



THE QBA BULLETIN

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From the President



Keith McDonald

AS we start a new year it is opportune to reflect on the many important events and successes within Queensland bridge during 2003. It was a great sense of achievement that as at 31 December 2003 we reached 7017 members. Our clubs are again amongst the nation's leaders in 2003. The positive reports on entries to the 2004 Gold Coast event argue well for 2004. I warmly congratulate clubs and the Management within our clubs for their outstanding commitment. In the next edition of the ABF Newsletter I ask for a commitment from members to a personal promotional effort to assist their club in 2004. We need opportunities for social players to try their hand at duplicate bridge, involvement of the local press, demonstrations of bridge in shopping malls and other

public places, junior days, bridge in schools and so on.

I ask that clubs and members let the QBA Newsletter know what they are doing in terms of promotion. It would be a wonderful start if clubs could send us their objectives for 2004. It may well be that an initiative from one club will help many other clubs. For example it would be great if a larger club would undertake a special support effort for one of our new clubs, (Helensvale, Broadwater, Moranbah, Mudgeeraba, Ipswich). The non metropolitan clubs would love a bus load of players for Stanthorpe, Dalby, Redcliffe, Coolum, Caboolture, Moreton-Bribie, Toowoomba, Darling Downs, Tamborine.... Have you played at Palma Rosa? Ferny Grove Parklands? Pinklands? Redlands? How many clubs are at a Bowls Club venue? Who is at 30 Tozer Park Road?

Every club has a "Directory of Affiliated Clubs" with email information. At the end of the year I would like to know who visited the most number of Queensland clubs?

Happy bridging and a successful year to all from the QBA Council.

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Qld Seniors Pairs

THE 2003 Qld Seniors Pairs was held at the spacious premises of the Surfers Paradise Bridge Club on 23 November, and as usual, a great day was had by all who attended. Ably directed by Alan Gibson, 18 tables hotly contested the event until the last round, with the lead changing almost every round. The winners, Tony Berger and David Croft, got a 92% score on the last round to come from the ranks to win by a small margin. Eva Berger and Danny Osmund were second, with Joan and Michael Kent in third place. Tony Jackman and I actually hit the front after the 5th round, but then fell into a hole.

On board 19 in the 4th match we should have had the system bids to uncover a good slam, but unfortunately fell at the last hurdle.

M 4	♠ AKQ653
Bd 19	♥ J9
Dlr S	♦ A3
Vul EW	♣ Q86
♠ 87	♠ 104
♥ K	♥ 8763
♦ 9876	♦ K54
♣ K109742	♣ AJ53
	♠ J92
	♥ AQ10542
	♦ QJ102
	♣ —

Tony, sitting South, opened 1H (Precision) and I responded 2S, which was natural and strong, and asked about his spade honours and aces. Of course I knew about his spade honours, but I was interested in how many aces he held, and I could inquire at a very safe level. His 3H response denied one of the top three spade honours and showed just the HA, so I signed off in 4S since we had 2 aces to lose.

Over my 4S, he could have showed his club void with 5C, over which I would have bid the slam, but we play so rarely together nowadays that he did not want to muddy the waters.

AGM March 25

On this board we stayed out of slam because of our misfit, but it proved to be cold by way of a simple finesse, or the simple squeeze.

M 5	♠ J86	♠ 10
Bd 24	♥ 98654	♥ AKQ73
Dlr W	♦ 984	♦ QJ10
Vul None	♣ 82	♣ KQJ4
♠ AQ972		♠ K543
♥ —		♥ J102
♦ AK752		♦ 63
♣ 763		♣ A1095

Tony, West, opened 1S (11-15) and I responded 2H, over which he bid 3D. We do not have good fitting hands, although the diamond suit was promising, but I decided to go cautiously and signed off in 3NT.

South led a safe D6, and when I saw dummy I was sorry I was not in 6D, or even 6NT, but at least 3NT was not going to test me. With 11 top tricks, the 12th could come from a simple spade finesse, or from a 3-3 club break, or from a spade-club squeeze if the same opponent held both suits, so I won in hand to lead the CK which South unwisely took (seeing his SK was badly placed). I won the diamond in hand, cashed the top hearts (a key play in preparation for the squeeze), and ran the diamonds from dummy.

On the last diamond South had to release his spade guard to keep the 4th club, so 12 tricks without the spade finesse. If North had the SK and 4 clubs, the same 12 tricks would have materialized.

QCBC

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3391 3241

Our bidding system again allowed us to stay at the 4-level when slam was known to be not on!

M 6	♠ 1032	♠ KJ7
Bd 28	♥ K109	♥ 82
Dlr W	♦ QJ94	♦ K62
Vul NS	♣ J65	♣ AKQ83
♠ AQ854		♠ 96
♥ J73		♥ AQ654
♦ A75		♦ 1083
♣ 107		♣ 942

Tony, West, opened 1S (11-15) and I bid 2C, which is artificial and asks for trump (spades) length and strength. His 2S rebid showed a 5-card suit with two of the top three honours, and my next bid of 3H asked him for his heart control. His 3S rebid showed at least three cards without one of the top three honours, so I knew 4S was enough!

North did not appear to understand the full meaning of the bidding (his partner was marked with at least 1 honour in hearts) and led the DQ, so when the clubs were friendly, Tony wrapped up 12 tricks after all.

M 7	♠ K8764	♠ A1032
Bd 1	♥ 43	♥ 76
Dlr N	♦ 3	♦ K742
Vul None	♣ 98543	♣ KQJ
♠ 5		♠ QJ9
♥ AKQJ10952		♥ 8
♦ AQ105		♦ J986
♣ —		♣ A10872

This board was an easy grand slam for our system if we were given a free run, but North managed to dredge up a bid with a shapely hand but no strength. Lack of strong definition in a competitive auction caused Tony to guess to only bid 6H.

Sitting East, I opened 1NT (13-15) and Tony bid a nebulous 2D, which forces me to bid 2H, and his planned 3H bid would be natural, with slam interest, asking for a cue-bid. However, North managed to find a 2S overcall, and now the meaning of his 3H was not clear (it should be the same as if the overcall was not made), so he bid 6H for a poor score.

This following board was another misfit that see-sawed between the defence and the declarer before I finally emerged with 9 tricks for +600.

