

On board 4 in the first qualifying round we reached an against the odds slam that made an overtrick due to a favourable lead.

Q 1	♠ J8
Bd 4	♥ 10432
Dlr W	♦ J1065
Vul Both	♣ J43
♠ A109643	♠ K72
♥ K9	♥ J6
♦ A73	♦ KQ2
♣ KQ	♣ A9865
	♠ Q5
	♥ AQ875
	♦ 984
	♣ 1072

Picture removed for technical reasons

W	N	E	S
1S	P	2C	P
2NT	P	3C	P
3D	P	3S	P
4NT	P	5H	P
6S	All pass		

Therese, West, opened 1S and after her game-forcing 2NT rebid, my 3C was an inquiry as to her strength, and 3D showed 15 to a bad 17. 3S showed my support and still showed some slam interest, and now Therese took over and bid the slam, which was less than 50% since it required trumps 2-2.

On the diamond lead and the 3-3 club break, she made all 13 tricks.

Q 1	♠ 942
Bd 6	♥ K92
Dlr E	♦ Q
Vul EW	♣ AQ9832
♠ AQJ863	♠ K105
♥ A85	♥ 103
♦ AK85	♦ J107432
♣ —	♣ 65
	♠ 7
	♥ QJ764
	♦ 96
	♣ KJ1074

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

We missed a cold grand slam after South opened with 2H to show hearts and a minor and less than opening points.

Therese doubled first rather than bid 4S directly, which showed a stronger hand, but I did not know about the big diamond fit, so quietly passed her 4S bid, hoping I had enough for game. Six diamonds and six spades plus the HA were 13 tricks.

Keith MacDonald with the winners of the Pairs Championship -
R Jedrychowski and J Pszczola

On board 5 in the 2nd qualifying round our luck started to improve.

Q 2	♠ A843
Bd 5	♥ Q32
Dlr N	♦ 1063
Vul NS	♣ Q92
♠ K2	♠ 9
♥ AJ10	♥ K8754
♦ AKQ	♦ J9754
♣ AKJ84	♣ 75
	♠ QJ10765
	♥ 96
	♦ 82
	♣ 1063

W	N	E	S
4NT	P	2H	P
6NT	All pass	5D	P

My 2H opening was natural, with less than an opening bid (I definitely had that!) and a 5-card minor as well, and Therese checked that we had 4 of the key-cards before bidding 6NT to protect her SK.

North led a middle diamond, and it was imperative that the hearts were played for 5 tricks, and yet the blockage made this difficult. A legitimate line is to cash the diamonds and play HA followed by the HK, hoping to find precisely Q9 with North or South, but a defensive error is better odds, and North looked to Therese like the impassive sort who would refuse to cover an honour in case it eliminated a two-way guess, so she ran the HJ, which held, and 13 tricks were made when North discarded a club.

The recommended play when you do not want North to cover is to run the HT.

On following hand South faced a common pairs dilemma of whether or not to cash a trick before it goes away.

Q 2	♠ 65
Bd 10	♥ Q764
Dlr E	♦ Q97
Vul Both	♣ 10863
♠ Q9742	♠ K10
♥ J109	♥ K5
♦ A6	♦ KJ10852
♣ 972	♣ AKQ
	♠ AJ83
	♥ A832
	♦ 43
	♣ J54

W	N	E	S
1S	P	1D	P
3S	P	2NT	P
		3NT	All pass

South led the H2, to my 3NT, won with the king over the queen, and I led to the DA and successfully finessed in diamonds, before leading the SK. It was now or never for South, and when they exited with a club, they were squeezed on the run of the minor suits and I made 12 tricks.

QBA
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F 1	♠ Q6
Bd 8	♥ Q10976
Dlr W	♦ K4
Vul None	♣ K1073
♠ K8543	♠ AJ10
♥ A32	♥ J54
♦ J7	♦ A82
♣ J94	♣ AQ52
	♠ 972
	♥ K8
	♦ Q109653
	♣ 86

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

In the 1st session of the Final, we were up against Ishmael Del'monte and he opened 2H to show just the type of hand he had. Therese doubled for take-out, and I erred on the side of caution with 3S, but Therese was happy to raise to game.

Ishmael led the HT and I ducked, while South thought of jettisoning his king; he wisely held on to it, but it was obvious to everyone that he had an honour and I won the HA to block the suit. Expecting North to be short in spades, I finessed the wrong way, and now I had to go down, but if I had got the spades right, Ishmael can be stripped squeezed to give me my 10 tricks.

On this board we were still against Ishmael Del'monte.

F 1	♠ KJ84
Bd 9	♥ A6
Dlr N	♦ Q853
Vul EW	♣ A95
♠ 109532	♠ AQ76
♥ J10	♥ 5
♦ 10	♦ AKJ42
♣ Q10872	♣ K43
	♠ —
	♥ KQ987432
	♦ 976
	♣ J6

W	N	E	S
P	1NT	X	4H
	P	X	All pass

His 1NT opening was weak, and Therese's first double was for penalties, while her second double just showed a good hand. My weak hand and the adverse vulnerability made the pass attractive, and luckily we had just enough to take it one off for a reasonable score; 5C is unlikely to make, and 4S suffers the 4-0 break.

Picture removed for technical reasons

Therese Tully - Convenor for 2005

Our EW opponents had a mental aberration and we got a good score in spite of our bad defence.

