

CLUB PRESIDENT REPORT - Wilfred Tapiolas



Last month the club commenced new learn to play bridge classes and there are now three new classes running on Tuesday morning, Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday evening.

Our teachers Fay and Di and their assistants are conducting the regular sessions and Charlie is running an extra Wednesday afternoon session to accommodate a group of new players who couldn't attend our regular classes. Fay mentioned that she recognised over fifty members names in the 2022 booklet that she has taught or mentored. An outstanding achievement.

It is appropriate that the club will be holding the Clive Bunnett Memorial Pairs competition this month in recognition of Clive's efforts in teaching new members and revising the teaching programme.

I would like to add my congratulations to Ian and Nina for winning the Zonal Restricted Pairs competition and thanks to the Cleveland Bay Bridge Club for stepping in at the last minute to run the event when it seemed the club could lose power supply on the day.

The Barrier Reef Congress is fast approaching, and our congress convenor Margaret Doussett will soon be asking for volunteers and the loan of tables and other items for the congress. Please assist if you can.



Volunteer's Needed!

The **Barrier Reef Congress** will be here before we know it!

I'd like to put out a call for volunteers to help make our event a successful occasion.

If you can assist with any of the following:

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sell raffle tickets | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Take lunch orders | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Set up | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pack away | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caddies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donations/Sponsorship | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Welcome our visitors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General assistance | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do you have a card table we could borrow? | | |

Please let Margaret, Devan, Wilfred or Charlie know



- All entries for the Barrier Reef Congress must be nominated through **MyABF**. If anyone needs help, contact Margaret Doussett or Charlie Gorgees for assistance.
- The Barrier Reef Congress Manual and flyer is on the club's home webpage.



UPCOMING EVENTS.....

MARCH 2022

- 5th TBC GNOT Qual. 1 - Northern Zone (Gold) (2 days)
- 9th TBC Wed Pairs 2 - Restricted Conventions - (Green)
- 12th Clive Bunnett Mem. Pairs 1/3 (Red,Open)
- 12th Novice Section (Red)
- 16th TBC Wed Pairs 3 - Restricted Conventions - (Green)
- 19th Clive Bunnett Memorial Pairs - 2 of 3 (Red)
- 19th Open and Novice Sections
- 26th Open and Novice Sections
- 26th Clive Bunnett Memorial Pairs - 3 of 3 (Red)

APRIL 2022

- 2nd INGHAM GNOT Qual. 2 - Northern Zone (Gold)
- 3rd INGHAM GNOT Qual. 2 - Northern Zone (Gold)
- 4th TBC 55 years - Anniversary Pairs (Green)
- 9th TBC (QBA) - One Day Matchpoint Pairs (Red)

Player promotions



- Reg Burton – State
- Donna Fitch – Bronze National
- Russell Woolley – National
- Elinor Murray – Bronze State
- Reg Burton – State



Recent Grand Slams

ROBYN NOLAN / JOAN ELLIOTT
KEN MANDERS/BILL BISHOP

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE and PROTOCOL

- ✓ Do not ask for information from your opponents unless it is your turn to bid.
- ✓ Do not ask what a bid means unless you are intending to bid. Asking for explanation without bidding could in certain circumstances be construed as passing unauthorized information to one's partner.
- ✓ If one doesn't intend to bid, questions of the opponents, should be made after the auction has concluded.



Courtesy Adrian Raeside



THERE IS NO BETTER PARTNER THAN A BOOK



I have just assumed the position of club librarian.

I believe there is a comparison between bridge and chess. The recent movie, "The Queen's Gambit" illustrated the long hours chess players of all abilities devote to studying chess books.

Most bridge players would need no encouragement to read bridge books (especially from me) so my comments are primarily directed to new members.

I have a request

I suspect there are current members who have a private library of bridge books, some of which for whatever reason they rarely use.

Please consider donating them to the club where they can be put to use! You can leave them at the club or give them to me and I'll enter them into the library system.