M 10	♠ 4	♠ J6
Bd 20	♥ KQ763	♥ J109842
Dlr W	♦ KQ964	♦ 82
Vul Both	♣ 108	♣ 643
♠ AK85		♠ Q109732
♥ 5		♥ A
♦ J1053		♦ A7
♣ KJ52		♣ AQ97

West opened 1D, I overcalled 1H, Tony bid 1S and West passed. I bid the obvious 1NT and Tony raised to 3NT.

East led the D8, and my prospects did not look good when the misfit hit the table. My best prospect seemed to be to find East with the CJ, so I cashed the red aces and led to my DK, West being forced to split his honours. I led the CT (later I wished I had led the C8, but I was trying to tempt East in to covering with the CJ if he had it). West won the CJ, and was endplayed, so he led a club back into dummy. In with the 4th club he was endplayed again, and exited with a small spade, won in dummy with the SQ over the SJ. When I now exited with the ST, he was endplayed for the last time, and I had 9 tricks. Because of the intermediate cards in clubs and diamonds, 3NT should always make.

Here was another great opportunity for our system to shine but I bid too quickly to 3NT and we got a bad score.

M 11	♠ 8	♠ AKQ4
Bd 21	♥ A96	♥ 742
Dlr N	♦ A97	♦ 10854
Vul NS	♣ KQJ1094	♣ 83
♠ J10962		♠ 753
♥ KJ8		♥ Q1053
♦ Q632		♦ KJ
♣ 5		♣ A762

Sitting North, I opened 2C (11-15) and Tony made a relay bid of 2D, to which I bid 3NT since I was maximum for the bid and had 2 outside suits stopped. However, with my spade shortage, it would have been more prudent to risk missing game by bidding a non-forcing 2NT, over which Tony could have asked about outside stoppers with 3D. My 3S response would have pin-pointed the weakness and steered us to the cold 5C.

■ Richard Wallis

Qld Senior Teams

ANOTHER successful Qld Senior Teams Championship was held at the Sunshine Coast Contract Bridge Club on Sunday January 4th. 30 teams competed and although it would require extra effort from the already hardworking committee, so close to the Xmas festivities, it was suggested that a State Title competition such as this, should be held over 2 days.

More than ever, or so it seemed to me, accurate bidding and partnership understanding was necessary to cope with highly distributional hands. It is often hard for us, mere mortals, not to "fall in love" with a particular hand. Board 6 in the morning session was a case in point. Despite game points, nothing makes.

Dir E	♠ Q9875		
Vul EW	♥ K95		
	♦ 7		
	♣ J874		
♠ AKJ64		♠ 2	
♥ 8		♥ AJ43	
♦ 5		♦ KQ106432	
♣ AK10953		♣ 2	
	♠ 103		
	♥ Q10765		
	♦ AJ98		
	♣ Q6		

We got a small gain when our opponents bid to 6C, but our partners couldn't resist game which was also unsuccessful.

At a recent club game, my LHO bid 2D (majors) over my 1NT opener. Partner used Lebensohl and I was allowed to bid and make a very comfortable 3C. RHO, in fact, had five hearts; AJTxx. "But I only had 7 points partner".

Many players are critical of Ghestem 2-suited overcalls, much favoured by Sunshine Coast bridge players, on the basis that they give away too much information to the opponents. At the same time the use of distributional bids, Pottage, DONT etc over NT, and Michaels are commonly used and, as the above example shows, ignored.

However, Ghestem bids can be powerful weapons. Board 17 in the afternoon session provided a huge result.

Dir N	♠ J10862		
Vul None	♥ 87652		
	♦ —		
	♣ KQJ		
♠ Q		♠ K4	
♥ A104		♥ KQJ3	
♦ J10986		♦ AQ	
♣ A1085		♣ 97643	
	♠ A9753		
	♥ 9		
	♦ K75432		
	♣ 2		

East opened 1C and partner bid 3C showing at least 5/5 in diamonds and spades. Our opponents bid to 3NT, which, once again despite HCPs, is not makeable, but I didn't know that and bid 4S. Now, we all know not to double distributional hands, but wouldn't you think I was sacrificing. 4SX rolled home and somehow our partners were allowed to make 10 tricks in 3NT.

However, I was not so clever on board 27. We were running 2nd and had played

Dir S	♠ K8		
Vul None	♥ AKJ52		
	♦ A84		
	♣ AK6		
♠ A1053		♠ QJ962	
♥ Q3		♥ 98764	
♦ 95		♦ 1062	
♣ 87532		♣ —	
	♠ 74		
	♥ 10		
	♦ KQJ73		
	♣ QJ1094		

quite steadily through the day but it was not to be. Which slam would you choose? OK, OK, I know all you smart alecks who chose the right one, know the answer.

Partner, South, opened 2NT unfortunately, but that is our system. So I thought and thought and bid 6D!! East led the SQ and West found the club switch.

Congratulations to Bill Hunt, Larry Moses, Tom Strong and Anthony Tuxworth, who led all day and thanks to the Committee of the Sunshine Coast Contract Bridge Club for a well run event and to Director David Anderson.

■ Sue Mabin

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Queensland Teams Selection Trials

Open and Womens March 13-14, 20-21 and 27-28

Entry form from Kim Ellaway, QBA manager

Cuppaidge's Column



George Cuppaidge

The Sublime and the Ridiculous

VENIAL it may be but sublime it certainly is, to get away with something monstrous at the bridge table. This one has recently joined my "favourites" collection.

Dlr N	♠ A732		
Vul NS	♥ A976		
	♦ J10852		
	♣ —		
♠ 108		♠ K965	
♥ 53		♥ —	
♦ 76		♦ AK93	
♣ K1087432		♣ AJ965	
	♠ QJ4		
	♥ KQJ10842		
	♦ Q4		
	♣ Q		

W	N	E	S
5C	P ¹	1C	4H ²
P	6H	X	All pass

¹ Not me, a clear 1D bid.

² This is not really a vul v. non-vul 4H but I feared North may undervalue a 3H bid. 4H could easily go for -800 or -1100 with no game for EW.

Sitting South and hearing North bid first 5H and then 6H, as a passed hand, was not a pleasant experience. It was hard to visualise that he could have his bids. He certainly did.

I don't know what carding EW were using; I'm not sure they did either. West led the C2. I ruffed in dummy, drew trumps in two rounds and led a diamond off the board. I played the DQ under East's DK. Perhaps East had misread the C2 or failed to notice West's D7 but the club continuation now was not a success. With the ruff and discard, the diamond suit was now establishable. The immediate ruffing finesse, another diamond ruff to establish the suit and two spade discards were available for a double slam swing. Sublime.

