



---

# TOWNSVILLE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

---

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## AGM REPORT



As president I have been able to give regular reports throughout the year in our newsletter so I will endeavour to keep this as brief as possible.

With the removal of covid restrictions our membership numbers have stabilised and currently the club has 175 financial members. We are starting to see members who haven't played for a while returning to the club.

The committee has focused on Tuesday sessions to strengthen membership. Supervised play has been extended to include teaching and player development suitable for beginners and improvers in groups at their own level of experience. A trial games session proposed by Joan Elliott and Maria Chippendale for members and their friends to play a variety of games has become a permanent event on Tuesday afternoon. The hope is that some of these players will become members.

As the club has had some major expenses for repairs and maintenance last year the committee reviewed the depreciation schedule and produced a major expenditure budget for the next five years, which shows an average expected expenditure of \$8,500 per year. To try to help reduce these costs the club has again applied to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for a grant to upgrade the disabled toilet, replace the floor coverings, and to upgrade the PA system and TV display monitors. This year the club has purchased and installed a defibrillator and to comply with the terms of our lease and insurance, we have upgraded our firefighting equipment and produced a fire safety evacuation plan.

At a special general meeting held in April, the club agreed to increase table fees to \$7 and at the same time, to assist our collections team, tokens were introduced and an EFTPOS machine installed for payment. This system is working well and hopefully the club will eventually be able to go cashless. In August it was proposed that the annual subscription due date be changed from 31 August to 30 September which is after our AGM. This will allow for any increases in subscriptions proposed at an AGM to then be current for the following twelve months.

Throughout the year our members have been successful in various bridge events and congresses. I would particularly like to congratulate Betty Hobdell and Ken Manders who won the Australian Bridge Magazine Australia Wide Open Pairs event held in August, competing in a field of 1477 pairs.



No club can function without a lot of behind the scenes help and our club is fortunate to have many members willing to help it run smoothly. I thank you all for your service to our club. I would like to thank all members of the management committee for their dedication to the club. Special thanks go to office bearers, Vice President Charlie Georgees, Secretary Trevor Hunt and previous Secretary Rosemary Glastonbury, and Treasurer Ken Davies who all do a tremendous amount of work for the club. I could not have done the President's job without your support. Teaching and player development are the future of our club. Thank you to Charlie Georgees, Di Garside, Fay Blower, Bill Redhead, Heather Colbert and Helen Lovegrove for their efforts in this area.

Thank you also to our club and congress directors for organising our sessions and congresses. Thanks to Peter Elliott and Kevin Barker in the dealing room and to their band of helpers who unpack the cards for redealing. Thank you to Albert Beric for keeping us connected with the newsletter, to Ann Smith for providoring, to Devan Mitchell for preparing the Calendar, to Sam Bishop for organising partners, to Joan Elliott, Margaret Dousset and Devan Mitchell for collecting money and many other duties, to Peter Hall the Masterpoints secretary and to our Zonal Secretary John Tredrea.

Thank you to Peter Housden for his advice on all things do with the club. I know that there are many members I have not named but thanks your help is greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, again this year the club has lost a number of members who have sadly passed away. They will be missed by their friends and bridge partners.

In closing, I am pleased to serve as President of this club which has been built up on a solid foundation by our predecessors and has a bright future.

## Wilfred Tapiolas





### Recent Grand Slams

KELLY WALKER / JO-ANNE GILLIS  
PAT LEIGHTON / BARBARA HOSPERS

### RECENT PROMOTIONS

Phil Rains           **GRAND**  
Bill Pickering       **SILVER LOCAL**  
Yvonne Cassidy   **GRADUATE**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS -2023

Wilfred Tapiolas   **PRESIDENT**  
Charlie Georgees   **VICE PRESIDENT**  
Ken Davies           **TREASURER**  
Trevor Hunt         **SECRETARY**  
Albert Beric  
Margaret Dousset  
Peter Elliott  
Jeff Stephens  
Devan Mitchell



