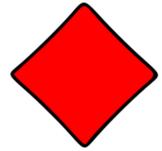


BRIDGE MATTERS

September 2018

Caloundra, Coolum, and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs



DEALERS' REQUESTS TO PLAYERS- CARDS AND DEALING MACHINES

Damaged, fouled, and marked cards can cause the dealing machines to malfunction and can be identifiable to other players.

Please:

- * **If you find a damaged or fouled card**, make a note of the Board Number and direction and inform the Director;
- * **Don't mark cards, with biro's particularly;** and
- * **Don't foul cards with chocolate, lipstick, or similar substances.**

Just one damaged, fouled or marked card in a pack requires that the whole pack be destroyed.

The cards are why we're all here. Please look after them!

CALOUNDRA NEWS

Teams Championships

* **Wednesdays October 10th, 17th and 24th.**

* **Red Points**

* **Enlist a Team and ENTER!**

Prodigals Welcome- Caloundra Committee has decided that the \$10 joining fee will be waived for ex-members re-joining.

Presidents Trophy- Congratulations to the winners- Mary Winch and Bob Pearce

Caloundra 2019 Congress- Moved to 27th & 28th April. Teams one day, Pairs the other.

COOLUM NEWS

Alison Walker.

Don't worry! Pat's in charge



Pat Terrace handing over Presidential duties to Pat Feeney, as the Club celebrated its 25th Annual Invitation Day on Wednesday 5th September.

38 pairs participated in what we consider to be a more casual event with non-affiliated players made welcome. It was very different dealing with the very obliging managers of the Pacific Paradise Bowls Club after our extremely unpleasant experience at the Coolum RSL.

Rosemary Crowley and Richard Perry came first in the A Division, Ines Dawes and Brett Middelberg, second with Cherie Butler and Arch Morrison third.

The Home Club shield, in which both players must be Coolum Home Club members, was won by Alan Sinclair and Steve Jesienowski.

Margaret Bazzan and Ruth Greentree came first in the B division and Don Cameron and John Richardson won the C Division.

The Interclub Graded Teams event was held at the Noosa Bridge Club Saturday 11th August. There was an excellent turnout in all three Grades with 31 teams from all four Coast clubs participating. Much to our delight Coolum Bridge Club was successful in retaining the shield.

2018-2019 COMMITTEES

Outcomes of the recent AGM season were:

| | Caloundra | Coolum | Sunshine Coast |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|
| President | Betty Bevan | Pat Feeney | Brian Cordiner |
| Vice-President | Geoff Gulley | Brian Shannon | Bev Northey |
| Secretary | Peter Bishop | Christine Trimblett | Gabrielle Elich |
| Treasurer | Bridget Hamer | Don Cameron | Mike Phillips |
| Committee-Members | Kate Balmano Astrid Borchardt Janie Brennan Cathie Clarke Judy Leathley | Dorothy Ferris Lynne Short Rob Peard Maggie Murray Ali Walker | Phil Collins Alison Dawson Jane Clitheroe Ursula Sheldon Janice Little Jackie Lewis |

SUNSHINE COAST NEWS

John Stacey

Committee members who retired at our recent AGM were John Stacey, Paul Mannion, Di Sargent and Geoff Olsen. All of the old Committee did their appointed tasks supremely well producing an excellent result in all areas of Club activity.

Our congresses were well attended and were made successful by the supreme efforts of Convenor Ursula Sheldon assisted by Di Sargent. Provedore Janice Little with John Burt arranging the food and Paul Mannion organising the bar also made major contributions to the success of those events.

Wendy O'Brien has retired as our outstanding beginners' teacher and her efforts are greatly appreciated. We are very fortunate to have an excellent replacement in Alison Dawson and her start indicates much further success in growing the Club. Joan McPheat assisted Wendy with advice to newer members and she will continue to do so to back up Alison's teaching.

Steve Murray has progressed to Congress Director and Ross Maher has become a Qualified Club Director. Congratulations to both of them.

At the AGM Reg Busch was made a life member, a highly deserved honour.

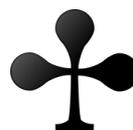
All in all this has been a very good year and I thank all the enthusiastic members who made it so.



