

TOWNSVILLE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2021



Wilfred Tapiolas



PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL



With the Easter break upon us I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and safe Easter.

The Covid outbreak in Brisbane and consequent Queensland government state-wide edict means that we must now wear masks during bridge sessions. Please bring a mask to bridge and check our website for the latest Covid advice before you come to a session as circumstances could change daily.

March has been a busy month at the club starting with the first GNOTS qualifying event, won by the Bishop team. Congratulations to Bill, Pat, Jan and Leigh. The second qualifying event will be held at the Ingham Bridge Club on April 17 and 18.

We also had two three week pairs events, the Wednesday Restricted Conventions pairs won by Charlie and Russell, and the Saturday pairs, won by Betty and Ken. Congratulations to the winning pairs.

On Friday 26 March Ingham Bridge Club held their Anniversary Pairs event with 32 pairs competing. The event was won by Leigh Owens and John Toogood. It was good to see strong support from both the Townsville and Cleveland Bay clubs, with nine pairs attending. Thanks to Wendy and her committee and club for turning on a well-run and friendly day of bridge.

The Barrier Reef Congress will be held in Mackay this year starting on 30 April. Townsville will be hosting the event in 2022 at the Townsville Stadium. Margaret Dousset has agreed to act as Tournament Organiser and will be putting together her team of helpers in May. Running such an event requires a lot of help from our members and the committee will be asking for your assistance. We are fortunate that John Tredrea, the 2018 Tournament Organiser, left us detailed congress notes which will make it easier for Margaret for 2022.

Two of our air conditioners have failed recently and as some of these units are over 20 years old we are having difficulty sourcing spare parts. We are in the process of replacing some units and hope to have all working by the end of April.

Finally, a number of our members have been in hospital or had other health issues. Your "bridge family" have been thinking of you and we wish you a speedy recovery.



RECENT GRAND SLAMS

Lesleigh Rooney **and** Gloria
Macdonald

Di Garside **and** Gay Loughnane

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2021

- 1st TBC Usual Session - Masks required, BYO
- 2nd TBC Usual Session - BYO Mask
- 10th TBC 1-Day Matchpoint Pairs (Red, Entries required)
- 17th INGHAM GNOT Qual. 2 (Gold) (2 days)
- 22nd - CBBC Diggers (4 days)
- 30th MCKY Barrier Reef Congress (Gold) (4 days)

MAY 2021

- 6th TBC Bridge for Brains (Red)
- 8th TBC Novice Pairs (Red)
- 15th CBBC GNOT Qual 3 (Gold, TBC Venue) (2 days)

IMPORTANT NEWS!

- **Covid19 advice 2pm Tuesday 30 March, 2021:** We will have our usual sessions on Wednesday night and Thursday morning, but attendees will need to wear a mask. We only have a limited supply of masks, so please bring your own.
- On Thursday April 22 there will be no normal session of bridge but there will be walk in pairs for the Diggers Congress. This is a Cleveland Bay bridge club event which is being played in our club rooms. The start time is 1 pm and the cost is \$20



COMPETING AT BRIDGE (Part 1)

Sometimes the best bid is PASS

by Ian Patterson

Most of us like to get in early to compete when our opponents open the bidding. Doing so gives information to your partner about your hand but also gives information to the opposition. An overcall at the 1-level has many uses. It nominates a suit in which you may play (to "steal" the contract), or it simply offers partner a "safe" lead if you end up defending the opposition's contract. Similarly, a takeout double also gives information to partner and the opposition about your likely shape, and which suits you are interested in. Usually, if you make a bid intended to mislead your opposition, it also misleads your partner (like overcalling a 5-card suit headed by the Jack).

There are 2 questions I ask myself when I make an overcall or a takeout double: 1. Do I want my partner to lead this suit (either of these suits)? and 2. Do I want to play a contract in this suit (either of these suits) at the 3 or even 4 level? A 3rd question may also apply: Is this hand better suited for defence?

In the recent GNOT event I found myself in a dilemma holding S: 6 H: AJ83 D: KJ82 C: AK96 after my Right Hand Opponent opened 1D Precision (11-15 HCP, any). The Precision 1D is a catch all bid that gives a lot of negative information. It denies 16 HCP (with 16+ they would open 1C). It denies a balanced 14-16 HCP (they would open 1Nt). It denies a 5-card Major. It may also have 0 diamonds, although with 5 or 6 clubs they might prefer to open 2C. 1D Precision therefore is very ambiguous, so I decided to join the ambiguity club **and passed**.

After all, what were my options? 1. Overcall a 4-card suit (at least 1H would be lead direct)? 2. Double for takeout? Remember, a t'out X shows a shortage in the "bid" suit (no suit has been nominated) **AND** at least 3-card support for **all** unbid suits **OR** a strong hand (16+) with a 5 or 6-card suit **OR** a BALANCED 19-20 HCP hand (too strong to overcall 1Nt). None of these applied so I passed. The pessimist in me said "if I double, my partner will bid 1S". If the opponents find a Spade fit I can later double (for takeout), I decided. The bidding proceeded:

W	N	E	S
1D	P	1Nt	P
P	?		

