficient trumps to avoid losing control and can make eleven tricks with a correct guess in clubs.

Dir E	♠ 3		
Vul NS	♥ QJ5		
	♦ 85		
	♣ QJ87652		
♠ A1054		♠ KJ82	
♥ 642		♥ 87	
♦ 10964		♦ KQJ2	
♣ K3		♣ 1094	
	♠ Q976		
	♥ AK1093		
	♦ A73		
	♣ A		

W	N	E	S
P	2C	P	1H
P	4H	All pass	2S

On this hand in the second last round, everyone reached 4H but the misfit in the black suits and the lack of entries to the North hand make it an awkward contract, even with hearts and clubs breaking.

West led the ♦10 to my ace. I could play a spade in an attempt to cross-ruff in the black suits, but as long as the opponents switch to a trump I will end up with only nine tricks. Setting up dummy's long suit provides a better chance. I played the ♠A, a trump to dummy and ran the ♣Q discarding a diamond and losing to West's king. (As it turns out I could make 12 tricks by trumping the second round of clubs as the king falls, but that would be going against the odds.)

Interestingly, the opponents now need to attack spades to beat this contract without setting up my queen, as this removes one of dummy's trumps and prevents me from enjoying the clubs. As it was, they took a spade and a diamond trick then I got in with a trump allowing me to win the third round of trumps in dummy and the clubs were good, for +620 and a gain of nearly 10 IMPs, as this contract failed at most tables and often went two down.

Finally, a lead problem for South.

Dlr W	♠ 8		
Vul NS	♥ Q10853		
	♦ KJ972		
	♣ K2		
♠ 73		♠ AQ10652	
♥ AK742		♥ J	
♦ 43		♦ 108	
♣ A1076		♣ J943	
	♠ KJ94		
	♥ 96		
	♦ AQ65		
	♣ Q85		

W	N	E	S
1H	P	1S	P
2C	P	2S	All pass

Normally leading an unsupported ace against a trump contract is a bad idea as it is too likely to concede a trick, but diamonds is the unbid suit, making the opponents more likely to be weak in that suit. In addition, I held good trumps making it more attractive to lead a long suit in an effort to force declarer. As it happened declarer avoided losing control. Nonetheless, the diamond lead and continuation proved to be the only way to beat the contract, otherwise declarer discards a diamond on one of dummy's top hearts. ■

## Teacher's Corner



Joan Butts

### Learning to Count

If you really want to improve your declarer play, aim to "count" hands. It's a fact of life that you can't move to the next skill level until you do this. The bad news is...it's NOT easy. It requires a lot of concentration. But the good news is that practice makes perfect and these tips will help.

What do we mean by "counting"?

It's working out the distribution of the opponent's hand/s by mentally remembering the cards they play as each trick is completed, and therefore working out the defenders'

shapes. If you start trying to count a hand and then you forget or lose the count, leave it and start again on the next hand. Don't be frustrated and give up, because the more you try the easier it will become.

As declarer, the most important things to consider are:

1) Always count the trump suit.

As soon as dummy goes down, make a special note of how many trumps your side has. Say you have six and dummy has three. That's nine. Keep that information stored away, but then focus mainly on how many trumps are missing and how they will be distributed.

If you have nine between you and dummy, and four are missing, you usually hope they will split 2-2, but more likely 3-1, and hopefully not 4-0. As you play trumps, watch to see how the four trumps fall in the opponents' hands.

2) Some suits are more important than others.

It's hard work to count every suit. With experience you will recognize when dummy comes down which suits you need to count; the trump suit always, as already mentioned, and often your other long suit.

3) Remembering the bidding will give you clues in counting.

Let's say West opened a pre-emptive 3H. They are likely to hold seven of them. Subtract from thirteen the number of hearts you see in your hand and dummy. Then you know how many hearts East has. And Hold that Thought!

4) The best way to get a count is when an opponent shows out in a suit.

Make a mental note of how many their partner has or had. And Hold that Thought!

5) Counting will help you make the right play at the right time.

Try to play the "easy" suits first to get a count on the "difficult" suits. If you've kept a count as you went along it will often help you know how to play an important suit at the end.

