



BRIDGE MATTERS



Newsletter of the Caloundra, Coolum and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs March 2015



 **PARTY TIME** 



AROUND THE CLUBS



COOLUM



The Coolum President's Trophy was held Feb 2. There was a random draw for partners, with no strong pairs or established partnerships allowed. Congratulations to the winners, Lois Meldrum and Alan Sinclair, seen here receiving the trophy from President Ali.

Our Christmas party was great fun as usual, and we were pleased to donate the table fees, \$260, to the Teenage Mothers Continuing Education Program.

CALOUNDRA

Following much appreciative feedback, the committee has decided to continue with the phantom partner initiative introduced by Alan Maltby last November. We would like to thank Alan and Pam Beale for their contributions towards making the idea such a success. However, more volunteers are needed.

We are looking forward to a successful Teams Congress April 11-12 and encourage all club members to support this event one way or another.

SUNSHINE COAST

The new Tuesday afternoon session introduced at the end of last year has been continued into 2015, with a teams event run over February. The session is aimed at experienced players but of course everyone is welcome. The format consists of 2x14 board rounds and each session is part of a monthly event. Players need to play in all sessions in the month, although liberal substitution rules apply. Pre-entry is required. The sessions are working well but need more participants and the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club encourages players from other clubs to join these sessions.

On 2 December, 2014, we were privileged to host a workshop entitled "Defensive Strategies" by international player Paul Gosney. It was an excellent opportunity for club players to gain an insight into the analytical mental processes of top players.

THE SUNSHINE COAST INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

On 26 April 2015, the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club will host the inaugural Sunshine Coast Inter-club competition. This will be a graded teams event with

results from all entries in all grades consolidated to find a winning club. Initially the clubs invited to participate will be Sunshine Coast, Caloundra, Coolum and Noosa. So organize your teams and be ready to go!

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to all our new members.

Coolum: Katherine Collins, Viv Cook, Sandra Godfrey and David & Mary Lane.

Caloundra: Carol Curran, Heather Finlayson, Karen Flannery, Paul Kemp, Coral Palmer, Lainey Sharman and Stuart West. Welcome back to Judy Hildebrand.

Sunshine Coast: Melda Bailey, Julia Benfield, Fred Castle, Barbara Dillner, Ailsa Goldfinch, David Lucie-Smith, Pamela Mapes, Phil O'Shea, Liz Peters, Don Robertson, Elaine & Glen Rogan, Donald Sanderson, Eddi Scherret, June Smith, Beverley & John Stacey, Ronald Trevisanello and Lesley Wilson.

We wish you all many happy years of bridging on the Sunshine Coast and hope you will visit all three clubs from time to time.

QBA SENIOR TEAMS

The Sunshine Coast once again excelled in this event, held at SCCBC.

A Grade 1st: David Harris, Timothy Ridley, Rosemary Green, Diana Stagg

2nd: Richard Perry, Rosemary Crowley, Diane & Alan Maltby

B Grade 2nd: Kay Webber, Denise O'Regan (Yeppoon), Denis Moody, Susannah Gray

Best under 200 MPs average Margaret & Don Robertson, Kiyomi Avunduk, Gayna Ryan

The competition was ably directed as always by Peter Busch, assisted by Steve Murray. Annie Kibble and her merry band were superb in the catering department.

CALOUNDRA TEAMS APRIL 11-12 2015

Caloundra invites all Sunshine Coast players to attend a weekend of good bridge and fine food.

QBA NOVICE PAIRS APRIL 18-19, YEPPOON

Yeppoon is hosting this event for the first time this year. A fantastic place for an April weekend, so come on novices, have a good think about it!

SUNSHINE COAST GRADED TEAMS MAY 24

Another event to put in your diary.



Newcomers to bridge are often confused by the terminology encountered. New words, strange meanings for existing words, and more. Not just convention names (although they can be pretty weird in themselves), but also words to describe hands and plays.

This article is aimed at newer players and provides a potted summary of some of the words and expressions you are likely to encounter at the table.

LHO, RHO – left hand opponent (the opponent sitting on your left), right hand opponent (the opponent sitting on your right)

Honours – A, K, Q, J and T. Many people forget that the Ten is considered an honour.