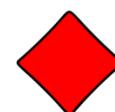
**CONTRIBUTIONS
PLEASE!**



To the Bridge
Matters Editor:



Peter Bishop
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CAN'T COMMUNICATE? OR CAN'T COUNT?

Overheard at the bridge table: "Sorry Partner. I thought from your bidding that you had 6 clubs, 5 spades and 4 hearts."

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Caloundra

Di Jones Rosemary Read

Coolum

Richard Touton Barbara Walsh

Ruth Wise Beulah O'Shea

Irene Harpham Robert Harpham

Freda Star

Sunshine Coast

Madeline Stoopin Wayne Duthie

Anne Marie Tully Michael Harrison

Richard Crane Sue Jarrett

Judy Farmer Cathy Clarke

Bob Sande Lorraine Dailey

Adrian Kipps Christina Dowson

Ken Albinger Ian Hodgkinson

Janette Matson Judy Mawbey

Maria Brinkley Djuana McIntosh

Colleen Smith Trish Murphy

Patsy Lee John Vincent

Carol Geoghegan Janny Watkins

Jim Kershaw Anne Ross

Marilyn McKay

Q&A

from
BRIDGE-GAME INFO
*David Farmer**



Q1- In standard American, with an opening hand and a 5 card major, is it legal to open 1C?

Q2- My partner bids 1NT, I have 5 diamonds which is my only bid (no 4 card major), but I can't say 2D because we play Jacoby transfers. Can I bid 3D or will that mean something else?

A1- 1C OPENING

Legal is not the right word. The Laws of Bridge would certainly allow a 1C opening bid.

But unless you had longer clubs than spades, it would be outside the Standard American bidding system and would not describe your hand well to your partner.

If you did have a longer club suit, say 6 clubs and 5 spades, some players would open with 1S first on the basis of it being important to find a major suit fit, but others, including me, would open the longer suit expecting to later bid and rebid spades (or bid spades at a higher level after interference) to show the extreme shape. It would be more difficult to do this if you open 1S first.

A2- RESPONDING WITH A MINOR OVER 1NT

Some partners play Jacoby transfers to the minors as well (commonly 2S would be bid) but normally only with a weak hand with six-card Minors.

Responding immediately with a 3 level bid normally shows a game force hand or better.

With a five card minor, you generally need to treat this as a balanced hand and pass with less than 8HCP (if you are playing a 15-17HCP 1NT) and invite in NT (probably 2NT with 9HCP) and bid game or game force with better hands.

* David Farmer edits the website bridge-game.info on which more interesting hands and other bridge materials are published.

David plays at Sydney's Peninsula and Manly Leagues clubs.

KEN'S KORNER

Ken Dawson



KEN'S CHESTNUT- At teams, don't double a part-score from 2H to 4D unless you are sure to defeat it.

When a doubled contract between 2H and 4D makes, declarer receives the game bonus. For example, 2HX Vuln. making 8 tricks scores 670 compared to the undoubled contract scoring 110.

This one result may well cost the match.

By comparison, 4HX making is not so expensive. It costs 790 compared to 620, a difference of 170.

1NTX making 7 tricks scores 180 compared to the undoubled score of 90. This is not such a disaster. Many pairs will back their defence against 1NTX in the hope of collecting a sweet penalty.

At teams, it is always the MAGNITUDE of the score which is important. At pairs, it is the rank order of the scores which is important.

At pairs, any doubled contract making is bad news for the defence. However, it is still just ONE board out of the session

KEN'S KONUNDRUM

These are your trumps:

- Declarer (S) :- ♠QJ9xxx
- Dummy - ♠Axx

West has made a takeout double of your spades as a passed hand. The opponents are unaware of the 6th trump in your hand. You should be able to bring in the suit without loss. **Plan your play.**

You obviously need to find West holding the King.

Without the nine, you would simply lead the queen, hope it would be covered and that the suit breaks 2-2. The suit needs to break Kx xx

The light takeout double makes you think that the suit may break K Txx.

Now, if you play for the 2-2 break you will lose the 3rd trick to the ten.

Is there any way that you might pick the 3-1 break?

One psychological suggestion is that you lead the *Jack*. If the King appears without a heartbeat, then finesse the nine on the way back. Leading the queen will not give you any clue. It will certainly be covered as West hopes his partner has T9x.

ALSO FROM KEN-

SAFETY PLAYS

FAQ: Exactly what is a safety play?