It is quite ridiculous how little things can disappoint you at the bridge table - witness this.

Dlr W	♠ AQ9		
Vul NS	♥ 8		
	♦ A108		
	♣ Q98764		
♠ 6432		♠ KJ87	
♥ AQ52		♥ 97	
♦ 75		♦ KQ942	
♣ KJ5		♣ 102	
	♠ 105		
	♥ KJ10643		
	♦ J63		
	♣ A3		

West opened 1C and found the courtesy raise of my 1S to 2S. South balanced with 3H, which became the final contract. West led the S4.

Declarer played the SQ from dummy and my SK won the trick. I guessed well not to return a spade.

Optimistically I played partner for the best card he could hold, defence-wise, the DJ. I returned a low diamond. No luck, declarer won cheaply in dummy and played the H8, 9, J and Q. West returned his remaining diamond which declarer won in dummy with his ace.

With West's hand becoming pretty clear by now, declarer's best shot is to play ace of spades and ruff a spade before playing the hearts from the top. If West's shape happens to be 3-4-2-4, with HAQ52 and the CK, which seems quite likely, declarer will make the contract. He will win West's club return with the ace and then draw trumps and pay another club. (Or win the

heart return, draw trumps and play the ace and a another club.) West will be obliged to give declarer access to dummy's CQ and I will be made to pay for my aggressive low diamond switch. This line works against 3-2-3-5 too as long as West neglects to give his partner a club ruff.

On the actual layout declarer will never be able to use the CQ if West defends carefully.

But declarer tried a different tack! He exited with a diamond. I continued diamonds with declarer discarding his losing club on the fourth round. This was the position as I played the fifth round.

	AQ	
	—	
	—	
	Q9876	
6		K87
A52		7
—		2
KJ5		102
	10	
	K10643	
	—	
	A	

Declarer ruffed with the king and West overruffed with the ace for one down.

Had West simply discarded, the defence would have gained a third trump trick with his H5 and an extra 100.

I was extremely disappointed. How ridiculous!

Astute readers will note that a club return at trick two will ensure a two trick defeat. In one variation, both defenders ruff clubs.

Gold Coast Congress 2004



February 21-28

25 Years Ago

These Old Shades

MY introduction to Contract Bridge came in 1934, up to which I had been a dedicated Auction addict.

I became associated with the late Mick Sullivan early in that year, and invited him on several occasions to my home for a game of Auction with my father and the late Wally Elliot whom I regarded as a fine player. Mick had been closely following Contract Bridge à la Culbertson, which was introduced in the USA in, I think, 1932 or 1933, and he suggested we ought to give it a go. I must confess I was somewhat diffident to depart from Auction, which I thought at the time was the beginning and end of bridge. Wally, however, agreed with Mick that there was great potential in the new game, and he and Mick persuaded me to take it up.

Mick was a member of the Queensland Contract Bridge Association, which met weekly at the Canberra Hotel, and he invited Wally and myself to play in a Duplicate Tournament. The personnel of the Association consisted of many of the leading professional and business men of the city and their wives. We had judges, barristers, solicitors, doctors and leading industrialists, to name but a few. When we arrived, we found the ladies elegantly dressed in the latest in evening gowns, while the men were bedecked; some in dinner suits and some even in white tie and tails.

Wally and myself were dressed in lounge suits, and he remarked to me that if he had to play bridge dressed in formal evening wear, he wasn't going to be in it. Personally in that year, 1934, I couldn't keep a parrot on cracked corn, and didn't possess a dinner suit.

However, everyone was exceedingly nice to us and made us most welcome. We were invited to become members, and over the months that followed, we attended very regularly and by degrees the formal evening wear was dispensed with. How wrong my initial assessment of the then new game has been proved over the years, and I am afraid I have now become an addict to what I consider the finest card game of all.

■ Harold Hiley

Of the most common addictions - tobacco, alcohol, drugs, etc - bridge is clearly the most socially acceptable

Paul Burka

The 9th Annual BARRIER REEF GOLD POINT CONGRESS To be held in MACKAY on the Queen's Birthday Weekend, June 11-14, 2004

For more information, visit the Mackay Contract Bridge Club website: www.mackaybridgeclub.org.au or contact
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Monica Darley, Email: darley@mackay.net.au
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GNOT Sydney

Timing!

WHEN you listen to stories told by the bridge gurus, you continually hear that word "timing" coming into their conversation. I tell you, they will say Contract Bridge is all about timing. And boy, did we get that wrong!!!

Having fought our way through the Toowong Bridge Club preliminary, qualifying for the Brisbane Zone, the team, consisting of Larry Moses, Richard Touton, Rosa Lachman and Bill Hunt headed for Sydney on Nov 13 to contest the final of the GNOT.

We arrived at the venue, the Hakoah Club in Bondi, the next morning only to find that the other 51 teams had not shown up. Had they thrown in the towel in the face of the awesome reputation of the Brisbane 2 Team? Unfortunately not; through a mix-up we had arrived a week too early. As we were there anyway, we pleaded with Ivy Dahler to find us some skirts so that we could play in the "Women's Event" that was currently in progress. Alas no, nothing doing. Embarrassing as this may have been, the "advance scouting" ploy may have been effective, because when we returned a week later, we finished equal sixth, the best finish by a Queensland team in recent years.

Now for some hands of interest.

Dlr W	♠ J10654		
Vul Both	♥ 5		
	♦ AK982		
	♣ Q10		
♠ —		♠ AQ8	
♥ K108742		♥ AQ6	
♦ J		♦ Q7643	
♣ AJ9643		♣ K5	
	♠ K9732		
	♥ J93		
	♦ 105		
	♣ 872		

Larry, sitting West, chose to pass in first seat with this freakish two-suiter and North opened the bidding 1S. Richard, sitting East, overcalled 1NT, South raised to 2S and Larry jumped to 4H. This was passed around to South, who bid 4S, which he lived to regret, as it allowed Larry to propel our side into a making 6H contract.

At our table, Alan Walsh (NSW) did open the freak and with interference by us (which, incidently, they totally ignored) Alan and Barbara MacDonald relayed their way also to 6H for a push.

