

May 2022

Joan Jenkins

Longstanding QCBC Newsletter Editor



Welcome to the brave new newsletter editors – Kathleen and Michael. I hope you give them lots of material to make the newsletter interesting and enlightening.

I edited an older version for ten years and ran out of steam. At first, I was madly enthusiastic and published a monthly issue. Members sent me Bridge advice and humorous anecdotes that are worth visiting online at the QCBC website.

Here is a brief bio; I trained as a teacher in Queensland. I taught for four years in Port Moresby then toured the world with my prospective Canadian husband. I taught in Vancouver for two years then finished up as a teacher-librarian in Brisbane. I loved my job but as soon as I found Bridge, I realised that I had been wasting my time.

I am now a Bridge tragic. I have had such a good time playing, mostly because of the wonderful people I have interacted with. Lots of highs thanks to my outstanding partners through the years.

I particularly appreciate the support from my sister, Dawn Cullen, Alan Boyce, who stood by me through the devastating years of my husband's Alzheimer's, Evelyne Mander and Linda Norman with whom I had lots of fun on the side drinking, eating, shopping, and laughing.

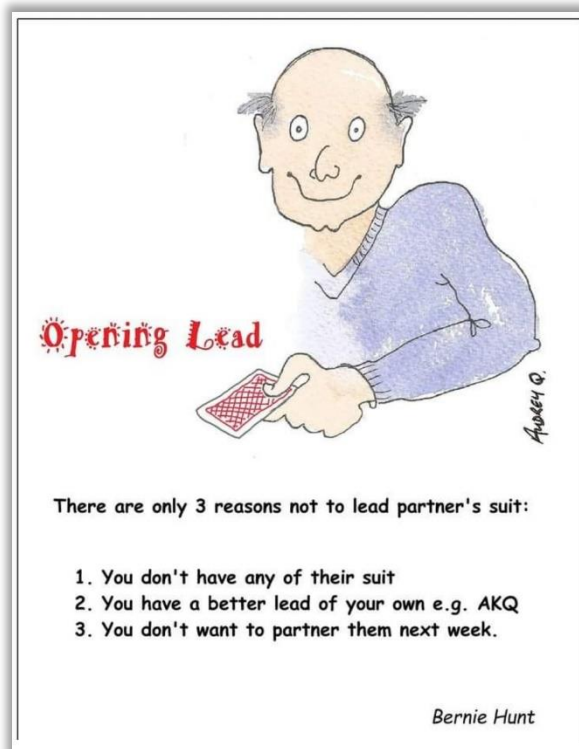
Bridge buddies are the best. Thank you all.

Joan Jenkins

Bridge Humour

A married couple are not speaking to each other after a horrible game and are driving home after a Bridge tournament. They pass by a field where there are many donkeys. The husband breaks the silence by asking the wife: "Relatives of yours"? "Yes" she says, "In-laws".

More Bridge Humour



Editorial Team

Kathleen Le Voi Michael Le Voi
phone 0418-992-821

Email: kmfahy1@gmail.com

Contributions should be by email (preferred)

From The President



It is now May which means one third of the year has gone – too fast for me. Five weeks ago, I could have counted on one hand the amount of people I knew that had been struck down with Covid – now it seems every second person has had it recently – me included. As I am immune compromised, I am told that if I was not fully vaccinated that I would have been a lot sicker so thank goodness for that as I still have a cough which I can't shake.

At our most recent board meeting, we agreed to drop the vaccination mandate for people entering our club. This is in line with the changes to the vaccine mandate implemented by the Queensland government for clubs, pubs, and hospitality/leisure venues. For those unvaccinated Bridge players, you are welcome to play at our club. If this changes, we will advise.

We are still short of session directors and/or scorers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Toni or myself.

The use of Bidding Boxes will be on the agenda of the next Board Meeting – whether to revert to written bidding or stay with the eco-friendly bidding boxes. If you have a strong opinion one way or the other, please write to me with your views and why and I will take them to the meeting. I am not convinced either way and happy to listen to views.

The Anzac Day congress was very successful. Thank you to our Directors Jan and Julie and to Caddy Extraordinaire – Jim, Zorica in the Kitchen and of course Toni who did all the

other jobs. We were headed for 40 teams but with the covid close contact rules, we lost around 8 teams – my team included. Our next congress is a Graded Teams event which will certainly have a novice section on June 12.

