

QCBC Newsletter



QCBC Clubhouse, 67 Ipswich Rd, Woolloongabba, QLD 4012

www.qcbc.org.au

Now that the Gold Coast Congress is over and life has returned to some degree of normality it's time to take stock of the year so far:

1. Session attendance numbers are now looking quite good after a slow start. Thursday AM session is arguably the strongest session in Brisbane and a good place to improve your game by competing against top players. There has also been a welcome improvement at some of the night sessions with Wednesday night pre-play discussion sessions proving popular.
2. QCBC had more members participating at the Gold Coast Congress than any other club in Australia! Congratulations to those who did well and to those who found the competition a bit tough but still had a great time.
3. Thanks to Jenny Hay and her daughter Rebecca for setting up the club's new Facebook page. Jenny has been taking photos regularly and posting them so that members and other interested parties can keep track of what's happening. The aim is to use the page to promote the image of the club as a friendly place to spend time catching up with friends. Social media is at the forefront of marketing these

FACEBOOK: Take the time to follow our external QCBC page set up to promote the club and attract new members. Please join the page and feel free to share with friends and fellow bridge players.

<https://www.facebook.com/QCBCBridge>

Thanks Jenny Hay for this initiative.

days so the added exposure will hopefully generate interest from those wanting to learn the game and gain us more members as well as promoting our congresses etc. The page can be found at



Ray Ellaway
QCBC President

<https://www.facebook.com/QCBCBridge/> so please

have a look and sign up as a follower to keep abreast with all the latest developments.

4. The club has subscribed to Pianola for a further 12 months following a free introductory trial. If we don't have your email address please advise Toni so that your results summaries can be emailed to you along with club news updates.
5. Our financial position remains sound with an operating profit of around \$25,000 for July-February. We will however have to manage cash flow carefully going forward as one of our long term member loans needs to be repaid at the end of March.

Coming Up at QCBC

Tues April 23 \$50 night

Thurs April 25 Anzac Day Teams

Wed May 1 Swiss Pairs Night – Red

Thurs May 9, 16 May GNOT Heats

Thurs June 6 Qld Day Pairs – Red

Sat 8, Sun 9 June QBA Butler Pairs

Tues 25 June \$50 night

Fri July 5 Red Point Day

Thanks to Cheryl
Stone for these New
Years Teams photos



Masterpoint Promotions February

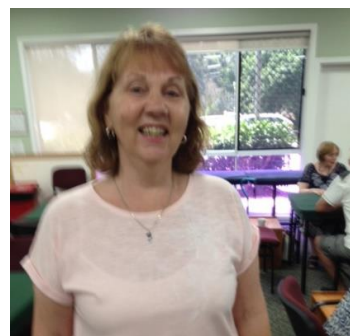
Brian Patterson
Val Holbrook
Wendy Gibson
Ross Currin
Narelle McIver
Michelle Harris
James Spence
Carolyn North
Jamshid Vazirzadeh
Janet McKeough
Warren Brook
John Rivers
Rebecca Birdsall
Paddy Taylor
Peter Fredericks
Louise Bennett
Jenny Thompson
John Stanley



Narelle McIver



Christine Newbery



Carolyn North

GNOT Wednesday Qualifiers

J&I. Luck, R. Clayton, P. Collins
A. Scott, C. Newbery, D. Gaskill, J. Welch, K. Wooler
R. Clark, C. Stone, R. Steinhardt, K. McDonald
J. Summerhays, A. Harburg, J. Williams, M. Pritchard



Robyn Clark

I would like to recommend two books by Patrick O'Connor from our QCBC library for our newer players.

1. Demystifying Defence
2. The first book of bridge problems.

Book 1 covers chapters on opening leads, third hand play and second hand play. Each chapter has a quiz at the end. There is also a chapter on defensive signals.

Book 2 covers problems for novices.

Experienced players recognise certain situations without having to think about it whereas a novice will spend a lot of mental effort to work them out.