Dlr W	♠ —		
Vul Both	♥ A985		
	♦ 1082		
	♣ AKJ1073		
♠ A8		♠ KJ10974	
♥ J107		♥ Q62	
♦ A9654		♦ QJ3	
♣ Q85		♣ 4	
	♠ Q6532		
	♥ K43		
	♦ K7		
	♣ 962		

In the match against Canberra 1 that we won 19-11 Larry (West) passed, North opened 1C and Richard bid 2S. This was passed around to North, who doubled for take-out which South converted to penalties. Eight tricks were easily made, for a 13 IMP pick-up.

North must take most of the blame, as his hand was not suitable for a re-opening double with a strong club suit of his own. Even with the big trump stack, that was +670 to the good guys.

Playing in 4S as West, Larry found a nice throw-in on this hand.

Dlr W	♠ 7		
Vul Both	♥ AK95		
	♦ K962		
	♣ Q873		
♠ AKQJ52		♠ 10964	
♥ 43		♥ J6	
♦ Q3		♦ A108	
♣ AJ9		♣ 10642	
	♠ 83		
	♥ Q10872		
	♦ J754		
	♣ K5		

North cashed the two top hearts and exited with a trump. Larry drew trumps, ending in dummy, and led a club to his 9, end-playing North.

Does Rosa have courage or what?

Dlr S	♠ K96		
Vul NS	♥ 6		
	♦ J5432		
	♣ K1064		
♠ 742		♠ AJ83	
♥ AQJ107		♥ 9832	
♦ Q8		♦ 97	
♣ 873		♣ J52	
	♠ Q105		
	♥ K54		
	♦ AK106		
	♣ AQ9		

Sitting South, Rosa opened 1D, West overcalled 1H, Bill bid 2D, East bid 3H (pre-emptive raise) and Rosa bid 3NT, passed out.

West, on lead, knows that Rosa has the HK, so leading a heart is out of the question, therefore a black suit lead is called for. But which one? His clubs are marginally better than his spades. It seemed to take ages. Looking at Rosa across the table, she is stone-faced, no sign of discomfort at all. "Is she asleep?" Yes folks, Rosa likes a little kip between boards. At last, a card hit the table, and it was black, but luckily for her the right symbol; the C7! Rosa never flinched. This girl has become a rock.

■ Bill Hunt & Richard Touton

Sunshine Coast Graded Pairs

March 21

Enquiries to Robyn Feuerherdt 5452 6972

Brisbane Bridge Centre

104 Frederick St, Annerley. Ph: 3392 7933

Play Sessions	Tuesday	9.30 am 7.30 pm
	Wednesday	10.00 am
Coaching Sessions & Beginners' Classes	Thursday	7.30 pm
	Saturday	1.00 pm

Monday 10.00 am
Tuesday 7.30 pm

Enquiries for coaching & beginners' classes: **3371 2383**

From Overseas

The Bermuda Bowl

The Last Three Boards Italy v. USA¹

THE last three boards in the 2003 Bermuda Bowl were the most dramatic in the history of World Championship play.

Italy led by 8 IMPs, 290-282 when Board 126 was placed on the table. There was plenty of scope for a swing. Could either team capitalize?

Dir E	♠ QJ10754	♠ —
Vul None	♥ KJ94	♥ 107532
	♦ AK8	♦ 973
	♣ —	♣ 96542
	♠ AK983	♠ 62
	♥ —	♥ AQ86
	♦ Q64	♦ J1052
	♣ AKQ103	♣ J87

W	N	E	S
Hamman	Lauria	Soloway	Versace
1C ¹	1S	P	P
2C	X	5C	X
P	5H	All pass	

¹ Strong, artificial, forcing Lauria led high diamonds and the contract went down two, minus 300. Soloway stated, "I guess I should have doubled five hearts. At the time I thought my best action was to pass the decision to Bob. I thought chances were good that we had only one loser in diamonds."

W	N	E	S
Duboin	Rodwell	Bocchi	Meckstroth
1S	P	P	X
XX	2S	P	3D
4C	4H	5C	P
P	5D	P	P
X	All pass		

Clearly this contract did not fare well. It actually went down three tricks – minus 500, and that was a 13 IMP gain for the Italians. That made Italy's lead 21 IMPs with two boards to go. Italy 303-USA 282. Surely, it was all over. Then came more drama.

Mind Games

A History of Qld Bridge

Dir S	♠ 765	♠ AJ
Vul NS	♥ 7	♥ AKJ109652
	♦ A9652	♦ J8
	♣ 8632	♣ 7
	♠ Q8432	♠ K109
	♥ —	♥ Q843
	♦ KQ103	♦ 74
	♣ AQ104	♣ KJ95

After a spade opening from Duboin, West, and a two diamond response showing a strong hand with hearts from Bocchi, the Italian pair explored for slam with a series of relay bids, stopping in five hearts. That proved to be one too many when the Americans were able to time the defence so that Duboin could not get diamonds set up for a spade discard. Duboin lost a spade, a heart and a diamond for one off, minus 50.

W	N	E	S
Hamman	Lauria	Soloway	Versace
1S	P	3D ¹	P
3NT	P	4H	All pass

¹ Good hand with hearts. When Soloway essentially made a jump shift in hearts, Hamman ran up a warning flag, which Soloway heeded.

Soloway also made ten tricks, but plus 420 and 10 IMPs - Italy 303-USA 292.

Word spread through the Vugraph Theatre that Bocchi - Duboin, who had been finished play for quite some time, had had a poor result on the final deal, and that the Americans had a chance.

QBA

Website

www.qldbridge.com

Have you visited this site recently?

Under new management

DID YOU KNOW?

Players are expected to be courteous and to do nothing to annoy or embarrass another player.

Dir W	♠ 2	♠ A6543
Vul EW	♥ AJ93	♥ KQ1086
	♦ KQ109865	♦ 42
	♣ 5	♣ A
	♠ J10	♠ KQ987
	♥ 542	♥ 7
	♦ A7	♦ J3
	♣ K107642	♣ QJ983

W	N	E	S
Duboin	Rodwell	Bocchi	Meckstroth
P	1D	2D ¹	P
2H	3D	P	P
3H	P	4H	All pass

¹ Both majors

Rodwell led the diamond queen to the two, jack and ace. A heart to the king held and Duboin ducked a spade to Meckstroth's queen. He played a diamond to Rodwell's eight.