ANS: It is a declarer strategy whereby we forego the chance of an overtrick to give us the best chance of making our contract.

In teams and rubber bridge, making contract is all important. So, we should take our opportunities to make sure of our contract. We would never risk the contract for the sake of an overtrick. At pairs, overtricks are important since it is the rank order of the scores which determine whether we get a good score or not. In slam, we wouldn't risk the contract for a chance to make 13 tricks. If we are in an unlikely but sound contract, we shouldn't take a risk. If we need a good score on this board to improve our day's result, the risk may be worthwhile.

Here are a couple of safety plays :-

Example 1

After a crisp 2NT – 3NT auction, partner surprises us with a long club suit and nothing else

C-AK65432

C-87

If the suit breaks 2-2, we will be able to cash 7 club tricks and look for another world to conquer.

However, if the suit breaks 3-1, we will score just 2 tricks for a terrible score.

Provided that we have the side suits covered, there is a safety play available in the clubs.

Can you spot it?

We simply play a small club from each hand on the first lead. The defence will be pleased to accept one club trick but we are going to collect the remaining 6 tricks!

Example 2

Here is an example with spades as your trump suit
S-AQ654
S-T987

If we must bring the spades home without loss, we will have to play S-x towards S-Q and hope that West started with exactly S-Kx. What if we can afford one spade loser only?

If East started with S-KJx, we have no hope. So, we should ignore that possibility.

Can you spot the safety play here? It is not obvious! We should cash S-A first. Then, enter the South hand and lead S-x towards S-Q.

This play will limit the losers to 1 trick whenever the suit breaks 2-2, or West holds S-KJx or S-KJxx, or East holds the singleton S-K. It is this last layout which is the extra edge over the simple finesse of the S-Q as our first play.

UNSAFETY PLAY

**WHEN DOUBLE MEANS +1790:
(OR -100 MORE LIKELY)**

Mike Phillips

Sunshine Coast Bridge Club; on a Wednesday night.

“Don’t you know how to ask for aces?” I asked.

“Of course I do,” was the reply, “what are you getting at?”

“Well, on board 17, how did you manage to get into 7 no trumps missing the ace of spades?”

“Oh, that was a bidding stuff-up; and anyway, we were doubled and we made it.”

And indeed they did make it, but had the defending pair been using a simple little gadget the contract would have gone down in flames at trick one and an outrageous top would have become a humiliating bottom.

This was the board.

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Dir: N | ♠ KT7654 | |
| Vul: Nil | ♥ -- | |
| | ♦ AK4 | |
| | ♣ KQ62 | |
| ♠ AQ9 | N W E S | ♠ J32 |
| ♥ T983 | | ♥ 5 |
| ♦ 865 | | ♦ QJ732 |
| ♣ T75 | | ♣ J983 |
| | ♠ 8 | |
| | ♥ AKQJ7642 | |
| | ♦ T9 | |
| | ♣ A4 | |

I would guess that there was a variety of auctions on these cards after North opens 1 spade. Two pairs were in 4 hearts by South, making 11 or 13 tricks; two pairs in 6 hearts by North (!) making 13; one pair in 6NT by North making 13; and our intrepid pair who boldly went where no man should rightly tread, with their 7NT doubled, making on a diamond lead.

So how could, and should, this contract have been defeated? Many pairs have an agreement that when the defender not on lead doubles a no trumps slam, the double calls for a spade lead, while failure to double means lead anything. It doesn’t come up often but here it would have worked a treat. It’s easy to remember and less ambiguous than a Lightner double, which asks for an unusual lead, such as dummy’s first-bid suit, and is more suited to trump contracts.

Of course, if you think you will defeat the contract regardless of the lead you can still double, as long as a spade lead will not damage your defence. The important thing is for you and your partner to be on the same wavelength.

COUNTING THE HANDS

Reg Busch (From *Bridge Matters* of December 2013)

You've arrived as a bridge player when a routine part of your play is 'counting the hands', which means that you have the ability to use the bidding and the play, as it progresses, to form a picture of the distribution and high card strength of the unseen hands.

Your assessment will develop as the play proceeds but, by Trick 3, a good player should have a good idea of the locations of the remaining cards.

| | |
|---------|---------|
| S- AQ7 | S- K53 |
| H- KQ6 | H- A42 |
| D- AKJ3 | D- Q842 |
| C- AJ3 | C- KT9 |

Example #1- As a simple situation: You're West playing 7NT on S-J lead.