F 1	♠ Q1074
Bd 11	♥ QJ106
Dlr S	♦ A103
Vul None	♣ Q4
♠ AJ9	♠ 32
♥ AK84	♥ 532
♦ KQJ87	♦ —
♣ 10	♣ AK986532
	♠ K865
	♥ 97
	♦ 96542
	♣ J7

W	N	E	S
1D	P	2C	P
2H	P	3C	P
3NT	P	4H?	P
P?	P		

If I have a good 7-card suit, it will take a lot of convincing from partner to play in another suit, and I would never contemplate a Moysen fit while I had a good 8-card suit that had only been bid twice. Even though our bad defence allowed West to make 10 tricks in 4H, -420 was almost a top for us since some EW pairs bid the slam (some even 7C) and even

those not in slam made 440 by way of the ruffing finesse in diamonds.

On this board EW suffered because they had too many entries to dummy!

F 1	♠ 1072
Bd 18	♥ 74
Dlr E	♦ J84
Vul NS	♣ A7543
♠ Q96543	♠ AJ8
♥ Q109	♥ AKJ65
♦ 2	♦ 10
♣ K102	♣ J986
	♠ K
	♥ 832
	♦ AKQ97653
	♣ Q

W	N	E	S
4H	All pass	1H	4D

After showing her long diamonds and a reasonable hand with her jump to 4D at adverse vulnerability, Therese passed 4H, content that she had made EW guess at a high level.

The opening lead was the DA, and Therese switched to the CQ on seeing dummy, and declarer, looking at all of the pips, should have realized that this was a singleton, but made the mistake of covering. Therese ruffed my middle club return and returned a trump, won in dummy. Declarer was now able to draw trumps and finish in dummy to take the spade finesse for one down. It would have been a good time to have an entry-less dummy where the only alternative was to lead the SA!

At another table, after similar bidding, South doubled 4H and led the CQ, again incorrectly covered, and this time North led back a low club suggesting something in diamonds. South underled the top three honours to get their ruff for one down, and also made the SK for +300. If declarer ducks the CQ, North has to overtake to give South the ruff, otherwise 4H makes.

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F 1	♠ AK9
Bd 19	♥ K85
Dlr S	♦ Q2
Vul EW	♣ 76542
♠ Q875	♠ J1063
♥ 2	♥ J7643
♦ KJ6	♦ 973
♣ KQJ98	♣ 3
	♠ 42
	♥ AQ109
	♦ A10854
	♣ A10

W	N	E	S
			1D
P	2C	P	2H
P	2NT	P	3NT
All pass			

After South opened 1D I elected not to overcall 2C with the West cards, and was initially pleased with this decision when North responded 2C, but when I saw dummy after Therese led the S3 to 3NT, I was wishing I had bid 2C for the lead.

Our chances looked better when North won the SK and ran the DQ to my king, so I quickly led the CK and established my suit. If North had cashed all of his major suit tricks finishing in hand, I would have had to bare my DJ, or else be thrown in with the club to lead into dummy for the last 2 tricks in diamonds, but fortunately he fell back on the double finesse and finished 2 off.

For this round we were up against last year's winners, Bruce Neill and Ron Klinger, and the bidding gave me a complete blueprint of how to play the hand.

F 1	♠ 86
Bd 26	♥ J642
Dlr E	♦ AK103
Vul Both	♣ K64
♠ AK	♠ 1072
♥ KQ95	♥ 107
♦ 985	♦ 762
♣ AQJ2	♣ 109853
	♠ QJ9543
	♥ A83
	♦ QJ4
	♣ 7

W	N	E	S
X	2S	P	2D
2NT	3S	All pass	P

I suspected that having most (it turned out to be all) of the points in the one hand would be an advantage, which is why I

Picture removed for technical reasons

Clare Jackman and Sarah Jane Reid - Floor 2 Managers

bid 3S with such poor support. Ron did not have a clear lead, and chose the S7, knowing from the bidding that I was likely to only have a doubleton.

However, when Bruce won the SK, he was endplayed, as I knew that Ron could have at most the CJ. He could have led the HK and set up a heart trick, but instead exited with the D9, and then with the D8 when he won the CA. When I finessed the spade to his now bare ace, he exited with his last diamond, and they had to make a heart at the end.

F 1	♠ J
Bd 27	♥ QJ109753
Dlr S	♦ 8542
Vul None	♣ 7
♠ AQ9642	♠ 87
♥ —	♥ 8642
♦ KJ96	♦ 103
♣ Q92	♣ K8653
	♠ K1053
	♥ AK
	♦ AQ7
	♣ AJ104

W	N	E	S
			2C
2NT	P	3D	X
P	4H	All pass	

Still playing against Neill and Klinger Therese, South, opened with 2C (strong and artificial) and Neill bid 2NT as West to show spades and diamonds.

I do not know their responses, but Klinger bid 3D, which Therese doubled to show

a strong balanced hand, and Neill passed. I do not know if Klinger was intending to pass this, as I bid the obvious 4H, and after a struggle with working out the distribution not knowing Klinger also had 2 spades when I could count he only had 2 diamonds at most, I came to 11 tricks for 450.

This round was against Val Cummings and Matt Mullamphy, and unfamiliarity with their system and my slight nap got us a bottom.

F 2	♠ AQJ73
Bd 3	♥ K92
Dlr S	♦ J32
Vul EW	♣ 73
♠ 54	♠ K8
♥ AJ	♥ 8743
♦ A5	♦ K10986
♣ AQJ6542	♣ K8
	♠ 10962
	♥ Q1065
	♦ Q74
	♣ 109

W	N	E	S
3C	4S	All pass	2H

6C is cold for EW, since the diamonds set up with one ruff and the trumps break 2-2, but I never dreamt that Matt's hand was as weak as it was and meekly sold out to 4S, which went 3 off undoubled!

■ Richard Wallis

ANA Heartbreak Hotel

RECORD numbers arrived at the ANA Hotel for the popular Gold Coast Congress; no doubt all of us with great expectations. But the cards invariably surprise and challenge and somehow our decisions don't bear scrutiny, and even top players find themselves in the Consolation Sections.

