

QCBC Newsletter



QCBC Clubhouse, 67 Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba, QLD 4102

<http://www.qcbc.org.au/>

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Opportunity knocks: Planning to attend the Joan Butts/ David Beauchamp workshop? Call Toni Bardon 3391 3214 so that sufficient materials can be organised. Wed 13 June 3.00-5.00pm at QCBC , \$20 a head

Declarer Play Techniques:

establishing side suits, counting losers, when to draw trumps and when not to, the importance of entries and cross-trumping.

QCBC JUNE CONGRESS

Sunday 10 June Open and Restricted Pairs <150mp (match point pairs)

Monday 11 June Open Teams

QCBC MACAU TEAMS

Wednesdays 20 & 27 June

From the QCBC President

Monica Pritchard

In July 1996, the Queensland Contract Bridge Club was Registered as a Company in Queensland. Among a long list of Objects of the Company appeared the following:



- to provide and maintain a club for the use of members
- to promote and advance the game of contract bridge
- to uphold and improve the standard of the game
- to conduct and join with others in conducting tournaments and contests
- to interpret and administer the laws of the game approved by any association of which the Company is a member.

Running the Queensland Contract Bridge Club demands attention to providing all that is necessary for the game to be played in the club;; managing and maintaining the clubhouse and property; organising and managing congresses; promoting internal and external relationships; and ensuring that the financial and reporting responsibilities of the Company are met. That is a lot of work!

Due to the foresight and enterprise of early members, QCBC is in the extremely fortunate position of owning property assets which continue to increase in value. We have, in addition, the great good fortune to have a paid manager, Toni Bardon, whose commitment to the club is extraordinary. Without her, our club would have to find many more volunteers to carry out the tasks necessary to fulfil the objects of the Company outlined above.

QCBC already has many volunteers who deal the cards, direct club sessions, help out in the kitchen, edit and write for the newsletter, teach and supervise play, trim the garden, put flowers in the clubhouse, cook, manage the masterpoints, manage the library, act as Company Directors, help out with bridgemates, caddy at congresses and so on.

My plea is for every member to think of some way in which he or she could assist in the running of our club. We always need new volunteers. We need them to deal the cards. We need more directors. We need a group of individuals who can assist in maintaining and decorating the building and grounds. We need assistance with marketing. We need assistance with running congresses. We need people with initiative who can see that something needs doing and offer to do it. Please let it be you! Please volunteer and put an end to my incessant pleas!

Bridge Competition Successes – Congratulations!

BBC Graded Butler Pairs

A Grade: Malcolm Carter, Nikolas Moore
B Grade: Ron Casey, Carmel Martin
C Grade: Narelle Loxton, Evelyn Mander



E. Mander, N. Loxton



N. Moore

Qld Mixed Pairs Final Championship
Therese Tully, Richard Wallis

2012 Qld Open Team

Kevin Steffenson/Neville Francis, Betty Lee/Mike Robson, Peter Hainsworth/Sanmugaras Kamalarasa

Reserve Pair: Ivy Luck/Ralph Parker

2012 Qld Women's Team is

Margaret Millar, Carolyn Woolley, Toni Bardon, Sandy Johnson, Greer Tucker, Rosa Lachman

2012 Qld Seniors Team is:

Keith McDonald, Andy Slater, Paul Collins, Ian Afflick, Lech Kaszubski, Davis Harrison

2012 Qld Youth Team

Chris Larter, Nathan Van Jolie, Jessica Brake, Tom Wik

My Favourite Hands by Alan Boyce

♠ Void
♥ T65
♦ QJT96
♣ T7632

Bid more with less and less with more - the sweet science of pre-emptive bidding

Playing in a recent club session with my regular partner, Andrew Woollons, I was dealt my usual rubbish in 3rd seat, sitting West:

I thought wistfully that partner would surely open this time, and the bid was more than likely to be some shade of spades. Playing a Strong Club bidding system,

based fairly closely on the system developed some years ago by Howard Schenken, Andrew opened 2C. Under our system 2C is natural and indicates a good club suit, at least 5-cards long, with at least 3 honours. Most times this bid will be made holding at least a 6+ card suit however. A key point though is the hand is limited to 15 points and no better than 6 losers. With 15 HCP's and 5 losers, and a 6-card club suit, it would be normal to open 1C. 1C in our system is essentially a 16+ point unbalanced hand or a very strong balanced hand in the range of 19-22 HCP's.