**Phil Rains**  
**GRAND MASTER**



Courtesy of Artwork Audrey Q



# RECENT RESULTS

## GNOT NORTH ZONE

PAT LEIGHTON - BARBARA HOSPERS - CATHY CRAWFORD - GLADYS TULLOCH

## Magnetic Walk-in Pairs

MARIA CHIPPENDALE - BILL BISHOP (N/S)

REG BURTON - CHARLIE GEORGEES (N/S Handicap winner)

SUE REILLY - JAN SMITH (E/W)

## Magnetic Teams

### CATEGORY A

TEX SHEEDY - JANELLE CONROY - ALAN BROWN -  
FRANCES BROWN

### CATEGORY B

CHARLIE GEORGEES – RUSSELL WOOLLEY - JOHN  
TREDREA – HELEN LOVEGROVE

### CATEGORY C

ANDREE GALEANO - SAM BISHOP - FELICITY HORNE - DI GARSIDE



### BETTY HOBDELL and KEN MANDERS

*Won the Australian Bridge Magazine  
Australia Wide Open Pairs, competing  
in a field of 1477 pairs.*





**2000**



**MASTERpoints**

CONGRATULATIONS and WELL DONE  
TO REACH THIS ACHIEVEMENT

JAN Smith



BETTY Hobdell





## Bridge for Beginners and beyond



### HOW TO FINESSE PROPERLY – Part 2

**Finessing comes down to a few simple questions:**

**Q1:** Where do you want the missing honour to be?

**Q2:** Which hand do you need to lead the suit from?

**Q3:** Are you in the right hand? (If not, defer leading the suit until you reach the correct hand.)

#### **EXAMPLE**

**A K 6 5**

opposite

**J 3 2**

Leading the Jack will not gain you a trick unless West falls into the category of 'never covering an honour with an honour'. If West covers the Jack with the Queen, you only have two tricks in the suit, and if East has the Queen your lead of the Jack achieved nothing.

*If you want to win three tricks in this suit you have two options. One option is to cash the Ace and King, hoping for a doubleton Queen (which is anti-percentage but the correct line when you cannot afford to lose the lead). The better alternative, if you can afford to lose the lead, is to lead a small card FROM the AK65 towards the J32. If East holds the Queen – no matter how many – your Jack becomes an additional winner.*

And finally, let's consider double finesses.

#### **EXAMPLE**

**A J 10**

opposite

**7 6 3**

If you cash the Ace you will have two losers.



*If you want to create a second winner in this suit you need to finesse TWICE, a double finesse. The double finesse is based on the idea that you should play 'West' (on this hand) for at least one of the missing honours. As such, you must lead from the 763, and take a finesse of the 10 if West plays low. Unless West has both honours, East will win this trick. Then when you get back to the South hand you lead towards the now AJ and plan to finesse again unless the missing honour appears from West's hand. This will give you the extra trick in this suit whenever West holds the King or the Queen or both the King and Queen (75% of the time).*

Remember, your opponents won't just play their honour for you when they hold the key missing card in front of a tenace (finesse position) so you have to learn to finesse properly and to repeat finesses.

**Source:** Barbara Travis ( [Barbara`s Tips](#)).



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.

## An Interesting Hand - Play Technique by Bruce Bowden

There was a wonderful teaching hand for play technique, that was played by all teams at the GNOT 1st round at Malanda yesterday. North (not vulnerable) with 9HCP and 7 diamonds opened 3D at our Table. East passed and South with 20 HCP and AJ9 of diamonds responded 4NT. North, playing Roman Keycard Blackwood bid 5S (2 controls + (in this case, the Q of the only suit bid: diamonds). So South, knowing the pair had between them, all aces, the king of H, and a 10 card trump fit in diamonds headed by the A,K,Q, bid 6D.

North and South hands are shown below, and as South expected there are 11 winners. A heart was led at all tables, so, with no help from that lead, what is your line of play to (hopefully) get 12 tricks?

