



TOWNSVILLE BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

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Zonal Positions

Geoff Allen – Delegate
John Tredrea - Secretary

May 2020

WHILE WE WERE OUT

The renovations to provide a new toilet area and new office space has been going ahead.



NOTES ON THE RENOVATIONS

By Wilfred Tapiolis

As well as installing new men's' toilets, the office was rearranged, and a new air conditioner installed. The louvres at the front of the building were replaced by new windows and screen and the builders constructed new shelving in the store room. The electrician upgraded power points and light switches.

The job is now complete, with only minor touching up to be done by the painter. Spring cleaning, including the washing of the table covers, will be done by a willing group of volunteers, before the Club reopens for play.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been 8 weeks since our 'lockdown'. I hope members are finding things to do and maintaining contact in the best way they can. Thanks to Audrey, we can still get our bridge fix at least four times a week on BridgeBase Online. All you need to do is register on BBO if you have internet, create a username, and register. Audrey's website contains a wealth of info on what to do. Also, thanks to those savvy people who are helping others to get on board. If you need help just call.

As it is unlikely we will be able to return for at least another month or two, this is one way of staying in touch with friends and our great game. Hope to see you at the bridge table real soon.

Clive

BRIDGE QUIZ

by Hugh McAlister

Answers on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter

HISTORY

1. Whist (play only, no bidding), a forerunner of bridge, started in the 17th Century. Auction Bridge, a simplified form of bridge (simple bidding and scoring), began in the late 19th Century. Bridge, as we know it today, started in which year?
A) 1905; B) 1915; C) 1925; D) 1935
2. Who is credited with changing the bridge scoring system to reward bidding and making games, and slams, considered the foundation of the modern game?
A) Charles Goren; B) Harold Vanderbilt; C) Ely Cuthbertson; D) Terence Reese

STATISTICS

3. If you and partner have an 8-card fit, opponents will have 5 – what are the chances they will Split 3-2 (or 2-3)?
A) 56%; B) 68%; C) 76%; D) 84%
4. Which finesse is **most** likely to work?
A) King; B) Queen; C) Jack; D) All the same

SCORING

5. The score for 4 light, doubled, non-vulnerable is:
A) 100; B) 200; C) 400; D) 800
6. The score for 2D, doubled, making, is:

- A) 90; B) 180; C) 360; D) 520

CONVENTIONS

7. A "REVERSE" is a rebid by opener, at the 2-level, in a suit that is higher in rank than the opening Bid. Which of the following statements, concerning a reverse bid, are true (T), or false (F)?
- i) (1) Forcing for one round?
 - ii) (2) It shows at least 16 high-card points?
 - iii) (3) The first suit is **always** longer than the second?
 - iv) (4) Promises an "unbalanced" hand (5,4,2,2 OR 5,4,3,1 OR similar)
 - v)
8. You open a strong 1NT (15-17), partner bids 2C (**simple Stayman**), and you reply 2D. Partner then Bids 3H. Describe partner's hand...

DECLARER PLAY (*"Take All Your Chances at Bridge", Eddie Kantar, 2009, problems #34 and #26*)

9. You (South, below) arrive at 4S after partner opens 1D and leaps to 3S over your 1S response. West leads JC, East encourages with 6C. Plan the play:

S K,J,10,2

H 6

D K,Q,J,9,3

C A,3,2

S Q,9,8,7,6

H K,J,3

D 10,2

C K,5,4

10. You (South, below) leap to 5C after partner opens (weak) 2S. West leads QH. Plan the play:

S A,Q,9,6,5,3

H K,8

D 6,2

C 10,9,4

S 4,2

H -

D K,J,3

C A,K,Q,J,7,6,3,2

MEMORIES OF ELSIE STUBBS

By Del Ward

Elsie and I met in the mid 1960's - we were both living in the Housing Commission Units in Bundock Street called Morrill Court. We had young children and, of course, these brought us into contact. When we both moved we remained in touch - somehow without phones. With several other friends we played Solo at each others' homes. Vilma and I "graduated" to Bridge and I eventually persuaded Elsie into learning too.

Well, she very often thanked me for "changing her life." Bridge and the Club became her life and it sustained her through many difficulties - and there were a few!

It is a well-established fact that she became an excellent teacher in this area. How many owe their expertise and love of the game to this dedicated and kind lady?? She definitely changed probably hundreds of lives, just as she claimed that I changed hers.
Rest in peace at last Elsie, you WILL be long remembered.

By Judy Hunt

Elsie and I met soon not long after we moved to Townsville We met at Kokoda pool Miles Ian and Marcia were all learning to swim. From there we got to know each other very well as did our children We spent many hours at swimming training & chattered all the time (surprise) We served on club committees and raised money by running Lucky Envelope stalls for many years (you could not do that today) We were both awarded Life Membership for our efforts.

Elsie was also awarded Life Membership by Townsville Bridge Club These tributes were not sought by her but were greatly appreciated. Latterly she turned her attention to helping the Women's Shelter and the TBC intends to continue to support this cause in her memory
I was so happy to see my dear friend in March we shared a lot together. Rest in Peace
Elsie



ARCHIVAL PHOTOS

These are some of the oldest photographs we have in our collection. We have no record of the occasions or the names of all the people. If you can provide any additional information, please email your information to the editor.