There was a pass from South and I got to thinking: Andrew is limited, so, in spite of my rubbishy hand, if I value it to its fullest possible value, I can only stretch my hand to 9 dummy points. So I can rule out game as being on. I expect Andrew probably has 6 clubs for his bid, so the **Law of Total Tricks** suggests I should be safe to jump to 4C pre-emptively. So, bid 4C I did, which was duly passed out and made. Interestingly, after a 1C opening in **Standard American**, I can't rule out 5C being possible if Andrew has long clubs and a lot of points: but also, 3C might be all we

should be in if (and a possible overbid) if he has perhaps 2 clubs in his hand, balanced, and not many points.

Full layout of the hands

♠AKT753 Dlr: E
♥K87 Vul: Both
♦AK72
♣Void

♠Void ♠J962
♥T65 ♥J4
♦QJT96 ♦3
♣T7632 ♣AKQ984

♠Q84
♥AQ932
♦854
♣J5

Dealmaster pro suggests the making contracts on these cards were:

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	3	6	6	1
S	-	3	6	6	1
E	4	-	-	-	-
W	4	-	-	-	-

I'm a great advocate of pre-emptive actions and on this occasion it worked like a treat. However, I'd have been in a different quandary if partner had opened 1D, which in our system is "Short Diamond", i.e. could be as little as 1. Now I'd be forced to take a stab at 3D given that we play inverted minors, and cross my fingers that partner had more than 1 diamond, but didn't have 6 or 7!

As mentioned, we are developing our **strong club system** based on a published system; but we are modifying it to incorporate things that we see are improvements. We've had some teething problems, but generally the successes outweigh the errors that occur while we get used to it. But in the long run, I believe we will have an exceptional system. **Long live the Strong Club!**

A doctor is called out for an emergency with the last board to play in a tournament. An onlooker, although he knows nothing about bridge, is persuaded to take his place. He is told, 'Just bid what you've got and follow suit'. The bidding proceeds:

South	West	North	East
1c	Pass	2H	Pass
2S	Pass	3C	Pass
3H	Pass	4NT	Pass
7D	Dbl	All Pass	

South took the S K lead with the Ace, cashed the D AK, led a club to his Ace and cashed all of his diamonds, placing West in a hopeless squeeze. When West discarded a heart, declarer won the last four tricks in hearts. Defence called the Director, who asked for an explanation of the bidding.

This is the Deal

West

♠ KQT8
♥JT97
♦QT
♣KJ8

North

♠A9
♥AKQ65
♦AK
♣QT54

South

♠ J3
♥H 432
♦8765432
♣A

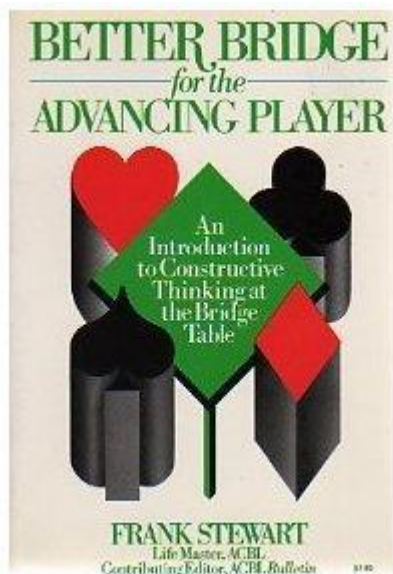


East

♠76542
♥ 8
♦J9
♣987653

South responded, 'I was told to bid what I've got, and I have one club, two spades, three hearts and seven Diamonds.'