The real trouble with counting is that sometimes we *forget* as we go along, and the more tricks that are played the harder it is to remember the distributions. Our

minds tend to focus on how to play suit combinations etc, and we are sometimes surprised at the cards the defenders play, and we lose the thread of the count. But practice makes perfect, so please keep trying on every hand. Success will be guaranteed and you'll feel great satisfaction! ■

## 25 Years Ago

### The Gold Coast Congress

ONCE again the ANA Hotel hosted the QBA's Gold Coast Congress - the 32nd. The Pairs entries fell slightly to 104 tables, but the Teams set a new high with 122 entries.

For the first time in the last few years, the weather was perfect for the whole congress week, and there were a number of sunburn cases adorning the tables - serves them right for getting up so early!

An innovation this year was a Happy Hour run by the Hotel at the Pool Bar. Drinks were served there from 5 to 6 each evening at about half bar prices. Though the Happy Hour was reasonably well patronised, it surprised me that it was not busier, the setting being delightful. On enquiry I found that many players thought it was too hot outside, and preferred to stay in conditioned air. Ah, well!

The congress was (rather repetitively) a triumph for Bob Richman, who won both the Pairs and the Teams, partnered for both with Ishmael Del' Monte, the New Zealand Youth representative (Youth being the operative word - Ishmael is 19 years old). Their lead in both events was substantial.

All the boards (50 sets) for the Pairs were hand-boarded by Judy Nothdurft - a labour of love which takes about six months - and there were no mis-boardings! What would we do without her!

The hands were all ABF computer-dealt, which always causes some anomalies. I don't know who is responsible for the program, but it does seem to have some quirks. Certainly, the distributions don't appear to stand up to statistical

analysis - I don't say this categorically since I have only tested a sample of about 200, but most players seem to enjoy them, so why worry.

This year the computer appeared to have taken a shine to the Gambling No Trump, no less than three of these appeared in the final session of the Pairs, and others elsewhere. A couple of them were instructive.

Dlr E	♠ A53		
Vul NS	♥ Q9432		
	♦ 8		
	♣ 9842		
♠ KQ8764		♠ 9	
♥ K8		♥ AJ1076	
♦ 6		♦ 9543	
♣ AQJ7		♣ K106	
	♠ J102		
	♥ 5		
	♦ AKQJ1072		
	♣ 53		

This hand is fairly boring - every South opened 3NT and every West bid 4S, making. The only lesson to be learned from it is a negative one. At one table, a well-known South chipped his partner for failing to play a heart when in with the ♠A. "I might have been void!". "Oh, no," said North "your bid promised an outside king, so I knew you had at least one heart!" The system has now been amended.

Dlr E	♠ J87532		
Vul NS	♥ AQ7		
	♦ Q1073		
	♣ -		
♠ A96		♠ Q10	
♥ 8		♥ J965	
♦ 85		♦ AK2	
♣ AKQ9843		♣ 10765	
	♠ K4		
	♥ K10432		
	♦ J964		
	♣ J2		

A golden rule against the Gambling Notrump is to lead an ace if you have one. 5C is unbeatable on this hand, but no one is going to be there at Pairs. West opens 3NT third in hand, and North must cash the ♥A. Most Norths led a small spade, and shared a bottom.

The golden rule did not work so well on board 18, but caused no harm.

Dlr E	♠ A7532		
Vul NS	♥ Q932		
	♦ AQ7		
	♣ 3		
♠ KQJ9		♠ 84	
♥ A106		♥ K875	
♦ 9532		♦ KJ84	
♣ J8		♣ 942	
	♠ 106		
	♥ J4		
	♦ 106		
	♣ AKQ10765		

After the 3NT opening, West leads the ♥A, but East can see that declarer has 9 tricks and that a heart continuation will set up a tenth, so should discourage as strongly as possible. Now the spade switch should have the same effect as a spade lead (if, though, declarer holds off on the first spade, West will need to find the diamond switch).

One of the 3NT openings from the qualifying rounds resulted in an unhappy ending for your esteemed editor.

	♠ QJ92		
	♥ AQ93		
	♦ 2		
	♣ AK62		
♠ 1063		♠ AK85	
♥ KJ54		♥ 862	
♦ J9		♦ 765	
♣ J1074		♣ Q95	
	♠ 74		
	♥ 107		
	♦ AKQ10843		
	♣ 83		

West led a small heart which ran to the ten, and yours truly cashed seven rounds of diamonds, West pitching a heart at some stage. With the diamonds gone, the NS holdings were.

—  
AQ9  
—  
AK  
  
74  
7  
—  
83

Just as I was about to hook the heart, I noticed that East was showing me his hand, and in it I could see a red

king! Boy, was I lucky! I could have lost the last five tricks. So I played the ace.