Anne Marie Lamond ? John Gray, Arthur Bloxham



Brian Blyth Barry Kempthorne ? Rae Freer B Douglas



? Rae Freer Peter Rainey Pauline Cordingly

LAE BRIDGE CLUB

By Jean Dartnall

Between 1998 and 2000, my husband and I lived in Lae, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea. Because Alan was working for a PNG Government agency, I was not allowed to take employment and the high level of violence and crime throughout the community made independent movement unwise. So, I spent a lot of time in our flat with the door locked - unwittingly in practice for 2020. I read a lot (including Tolstoy and Proust), watched cricket on the TV, made soft toys for the Special School and got a lift to the weekly session of the Lae Bridge Club. This informal group of about 30 women included some good players and a range of others, all the way down to me, who knew that bridge was a card game and needed a morning out. I also wrote some poetry about my PNG experiences.

The Rules of the Game

The rules of the game are based on well-founded fear,
Take care, don't walk, look in every direction,
But luxuries of idleness are permitted us here
Within these cages built for our protection.

'One club'

'No bid. What cards I've had this week'

'One club was that, one heart then I'll reply.'

'I'm passing since my partner didn't speak.'

'Now let me think. What do I want to try?'

'So, Peg is going finish, did you know?'

'I wonder should I try one of those tarts.'

'Look at that dress. I wish that I could sew'

'I have decided I will call three hearts.'

'Three hearts, my word, that's really serious stuff.'

No bid of course'

'I'll call four hearts for game'

'Now should I double. Pass, there's not enough/'

'Such cards deserve a slam. Less seems a shame'

'So does Peg go on medical advice?'

'Anxiety and family she misses'

'What shall I do, a slam bid would be nice'

'Phones are not the same as hugs and kisses.'

'So what about that holdup just this week'

'I'll have to pass, four hearts is all we need'

'Took car and all. They really have a cheek.

Were those your hearts, then it must be my lead'

In peaceful oases behind the razor wire,
We keep the rules of the game. We can play our parts.
Confining our knowledge, energies and fire
To table talk and contracts of four hearts.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday also to anyone with a birthday this month who has been missed, If you would like your birth month added to the list, please contact the editor jeandartnall@hotmail.com

Sandra Bunnett
Maria Chippendale
Annette Dalton
Elinor Murray
Lee Miller
Monica Quilty
Terry Fittler

BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. According to David Bird's "Bridge" (2007), bridge as we know it (minus some conventions, of course) started in 1925.
2. Harold Vanderbilt introduced the critical concept of games and slams **that are bid and made** attracting significant bonus points. He was the great grandson of famous sea captain, railroad founder and fortune builder Cornelius Vanderbilt. Born in 1884, in New York, to a life of luxury and excess, he was a brilliant and analytical thinker. He supervised the changeover from steam locomotives to diesel, and was a business leader in WWII. His real passions were sailing (he led 3

successful America's Cup campaigns in the 30's) and bridge. The other 3 were leading players and teachers in the early days of bridge.

3. B – 68% - fairly high, but not as high as one expects.
4. D – **ALL** finesses have a 50% chance of making, and losing. In practice, the bidding and play may alter these chances.
5. D – 800...100 for 1 down, 300 for 2 down, 500 for 3 down, and 800 for 4 down (designed to penalise people from unlikely sacrifices, when opponents make a vulnerable game for 600 or 620).
6. B – 180...2D is 40 (20 x 2), plus 50 for part-score bonus, plus 50 for “the insult” (gained whenever a doubled contract is made). Note that 2S doubled would attract a game bonus (300 if non-vulnerable, and 500 if vulnerable) if the contract is made.
7. All four statements are TRUE. It is forcing at the 2 level for one round, as it has a minimum value of 16 pts. It shows 2 biddable suits, so not balanced, and the first-bid suit is always longer.
8. The jump to 3H shows points for game (9+), 5 hearts, and 4 spades (this latter is shown by bidding Stayman first.) If 5-5 in majors, transfer first (1NT-2H-2S-) then rebid either 3H (invitational) or 4H (pass or correct). **Note:** some play a convention called Smolen whereby 1NT-2C-2D-3H shows points for game, but **4 hearts, and 5 spades** (designed to allow the stronger hand to play in 5-3 of the major).
9. The opponents have got off to an excellent lead. You have 4 losers - 3 aces and the third club. If you take out trumps first, the opponent with AS will drive out your club stopper and score a club when the red-suit ace is won. You have 2 options to throw a club loser **before** playing on trumps: i) you could drive out the ace of diamonds and hope for a 3-3 split; or ii) you could play a heart from dummy and hope East has the A (if he plays low, when most would play the ace over a singleton if they had it, he may have the Q and playing J from your hand may succeed). Essentially this is a common dilemma – to play for the drop or take a finesse? The odds of a 3-3 split are 36%, of a finesse 50%, so...take the lead in dummy and play the 6H (there is a 50% chance East has the ace, and will almost certainly play it. After another club is led, take it in hand and play KH, discarding dummy's third club).
10. This is one of the best problem hands I have seen in a very long time – It has elements of many of the strategies in declarer's arsenal: i) establishing a long side-suit; ii) loser-on-loser play to avoid losing a trick in a particular suit; iii) recognising the “danger hand” and avoiding that hand getting in to lead; iv) avoiding finesses unless no other option (only 50% succeed); v) consider ducking the opening lead to keep the non-danger hand on lead; and vi) carefully husbanding one's entries to dummy. On this hand, the danger is that East will get on lead and lead through your KJ3 of diamonds. How to play? Duck the lead of QH, and **throw a spade** from hand. Then gain the lead (AS if spades led, ruff a H, or AC). You must now establish spades by ruffing **high (gaining entry to dummy with clubs, thereby also taking out trumps)**. If the opponents play a club at trick 2 (best defence, but unlikely), **and** spades split 4-1, the above will not work, and one would resort back to the diamond finesse...in practice, that combination is unlikely.