Most bridge books are paperbacks with a short lifespan. Even if the library has a copy of one of your books we can most likely use additional copies, especially for those in high demand.

Finally, many votes of appreciation to John Larkin who managed the library for many years and developed the cataloguing system currently in use. Many thanks John.

Thank you: Ched Twyman



**Ladies, LADIES, Please. It's only a
game of Bridge.** (Courtesy
www.oliverpreston.com)



Bridge Topic of the Week

QUESTIONS DURING THE AUCTION

- During the auction, at your turn to bid, you may ask questions about any part of the opponent's auction. It is unwise to ask about a specific part of the auction, as this may convey unauthorised information to your partner.
- It is prudent not to ask questions unless the answer affects your call. Showing seemingly unwarranted interest in an opponent's call, particularly an alerted one, may pass unauthorised information to partner.



DID YOU KNOW?



Warren Buffet loves playing Bridge. The following is an extract from an article published in February 2019 - [Courtesy of CNBC.Com](#)

Warren Buffett spends 8 hours a week playing the 'only game' at which he may be better than Bill Gates

Berkshire Hathaway chairman Warren Buffett is known for spending as much as 80 percent of his day reading. But when he's not learning or working, chances are the billionaire is playing bridge.

"I play a lot," Buffett told Thomas Heath of the Washington Post in a 2017 interview. "At least four sessions a week, about two hours a session." That's a minimum of eight hours a week.

Over time, he's honed the skill to the point where he can typically beat his good friend Bill Gates, who's also a fan of the card game.

Buffett, who is, at 88 years old, as sharp as ever, likes how bridge keeps him on his toes.

"You can play a hand every six or seven minutes every day for the rest of your life, and you will never see the same hand," he told Heath. "It's a game you can enjoy when you are in your 90s, and you are seeing a different intellectual challenge every seven minutes."

It's not too surprising that billionaires Buffett and Gates make time for a game that gets them thinking.

And bridge may be the most mentally stimulating activity out there, according to Buffett: "It's the best exercise there is for the brain," he told Heath.

CONGRATULATIONS IAN AND NINA LEACH

Coming First - Northern Zone Restricted Competition





Bridge for Beginners and Beyond

THE essential bridge skill: Counting the hand (Part 2)

by Karen Walker Professional player and teacher

Whether they're defending or declaring, successful players are constantly gathering clues from the bidding and play and using them to make logical assumptions about the location of the unseen cards.

To do this successfully, you need memory and reasoning skills, which will improve with practice, and knowledge of how to collect and analyze the clues. Most important, though, is effort and concentration. The benefits, however, are worth the effort. Playwright George S. Kaufman, who was a skilled rubber-bridge player, wrote:

"Counting to a bridge player is similar to an actor learning his lines – it does not guarantee success, but he cannot succeed without it."

Memorize the common distribution patterns of a bridge hand -- 4432, 4333, 4441, 5332, 5431, 6322, etc. (Note that all the patterns fall into one of two even-odd combinations: three even numbers and one odd, or three odds and one even.) If you learn that each opponent holds four cards in a suit and you hold two, you'll instantly know partner has three because the 4432 pattern will pop into your head.

Concentrate on how the unseen cards divide. Once you become proficient in recognizing the patterns, start thinking about not just the number of outstanding cards in a suit, but how they might break. If your hand and dummy have eight total cards in a suit, focus on the possible divisions of the missing cards. With practice, it will become second nature to go beyond thinking "5" and start thinking "3-2, 4-1, 5-0".

Focus your count on just one unseen hand. If you're trying to determine the distribution of all four suits in the opponents' hands, deal with just one hand at a time. The easier hand to count will usually be the one that made the most bids during the auction, especially if it showed a long suit, or made the opening lead. Once you know the shape of that hand, it will be easy to work out the distribution of the other.

Practice, practice, practice. Your stint as dummy is a perfect practice opportunity. Try analyzing the bidding and opening lead, then watch the played tricks and defenders' signals and see if you can develop an accurate picture of the other three hands. This is a more challenging exercise than "regular" counting because you can see only one hand, but it's also less taxing because there's no pressure to get it right.