Rodwell switched to the heart nine and Duboin went up with the queen. He tried to cash the spade ace, but Rodwell ruffed and cashed the ace of trumps.

Rodwell then led a diamond and declarer had to ruff, but the end was nigh. Duboin could take another trump and the club ace, but his remaining three spades were all losers.

Down four, minus 400.

The bidding took an entirely different turn in the other room.

W	N	E	S
Hamman	Lauria	Soloway	Versace
P	1D	2D ¹	X
2H	3D	P	P
3H	5D	X	All pass

¹ Both majors

Soloway started with the club ace and Versace put his dummy down and got up and left the table, either to have a cigarette or to compare scores quickly. The tension on the players' faces was evident for all to see. When Soloway switched to the heart queen, Lauria won this and ruffed a heart, playing his own cards and dummy's as well. He crossed to his hand with a club ruff and led the heart jack, hoping to pin the ten. Soloway covered and Lauria ruffed in dummy. Lauria now played (literally!) the spade king, won by Soloway.

At this point, Soloway could have cashed the good ten of hearts for a two-trick set. That would have given the Americans 12 IMPs, just enough to win the Bermuda Bowl by an IMP. But he didn't – he played a spade! Pandemonium reigned! It was

going to be a tie! (Perhaps, perhaps not – more on this later.)

Expecting that Soloway was cashing the good heart, Lauria pulled the seven of spades to discard on the heart. Suddenly he realized that Soloway had played a spade, not a heart! He attempted to replace the spade seven with the queen. If he had been allowed to do that, the contract would have gone down one, USA would have gained 11 IMPs, and the match would have ended in the putative tie. An eight-board playoff would be necessary to determine the World Champions in that case.

The director was called. After hearing the facts, she ruled that the spade seven was a played card, since that was the card Lauria touched, with intent to play it. Plus 300 and 12 IMPs to USA1. USA 304-Italy 303! Incredible!

The Italians appealed, but the Appeals Committee ruled very promptly considering the gravity of the circumstances, agreeing with the director. Both the director and the committee concluded that Lauria had indeed touched the spade seven with the intent to play it. That meant the Italians suffered a two-trick set – minus 300. That was 12 IMPs and the gold medal for the USA.

Because of Lauria's loss of concentration, the Americans still achieved a two-trick set – and the gold medal in the closest Bermuda Bowl final in history.

In the opinion of many, it was astonishing that a player of Versace's experience would leave the table at such a critical juncture in the final of a World Championship. It was the ensuing distraction that caused Lauria's loss of concentration, they felt. Everyone had sympathy for Lauria, for who has not done something similar?

The final was contested by the two best teams in the world, and there was some brilliant bridge. But there was a lot of sloppiness, too. In addition to the Board 128 fiasco, there were two revokes and two mis-claims.

Back to the subject of the potential tie. On one of the revokes, the director's ruling had been to award one trick to the non-offending side, the USA (Hamman had tried unsuccessfully to have the penalty waived!), which resulted in 1 IMP to the USA. Later, the revoker took a trick with the card with which he had revoked. This should have resulted in a two-trick penalty, and, you guessed it, 2 IMPs to the USA. That director ruling was due to be revisited had the committee ruling gone the Italians' way. Whew! What a mess that would have been.

The event was marred by accusations from some Italians of unsportsmanlike

conduct on the part of the American players for not allowing Lauria to change his play. The American supporters replied that it was more unsportsmanlike for Versace to leave the table, for whatever reason, than for Lauria to try to change the play of the spade seven, and finally for the Italian team to appeal the director's clearly correct ruling. Nevertheless, it all made for grand theatre, and one could not have scripted a more exciting finish.

International Bridge Press Assn.

The Value of the Pre-emptive Bid

AT a club game sitting North at table 1 I picked up this little gem - first hand - my bid.

♠QJ976542 ♥965 ♦Q ♣8

A rather weak looking lot but I am not vul. and 3S is for wimps, so with an 8-card suit I opened 4S. East laughed and roused at me for making life difficult, then doubled. Her partner (and husband) passed.

This is where partnership understanding is important.

Do you play double for takeout, or penalties? Do you play 4NT for takeout in all other suits or the minors? Do you play 4NT for takeout into 2 unspecified suits, perhaps the other major and a minor?

This was the full deal .

Dir N	♠ QJ976542
Vul None	♥ 965
	♦ Q
	♣ 8
♠ K8	♠ —
♥ 10	♥ KJ7
♦ 98542	♦ AKJ1073
♣ AK632	♣ QJ74
	♠ A103
	♥ AQ8432
	♦ 6
	♣ 1095

East led the DA. Seeing dummy he switched to a club. I ruffed the second club and led the SQ. When East showed out I took my ace. Lucky me to find such a good partner. I ruffed the third club and took the heart finesse which held. West played the 10. On the principle that if my hand had a singleton, then someone else at the table held a singleton, I put West in with his SK. (I should cash the HA.) He, in fact, held the singleton H10 He was endplayed and had to give me a ruff and discard of my losing heart.

At a later time I enquired about the score card. Only one EW pair reached the small slam of 6C although several pairs played in 5C or 5D. Some NS pairs went down in 4S and 5SX. I was the lucky one who made 4SX.

Mission accomplished. Luck's a Fortune!

■ Margaret Drake

Queensland Bridge Association Inc

The QBA can produce copies of "Bridge Directing Complete" by Ian McKinnon (in its 1979 format)
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Teacher's Corner



Joan Butts

HOW about a New Year's resolution to spend more time teaching play in 2004? It might work for both teachers and students alike. At the moment, teachers, with the best of intentions, spend a lot of time on bidding theory (especially their favourite conventions), and virtually ignore play techniques like counting suits, maintaining trump control, and setting up end plays etc. The result is that new (and not so new) players are struggling to make contracts they've cleverly managed to reach in the bidding.

I was playing with my favourite partner ("torturer"), on OK bridge recently, and after another declarer play "oops" by me, he suggested I read a book by Bill Root, titled "How to Play a Bridge Hand". Taking this comment as a cruel insult, I advised him that naturally I'd read such standard texts as Mollo & Gardner's "Card Play Technique or the Art of Being Lucky", and thanks for the suggestion, but I didn't NEED one on the BASICS!