Now for a couple of heartbreakers!

Dlr E	♠ AQ6432		
Vul NS	♥ 10		
	♦ 84		
	♣ KQJ10		
♠ K75		♠ J1098	
♥ A765		♥ 93	
♦ Q10976		♦ 3	
♣ 6		♣ A97432	
	♠ —		
	♥ KQJ842		
	♦ AKJ52		
	♣ 85		

Partner, South, opened the bidding with 1H. With the opposition silent I bid 1S and partner 2D. I briefly considered 3NT but I am seduced by my 6-card spade suit. At this point partner may have a 5-4-2-2 distribution, so again always the optimist, I bid 3S. 4D from partner and now we are overboard. She has a 6-5 in hearts and diamonds.

Should I bid 4H or 4S? 4NT sounds like RKCB. If she held the single SJ she would no doubt have supported my spades. Perhaps she has a singleton low card so I confidently bid 4S. At least we aren't doubled; -400.

Dlr W	♠ KQ95		
Vul None	♥ 9		
	♦ AK864		
	♣ 1076		
♠ 107432		♠ A	
♥ 732		♥ AKQ1085	
♦ 9		♦ J53	
♣ KQ98		♣ 543	
	♠ J86		
	♥ J64		
	♦ Q1072		
	♣ AJ2		

I overcalled 1H over North's 1D opening. After a contested auction when partner supported my hearts once, we got to 3H, but after much thought South bid 4D.

On reflection I should have taken the push to 4H because although I have only 13 workable points in hearts, I have a 6 loser count and my 3 diamond holding points to a singleton with partner. 4H is cold and I am miserable.

Dlr W	♠ KQ102		
Vul None	♥ —		
	♦ J10862		
	♣ Q1098		
♠ AJ		♠ 6543	
♥ QJ10852		♥ AK7643	
♦ 74		♦ Q	
♣ A64		♣ 53	
	♠ 987		
	♥ 9		
	♦ AK953		
	♣ KJ72		

The bidding went 1H from West, pass from me and East bid 4H. Now in the passout seat I enquired as to the value of the 4H bid.

Although most players bid this as distributional and pre-emptive, there are players who play it as a sound game bid. (We were in a Consolation Section!) I was informed that it was 11 to 12 HCP. so I reluctantly passed. Perhaps partner was clutching five hearts. No; 5D our way was cold. I am sure, we are all, looking forward to the 2005 Gold Congress.

■ Margaret Drake

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Cuppaidge's Column



George Cuppaidge

Monster Points

ONE full monster point is awarded for any bid or play which converts a potential plus score into a minus. Extenuating circumstances will sometimes permit a reduction of the award. The mere fact that opponents hand back the advantage is not an extenuating circumstance, it is just the basis for another award. It is unusual but by no means uncommon to see two or more monster point awards in one hand. In the first of these hands no less than three points were awarded, see if you can spot them.

Dlr S	♠ 84		
Vul None	♥ Q752		
	♦ QJ73		
	♣ QJ3		
♠ Q6532		♠ AKJ97	
♥ 104		♥ 98	
♦ 1062		♦ K54	
♣ 972		♣ K104	
		♠ 10	
		♥ AKJ63	
		♦ A98	
		♣ A865	

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

¹ North's 3D was described as a 9-loser 4-card raise.

West led a spade and declarer ruffed the spade continuation. Trumps were drawn in two rounds ending in dummy and the DQ played. East covered, declarer won and ran the D9, winning, and later lost a club. 5H made.

Now for the awards.

I allocate one full point for South's 5H bid, though South may argue that 5H is cold. North is a trick better than his 3D bid said. Take away one of those queens and there is no play for 5H yet a healthy penalty is still available against 4S doubled. 5H is a very poor contract, as South's hand is defensive, not offensive.

The next MP goes to South also, for his play of the DQ at trick five. Diamonds is a suit which declarer should get the opponents to play for him! He has to lose a club so with luck it will be the third round as here, after covering the CQ or CJ, East will be obliged to win the C10 and open up diamonds for declarer.

East gets a full point too, for his cover of the DQ, this play set up a finesse for West's D10. By simply covering the second and not the first of two touching honours, East ensures that declarer gets his just deserts for his poor play at trick five. It does declarer no good to have the defenders play clubs for him, he always has a club loser.

Note that the fact that declarer was not punished for his misplay is not a mitigating circumstance, he gets his full point for his trick five play. He could argue that he was going to switch to clubs if the DQ had held. I would need some convincing.

Dlr N	♠ A65		
Vul NS	♥ AK86		
	♦ —		
	♣ KQ10532		
♠ Q42		♠ J7	
♥ J532		♥ 1094	
♦ 73		♦ A98652	
♣ J876		♣ 94	
		♠ K10983	
		♥ Q7	
		♦ KQJ104	
		♣ A	

W	N	E	S
P	1C	P	1S
P	2H	P	3D
P	3S	P	4C
P	4NT	P	5D
P	6C	P	6S
All pass			

West found the only lead to give the defenders a chance, a diamond, so perhaps he should be given a credit to set off against a future monster point award.

The play is simple on another lead. Declarer unblocks his CA, plays SK then a spade to dummy's ace. He now ruffs a small club in hand and runs his winners. The small trump in dummy is an entry when West ruffs in with the outstanding SQ.

The contract can be made after the diamond lead but it requires declarer to diagnose the diamond lead as a doubleton. He adopts a similar line of play but ruffs two diamonds low in dummy before playing off the SA and later SK. When West ruffs in he will not have a diamond to play.

