

TOWNSVILLE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2021



PRESIDENT'S REPORT – AUGUST 2021

This month brings up a small milestone for our club. It is now twelve months since we have been able to play face to face bridge again during the covid outbreak. Please continue to observe all of our covid protocols that can be found on the website, particularly in view of the virulent Delta strain that is now in Australia.

After the congress last month, the club held the Open and Under National Pairs competition over three weeks. Congratulations to John Johnson and Geoff Allen, winners of the open section and to Ann Smith and Heather Colbert who won the under national section. This is an honour board event.

I would also like to congratulate Audrey Ledbrook on becoming our latest accredited director.

Some months ago, our directors published a brief one page summary of things we as players can do to assist them in making their job easier. It covers things like arriving early and being seated fifteen minutes before play, listening to the director, calling the director and slow play. Please take time to reread their request which is on display around the club.

Covid has caused a reduction in the number of people playing face to face bridge in clubs around Australia. Both Townsville and Cleveland Bay clubs are no different. Bridge clubs need a minimum number of tables playing each week to cover operating costs. As playing sessions of both clubs do not clash, if you feel like an extra game, check out both club's websites.

A small steering committee has been formed to plan for next year's Barrier Reef Congress. If you have any ideas or would like to help, you can see Margaret Dousset our tournament organiser, Devan Mitchell, Charlie Georgees or myself.

The Annual General Meeting is coming up and annual subscriptions will soon be due.

Wilfred Tapiolas



Fay Blower



One of our favourite bridge teachers has recently celebrated a birthday – Fay, warmest wishes and we hope you had a wonderful day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2021

- 12th TBC Thursday Pairs 1 (Red)
- 13th TBC Club Session - (Open & Novice Sections)
- 15th CBBC Cleveland Bay Teams (Red)
- 19th TBC Thursday Pairs 2 (Red)
- 20th Open Section Only
- 20th NWP 16 - (Green Pts in club, Red Pts online)
- 26th TBC Thursday Pairs 3 (Red)
- 28th TBC GNOT Regional Final (Gold) (2 days)

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 4th MCKY Matchpoint Barometer Pairs (Red) (2 days)
- 4th NWP (Green Pts in club, Red Pts online)
- 6th TBC Monday Teams 1 (Red)
- 10th TBC Magnetic Teams Congress (Red) (3 days)
- 13th TBC Monday Teams 2 (Red)
- 16th TBC - NWP 18 - (Green Pts in club, Red Pts online)
- 18th INGHAM Hinchinbrook Matchpoint Pairs (Red) (2 days)
- 20th TBC Monday Teams 3 (Red)

REMINDER

CAN YOU PLEASE PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS BY THE END OF AUGUST - \$50

If possible, we prefer if you can pay by a direct transfer into our account:

Townsville Bridge club

BSB 034-212

Account Number: 913659

Otherwise, you can make a cash payment to Joan Elliott.

Recent Grand Slams

- ANGELA HALL / CAROL BLACKMAN
- JOAN ELLIOTT / PATRICIA LARSEN
- JACKIE SEGANFREDDO / HELEN LOVEGROVE
- WILFRED TAPIOLAS / VIVIENNE OTTO
- FELICITY HORNE / PETER HOUSDEN
- AUDREY LEDBROOK / JUDY HUNT



AIM HIGH

Artwork by
Audrey Q

"It is better to fail aiming high



than to succeed aiming low."

Bill Nicholson

RECENT CLUB Results

MONDAY PAIRS RESULTS - THREE ROUNDS

- OPEN:** **1ST PLACE** JOHN JOHNSON - GEOFF ALLEN
 2ND PLACE LEIGH OWENS - JOHN TREDREA
 3RD PLACE BETTY HOBDELL - LESLEIGH ROONEY
- UNDER NAT:** **1ST PLACE** ANN SMITH - HEATHER COLBERT
 2ND PLACE REG BURTON - SHARON MORLEY
 3RD PLACE NINA DOYLE - IAN LEACH



HONOUR BOARD EVENT – CONGRATULATIONS

1ST PLACE OPEN JOHN JOHNSON and GEOFF ALLEN

UNDER NAT: 1ST PLACE ANN SMITH and HEATHER COLBERT



To Audrey Ledbrook on becoming an Accredited Director!!!