From the Library: An Oldie but a Goodie



Better Bridge for the Advancing Player

Frank Stewart, professional tournament player, teacher and bridge book author, entertains with wry anecdotes from the table as a prelude to discussing hands, bidding and play in accordance with his assertion:

“... nobody can play bridge by strict adherence to any set of rules. This is a THINKING game.”

He constantly reminds that guesses for locating missing honours can be minimised by factoring in what has or has not been bid and the points that have already shown up during play.

The book is divided into four parts: 1. Not so hard, 2. Not so easy, 3. For you, the expert, 4. Epilogue

In the epilogue the author provides the following problem:

North

♠T94

♥7

♦QT752

♣K753

South

♠Q6

♥KJ53

♦AJ94

♣AQ2

You open ONE NOTRUMP on the South cards, and all pass. LHO leads the six of hearts, and RHO furnishes the ten. **What do you do?**

So, cover up the response before reading what happened.

You win the King of hearts, cross to the club King, and take the diamond finesse. It loses, but now LHO thinks that his partner has the heart Jack, and underleads (or cashes) his high hearts instead of switching to spades. You wind up making three or four instead of going down a couple, thanks to your false card at trick one.

According to the author, it worked.

Kate's Rules to Live by
Whenever possible, “Get it out of your system on the first round of bidding” while it's still safe to do so.

QCBC needs you!
Volunteer card dealers are needed for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday especially.

Bridge Laws and Etiquette From Jan Peach, QBA Director Accreditation

Bidding After Partner Pauses for Thought

Law 16 B 1: (a) After a player makes available to his partner extraneous information that may suggest a call or play, as for example by a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unexpected alert or failure to alert, or by unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement, or mannerism, the partner may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information.

(b) A logical alternative action is one that, among the class of players in question and using the methods of the partnership, would be given serious consideration by a significant proportion of such players, of whom it is judged some might select it.

It is not an infraction to pause for thought when there is a bridge reason to do so ie when improper deception is not a factor. The laws recognize that smooth auctions are not always possible. Players make any number of calls that are designed to make things difficult for the opponents. **It's a bit mean to open 5C and then complain about LHO needing time to think.** It is incorrect to say that "partner must pass" after a player has paused for thought before passing and it is not an infraction for partner to make a call that players of his calibre, using his system, would undoubtedly make in a smooth auction.

(2D¹) Pass² (Pass) 2H ¹2D is weak diamonds ²Pause for thought before Pass

(1) The 2H bidder holds ♠K85 ♥KQ10863 ♦4 ♣AQ4. There is no logical alternative for a player of his standard and using his system than to bid 2H.

(2) The 2H bidder holds ♠A8 ♥Q9863 ♦Q42 ♣J104. Now there is some doubt as to how many players of the same standard, using the same system, would bid 2H in a smooth auction.

When a player has a substantial reason to believe an opponent has breached Law 16B1(a), **the correct time to call the director is after the hand has been played out.** Until there is a result, the existence of damage cannot be determined. Perhaps 2D earns -50 while 2H earns +100 so even if there was an infraction there would be no damage to redress.

