



Townsville Bridge Club

Newsletter

APRIL 2024



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The month started with the Anniversary Pairs Event held on Easter Monday, 1st April and was won by N/S Dusk Care and Jan Manders. E/W Heather, Colbert and Donna Fitch. The event is held to celebrate the founding of our club in 1967.

The second qualifying GNOT event was held at the Ingham Bridge Club and was won by the Allen Team (Geoff Allen, Ched Twyman, Robyn Nolan, Margaret Dousset). The third GNOT qualifying event will be held at the Cleveland Bay Bridge Club in July and the final at our club in August.

I would like to thank the twenty (20) pairs who supported the One Day Match Point pairs on Sunday 13th April and made it such a memorable day. The event was won by Bill Bishop and Maria Chippendale who beat Pat Leighton and Bill Redhead by 0.1 match point. I think this would be a club record for splitting the first and second place of such an event.

Margaret Dousset and Joan Elliott won the B Grade and Greg Lawler and Bill Pickering won the C Grade. Congratulations to you all.

Coming up at the end of the month is the Diggers Congress at the Cleveland Bay Bridge Club and the next Barrier Reef Congress is being held at the Mackay Bridge Club from the 3-6th of May.

I would like to remind everyone that the Club Teams Championship (18/19) and the Club Pairs Championship (25/26) events are coming up in May, both are Honour Board Red Point events.

Jacob Seri, the services officer at the PCYC has provided the club with some of their programs which may be of interest to our members and we will include them in our newsletter.

I ask everyone to please not touch the air conditioner controllers. Recently I was told that one of the ceiling units was not working as it was blowing hot air. It turned out that that someone tried to adjust the temperature but accidentally changed the unit from cooling to heating.

If you have a problem with the temperature in the club house, talk to the Director.

Finally I would like to welcome all of our visitors to the club, in particular our returning seasonal visitors.

Wilfred Tapiolas



Condolences

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Kathleen Peever. She will be sadly missed.

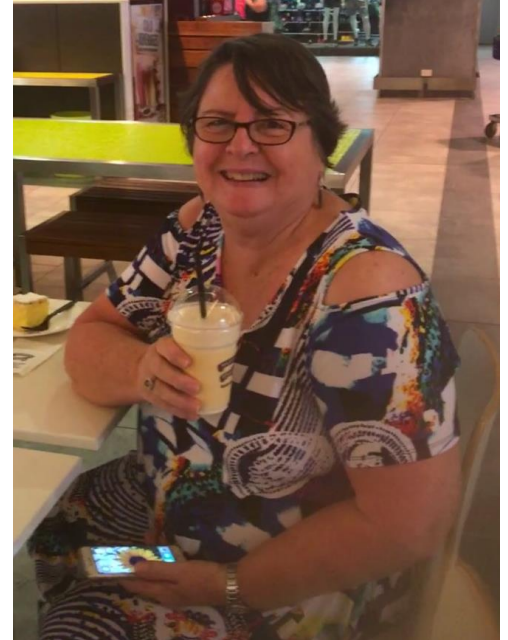
REMEMBERING KATHLEEN PEEVER

If you would like to have a little time talking about Kath with likeminded people and remember her together in a light-hearted and happy way. Please come and have brunch or a coffee with us on the corner of Gregory Street and the Strand (outside Harold's) (lots of other cafes to buy from) at 11.00 am. Tuesday 14 May.

That will satisfy those of us who will want lunch or just a cuppa and still allow time to get back to the Townsville Bridge Club in time to play social games.

Love to see you there.

Gloria Macdonald



RECENT PROMOTIONS

Joan Elliott	Bronze Life
Michelle Jones	Club

RECENT GRAND SLAMS

ROBYN NOLAN / DI GARSIDE
PATRICIA LARSEN / KEN MANDERS



Courtesy Adrian Raeside

PCYC WELLINGTON STREET



Below is information about some of the programs at the centre next door. If you need more information feel free to contact the PCYC on 4781 9100.