♠ A72  
♥ 4  
♦ KQT8732  
♣ 63

♠ QT85  
♥ AK  
♦ AJ9  
♣ AQ84

After drawing trumps players should easily identify the finesse of the club king as a possible option. Is that the only option? No, you can also try leading a small spade towards the Q (hoping the K is in front of the Q). If you finesse the club first and the finesse loses, against any competent opponents you will not make 12 tricks, as they will return a club to your A, and you must lose a spade trick. If, on the other hand, you lead up to the spade Q first and the K is taken in front of it, the spade Q will be your 12th trick. If the Q is taken by the K, you still have the option to try the club finesse. So, forcing the opposition to play the K spades first is the higher percentage play, as it gives you 2 chances to make 12 tricks. On the actual deal, the spade play first removes the need for a club finesse (which fails).

The complete deal:

♠ A72  
♥ 4  
♦ KQT8732  
♣ 63

♠ J63	♠ K94
♥ T9653	♥ QJ872
♦ 54	♦ 6
♣ KT2	♣ J975

♠ QT85  
♥ AK  
♦ AJ9  
♣ AQ84



## Ex Member Profile: **BRUCE BOWDEN**

### **What's your link to Townsville?**

I was appointed to the staff of JCU in September 1976, bought a house, subsequently married and raised my family in Townsville.

### **Who introduced you to bridge and taught you to play bridge?**

I first learned (rubber Bridge) by watching (and playing) in lunchtime games during my B.Sc. Honours year in the Organic Chemistry Department at Sydney University in 1967, and the next 4 years of my Ph.D. There was no formal teaching, but new players just picked up point counts, bidding and basic play as there was a game on there almost every day except Wednesdays (when some of the same students - including me - had a golf afternoon). A couple of those students involved have subsequently played in NSW representative Bridge teams in National competitions, and one was playing in the Australian Women's Bridge team at one stage! I didn't belong to a Club until I joined Townsville Bridge Club in either late 1976 or early 1977 after an invitation that I received from Ross Best (an Engineering student) at the Vice-Chancellor's welcome to new staff at Ken and Pat Back's home on Castle Hill. I played my first game at the Club (which Ken and Pat had been instrumental in starting when Ken came to JCU as the V.C.) with Ross, and my second game with Barry Kempthorne. After that, I became a member. Subsequently, I have just picked up tips on play and conventions from my partners, who over the years included Pat Back, Margaret Ward (Richard Ward's mother), Bruce Chalker, (who was an AIMS researcher, American, and best man at my wedding) and of course Elsie Stubbs; they all taught me heaps.



### **Any fond memories of your time playing bridge in Townsville?**

I have many fond memories of the early days in Townsville - especially Friday nights, after the Bridge game, when rubber Bridge, Rickety Kate, Chess, Cribbage, Backgammon, etc., would often go on until about 3 or 4am. I also have fond memories of a Mt. Isa Bridge Congress, where the Club had hired a bus, that left the Club one Friday night, loaded with Townsville players; we travelled all night and arrived in Mt Isa shortly before the Congress started. Townsville players won lots of prizes and then got back on the bus for the trip home.



## **When did you leave Townsville and what you have been doing since you left?**

We left Townsville about 5-6 years ago and now live in Herberton. Everything grows up here (despite the lack of topsoil and lots of rocks), so I grow a lot of our vegetables. It's about 3000 ft above sea level, so it gets cold (including frosts) in winter. We have a wood-burning fire to keep warm. We belong to the Malanda Bridge Club (which is a half hour drive), and occasionally also play in Atherton (which is a smaller club, but only a 20 minute drive). Malanda plays on Mondays and Wednesdays, while Atherton plays Saturdays and Thursdays. The Clubs are very active, and frequently have inter-club events with the Cairns Club. Malanda normally gets up to 7 or 8 tables on a Monday (less on Wednesday), while Atherton normally has about 4 Tables on a Saturday and we haven't been there on Thursday to see how many players are there. I'm often in Townsville (doing house renovations).

