



THE QBA BULLETIN

Published by the Queensland Bridge Association January-February 2002 Volume 28 No
www.qldbridge.com Email: qldbridge@pop.ozemail.com.au

Interclub Teams

THE interclub teams was held at QCBC on Sunday 9 December, and although it was a disappointing roll-up of only 6 teams in the Open and Novice and 7 teams in the 50 to 300, it was a good day for all concerned.

Northern Suburbs emerged the winner from Redlands, a new participant. I played for BBC partnering Therese Tully and teaming with Peter Hainsworth and Ralph Parker.

Dir E	♠ —
Vul EW	♥ K10
	♦ K52
	♣ KJ1097432
♠ 10984	♠ QJ632
♥ 3	♥ Q8762
♦ A10983	♦ 74
♣ A65	♣ Q
	♠ AK75
	♥ AJ954
	♦ QJ6
	♣ 8

On this board in match 2, against the eventual winners, East opened with 2S, to show a weak 5-5, with spades the only known suit, and Therese bid a practical 3H. West had an easy 4S bid, and I thought that my 8-card suit deserved to be bid at least once, and my 5C finished the auction. East led the SQ, which I won on the table and led a club, West correctly playing low. This might look like a pure guess, but I expected East to have led a diamond with a singleton and 2 trumps, so it looked like East had a singleton club, and the only one that would do me any good was the CQ, so I played the CK and was duly rewarded. Of course, without the bidding from East showing at least 10 cards in 2 suits, it is not as easy. The 3NT contract at the other table had the same problem to solve, but the inference from the no diamond lead would not have been available, and went 1 off.

On board 19 from the same match I opened 1S after Therese and West

Dir S	♠ AQJ852
Vul EW	♥ 53
	♦ 43
	♣ A72
♠ K73	♠ 6
♥ QJ94	♥ K107
♦ A652	♦ KJ1087
♣ 98	♣ Q1064
	♠ 1094
	♥ A862
	♦ Q9
	♣ KJ53

passed, and Therese made a limit bid of 3S, which I took to game. This is not a good contract, requiring both black finesses to work, but fortune favours the brave (sometimes) and 10 tricks were made for +6 IMPS when our opponents at the other table stopped in 2S for the same 10 tricks.

Luck was not always with us as evidenced by board 8 in match 3. I was sitting North and after 2 passes, East opened 1S, Therese doubled and West bid 1NT. I bid 2C, East emphasized the

Dir W	♠ 965
Vul None	♥ 32
	♦ K2
	♣ Q76532
♠ 32	♠ AJ10874
♥ Q1076	♥ A984
♦ Q964	♦ A105
♣ AJ9	♣ —
	♠ KQ
	♥ KJ5
	♦ J873
	♣ K1084

spades with 3S which West raised to 4S. Declarer won the club lead with the ace and took the spade finesse, which lost, and Therese led another club. Declarer could now play a heart to dummy (and cannot guess wrong) to take the spade finesse again, but instead just laid down the ace and was rewarded when the K fell. At the other table, Ralph was in 4H, and with safe entries to the table was able to take the spade finesse twice, so finished 1 down and 10 IMPS away.

■ Richard Wallis

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Cuppaidge's Column

Good Living

TO many players, opening light is as reprehensible as cheating at patience. Spare me from these people. Life is just so much easier if your team gets in the first blow. What contortions they must undergo to "catch up"!

Witness this horror.

♠ 432
♥ J7
♦ AKJ3
♣ QJ76

♠ AKQJ10
♥ K64
♦ 654
♣ 53

North passes. Ugh! And you, South, decide to open a weak 2S. There can't be game for you can there? Not when partner has passed. Certainly not after one of my "opening passes." So you try to keep the bidding simple; partner catches up with 4S.

West leads the D2. Despite your massive opening bid and partner's massive hand, your prospects look bleak. Oh that he had opened 1C, you had explored for a spade game and settled for 3NT. An auction like 1C-1S; 1NT-3NT appeals to me as Jx in hearts suggests a NT contract ahead of 4S. But as someone said, the play's the thing. How do you go about the task in hand?

You naturally hope the hearts to be frozen (whichever side has to broach the suit will cost itself a trick) and that West holds ♦Qxxx; likely from his lead. You lead a trump to hand, note an ominous S9 on your left but play a club anyway. Dummy's CQ loses to the CK and East returns another spade, West discarding a small heart. Another club up and West takes his CA and exits with a low diamond. You can't defer it any longer, you put in the DJ and East follows with the D10.