24/7 Gym:

The 24-hour Gym includes access to the gym facility 24 hours a day + our Group Fitness Classes. The prices for 2024 below. Plus, there is no lock in contract or cancellation fee! 😊

PCYC Gym Membership subscription:

- **\$14.95 Per week (direct – debit)**
- **\$777.40 Annual (upfront payment) (Concession rates apply)**
- **\$11.96 Concession per week (direct debit)**
- **\$30.00 7 Day Pass (weekly)**

Over 50s fitness classes run Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:15-9am and 9:15-10am, as well as Fridays from 9-10a and are included in your membership. You are more than welcome to come for a free trial!

Uniforms 4 Kids

Every Thursday from 9am!

Uniforms 4 Kids has sewing centres and sewing groups throughout Australia. You do not have to be a sewer to join the U4K family of volunteers. Ironing, unpicking shirts, removing buttons – all hands are most welcome to assist in creating beautiful clothing for children who have a need. The aim is to provide:

- unique clothing to children who have a need no matter who or where they are
- pathways for children to understand the importance of respecting our natural environment, flora and fauna
- opportunities for law enforcement and emergency services organisations to build legitimacy and trust
- the chance for retirees and other community members to support a charitable program, build social cohesion and expand their social networks
- opportunities for uniforms to continue to protect and serve our community and reduce waste.

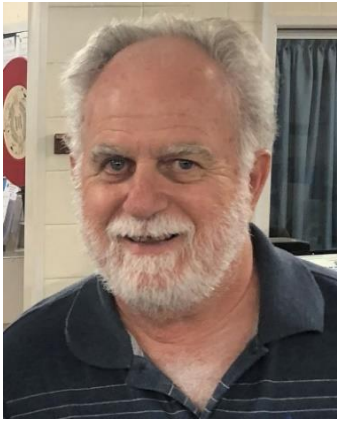
Seniors Activity Group

What: Come in and enjoy some games, tea & coffee and some catch up time with your peers.

Who: Seniors, 60+ yrs.

When: 9:00 - 11:30am Tuesdays

Cost: \$5 per person



The Gravest Sin – HESITATION

Late last year (or early this year – I forget which) our Club Directors received a missive from on high relating to play at the table and unauthorised information.

We were reminded about the “Principles of Active Ethics” which are expected to govern our behaviour at the bridge table - something that is mentioned at the beginning of a Congress (but never fully explained). One of the most common forms seen of unauthorised information is hesitation.

At a game last month, we had a very pleasant session from a Director’s point of view. The only call was for a potential adjusted score following declarer’s bidding after their partner’s significant hesitation followed by a pass. Declarer bid again and subsequently won the contract.

Yes, you can ask for an adjusted score if you think your side has been damaged by your opponent’s infringement of the laws of bridge. Few of us are aware of this and even fewer take this action. One of our senior experienced players is and does, as she attempts to educate players on the consequences of hesitation.

Back to the problem at the table. The often-heard excuse that “I didn’t know what to do” doesn’t cut the mustard. If you don’t know what to do then Pass, and Pass in tempo i.e. not quickly, but at the same tempo with which you usually bid. (A change in tempo can also be considered as unauthorised information.) Hesitation tells everyone at the table that you have something to think about. If you hesitate to think and then bid in a contested auction, there is no problem. If you hesitate and Pass you create an ethical problem for your partner. Unless they have an exceptional hand for their bidding, the ethical obligation placed on your partner is to Pass at their next turn to bid.

Let’s look at the hand in question from a bidding point of view (Saturday 6th, Board 8 for the full hand).