However, I secretly bought the book, and sure enough, he was right – it's full of great tips on how to play a bridge hand, as the title suggests. From the first chapter, which covers safety plays, to the section on counting hands and setting up squeezes, there are clear suggestions about how to focus on the problem at hand. Actually I'm now reading it for the second time, but I'm not telling my partner that!

It doesn't hurt to go back to the drawing board every now and then, and as teachers, we should reinforce correct play by offering courses on this. One of the reasons I use the materials I do is because the hands are great play hands, (as well as bidding), and there are teachers manuals to guide the teacher on methodology. The Bridge Master CDs are also great for improving declarer play, because you must play the hand card perfectly to make it. This often requires an understanding of safety plays, and correct technique.

My QBA beginners book, "Play Bridge: a Workbook for the Absolute Beginner" emphasises play too. It's available with a teachers manual and a "Guide by Your Side" summary, as well as extra supervised play hands for working on basic play

skills. Order through me. Good discounts for teachers and clubs, and especially if you're looking to introduce bridge at a local high school. My numbers are 0413 772 650 or 3254 4795. ■

Marketing



Cheryl Simpson

Your club's 2004 Beginners Lessons

DO you remember when you first decided to learn Bridge? Perhaps it was a friend who persuaded you to learn or maybe you saw an advertisement for lessons.

This year why don't you help your club to promote our game?

If you are not sure whether you could encourage some of your friends to learn ask the club teacher for a flier, to give to a friend or put up on an information board in your area. Then other people will be able to enjoy the game of bridge and make new friends and so will you!

Reminder: ANA Gold Coast
Congress

February 21st – 28th 2004

This Congress is a major event in this state and helps raise money to keep the Queensland Bridge Association financially viable.

Please consider entering this year - there are categories for all levels of bridge players, and playing in this Congress will help improve your bridge enormously.

If you require accommodation whilst you are on the Gold Coast, please support our Accommodation Guide Sponsors, the QBA Manager Kim Ellaway has more sponsors who would also be available for you to contact.

Cheryl

Cheryl Simpson,
QBA Marketing Officer.
Tel 07 5538 8821

Letter

MANY thanks for reprinting my students letter of 25 years ago. I was delighted on reading it and could not believe I had written such a letter of remember doing so. Though I often put pen to paper for newspapers and magazines in my early days when I felt forceful enough about something, you will be interested enough, I hope, to want to know how I finished up as I am retired now due to mini-strokes and unfortunately quite a lot of ill health.

I went to very few congresses, mostly Mackay and Proserpine. I had several partners in those years, but I played regularly in Bowen twice a week.

A Merry Xmas to all the members of the bridge clubs and especially Toowong where Darcy Bramelly plays, and may the year 2004 bring you all many happy hours of playing.

Betsy Hansen

Coming Events

Feb 8	Warwick Swiss Pairs
	QCBC Novice Teams (0-99 MPs)
21-28	QBA Gold Coast Congress
Mar 4-7	ABF Open/Women's Play-offs
5-7	Proserpine/Whitsunday Pairs
7	Maryborough Butler Pairs
	Dalby Swiss Pairs
	Toowong Novice Pairs (0-99 MPs)
13-14	Old Team Trials - Stage 1
	Rockhampton Butler pairs
14	Surfers Novice Swiss Pairs (0-99 MPs)
	Arana Swiss Teams
20-21	Old Team Trials - Stage 2
20	Eastern Suburbs Novice Teams (0-99 MPs)
21	Sunshine Coast Graded Pairs
27-28	Senior Team Trials - Stage 2
28	Townsville Pairs
	Northern Suburbs Pairs
	Toowoomba Novice Pairs (0-49 MPs)

Club News

Gympie

Nine Year 8 students from James Nash High School who were part of Jennifer Hollingworth's Bridge in Schools initiative, attended a presentation evening with their Maths teacher who also played. A mini-Mitchell movement was run with the students sitting EW playing against more experienced players sitting NS. Tom Hollingworth, Ben Spencer and Sam Walsh, all graduates of last years James Nash Year 8 class, were sitting NS.

Surfers Paradise

Melbourne Cup Day was attended by 130 members.

The AGM was attended by 127 members and the new President is Dawn Turner.

300 attended the Christmas Party. The introduction of Harems Teams seemed very popular with 26 teams competing.

Thanks to Seps Retravision for being a wonderful sponsor to Surfers Paradise.

Caboolture

The first inter-club game against Redcliffe Bridge Club was in November.

The first anniversary of the club saw the QBA President visit and have a game.

Twelve new members increased the membership by 30%

QCBC

The annual Bring and Buy table profited nearly \$2,000.00.

Congratulations to Chris & Caroline Woolley who won the Nationwide Pairs from a field of 140 pairs on 22 Nov, with a score of 67.6%.

Thanks to the following sponsors YELLOW CABS, NV FASHIONS and ABN-AMRO Morgans who helped with the printing of the diary.

Cairns

Ergon Energy spoiled the Christmas party at Cairns with electricity going off during their Christmas celebrations. Di Lord put on a wonderful spread for the main meal. She then went on to win the most improved player award.

Plaques were presented to Del Price for her contribution to the club and to Prue Haussman for her contribution to teaching activities over many years.

DID YOU KNOW?

As a matter of courtesy a player should refrain from detaching a card before it is his turn to play.

James O'Sullivan Awards as at Dec 30 2003

Overall Position

JANZEKOVIC	DARKO	274.23
FRANCIS	NEVILLE	273.44
SLOBOM	ROBERT	221.00
PRITCHARD	JOHN	207.35
STRONG	TERRY	177.79
CROFT	DENIS	177.00
ROBSON	MIKE	171.56
HUNT	BILL	170.69
LEE	BETTY	166.91
APPLETON	DAVID	165.10