A reminder again that Bridge is a game to be enjoyed and courtesy is required. When you arrive at the table, please greet your opponents, and introduce yourself if you don't know them. Wearing a name badge is also a good idea.

We have submitted to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (Super Round) an application for funding to upgrade the toilets, so we have our fingers crossed for this.

We welcome our new Sponsor, Club Southside and thank them for their support. I encourage you to join Club Southside and when you do let them know you are members at QCBC.

We have provided a lot of the state representatives in the Open, Seniors and Women's fields with Richard Ward, Therese Tully, Neville Francis, Tony Hutton, Phil Hale all playing in the Open field. Michelle Radke, Kathy Males, Janeen Solomon and Ivy Luck in the Women's and Paul Hooykaas, Ralph Parker, Jim and Pam Evans in the Seniors. They depart early July to Adelaide, and we wish them luck. Non-Playing Captains of all teams are from QCBC – Pele Rankin – Open, John Luck – Seniors, Sue O'Brien – Women's.

Finally, a big thank you to Joan Jenkins for her 10 years of editing our club newsletter. Welcome to Kathleen and Mike Le Voi as the new editors.

Ray Ellaway

Behaviours we want to encourage/discourage.

- 1. Greeting your Opponents when you sit down / they come to the table.** Great if you can remember their names. If not, and you are sitting North, look at your Bridgemate to help you.
- 2. Thank your Opponents at the end of your boards with them.**
- 3. Don't comment/discuss the boards during the session.** Why not?

Other people must play the board and may overhear your comments.

It can slow the play down.

It may be rude towards the opposition or your partner.

"We got a top on that board partner." So, guess how your opponents did on that board? It is a form of gloating.

"Oh partner, everyone else made that contract."

Partner probably knows they stuffed up, now they feel even worse, probably not the best way to get partner to play their best for the rest of the session.

4. Compliment people on good bidding/play.

5. Thank partner when they put down Dummy - even if it is a load of rubbish!

6. Don't try and rush people when they are thinking, it is a thinking game.

- Looking at your watch is rude, don't do it.
- Strumming your fingers is annoying.
- Loud sighing is not nice.

7. Have fun and enjoy your Bridge.

Directors Corner

Our club games are an important social activity and talking is a big part of that. Some conversations can spoil the game for others and are best avoided while a session is in progress or done very quietly.

Noisy discussions, lengthy post-mortems loudly reading out scores and giving lessons can all contribute to extraneous information. Blessed is the player who moves quickly and quietly onto the next board, seemingly not noticing anything amiss about partner's bidding or play. Extraneous information can spoil the enjoyment of the board at a nearby table. Knowing in advance that 6 Spades makes if one plays for the drop means Declarer no longer has free choice in the matter and an adjusted score would be necessary.

A player who hears something about a board he has yet to play should call the Director. Discretion is necessary. There is no point telling the whole table if only one player heard the news about a singleton King (for example). There may be a way damage can be mitigated.

If the Director must award an adjusted score, he should also seek out the culprit. Discussion of the bidding, play or result of a board, which may be overheard at another table, may earn a procedural penalty.

Another easily prevented irregularity is facing an opening lead out of turn. These can be damaging to the Defence. The player on lead selects a card and places it face down on the table. He may ask questions about the opponents' auction before doing so. The player waits until partner confirms that he has no questions by saying, e.g., "OK", "Thanks", "No questions", before facing the card.

This is also one of the times that Declarer (but not the presumed Dummy) may ask questions. Declarer might also confirm that he has no questions, but the usual expectation is that Declarer will have spoken up in the time partner either asks his questions or confirms that he has no questions.

Those few seconds give everyone the chance to prevent a faced opening lead out of turn.

Jan Peach

Even More Bridge Humour

Playing Bridge is better than sex because:

- It is perfectly acceptable to play with a total stranger.
- When your regular partner is not available, he/she will not mind if you play with someone else.
- Your partner doesn't become upset about people you played with years ago.
- Nobody expects you to play with the same partner for the rest of your life.
- Nobody expects you to give up playing if your partner loses interest.
- You can keep playing into your 90s, and people won't gasp in shock.
- Your partner will never say: "Not again, we just played last week!"

Maintenance Committee Report

We are fortunate to own the land and our own clubrooms in such a central location. There is, however, a lot of work and expense to maintain and upgrade the club.