West is the dealer and opens 1♦, you (North) hold: ♠:108754 ♥: - ♦:10754 C: ♣964. Most people don’t bid with this hand - your partner probably has a fist-full of Hearts. The bidding continues: 1♦ / P / 1♥ / 1♠ / 2♣ / ? Back to you. Your hand has improved considerably. Despite the lack of HCP, you now have no more than 8 Losers (6 – depending on how you count them). If your agreement is to bid to the limit of your fit (8-card fit bid to the 2 level, 9-card fit bid to the 3 level, etc), then you could bid 4♠ to show partner your 10-card fit. You don’t need to think too much about it, just don’t think and pass.



What if the bidding had been:

W	N	E	S	OR	W	N	E	S
1D	P	1H	2S		1D	P	2H	2S
X	?				3H	?		

My answer would be the same: Bid 4♠ without hesitation! If you hesitate and Pass, and your partner does the ethical thing, E/W will have a free run to 3H or 4H and it's back to you with your dilemma of whether to bid 4♠. But now your partner doesn't know you have 5 Spades and a void and subsequent bidding could be very difficult. For instance: Do you pull partner's double of 5♥?

What if the bidding had been:

W	N	E	S
	1D	P	1H
	2C	?	X

If you believe partner is showing 4 Spades with the double, then you have a 9-card fit and could bid 3S. If not, Pass in tempo. And if the bidding continues:

W	N	E	S
1D	P	1H	X
2C	P	2H	2S
3H	P	4H	P
P	?		

Because you passed in tempo, partner is now showing a very good hand (16+, 6+Spades, 5? Losers) but not good enough to double 4H for penalties. 4♥ could easily make, but with no Heart losers, so could 5♠. So, bid it (5♠).

DESCRIBING YOUR HAND

When you pick up your hand and are sorting the cards, you have an opportunity to make some preliminary decisions about what you could bid. If you think about the hand now, you are less likely to need to hesitate (pause for thought) later in the bidding. Try to decide the best way to describe your hand to your partner in as few bids as possible. Again, I use Board 8 from Saturday 6th as an example. You pick up the following hand:

♠ Q ♥: AJ87654 ♦: 98 ♣: 753

If you had been dealer, what would you bid? It has only 6 HCP but only 8 losers with the 7-card suit. Don't be shy, open 3H. It tells partner you are only interested in 1 suit and if partner can find 5 tricks, or 6 losers they can bid game in Hearts. In the hand in question, partner is the dealer and opens 1♦ (showing 11/12+ HCP and at least 4♦s).



How does this change your evaluation of your hand? As far as I can see, it doesn't change anything. What are your options? Do you bid:

1H (showing 4+ Hs and 5+ HCP, with no more than 9 losers)

2H (showing 6 Hs and < 5 HCP, with 9+ losers)

3H (showing 7Hs and 8 losers precisely?)

If you bid 1♥ you can bid again as often as you like, but it gives plenty of bidding space for the opposition to enter the bidding.

Remembering that if you pre-empt you should never bid again, 2♥ is an awful bid. How do you subsequently tell partner about the extras (which you previously denied)? It also leaves plenty of room for the opponents to find a Spade fit.

So surely bidding 3♥ is the only option. It describes your hand perfectly (partner should bid game even with a void in Hearts if he has a 6-loser hand – 3Nt is never going to make as you have no outside entry). It also has the value of making it very difficult for the opponents to find their Spade fit should they have one.

TO LABOUR THE POINT. Holding :

♠ : AK9632 ♥ KQ2 ♦ : K2 ♣ K10, what do you bid after the following bidding?

W	N	E	S	W	N	E	S	W	N	E	S
1D	P	1H	?	1D	P	2H	?	1D	P	3H	?

Are you of the mind-set that always Doubles and Bids to show 16+ HCP and a 5+ card suit? In which case, the first 2 scenarios are easy to handle, but what about the 3rd? What do you now bid if the bidding continues:

W	N	E	S
1D	P	3H	X
4H	P	P	?

Are you still going to bid your Spades? (the hand is Nil-vul if that affects your decision). My question is: If you were always going to bid 4♠, why did you double in the first place? Wouldn't the sure plus be achieved by doubling 4H for penalties?