Success depends on the 2-way club finesse, which initially is sheer guesswork. However, if you play out the other suits, you will be better informed. Play the majors first, South discarding a club on the third round of each. Then play diamonds, North discarding hearts on the 3rd and 4th rounds. Now you have an exact count of the defenders' hands. North is 5/5/2/1 with a singleton club. South is 2/2/3/6.

Success is now assured. Play C-K first, just in case North's singleton is the Queen, and then finesse the C-J, which you know will win.

Of course, the cards aren't always so obligingly distributed. Both pairs may follow to three rounds in the majors, but the cards may give you an idea of who has four cards in the suit. And someone will fail to follow the diamonds, so you will get an idea of the hand likely to have more clubs and you will play for it to hold the C-Q.

(See the **Footnote** for a less orthodox approach).

| |
|---------|
| S- KQ98 |
| H- Jxx |
| D- xxx |
| C- xxx |

Example #2- West is the Dealer, opening 1H which passes round to you. You find yourself playing 4S with West leading the H-A, then the H-K. Plan your play

| |
|----------|
| S- AJTxx |
| H- x |
| D- Kxx |
| C- AKQx |

You can see 5 Spade tricks, plus 4 tricks from clubs. If clubs break you get to discard a diamond from dummy, and ultimately a diamond ruff in dummy for 10 tricks.

But if the clubs don't break you can ruff the fourth club in dummy but you're left with three Diamonds in each hand. Where is the tenth trick to come from?

The D-A may be on your right but this seems unlikely from the bidding. Let's look at the distribution. You ruff the H-K and draw trumps, with both E and W following to two rounds. You then play on clubs, with West showing out on the third club, and you ruff the fourth club. Now you know that West has only red cards left. The key for you is to play the H-J to West's H-Q, discarding a small diamond. Now West is on lead and must play either a diamond, giving you your diamond trick, or he must play another heart, allowing you to ruff in dummy and discard a losing diamond from your hand. This is your tenth trick.

| | | |
|---------|----------|--------|
| | S-KQ98 | |
| | H--Jxx | |
| | D-xxx | |
| | C- xxx | |
| S-xx | | S-xx |
| H-AKQxx | | H-xxxx |
| D-AQxx | | D-JTx |
| C- xx | | C-Jxxx |
| | S- AJTxx | |
| | H- x | |
| | D- Kxx | |
| | C-AKQx | |

The full hand is shown above. The technique is called **LOSER-ON-LOSER**, and is a play you will be able to use often if you keep count.

Example #3- Counting as Defender

I am East, holding S-JTx, H-KJ8, D-xx, C-Axxxx. I hear 1NT (16-18) from LHO, 2NT from RHO, and 3NT from LHO. Partner leads the S-9. What should be going through my mind at this stage?

To invite, RHO must have between 7 and a poor 9 HCP. To accept, LHO must have 17-18 HCP. I have 9 HCP so partner holds not more than 5 HCP. RHO has not called Stayman so probably (but not certainly) doesn't hold a 4-card major. Partner's S-9 tends to deny an honour in Spades.

Dummy goes down and this is what I now see. I play the S-T and South wins with the S-A. I know that the S-A is a false card, intended to confuse.

| | |
|----------|----------|
| S- xxx | |
| H- xx | |
| D- KQxxx | |
| C- Kxx | |
| | S- JTx |
| | H- KJ8 |
| | D- xx |
| | C- Axxxx |

If the S-A were a true card it would mean that West had led from a holding such a KQ9x(x). He would then have led the King. Besides, if the Ace were South's only spade stopper he would surely have ducked this trick. The K or Q would have been a better false card from South.

So I know, after just one trick, that South has the S- AKQ: that's 9 HCP, almost half his total.

South now plays the D-A, then a diamond to the King, both of us following. Now he leads a low club from dummy.

What do I do now? I've seen the S-AKQ and D-A, equalling 13 HCP. The lead of the club is meaningless unless he holds the C-Q, his identified HCPs now totalling 15. He cannot hold the H-A, which would have taken him up to 19HCP.