Tenace – a non-contiguous holding like AQ or KJT

Part-score – a contract that is below game e.g. 2S

Singleton (slang terms include “stiff”) is one card in a suit, and **doubleton** is two cards in the suit

Psyche – a bid that is not in accordance with the hand but is made with the intention of disrupting the opponents’ bids. There is also a term “fielding a psyche” where the psycher’s partner knows that partner has psyched and acts accordingly, and while psyching is legal, fielding that psyche is not.

Cue bid - a bid of a suit bid or shown by the opponents. This is often used to ask partner if they have a stopper in that suit when heading towards no trumps but can also have other meanings like Michaels Cue Bid or Ghestem showing specific suits. Cue bids are not alertable. Bids showing first or second round control in a suit are also termed cue bids but this is a quite different meaning for the word.

Arrowswitch – a board that is played such that the NS players hold the EW cards and vice versa. This is sometimes a mistake but other times the movement might require it.

Average-plus and average-minus – some situations call for the awarding an artificial score in lieu of an actual bridge result. The side/s that are not at fault will receive an “average plus” which is 60% of the maximum score available, and an “average minus” (40%) will be applied to those side/s that are at fault.

Fouled board – a board where the hands in each of the 4 pockets are not the way they were when played at other tables e.g. the North and East hands got swapped. These are scored either in a separate group or by assigning an artificial score, depending on how many tables played the board in that fouled state.

Pass-out seat – the 3rd player to call after a bid or double or the 4th player to bid when no bid has been made is in the pass-out seat. It is called that because if that person passes, the auction is over.

Balancing bid - If the auction has died at a low level, the player in the pass-out seat might make a “balancing bid”. They might not have the right hand shape or even points to make a normal competitive bid but many players relax the rules in the pass-out seat. The rationale is that if the auction is dying at a lower level, your partner probably has points they couldn’t show and either a balancing bid will be successful or the opponents will bid up, either of which can be to your advantage.

Moysian fit – a “fit” in bridge is an 8 card suit between the two hands. A Moysian fit is a 7 card fit and is sometimes the right place to play when there is no practical alternative.

Kibitzer – a spectator watching at the table. Kibitzers must only look at one player’s hand and must not talk during play.

Loser count – a method of valuing your hand to count losers – basically a 3+ card suit with AKQ has no losers and for other suit holdings, every missing A K or Q up to the number of cards held in that suit is a loser e.g. Qx is 2 loser, Jx is a 2 loser and Jxx or xxx are all 3 losers.

Negative free bid – this is a bid that is normally forcing, but by agreement, in certain circumstances it is not. Some players play a bid by responder after an overcall as a negative free bid and this is alertable.

Distributional hand – a hand that has shortages, and length in one or two suits. The opposite is a **flat (or balanced) hand**.

Sacrifice – A sacrifice is when one side bids over the other not expecting to make the contract, but expecting that their negative score will be less than the score the other side will make when they make their contract. A phantom sacrifice is when you sacrifice and earn a negative score but the opponents could not have made the contract they had reached.

Reverse – bidding a second suit that is ranked higher than the first, so that if partner wants to go back to your first suit they have to bid at a level higher. It is

generally accepted that you need additional values to make a reverse bid.

Ruff and sluff – when declarer and dummy are both void in a suit but both hold trumps, they will gain a trick if either defender plays the suit they are void in because declarer can ruff in one hand and discard a loser from the other.

Principle of fast arrival (PFA) – this says that the faster you reach your contract the weaker you are. A sequence of 1H – 4H says that responder is weak (and probably has lots of hearts and that's why they going to game) but a delayed raise like 1H – 2C – 2D – 4H says responder has values. Even if opener has a good hand, they won't want to look beyond game after 1H – 4H, but may well do so after the second example.

Yarborough – named after the Earl of Yarborough, this describes a hand with no honours and that includes no tens.

Weak freak – this is a responder's hand that has poor values but has a very good fit with opener. A weak freak is often a good reason to go straight to game – firstly because the opponents will have a shortage in your suit and most likely a fit in the other major and secondly many weak freak hands are distributional, allowing cross-ruffing opportunities.