That's still only 9 tricks, 5 spades, 3 diamonds and 1 club, so you do what you always do in these situations, play out *all* your trumps.

Miracle, miracle, West began with 1-4-4-4 shape and the HA so there is nothing he can do, in fact, realizing he can't let go a card in either minor, and not expecting you to hold HK for your weak 2, he discards the HA. Now your HK squeezes him in the minors and you make 5. Thank you partner for giving me such a fun hand to play. For the money, let's play 3NT next time though.

The whole hand

		♠ 432	
		♥ J7	
		♦ AKJ3	
		♣ QJ76	
♠ 9	N	♠ 8765	E
♥ A852	W	♥ Q1093	S
♦ Q982		♦ 107	
♣ A982		♣ K104	
		♠ AKQJ10	
		♥ K64	
		♦ 654	
		♣ 53	

It's nice to play in a game where the cards are friendly. The next hand, from the same session was another extreme case.

Holding

♠K5 ♥AJ864 ♦AJ8762 ♣—

You open 1H. (I do anyway, no matter what certain theorists may say about which suit to open. I find *always* opening the higher ranking of any two 5+ card suits works for me. I haven't done it with a 5-8 yet but I'm waiting.)

It goes 2C on your left and partner bids 2H. Of course you bid 4H but feel suspicious when it is passed out. West leads the SA.

Dummy really is bad.

♠1032 ♥953 ♦Q4 ♣K10963

West continues with another spade and your K wins. You lead a small diamond, West takes the DK and exits with a spade which you ruff. A diamond to the DQ, winning, is followed by a trump to the H8 and West's HK. You ruff the CA switch and lead a diamond, West discards as you ruff. Another trump picks up East's ♥Q10 and game is chalked up. You congratulate partner on his 'good living'.

The hand

		♠ 1032	
		♥ 953	
		♦ Q4	
		♣ K10963	
♠ A94	N	♠ QJ876	E
♥ K2	W	♥ Q107	S
♦ K3		♦ 1095	
♣ AQJ732		♣ 854	
		♠ K5	
		♥ AJ864	
		♦ AJ8762	
		♣ —	

The next hand could be put in the 'some people are never happy' category.

Partner, hearing you open 1H, and 1S

on his right, bids 4H holding

♠109 ♥AQ4 ♦AKJ63 ♣765

This is passed around to the 1S bidder, who now bids 4S, what now? My man doubled and corrected my 5H to 6H!! Punishment park.

The CK was led and this was my perspective.

♠K ♥J108632 ♦87542 ♣A

Yes, I did open 1H and yes, when I looked up I noted partner had gone. One of those clean living types who quite clearly found my 1H bid beyond redemption. The contract nonetheless was in with a chance. I tried the HJ but when West showed out I played HQ, unblocking. East won and tried another club which I ruffed, I was now able to draw trumps and test the diamonds. When both followed to DA, I claimed 1 down. (The unblock was important if West had held ♦Qxx.)

This was the whole hand.

		♠ 109	
		♥ AQ4	
		♦ AKJ63	
		♣ 762	
♠ AQJ8762	N	♠ 543	E
♥ —	W	♥ K975	S
♦ Q9		♦ 10	
♣ KQJ5		♣ 109843	
		♠ K	
		♥ J108632	
		♦ 87542	
		♣ A	

Yes, 5S can be defeated if North leads a club, gets back in with a diamond and gives partner a club ruff. Some people are never happy! It takes an equally remarkable lead, a diamond, to defeat 5H.

A word about the bidding. North is much too good to bid 4H over 1S, he should make a positive (12+) double. South will now bid 2D. Over 4S North can bid 5D, knowing he has bid his values. What happens next, who knows.

A note to Ivy Luck.

Ivy felt my hands introducing the 'positive double' were 'lucky' (see the last issue). Well, they were real hands. The point about the positive double is that the person who makes it becomes the captain. He controls the future development of the auction. If partner's forced response to his positive double is 3NT and he feels there is a better spot he bids on. The bidding will not die until the captain is happy. In the hand where he held 6 solid diamonds, after 3S interference and his positive double, he was absolutely delighted to hear his partner bid 3NT.