We are currently working on the following matters:

- The cost of modifying both bathrooms is estimated to be \$130K. We have applied for a grant of \$100K (the maximum allowed) from **The Gambling Community Benefit Fund** (GCBF) to help us with this. The GCBF is Queensland's largest one-off community grants program and distributes approximately \$60 million each year to not-for-profit community groups. We should hear if we are successful in the next few months.
- We have also applied to the **Club Southside** Community Grants Scheme for purchasing a defibrillator for the club. Applications are now closed so fingers crossed.

- Coordinating with the IT and Teaching committees we have, or are in the process of purchasing new whiteboards, new noticeboards, new TV screens, timers and new laptops for dealers and directors.
- We are planning to repaint the yellow edging and install handrails at the front of the building soon.
- We are all aware of our leaking roof; some work has been done but more is needed. To complicate matters, there may be an insurance claim possible which we are pursuing. We will replace the damaged internal ceiling panel(s) once the roof is 100% watertight.
- Please, all members: at the end of play return cups and glasses to the kitchen, tidy your table, push in the chairs, remove all rubbish, and place bidding boxes neatly in the centre of the table.
- We need people willing to deal boards. Mike Le Voi has updated the software to make dealing fast and simple. Please volunteer to be a dealer if you have an hour to spare – often before or after Bridge. Please contact Robyn or Ian directly to offer your time.
- Finally, to help our club function smoothly and present well, we need volunteers for odd jobs. If you have an hour or so spare - either on a one-off, or on an ongoing basis, we will warmly welcome your contribution. Again, please contact Robyn or Ian directly to offer your time.

Robyn Clark and Ian Bannister

IT Committee Report

We now have an IT committee to manage the club PC infrastructure. Ray Ellaway is the president of the committee. Other members are Mike Le Voi and Ian Bannister.

The old PC infrastructure had basically reached “End of Life”. The PCs that were being used for Scoring and Dealing were nearly 10 years old. The QCBC Management Committee has therefore purchased 3 new laptops to replace the aging infrastructure.

The new Bridgemate and Dealing PCs are in the process of being installed in the current office. The new Clock PC is being installed at the back of the room. The same software has been installed on every PC. Thus, if we have a major failure of, say, the Bridgemate PC, the Dealing PC can run the session.

A new program has been installed to automate Dealing. I encourage anyone who has some spare time to contact Colin Peardon or myself so that they can be trained as Dealers.

We are also in the process of installing new TVs to show the clock. The advantage of the new clock software is that the clock can be cast to multiple TVs at the same time. The aim is to make the clock visible from any part of the room. A big thank you to Lou Stanley for getting one of the new TVs mounted under the “North” sign next to the kitchen.



The new clock has built in sounds. We have decided to use 2 main sounds. At the 3-minute mark, each TV will play a low “Dong” indicating that, at this point, one should have a bid on the table for the last board of a round. When it is time to move to the next table, there is a low “Buzz” sound and a 60 second count down. We expect the new PCs to be fully installed within the next week.

We have also installed a new program for teachers to use. The new program is called Bridge Composer. Kathleen and I have been using this program for the past few years to construct teaching hands for Novice and Intermediate students. In my humble opinion, it is simply the best program for use by teachers. I cannot live without it 😊. If any teachers wish to use Bridge Composer, please contact me and I will arrange training.

If you have any suggestions on how we can improve the new PC environment, please contact me. The PCs have been installed to make everyone’s life easier. Any suggestions for further improvement will be gratefully received.

Mike Le Voi

Mastering the Finesse

The following is a sample from a set of rookie lessons on Play.

Many players, even experienced ones, still struggle with knowing how to finesse. If you want to be a master of the finesse, just be sure you are clear about the basics first. So, before you read any further, ask yourself to define the meaning of finesse in Bridge and write down your answer. I say this because any attempt to recall what one knows before reading the correct answer aids learning. Passively reading on will have little effect on what you retain about mastering the finesse.

Definition: A finesse is an attempt to win a trick with a card that is ranked lower than one held by opponents (Audrey Grant, p.365)

Example of finesse: With “King X” on the table, and not holding the Queen or the Ace, lead a low card towards the King. If your left-hand opponent plays the Ace, then your King comes good. If they put anything else on, you play the King and hope. If the Ace is held your right-hand opponent, you were going to lose the King anyway.