Further, he has already shown 8 top tricks, and this could be his ninth. So I **know** that partner holds the H-A. I rise with the C-A, play the H-K (South could hold the H-Q), then the H-J, and we take four tricks in hearts and South goes one down.

Note that, if Declarer had run a third round of Diamonds, West may have been tempted to discard the H-T as a signal, but that would have sacrificed his side's fourth heart trick, and given South his contract.

This brings up a useful tip: ***In defending, NT particularly, don't waste a potential trick by trying to make a positive discard. Better to-just discard a loser and let partner work out where your strength lies.***

The full hand was:

| | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| | S- xxx | |
| | H- xx | |
| | D- KQxxx | |
| | C- Kxx | |
| S- 9872 | | S- JTx |
| H- AT92 | | H- KJ8 |
| D- Jx | | D- xx |
| C- xxx | | C- Axxxx |
| | S-AKQ | |
| | H- Qxxx | |
| | D- Axxx | |
| | C-Qx | |

South was careless. He knew that he had to sneak his ninth trick before letting your side in. He should have kept his D-A hidden by playing a small diamond to the King and then a small club from table. As he played, he revealed the location of his strength. **If you have to sneak a trick, do it early.**

Example #4- Discovery Play

| |
|----------|
| S- QJxx |
| H- xxx |
| D- AKxx |
| C- KQ |
| S-AT987 |
| H-xx |
| D- QJTxx |
| C- xx |

This is a hand which requires just that bit of extra imagination.

West opens 1H. North doubles, and you play in 4S, with East silent throughout.

West leads the H-A, then K, then Q which you ruff, East following.

You must lose the C-A which, from his opening bid, you expect West to hold.

So it seems that East must hold the S-K for a successful finesse, making game. But here is where the expert will prove himself.

It can't cost to extract a bit more information before making your decision. So you lead a club to the KQ.

Somewhat to your surprise, East wins the Ace! Now you can be sure that West for his opening bid must hold the S-K, so to make your contract it must be a Singleton. So you play to the S-A, dropping the King, with congratulations all round.

Here is the full hand:

| | | |
|---------|----------|---------|
| | S- QJxx | |
| | H- xxx | |
| | D- AKxx | |
| | C- QK | |
| S-K | | S-xxx |
| H-AKQxx | | H-xxx |
| D-xxx | | D-xx |
| C-T9xx | | C-Axxxx |
| | S-AT987 | |
| | H-xx | |
| | D- QJTxx | |
| | C- xx | |

This is called a **Discovery Play**. It was cleverly executed by South but my admiration would go to the East player who, suspecting South's play, ducks the club trick. Now South will surely try the losing spade finesse. But what if South suspects East's duck and plays the other club honour? A masterly cat and mouse game which I doubt anyone would find.

There are no advanced bids or signals involved in the above examples. If you can just become attuned to the logic of counting hands you will open up a new world of endplays.

FOOTNOTE- HANDLING HESITATORS

We all know those who habitually hesitate when you are trying a finesse and don't hold the finessable card.

For example: you lead the H-J up to the H-AQT2 in dummy and LHO hesitates, suggesting he holds the H-K when he doesn't.

Or you lead the H-2 up to H-KJ54 on the table and LHO, who has no honours, hesitates. Not a blatant hesitation of course but just enough to suggest that a decision is required.

Use of such an action with the intent of misleading opponents is classified as cheating under the Laws but is hard to prove of course.

Terence Reese in one of his books, tells a story we could emulate in Example #1 above, if you were to suspect RHO of being a rule-bender.

At trick 1, win the S-K on the table and lead the D-Q, suggesting that you might be finessing with a holding such as D-AJT9. If RHO hesitates

without any apparent reason then you can mark him as a suspect.

When it's time to play clubs, lead the C-T from the table. If RHO hesitates (meaning: he doesn't hold the C-Q), win the Ace and finesse the C-9. If RHO hesitates, meaning that he doesn't hold the C-Q, win with the Ace and finesse the C-9. If RHO plays smoothly, meaning that he does hold the C-Q, then run the C-T.

BRIDGE À LA MODE, WITH DEVALUED ACES

Mike Phillips

Shirley and I were strolling casually in Paris in 2007 when we chanced upon the Bridge Club St Honoré, near Place Victor Hugo. 'We can't pass this up', we agreed, and decided to go to an evening session, which turned out to be quite challenging.