## **What the best bridge advice given to you and/or best advice you have given to players?**

The best advice I give to players is that leads, especially opening leads are extremely important. When you lead a suit for the first time it often ends up giving the opposition an extra trick. I try to find leads that won't result in lost tricks. Top of sequence leads are usually reasonably safe: the more cards in the sequence, the safer the lead. It's also important to know whether your partner likes the lead or wants you to change suits, so you should have a means of doing this in your system, e.g. low encourage (or high encourage, if you prefer that). If partner leads the Ace of a suit at trick one in a suit contract, dummy has Qxxx of that suit and you have J9xx3: you should expect your partner to have led from AK with at least one more of that suit, so declarer will only have one at the most. If the A wins, then you don't want your partner to lead the K because it will get trumped and give declarer a discard on the Q later, so put the 9 (if playing low encourage), not the 3 on the trick, to discourage continuation. Alternately, if you only have J3, you should put the 3 on to encourage continuation, as you can trump the Q.

## **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 - [aberich@tpg.com.au](mailto:aberich@tpg.com.au)



## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

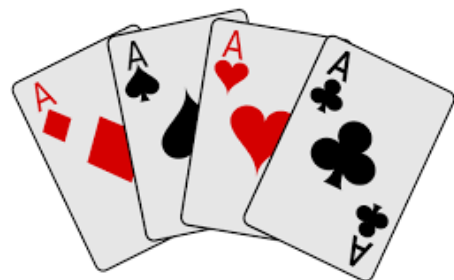
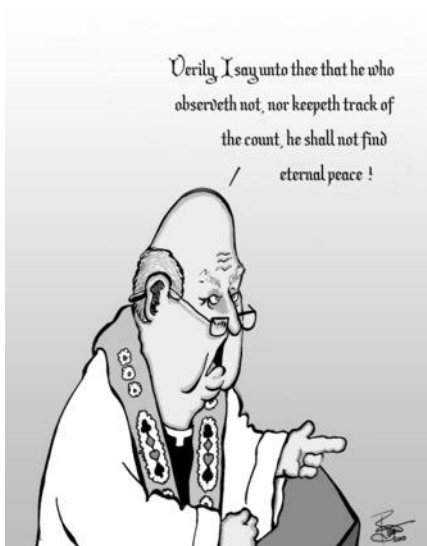
# **The Houston Affair**

As experienced tournament players may know, the United States uses a playoff system to determine which team gets to play in the annual world championship. These team trials, as they are known, ended scandalously in 1977 when two players, Larry Cohen\* and Richard Katz, abruptly quit in the middle of the final. At the time, event officials were investigating rumors that Katz-Cohen were transmitting information illegally. Before any formal accusations were made, however, Katz and Cohen resigned from their team, which then forfeited due to a lack of players.

But not only did Katz and Cohen quit their team and the event, they resigned their memberships in the American Contract Bridge League, the national body in charge of the team trials. Soon afterward, Katz and Cohen filed a \$44 million lawsuit against the ACBL and three tournament officials for defamation of character, false allegations of misconduct, and forced resignation from the League. The whole affair managed to get settled in court, where the ACBL agreed to readmit Katz and Cohen, who promised in turn to not play with each other again. Monetary compensation was not made to the pair.

\*Not the Larry Cohen famous in tournament bridge circles for his book, *The Law of Total Tricks*.

**Article** - courtesy Jeff Tang (Bridgebum.com)



**Source – Bill Buttle. We also acknowledge the kind consent given from Linda Buttle to publish.**



# bridging the past.....

Anne Marie Lamond ? John Gray, Arthur Bloxham



Brian Blyth Barry Kempthorne ? Rae Freer B Douglas



Margo Byrnes, Beth Whebell Peter Rainey



Marge Jeppesen, Grace Jamieson and Delma Johnson



THE THINKER?  
HM! I DON'T  
SEE WHAT ON  
EARTH HE CAN  
BE THINKING  
ABOUT. HE  
HAS NO CARDS  
IN HIS HAND



THE THINKER  
RODIN

WEBSTER