East, feeling the air-conditioning, was wearing a shiny windproof jacket with pink - yes, pink! - sleeves. What I had spotted was his right sleeve reflecting on the king of spades! Did I have a hard time explaining that one to partner, especially with the opponents' ears flapping! 12 matchpoints down the tube, and missed the Championship by 8.

■ Frank White

## From the Manager

BRIDGE has come to a full stop in my life with my nursing skills needing to take over. I now know why I was not a nurse or trained as such. I don't like it but Ray is recuperating well. Our first outing was the Commonwealth Nations Welcome Pairs so may have much hilarity to report in the next bulletin as Ray struggles with his short term memory and some motor skills.



Joint Individual winners: Gregory Gosney and Alison Dawson

## On the Website

Due to insufficient space, *Queensland at the GNOT* by Richard Ward, and the *TBIB IMP Pairs* and *The Seniors' Teams* from the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra by Richard Wallis are on the website.

# Expressions of Interest

## Webmaster for the QBA

### PHP Database Technology essential

List of Duties will be provided upon application to the Manager

## Coming Events

Mar 25	Sunshine Coast Graded Teams
Mar 29	QBA Council Meeting - AGM
Mar 30-Apr 2	Cairns Easter Congress
Apr 1-2	BBC Graded Matchpoint Pairs and Graded Teams
Apr 7-8	QBA Open Selection Trials
Apr 7-8	Townsville Pairs
Apr 7-8	Caloundra Teams
Apr 8	Toowoomba Butler Pairs
Apr 8	Redland Novice Teams and Restricted Teams
Apr 14-15	QBA Open Selection Trials
Apr 15	Warwick Swiss Pairs
Apr 20-25	Cleveland Bay Diggers Congress (20-22 and 25)
Apr 21-22	QBA Womens/Senior Selection Trials
Apr 21-22	Gympie Cross Imp Pairs and Swiss Teams
Apr 21	Surfers Paradise Novice Pairs
Apr 21	Mackay Pairs
Apr 25	Anzac Day Teams - QCBC
Apr 28-29	QBA Womens/Senior Selection Trials
May 1-7	Bridge for Brain Research
May 3-7	ABF Autumn Nationals
May 5-6	Hervey Bay Imp Pairs and Teams
May 6	QBA Novice Pairs - Sunnybank
May 12	Townsville Novice Pairs
May 12	Surfers Paradise Teams
May 14-18	2018 Barrier Reef Congress Townsville
May 19-20	QBA Mixed Pairs - Toowong
May 19	Stanthorpe Pairs
May 20	Novice Matchpoint Pairs - Toowong
May 26	QBA ANC Participants Day
May 27	BBC Graded Imp Pairs
Jun 2-3	Arana Imp Pairs and Teams
Jun 3	Darling Downs Teams
Jun 7-11	ABF VCC (Melbourne)
Jun 9-10	QBA Butler Pairs - QCBC
Jun 14	Noosa Imp Pairs
Jun 15-17	Sunshine Coast Imp Pairs and Teams; Walk-Ins
Jun 15-17	Mackay 50th Anniversary Teams
Jun 16-17	Gold Coast Imp Graded Pairs and Graded Teams
Jun 23-24	Goondiwindi Pairs
Jun 23	QBA Club Directors Exam
Jun 24	Cleveland Bay Graded Matchpoint Pairs
Jun 28	QBA Council Meeting
Jul 1	Toowong Imp Pairs with Restricted Section < 150 MPS
Jul 1	GNOT Final - Wide Bay
Jul 7-8	Bowen Congress
Jul 8	Lockyer Swiss Pairs
Jul 8	Redland Novice Pairs and Restricted Pairs

## Townsville

AT the Townsville Bridge Club, the annual Christmas afternoon tea is also an occasion for making donations to a worthy cause. The event includes not only the items you might expect, a game of bridge without table fees, a spread of food brought by everyone attending, and an opportunity to flaunt Christmas earrings and T-shirts.

This is also our opportunity to make donations to the Women's' Shelter, not only providing some practical assistance to this valuable social service, but also assuring them that their work is recognised and valued by members of the Townsville Bridge Club, both women and men.

Representatives of the Women's' Shelter usually join us for a while and require the help of several members to carry everything out to the vehicle.

This donation is organised by Elsie Stubbs, a long standing member who has gone from a beginner to Grand Master as a member of this Club. Christmas afternoon tea 2017 was made extra special by a small presentation to Elsie who has retired from her long term roles as Director and teacher of beginner's lessons to enjoy her bridge in a more relaxed way.