The club premises were a well-converted ground-floor apartment in one of those lovely old Parisian buildings. The young man directing was happy to see us but made no effort to introduce us foreigners.

Bidding boxes were in use and about half of our opponents were happy to speak English but, to limit the need for explanations to the others in our high school French, we played a simple system. The problems came when we asked about alerted bids and were greeted with torrents of rapid French.

The French names for the suits were a further handicap but not as bad as the names for the honours. We could cope with kings marked "R" (roi), queens as "D" (dame) and jacks as "V" (valet) but couldn't readily acclimatise to aces marked "1".

The bidding on the first board went Pass, Pass, Pass and poor Shirley in fourth seat passed. "Show me your hand," I said, "you must have had some points." "No," she replied, "only four points and three 1s."

Needless to say, in the circumstances we did not do well for Australia, but it was fun in a weird way and we'd certainly do it again. Next time, however, we will Be Prepared.

Editor's Note-

Jilliana and I played in Biarritz a few years ago. The only problem I had with aces (apart from bidding and playing them) was keeping a straight face when they were discussed. The spoken form sounded like the Australian vernacular for buttocks.

THE GREAT NAMES OF BRIDGE; AND WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THEM

Mike Phillips



Stayman, Blackwood, Gerber, Jacoby, Bergen; names that are familiar to probably every bridge player in the world but who were they? What do we know of the lives and bridge careers of the early giants of the game, the men whose eponymous conventions we could not possibly do without?

Sam Stayman (1909-1993). How often has that name passed your lips? Sam was a successful American businessman who was regarded as one of the finest players in the world. He played bridge with enthusiasm until only a few days before he died. In his prime he was a three-time winner of the Bermuda Bowl, the world championship of bridge, as well as many victories in all the major American tournaments.

The one thing that he did *not* do, however, was invent the convention that immortalises his name! That was devised, independently, by his regular partner, George Rapée and by Jack Marx, a British champion who was instrumental in developing the Acol system. The convention acquired Sam's name after he published an article in *Bridge World* in June 1945. Sam also had the chutzpah to give his name spelled backwards to the Namyats convention that was devised by another regular partner, Victor Mitchell.

Easley Blackwood (1903-1992). Unlike Sam Stayman, Blackwood was not a winner of major championships but he was a prolific bridge writer and theorist. Also unlike Sam he did invent the convention that bears his name, in 1933 when contract bridge was still in its infancy. Many variants have evolved since then, most notably Roman Key-Card invented by the world champion Italian team, but they all carry Blackwood's name.

John Gerber (1906-1981). Gerber was born in Russia but migrated to Texas and became an American citizen. He became an accomplished bridge player and won or was runner-up in most of the American championship events, and runner-up in the Bermuda Bowl.

Like Stayman, however, Gerber could be regarded as a pretender. The four-club ace ask convention named after him was invented by a Swiss pair, William Konigsberger and Win Nye, who published it in 1936. Gerber introduced it to North America in 1938, when it acquired his name.

Oswald Jacoby (1902-1984). "Jake" Jacoby was a mathematics prodigy. He could play whist at six and bridge at ten, and at 21 was the youngest person to qualify as an actuary. During World War 1 he joined the army at age 15 by lying about his age, but spent most of his time there playing poker. His talents were put to better use in WW2 and the Korean War, in counter intelligence and cryptanalysis, when he gained the nickname the human computer.

During the twenties he became recognised as one of the world's best bridge players, and was the most successful American tournament player of the 1930s.

Jacoby was a prolific writer of books on bridge and other card games, and more than 10,000 newspaper articles. He pioneered many bidding ideas, including Jacoby transfers and the Jacoby 2NT bid. He was a multiple winner in just about every important American tournament and the 1935 world championships, as well as captaining two winning Bermuda Bowl teams. A true legend of the game.

Marty Bergen (b1948). Bergen is a giant of the post-war era. Before retiring in 1993 from active competition he was a ten-time American national champion and the author of 19 notable bridge books. The bidding conventions and treatments that he developed include Bergen raises and

DONT, and with his partner Larry Cohen he popularised the law of total tricks, support doubles, and the semi-forcing 1NT.