Chinese finesse – finessing when you don't have touching honours e.g. if dummy has Axxxx and you hold Qxxx, playing the Queen hoping to find the King with LHO is a chinese finesse. It is a considered poor play because the Jack is held by an opponent and perhaps even the Ten so you will gain nothing from the finesse.

There are also different ways to verbally describe a holding in a suit. "AK to 5" means a 5 card suit headed by the AK. "AKx" is AK and an irrelevant third card, also described as "AK third".

Hand shape is often abbreviated to 4 digits to describe the holding in each suit in order of their rank. If you have a 5422 hand, you have 5 spades, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs.

Next issue we will look at a very brief summary of some of the weird and wonderful conventions you will encounter at the table.

GO FOR IT?

The doubtful game? The possible slam? The 3NT that might be there? Meister Johannes Eckhart (C14), a German theologian, philosopher, mystic and potentially aggressive bridge player has this to say:

The price of inaction is far greater than the cost of making a mistake.

KEN'S KONUNDRUM KORNER #10**Ken Dawson**

These are your trumps:-

Dummy Axx

Declarer QJ9xx

You lead the Queen which holds the trick. What next?

Ax

J9xx

If West had started with Kx, he would probably have covered your queen. This will provide his partner with a trick when she holds T9x.

So, West probably started with Kxx and his partner started with Tx.

(You were never going to avoid a loser if West started with KTx)

So, you should now run your jack, hoping to *smother* East's ten. This makes your nine the winner of the 3rd trick and avoids having a trump loser.

GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS FINALS 2014**Stephen Hughes**

The finals of the 2014 Grand National Open Teams were held at Tweed Heads on the 29th and 30th of November.

The first round consists of 14 boards with the winners going through to further knockout rounds of 28 boards each.

As each team is eliminated they move into the repechage section where eventually the 2 top teams in the repechage go back into the main draw to play against the 2 losing teams from the 2 matches between the final 4 teams. After these 2 matches the 4 remaining teams play a semi-final then a final. Sounds complicated doesn't it.

The winners were Sydney 2 over Adelaide 1 in the final.

3 teams qualified to represent Sunshine Coast in the 64 team finals.

Sunshine Coast 1 comprised 4 Noosa based players: Phillippa Barnett, Rosemary Green, David Harris and Tim Ridley.

This team had a very good first day winning all their matches which had them in the last 8 of the main draw.

A loss in their first match on day 2 put them into the repechage where 3 losses saw them in 18th place which was 22nd overall.

Sunshine Coast 2 comprised mainly SCCBC members: Rosemary Crowley, Ken Dawson, Adrienne Kelly, Verna and Stephen Brookes.

After losing their first match they won 5 of their 9 matches in the repechage to finish 45th so 49th overall.

Sunshine Coast 3 comprised Dianne and Alan Maltby, Randall Rusk, Drew Dunlop and Stephen Hughes, Caloundra players.

They started with a narrow win over Melbourne 2 followed by a narrow 2nd round loss. They then won 5 of their 7 repechage matches to finish 9th in the repechage and 13th overall.

All in all it was a good showing by the three Sunshine Coast teams.

RECENT TITLES ADDED TO THE SUNSHINE COAST BRIDGE CLUB LIBRARY Katherine Tucker (club librarian)

It is very pleasing to see the library being well used. We have a wide ranging collection of books covering all levels of play. Below are listed some of the titles acquired in the past year

Clever plays in the trump suit by David Bird. This is an intermediate-level discussion of declarer play which focuses on the power of the trump suit.

Defensive tips for bad card holders by Eddie Kantar. 2nd ed. revised and updated. Another for the intermediate player with tips which promise to improve your game

Bid more, play more, enjoy more, win more by Mathew Thomson. The author's advice is to always evaluate your hand and to show shape before strength

Better balanced bidding: the Banzar method by David Jackson & Ron Klinger. Something new in hand evaluation which the authors claim is bound to improve your results

Every year the American Bridge Teachers Association names a book of the year. In 2012 it was ***A first book of problems*** by Sydney player Patrick O'Connor. This year he did it again with ***A second book of bridge problems***. Naturally we had to acquire these books and 2 copies of each are now in our collection. Suggestions for new titles are always welcome

A reminder to borrowers to file the borrowing card (on which you have written your name and the date borrowed) in running number order in the little box

below the book shelves. If you are looking for a book not on the shelves you can check this box and see who has it out. Please try to return books within six weeks. If you have borrowed a book which you can't bear to part with, the librarian will be happy to help you buy your own copy.