What now?

Well all the same arguments still applied, except my partner was even more likely to bid 2S if I double now. So again, I passed. Naturally, my partner lead a small Spade (from his 6-card suit). Without the information I would have given away by bidding, declarer had little to work with (and my devious play of underleading the AK of Clubs to find my partner's Jack) and made just 4 tricks. With both Vul, we scored +300 compared with +300 at the other table when 3S made just 6 tricks, our sole good result in a 14 Board Match. (1NtE could have made 6 tricks - presumably by forcing N to lead away from some of his honours - and 2S could make 8 tricks. If both these results had occurred, we would have squared the board.)

If you still have the hand records, it was Board 4 in Match 1 of the 2nd Session.

RECYCLING PLAYING CARDS



Recently, we donated some of our old playing cards to St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Palm Island. It's great to see them go to good use and the school was very appreciative – see email below.

Good morning Rosemary,

Thanks so much for sending the cards across to Palm. They have already been put to good use on our Maths classroom. I have attached a couple of photos of us playing a game called 'Get Out of My House!' in which the students have to add the two cards together.

Thank you for providing these for the students, they are greatly appreciated.

*Thanks,
Chris*

Over the coming months we will be publishing Poems from the late Margaret Foster – a long time Townsville Club Member who was not only passionate about bridge but also poetry. I hope you enjoy them!



A POEM by Margaret Foster

Yet a spouse who accepts we're addicted,
And have to have bridge in large lumps,
And who knows that we can't be restricted,
Will always keep coming up in trumps.

Judith – the cards you can't lose or purloin 'em,
So why not give bridging a whirl?
They say if you can't beat 'em – join 'em,
And I'm sure you are a sensible girl.

Later – if hubby and you play as twosome,
There could be a marriage at stake,
So to prevent things becoming quite gruesome –
Beware of contracts you DON'T make

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

QBA ZOOM BASIC DIRECTOR TRAINING

This course is particularly suitable for new directors and those seeking accreditation as a QBA Club Director or as a refresher for those already accredited.

Saturdays 9 am to 10 am

6 weeks: 17th April to 5th June
excluding 1st & 15th May.

Fee: \$10 (for the whole course)

Payment options will be provided after registration.

Registration and Enquiries:

Jan Peach

QBA Director Accreditation

33526929

janpeach8@bigpond.com

One Wish

A bridge duffer was polishing a lamp and... poof! Out popped a genie who said, "I will grant you *one* wish."

The duffer unfolded a map of the world and said, "Let all of these countries live in peace and harmony."

"You've got to be kidding! I'm only a genie."

The duffer thought for a while and then suggested, "OK, then make me a winning bridge player."

"Hmm..." the genie pondered. "Let me see that map again."

Bedtime Story

A bumbling bridge player explained to his regular partner how he planned to improve his game: "Every night when I go to bed I think about the mistakes I made that day at the bridge table."

"Gee," his partner said, "how do you get any sleep?"



CONSIDERATE BIDDING

You, South, hold this hand:

♠ A J 7

♥ 9 4

♦ A Q J 6 5

♣ A 8 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥ (spades)	Pass
2♠	Pass3NT	Pass	?

You plan to 'correct' to 4♠, especially given your doubleton club. Partner, however, can have a moderately good hand, which may be suited to slam.

Rather than just bidding 4♠, why not bid 4♦ on the way through? This should show a good suit, a source of tricks, should partner have a suitable hand for slam.

Partner's hand is:

♠ K Q 10 9 8

♥ A 10 3

♦ K 9 3

♣ 10 5

They have a good hand but, without the spade fit, it is just a game hand. Once you know about the diamond suit / source of tricks, your ♦ K becomes an enormous card, and you should cue bid 4♥ to encourage partner. (This is not some fancy 're-transfer' since they have already taken the transfer to 2♠.)

This sort of thoughtful bid allows you to bid a slam that otherwise looks impossible to reach!

Source: Barbara Travis (SABF December 2020 Newsletter)



MEMBER PROFILES

FAY BLOWER

When did you first play Bridge?

1996

Who taught you to play Bridge?

Elsie Stubbs

Who introduced you to bridge?

My first husband introduced me to Bridge in London

Where did you grow up?

Brisbane

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

Clearing emails

If you could be an animal what would it be?

A bird flying free

What is your favourite song?

Jazz Ballads/ It's a Wonderful World

What personality trait has got you in most trouble?

Taking on too much

Who is the most famous person you have met?

Don Burrows Jazz Musician

What's the best advice you ever had given to you or your Motto is?

It's better to be kind than always right

If you could invite three famous people for dinner (dead or alive) who would it be?

