

QCBC Newsletter



QCBC Clubhouse, 67 Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba, QLD 4102

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

Inside This Issue

- 1) From the President
- 2) Recent Congress Successes
- 3) Cruise stories
- 4) Restricted Choice by Chris Woolley
- 5) The Lucrative Signboard
- 6) Notes from Canberra Congress
- 7) Coming Events
- 8) Hand Analysis by Andy Smirnov
- 9) Wishes Come True by Patrick Bugler

Improvers Lessons With Tony Treloar

Series 1: Declarer Play

- March 6 – Winning tricks
- March 20 – Planning the play
- April 3 – When to draw trumps and when not to
- April 17 – Card play at No Trumps

Lessons start at 6.45 pm
and go for half an hour.

Lessons are free



Stay and play in
the Wednesday
evening session



President's Report Monica Pritchard

We were all shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Michael Corner recently. Michael has been a significant figure around QCBC for decades.

He has partnered scores of our members, directed regularly at club sessions, was a member of the Board of Directors and well known as a club member with an absolute passion for bridge. We heard the news of his death towards the end of the Gold Coast Congress. I am sure that Michael would have broken out one of his big beaming smiles had he heard the many stories told in which he figured and been aware of the extent to which the news of his death affected the bridge playing community. **He will be sadly missed.**

The Gold Coast Congress was memorable too for the success of so many QCBC members, particularly those moving up through the ranks. That success is a testament to the high standard of bridge played at the club and the generosity of our more experienced and successful members in shaping the skills of the rest of us.

The other aspect of QCBC which makes me so proud is the fact that we are at the forefront of addressing sexism in Bridge. No longer should we hear the patronising term 'the ladies in the kitchen'. Last Friday I counted *five* men in the kitchen assisting with the cleanup. Fantastic!

Monica

The Arana Open SwissTeams held on Sunday 17th February was very popular and hotly contested.

Winners were A. Hung/A. Smirnov, P. Hooykaas/P. Rankin

2nd were N. Francis/M. Moren, N. Van Jole/S. Kamalarasa

3rd were P&J. Evans with C. Howard/K. Wood



A. Dawson/E. Zeller with
C. Francis/T. Runting won the plate.

D. O’Gorman/J. Jeffries and
L. Ranke/J. Rohde won the Consolation.



Maurie Cullen and Roberta Tait



On a recent cruise to New Zealand, **Maurie Cullen** was fortunate to pair up with **Roberta Tait** and win the competition. Dawn Cullen and Joan Jenkins were second. Unfortunately, there was no prize.

Lots of interesting people competed and one player told the story of, when an undergraduate at Oxford in the 60s, being persuaded to play with a mature lady in a Tuesday night competition - and doing very well in the partnership. At the end of the evening, the opponents announced, ‘Well, we’d better settle up.’ The young student went white when he learned that they’d been playing for a pound a point. Although his half of the more than 3000 pound winnings set him up for the rest of his university studies, he declined to repeat the experience even when his partner assured him that she would stake him for any losses.



Dawn Cullen

I enjoyed another cruise story from **Caroline Collie** about entering a congress with an unknown partner who had identified herself as very experienced. On perusing the first hand of the match, partner raised her hand and called out, ‘Director!’ perplexing Collette. When the Director appeared, partner asked, ‘What would I bid with this?’ Uh-oh.



Caroline Collie

Margaret Leahy Trophy

Margaret Leahy directed Monday night sessions for many years during the 1980's and 90's. She was very encouraging to new players and used handicaps to give beginners a chance to win prize money.

The Margaret Leahy Trophy is run over six Monday evenings. The winner is the player with the highest aggregate score of their best 4 out of 6 results. New players are encouraged and given a chance in the fewer than 50 masterpoint section.

The 2013 results are:

- 1st: Larry Moses
- 2nd: Tony Treloar

Players with fewer than 50 masterpoints:
Equal 1st: Greg Kerswell and Alan Anderson

The Million Dollar Sign

The new sign is worth a million dollars to the club over the next twenty years. Well done!