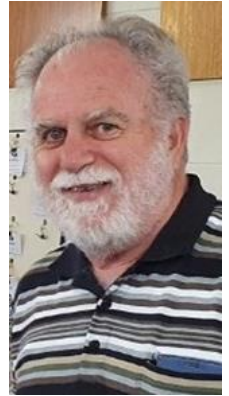
But ... don't overload your neurons. On many deals, you won't need to keep track of all four suits. Early in the play, decide which suits are critical and which can be ignored. If you're declaring, focus on counting the opponents' cards in your longer fits -- the one or two suits where you and dummy have the most cards.

Start counting during the auction. Begin visualizing each player's suit length and overall strength during the first round of bidding. Consider not just what the hidden hands actually bid, but what they did *not* bid. Refine your picture with every subsequent call and review it before you play to the first trick. Some simple examples:

- If an opponent opens 1D and then does not support his partner's major-suit response, it's guaranteed that opener has 4+ diamonds (because the only time he would open 1D with a 3-card diamond suit is when his distribution is exactly 4-4-3-2).
- If the opponents' auction goes 1H-1S-1NT, you'll be able to narrow down your picture of opener's hand to one of three patterns: 2-5-3-3 or 3-5-3-2 or 3-5-2-3.



A Marginal Hand? By Ian Patterson



This hand came up in a Cairns BBO game a couple of Mondays past. My partner and I were sitting E/W. The hands:

West	East
S: 862	S: KQ10
H: AK1072	H: Q853
D: Q982	D: A
C: 6	C: KQ974

The Bidding was simple (E was the dealer): 1C / 1H / 4H / All pass. East has 16 HCP plus 5 points for the singleton Ace. Even opposite a 5 HCP response there should be points for Game. The lead was a small Club. How do you play to make 10 tricks?

Step 1 is "Count your tricks". You have 5 Hs, and 1 guaranteed (?) trick in each of the other 3 suits. That makes 8. What are the options for making 2 extra tricks?

1. If Hearts break 2-2, by drawing 2 rounds of trumps, you can count 2 Hs, 1 trick in each of the other 3 suits, 2 D ruffs in Dummy and 3 C ruffs in hand. That makes 10 tricks. But the percentages say that the 2-2 break is less likely than a 3-1 break, so if you have to play 3 rounds of trumps you will only have 3 Hs, 3 tricks outside, 1 D ruff and 2 C ruffs. You will be 1 short of your target.
2. One option is for N to hold either (or both of) the A or the J of Ss. If you can lead twice towards the KQ10 (if S takes the A on the 1st lead, you finesse the 10 on the 2nd?) you will make 2 S tricks for your 10th trick. If S holds both those cards you are still off.
3. Play the hand as a Cross-ruff before drawing trumps or after drawing 2 rounds. This will give you the 10 tricks you need as long as you are not over-ruffed at some point.
4. Simply (?) play to ruff 2 Ds (low) in Dummy - you may need all 3 of your top trumps. Thus winning 3 Hs, 1 trick in each of the other suits, 2 D ruffs and 2 ruffs in hand.

Step 2 is to assess the situation. What information do you have about the opposition, about their bidding, and about their leads. Why did N choose to lead a small (4th highest?) Club? Are they short in Cs, or do they think their partner may be short in Cs? If the former, then they may have length in trumps, if the latter they may be short in trumps. It may simply be that they didn't want to lead another suit. They may hold a high honour in either Ds or Ss or both and not wish to lead away from it. Let's not overthink this - we don't have all day.



Step 3 is to be flexible in your play. Whatever is you Plan A, don't eliminate Plan B too soon.

The play.

On the lead of a small club, you play the K. S wins the Ace and returns the 10. (Who's short in Clubs now?) What are your choices in the play: a. Run the C10 to the Q and discard from hand (but what?) or b. ruff in hand, hoping to establish the C suit for 2 discards later in the play? If S has only 2 Clubs then N has 5 and you won't be able to set up the suit for 2 discards.