And how does it impact your decision if your partner has hesitated after the 4♥ bid? The ethical bid is PASS! If you can convince the director that the majority of players of your standard would have bid 4♠, then you can get away with it. In a Congress, the director would need to poll the equivalent standard players sitting S for their action in that situation (at the end of the session) but probably wouldn't bother in a Club game.



CONSEQUENCE OF THE HESITATION

The hand record shows that 4♠ by South could make 11 tricks and that 4♥ by East could only make 9 tricks. After the hesitation, director could (should?) adjust the result of the board from 4♠ South making 11 tricks (+450) to 4♥ x East making 9 tricks (+100). This is a significant difference in a strong field – the difference between 60% and 20%? All because of the gravest sin: Hesitation and Pass.

PLAY OF THE HAND

Having said that 4♠ should make 11 tricks on hand 8 from the 6th April, we should consider how it is done. The hands:

		NORTH	
DLR: W		S: 108754	
Nil Vul.		H:	
		D: 10754	
		C: Q964	
WEST		EAST	
S: J		S: Q	
H:1093		H: AJ87654	
D: AQJ32		D: 98	
C: AJ82		C: 753	
SOUTH			
		S: AK9632	
		H: KQ2	
		D: K6	
		C: K10	

The first thing to do is not be distracted by the K and Q of Hearts. If they were the 4 and 3 you would be better off. If you were to discard (a Diamond?) on the ♥10 lead you would later be able to discard 2 more Diamonds once you won the lead. But as soon as East wins the Ace of Hearts they will switch to a diamond and you lose 2 Diamonds straight off, and later the Club Ace.

West has opened the bidding showing 12+ HCP (and bid both minor suits?). Given that he didn't lead the Ace of Hearts, we assume the Aces of Clubs and Diamonds are both in that hand. Your task (once trumps are drawn) is to convince West to play both Aces, or at least lead away from 1 of them. Which suit is most likely to give you an advantage?

Being able to see all 4 hands makes Clubs the obvious choice but having K 10 opposite Q 9 xx can lead to 2 discards on the clubs once established.



So, ruff the opening Heart lead. Lead a trump to hand and ruff another Heart. A second trump to hand allows you to ruff the last Heart and eliminates a Heart exit from West when you force them to win the Ace of Clubs (small to the King in hand. If West exits with a small Club (best) you must run it to the 10 in hand, playing for them to also hold the Jack. Rising with the Q leaves you with the only hope of dropping the Jack doubleton or in 3. West, knowing where the Jack of clubs is, may save you the stress by taking the Ace of diamonds and playing another. (Could East's discards suggested a holding in either minor?)

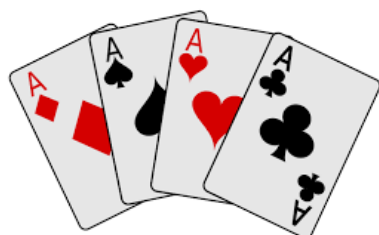
Did
you
know?

How many shuffles does it take to randomise a deck of cards?

It depends on the type of shuffle. Two popular kinds of shuffles are the riffle shuffle and the overhand shuffle. The riffle shuffle is where the deck is cut into two packets and then the two packets are interleaved.

In 1992, Bayer and Diaconis, Mathematicians, showed that after seven random riffle shuffles of a deck of 52 cards, every configuration is nearly equally likely. Shuffling more than this does not significantly increase the “randomness”; shuffle less than this and the deck is “far” from random.

The overhand shuffle takes about 2500 overhand shuffles to randomise a deck of 52 cards.



Bridge Topic of the Week

CLAIM BY DECLARER

- When a claim is made by Declarer, they must state their proposed line of play. This should make mention of any outstanding trumps (e.g. “drawing trumps”), and how they plan to travel between hands if relevant.
- A careless or incomplete claim may cost you tricks that you would otherwise make.
- Claims should be made where possible - it is discourteous to continue play when the outcome is certain.

