QCBC Newsletter

August 2022

From The President

The QCBC Maintenance Committee (Ian, Robyn etc) have been working hard and lots of maintenance has been undertaken at the club. New cupboards and TV screens were installed in the playing area, the air conditioning in the side room has been fixed with a thermostat installed to allow temperature adjustment and a new handrail was added to the carpark steps.

More work is also coming up - roof leaks will be fixed before the so called early wet season, the building fascia will be repaired, and our solar panels will be upgraded to a 40 kW system resulting in greatly reduced power bills. A big thank you to the committee for organising all of this.

You will note Toni has been away a bit this month – her family from Japan, who she has not seen since before covid, visited so Toni spent some time with them. She had not seen her granddaughter Rei at all due to covid restrictions – a much deserved time off but I can't see it being relaxing.

The club is hosting some large events over the next few months.

August 27/28 GNOT Brisbane final – so the Saturday afternoon session is cancelled.

October 8/9/10 Qld Festival of Bridge – so the Saturday and Monday sessions are cancelled.

November 25/26/27/28 GNOT National Final – so the Friday and Saturday sessions are cancelled. Apologies to those it disrupts, but it is good for the club to be hosting these events.

We are hosting the Qld Graded Pairs on **September 3rd**. There are 3 guaranteed sections – under 150 masterpoints, under 750 masterpoints and Open. Register online on the QCBC web site.

Also, entries are now open for the 2023 Gold Coast Congress and they will be capped due to space restrictions. Get your entry in now to avoid disappointment:

https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/306.

The AGM will be held on **October 22nd** and all the correspondence, agenda, financials, committee position nominations etc will be forwarded via email as per the constitution.

Ray Ellaway

Dealers Wanted Urgently

We are totally reliant on volunteers to deal the boards that we play week in/week out. There are only 3 main Dealers at QCBC: **Colin Peardon**, **Gary Ypinazar** and **Mike Le Voi**. Apart from her many other duties, Toni also has to help as necessary for events such as the soon to be played Graded Pairs.

Dealing is not hard. The whole process has been automated and made simple. The dealing program guides a Dealer through the short process and help is available. It only takes 10-15 minutes to deal a set of 36 boards.

Please help us keep this vital system running. I am available on any day to teach volunteers. Please contact me via phone or email if you would like to help.

Mike Le Voi

Scorers Wanted

We need more volunteers to help run the daily and nightly Bridge sessions. Each session requires a Director and a Scorer/Clock operator. If there is no Scorer available, the Director must do both duties! The more help our volunteer directors get, the easier it is for them.

Currently, we have **Jim Love** doing the scoring on Tuesday and Friday – thanks a lot Jim! It would be great if we had other volunteers who can help on other days and when Jim goes on holiday.

The scoring program is easy to use. Many of us can give training on how to be a Scorer. It will only take an hour or so for anyone to become proficient. The clock program is also easy to use. It will only take 15 minutes to show you how it works. Mike Le Voi is available any day to show you how it is done.

If you can help, please contact me and I will organise training for you in this role.

Toni Bardon

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New Members

Here is a list of new members at QCBC:

Roger Tomes

John Holmes

Annie O'Donnell

Shani Lamb

Julie Marler

Lola Widera

Belinda Bennett

Karen Watson

Geogia Marler

Kris Sullivan

Ria Mylrea

Jill McTaggart

Karen Beveridge

Martin Wu

Margaret Varghese

Geoff Martin

Tris Rumback

Debbie Stokes

Bev Lee

Ian Afflick

We are glad to see you 😊

"Golden Fit"

Do you get frustrated with how often you can't find a fit with partner? This article uses probability theory to show the frequency of each possible hand shape. Armed with this knowledge you can quickly recognise the likelihood that you and your partner will reach a "Golden Fit" in the majors or the minors.

With probability, you should be thinking about whether you would bet on an outcome or not. Toss a coin and expect "Heads", or take a finesse, and the odds are 50:50. You take this bet if you must, but you prefer not to. However, if you have 10 cards in trumps, including the Ace and King, it is highly likely that the cards will split 2/1 in the opposition hands. You are unlikely to finesse for the Queen in such a situation. The probability of various hand shapes, HCP distributions and likely fits should affect your bidding as well as your play.