This book will help novice players develop their skills at recognising these situations.

This book was named Book of the Year for 2012 by the American Bridge Teachers' Association. Patrick lives in Sydney, where he teaches bridge classes for beginners.

Robyn Clark has been doing an outstanding job with beginners at QCBC so is well qualified to recommend useful resources.





QCBC Open Imp Pairs
Jan 13 Winners Charlie
Lu and Chuan Qin

QCBC Novice Imp
Pairs Winners Ruth
Anderson and
Gordon Plant



Joan Jenkins and
Evelyne Mander won the
best Queensland Pair in
the Intermediate section
of the Gold Coast
Congress – 7th overall.



How imaginative was this
response to the Sea and Sand
theme at the Gold Coast
Congress!



Saturday
Improvers



Saturday Improvers

I ran the class over four weeks as a means of helping
players to improve their game.
Topics covered were: point ranges, take out doubles,
overcalls and balancing, dealing with strong hands.
There were over 30 members attending each class and
many staying on to play on Saturday afternoon.
It was such a success that I intend to have another
session in a couple of months.
Robyn Clark

Tuesday
Group



What Does Bridge Mean to Us?



Having had a foot each side of the Tasman most of my working life, making the move to relocate to Brisbane wasn't too difficult. That said, you still need to meet people and integrate into a community. After making contact with QCBC I received more than enough introductions to get my Bridge going again. Thanks Toni and all those who have had a game with me!

Last year I decided to give the Gold Coast Congress a go given it is on our doorstep, Toni sorted me with a scratch partner and teammates and we did OK, well enough to stick together for this year. 2019 we were fortunate enough to do quite well in the restricted pairs and to win the restricted teams. It was a great blast with all the competition, build up and finals day.

As a newer member I feel QCBC has more than its share of top quality players but none of them have forgotten how to be supportive and helpful towards the less experienced and social players.

Ian Bannister

(Ian's team won the Gold Coast Novice Teams competition)

Linda Norman and I, after our recent success at the GCC, were asked to write a few words about what Bridge means to us and perhaps hoping to encourage new players to our club.

At QCBC we come together as friends to play this game we all love so much.

Once we embark on this Bridge excursion, it becomes an opiate, driving us to learn more and play better.

We find it so very challenging, very demanding, at times frustrating but also so satisfying.

The cards never fail to entertain! Consequently there's never been a Bridge day when we weren't enthusiastic to start play, nor saddened to reach the last hand of the day.

Yes! It involves a lot of time and effort for practice with your partner, but a few little wins along the way provide that motivation to keep working to improve into the future.



(Linda and Wendy won the Weekend Matchpoint Swiss Pairs under 500 masterpoints.)



I am a bridge addict. I have had some wonderful times playing this game. I find the fall of the cards endlessly fascinating and also very frustrating at times.

There are numerous sessions at QCBC so there is a place for all levels of skill and of course for those who want to improve they can always try a stronger session.

April, May June, 2019

The social aspect of the game is also important. Most players are very nice and some are very helpful. There is usually someone who is prepared to answer questions.

It is a great challenge to work with a partner to develop a good partnership understanding and thus make the bidding easier.

It is really great to keep your brain active.

Dawn Cullen.

I really enjoy playing at QCBC. It is great socially and it gives me a much needed brain challenge.

Maurie Cullen

(Dawn and Maurie have been very helpful to aspiring bridge players, especially me. Joan Jenkins)

Here's Kim Ellaway's summary of the Gold Coast Congress.

The Gold Coast Congress was once again a great success. It would not be a success if it was not for the players who attend, the surrounding clubs who provide house pairs, substitutes, the sponsors and of course the wonderful staff of the Gold Coast Congress. There are too many to name but they know who they are. A list of Queensland winners will come out in due course however Andy Hung has done it again – he won the Open Teams – well done Andy.