Masterpoints Promotions

January:	Bowler, Lynne	Graduate
February:	Larter, Ian	Club
	Parkins, Hazel	Club
	Ferguson, Val	State *Regional
	Chotai, Veena	National *Life
	Ranke, Lex	Life *National
	Rohde, Jack	Life *National
	Nilsson, Deborah	Bronze Life – Life
	Perl, Judy	Grand – Gold Life



Euphoric in Warwick - More adventures from Monica Pritchard

I have long wanted to play in the Warwick congress, if for no other reason than to use that heading.

This year I did get the opportunity when Alan Boyce asked me to partner him.

At day's end I was genuinely euphoric as

- a. my partner tuned up (this does not always happen.....I don't know why)
- b. we did not get lost (this does not always happen.....I don't know why)
- c. everyone loved my music mix and my singing (this does not always happen.....I don't know why)
- d. I came away with more money than I took (this does not always happen...I don't know why).



What's happening when their choice is restricted?

By Chris Woolley

According to one version of this story there's an American TV game show where a successful contestant eventually reaches the final stage where she can win a brand new car if she can choose which of three doors the car is behind. Choose the wrong door and the contestant goes home with nothing.

After the contestant chooses one of the doors, in an effort to add to the suspense, the host who knows where the car is, opens one of the other doors and of course, no car. The host then asks the contestant if she would like to stay with her original choice or switch to the other unopened door. Should she stay with her original choice, change to the other unopened door, or is it a 50/50 proposition?

For a while, everybody including the sponsors thought it was a toss of a coin situation. However very soon those who had a knowledge of **Bayes' Law and the Principle of Restricted Choice** asserted that in fact the choices were not equal. If the contestant now changed to the other unopened door, she had twice the chance of winning the car than if she remained with her original choice. Some contract bridge players knew that too.

There are several card combinations where the Principle of Restricted Choice may be applied. A common one is where you hold AT865 opposite K974 in dummy. All else being equal you should start by playing to drop the Q and J, hoping the outstanding cards are split 2-2. However, what do you do if you play the ace and the queen or jack appears on your right? Do you continue hoping to drop the other honour or try a different tack and finesse?

To answer these questions we need to consider how the outstanding cards may be distributed. There are many possibilities of course: Q3 opposite J2, QJ3 opposite 2, and so on, making a total of sixteen possibilities in all. However the three that are of interest to us are shown in the following table.

LHO	RHO
Q32	J
J32	Q
32	QJ

In each case RHO will play one of the missing honours. However in two of the three cases his choice is restricted to the singleton honour he holds. Therefore finessing the nine next time will succeed almost twice as often as playing for the drop. I have to say 'almost' because the exact odds are actually 6.22 to 3.39. If you need further explanation regarding the precise odds, talk to a mathematician because I think the odds are exactly 2-1. The bottom line is if an honour appears, that player is most likely to have a singleton.

As to why the contestant would improve her chances by changing doors, it is fair to say that little has created more controversy in recent times. Google **Monty Hall** to see what I mean. Far greater minds than mine have tried to come up with a convincing explanation as to why the contestant should change doors and most have failed miserably.

Nevertheless the explanation that I like goes something like this. When the contestant chooses one of three doors, she has a one in three chance ($p = 1/3$) of the car being behind that door, and

March, 2013

two chances in three ($p = \frac{2}{3}$) of the car being behind one of the other two doors. However when the host opens one of those other doors (remember he knows where the car is so his choice is restricted) those probabilities do not, I repeat do not change. There are still two chances in three ($p = \frac{2}{3}$) that the car is behind one of the doors not chosen by the contestant, and one of them is open. So there is a two in three chance ($p = \frac{2}{3}$) that the car is behind the remaining unopened door. The contestant will improve her chances by changing doors.

If that explanation doesn't quite cut it, try substituting a ten-door problem where the contestant chooses one door and the host opens eight of the remaining doors (no car appears again of course) and then asks the contestant if she wants to stay with her original choice or change to the other unopened door. In the first instance the contestant can choose any one of ten doors and so has a one in ten chance of being correct. That doesn't change when the host opens the other eight doors. There is a nine in ten chance that the car is behind one of the nine doors she didn't choose but this time eight of those doors open. Most agree now that changing doors is the winning strategy.