■ George Cuppaidge

Queensland Bridge Divas

“YOU can say what you like about bridge, but it tends to be a bit short on divas. Some of the women and quite a lot of the men do their best, but very few have what it takes. It's not something you can fake. Some can pout but they can't strut. Some can do the tantrums but not the bravura performances. Some can do the sulk, but fail to manage the killer smile.”

I have freely adapted this quote from Simon Barnes in the Spectator, who originally wrote about sport, but I think it applies even more to bridge. Before any sensitive souls start shouting abuse at me, let me be the first to admit that I fail to qualify for the title of diva under the 'can pout but can't strut' clause.

Last weekend saw me seated at the bridge table with two people who must be dangerously close to diva status. They are certainly both very skilful, experienced and most importantly, cunning players and it was a pleasure to watch them strut their stuff.

Dir W	♠ Q7
Vul None	♥ K4
	♦ 9752
	♣ AJ983
♠ J1098654	♠ K3
♥ 108	♥ J9765
♦ K106	♦ J43
♣ K	♣ 542
	♠ A2
	♥ AQ32
	♦ AQ8
	♣ Q1076

W	N	E	S
3S	P	P	X
P	4C	P	5C
All pass			

Declarer was Margaret Drake and East, Mike Robson, led the SK, so that took care of one loser. The singleton CK was the other good news. She then eliminated hearts, throwing a diamond from hand, and led a small diamond towards the AQ8. Mike played low (it doesn't help him to play the J) and Betty Lee took the 8 with the 10. Rather than be endplayed, she returned a spade for a ruff and discard and a routine 12 tricks for Margaret.

Next board, and Mike struck back with what can only be called animal cunning.

Dir E	♠ Q765
Vul Both	♥ Q3
	♦ KQ
	♣ KQ876
♠ AJ94	♠ K2
♥ A875	♥ K10
♦ A95	♦ J1087642
♣ 42	♣ J3
	♠ 1083
	♥ J9642
	♦ 3
	♣ A1095

Contract 5DXE

I led the CA and saw the encouraging 8 from Margaret. Now, a beginner, on seeing that signal, would continue with clubs, Mike would be one off and there

would be no story. However, as I am an expert and thoughtful partner, the club continuation is much too straightforward. Instead, I worried about partner being endplayed in a major and switched to a heart. I had thrown Mike a lifeline and he grabbed it. A diamond to the ace, dropping the K, saw just the faintest trace of a smirk playing about the comely Robson lips. On the play of the SJ, Margaret didn't cover, so he ran it and eventually parked the second club loser on the SA. If she had covered, I feel confident Mike would have finessed my 10 for the same result; +750.

“Wasn't the 8 of clubs encouraging enough?” enquired Margaret politely. I had no defence, except that I was helpless in the presence of true divas.

■ Lindy Vincent

SUNSHINE COAST SWISS PAIRS SUNDAY MARCH 10

CONTACT Anne McLeod 5492 7539



Brisbane Bridge Centre

104 Frederick St, Annerley. Ph: 3392 7933

Play Sessions Monday 10.00 am

Tuesday 7.30 pm

Wednesday 10.00 am

Thursday 7.30 pm

Saturday 1.00 pm

Intermediate Lessons Tuesday (alternate) 7.30 pm

Wednesday 7.30 pm

Beginners' Classes - Phone Barbara Holford on 3701 5011

Cairns Bridge Club 2002 Easter Congress

Pairs and Teams

29-31 March and 1 April 2002

For further information please phone

Joy Trigg, Secretary on 4038 2854 A/H

Mary Yeates, President, Ph: 4093 7125

Email: fmy@optusnet.doc.au

or to the Club's Email: cairnsbc@iig.com.au

Pairs \$50/Teams \$100

Entries close on Friday, 22nd March 2002

Northern Suburbs

THIRTY-SEVEN tables played in this event held at Northern Suburbs Bridge Club on November 3 & 4. The format of twelve 9-board matches with Butler Scoring was excellent. Here are a couple of hands from this event.

Playing Standard with Inverted Minor Raises worked well here.