Declarer however embarked on this line. He ruffed the lead and played a club to his ace, ruffed another diamond and played clubs from the top. I ruffed the third round with the SJ and declarer over-ruffed. He ruffed another diamond with the SA and now played four rounds of hearts. This was the position as I ruffed the fourth round with the S7.

	—	
	6	
	—	
	1053	
Q42		7
J		—
—		A86
—		—
	10983	
	—	
	—	
	—	

Declarer over-ruffed and played S10. West gets his full point for failing to duck and later make a trick with his SQ and S4.

What about the bidding? The slam is not terrible but should not be bid. I do not like North's 4NT. It is clear that South has "taken over" after the 3S preference. North should recognise that he doesn't have all that much for his partner, only Axx in his first suit and a void in the second. If he continues the cue bidding, with 4D over 4C, the previous bidding will strongly suggest that this bid is based upon a void. South will sign off in 4S. To put it another way, it is rarely right to Blackwood with a void. The (grand) slam is a fine one if South's holdings in his five-card suits are reversed; South is the one to make the decisions. One point to the usurper, North.

Both these hands were played on Bridgebase online. For a bridge writer the feature that both the bidding and play, trick by trick, can be re-examined at a later date is a wonderful one. Trick by trick analysis by Deep Finesse is a further bonus. I can often be found there as jorj 41.

■ George Cuppaidge

25 Years Ago

THE 1979 National Youth Championships were held in Canberra this year from 13-18 January. The team from Queensland consisted of Barry Kempthorne, Ross Best, Sean Mullamphy and myself. We caused something of a sensation among disbelieving opponents upon confirming that, we not only came all the way from Queensland, but from Townsville. One gentleman asked whether this was north of south of Bris-

bane, thus enabling us to gauge his team's average intelligence and score a solid win over them.

This only vindicated the fears of people who feel that the Youth Team is fast losing status as a championship. In fact, 12 of the competing teams were from NSW and the ACT, while WA, Tas, and SA were not represented at all. The big factor in this lack of enthusiasm would be the large costs involved for young people in travelling from the more remote states. We were much indebted to the QBA for subsidising our fare \$100 per player, but even so, a certain degree of financial sacrifice is involved. For any young people not actually working, it is virtually impossible to go. If the Youth Teams is to be truly representative, instead of a NSW championship as it is at present, the various state bridge associations and the ABF need to think about fully sponsoring young teams as was done in NSW this year. This team of 14-15 year olds ('The Kids' as they became known) improved remarkably over the week and may be very difficult to beat in a few years time.

On Tuesday night, the Canberra people provided a barbeque on the imported sands at the edge of Lake Burleigh Griffin followed by a party, so as to have a social break between sessions. Two of the Queensland team lived up to expectations and became excessively sociable, eventually having to be poured out of the party quite firmly after everyone else had gone home. At this stage, we were having a run of wins, and it remains a matter conjecture whether dark plots were afoot by our opponents as the aforementioned two were *not* on top of their game the next day. We proceeded to lose several matches. However, they all thought we were very friendly which is some small comfort, I suppose.

The congress was held at the Macquarie Private Hotel which was full of alternative recreational facilities. This meant that after the excitement of being beaten at bridge, you could relax by being beaten at snooker, billiards, table tennis and assorted games of chance. If you really wanted to unwind, the Scheming Southerners would play any of these for money. I mostly watched.

A pairs event was held before the teams began and was won by David Smith and Robert van Riel of Melbourne.

The Queensland team finished 8th having won 6 matches and lost 8. We followed this up with a dashing 3rd in the Consolation Teams. The Fordham team became the eventual winners when they beat Brown in the 50-board final match.

■ Lindy Vincent

Club News

Arana

New president elected - Neil Hamilton

Club Champions

Pam Horton & Jenny Lewis (Open)

Bob & Margaret Dancer (Restricted)

Peggy Whittaker & Ray Cowie (Novice)

Richard & Helen McLauchlan, Peter Gill & Margaret Welldon (Teams)

QCBC

The club was involved in the Nation-Wide Pairs in April.

Thank you to Brisbane City Council for helping with the club's Christmas Party

Thank you to Forest Place for sponsoring the Novice Teams

The Bulletin on the Web

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Victor Mollo

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Gold Coast Congress 2005

February 19-25



Gold Coast BC January Teams

THE GCBC annual one-day teams event in January is always very popular, being a good warm-up for those participating in Canberra's Festival. This year was no exception with 46 teams entered and no room to spare. Alan Gibson directed with his quiet efficiency, as did our parking attendants - no easy task with our lot (carpark, not members!).

As we ate our way through the day, always irresistible homemade goodies, some interesting hands came up to test our judgment and luck. In the morning 2 hands were significant.

Dir N	♠ AQ		
Vul Both	♥ Q4		
	♦ AJ10975		
	♣ K83		
♠ 10754		♠ KJ8632	
♥ AJ1065		♥ 9732	
♦ Q82		♦ —	
♣ 4		♣ A72	
		♠ 9	
		♥ K8	
		♦ K643	
		♣ QJ10965	

As North, I opened 1D, 2S from East, South bid 3C, 3S from W(4S might have been better), 3NT from me. Lucky for me, a spade lead, whereas our teammates led a heart. A few tables made 4SX & one even 5SX! That is too much luck to imagine but stuff dreams are made of.

Dir S	♠ 1053		
Vul NS	♥ AKQ10974		
	♦ —		
	♣ J108		
♠ KJ9642		♠ A7	
♥ J8532		♥ 6	
♦ Q10		♦ A953	
♣ —		♣ KQ9543	
		♠ Q8	
		♥ —	
		♦ KJ87642	
		♣ A762	

South opened 3D, at our table West doubled, I bid 3H thinking (hoping) this was not forcing, East saved us by bidding 5C & drifted 5 off. At the other table, 4S was one off. If West had bid 4D over 3D, Michaels, it would have saved a lot of grief for some poor unfortunate North-South pairs. With 8 board matches, every one is significant so we pray our decisions are the right ones. Always fun to have some challenging hands but even better if luck is smiling your way.