However if you've read this far and still don't follow the explanation, just remember that if an honour appears in the situation described, and if a finesse is still an option, remember the Nike ad and just do it.

QCBC 2013 BRISBANE ZONE KNOCKOUT TEAMS

Your opportunity to earn GOLD POINTS playing within your Club

SESSIONS: **10.30am – THURSDAYS 14, 21 & 28 MARCH**
ENTRY FEE: \$120 per team (NO table fees)
ENTRIES CLOSE: Wednesday noon - 13 March
SYSTEMS: Red, Blue, Green & Brown sticker conventions & treatments
A team may comprise 4 to 6 players.

Continuation from club elimination rounds to area finals is not compulsory, but teams must nominate either as a contending or non-contending team at the commencement of their club qualifying event."

A player may play in more than one area and/or in more than one team within an area even if they overlap so long as they are not playing or substituting in two teams that are both contending for a place in the area finals.

If a team qualifies in the top 3 of the zone finals, the team must go to the finals.

Club qualifiers receive free entry to the zone finals on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September at Brisbane Bridge Centre, 9.30am start.

The top 3 teams from the zone final play in the national finals in Tweed Heads, 29/11 to 2/12 2013.

**GNOT comp also being held - Thursdays PM, 9, 16, 23 May
& 2 session GNOT - Sunday 5 May (at least 8 teams needed to run this new event)**

Kate's Rules to Live by Number 11

When you know what's trump, tell partner. S/he makes better decisions when s/he knows.



Report on the January Summer Festival of Bridge – Canberra by Joan Jenkins

I finally experienced some of the excitement of the Canberra Festival. I played in the open teams (well above my standard), four days of three twenty-board matches, which turned my brain to mush by the final day. I'm agog at the endurance of competitors who played solidly for ten days or more. This was the first time I had used bidding boxes and I quite enjoyed it.



Although I missed expert sessions run by Joan Butz, I attended sessions by Ron Klinger, David Beauchamp and Matt Mullamphy. Klinger's presentation was titled **High-level Competitive Decisions**. It was loaded with good advice on when to double a contract (when opponents have stolen your contract) and when not to (when it's NOT your hand; when they have arrived at a ridiculous contract but will run if you double). It was also peppered with amusing pithy statements:



Away from the table you're a nice person; at the table you want the opposition to suffer.

If you can't bear to be wrong, Bridge is a terrible game to play.

Top players love to bid a lot and they think they can walk on water; and we like to see them drown.

Being vulnerable just means it hurts more when you're wrong.

David Beauchamp's presentation was on **Bidding Decisions**. He went through various options available on different hands.

Matt Mullamphy dealt with **Bidding against Pre-empts**. He presented several responses to pre-empts at the two, three and four levels. He had three main messages:

- Better partnership understandings mean less guessing.
- Make the most of cue bids to show two or more places to play.
- Be brave against pre-empts. Bid more when you have shortage in their suit.

Coming Events

Wednesday 6, 20 March; 3, 17 April - 6.45PM to 7.15PM Free sessions for Improving Players.

Saturday March 10 Toowong - Novice Swiss Butler Pairs

Monday March 11 Autumn Swiss Pairs

Thursday 14, 21, 28 March - GNOT AM

Saturday 23, Sunday 24 March, Saturday 6, Sunday 7 April - Open Trials

Saturday 13, Sunday 14, Saturday 27 April - Womens and Seniors Trials

Sunday 31 March, Monday 1 April - BBC Easter Pairs and Graded Teams

Sunday 14 April - Redlands Novice Teams

Thursday 25 April - QCBC Anzac Teams

Andy Smirnov kindly allowed the reproduction of this hand from his January 5th Masterclass at QCBC.