Pele Rankin - The ABF Management Committee is pleased to announce the 2019 Australian Mixed Team to contest the APBF in Singapore and the World Championships in China. The team is Jodi Tutty – David Beauchamp – Renee Cooper – Ben Thompson – Pele Rankin – Stephen Fischer – Peter Hollands (NPC) - Congratulations to Pele Rankin

As promised - Queenslanders at the Gold Coast Congress - Congratulations to all. Apologies if I have missed anyone

Bobby Richman Pairs Winners – firsts and bests only mentioned

Open

Section G – Richard Wallis and Craig Francis (BBC & Toowong)

Best Queensland – Hugh and Diana McAlister (Townsville)

Seniors

Best Queensland – Randall Rusk and Andrew Dunlop (Caloundra)

Intermediate

Best Queensland – Joan Jenkins and Evelyn Mander (QCBC & QCBC)

Section B – Jenny Williams and Ian Barfoot (QCBC)

Restricted

April, May June, 2019

Best Queensland – David Earnshaw and Daniel Chua (Redlands)

Section F – Di Garside and Donna Finch (Townsville)

Novice

Best Queensland - Aijun Yang and Sameer Pandya (Toowong & Kenmore)

Section D – Wendy Casey and Barbara Moni (Toowong)

The two top Restricted Pairs who have been offered a subsidy to represent Queensland at the Melbourne ANC are David Earnshaw and Daniel Chua (Redlands) and Peter Goldman and Michael Main (Surfers)

Open Teams

First – Andy Hung in the winning team of James Coutts, Shane Harrison, Nabil Edgtton, Ellena Moskovsky, Liam Milne.

Best Queensland – Ian Afflick (Mackay), Paul Collins (QCBC), Ken Dawson (Coolum), Andrew Slater (NSBC)

Intermediate Teams

First – Eric Baker, Max Holewa and Diane Holewa from Mackay and Keith Blinco

Best Queensland – Jacqui Fardoulis, Jane Farquhar, Yolande Coroneo (NSBC), Laurie Skeate (Toowong)

Restricted Teams

First – Ian Bannister (QCBC) from Qld playing with Fran Martin, Jane O'Brien and Chris Hagen

Best Same Sex Team – Elaine Crommelin (NSBC), Barbara White (NSBC), Margaret Richards (NSBC), Jennifer Adam (NSBC)

Best Queensland – Geoff Saxby (Toowong), Jennifer Vickers (QCBC) , Aijun Yang (Toowong), Sameer Pandya (Toowong)

Novice Teams

Best Mixed – Andrew Sharp, Susan Sharp (Kenmore), Wendy Casey and Barbara Moni (Toowong)

The best Queensland Team in the Novice also wins free entry into the Spring National Restricted Teams and Restricted or Novice Pairs and this went to Andrew Sharps team mentioned above.

Weekend Matchpoint Swiss Pairs – Open Michael Pemberton (QCBC) (Qld) playing with Chris Ackerley

Weekend Matchpoint Swiss Pairs – 0-500 Linda Norman and Wendy Gibson (QCBC)

Monday Butler Swiss Pairs E/W – Greg Lee (QCBC) (Qld) playing with Alan Currie

Monday Butler Swiss Pairs 0-500 – Sonja Ramsund and Margaret Azar (Malanda)

Friday Novice Pairs – Gary Petterson and Laurie Bell (Surfers Paradise)

Sunday Rookies – N/S – Stephen and Louise Bennett (QCBC) E/W – Caroline Nelson and Felicity McKenzie (Toowong)

Thursday Rookies – N/S - Caroline Nelson and Felicity McKenzie (Toowong) E/W – Jenny and Keith Sanders (Toowong)

0-50 – one session – Upasana Shanti and Lynda Laffan (Caloundra)

0-50 Matchpoints two sessions – Jane Clitheroe and Barbara Dillner (Sunshine Coast)

Canberra 2019 - Rabbi's Rule etc

During the Canberra bridge congress, prolific writer and international representative Ron Klinger presented an award to youth player Matt Smith. In his accompanying speech, he mentioned the Rabbi's Rule, which ties in with his own Jewish heritage. This is a tongue-in-cheek rule that tells you that if the defence have the singleton king offside, you must drop it.