The Tootell team gave the eventual winners the Robson team a run for their money at the end but were happy to settle for second.

See you next year!

■ Kathy Johnson

ALONG with 45 other teams, Tony Jackman and I (Richard Wallis) teamed up with Betty Lee and Mike Robson to tackle the Swiss Teams event at the Gold Coast Bridge Club on Sunday January 11. The popularity of the event and the venue was once again demonstrated by the 'full-house' sign, with some teams unable to be accommodated.

In the first round, the Director, Alan Gibson, was surprised to find that all 4 of the top seeds had lost, and teams 2 & 3 were never able to recover. After our slow start, we did not lose another match, and hit the front with 2 matches to go and held on for a narrow win.

On board 16 in match 2, due to some uncertainty caused by the opponent's two-way bid, Tony and I missed what should have been an easily bid slam to lose 13 IMPs.

M 2	♠ 8		
Bd 16	♥ A10		
Dir W	♦ KJ10976		
Vul EW	♣ J1097		
♠ AK76		♠ Q109532	
♥ KJ87654		♥ Q	
♦ —		♦ AQ8	
♣ A8		♣ Q32	
		♠ J4	
		♥ 932	
		♦ 5432	
		♣ K654	

Sitting West, I opened 1C (Precision), and North bid 2C, which was explained as either diamonds, or both majors. Tony was too strong for a simple 2S (only 8 to 10), and did not want to cramp the auction with a 3S bid, so he started with a double (8+), over which South, still not sure of North's holding) bid 2D. I bid 2H, Tony bid 2S, and I rebid 4D, to agree spades and show at most one diamond. Unfortunately, Tony was worried about his poor spades, his wasted values in diamonds, his poor fit for hearts (although his singleton was a good one), and his poor clubs, and subsided in 4S.

It is well demonstrated that more tricks are generally available to a declaring side when the high cards are evenly distri-

buted, rather than concentrated in the one hand. The same is true for the defending side, and it is especially easy for declarer when one defender is known to have most of the high cards.

M 3	♠ A8753		
Bd 17	♥ A72		
Dir N	♦ K82		
Vul None	♣ K6		
♠ K1092		♠ Q4	
♥ K963		♥ Q5	
♦ A93		♦ QJ106	
♣ A8		♣ QJ1043	
		♠ J6	
		♥ J1084	
		♦ 754	
		♣ 9752	

On this board North opened 1S, and when both East and South passed, I re-opened with a double to show at least an opening hand. Tony bid 3C to show his long suit and reasonable values (but not enough to overcall with 2C on the first round), and since I knew where most of the high cards were, I tried 3NT, passed out.

North was continually endplayed, and I had no trouble racking up 10 tricks for +430 and 6 IMPs.

The bidding enabled Tony to find the correct line for his contract on this board.

M 3	♠ 1073		
Bd 19	♥ J103		
Dir S	♦ Q852		
Vul EW	♣ 764		
♠ QJ96		♠ A852	
♥ 742		♥ AQ986	
♦ AK94		♦ 76	
♣ K9		♣ J5	
		♠ K4	
		♥ K5	
		♦ J103	
		♣ AQ10832	

South opened 1C, I doubled for takeout, North passed, and Tony bid the obvious 4H. He could have bid 2C to check up on a 4-4 spade fit, but since I could not have a strong single-suiter, I was bound to have at least 3-card support for hearts.

When South led the CA and another, it seemed likely that he also had both of the major suit kings for his opening bid, since with QJ10 in diamonds, that would probably have been the lead. Tony backed his judgement by first cashing the HA (in case of a singleton king) and then ducking a heart for +620. This was essential to avoid 2 trump losers, especially since they did not bid to game at the other table.

Here we both valued our hands differently but came up with the right answer.

M 3	♠ Q8754		
Bd 23	♥ 107		
Dlr S	♦ A942		
Vul Both	♣ A8		
♠ 96		♠ K	
♥ K9632		♥ AQJ5	
♦ Q1083		♦ K6	
♣ KQ		♣ J109754	
	♠ AJ1032		
	♥ 84		
	♦ J75		
	♣ 632		

After 3 passes, Tony (East) opened 2C (natural, 11-15) and I bid an invitational 2H. Tony devalued his hand slightly because of his singleton SK, and only invited with 3H, and I upgraded my hand because of my fitting values in clubs, so the good game was reached for +650. At the other table they stopped in a part-score, so we gained 10 IMPs.

On this board I had a change of mind that was fatal for the defence.

M 4	♠ J765		
Bd 27	♥ 2		
Dlr S	♦ A98		
Vul None	♣ AQ842		
♠ K8		♠ Q1093	
♥ Q1043		♥ 9865	
♦ Q1064		♦ K752	
♣ K76		♣ 5	
	♠ A42		
	♥ AKJ7		
	♦ J3		
	♣ J1093		

South opened 1C, North bid 1S, South rebid 1NT, North forced with 3C, South showed 3-card spade support with 3S, and North signed off with 5C.

I had already decided that in 3NT South was ready for a heart lead, so planned to lead a diamond (my red suits are virtually of equal strength), but in the minor suit game where only 3 tricks are required for the defence, sadly changed my mind and I led the H3, which was gave declarer 11 tricks. Since 3NT was cold, this was a flat board, but definitely one that got away.

Poetry

There is poetry on page 13 of the web version of the Bulletin

In board 3 of match 5, I formed the wrong picture of Tony's hand after he showed a stopper in my void and another good slam was missed.