MEMBER PROFILE

BARRY BUZZA

Anette Wigan



Barry learnt his bridge in Gatton 25 years ago and played with Adrian Mayers for a while in Toowomba. 21 years ago he moved to Caloundra and has been a most popular member of that club. He formed a partnership with Pat Porter which lasted for 15 years, until she moved to Brisbane. Barry was an active committee member for many years and has served as Club President for several terms. He is a dedicated director and great partygoer, always ready to act the fool and take over as MC or party organizer. He was invited by a 17 year old Nathan van Jole to play a Gympie

Congress, which they won. Tongue in cheek, as so often, Barry suggests that Nathan, being still too young to drive, only invited Barry to play with him in order to get a ride.

To get to know Barry a little better we sent a reporter to ask him a few questions:

Where were you born? Gin Gin, Qld. *(A true Queenslander at heart and a staunch Brisbane Lions supporter).*

Name something you couldn't live without. My dear wife and Bundaberg Rum (not necessarily in that order).

Who would you most like to invite to dinner? Richie Benaud.

Who is your favourite pin-up? Jennifer Hawkins

When not playing bridge, what do you most enjoy doing? Fishing.

Where are the best fishing spots? Pumicestone Passage. *(He would not be more specific).*

What is top of your bucket list? A cruise on the QEII.

What do you think has been your greatest achievement to date? Staying alive.

Thank you Barry.

JOHN KENNY'S NEW LAW OF BRIDGE

If you're in 6, you'll only make 4, but if you're only in 4, you'll make 6.

THE END OF THE LINE

- I always said that if all else failed I could learn bridge. Yep! All else did fail!

THERE IS A BRIDGE GOD!!!**Ruth Mackinlay**

This board was played at the South Gippsland Congress held recently in Leongatha, Victoria.

Dir: South	♠ AQJ6	
EW Vul	♥ 9	
	♦ A6	
	♣ AQJT86	
♠ T42		♠ 98753
♥ T6		♥ KJ54
♦ K874		♦ 93
♣ 7432		♣ K9
	♠ K	
	♥ AQ8732	
	♦ QJT52	
	♣ 5	

The bidding:

SOUTH	NORTH
1 ♥	2 ♣
3 ♦	4 ♣ (Ace ask - CRO)
4 ♥ (1 or 4 aces)	5 ♣ (King ask)
5 ♥ (1 or 4 kings)	6NT!! (Thinks - must be 4 kings for the jump)

Spade lead. Dummy is displayed (North's heart sinks, South says "I only had 5 losers."). Lead won by ♠ K. Small club to the 10, taken by the ♣ K. East now has a problem for the next lead. They could see the heart finesse would work, declarer didn't have a problem with spades, so they tried the diamond suit. Twelve tricks rolled in, missing 3 kings.

Even leading another spade doesn't matter, because both the heart finesse and the diamond finesse achieve the same result. Both suits would be played with "heart in mouth" though.

So you see, there is a bridge god!!

IDLE CHATTER AT THE BRIDGE TABLE

- My better half says I should make my life an example of the principles I believe in, but every time I do, I am told to stop it.

- I'm not sure total self-indulgence is really a principle. *Calvin and Hobbs (adapted)*

BRIDGE FOR THE IMPROVER**Ron Klinger**

This is the third of a series of articles which appeared in the Gold Coast Bulletins for 2012 and is reproduced with kind permission of the author. If you have not already done so, we urge you to visit Ron's website ronklingerbridge.com. You will be amazed at the variety of helpful suggestions, articles and bridge problems you will find.

Dealer: South	West	North	East	South
Vul: All				1 ♥
West	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥[1]	Double
♠ 9 7 3	3 ♣	4 ♥	All Pass	
♥ Q 6 5 3				
♦ K 8				
♣ K 7 4 2	[1] Minors			

What should West lead? The opening lead is one of the toughest parts of the game, but there are guidelines that can assist you. This arose in the final of a national teams event.

