

QCBC Newsletter



QCBC Clubhouse, 67 Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba, QLD 4102

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

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From the President, Monica Pritchard

(Monica is incommunicado for this month's newsletter; but she'll be home soon, no doubt with entertaining tales.)



Vale Peg Natrass



On Sunday, 9th September, 2012, QCBC lost a valued and respected member. Most of you have read the story of her life,

compiled by Barbara Holmes, in the November, 2010 issue of the QCBC Courier and were impressed by her resilience, intelligence and ability to turn her hand to all that befell her.

There was no one at the Club that didn't know Peg. She played four days a week and for many years directed on Tuesdays.

What we remember most about Peggy was her cheery nature, her smile at the table and her brave acceptance of multiple medical disorders without complaint.

Peg was much admired and will be missed by the QCBC membership without exception.
Marie Simpson

(Read Peg's Story on the notice board at the Club entrance.)

Coming Events

Friday 12 Oct QBA Mixed teams Round 1
Sunday 14 Oct QCBC Festival Pairs
Saturday 20/Sunday 21 Oct QBA Open & Novice Pairs (at QCBC)
Friday 26 Oct QBA Mixed teams Round 2
Saturday 27 Oct: Annual General Meeting
Tuesday pm 30 October: \$50 night
Friday 2 Nov Pat Wilson Trophy Pairs
Tuesday 5 Nov Melbourne Cup Day
Friday 9 Nov QBA Mixed teams Round 3
Saturday 10 Nov QBA Teams of 3
Sunday 11 Nov Snr & Youth Pairs QCBC
Sunday 18 Nov Club Pairs Championship & QCBC Novice Teams
Tuesday 27 Nov \$50 night

 *Also gone, but affectionately remembered*
Beryl Trout

QBA Graded Pairs September 2nd



Hot competition



A Grade Winners: Therese Tully, Richard Ward



C Grade Winners: Denise Hartwig, Mavis Simpson



B Grade Winners: David O'Gorman, Julie Jeffries

GNP Brisbane Zone

Top 3 Pairs:

Ivan Lam & Daniel Chua

Brenda Lazarus & Evelyne Mander

Jack Rohde & Lex Ranke

Jubilee Cup

September 17

Winners:

Larry Moses,

Pam Schoen

Fund Raising: Support the Club and bid for an original, hand-made cushion.

Glenys Larter has generously donated the decorative cushions on display at the Club front entrance. Nominate your choices, pay, and pop your name in the appropriate bucket. Winners will be decided on 12 October.

Melbourne Cup at QCBC – November 6

\$20 per player

Bridge, lunch, champagne, sweeps ♥

Best hat award - everyone welcome

BRING & BUY

Starts 12 November

Treasures, plants,
home made goodies,
etc needed

Promotions

Evans, James 183709 4-630 Gold Life
Dawson, Alison 695602 4-555 Bronze Life
Luxton, Barbara 105600 4-555 *State
Bennett, Judith 727024 4-555 Regional
Berns, Dov 269654 4-555 Local

**Kate's rules to live
by: No. 7**

**Never make a penalty
double of a part-score
without four trumps!**

My Favourite Hands by Alan Boyce

Playing recently in the QBA graded pairs opposite Andrew Woollons I picked up this little beauty sitting East, with the dealer North having passed, we vul. Vs not.

East

♠AK987632
♥A7
♦6
♣KJ

You just have to love these types of hands as they have great potential, which often belie their HCP's. It's paramount to try and convey to partner in two bids just what you have. With 15 HCP's I decided not to open 2C, rather open 1S and rebid 4S over most situations that would develop around the table.



South overcalled 2H, partner was silent and North raised South to 3H, and 4S came from me as I'd intended. North decided to compete to 5H and I looked at my hand. I expect the Ace of clubs to be more likely over me so the KC is probably dead. It would be very lucky to make two spade tricks and the AH so I bid 5S, which was duly doubled.

South to lead from:

South

♠4
♥98543
♦AQ9
♣A942

I was only reading the other day that, if you choose to lead away from an unprotected Ace, and you have two to select from, choose the one without another honour. I'd have selected a heart myself but the Ace of diamonds got led, setting up the king of diamonds in dummy for a discard. South clearly wasn't fussed about setting up a possible king of clubs in my hand now so opted to exit a heart, won by me, heart ruff in dummy, club discarded on KD and when the spades broke 2-1, I conceded the club loser for a nice +850.