M 5	♠ Q105		
Bd 3	♥ Q974		
Dlr S	♦ 97		
Vul EW	♣ J976		
♠ K4		♠ AJ8732	
♥ AK6		♥ 832	
♦ KQ106		♦ AJ83	
♣ Q542		♣ —	
	♠ 96		
	♥ J105		
	♦ 542		
	♣ AK1083		

South passed and Tony opened 1C as West, North passed, I bid 1S to show at least a 5-card suit and 8+, and now South bid 2C. Over Tony's 2NT I showed my second suit with 3D, and Tony raised to 4D. However, my heart weakness and Tony's potential wasted club values, persuaded me to offer 4S as an alternative, and with the spade finesse on 12 tricks rolled home, with a grand slam available in diamonds.

M 6	♠ Q74		
Bd 10	♥ AJ107654		
Dlr E	♦ 76		
Vul Both	♣ 4		
♠ 962		♠ A53	
♥ —		♥ K983	
♦ AK2		♦ J983	
♣ AK109875		♣ J6	
	♠ KJ108		
	♥ Q2		
	♦ Q1054		
	♣ Q32		

After two passes I upgraded my hand as West because of the good suit and good controls and opened 1C (16+), over which North bid 3H, and Tony 3NT.

Even opposite a passed partner 3NT looked to be a reasonable spot, but South sacrificed with 4H, and I did not fancy this contract since Tony was a passed hand (normally less than 11 HCP), so I bid 5C, passed out. When the HA was led, this looked like an easy contract, so I cashed the top trumps, expecting to lose at most one trump and one diamond, but the diamond honours were sitting over the J9 in dummy, so I should have been 1 off. Inexplicably, South did not cash out when they won the DT, and North was pseudo-squeezed on the run of the trumps, so I made my 11th trick with the H9. Of course if I had passed 4H and let Tony double this we would have collected a much surer +800.

On board 24 in match 7, which was the last board of the day, we nearly let the match, and the competition, slip out of our grasp.

M 7	♠ 9842		
Bd 24	♥ AJ83		
Dlr W	♦ —		
Vul None	♣ AJ543		
♠ AJ1076		♠ KQ	
♥ —		♥ K9874	
♦ A10854		♦ Q73	
♣ Q109		♣ 862	
	♠ 53		
	♥ Q1052		
	♦ KJ962		
	♣ K7		

I opened 1S as West, North passed, Tony bid a forcing 1NT, South passed, I rebid 2D (minimum hand and at least a 3-card suit), and Tony gave preference to 2S. When 2S was passed around to North he doubled for takeout and South bid the obvious 3H. Tony was enamoured by his 5-card trump suit and doubled for penalties, and I was on lead to 3HX. No lead looked attractive to me, and my actual lead of the DA was not a good start, but in fact, 3H is cold. Declarer came to hand with a club, cashed the DK, and inexplicably ruffed the 3rd diamond with the HJ, whereas if she ruffs low and ruffs the 4th diamond with the HA, she can ruff the 5th with the HJ for an easy 9 tricks. Even then, at the end, when Tony only had K94 of trumps to declarer's QT5, if she had counted my hand for a void heart, when Tony exited with the H4 she could have won with the H5 and claimed 1 more trick for her contract. 1 off was a flat board, whereas -530 would have been 12 IMPs away, and 6VPs difference against the runner-up.

■ Richard Wallis

QCBC

ANZAC TEAMS

Sunday April 25
\$88 per team

Enquiries to Toni Bardon
3391 3241

Mind Games

A History of Old Bridge

Teacher's Corner



Joan
Butts

LAST issue, I suggested more work on play and less on bidding, and you were quick to respond. People asked to buy the book (Bill Root - "How to Play a Bridge Hand") because they knew how it felt to be in good contracts and unable to make them.

My OK Bridge torturer (oops, partner) who suggested I read it in the first place has now noticed some declarer play improvement, but sees new flaws in my defence! Not one to give up easily, I've gone and bought another of Bill's books, "How to **Defend** a Bridge Hand". And rather than let my declarer play slip back, I've also been churning through Fred Gitleman's **Bridge Master** programme in a furious effort to triumph in spite of bad breaks, (which happen regularly on OK Bridge).

I've noticed that we shouldn't rely on old bridge clichés while playing hands. Adages like: "Second player plays low", "Cover an honour with an honour", "Eight ever nine never", "Win in the shorter holding first to unblock", certainly have their place, but are not substitutes for common sense.

Here's an interesting hand from Bridge Master. It took me a while to find the right path, because I've been so stuck in my thinking about avoiding blockages.

Dir S ♠ 654
 ♡ A87
 ♦ J32
 ♣ 6543

♠ KQJ ♠ 10987
♡ 32 ♡ 654
♦ K109876 ♦ 54
♣ 87 ♣ QJ109

N
W E
S

♠ A32
♡ KQJ109
♦ AQ
♣ AK2

W	N	E	S
			2C
P	2D	P	2H
P	3H	P	4H
All pass			

Lead SK

What would you do? You appear to have two spades, a club, and a possible diamond to lose, and it would be good to get to dummy to throw a spade or club loser on the DJ once it's been established. But how?

Answer:

The problem is entries, and there's only the HA. Taking the finesse is wrong, and I was stuck on playing DA first, then the DQ. What happens then is that diamonds are continued and the DJ is ruffed, because they split 6-2.

What you have to do is forget about old ideas of unblocking, and play the DQ *first*; allowing the opponent to win the DK. Now there's nothing they can do. Whatever they return, you win, play the HK and HQ, cash the DA cross to dummy with the HA and throw away a loser on the DJ. Not hard, once you forget about the old established ways of 'correctly' playing a suit.