GOODBYE from Jennifer

I first joined Townsville Bridge Club in 1998 and I am moving to Western Australia to be with family, play bridge and continue working as a Psychotherapist and Yoga Therapist. I wish to sincerely thank all my bridge partners and team members as I believe success is as much about relationship as it is about rules and conventions. I've learnt a lot about myself, the joy of a successful outcome, the messes and the occasional lessons of being in the wrong partnership.

Ray also wishes to extend his thanks to his teachers, supervisors and partners willing to play with him as a beginner.

I love Bridge etiquette as much as playing the game. It reminds me of my childhood, playing cards and how the elders held the fabric of family life. I've loved hearing your stories, getting down to the business of play and being immersed in this ritual for several hours a week.

Thank you to all the presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, treasurers and committee members who have given their time over the years. You've always made a clear commitment to the values and strengths that make Townsville Bridge a unique club and a social hub. Because of you it is a place to come to enjoy conversation, play a game, celebrate milestones and to share food and community. Over the years I've noted your ability to not mess with what's working and introduce improvements only where necessary.

I am grateful to all my teachers from Elsie in the beginning and Delma and Beth in supervised play to name a few. I have also been fortunate to have had a long friendship and mentorship with John Johnson. To have his company by way of poetry, conversation and feedback has been invaluable in helping me navigate my way through difficulties and transitions, and it is such a rare and sacred gift. I hope a few more of you will enjoy John as a teacher and friend as I have.

Goodbye, keep in touch

I'm going to miss you very much



- *The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in it. (Alfred Sheinwold)*
- *I'd like a review of the bidding with all of the original inflections. (George Kaufman)*
- *It's not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones. (S. J. Simon)*

Source – Eddie Kantar

Some suggestions to help new players improve

Defence

Making the **opening lead** requires that you decide first which **suit** to lead, and having done that, which **card** of the suit. In general, don't lead suits that the other side has bid. Follow recommended leads i.e. top of a sequence of 3 touching, or near touching in no trumps, or top of two touching in a suit contract, low card from an honour, top of a doubleton etc.

The defenders use the same techniques for developing tricks as declarer does, i.e. **promotion**, **length**, **finesse**, **cross-trumping**, and **discarding losers on winners**. The difference is they can't see each other's cards, so it's harder to work out what is going on.

The crucial cards are the first one, and the first discard, so work out your favourite signalling method (high to encourage, or low to encourage), and stick to it. Your role is to make the cards you play mean something to partner. **Don't give up** until the last card is played.

Source: Australian Bridge Federation.



Bridge Tips — Warm-Up (Eddie Kantar)



CALL THE DIRECTOR

- Whenever an infraction occurs at the table, you must call the Director.
- Players cannot make their own rulings. If they do, the Director has the right to have players forfeit rights to rectification they would otherwise have had.

You cannot defend properly unless you:

- remember the bidding
- know what system the opponents are playing
- watch the cards, particularly the little fellows count.
- cannot expect your partner to defend properly if you make faces or show other signs of disapproval.

LIKE TO SHARE ANYTHING?

If anyone has any photos, jokes, ideas or feedback for the newsletter, then please contact Albert Beric on 0403 153 211 or email me - aberich@tpg.com.au

INTERFERENCE OVER STRONG/GAME FORCE OPENING BIDS

BY IAN PATTERSON

More and more players are making life difficult by throwing in a bid over their opponents "Strong" or "Game Force" (2C or 2D) opening bids. Sometimes the bid is "lead direct", made with very weak hands. Sometimes it's a genuine suit, suggesting a possible sacrifice. In their favour is that they are unlikely to be doubled for penalties and this interference can be very disruptive, depending on your methods after partner's strong opening.

RESPONSES TO A STRONG OPENING BID. What are your responses to partner's Strong opening? 4 methods that I'm familiar with are: "Simple", "Controls", "Steps" and "Waiting".

In "Simple" (the first method we are all taught), the first suit up shows 0-7 HCP, any other suit shows a 5-card suit and 8+ HCP, and 2Nt shows 8+ with NO 5-card suit. So after a 2C opening, 2D is 0-7HCP, after a 2D opening 2H is 0-7. You may have your own meanings after a 2D opening.