LEAD ON

	♠ A J 10 8 6 2	
	♥ K 10 2	
	♦ 9 6 5 2	
	♣ - - -	
♠ 9 7 3		♠ K 5
♥ Q 6 5 3		♥ 9
♦ K 8		♦ Q J 10 7 3
♣ K 7 4 2		♣ Q 10 8 5 3
	♠ Q 4	
	♥ A J 8 7 4	
	♦ A 4	
	♣ A J 9 6	

Lead: ♣ 2. West followed the useful maxim, "Trump length, lead length". Declarer might have succeeded, but in practice the contract went one down. South pitched a diamond from dummy and captured the ♣ Q. The ♥ 4 went to the ♥ 10, followed by a diamond to the ace, West unblocking the ♦ K (nice). When the ♠ Q lost to the king, East cashed the ♦ Q and played the ♦ J next.

Declarer ruffed with the ♥ J, but West declined the over-ruff and discarded a spade (nicer). The ♥ 8 was run, but declarer was in trouble. Whether he ruffed a club or played a heart to dummy, West could ruff the third spade and make one more trick.

The Bidding at the other table:			
West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	2NT [1]	Double
4 ♣	4 ♥	All pass	
[1] Minors			

At this second table the lead was the ♦ K. With four or five trumps, a defender is usually better off trying to make declarer ruff than to receive a ruff. South ducked the ♦ K and won the second diamond. He ran the ♠ Q immediately, losing to the king. Back came the diamond jack, ruffed with the ♥ 7. Having sought a ruff, West now declined it. He discarded a spade.

South played a heart to the ten, followed by the ♠ A and the ♠ J, pitching a club. West ruffed and led a club, but declarer had complete control. He won the ♣ A, pitching a diamond from dummy, drew trumps ending in dummy and claimed.

COMPETITION!!! COMPETITION!!! COMPETITION!!!

Our usual magnificent prize of 1 free game in one of the clubs will be awarded to the most creative, bridge-related, customized automobile registration plate. Any combination of 4-6 letters or numbers is required although it is not necessary to include both. Ron Klinger, *The Bridge Player Who Laughed*, tells of a car bearing the plate BID 3NT, so you can't use that. Also, nothing rude!

Enter as many times as you like and rush entries to wendy_ob@hotmail.com or hand them to someone. Entries close May 5.

CHAOS THEORY?

- I give up! I totally give up! Nothing works! When I go for the drop with a 9 card fit, the cards sit Qxx. My finesses never work. If I play for split honours, like it says in the book, they are both on the wrong side. If I put the missing king in the hand that bid, that's not where it is. Cover an honour? Don't cover an honour? Whatever choice I make, informed though it may be, is wrong! I've had it up to here with the whole stupid game!

- Don't despair. Be of good cheer. Remember that somewhere in the murky depths of random hit-and-miss there lurks a rule to every exception.

KNOW THYSELF

- Oh no! Oh no! Oh no! That is the most terrible mistake I have ever made in my life as a bridge player. Well, at least I can be sure I'll never do that again.

- Ah yes. I have heard that syndrome described as "*a hysterical belief in the non-recurrence of the abysmal*".

(Paul Scott)

THE MOYSIAN FIT

Reg Busch



The name Alphonse Moyses Jr would mean little to today's generation of bridge players. But, starting in the 1930s, he was a champion bridge player and a prolific and influential bridge journalist. He was reputed to have written two bridge columns every day for 22 years, most of these as 'ghost' writer for the Culbertsons. In those days of opening 4 card majors, he was a proponent of supporting partner's one major opening with three cards in his suit. His name still lives when bridge writers talk of playing in a 'Moysian' fit i.e. in a 4 / 3 fit.

Whether he would be such an advocate in these days of computer generated hands is a matter of conjecture. But the fact still remains that, not infrequently, we find that 4H or 4S in a 4/3 fit is the only makeable contract.

So don't be afraid of finishing in a 4/3 fit if it seems your best spot. But it would be helpful to understand that there is a secret to playing these hands. Here is an example from a hand played recently in a Florida event.