Silver Grand

ROBSON	MIKE	171.56
HUNT	BILL	170.69
MILLAR	MARGARET	162.93
TULLY	THERESE	162.21
JACKMAN	TONY	141.75

Grand

FRANCIS	NEVILLE	273.44
SLOBOM	ROBERT	221.00
PRITCHARD	JOHN	207.35
STRONG	TERRY	177.79
CROFT	DENIS	177.00

Gold Life

MOSES	LARRY	144.97
LACHMAN	ROSA	129.79
MOREY	RICHARD	122.36
DARLEY	MONICA	114.01
LEDEN	PETER	101.44

Silver Life

MCLAUHLAN	RICHARD	119.00
TOUTON	RICHARD	110.01
MORAWIECKI	ROMAN	106.02
GREEN	ROSEMARY	104.46
TUXWORTH	ANTHONY	102.73

Bronze Life

JAKES	MAUREEN	117.04
SOLOMON	JANEEN	116.55
GOSS	BEVERLEY	112.23
CARVILL	WENDI	98.20
BARNETT	PHILIPPA	94.84

Life

DEAN	SANDY	140.24
SAXBY	ELSPETH	107.13
O'BRIEN	JOYCE	106.98
WALFORD	TONY	104.27
O'DEMPSEY	TERENCE	88.81

**National

GEMMELL	GORDON	99.52
HORSFIELD	SETSUKO	76.95
MCPHEAT	JOAN	70.79
TAYLOR	MARGARET	61.58
TROUGHTON	JEAN	58.36

*National

HARRIS	DAVID	139.73
REGAN	SANDRA	119.18
CLAYTON	ALAN	101.21
NICHOLS	ANN	99.77
BIRRER	SHARYN	94.39

National

GIBSON	NEIL	117.21
GIBSON	ELIZABETH	117.21

WOOD	JAMES	93.45
OSMUND	JAMES	85.73
MILLAR	JOHN	83.17

*State

HOBDELL	BETTY	91.52
WALLIS	JANET	63.31
ALLEN	SANDRA	58.67
BROWN	FRANCES	54.64
BROWN	ALAN	52.44

State

GOSNEY	PAUL	104.72
SENDER	SYLVIA	87.53
MOSCHNER	KEN	83.18
GULLEY	GEOFFREY	70.24
CARROLL	BRUCE	68.32

*Regional

CLOUSTON	PATRICIA	47.52
ARNOLD	FRANK	31.78
BAARDA	RENK	29.66
SAVAGE	DICK	28.55
DAWE	KIRSTY	26.82

Regional

WELLS	PETER	71.54
DYER	GAYLENE	46.39
VANKAN	ESTELLE	39.71
SHEIL	GINA	38.80
JOHNSON	PETER	37.79

**Local

HENNIG	ELAINE	52.65
GULLEY	ANNE	50.38
FEIGE	RENATE	46.28
SMITH	ANDREA	45.76
TAYLOR	RAY	39.52

*Local

BARDEN	BIANCA	147.21
HALE	PHIL	95.96
STUTHE	BRIGITTE	42.82
TAYLOR	ROLAND	42.58
INGLIS	PETER	39.44

Local

KAMALARASA	SANMUGAR	121.99
HORAN	BRIAN	44.15
WEBB	RUTH	37.82
MCARTHUR	ROBERT	36.29
CORNELL	ANNA	35.98

Club

CONLAN	TERRY	42.41
O'DONOHUE	BARRY	42.24
POLLETT	PHIL	37.16
O'DONOHUE	MOLLY	33.39
SCHOEN	PAM	31.81

Graduate

SISSON	EDITH	18.57
CHEONG	DENNIS	16.52
BRAMELD	CHRISTIN	15.42
REDHEAD	BILL	14.71
RILEY	ROSLYN	14.62

Nil

LLOYD	ANNE	22.55
EVANS	PAMELA	22.18
BLOOMFIELD	CHRIS	21.38
BANNAH	JOAN	21.20
DUFFY	TRICA	20.90

Results

Eastern Suburbs Graded Teams Nov 15

A Grade

- 1 T Bardon M Millar
M Cooke K Ellaway
- 2 A Pryde T Regan
J Mills C Green
- 3 N Francis D Croft
T Strong J Solomon

B Grade

- 1 S Brookes I Halford
V Brookes M Radke
- 2 R Busch J McPheat
C Critchley L Jenkins
- 3 C Howard K Wood
M Walters L Farnden

C Grade

- 1 B Hogerhyde B Horton
J Harris C Leeves
- 2 S Hall P Mann
E Meldrum M Roseler
- 3 L Eaves P Schoen
M Wallace O Yardley

Brisbane Festival of Bridge Dec 28-Jan 1

Pairs

- 1 B & P Singley
- 2 J Eberhardt B Stoddart
- 3 P Hooykaas P Rankin

Teams

- 1 J Eberhardt A Aitcheson
P Schoen P Lavings
- 2 C Page T Newnham
W Stuthe T Jackman
- 3= D Heer K Nagrodski
B Stuthe D Dodd
- 3= H Morris J Parker
R Lynch B Karen
- 3= D Holmes M Holmes
F Jones K Anderson

Interclub Teams Redlands Dec 12

- 1 Arana
- 2 Toowong
- 3=BBC
- 3=Eastern Suburbs

A Grade

- 1 QCBC
- 2 Arana
- 3 Redlands

B Grade

- 1 Arans
- 2 Toowong
- 3 Eastern Suburbs

C Grade

- 1 BBC
- 2 Arana
- 3 Toowong

Queensland-wide Pairs

NS

- 1 D Brannelly K Knowles -
Toowong B
- 2 C Mawn D Cornish - Roma
- 3 V Carroll J Spencer - Proserpine
- 4 M Robson B Lee - QCBC
- 5 M Piper H Thompson - Cairns
- 6 E Nason J Fulloon - Darling Downs
- 7 J Paull N Paull - SPBC
- 8 B Gibbs D Ryan - Mackay
- 9 P Penberthy N Rowland -
Darling Downs
- 10 C Palmer L George - Bundaberg

EW

- 1 S Dean T Strickland - Redlands 1
- 2 P Francis N Francis - Warwick
- 3 B Hobdell I Patterson - Townsville
- 4 B Whitmee J Whitmee -
Goondowindi
- 5 A Brown R Gryg - Cairns
- 6 N Tuxworth A Tuxworth - GCBC
- 7 J Unger E Reu - Redlands 1
- 8 J O'Reilly V Austin - Dalby
- 9 A Hooper P Hooper - Cairns
- 10 M Rival T Price - Goondowindi

<150 masterpoints

- NS C Mawn D Cornish - Roma
- EW B & J Whitmee - Goondiwindi

<50 masterpoints

- NS P Evans B De Wit - Lockyer
- EW M Wienk - J Currell - Redlands

Coolum Graded Pairs Nov 23

Life & Grand

- 1 K Dawson A Kelly
- 2 S Brookes I Halford
- 3 M Winch T Walford

National & State

- 1 R Chapman D McKenzie
- 2 N Holloway D Borchardt

Regional & Below

- 1 J Rainer-Smith H Holloway
- 2 M Daines R Manester

Coral Coast Teams Bowen Nov 8-9

- 1 J Wright M Nicol
K Ramsbotham B Hobdell
- 2 P Pembroke F Hadwen
J Morris S Birrer
- 3rd placing went to the