In "Controls" responder tells opener how many Aces and/or Kings they hold. An Ace counts as 2 controls, a King as 1. In response to a 2C opening, 2D shows 0 or 1 Control, 2H shows 2 (an A or 2 Ks), 2S shows 3, etc. Generally, for each step up there is an extra Control but some players vary the meanings of the 2Nt and 3C responses. Note that it is possible to have 15 HCP and still have only 1 Control (a King), so your response must be 2D. I don't know anyone who uses Controls after a 2D opening.

In "Steps" responder's bid describes a 3-point range and has nothing to do with the suit bid. First Step shows 0-3 (yes, a 4-point range), but thereafter it's: 4-6, 7-9 etc. So after a 2C opening, 2D shows 0-3, 2H shows 4-6, 2S shows 7-9 and 2Nt shows 10-12 etc. After a 2D opening each step is a suit higher: 2H is 0-3, 2S is 4-6 etc. The simplest approach to working out which step you need is to divide your HCP by 3 and round up to the next whole number. (13 HCP is $13/3 = 4.3$, so Step 5)

in "Waiting" responder always bids 2D. This allows opener to describe their hand with their rebid(s) but means responder must take control of the auction. Responder can bid Stayman or Transfers over a 2Nt response from opener, Pass or bid 3Nt with a minimum hand, bid 4Nt inviting Small Slam if opener is maximum or even 4C (Gerber) if looking for a Grand Slam. Over a suit response by opener, responder can bid game in that suit if weak, show a fit if stronger, or bid a new suit or Nt below game to allow opener to further describe their hand.

DEALING WITH INTERFERENCE. Given your preferred system of responses, how do you proceed after interference? One method is called "**System On**". In this method, you ignore the overcall and bid as if it didn't happen, except when the overcall was the suit (or Nt) that you were going to bid, in which case you Double! So if your RH opponent over calls 2S over partner's 2C opening,

with "Simple" you might: Pass with 0-7 (NOT bid 3D), bid a suit with 8+ and 5+ cards, X to show 8+ and 5+ Spades, bid 2Nt with a balanced 8+ HCP (Discuss with your partner if this promises a stopper!);

with "Controls", X would show 3 Controls (and say nothing about Spades);

with "Steps", X would show 6-9 HCP (and say nothing about Spades);

with "Waiting" why bid? Wait! X could be for Takeout or could be for Penalties. Discuss it with your partner(s).

"System On" is an agreement that can be used after interference over any opening bid!

INTERFERENCE OVER STRONG/GAME FORCE OPENING BIDS

(Part 2)

What are the alternatives to "System On"? Maybe you could play: Suits are natural, X is for takeout, and Nt shows a stopper. But how many points are you showing (8+)? And how much bidding space are you stealing from your partner? This you must discuss with your partner. As an example, on one occasion I opened 2C with 25 HCP intending to rebid 3Nt over my partner's 2D (Waiting) response. My LH opponent, overcalled 2H and my partner bid 2S. This bid was undiscussed, but I ploughed on regardless, bidding 3Nt to show my 25(+) HCP. My partner passed! Partner had 9 HCP and 6Nt was cold. Partner had decided I'd jumped to game because of the points "shown". How disciplined are your rebids when you open a Game Force? And what methods do you have to allow the opener to show a 2-suited hand?

Despite a partnership lasting over 20 years, I discovered that Betty and I were not on the same wavelength in this situation during the Townsville Congress Teams. I picked up the following hand:

C: AKQ954 D: AKQ7 H: 63 S: A (actually a 2-loser hand)

I can't recall ever holding a stronger hand. We play 2D as our Game Force, defined as < 4 losers (i.e. 3 or fewer losers) OR 23+ HCP. Our responses (in an uncontested auction) are "Steps" (as described previously). The bidding proceeded:

	N	E	S	W
	2D	2S	3H*	P
	4C	P	4H	P
	5D	P	P	P

What went wrong? Well, when West asked about the meaning of partner's bid (which he shouldn't have done, having no intention of bidding himself), instead of saying "It's undiscussed", I explained that we played Steps and **if** this was a "Step" bid it showed 16-18 HCP. All this did was create doubt in Betty's mind and left her confused. As I implied earlier, all I was doing was describing my hand - showing my 2 suits at the lowest possible level (which unfortunately was the 5 level). I had actually forced my partner to pick a Slam, or so I thought. My main error was in speculating ALOUD on what my partner's bid meant. Betty's hand was:

C: T763 D: 9 H: AKQ74 S: 965

As you can see, 7Nt is unbeatable. Not even a bad break in Clubs (3-0) can stop it.