♠ AQJ5	♠ 10976	♠ K42
♥ J4	♥ Q108	♥ 32
♦ A76	♦ QJ10983	♦ 54
♣ Q1072	♣ —	♣ AKJ654
	♠ 83	
	♥ AK9765	
	♦ K2	
	♣ 983	

W	N	E	S
1C	P	2C	P
2S	P	3S	P
4S	All pass		

Over East's forcing raise to 2C, West introduced his strong 4-card spade suit. Once East showed good 3-card support West was happy to bid game. Declarer won the opening lead of the DQ with DA and drew 4 rounds of trumps, then cashed 6 club tricks for +650. South missed an opportunity to overcall 2H on the first round which might have led to

the winning defence of a low heart to the K, a club ruff, a low heart to the A and another club ruff for 1 down. As it was, EW collected 9 IMPs against the datum of 280.

It is often difficult in these competitive situations to know who is saving what against whom.

♠ A	♠ KQJ97	♠ 43
♥ KJ8742	♥ —	♥ A9652
♦ J9	♦ Q642	♦ K1053
♣ K763	♣ Q1042	♣ 95
	♠ 108652	
	♥ Q10	
	♦ A87	
	♣ AJ8	

W	N	E	S
2H	3S	4H	1S
5H	P	P	4S
All pass			X

With 6-4 shape, West decided to take the push to 5H. West took the right view in diamonds for 11 tricks and +650, worth 11 IMPs against the datum of 130. North had an extremely difficult decision whether to stand the double of 5H or remove to 5S. Although it seems that a spade contract has 4 losers, the diamond blockage - cover DJ with DQ - makes it difficult for the defence to take more than 3 tricks. There will be a long club available for a diamond discard. So 4S might well make and 5S should be only 1 down.

■ Barry Kempthorne

Good luck

to Mike Robson - Betty Lee, Jim Wallis - Seigfried Konig and Therese Tully, playing with Sue Lusk, in the Australian Team playoffs on March 9/10

A belated Happy New Year to all bridge players from the QBA Management

Masterpoint Secretary Change of Address

Joan McPheat, PO Box 541, Palmwoods 4555
Ph: 07 5442 9582

New QBA Beginners Book

"Play Bridge: a Workbook for the Absolute Beginner" by Joan Butts, will be available in February. The new book is a QBA initiative, available for all clubs and players. It is;

a modern, 8 chapter beginners book, suitable for 6 or 8 lessons, reasonably priced at \$17.95, with discounts for teachers, based on size of order.

There will be a workshop for teachers (no charge) on how to use the new material, at the Gold Coast Congress Teachers seminar on Monday, Feb 18, at the ANA Hotel, at 10.00 am.

What's in the Book?

Chapter 1 covers the mechanics of the game. The students play hands using "Starter Bridge", which is a variation of Minibridge.

Chapter 2 looks at play techniques: counting winners, recognising entries. The scoring is introduced, hands are played without any bidding.

Chapter 3 introduces bidding, with a 5-card major approach, and with a 1NT opening being 15-17.

Why 15-17?

Balanced 15-17 point hands occur more often than the 16-18 variety. The auction after a 1NT opening bid is usually straightforward for the partnership, so it's an advantage to open 1NT more frequently.

Chapter 4 covers 'Responding to 1 NT'. It's important to focus on balanced hands and responses, because they occur more often.

Chapter 5 is 'Responding to One of a Suit'.

Chapter 6 covers 'Opener's Rebid'.

Chapter 7 looks at 'Responder's Second Bid'.

Chapter 8 introduces 'Competitive Bidding, Overcalls and Doubles'.

There are 4 play hands and quizzes at the end of each chapter. As well, a teacher's manual is available, with extra hands, and a disc for making up the hands at the end of the chapters on a dealing machine.

The system taught in the book will help players adapt quickly to online bridge. Playing on the Net is becoming very popular, and shouldn't be viewed as a threat to bridge clubs. I think it will stimulate interest in bridge in general, especially with younger players.

When I attended the Minibridge seminar in Toronto last year, given by Sandra Landy from England, I was a bit sceptical about it, but decided to try it in my beginners classes. After making a few changes, it worked well, mainly because the students have a simple rule structure right from the beginning, (ie adding up

Going to the Gold Coast this year?

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points and working out the majority side to be the declaring side). They can play it for hours, but most importantly they feel they're achieving something fast.

This approach doesn't vary much from what good teachers have been doing for years, eg Ron Klinger and Audrey Grant with their Whist to Bridge approach, and Paul Marston's style of having the students play hands early on, without using point count or bidding.