Best-Under-National

- L Stewart F Blower
- N Massey M Bloxham

Mackay Novice Teams Nov 23

- 1 A Hird P Brewer
M McGuire O Olive
- 2 R Taylor T Wotherspoon
T Dew A Julien
- 3 J Martin M Bowling
S Collyer E Kliese

Atherton Congress Jan 2-4

Pairs

- 1 J Morris S Birrer
- 2 M Horseman K Crowley
- 3 C Suthers V Carroll

Plate

- 1 S Holme J Wyburn
- 2 B Gibson L Pollock
- 3 G Tulloch B Hospers

Teams

- 1 L Wilson R Thwaite
B Gibson L Pollock
- 2 S Holme J Wyburn
C Suthers V Carroll
- 3 A & P Hooper
D & B McConache

Restricted

- 1 P Daley V Mahony
K Crowley M Horseman

Qld Senior Teams Championship Jan 4

- 1 L Moses B Hunt
Tom Strong A Tuxworth
- 2 H McLauchlan R McLauchlan
P Gill - J Summerhayes
- 3 R Tait P Hainsworth
A Smith R Clayton

Plate

- 1 B Featherston K Dakin
J Bell A Smith
- 2 P Barnett M Jakes
S Regan D Harris

Restricted

- 1= M Carpenter R Cunliffe
D Hatcher P Rittey
- 1= J Bell K Bell
B Woodbridge M Woodbridge

Qld Senoir Pairs Championship Nov 23

- 1 D Croft T Berger
- 2 D Osmund E Berger
- 3 J & M Kent
- 4 G Rusher J Broad

Plate

- 1 P Sloane K Rutter
- 2 W O'Brien J Hicks

Consolation

- 1 R Cunliffe D Hatcher

DID YOU KNOW?

It is a violation of procedure to look intently at any other player during the auction and play.

The Director should be called and addressed in a courteous manner.

Directors' Corner

Alerting Regulations

NEW Alerting Regulations for ABF events came into force on Jan 1. These will most likely be adopted for Queensland congresses and state events in due course. As I write they are not yet in force in Queensland, except for ABF events. Essentially, the new ABF Alerting Regulations are a re-wording of the old ones and players going to the Gold Coast Congress will have no problems if they maintain their usual high standards of alerting.

To over-simplify:

- 1 Acquaint opponents of your basic system, length of one level openings and strength and style of an opening bid of 1NT.
- 2 Pre-alert opponents to any unusual agreements you have which might surprise them, or to which they may need to plan a defence. This is particularly important for any unusual self-alerting calls. Some examples of calls requiring a pre-alert are transfer pre-empts, unusual two-level openings, canapé style bidding, very unusual doubles, unusual methods over an opponent's 1NT or strong 1C opening and unusual cue-bids of an opponent's suit. Highly unusual signals should also be pre-alerted.
- 3 During the auction, alert conventional calls unless self-alerting. Self-alerting calls are doubles, redoubles, cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit and calls at the four level and higher. Some natural bids must also be alerted. Those that are forcing or non-forcing in a way that your opponents are unlikely to expect, (responder's first round jump shift with a weak hand; a non-forcing suit response to an opening suit bid by an unpassed hand - with or without interference) and those that are affected by other agreements which your opponents are unlikely to expect (a natural NT overcall in the direct position, which does not promise a stopper in the overcalled suit; a weak or pre-emptive jump raise of opener's one level bid; a single raise of partner's suit which may be strong or forcing; the rebid in a canapé sequence where the second suit may be longer than the first; a 1H opening which denies holding 4+ spades).
4. At the end of the auction, the declaring side should draw attention to any unusual features, particularly unusual non-alerted calls.

If you bend over backwards to make sure

opponents know everything you know about your auction, you can't go far wrong.

Ask questions at your turn to bid or play. Ask because you need to know, then and there, to be able to choose your call or play. Asking out of idle curiosity, though technically legal, often leads to tears. By all means ask about specific calls made since your last turn to call, but at other times keep unauthorized information to a minimum by inquiring about the entire auction only. Say, "Would you explain your auction, please?" or "What does your auction mean so far, please?"

As partner is choosing his opening lead is *not* the time to ask, "What does 2C mean?" if holding ♣AQ10 over dummy's ♣KJx.

Last March I wrote about face-up opening leads being prevalent at the 2003 Gold Coast Congress. As tiredness takes hold, it helps to have an ingrained habit of putting the opening lead face down, as required by Law 41A.

A faced opening lead out of turn will usually give the presumed declarer an advantage. By accepting the lead he can choose whether he or his partner plays the hand, perhaps now concealing the strong hand or simply getting best value from the "though weakness and up to strength" principle. It may simply allow the stronger player to become declarer in a difficult contract. By requiring the lead from the correct hand, declarer may be able to use his options under the Major Penalty Card laws to increase his chances of success.

Bridge players are usually very solicitous of opponents with broken limbs or nasty injuries and illnesses. Nasty natured players, fortunately in a minority, may also be ill (sad, lonely, worried) yet we are not nearly so tolerant because they spoil the game for everyone.

Let's make a New Year resolution not to let them succeed. If we are happy and contented then we can afford to be sympathetic to someone with a problem. A second resolve might be to obey Law 9B1(a) The Director must be summoned at once when attention is drawn to an irregularity.

Have a great time at the Gold Coast Congress. Come and say hello if you're from out of town. Don't forget the Directing Workshop 10 am Wednesday on the 4th Floor at the ANA.

■ Jan Peach

Going to the Gold Coast this year?

The Gold Coast Booking Centre manages 15 properties. The properties in Surfers are

**Moroccan
Crown Towers
Chevron Renaissance
(opened 20/1/03)
Imperial Surf
St Tropez
Aloha
Enderley Gardens
Equinox**

Our website is
www.gcbc.com.au
and this will give you an idea of the properties. Our number is **1300 553 800** and this is a local call cost.

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Contributors should note that the right to modify submitted material is retained by the QBA.

D E A D

MARCH 8 (noon)

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L I N E