Consider here what your options are in the example above:

- If you lead the King, you are 100% sure to lose. ☹
- If you try the finesse, there is a 50% chance you will win.
- If you must win the finesse to make the contract, then you must do it and hope.
- If not compelled to attempt the finesse, think carefully, because if it fails, you lose the lead.
- Therefore, if you can make your contract without the finesse – play safe; don’t risk it.
- Where you are trying to make an overtrick by attempting a finesse - do so only if you can quickly regain the lead if the finesse fails.

Try the examples below (answers at the end of this newsletter). In all cases, you are South in Declarer’s hand.

1) Which opponent do you want to hold the Ace?

How should Declarer play this finesse?

Dummy ♠ K Q 7

Declarer ♠ 6 4 2

2) Which opponent do you want to hold the King?

How should Declarer play this finesse?

Dummy ♥ A 4 3 2

Declarer ♥ Q J 10 9

3) In the next example, what factors will influence you i.e. where is the Queen?

Dummy ♠ A J 10 2

Declarer ♠ K 9 8 7

References: 1) Audrey Grant, 1988. Play of the Hand. 2) Joan Butts, 2014. Play Bridge 2. P.71-86

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.

Acknowledgements: Marty Bergen, Larry Cohen, Andy Slater (President of the Northern Suburbs Bridge Club) and Wikipedia.

Masterpoint Changes

The following members have been promoted in the first 3 months of the year.

Graduate

Richard Huysman
Jeannette Spaninks
Valeri Barakin
George Collings
Elizabeth Foreman
Gwynne Harris

Club

Paul Davis
Peter Ellerby
Ian Lock
Elizabeth Moran
Chris Pohle

Local

Aflatoon Baghaei
Sue Green

Bronze Local

Martin Carter

Silver Local

Louise Bennett
John Rivers

Regional

Mary McLeigh
Lou Stanley
Thais Morgan-Pertus
Chris De Jong

State

Stephen Bennett
Joyanne Gissing
Jenny Thompson

Bronze State

Wendy Cuthbert

National

Michael Gearing
Sally Hall

Bronze Life

Kim McDonald

Silver Life

Andrew Woollons

Grand

Eileen Li

Greg Lee

Lex Ranke

Gold Grand

Terry Strong

Well done to all!

Lex Ranke



Mastering the Finesse - Quiz Answers:

- 1) Lead the 6 towards the KQ. If West plays the Ace, play low and make KQ later. If West ducks, play the K and hope. Return to Declarer's hand and repeat.
- 2) Lead the Q towards the A. If West plays the K, cover with the A and make the J, 10 and 9. If West ducks, let the Q go and hope. Repeat with the J, 10 and 9.
- 3) You can finesse in either direction. So, how can you improve your guess as to where the Q is? Consider the bidding! If West opened 1 ♥ and East passed, you know that West has more HCP and is more likely to hold the Q ♠. If West opened 2 ♥, a "Weak Two", then East is more likely to hold the Q ♠.

QCBC ANZAC Day Teams

Congratulations to all the winners.



Jenny McGowan, Ming Shu Yang, Vanessa Brewis, Oliver Goodman



Michael Gearing, Paddy Taylor, Ben Leung, Kate MacDonald

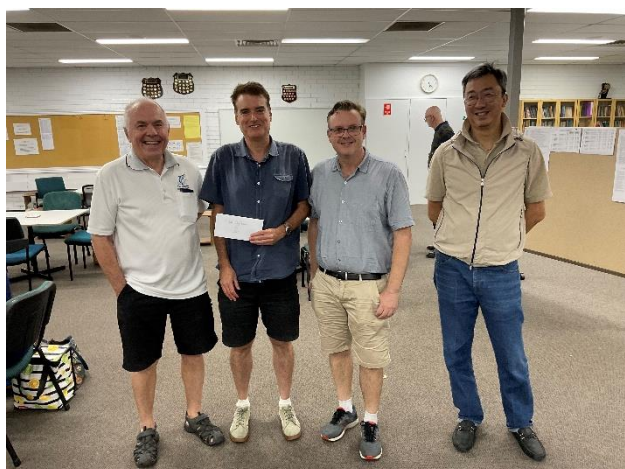


Chris Snook, Denise Hartwig, Gabrielle Elich, Fay Stanton



Charles Howard, Kerry Wood, Pamela Evans, Jim Evans

And a special thank you to the QCBC support team!



Richard Wallis, Peter Evans, Tony Treloar, Charlie Lu



Jim Love, Toni Bardon, Jan Peach, Julie Jeffries