Marketing



Cheryl
Simpson

WANTED

Bridge Promotional Ambassadors

AT the Gala Prize Giving Dinner held at the ANA Hotel, following the very successful 2004 ANA Gold Coast Congress, a player John de Ravin from NSW, spoke passionately about our sport, and particularly the need to promote it.

John urged all the bridge players, from Australia, New Zealand and around the world, to assist in the promotion of our sport.

Most agreed with John, and I urge and encourage you to consider and accept John's challenge.

If you know of a Retirement Home, Aged Care Facility, Repatriation Hospital or any other appropriate venue where people have time on their hands and may wish to learn our game/sport please ask the appropriate management body to let you speak to the people in that facility about our sport - Bridge.

Of course we (the QBA) will assist you with teaching notes and any other resources you may require.

So - why not join me and volunteer your services in the good cause of our wonderful sport?

Cheryl

Cheryl Simpson,
QBA Marketing Officer.

QCBC

Ph: 3391 3241 Email: qcbc@powerup.com.au

Sessions: Mon 10.30 am 7.30 pm
Tue 10.00 am 7.30 pm
Wed 10.30 am 7.30 pm
Thur 10.30 am *For evening times see below
Fri 10.00 am 7.30 pm
Sat 1.00 pm
Sun 1.00 pm

Supervised: Mon 7.30 pm
Wed 10.00 am
Fri 9.30 am
*2nd & 4th Thursday 6.00 pm - Coaching
*1st Thursday 7.30 pm - Novice/Expert
*3rd Thursday 7.30 pm - Teams

QCBC

BEGINNERS' LESSONS

8-week courses:
Monday 7.30 pm May 10
Friday 10 am May 14
Enquiries to Toni
Bardon 3391 3241

Results

Ipswich Swiss Pairs Jan 18

- 1 B Hunt R Lachman
- 2 P Hainsworth R Tait
- 3 A Pryde R Parker

Plate

- 1 M Corner J Gardiner
- 2 B Carroll A Smith
- 3 R Fraser D McAdam

Gold Coast Teams Jan 11

- 1 M Robson B Lee
T Jackman R Wallis
- 2 H Tootell P Tootell
M Askew W Powell
- 3 R Slobom J Varno
R & B Weathered

Plate

- 1 H Reid S Vallender
B Travers D Rayward
- 2 J Dennis D Read
S Mazzer A Lloyd

Consolation

- 1 M Kendall B Hinder
D Temple R George
- 2 K Hewings M Stoneman
J Williams A Hogan
- 3 J & L Verdicki
G & P Powis

Northern Suburbs Swiss Teams Jan 25

- 1 B Lee M Robson
R Parker P Hainsworth
- 2 B & A Kempthorne
R Ward L Vincent
- 3 A Pryde P Gosney
C Green J Solomon

Plate

- 1 E Campbell A Leigh
H Jackson N McCabe
- 2=P Waldrum K Robertshaw
P Tink K Wooler
- 2=G Grisan J Serdiuk
S Mukherjee B Peters

Consolation

- 1 G & A Gulley
J & G Mitchell
- 2 J Power A Smith
B Carroll L Domiati

QCBC Novice Teams Feb 8

- 1 P Duffy B O'Donohue
G Macionis A Guminski
- 2 C Newbery E Meldrum
S Hall P Mann
- 3 G Smith M Beak
J & E Sirigos

Plate

- 1 P Woods C Bloomfield
C Adamson P Thompson

- 2 R Maple D Manwaring
A Chan L Kwok
- 3 V Tamisari D Rogers
D Murray B Williams

Warwick Swiss Pairs Feb 8

- 1 N Francis R Parker
- 2 B & N Bonnell
- 3 I Luck W Webber

Plate

- 1 J Evans D McAdam
- 2 R Morawiecki K Toth
- 3 K Moschner R Wright

Novice

- D Hall L Mathieson

Proserpine/Whitsunday Pairs March 5-7

- 1 V Carroll J Spencer
- 2 J Morris S Birrer
- 3 C Suthers M Davis

Toowong Novice Swiss Pairs March 7

- 1 P Evans D Cheong
- 2 L King H Standfast
- 3 S Cardinal N Clatworthy
- 4 I Hall P Whittaker

I must have spent six years of
my life waiting for other
people to finish games

Oswald Jacoby

Maryborough Butler Pairs March 7

- 1 R Graham F Arnold
- 2 H Baker B Horan
- 3 R Busch J McPheat

Plate

- 1 J Carmody R Muirhead
- 2 C Farren M Dunn
- 3 F Green E Humphries

Gold Coast Congress Feb 21-28

All the results are available on the QBA
website at www.qldbridge.com

Raffle

Ticket No F 43 - Margaret Owen
(5 nights accommodation at Daydream
for two - breakfast included)

Lucky Door Prize

Richard Wallis - (Painting)

Arana Swiss Teams Congress Mar 14

- 1 L Moses S Moses
A Remedios A Kelly
- 2 J Evans M Corner
R Clayton A Smith
- 3= T Jackman D Dodd
M Carter M Carter
- 3= M Winch T Walford
C Martin Jill Broad