Behind the Scenes: Card Dealing

Thank you to Colin Peardon for this account

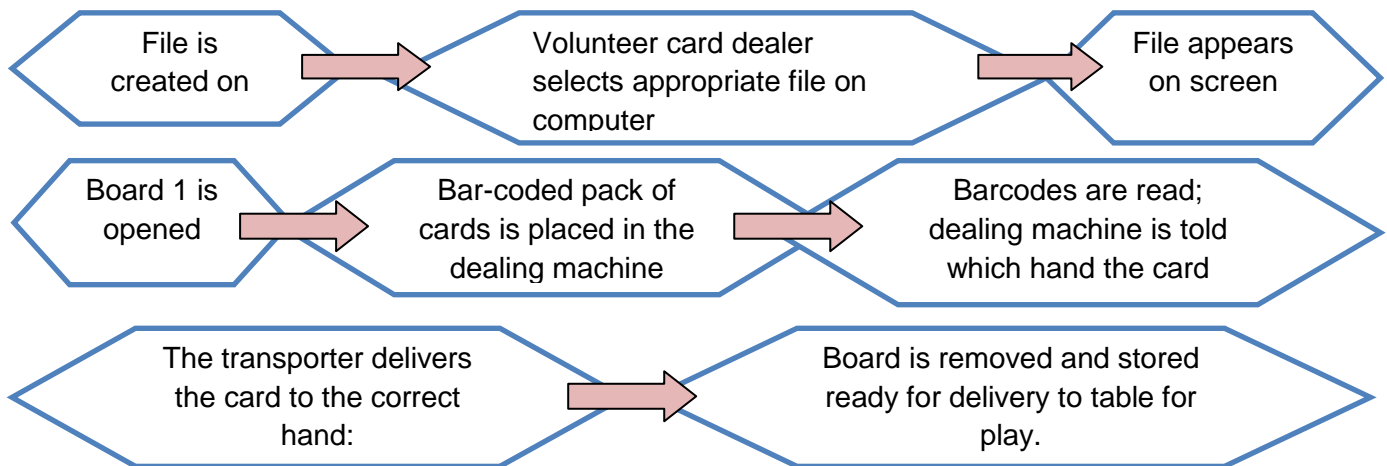
Colin has been card dealing for QCBC for almost fourteen years. Thank you Colin! Dorrie Maddigan dealt for over ten years, though by no means computer literate.

May Jones dealt for a number of years and recent volunteers include Julie Jeffries, Janet Lowe, Chris Larter, Vivien Solo, Colleen Sobey and Veena Chotai.

Toni Bardon

Many members at QCBC will remember the start of a day's play when the first activity was to shuffle and deal the cards. Once that game was completed, the hands for North, South, East and West would be recorded on the travelling score-card. This enabled the Director to correct a hand should the cards get mixed up.

Modern technology (a computer, printer and dealing machine) has given us the ability to pre-deal and print out an entire day's hands. Here is what happens now.



This process continues until all boards are dealt – usually 36 for a day's play. It takes approximately fifteen minutes to deal a box of boards assuming there are no misfeeds or problems.



Some of the problems that occur and slow down the dealing are:

- misreads of the bar code, requiring the hand to be re-dealt. This usually occurs because the cards are dirty or bent during play.
- boards are put away at the end of play in the incorrect order.
- a card is turned so it is facing the opposite way from the rest of the pack.

Currently, we have three permanent volunteer dealers and several others should they be needed.

Fourteen boxes are dealt most weeks; but **when there are congresses, as many as an extra twenty boxes or more may be needed.** Obviously, this is time consuming; but the resulting benefits are cards pre-dealt and a printout for us to study after play. The printout also shows a lot of information about the types of hands we had during play: **take a look at the RECAP at the end of the record.**

A question which is asked from time to time is:

Can the dealing program be set up to deal certain types of hands?

Our system is not used in this way. It would contravene QBA rules to do so. So, the answer is NO!

Over the years there have been many people who have assisted with the dealing, and obviously, in the future, many more will be needed. If you come in early and have time to deal one or two boxes before start of play, see Toni.

Novices Note: Tuesdays with Maurie

It's most humbling to become a novice bridge player at a mature (very mature) age. After years of confidently telling others what to do, one is encumbered by ignorance, misconceptions and repeated errors. ("But I thought... How could I do that?..Well I won't do that again. *Oh, really?*")

Fortunately, playing at QCBC against many tolerant, experienced players (who give tips on how a hand could have been bid or a contract made – Thank you. Don't stop. I'll get it one day.) the stuff-ups are gradually reducing.

I am extremely fortunate to be playing with generous, experienced partners who are mentoring me. And I am especially lucky to be spending **Tuesdays with Maurie**.