Students can see for themselves how points translate into tricks. They recognise the importance of a good trump fit, and notice how one can make extra tricks with long suits. So, by the time they move into Chapter 3, they are ready to try the bidding, and can see more reason for it. The learning sequence has been more logical.

Note: There's no need for the teacher to actually use the rules of Starter Bridge if they don't want to. The book works without it, but I recommend giving it a try.

Orders through me at CARDS Bridge Centre, 156 Albion Rd, Windsor 4030.
Ph: **07 3357 4824** or **0413 772 650**
Email: joaneb@uq.net.au.
Website: www.uq.net.au/cards

Marketing Your Club's 2002 Beginners Lessons

I AM sure you would like your club to be successful and have a steady supply of beginners coming through.

For instance, is your club is commencing a new Bridge School? If so, what would really help is your assistance in promoting these lessons. Why not tell your friends and think about how you could inform the wider community in your area.

Perhaps you know of a place where a notice about Bridge Lessons could be displayed, or you may be a member of another social or sporting club that will allow you to put up a notice. I am sure your committee would welcome your help whether by dropping off notices about the lessons to people in your street, shopping centre or library. All of us can help promote our clubs. Do help if you can.

2002 Gold Coast Congress February 16 – 23

For all those last minute entries, don't worry about having a place to stay, there are still some great accommodation deals available.

The Gold Coast Bridge Club and the Surfers Paradise Bridge Club warmly welcome visitors to their club sessions, so why not get in some early practice at either of these two great clubs.

Townsville Bridge Club Inc

presents the

7th Annual Barrier Reef Congress A Gold Point Event

Friday 7th - Monday 10th June, 2002

at the

Townsville Plaza Hotel
Flinders Mall, Townsville
Swiss Teams - 5 sessions
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Enquiries: Cicely Edye 07 4772 2247

Elsie Stubbs (Partners) 07 4778 2835

Townsville Bridge Club Email: bridge@austar.com.au

Townsville - Sunshine capital of North Queensland

Queensland Teams Selection Trials

Open: March 9/10, March 16/17 & March 23/24

Senior: April 6/7 & 13/14

Women: April 20/21, April 27/28 & May 11/12

Entry forms from the QBA website or Kim Ellaway on 3855 3331

Gold Coast Congress



February 16-23 2002

Entry forms from the QBA website or Kim Ellaway on 3855 3331

Coming Events

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Feb 10 | Warwick Swiss Pairs, Hervey Bay Teams, QCBC Novice Teams |
| 16 - 23 | QBA Gold Coast Congress |
| Mar 2-3 | Maryborough Butler Pairs |
| 3 | Dalby Pairs |
| 8-10 | Proserpine/Whitsunday Pairs Congress |
| 10 | Toowong Novice Pairs |
| | Sunshine Coast Pairs |
| 16-17 | Rockhampton Pairs |
| 17 | Surfers Novice Swiss Pairs |
| 24 | Northern Suburbs Pairs |
| | Toowoomba Novice Pairs |
| 29-Apr 1 | Cairns Easter Congress |
| 31-Apr 1 | BBC Pairs & Teams |

James O'Sullivan Awards 2001

Overall Rankings

STRONG	TERRY	258.37
PARKER	RALPH	247.06
BERGER	EVA	206.60
HAINSWORTH	PETER	203.00
FRANCIS	NEVILLE	201.38
JOHNSON	KATHY	200.51
SLOBOM	ROBERT	178.61
STRONG	TOM	173.92
MOREN	MAGNUS	173.62
STRICKLAND	TREVOR	171.72