Plate

- 1 P Schoen M Hoenig
A Vanderkolk H Bomgaars

Coming Events

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Apr 2-4 | ABF Seniors Play-off |
| 3-4 | Senior Team Trials (if required) |
| 4 | Coolum Teams |
| 10-12 | Cairns Pairs & Teams |
| 11-12 | BBC Graded Pairs & Graded Teams |
| 17-18 | Gympie Pairs & Teams |
| | Senior Team Trials |
| 18 | Redlands Novice Teams (0-99 MPs) |
| 23-25 | Senior Team Trials (if required) |
| | Cleveland Bay Diggers Pairs & Teams |
| 25 | Anzac Teams (QCBC) |
| | Gold Coast Novice Butler Pairs (0-99 MPs) |
| 30-May | 3 Townsville Pairs & Teams |
| May 1-3 | Toowoomba Pairs & Teams |
| 2 | Mudgeeraba Novice Pairs |
| 5 | Colin Stone Teams commences |
| 8 | Surfers Paradise Swiss Teams |
| 15-16 | Old Open Mixed Pairs (Toowong) |
| 22-23 | Caloundra Teams |
| 23 | BBC Swiss Teams |
| | Northern Suburbs Novice Pairs (0-49 MPs) |
| 29-30 | Goondowindi Pairs |
| 29 | Eastern Suburbs Novice Pairs (0-99 MPs) |

Directors' Corner

PROBABLY wouldn't waste a magic wand on bridge, though having all my finesses work might come close behind world peace.

I wish players would only ask the right questions at the right time.

The QBA Tournament Committee has recently recommended that the ABF 2004 Alerting Regulations be adopted in Queensland. Assuming they do become part of our Regulations, you will find that some opponents will draw a little cross in one corner of a box that holds an unusual call. They will do this after the auction is over and *only* if they are the declaring side.

This will encourage you to ask about the specific call given a delayed alert, but, all the time honoured advice on asking questions remains the same.

Avoid creating an Unauthorized Information situation for partner. If you need to know before choosing your opening lead, still just ask for an explanation of the auction. If your partner is on opening lead, still wait until he has placed a card face down on the table before asking for an explanation of the auction.

Although the laws impose penalties, almost all are designed to simply restore equity with no thought of punishment. Law 72B2 precludes professional fouls so surely all infringements are accidental.

Some infringements during the auction give so much information to partner that there is no way equity can be restored except by making partner pass throughout.

I came across several of these at the Gold Coast viz opening bids when partner or LHO was dealer. Law 31B. If offender's LHO didn't accept the call (and they rarely do) then partner had to pass throughout. This was often met with

some incredulity, particularly from the partner who had 22 HCP.

Inadmissible doubles and redoubles, Law 36, are other infringements that will lead to partner having to pass throughout. These cannot be condoned and Law 35A applies if offender's LHO calls before a penalty is assessed.

Law 20F2 in part says, "At his or dummy's turn to play, the declarer may request an explanation of a defender's call or card play conventions."

Declarer is not entitled to deductions you can make by looking at your own hand and the dummy. Partner leads a 10. Declarer snaps, "What does that mean to you?"

Perhaps you play journalist leads as well as top of a sequence and high-low with a doubleton. While carefully filing away the knowledge that declarer needs to know, you might even add second highest from 4 small and fourth best to an honour. This is all the information declarer is entitled to.

Not: It can't be journalist (because I've got the jack). It can't be a sequence (because I've got the 9). It's probably a singleton or doubleton (because I've got eight of them).

■ Jan Peach

Dates for 2004 Director Accreditation Exams

Club - 26th June
Congress - 23rd October

You can:

Download Directors Course Notes from the QBA Website.

Email me at jpgss@uq.net.au if you want old papers for practice.

Notes on past lessons for Congress Directors are also available.



Brisbane Bridge Centre

104 Frederick St, Annerley. Ph: 3392 7933

Play Sessions	Tuesday	9.30 am
		7.30 pm
	Wednesday	10.00 am
	Thursday	7.30 pm
	Saturday	1.00 pm

Coaching Sessions & Beginners' Classes Monday 10.00 am
Tuesday 7.30 pm

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

Going to the Gold Coast next 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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Editing of Material

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

D E A D

MAY 10 (noon)

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L I N E

IF ONLY I HAD A GOOD PARTNER

I've always secretly relished the fact
That Bridge is a partnership game
So whenever I didn't do wonderfully well
There was always the partner to blame
So imagine my horror and disbelief
When some so called friend made me see
That instead of me blaming my partners
My partners were all blaming me!!

I've looked at some really good players
They're not much better than me
But the reason they win when I never do
Is painfully easy to see
They all have a really good partner
While I've got the partners from hell
I know if I had a good partner
I would be winning as well

My partners complain I'm erratic
They say that my bidding is crook
They say that I hog all the contracts
Then play like a psychotic chook

They claim

I lead away from aces
I trump their winning card
I double certain contracts
I make the wrong discard
I often leave them stranded
I don't lead what I should
I ignore all their signals
In short I am no good

Now although I don't like to upset them
It simply has to be said
If they cannot see how brilliant I am
They're not really right in the head

If only I had a good partner
I know that I'd do really well
Instead of which I am languishing here
In the horror of partnership hell

I accept it's a partnership duty
To clarify bidding mistakes
But a casual conversational chat
Is honestly all that it takes
I'm happy to be corrected
In language that isn't too strong
But to call me deranged, demented, insane
Is simply uncalled for and wrong

Now I know it occasionally happens
That I'll open when I'm a bit light
But when partner does see that I've just 2 or 3
There is no need to be impolite
I bid and I play by instinct
I like to perform with some flair
I won't stick to a rigid system
That thousands of others might share
I'm idiosyncratic
My bidding and play must be free
So why can't I find a good partner?
A partner who'll just let me be me.

Why should we always be docile
And always conform to the rules
I tell my partners they're spineless
They're timid incompetent fools
Strangely enough my partnerships
Never last very long
And I don't understand it
But when they break up it seems
I am the one in the wrong!

So if you're a really good player
And your partner is not very hot
Why don't you get in touch with me
And we can give it a shot

But I've just about given up waiting
For the partner I dream of to phone
And if I don't find a good partner soon
I'm playing this game on my own!

Monica Pritchard