Here are the five most common hand shapes and their frequency:

Shape	Probability (%)
4-4-3-2	21.6
5-3-3-2	15.5
5-4-3-1	12.9
5-4-2-2	10.6
4-3-3-3	10.5
Total	**71.1**

Table 1: Hand shape probability

This table shows that you will be dealt one of these shapes nearly three quarters of the time. Having 6 or more cards in a suit is uncommon, as is having a void. What is the likelihood that you have a hand with 4, 5 or 6 or more cards as your longest suit?

Here are the odds:

Longest suit	Probability (%)
4 cards	35.1
5 cards	44.3
6 cards	16.6
7+ cards	4.0
Total	**100**

Table 2: Length of longest suit probability

Finding the Eight Card "Golden Fit"

Much of Bridge literature discusses the usefulness of a "Golden Fit" – 8 cards or more in the trump suit. However, what is seldom discussed is how often these "Golden Fits" occur. Here is a table showing the probability of a "Golden Fit" given the number of cards in your favoured suit.

Cards in your hand	Cards in partner's hand	Probability of Fit (%)
3	5+	18.1
4	4+	33.7
5	3+	54.4
6	2+	76.3
7	1+	92.4

Table 3: Probability of finding a "Golden Fit"

Thus, if you have 4 ♠ and expect your partner to have 4 or more ♠, you are going to be disappointed about **2/3rd** of the time. However, if you have 5 ♠, you can expect your partner to have 3 or more ♠ a little more often than not. If you have 7 ♠, you can be almost certain **(92.4%)** that partner has 1 ♠ as well!

Masterpoint Changes

The following members have been promoted:

Graduate

Sandra Lawrence

Club

George Collings

Richard Huysmans

Bronze Local

Peter Green

Jacinta Lee

Edward Perera

Peter Fredericks

Robyn Madden

Barbara Mokrzecki

Silver Local

Mike Martin

State

John Rivers

Bronze State

Jamshid Vazirzadeh

Life

Jennifer Vickers

Bronze Life

Charles Page

Edward Pereira

Grand

Paul Thiem

Well done to all!

Lex Ranke

Zephyr Cup

Congratulations to all the winners:

Runners up: Charlie Lu, Watson Zhou, Tony Treloar, Peter Evans

Winners: Brian Patterson, Alan Gibson, Tim Runting, Patrick Bugler

A big thank you to Jo Neary (Organisation) and Jan Peach (Director) for their help on the day!

Better Minor or Short Club

Better Minor bidders promise 3 or more cards in 1♣ or 1♦. Short Club bidders promise 2 or more cards in 1♣ and 4 or more cards in 1♦. There are only **two** problematic hand shapes:

4-3-3-3

4-4-3-2

All other hand shapes will have a 4+card minor and/or a 5+card major.

Hang on to your hats! Here is a table that shows the probability of any opening hand 😊

Opening	%	Comment
Major 12-14 or 18-19 HCP	28.9	
Major 15-17 or 20+ HCP	5.4	NT/etc.
4-3-3-3 minor 12-14 HCP	**3.1**	1 ♣/1 ♦
4-3-3-3 minor 18-19 HCP	0.4	1 ♣->2 NT
4-3-3-3 minor 15-17 or 20+ HCP	1.7	1 NT/2 NT
4-4-3-2 minor 12-14 HCP	**2.1**	1 ♣/1 ♦
4-4-3-2 minor 18-19 HCP	0.3	1 ♣->2 NT
4-4-3-2 minor 15-17 or 20+ HCP	1.2	1 NT/2 NT
4+card minor 12-19 HCP	47.9	Not NT
4+card minor (NT or 20+ HCP)	8.9	NT/strong
Total	**100%**	
4+card minor	56.9%	
1 ♣ or 1 ♦ Opening	53.2%	

Table 1: Opening Hand Probabilities

Table 1 shows that quite a lot of the problematic hands are bid as No Trump. When these hands are removed, the actual likelihood of really opening 1 ♣ or 1 ♦ is as follows:

	Probability (%)
Better Minor	
4+cards	**96%**
3 cards (♣ or ♦)	**4%**
Short Club	
4+♦	**100%**
4+♣	**92%**
2 or 3 ♣	**8%**

Which do you prefer? Before choosing your strategy for a hand with **12-14 HCP**, read the next sections.

4-3-3-3 Opening Bidding

This is an easy hand to bid. With 4♦, bid 1 ♦. Any other shape, bid 1 ♣ (**"Short Club"**). If Responder bids your 4-card major, bid 2 of the major. With any other response, you bid 1 NT.

4-4-3-2 Opening Bidding

In the article on "**Golden Fit**", we showed that there is only a **33.7%** chance of finding a 4+4 card fit with your partner. However, what if you have two 4-card suits?