So maybe we should go for plan a.

Given the potential of 2 S losers, discard a small S on the C return. This also gives you an extra entry to hand with a 3rd round S ruff. Once in Dummy, prepare the hand for D ruffs by playing the Ace. Then play 1 H to the Ace and ruff a D small. Now play the K of Spades.

If the opponent who wins the Ace plays another Heart it clears up the H distribution. If he does play a trump, win the HQ (remember you need to ruff 2 Ds in dummy with low trumps), enter hand with a Spade ruff and ruff another Diamond. If it's still there, play the HQ and exit dummy with a small Club and ruff low before drawing the remaining trumps. Only if you are over-ruffed will you end up with just 9 tricks, losing the 2 black Aces, a trump and the DK. On the actual hand the DK came down on the 2nd D ruff establishing the Q and 10 tricks was guaranteed.



**LIKE TO
SHARE
ANYTHING?**

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



Ex Member Profile:

Pat BACK



What's your link to Townsville?

My family and I moved from Brisbane to Townsville in 1963, when my husband Ken was appointed as the Warden of the University College of Townsville (part of the University of Queensland), which later became a university in its own right, today known as James Cook University. He was the inaugural Vice Chancellor in 1970, and continued in that role until his retirement in 1985.

When did you first play bridge?

Ken and I first played bridge in the mid-1950s in Brisbane, long before we went to Townsville. At that time Ken was working in the Medical School at the University of Queensland.

Who introduced you to bridge?

Bridge was a family interest and my mother and brother, who lived in Sydney (where I was born), were keen players. My brother Dick Cummings became an international champion and my mother, Evelyn Cummings, played in women's teams for NSW. Dr Don Neill, a colleague of Ken's at UQ, encouraged us to play duplicate bridge at what was to become QCBC, after we had been playing rubber bridge at home with friends for some time.



Who taught you to play bridge?

We taught ourselves from the book “Six Weeks to Winning Bridge” by Albert Sheinwold, while Ken was laid up with a back injury.

Any fond memories of your time playing bridge in Townsville?

As Ken and I started the Townsville Bridge Club in 1967, I have many fond memories. As far as we knew, no one who joined the club at that time had played duplicate bridge. At the beginning, Ken and I had to take all the hand-written result slips home to score them! I made many friends at the club and it was always a convivial and enjoyable place to play. Both of our daughters learned how to play and joined the club. One of my fondest memories was when Richard Ward, Anne-Marie Lamond and I organised the club’s first congress in the early 1970s. We were on a very steep learning curve and it was the first of what became a yearly event. I’ve attached a photo of me published in the Townsville Daily Bulletin when the Club graduated to its first computer! At the age of 93, I believe I am the only living original club member from 1967.

When did you leave Townsville?

At the end of 1985 we left Townsville to move to Canberra when Ken retired from James Cook and took up a position in international student education.

A snap shot of what you have been doing since you left Townsville?

We spent 20 years in Canberra. I never stopped playing bridge during those years. I represented the ACT in the annual Australian National Championships (ANC), once in the women’s and four times in seniors’ events. I once had the job of convening the ANC in Canberra, a huge job that took two years to organise!

Where are you now?

We left Canberra in 2005 to move to a retirement village in Brisbane, where I have lived ever since. My husband died here in 2016. Up until recently I played regularly at the local Redland Bridge Club and wrote an advice column for the Club’s monthly newsletter.

The best bridge advice given to you and/or best advice you have given to players?

I think the best bridge advice I have received was from my sister-in-law Val Cummings, who said the most important thing to remember about bridge is that it is a partnership game. A lot of players can only see their own hand, forgetting what their partner might hold.

The advice I most often give to beginners is not to be afraid to bid 1NT with a small doubleton. Opening 1NT is a precise bid that gives the most accurate picture of your hand and its point count. Remember your partner is quite likely to have 4 cards in that suit.