N/E-W	♠AQT76 ♥J ♦J65 ♣KJ64	
♠92 ♥AQ92 ♦K3 ♣AQT07		♠K53 ♥KT863 ♦QT2 ♣52
	♠J84 ♥754 ♦A9874 ♣84	

W	N	E	S
-	1♠	Pass	2♦
Dbl	Pass	3♥①	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

3♥① = Natural with values
Lead ♠4 (or ♣8)



Bidding:

Here is a very common situation where the opponents have opened 1♠ and raised to 2♠, followed by a takeout double from our side. It is very useful to be playing a conventional 2NT here such as “two places to play”.

Firstly, “two places to play” is a more frequent hand type than natural.

Secondly, it is more practical than “both minors”.

And **thirdly**, sometimes it is more efficient than “lebensohl” as the ability to differentiate strengths becomes less useful due to the low probability of a making game given that both sides have been bidding.

However, the modern bridge philosophy is trending towards lighter openings and responses when the vulnerability is right, so once in a while you might have a game stolen from you (typically a heart game against the opponents’ spades). To counter this, here is a treatment for the above scenario (opponents have opened 1♠ and raised to 2♠) where you get a bit of both worlds – that is, you can get to the right part score but also find out if you have enough values for a game in hearts. After a double of the 2♠ raise, you can play:

2NT = (a) 2 places to play or (b) a weak hand with hearts.

Partner first assumes the former and bids 3♣ or 3♦ accordingly.

Over 3♣: If 3♦ is bid over 3♣, this shows a ‘2 places to play’ with diamonds and hearts.

If 3♥ is bid over 3♣, this shows a weak hand with hearts.

Over 3♦: If 3♥ is bid over 3♦, this shows either a weak hand with hearts or a ‘2 places to play’ with hearts and clubs(it doesn’t really matter which one it is since the 3♦ bidder, having chosen to bid 3♦, suggests they prefer diamonds and hearts).

So why is this any different from any other conventions?

1. This a very common scenario and you really want to be able to find the correct part score to play in.
2. Not only that, but sometimes you have a game in hearts and you want to find out about it!
3. It isn’t so important to be able to differentiate the strength when you hold a (4)5+ minor because with both of the opponents bidding, you usually don’t have enough power/HCP to contract for 3NT or 5 of a minor.

Play: Declarer just requires either black suit finesse to succeed in the 4♥ contract.



Wishes Come True: the Luck of the Irish - by Patrick Bugler

This hand came up in Canberra in the last round recently.

I held	S AKJ	My partner held	S Q865
	H AQ10985		H 42
	D 6		D Q42
	C A53		C J972

I am in 4H reluctantly. My partner had a D mixed in with his Hs hence I got a 2H response to my 1H opening which I took to 4H. ***I had a quick look to the heavens and made 2 quick wishes, one was the D was actually a H and the other was I was about to get a serious drowning in Irish luck.*** As my eyes returned to the table the first wish didn't happen but one never knows, the 2nd wish was still alive. I only have one entry to dummy, the SQ. I also have 2 C losers, 1 D and at least one heart, on a good day!

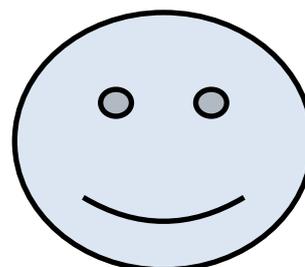
I got a small D lead taken by the K. S10 back taken by my Ace as I needed to keep the J as an entry into dummy for later on, hoping for a 3/3 break in that suit.

Here goes, bang down the HA and hope for an honour to fall, either will do. The K fell, ye ha! I then played HQ followed by H10, won by the HJ. I won the D return, drew the last trump, then played the SJ overtaking in dummy to set up the S8 for a C discard.

My 2nd wish came up trumps. Phew.

The whole hand was

	<u>North</u>	
	S AKJ	
	H AQ10985	
	D 6	
	C A53	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
S 1073		S 942
H K		H J763
D AK10952		D J83
C Q106		C K84
	<u>South</u>	
	S Q865	
	H 42	
	D Q74	
	C J972	



Diligence is the mother of good luck. Benjamin Franklin