Unsurprisingly, the chance of your partner matching either of these suits is much better: **63%.** So, how should you bid this hand shape depending

on whether the two 4-card suits are in the majors, the minors or one of each?

Here is a bidding strategy based purely on probability:

Opening with 4-4 in the majors

Bid 1 ♣ ("**Short Club**"). Possible Responder's bids are shown below:

1 ♦: Also known as **"Walsh Style"** or **"Diamond Bust"**. It promises one of two things. Either you have 6+HCP and no 4+ card major or you have 0-3 HCP and any shape! In **almost all** cases, 1 ♦ by Responder will mean 4+♦ and no 4+card major.
1 ♥ = 4+ Hearts – maybe 4+ Spades
1 ♠ = 4+ Spades – denies 4+ Hearts
And if you are brave …
1 NT = 13+ HCP and no 4-card major!

Think of this 1 NT bid as a **"2 over 1"** bid after Opener bids 1 ♣. Ignore this option if you like 😉
Note that if Responder bids 1 ♦, you **must bid 1 NT**! As **Paul Marston** says, "If you bid 2 suits, you are promising 2 suits"!

Opening with 4-x major and 4-x minor

Bid 1 ♣ or 1 ♦.

With at least 6 HCP, Responder will bid a 4+card major suit "up the line". If Opener bids 1♣, then 1♦ by Responder is a "waiting bid", denying a 4-card major in either suit.
If Opener bids 1 ♦, then 1 NT by Responder is the "waiting bid". This waiting bid means 6-9 HCP and denies a 4-card major in either suit. If Responder bids 2 ♣ or 2 ♦, then at least you have found a minor fit.

Opening with 4-4 in the minors

Bid 1 ♣ or 1 ♦. As shown in the article on "**Golden Fit**", the likelihood of partner having a 5-card suit to match your 3-card major is **less than 20%**. If partner bids 1 ♦, you can bid 2 ♦. If partner bids a major, just bid 1 NT.

Conclusion

Based on probability, **Short Club** is better than **Better Minor**. Comments welcome! Enjoy 😊

Mike Le Voi

Teams of 3
Congratulations to the winners:

Winners of the C section: Robyn Clark (captain), Nari Blackett, Gustavo Sanchez, Jill McTaggart

Winners of the B section: Val Barakin, Simon Byrne, Ross Murtagh (captain), Zorika Sipka

Winners of the A section: Mike Martin, Richard Fox (captain), Helen Klieve, Graeme King

Teacher's Corner

The Law of Total Tricks (LOTT), is a hand evaluation strategy, used in a competitive auction, to help determine how high to bid. It is not really a law, more of a guideline. The LOTT was first written by Jean-René Vernes for French players in the 1950s; it was first described in English in 1966. Later, in the USA, Marty Bergen and Larry Cohen popularised the approach. It continues to underpin Bergen raises, which are popular to this day.

Definition of the Law of Total Tricks: *The total number of tricks available on a deal is equal to the total number of trump cards both sides hold in their respective best suits, where the total number of tricks is defined as the sum of the number of tricks available to each side if they could choose trumps.*

For example, if North-South hold nine Spades between them and East-West hold eight Hearts, the LOTT says that the total number of tricks available is 17 (9 + 8). Note the LOTT says nothing about how many tricks each side will make; this depends on the split of HCPs as well as the number of trumps. When the HCP are fairly evenly split between the two sides, the number of trumps held by each side is a close indicator of the tricks available to each side.

This method works on the assumption that for shapely hands, the combined length of the trump suit is more significant than points in deciding on the level of the final contract. It is of most value in competitive bidding situations where the HCP are divided roughly equally between the partnerships.

In a **competitive auction**, the LOTT says you should bid to a number of tricks equal to the number of trumps you and your partner hold (and no higher). With an eight-card fit, you are safe to bid to the two level i.e., eight trumps making eight tricks. With a nine-card fit, you are 'safe' to bid to the three level i.e., nine trumps making nine tricks.

In certain competitive situations, vulnerability can influence the optimum contract. Thus, with the HCP evenly split and facing a bid at the three level by the opposition, bidding to a level above the number of trumps held can be a useful sacrifice if the opponents are vulnerable and you are not. However, if you are vulnerable and they are not, bidding above the number of trumps held would be a foolish mistake.

Certificate Presentation

Great to see Camielle Moran get her first promotion. Here she is with Paul Thiem – now a Grand Master!