Leith Cameron, Ros Clark, Sue Crennan and I, Joan Jenkins were beginners in Chris Woolley's class in October, 2010. We are all dead keen and have press-ganged Maurie Cullen into spending one day a week helping us to become better bridge players during a weekly round robin of bridge sessions at our homes. Maurie is perfect as a mentor: non-judgmental, patient, knowledgeable, experienced and genuinely interested in our advancement. We fuel his interest by plying him with good food and wine.

Thank you for spending your Tuesdays/Wednesdays helping us, Maurie.

Joan, Ros, Sue and Leith



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Congress

Last Friday I played my first game of Bridge for five weeks. This was quite a long time away for me as I average two or three games per week.

The reason for my absence is that I fell and I have broken my left elbow and my right foot. Ice-skating can be a dangerous sport; however, I wasn't ice-skating when I fell. I would like to be able to say that I was at Thredbo snow skiing. That would be more glamorous, but incorrect.

The truth is that I fell outside a motel room on a Friday night in Gympie. It almost sounds a bit sleazy, doesn't it?

No, I hadn't had one drop of wine at all.

I was in hospital for one week and have been at home recuperating for four weeks. Whilst I was in hospital the nursing staff made lots of jokes about Bridge. For instance: 'I was going to learn Bridge, but if this is what happens because you defeated the opposition's contract, it isn't worth it.' Another nurse said, 'My goodness, you lead the wrong card and your partner does this.' And so it went on.

On a more serious note, I would like to thank everyone who has telephoned, emailed, sent cards and passed on good wishes. I am very appreciative of everyone's interest and concern. I now realise more than ever just what a caring club this is. Thank you once again. It is great to be back.

Robin Steinhardt

Ed. Note: Yes, Robin's accident was the reason for the adventure Monica described in the previous newsletter.

Here it is: the recipe that many of you requested after tasting Veena's slice at the pre-wedding get-together for Dominique and Tony. (Thank you, Veena)

Vegetable Handvo

- 1 500 gm packet Git Handvo mix (Indian grocery shops sell them)
- 50 gm yoghurt or buttermilk
- 40 gm oil
- 600 mls water
- 2 chokos or zucchini - peeled and grated
- 2 onions - chopped finely
- 1/2 cup frozen peas
- 1 potato - peeled and grated
- 1 carrot - peeled and grated
- (Use whatever vegetables you have on hand)
- 2 tablespoon ground ginger (about 2 inch piece fresh)
- 1 tablespoon ground garlic (2 pieces)
- 3 to 4 ground green or red chillies (optional or add more to make it hot)
- 1 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 2 teaspoon salt (add more or less according to taste)
- 4-5 tablespoon sugar (add more or less according to taste)
- 1 lemon juice (add more or less according to taste)
- 1 teaspoon mustard seeds
- 2 tablespoon sesame seeds (leave some to decorate)
- 3/4 cup oil



Note: 500 gm packets (12 serves) and 200 gm packets (5 serves) are available.

Method

1. Mix the contents of the Handvo packet with yoghurt (curd), oil and water as per instruction 1 on the packet. The dough will double up in size.
2. Heat the remaining oil. When hot, add the mustard seeds and some sesame seeds. When popping, add the vegetables and the spices except lemon.
3. Once the vegetables are cooked, take them off the stove, add lemon and Handvo dough and mix well.
4. Put the mixture into a greased baking tray and decorate with extra sesame seeds.
5. Bake in an oven at 200 degrees Centigrade for 45 to 60 minutes till golden brown

Tips

1. You can follow the tips on the Handvo mix packet - without the vegetables.
2. The ratio of vegetable to soaked mix in this recipe would be equal: but you can have any proportions you like or any other vegetables you like.
3. You can always taste it before putting it in the oven and adjust the spices according to your taste.
4. If you would like a crisp slice, use a large dish; a smaller dish will produce a softer slice.