Grand Masters

STRONG	TERRY	258.37
PARKER	RALPH	247.06
BERGER	EVA	206.60
HAINSWORTH	PETER	203.00
FRANCIS	NEVILLE	201.38

Gold Life Masters

BERGER	TONY	159.57
PRITCHARD	JOHN	142.06
SEAR	BEVERLEY	124.97
KONIG	SIEGFRIE	119.15
VAUGHAN	ROBIN	114.98

Silver Life Masters

CROFT	DENIS	162.81
MOSES	LARRY	129.78
WINCH	MARY	114.94
LEDEN	PETER	107.82
MALTBY	ALAN	101.80

Bronze Life Masters

MCLAUHLAN	HELEN	105.92
MCLAUHLAN	RICHARD	104.08
STUBBS	ELSIE	102.26
MALTBY	DIANE	87.99
WATERHOUSE	ERIN	85.55

Life Masters

STRICKLAND	TREVOR	171.72
MELCHIOR	LEN	100.21
HERON	LOLA	94.58
AFFLICK	IAN	92.90
JOHNSON	JOSEPHIN	89.44

**National Masters

LINDH	ERIC	75.88
STONEMAN	MAC	68.34
FOSTER	MARGARET	67.02
COCHRANE	LORRAINE	63.39
ROBINSON	BERNEICE	60.92

*National Masters

DEAN	SANDY	141.59
VAN JOLE	NATHAN	128.79
KO	KURT	103.78
GOSS	BEVERLEY	100.20
FEENEY	KEVIN	94.37

National Masters

BONNICK	LES	60.77
WANG	FEFE	59.19
DAKIN	KEITH	58.85
OLSEN	GEOFF	58.32
DOUGHERTY	JEANETTE	56.89

*State Masters

WALFORD	TONY	88.36
HICKS	JOHN	85.94
O'BRIEN	SUE	82.65
ALLEN	PAT	78.00
SUITOR	PATRICIA	75.68

State Masters

WOOD	KERRY	92.92
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MEERBACH	FERDINAN	90.68
REGAN	SANDRA	89.77
MORTON	BERNICE	49.37
HILLE	PATRICIA	48.96

*Regional Masters

GACKI	MARGOT	29.62
LEE	CLAUDE	27.68
MIKECZ	ELSE	27.03
BAARDA	RENK	25.44
HENDERSON	SUSAN	25.08

Regional Masters

HARRIS	DAVID	81.03
ALLEN	SANDRA	37.88
CHAPMAN	ROBERT	35.94
CLOUSTON	PATRICIA	35.82
JOHNSON	BRUCE	33.55

**Local Masters

LEUNG	JULIA	45.60
GEHRKE	DOROTHY	40.30
EVENSEN	TOVE	36.47
HOFFMANN	HANNA	35.39
WALLIS	JANET	31.20

*Local Masters

OSMUND	JAMES	66.76
EAVES	LORRAINE	38.01
MITCHELL	BARRY	36.16
GRAHAM	ROSINA	31.52
CHESSER	MARGARET	29.73

Local Masters

MILLAR	JOHN	50.31
HOBDELL	BETTY	32.55
SENDER	SYLVIA	31.43
GUTHRIE	WILLIAM	26.57
MCCARTHY	GAYLE	25.97

Club Masters

KERI	JOSEPH	42.98
WISMER	STUART	40.54
GULLEY	GEOFFREY	32.20
RUDERMAN	LITA	28.44
GRAHAM	URSULA	26.71

Graduate Masters

BORZI	DAWN	19.39
MITCHELL	GARY	18.65
MITCHELL	JUDY	18.65
KING	LORRAINE	14.00
MUNDELL	DESLEY	13.61

Nil Masters

JANZEKOVIC	DARKO	80.04
DICKISON	IAN	29.55
FOSSSES	SHARON	26.28
HODKINSON	ARRAN	21.89
TOTH	KATHLEEN	21.15

Results

QCBC Swiss Pairs Nov 18

- 1 D & K Anderson
- 2 R Parker A Pryde
- 3 J Mills C Green

Plate

- 1 J Wood M MacRossan
- 2 M Corner V Matheson
- 3 J Dennis D Read

QCBC Novice Pairs

Dec 2

- 1 T Lye G Gulley
- 2 A Miller I Hall
- 3 S Redgold S Hall

Tablelands Congress Dec 29-31

Pairs

- 1 K Crowe-Mai D Westen
- 2 P Leslie M Wilkinson
- 3 F Brown L Zota

Plate

- 1 R Tracey M Vanraders
- 2 M Davis C Suthers
- 3 D Trollope F Wang

Consolation

- 1 P Leighton G Brown
- 2 M Yeates P Inglis
- 3 U Graham J Page

Restricted

- 1 M Horseman N Bidewell

Teams

- 1 K CroweMai D Westen
P Leslie M Wilkinson
- 2 M Ward R Ward
E Stubbs B Bowden
- 3 M Stoneman J Buckley
D Bayliss M Foster