*Elsie Stubbs*

"I don't think anyone in this tournament can bid diamonds to show diamonds. We lost the club suit in the 1950s. Now diamonds are gone and hearts are sinking fast."

## Directors' Corner



Jan  
Peach

SOME clarification of the 2017 Laws has been published in the WBF Laws Committee minutes. The extent of "similar" in Law 23 Comparable Call remains a grey area. I suggest directors not be too liberal until the WBF official commentary arrives with examples. Small variations in either strength or distribution are certainly acceptable. Perhaps a card in length or a point or two at the lower end. Higher end point differences may be greater because they will rarely influence the result. A comparable call will not always be available. Sometimes the offender will have to accept responsibility for partner's obligation to pass either at his next turn only or for the rest of the auction.

Directors do not suggest comparable calls. The offender may ask, away from the table, how the director would rule if a particular replacement call is made. That time is also the opportunity for the director to familiarise himself with the system being played without the offender's partner hearing the discussion.

The WBFCLC has reaffirmed that any card accidentally exposed prior to the commencement of the auction should be returned to hand but information arising from its exposure is subject to Law 16. When a card is accidentally exposed (not led) during the Clarification Period, the presumed declarer and defenders are known. Any card accidentally exposed by the declaring side should be addressed via Law 48 and any exposed card of the defending side becomes the domain of Law 49 and thus ultimately a penalty card.

Quoting from the WBF Laws Committee minutes, Law 86B1 is "only applicable in those situations

where a score had been obtained at one table, with no corresponding score available from the other table. Typical examples where this might occur are when the Director cancels a partially played board due to extraneous information received from an outside source (as per Law 16D); where a table plays a board to completion with one hand containing 14 cards and another containing only 12 cards; or when a table never commences a board due to slow play or misadventure."

In the sequence 1H (Pass) 1S (Pass); 2C, it should be common bridge knowledge that only 3 clubs might be held. Additionally, a three card suit is considered to be natural if not conventional in some other way. This isn't something new concerning 2 over 1 but applies for traditional Standard American too. A 2C rebid that showed two plus clubs would require an alert.

Clarified many times is that the initial game forcing response in 2 over 1 does not require an alert, providing the bid is natural. Whether the bid shows 10+ or 11+ or 12+, it is very unlikely that the opponents have a different defence available or need prior discussion about their defence. ■

### 2017 James O'Sullivan Winners

Overall and Best Silver Grand and Above – Neville Francis –

QCBC

Best Grand Master – Malcolm Carter – QCBC

Best Gold Life Master – Elizabeth Zeller – Toowoomba Bridge Club

Best Silver Life Master – Terry Sheedy – Mackay Bridge Club

Best Bronze Life Master – Margaret Plunkett – Northern Suburbs Bridge Club

Best Life Master – Bill Bishop – Townsville Bridge Club

Best \*\*National Master - William van Bakel – Cairns Bridge Club

Best \*National Master - Fay Jeppesen – Redcliffe Bridge Club

Best National Master – Andrew Gosney – ABF Youth Club – Northern

Suburbs Bridge Club

Best \*State Master – Abigail Wanigaratne – Northern Suburbs Bridge Club

Best State Master – Rachel Langdon – QCBC

Best \*Regional Master – Leonie Spence – Toowoomba Bridge Club

Best Regional Master – David Roberts – Toowoomba Bridge Club

Best \*\*Local Master – Loretta Lovett – Sunnybank Bridge Club

Best \*Local Master – Gary Gibbards – Caboolture Bridge Club

Best Local Master – Ched Twyman – Toowong Bridge Club

Best Club Master – David Breadsell – Mackay Bridge Club

Best Graduate Master – Luke Wilson – Toowong Bridge Club

Best Nil Master – Joan Mladen –

### Results of QBA and ABF Events

#### Individual

Greg Gosney and Allison Dawson

#### Qld Wide Pairs

Bob Hunt - Jane Swanson, North-South - Marrice Williams - Elio Vaccaro, East West

#### Senior Teams

Neville Francis, Tony Hutton, Malcolm Carter and Lyn Carter

#### Best Country Team at GNOT

North Queensland - Hugh McAlister, Di McAlister, John Johnson and Geoff Allen

## Q B A

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## D E A D

### JUNE 11 (noon)

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## L I N E