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## December 2024

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### Meet The President



We all know Annette as a Bridge player, but we don't know much about her as a person. Now that she is President of QCBC I asked her for a bit more detail for the members and here it is.

Annette is a dyed-in-the-wool Brisbanite. Her first profession was Occupational Therapy in which she holds a degree. She also holds a Master of Administration with a major in public policy. Annette worked in management roles for the Commonwealth Public Service for 13 years. She then combined her skills as a manager and an occupational therapist to lead a range of not-for-profit agencies; with particular focus on working with general practitioners and community aged care.

"Bridge was an early interest of mine" she said, "but I put too much of myself into my work to be able to make much progress". As a retired person she has finally "been able to focus a bit more on Bridge. I am making slow but steady progress. I teach beginners classes and coordinate the mentoring sessions; both of which help me to focus on the fundamentals of bridge". I have been on the QCBC Board now for two years and have been President for the past year" she

said. "My priorities for the Board and the Club are outlined in the President's Report which was circulated to members prior to the October AGM".

On a personal note, Annette is close to her mother who is doing amazingly well at age 101! Annette loves her house, garden and is totally besotted with her two rescue dogs: Zara, a Jack Russell and Bobby, a greyhound. She loves travel and enjoys reminiscing about her sojourns. Annette puts in a sustained effort to stay fit and well. Are you surprised to know that Annette sings in a community choir?

### Director's Corner

Things We All Can Do (and Should Do) to Help the Club Director

There are plenty of things we can all do to help the club director: only lead and bid at our turn; ensure all our bids are legal; play to time; follow suit when we can; explain our partner's bids accurately when asked; alert when appropriate; and always maintain a courteous manner. Apart from the last, this is not always possible, we all make mistakes. Here are a few simple things we can all do to make the job of the club director that little bit easier.

Arrive a little early. I don't mean an hour and a half early, but comfortably before the session is due to start. I realise that the traffic surrounding QCBC can make this a little challenging sometimes, but everyone should aim to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the session. Late arrivals can often affect the movement which can make for some hasty rearranging. Please phone ahead if you know that you might be a little late.

Find a place and sit there when the session is close to starting. Sometimes as a director it is hard to recognise half tables as people are moving around, socialising, getting coffee etc. I like to introduce the session 10-15 minutes before the start. Now is the time to let me know if you have a half table, or if you aren't certain whether your partner is coming.

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Take care when entering scores into the Bridgmate and when checking. If a score does go in incorrectly, then you can **correct it yourself** on the Bridgmate, unless you have moved onto the next round. If you have seen a score from an earlier round you suspect might be incorrect, please wait before the end of the round to tell the director, if possible.

Make your opening lead face down. Not only does this give your partner the opportunity to ask any questions they may have about the auction, but it also gives everyone the chance to stop you from leading out of turn.

When the director is called try to be concise about the nature of the call. It usually helps if only one person explains the problem. If you disagree with what is being said or have something to clarify, the director will give you a chance to have your say. Try and remember that the director was not at the table to see and hear what happened, so must rely on what they are told. This can be very difficult if accounts differ, so please be patient if the director makes a decision which seems to favour your opponents.

Finally (and most importantly), remember bridge is a leisure pursuit and exists to be enjoyed by all who participate.

**Tony Treloar**

## Teacher's Corner

### From Learner to Novice in the main club room

There are a few things you'll notice when you first venture into the main club games

- Speed of play
- Claiming
- Director calls
- System cards
- Hand printouts
- Alerts and announcements

It will take a little while to get used to all this, but everyone was a novice once. If you have a mentor when you first try out the other room, they can help you with all this.

### Speed of Play

The pace of play is quicker than lessons and supervised play. This can take a bit of time to get used to, and while you're learning you sometimes must "make your mistakes quickly" if the hand is too difficult to work out on the spot. Opponents won't mind you going off in your contract, but

they may get stroppy if you make them 10 minutes late for the next round.

### Claiming

Experienced players will usually claim when they know they have all the remaining tricks, or there's just one to lose unavoidably. This is correct procedure, because it's a bit rude to make the poor defenders rack their brains over what on earth to discard when you know it doesn't make any difference.

If you claim, the procedure is to show your cards and state your line of play unless it's irrelevant e.g. "I'll draw the last trump, then the clubs are all good". Always say if there's a trump out, otherwise it may be ruled that you could have forgotten about it and could lose a trick to it.

Tip for more experienced players: sometimes it's best to play a few more cards rather than claim too early for a new player to understand your explanation.

### Leading Face Down

When the bidding has finished and it's your lead, correct procedure is to place your lead face down. This is partner's chance to ask questions about the bidding - he/she isn't meant to ask before the lead in case it gives you undeserved guidance. Once partner has asked any questions or just acknowledged they are ready, you turn the lead face-up and dummy is exposed.

If you've accidentally led when it was partner's turn, you'll be very pleased your lead was face down!

### Calling the Director

If something goes wrong during play e.g. someone revokes, there's a lead or bid out of turn, or someone tries to claim and makes a mistake the director should be called. Don't be put off by this; it doesn't mean you're in trouble or anything. It's all done to restore the rightful result or as near as possible.