Note to up-and-coming players: don't be put off, the finesse (50-50 chance) is the standard play when you're missing the king - the Rabbi's method has a far lower chance of succeeding. However, a smart player knows when to use a different approach, and my Canberra partner Nik Moore proved adept at applying the Rabbi's Rule.



Richard Fox

Rabbi's Rule 1

The normal bidding would be something like a 1D opening from East, 1S from West, East a clear minimum raise to 2S. West may stretch to invite game, or North-South may find their heart fit and push them to 3S. 4S by East-West is a bit pushy, and would normally go down when you make the best percentage play of finessing spades.

Dealer N Nil Vul SWPT match 6 board 1	♠ 9 7 3 ♥ A 10 9 2 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ Q J 8	2S by E JD lead
♠ Q J 10 8 6 ♥ Q 5 ♦ A 2 ♣ 6 4 3 2		♠ A 5 4 2 ♥ J 6 ♦ K Q 10 9 ♣ A 9 7
	♠ K ♥ K 8 7 4 3 ♦ 6 5 4 3 ♣ K 10 5	

It was different with Nik at the helm. In our system we open 1C with a minimum balanced hand, and respond with a transfer 1H showing 4 or more spades (similar principle to transfers after a 1NT opening). Then on this hand Nik accepted the transfer with 2S, showing he actually had 4-card support. I didn't think game was likely and non-vul doesn't merit stretching too much, so 2S it was.

The defence started by winning 2 hearts and then played a club, flushing out the ace. Nik saw a slight potential hassle if he finessed trumps, lost and ran into some sort of club ruff or a bad diamond split. He'd probably still have got home,

but he played it ultra-safe, choosing to go for ace and another spade to kill any potential ruffing

trouble. This is typical Teams play, where making sure of your contract outweighs chasing overtricks.

When Nick banged his spade ace on the table, pro player Michael Prescott brought his card out face down, grunted "Have to hold my cards back" and revealed the singleton king. After this triumph for the Rabbi, Nik threw a couple of clubs on the diamonds when the jack fell, and he wrapped up 10 tricks.

At the other table, our team-mates defended the pushy 4 Spades, beating the contract when their declarer took the normal finesse. There you go, you make more tricks in 2S than 4S.

Rabbi's Rule 2

In the Swiss Pairs, Nik and I faced Malcolm Carter and Tony Hutton, a strong pair who give us more than enough trouble in Queensland congresses, and in Canberra we still couldn't dodge them.

This time Nik was West and opened a strong 1NT after 3 passes. Malcolm as North came in with a natural 2S overcall, and I competed with a take-out double. Nik liked his maximum hand and good fit and jumped all the way to 4H. The queen of spades went round to Nik's ace; remember you couldn't really see the N-S cards - what would you do next?

Dealer N Nil Vul Swiss Pairs round 5 board 1	♠ Q J 9 8 6 2 ♥ K ♦ K 7 6 4 ♣ 4 3	4H by W QS lead
♠ A K 10 4 ♥ A Q 7 4 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 10 6		♠ 5 ♥ 10 8 5 2 ♦ 9 8 2 ♣ A Q J 8 2
	♠ 7 3 ♥ J 9 6 3 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ K 9 7 5	

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	2S	X	Pass
4H	All Pass		

A careful look at the hearts shows that you're losing one trick whatever you do, barring the miracle of KJ doubleton with South. In a lot of similar situations, it's a good plan to try the ace and see if anything good happens; the jack or king may drop singleton, saving you from an annoying

losing finesse. If nothing appears, typically your next move would be to cross to dummy and lead small to hand, beating South's card. This covers a lot of arrangements ensuring only one loser, except the ones where you're doomed anyway, such as KJx in the North hand. An extra factor was the shortage of entries to my hand.