A love of bridge

“Bridge is more than just a card game. It’s a cerebral sport. Bridge teaches you logic, reasoning, quick thinking, patience, concentration and partnership skills.” **Martina Navratilova**



Memories.....

Laurie Kelso, Yardi Howie, Matt Mullamphy, Pam Andrews and Keith Suthers



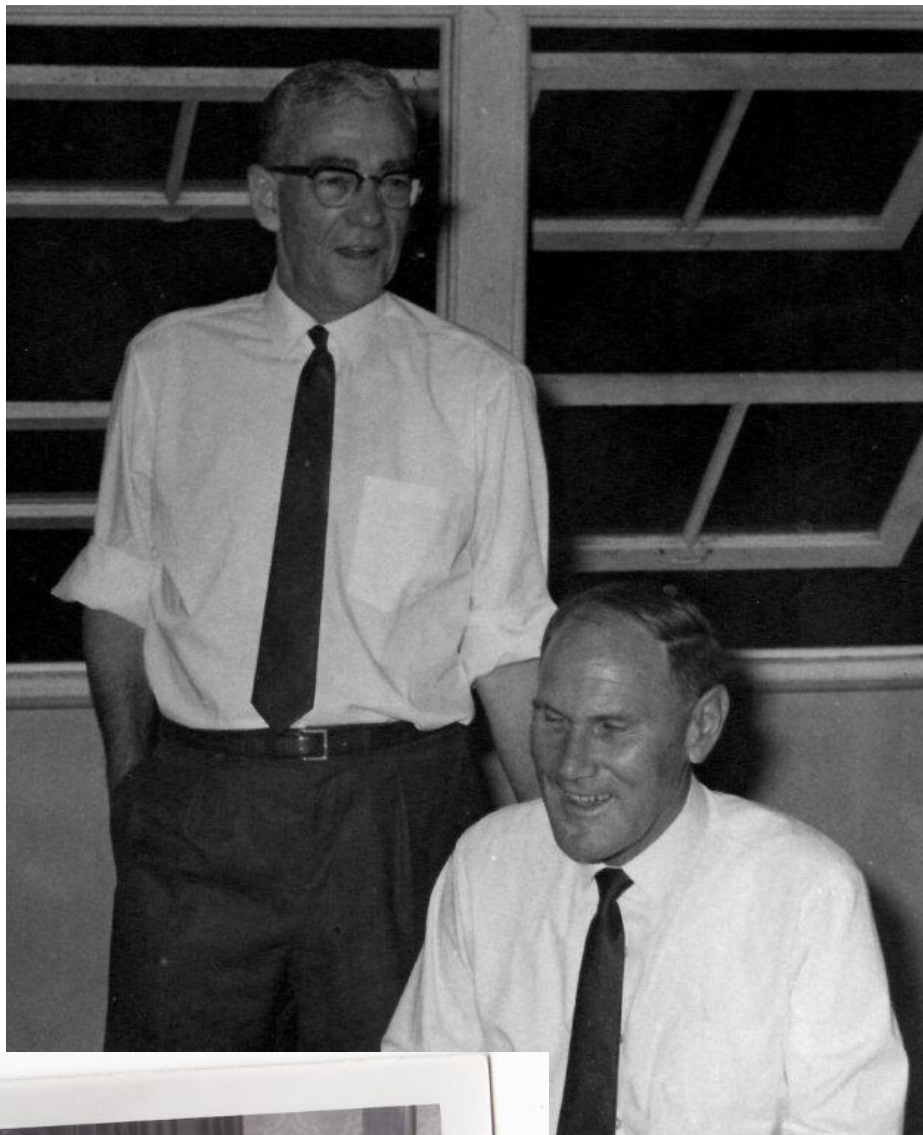
Joy Dean



Mike Reynolds, Janelle Kipping, and David Vance



1970 - Standing: Jim Fell, probably the first Club Secretary/Treasurer and father of current member, Carol Blackman. Seated: Jack Fraser, inaugural Club President



1970s - Rae Freer, ?,?, and Pauline Cordingly