Restricted

- M Horseman N Bidewell
P Daley V Mahoney

Qld Senior Teams Championship 6 Jan

- 1 T & F Swainston
J & M Millar
- 2 M & J Kent
G Rusher D Croft
- 3 M Robson T Jackman
D & V Robson

Plate

- 1 A Maltby J Slade
W Hiddins D Smith
- 2 K Rogers G Connolly
R Mackinlay I Wright
- 3 C & C Woolley
J & J Steele

QLD WIDE PAIRS 2001

NS

- 1 P FRANCIS N FRANCIS Stanthorpe
- 2 J SMITH L OWENS Cleveland Bay
- 3 A BEATTIE J HOFFMAN Redcliffe
- 4 L RUFFLE J EASTERBY Mackay
- 5 M MILLAR G TUCKER QCBC
- 6 M ROBINS T LARGE Moranbah
- 7 J ROSSER G LYNCH Arana
- 8 P PENBERTHY M ATKINS Darling Downs
- 9 M BARTON S DWARSHUIS R'hampton
- 10 D STAGG J GILL Noosa

EW

- 1 D RYAN B GIBBS Mackay

2 J HAN J PRITCHARD GCBC
 3 R WALLIS J CRAIG BBC
 4 I AFFLICK T STRICKLAND Redlands
 5 L BOURKE C MAYERS SCBC
 6 K WOOD C HOWARD QCBC
 7 C MAWN D CORNISH Roma
 8 G GODDARD P MILLAR Capricorn
 9 E LITZOW D KROSCH NSBC
 10 S HERRING H HOLMES Lockyer
< 150 masterpoints

NS

8 P PENBERTHY MATKINS Darling Downs
 11 N GILBERT D MCADAM Lockyer
 21 M ANDERSON M EDWARDS Roma
 25 G KADEM J OSMUND GCBC
 37 V LOGAN H BAKER Maryborough

EW

7 C MAWN D CORNISH Roma
 14 J O'REILLY V AUSTIN Dalby
 15 F DICKSON P BERNARD SPBC
 16 B DANCER M DANCER Arana
 23 H MAGEE D MAGEE Sunnybank
< 50 masterpoints

NS

6 M ROBINS T LARGE Moranbah
 28 I DICKISON S FOSSES SPBC
 40 E VANKAN T VANKAN Redcliffe
 45= G GULLEY T LYE Arana
 50 O CASWELL M MOORE Darling Downs

EW

8 G GODDARD P MILLAR Capricorn
 10 S HERRING H HOLMES Lockyer
 19 P NOBLE I NOBLE Toowong
 27 M GELDARD D MUNDELL Dalby
 30 R GRAHAM D DAVIDSON Hervey Bay

About the QBA

TOTAL membership of the QBA's affiliated clubs reached 6167 as at 31st March 2001 representing an increase of 2.5% on average over the last four years. As easily the second largest state in terms of total registered players with a consistent record of growth most people would say that Queensland is certainly doing its job.

Looking at the figures more closely with the aid of a programme developed by the ABF at our suggestion, what appears to be a commendable (if modest) increase actually masks a high attrition rate. In the year ending 31/12/01 almost 7% of registered members departed our ranks for one reason or another. This means that for every 3 players successfully recruited during the year, two leave us. Less than 1% (about 40 in total) was attributable to mortality factors so it is fair to say that the greater proportion leave bridge for reasons over which we i.e. the QBA, member clubs and player members, have some control. Also, while the age profile of registered bridge players is unknown (D.O.B is not a requirement for registration) it is clear that

Queensland does have a significant problem in youth bridge compared with the other mainland states.

Given that it is the QBA's primary role to promote bridge in Queensland, the underlying causes of player drop-out should receive at least equal attention as the need to attract new players to the game. The appointment of Cheryl Simpson as Marketing Officer and Joan Butts as Teaching Co-ordinator were in recognition of these needs. A clearly defined strategy for both appointees is still in the course of development but it may be useful at this stage to outline the QBA's approach in general terms.