Anyway, Nik did indeed cash the ace and, lo and behold, Malcolm produced the king. Nik's next move was to take the club finesse, which not altogether surprisingly lost. Tony sent another spade through, but Nik carried on playing clubs which Malcolm was unable to ruff, getting rid of his diamonds. In the end he had to lose a couple of trump tricks along with the club king, finishing up as one of only two declarers in the event to bid and make 4H.

Eliminating the Impossible

I could almost say our bidding went off the rails, but that's a bit harsh. I opened 1S, Nik replied 2H game force, and I went 3D showing extras (points or distribution). Nik used Minorwood 4D asking for keycards, I showed two with 4NT and Nik chose 6NT as the final contract, figuring the various long suits gave me a number of options. Unfortunately the heart and spade spot cards left something to be desired.

Without looking at the N-S cards, North led the 3C - your plan?

Dealer W All Vul SWPT match 4 board 20	<p>♠ J 7 6 4</p> <p>♥ Q</p> <p>♦ 7 5 4</p> <p>♣ Q 7 5 3 2</p>	6NT by W 3C lead
<p>♠ K 9 8 5 3</p> <p>♥ J 4</p> <p>♦ A K J 6 3</p> <p>♣ 8</p>		<p>♠ Q</p> <p>♥ A K 7 6 5 3</p> <p>♦ 10 9 2</p> <p>♣ A K J</p>
	<p>♠ A 10 2</p> <p>♥ 10 9 8 2</p> <p>♦ Q 8</p> <p>♣ 10 9 6 4</p>	

It basically comes down to a piece of philosophy from Sherlock Holmes, "when you have eliminated the impossible..." I had to look for every possible chance of making the slam, while guarding against going down lots in case the other table were also in a shaky slam going down.

I could only afford to lose the spade ace, leaving me one spade trick. Then 3 clubs if the finesse worked, 5 diamonds if that finesse worked, and only 2 hearts (even if the queen drops

singleton or doubleton there's a loser). Ooops, that's still only 11 unless someone makes wrong discards or gets squeezed.

First things first, club finesse needs to work or I'm toast. Yay, the jack held, one hurdle passed.

I played the queen of spades, hoping the person with the ace held up. That's what happened, and I strongly suspected the ace was in South with pro player Michael Wilkinson. To my mind he was almost forced to duck, to make me use up an entry to hand before clearing my spades, and he didn't know I was missing both the jack and 10. Unbeknown to him, this sealed his fate as my spades weren't as good as he feared.

Another hurdle, run the diamond 10 with fingers crossed. That worked too, and I was pretty confident North wasn't playing some king of cunning game holding up the queen. Now I took the two top clubs, as I couldn't get back to them later - bit scary if someone won a trick and had clubs to cash.

Back to the diamonds, the queen came up from South on the second round and as I played the other three I watched what was discarded. North just got rid of her remaining low clubs and South threw one too; no need to worry about them any more. South next threw the spade 10, which caused him some pain, and after some deep thought he binned a small heart. That looked promising - was he getting squeezed?

After all that, these are your cards with West to play. You try a small heart to the ace and the queen pops up from North, 8 from South. What now?

♠ K 9		♠
♥ J 4		♥ A K 7 6
♦		♦
♣		♣

I convinced myself the queen was a singleton, no way North was fooling, so Michael still had the ♥10 9 left, and evidently the ♠A. Another top heart would give South the last two tricks, so I played a small heart back to the jack and Michael conceded, as he'd seen what was coming. A spade to his now bare ace would force him to play a heart for me.

He speculated as to what sort of squeeze this was - I think it

would be classed as a stepping-stone squeeze.

One Day GNOT Qualifiers

P. Bugler, T. Bardon, P&J. Evans
J. Magee, Terry Strong, P. Rankin, P. Hooykaas
A. Gibson, B. Patterson, A. Dawson, E. Zeller

Sign outside a Funeral Home

Drive Carefully We'll Wait