Member Profile: **BERNICE MORTON**



When and where did you first play Bridge?

Innisfail. My father taught my brother and I to play auction bridge in our teens.

Who taught you to play bridge?

Joan Butts. The only lessons I really had was after my stroke in 1989 while living in Brisbane. I did a couple of special lessons such as weak 2s, transfers etc.

Tell us some of your family background, for example where did you grow up, what is your favourite childhood memory?

So many wonderful memories – no air conditioning or hot water. However, my favourite memory was about the night I was born – dad was hosting the monthly bridge night, mum went into labour and dad rang a taxi to take her to the hospital.



Did you have a nickname at school? If so, why did the name arise.

Ginger Meggs because I had red hair and freckles.

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

Nil – now only too happy to do anything since my stroke.

What type of Jobs (employment) have you done? What was your first job? Did you have a favourite job?

My favourite and only job was in our chemists shop. I worked for my father and loved it.

If you could be an animal, what would it be and why?

A border Collie. I would love to come back and be my husband's dog.

Do you have any "hidden talents" or achievements that might surprise us?

Don't know that it is a talent but most bridge players would say I talk too much.

Do you have any other interests, other than bridge?

Family. We have 4 children living in Townsville and one in Brisbane. We have 18 grandchildren, so life is never dull.



What is your favourite song?

“All The Way” followed closely by “That’s what friends are for”

Who is the most famous person you have met?

Wally Lewis

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

If you feel sorry for the man with no shoes look for the man with no legs.

What personality trait has got you in most trouble?

My temper.

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

Shirley Bassy, Betty Cuthbert and Dawn Fraser.

Best advice for your bridge partner

Always enjoy your game. Choose partners wisely so you know you will enjoy it and if you do well that’s a bonus.

Do you have a joke?

There was a huge house up on a hill with a red light beaming from the top. There was :

1. A man running towards the house.
2. Another running away.
3. A man still inside, and
4. Another in a helicopter above the house waiting for the red light to turn green.

Can you tell me the nationality of these men?

1. Russian
2. Finish
3. Himalayan
4. Irish waiting for the red light to turn green



Some interesting facts about ANZAC Day

Anzac biscuits were square

Anzac biscuits were traditionally square and so hard that soldiers joked that men broke their teeth on them.

Last surviving Anzac

The last surviving Anzac was Alexander Campbell who died on 16 May 2002. Alexander Campbell joined the army at the age of 16 in 1915.

All Anzacs were volunteers

All the Australians who fought in World War I were volunteers. There was no conscription. Prime Minister Billy Hughes made two attempts to introduce conscription: two conscription referenda were held in 1916 and 1917. Both lost to the 'no' vote.

The word "Anzac" is protected

The word "Anzac" is protected under Australian law and misuse can incur a penalty – fine or up to 12 months in prison. The Protection of Word 'Anzac' Regulations 1921 (Cth) broadly state that to use the word 'Anzac' (or any word resembling the word 'Anzac') in an official or corporate manner, permission from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs is required.

'Lest we forget'

We often use the phrase 'Lest we forget' on Anzac Day, but it actually pre-dates the Battle of Gallipoli by 18 years. The phrase comes from a line in an 1897 Rudyard Kipling poem called *Recessional*.



BRIDGEMATES.....



?
Jan Smith

Leigh Owens and Del Ward





Stan Bowker and
Jean Bowker

PARDON ME, MRS. FRIBBLE,
BUT THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL
IS ON THE PHONE. THEY SAID
MR. FRIBBLE WAS HURT IN
AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT

OH, ALL RIGHT, GET
THE NUMBER, PLEASE
AND SAY I'LL PHONE
THEM JUST AS SOON
AS I'M DUMMY. I'LL
BID THREE SPADES