- Matthew Flinders
- Peter Cundall (Gardening Australia)
- Paul Gauguin (Artist)

Best advice for your bridge partner

Enjoy! Life is short



MEMBER PROFILES

ROSYLN SNEDDON

When did you first play Bridge?

Very briefly in 1984, my last year in Lae, PNG. Friends who are now in Adelaide Park, near Yeppoon had sessions on a Friday night at their home. It was fun. In 2014 I began taking lessons with Elsie here in Townsville, so it was a long time between hands. Even here the Wednesday evening sessions were not all that regular with commitments to teaching, trips away, etc. Now that I have more free time, so can play a bit more often I am hopeful of playing much better. Let's hope so anyway!



Who taught you to play Bridge

Elsie was my main teacher but so many others have passed on their wisdom and guided me in recent years. Thank you everyone who has assisted me in order to improve!

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Hamilton, Victoria and moved around the state a bit. We had time in Redcliffs, which is where my parents grew up as their parents were returned soldiers and they got blocks, where they grew grapes and other fruits. A year in Ballarat and most of my childhood was in Mildura, near my paternal grandparents, which was lovely. Later on we moved to Morwell where I finished my last few years of school.

What is your favourite colour?

Yellow was my favourite when I was young, then it moved to Autumn colours and now I prefer the brighter blues and purples.... Just like my granddaughters!

Did you have a nickname at school?

When I taught one of my classes thought it was "cool" to call me "Sneddles".

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

Throwing out stuff. I know I have too much, but it mostly means something to me and I just find it hard to toss it.

If you could be an animal what would it be?

Maybe a hawk as I would love to fly!

What is your favourite song?

Hey Jude, by the Beatles, but I like most music.

Shepard's Geronimo as well as many of Ed Sheeran's is one of the more recent singers I enjoy like "Thinking out Loud" and "Perfect".

What personality trait has got you in most trouble?

Sometimes leaving things until the last minute, but this often gives me the best result, so maybe it's not so bad!

What's the best advice you ever had given to you or your Motto is?

To not aim for perfection.

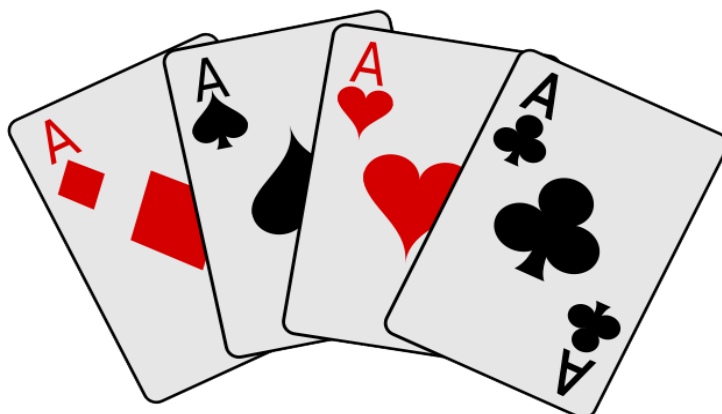
If you could invite three famous people for dinner (dead or alive) who would it be?

- **Ian Barclay**- who coached Pat Cash when he won Wimbledon. He coached many of us just prior to this for \$2 an evening when we played for Monash Uni. Tennis Club.
- **Ken Rosewell**
- **Ashleigh Barty**

Best advice for your bridge partner

Relax and you'll eventually learn from your mistakes. It's a game to enjoy and most are willing to help you learn and will give excellent advice to help you along your way.

Thank you all that have helped me become a better player, but I've still got a lot to learn.



PHOTOS FROM THE VAULT



Left: 1995/96 Atherton Tableland Teams Championships
Back: Diane Jones, Del Ward
Front: Doris Mann, Joan Bussey



Above Late 1990s (After Congress) Noreen Massey, Mary Bloxham, Fay Blower and Louise Connell

Below: First Cairns Gold Point Congress - Bill Golding, Leigh Owens, Pat Easton, Beth Whebell, Jan Smith and Lyn Richardson



March 2013 - Farewell Lunch for Long-time Member Pam Andrews

Left:	Centre:	Right:
Marge Jeppesen	Pam Andrews	Robyn Nolan
Marion O'Shea	Fay Blower	Delma Johnson
Robyn Nolan (obscured)	Noreen Massey	
Delma Johnson		
Pam Andrews	Pam Andrews	Pam Andrews
Noreen Massey		Marion O'Shea
	Robyn Nolan	Pam Andres
	Pam Andrews	Noreen Massey



I hope you enjoy some photos from our archives. We have done our best to identify the people in the photos, but if we have made a mistake then please do not hesitate to let me know and I can update our records

LIKE TO SHARE ANYTHING?

If anyone has any photos, ideas or feedback for the newsletter, then please contact Albert Beric (aberic@tpg.com.au)