The other two hands were:

North

♠QT
♥KQJ62
♦T73
♣Q85

West

♠J5
♥T
♦KJ8542
♣T763

An interesting postscript to this hand was, on the very next hand, we gave back what we'd just been given, by mis-defending 5SX. In two hands we'd interchanged 850 scores!

North

♠AKQ8
♥AQJ
♦AK6
♣A84

Towards the end of the day I picked up this monster in 3rd seat:

After 2 passes I opened 2C intending to rebid 3NT, a rather rare rebid. After partner's 2D relay bid, and my 3NT bid, partner mentioned upon request that I was showing about 23-24 HCP's, somewhat of an understatement, given our system required a 2NT rebid for this.

South

♠94
♥9
♦QJT9532
♣J97

Still, partner found the magnificent rebid of 6D holding a mammoth 4 HCP's, opposite my "possible" 23 HCP's - lol:

Wanting the lead to come through me, and holding AK6 in partners "very long diamond suit", I corrected to 6NT.

East
♠63
♥7652
♦874
♣KQ62

West
♠JT752
♥KT843
♦
♣T53

East to lead selected KC and, as I could count 12 tricks I covered it with the Ace and proceeded to cash out the diamonds. West had to discard 7 cards on the diamonds and was effectively squeezed, and ended up un-guarding his length in spades allowing the extra trick to be made in that suit, after I had discarded all clubs and then hearts.

The Murder Hand: Continued

The Bennetts were well off and lived in a large Kansas City apartment with Mrs Bennett's mother. Their marriage was not a bed of roses. Apparently John Bennett was in the habit of slapping his wife during moments of frustration.

The friendly game with the Hofmans was played for a stake of 1/10th of a cent a point. The Bennetts led comfortably for most of the game, but eventually the Hofmans overtook them. The tension heightened, and when John failed by two tricks in a Game contract in Spades, Myrtle Bennett bitterly criticised her husband's bridge playing to such an extent that John grabbed her and slapped her several times.

Unfortunately, the three surviving bridge players could not remember the exact composition of the cards, which were scattered far and wide during the Bennetts' fight over John Bennett's play; a fight which ended when Myrtle, armed with her mother's gun, put two bullets into her defenceless spouse.

The local wisdom conjured the following likely layout:

	Mrs Bennett ♠AT63 ♥T85 ♦4 ♣A9843	
Mr Hofman ♠Q72 ♥AJ3 ♦AQT92 ♣J6		Mrs Hofman ♠4 ♥Q94 ♦KJ763 ♣Q753
	Mr Bennett ♠KJ985 ♥K762 ♦85 ♣KT	

The bidding: 1S by Mr Bennett, 2D by Mr Hofman, 4S by Mrs Bennett.

Opening lead Diamond Ace followed by a shift to Jack of Clubs. Supposedly, after winning the the King of Clubs, Mr Bennett misguessed the location of the trump Queen and then, having established clubs was unable to get to Dummy.

Mrs Bennett was charged with first degree murder but was acquitted in spite of the compelling evidence of her guilt.

Michael's Corner SIGNALS

Like most things in bridge, there is more to signalling than meets the naked eye. For a start, most players give a signal on both their partner's lead of a high card, and their first discard. The former is clearly harder than the latter, as you are limited entirely by your holding in the suit led.

Let's say that we're playing **high encouraging**. The good thing about high (or low) encouraging is that everything is relative. You lead the AC. Dummy has the J973 of clubs, and you have the AK108. Partner plays the 6. Please keep in mind that you should throw the highest card that you don't need, or your lowest card if discouraging. All is clear! Partner is obviously encouraging as you can see all the cards above the 6 except for the Q, and therefore has either a singleton, doubleton or the Q.

However, let us say that you are holding AK53 and dummy has J964. Partner plays the 7. Life has just become interesting! If Declarer is holding the 2, then the 7 is actually low and therefore discouraging. Otherwise partner could have 72 doubleton, or even QT72 and not wish to throw the T. In either case, the 7 is encouraging. If partner holds e.g. Q987 they should, of course, play the 9 unless they particularly want you to change suit. Declarer's card may shed light on the situation, otherwise leading the K should clarify matters, but it may also set up a trick for declarer in dummy if they have Qx.