We bridge players of today owe these gentlemen an enormous debt for the conventions that we take for granted. Paradoxically, however, the person who did more than any other to popularise and promote the infant game of contract bridge, a legend in his own lifetime, is scarcely remembered today, if at all. How many of you recognise the name of Eli Culbertson?

Eli Culbertson (1891-1955). Culbertson was born in Romania to an American father and Russian mother. He was educated in France and Switzerland and could speak six languages fluently. After making a living playing cards in Paris he moved to the USA in 1921, where he married his wife Josephine, already America's top woman bridge player and teacher herself. (Some said, perhaps unfairly, that he married her only for her bridge prowess.)

Together with Josephine he aggressively promoted the new game of contract bridge, as well as their own talents. With a flair for publicity, he organised a series of international challenge matches in which his team were invincible for some years until they lost to Austria in 1937 in the final of the first world teams championship.

Culbertson founded and edited the *Bridge World* magazine which is still published today, and produced a multitude of books and articles. He continued to play high-stakes rubber bridge for many years but gave up tournament play in 1938 to devote himself to writing, and world peace. He and Josephine were divorced in the same year.

The Culbertsons achieved their successes using a system that we today would regard as laughably primitive, and left behind no conventions or methods that merit having the Culbertson name attached. *Sic transit gloria mundi*.

SUNSHINE COAST ZONE NEWS

Tony Walford, Zone President

ZONE PAIRS

NOTE- Sunday 9th December

The Zone Pairs (a red-pointed event) has been put back one week from the date previously advised, to avoid clashing with the GNOT National Final at Tweed Heads. Please amend your diary accordingly if you are thinking about entering.

The event will still be held at the **Sunshine Coast Club**, where a maximum of 34 tables can be accommodated. The field will be graded with pairs only playing within their grade. After expenses, all entry fees are returned as cash prizes across all grades. If a full complement of 68 pairs can be attained, an estimated \$1600+ will be available for distribution. We hope to see you there. Please contact Zone Secretary, Rozanne Thomas, at noosacp@bigpond.com for further information.

GNOT ZONE FINAL

The Final of the SCBZ GNOT was held on 1st/2nd September at the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club.

Ten teams competed in a round-robin contest of 12-board matches with the following teams going forward to represent our Zone at the National Final at Tweed Heads in late November:-

- 1- **GREEN** (Noosa). Rosemary Green, Philippa Barnett, David Harris, Tim Ridley, Sam Halvorsen.
- 2- **BROOKES** (SCBC). Stephen Brookes, Verna Brookes, Adrienne Kelly, Peter Busch, Ken Dawson.
- 3- **RUBIN** (Moreton-Bribie). David Rubin, Keith Cohen, Alan Jones, John de Raad.

This is believed to be the first time that a team from Moreton-Bribie has qualified to go on to the Nationals, so quite a cause for celebration for the club! On behalf of all Sunshine Coast players, we wish all our representatives the very best of luck and, perhaps more importantly, an enjoyable time.

WHY DON'T WE OWN A ROLLS ROYCE?

A husband & wife in Sydney are talking about their need to acquire a new car & how their finances could cope with the purchase when, suddenly, the wife goes quiet & starts scribbling in a note-book. Suddenly, she starts talking again:-

W. You play a lot of bridge don't you?

H. Yes, you know I do!

W. How many days per week?

H. 4 or 5 - but sometimes 6 if there's a congress on.

W. And how many sessions per day?

H. Usually one, but 2 in competitions.

W. And how much do you pay for each session?

H. I suppose, on average, about \$18.

W. And you've been playing for about 20 years?

H. Yes!!

W. So, by my calculations - based on an average of 5 sessions p.w. at \$18 per session that would put your annual spending at about \$4680 p.a. - right?

H. I suppose so.

W. Now, if we factor in congress travel & associated accommodation expenses, we might reasonably arrive at a figure of \$7500 p.a., don't you think?

H. Yes - if you say so.

W. So, unless I'm mistaken, that puts your total expenditure on bridge at \$150,000 since you began playing?

H. (Wisely coming to the conclusion that his wife's question was rhetorical only).

Where is all this going?

W. I'll tell you! Do you realise that if, 20 years ago, you had started putting all your bridge expenses in a savings account at compounding interest, you would now have enough money to buy yourself a Rolls Royce?

H. (After pause for thought). Do you play bridge?

W. No - you know I don't!

H. So where's **your** Roller?