If we were playing "System On", the bidding **could** have gone:

	N	E	S	W	
	2D	2S	2Nt*	P	* 6-9 HCP
	3C	P	3H	P	
	4D	P	4H	P	
	4Nt**	P	5S***	P	** RKCB
	7Nt				*** 2 plus Q Hearts

MEMBER PROFILE - CLIVE BUNNETT

When did you first play Bridge? I started around 2004 just after I retired.

Who introduced you to bridge? I asked a fellow Lion's member what he did now he was retired, and he mentioned Bridge and there were lessons commencing soon. At that time, I thought Bridge was a game you played on leisurely Saturday afternoon. When he said he played three times a week I was astounded. I said, "Wow, you must be good." Little did I know!

Who taught you to play bridge? Keith Ramsbotham was my first teacher. He made the lessons interesting and encouraged us to participate at Club level, even though we only had the basics



I found the bidding relatively easy with a lot of work but found the techniques of card play and noticing what was happening at the table more difficult (I still do!)

We had supervised play on Tuesday and Thursday supplemented by more advanced lessons. Two of the mentors for SP became regular partners for which I am grateful.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Innisfail where I did primary school and first year of high school (then called Sub Junior). From there I moved to Charters Towers to boarding school. I did my final year of high school in Townsville before taking up a teacher's scholarship in Brisbane (Kelvin grove).

Did you have a nickname at school? Sometimes I was called 'Bunny' but generally was known as Deighty (a family pet name from my middle name – Deighton) In high school I was known as Cliff (supposedly after Cliff Richards but more probably – my name is Cliff, drop over some time!)

What chore do you absolutely hate doing? I have managed to avoid ironing for most of my life.

If you could be an animal, what would it be and why? Possibly an owl. They can fly, notice a lot and are supposedly wise.

What is your favourite song? The song I want played at my funeral is "Always look in the bright side of life" from The Life of Brian. But my current favourite is "Hallelujah".

Do you have any "hidden talents" or achievements that might surprise us? I once came third in a national public speaking contest as part of a national Apex Conference. I also did some acting as part of the Burdekin Little Theatre. My first role was Barney from Summer of the Seventeenth Doll.

What personality trait has got you in most trouble? Thinking outside the box. But I think of it as a strength.

Who is the most famous person you have met? Bill Peach, a well-known American children's author, who challenged the way children were taught to read.

What the best advice you ever had given to you or your Motto is? Let it be, let it go, let it in.

If you could invite three famous people for dinner (dead or alive) who would it be? Not necessarily for dinner but just to talk to: Jiddhu Krishnamurti (a kind of post-Buddhist teacher); Yuval Noah Harari (an historian thinker who writes about history from a larger perspective observing the epochs and the rise and fall of civilisations). His latest book is "21 Lessons for the 21st Century"fascinating reading mainly about attempting to solve global problems in a fragmented way.

Do you have a joke? An oldie but a goodie!

A husband and wife are playing bridge and there is much bickering between. The man has to go to the toilet to attend to nature's call.

When he is gone, the woman says to the opposition, "This is the first time today I have any idea what he has in his hand!"

Advice for bridge players? Don't should on your partner. Be kind.

FROM THE VAULT

Year: mid 1970s

Dorothea Stewart, Emma Hanran, ? and Ettie Fell



Margo Byrnes and Alan Duncan



Ton Green, Vilma Law, Trevor Hunt, David Mather



Margaret Foster, Pam Andrews, Mac Stoneman and Denise Bayliss



John Tredrea, Mary Bloxham, Annette Mannion and Trudy Low