### System Cards

Once you start playing club sessions and competitions you are required to have a system card to disclose what your agreements are. At the start there will be a lot of blank spaces, but you'll have a no-trump range, you may or may not be using transfers, you may play weak twos etc. If you play a mentor game early on the mentor should be able to help you with this or ask in the lessons. The system card is very handy if you fix up a game with a new partner or mentor, as you can show them your card and say, "I play this" and hopefully they will fit in with you.

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## Hand Printouts

After the session you can get a sheet with printouts of all the hands you played. If you and your partner had a bidding mix-up this can be handy to figure out what you should have done. The printouts also show you for convenience how many points each hand contained, and they show what contract the computer could have made by peeking at every hand. It's a rough guide to what contract you should have reached, but far from gospel. Remember the computer always guesses right - we can't do that, so it has an unfair advantage.

## Alerts and Announcements

In all the official games there's a protocol for bids that may not mean literally the suit you've named, or a requirement to automatically tell the opponents what it means.

### Announcements:

When partner opens 1 C, say "Three plus" unless you have a different agreement. Some people open with less than 3, some with 4 (Acol, the common British system), and some with other meanings.

When partner opens 1 NT, say "15 to 17", again unless you have a different agreement.

### Alerts:

Any bid that can have less than 3 cards in the suit, and doesn't mean you want to play there, should be "alerted". You do this by saying "Alert" and drawing a circle round partner's bid as soon as they make it or use the Alert card.

For new players the most likely alertable bids are:

- Transfer bids e.g. 2 D showing hearts, nothing to do with diamonds
- 2 C opening bid, usually a super-strong hand but may not even have any clubs.
- 2 D response to strong opening (usually happens) showing a weak hand and not necessarily any diamonds
- Stayman 2 C isn't alerted if the bidding is just 1 NT-2 C because it's taken as read. However, technically the 2 D answer to Stayman denying a major is alertable.
- If you play Stayman over a 2 NT opening that does need an alert. Also, if partner's 1 NT bid was an overcall and you play Stayman in this situation, then it is alertable.

As per Australian regulations, bidding the opponents' suit is not alertable, and doubles are not alerted. Also, once the bidding is past 3 NT there are no alerts, such as for ace-asking bids and the answers.

## Asking Questions About Bids

If you need to know what the opponent's bid means you can ask their partner when it's your turn to bid or lead. It is bad form to ask when you know you're not going to do anything; just wait until the bidding is over and ask for a review of everything.

## Richard Fox

## From The Club

This month I thought it would be useful just to re-state expectations for our "day to day" operation. We love our club and we're all proud of our reputation as Queensland's premier club, but we can do better!

Here's a reminder of some of the things we can do better to improve the environment of our club. It's important to say these because we all need be part of achieving a positive playing environment, one that is welcoming for all players and allows players to concentrate fully on the game.

The player sitting North should be in charge of the table (and helped by everyone). North/South should lead by example by welcoming the East-West players to the table, preferably by name. Please keep an eye on the time and remind players to maintain an even tempo when playing. If, with three minutes to go in the round and bidding hasn't started on the final board, please call the Director and do not proceed with that board without permission.

During bidding and play please keep chatter to a minimum so that the focus remains on the game. Players should talk softly and only when necessary. Avoid mentioning scores and contracts (especially slams!). Please do not disturb players at other tables by loud and/or unnecessary talk. All players can ask for less talk or a softer voice.

Rudeness and abuse will not be tolerated at QCBC. Please call the Director in the first instance if you are unhappy with the way you, or anyone, is being treated. If the matter is more serious or difficult to deal with, particularly persistent rudeness or abuse, you should confidentially report the matter to our Club's Recorder, Richard Ward. Please feel safe to report abuse knowing that your confidentiality is protected by the Clubs Complaints and Whistleblower Policies which are available online at: <https://www.qcbc.org.au>

As a courtesy to others please wear a name badge so that they can confidently address you by name. I notice that quite a few members do not

wear badges. If you have lost your badge, or do not have one, please let Toni know and she can put in a bulk order soon. Also, please remember that mobile phones can disrupt play. They should be turned off or switched to silent before play. If you need to be contactable, tell the director and you will be allowed to keep your phone on. Please remember to switch your phone to silent if you have it in your bag, ringing bags are annoying too!

Finally, let's all do our best to always keep the club as tidy as possible. Put your personal belongings in or on the white hatches under the West window. Cleaning and tidy your table at the end of the session: push in your chair; close your bidding box; remove your rubbish; and take any cups and glasses into the kitchen. Your help in keeping the club and the kitchen clean and tidy is expected and appreciated. And we want to see the men do their fair share too.

Let's all do everything we can to keep QCBC a friendly, happy and successful club, to which we are all proud to belong!

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Monday 16 Dec	7 pm Red Points
Sunday 22 Dec	QCBC Christmas Pairs *
Tuesday 24 Dec	<b>CLOSED</b>
Wednesday 25 Dec	<b>CLOSED</b>
Thursday 26 Dec	Boxing Day Red Points
Tuesday 31 Dec	New Years Eve Teams (2-6pm)*
Sunday 12 Jan	QCBC Open & Novice Pairs *

\* Entry & information on MYABF

### Editor

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Contributions should be by email (preferred)

## Happy Snaps

Some photos from Melbourne Cup Day 😊