I can recall one session with my then congress partner (a very patient lady, as you would imagine) where I led out an Ace from AK etc, to which she played the 3 (playing high encouraging). I, of course, changed suit. At the end of the hand she explained that she held 3, 2 doubleton, had in fact played her highest card, and politely enquired as to what had happened to her ruff. A few hands later I again led an Ace and partner again played the 3 from 3, 2 which I once more misinterpreted. The enquiry this time was not as polite. I still claim you have to be fairly stiff to get this situation twice in one session.

This, then, is the point of playing high (or low) encouraging. Everything is indeed relative, and while this can make things complicated, ***it permits a lot more flexibility than for instance, odds and evens***. It is important, however, that when deciphering partners signal you have a good look at both your hand and dummy. While you may not always get it right, at least the fact that you can't see a certain card (in the above case the 2) should make you suspicious.

Discards offer more options, as you usually have a choice of suits with which to signal. Here high or low encouraging have their limitations, as you are discarding in the suit which you want led. This can be particularly problematic when asking partner to lead your long suit in no trumps. This is where McKenny discards come in. The idea is that you throw off a card in a suit that you don't particularly want. A high card implies that you want the higher of the candidate suits, and a low card the lower suit. E.g. Diamond led; a low Club (usually 2-5) would indicate Hearts, whereas a high Club (7-T) would suggest Spades. The 6 is usually neutral, as can be the 5.

One variation on the McKenny theme is Lavinthal. Partner's opening lead is an Ace to a suit contract. The dummy goes down, and contains a singleton in the suit led. There is generally little advantage in signalling whether you like the suit or not, so the more sensible approach is to indicate which suit you would like partner to switch to. Again a high card requests a high suit, and low requests a low suit. The same theory can apply where dummy has a doubleton or Qxx. It should be remembered, however, that if dummy has the long trump suit e.g. after having transferred, it can be a good strategy to continue the suit with the intention of forcing declarer to ruff in dummy. The "forcing defence" is particularly popular against a two-suited hand.

One final hint: you lead a card expecting partner to ruff; it is often useful to indicate which suit you would like returned with a McKenny type signal. **As always, partnership agreement is vital.**

An Interesting Double Squeeze by John Gough

West leads a club to dummy's K. A heart continuation is taken by East who returns partner's suit.

Dealer: South			Declarer discards S7 and then runs the hearts. On the last heart, East is caught in a criss-cross squeeze.	
N	E	S	W	
		1NT	P	
2D	P	2H	P	
3NT	P	P	P	
		♠ 7		
		♥ AKTxxx		
		♦ JTxx		
		♣ K		
♠ 9xxx			♠ KJx	
♥ x			♥ Qxxx	
♦ xx			♦ Q98x	
♣ Qxxxxx			♣ xx	
		♠ QTxx		
		♥ J9		
		♦ AK7		
		♣ AJTx		
			♠ A	North leads the last H; East is squeezed
			♥ x	
			♦ JTxx	
			♣ -	
				♠ KJ
				♥ -
				♦ Q98x
				♣ -
			♠ QT	
			♥ -	
			♦ AK7	
			♣ x	



Another Two Enduring Partnerships

By Kim Ellaway

Reading the article on partnerships, I thought I could advise you on a family partnership. I have been playing with Mum for now nearly 38 years (yes I started when I was 6 – well not really) and I can honestly say that we have never argued about bridge. We have always tried to be nice and friendly at the table even when taking bottoms or tops – we believe it's the best way to play bridge and have formed many lasting friendships from the 'enemy'. Unfortunately some very bad manners have snuck into bridge partnerships and its bringing a bad name to the game.

My second partner is Ray and I have been playing with him for over 30 years. I have had enormous successes with Mum playing for Queensland never doing worse than 3rd with us taking 2 silvers and 1 Gold in our other three outings and we have enjoyed playing together in perhaps over 1000 weekend events.

Ray is now my life partner as well as my second favourite bridge partner and we also have had numerous successes with Ray and I meeting at the table when we represented Qld as youth some not so many years ago.

I practice what I preach and that is: **treat all partners and opposition with the love and respect we all want for ourselves** (Bridge is only a game and not worth the angst however it's certainly worth the friendships which last forever).