Cheryl's focus is on raising the profile of bridge generally in Queensland through promotional activities e.g. the Brisbane City Council's Growing Old and Living Dangerously programme, 'Free Lesson' promotional offers in various magazines, sponsorship deals etc and specifically through assisting club marketing officers in developing various strategies to attract and retain members. Joan's main focus is on introducing a new method of teaching which involves new players in the play aspects of the game at a much earlier stage than usual teaching pro-grammes. The new method has been extremely successful overseas and this has encouraged Joan to put together an Australianised teaching book/manual with the assistance of Audrey Grant. It is hoped that the QBA

will be able to underwrite production of the book and that Queensland clubs will embrace the new system in their own teaching programmes.

Obviously, the success of the QBA's measures will depend in large part on the willingness and ability of clubs to benefit from the efforts and availability of both Cheryl and Joan. In addition, it may also be useful for clubs to consider promoting bridge lessons on a 'pay-per-lesson' basis on the assumption that many would-be bridge players are deterred by the up-front cost when they really want to 'suck-it and-see'. (This may be more of a problem for the larger clubs that tend to have paid teachers who have less incentive to change the normal arrangements.) A larger and more complex issue which directly affects the rate of member attrition (and probably congress participation) is the behaviour of members during play with particular reference to Rule 74 (B). Club and Congress directors need to be on the lookout for unpleasant occurrences that detract from the enjoyment of the game with a view to taking early remedial action or just simply recording the event for future reference.

These and other aspects will be dealt with more comprehensively in future issues as strategies are developed to attract and retain even more players including hopefully, a more significant younger component. ■

AGM March 21

7.30 pm at QCBC

Director Training Course

The QBA will be conducting a training course for club directors on
Saturday March 2, 2002

Venue: Qld Contract Bridge Club, 67 Ipswich Rd Woolloongabba

Time: 10 am to 4 pm.

This course is specifically designed for players wishing to obtain official accreditation as a club director. There will be an accreditation examination in early June on a date to be announced. However, interested players or qualified directors wishing to refresh their knowledge are welcome to attend. Coffee / tea provided but BYO lunch.

I suggest that, if you plan to attend, arrange (or ask your club secretary to arrange) to download from the QBA website (and print out) a copy of my course notes for club directors. These are comprehensive and will be useful not only during the course but for later reference. There is no charge for downloading.

There will be a registration fee of \$5.00.

So that approximate numbers may be known, please advise Reg Busch of your intention to attend, either by

Post: PO Box 493 Kallangur 4503

Phone: 3886 0588

E-mail: rbusch@ozemail.com.au

Directors' Corner

HOW do you claim? Are you a flasher? Giving opponents a fleeting glimpse of your cards and becoming indignant when they a) ask to look at your cards properly b) cannot instantly see your brilliant line of play or c) call the director.

Are you a wishful thinker? "I think I've got the rest but I'll play it out if you like," (*expectant pause*); "I don't think there are any trumps left," (*pausing hopefully*).

If your claim is not accepted immediately, do you gather up your cards in a huff and say, "Oh, all right then, I'll play it out."

Do you really rub it in? "Do you give up, yet?" "Have you had enough, yet?"

This is a true story. South is in the middle of playing in a spade contract. She turns to East and says, "Do you have any spades left?"

East, "Yes."

South plonks down the SK and after that trick says, "Have you got any left now?"

East, "No."

South, "Good. The rest are mine."

As dummy, do you scoop up remaining cards saying, "Dummy's high, making 11," or do you just wriggle impatiently in your seat and wave your arms about a bit clearly saying, "What's the problem partner? Dummy's high."

Laws 68, 69, 70 & 71 deal with claims and concessions. The basic points are: a claim is a statement as to who will win

or lose remaining tricks; the showing of your hand with the clear intention of claiming or a suggestion that play be curtailed.

A claim should be followed immediately by a statement of clarification. State the order in which cards are to be played, how you intend to handle any outstanding trump and your line of play or defence e.g. to finesse or not. "Drawing the last trump, cashing three top hearts and conceding a club at the end."

Top of the Range players should bear in mind that opponents will hardly ever be as smart as they are and take extra care in explaining more complex claims.

Not making such a statement can be perilous.

After any claim or concession, play ceases. Stops. Ends. Finishes. (see Law 68B when a defender objects to partner's concession.)

If a claim is disputed the director is called. The director must consider any normal, careless or inferior but not irrational play for the class of player involved and must resolve any doubtful points against the claimer. Opponents are entitled to killing leads and plays suggested by seeing all cards.

Dummy must never make a claim or suggest by any means that playing on is unnecessary.

■ Jan Peach

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