W	N	E	S
	1♣	1♦	1♥
2♦	2♥	P	4♥
All pass			

Dir North	♠KQ72		
NS vul	♥A95		
	♦43		
	♣K1074		
♠965		♠J104	
♥Q104		♥J73	
♦KJ972		♦AQ1086	
♣63		♣A2	
	♠A83		
	♥K862		
	♦5		
	♣QJ985		

North's 2♥ bid with his 3 card suit is questionable. No doubt his original plan was to rebid 1♣, but perhaps he thought that, with the bidding at the two level, his minimal hand did not justify bidding 2♣. Whatever, South now has to make 4H.

The defence started with two rounds of diamonds, with South ruffing the second. Now came rule one: *before touching trumps, set up your side suit*. So South played on clubs. East won the ♣A, and returned a club.

Now for rule two: *if you may have to lose a trump, lose it early*. For example, here if declarer plays ♥K, ♥A, then another, West will win the ♥Q and cash defenders diamonds. So South must duck a round of trumps. He then wins any return, draws the remaining trumps and cashes out for 10 tricks.

So you need a bit of luck in these contracts. The suit usually needs to break 3/3. This should occur about 35% of the time. But, in these days of computer generated hands, my version of Sod's Law is that 3/3 breaks occur only when you don't need them!

Did you see how the defence could have prevailed? Giving a ruff and discard is regarded as a major defensive crime. But, if East, on winning the ♣A, returns a *third* diamond he gives South a ruff and discard. Whatever hand South wins in, he now can't duck a trump because a *fourth* diamond will prevent South from drawing the remaining trumps. So a ruff and discard twice would have defeated the contract.

Notice that neither 3NT nor 5C will make. 4H makes except against hard to find defence, and 4S will always make, because South doesn't need to duck a trump. Getting to 4S is another matter.

The lesson here is to be aware that a 4/3 fit in a major may well be a good spot, and particularly in a part score competitive situation. Particularly so when the hand with three trumps is short in opponents' suit. But be aware of the different technique in playing such hands.

ENCOURAGING WORDS TO CHEER YOU ALONG LIFE'S MERRY WAY

*A most depressing thing occurs
But no-one minds and no-one stirs
Which means you've ended up with two
Depressing things depressing you.*

Leunig

IDLE CHATTER AT THE BRIDGE TABLE

- I believe my house is haunted.
- Haunted? Really?
- Yes. Every time I look in my mirror a crazy old person stands in front of me so I can't see my reflection

HOW TO BID THE HAND?

Seat 4 bridge players around the table and you'll get 4 different opinions.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE ARANA BRIDGE CLUB

In 1933, as many of us will recall vividly, the *Townsville Daily Bulletin* ran a competition in which writers were asked to compose a ballad with the refrain "*I liked my partner, but she trumped my ace*". The competition was run under the title *PONS ASINORUM** which translates as *DONKEYS' BRIDGE!* The winning ballad, by Arthur Oliver, was published in the Bulletin on Monday 8 January 1934. His award, of course, was presented by Sir John Squire.

*I wonder who she was. What earthly name
Could be the label to the loveliness
That so bewitched me that a ruined game
Seemed a mere trifle? This was nothing less
Than devilry, and she a sorceress,
Who left me blinded to the deep disgrace
Of giving way to such weakmindedness.
I liked my partner, but she trumped my ace.*

*She trumped my ace, and yet I feel the same
As when I saw her first. I must confess
To being mastered by the scorching flame
That brings the swiftest mind to nothingness.
"Having no heart?" I said; she could not guess
The double meaning, for I saw no trace
Of kind compunction nor the least distress.
I liked my partner but she trumped my ace.*

*And she was impudent and just to shame
She laughed and then proceeded to finesse
Against my king, and failing, threw the blame
On me for "getting in a hopeless mess".
Whilst I, poor fool, esteemed it happiness
To sit and lose; for to that blank fair face
All declarations were quite meaningless.
I liked my partner but she trumped my ace.*

*Prince, I would lose a kingdom to caress
That hand, and kings unnumbered to embrace
Two things at once, beauty and brainlessness.
I liked my partner but she trumped my ace.*

The years rolled on, then, lo and behold, in the April 1999 edition of *The Trump-It*, the newsletter of the Arana Bridge Club, we find:

A bridge ballade

Anon (c/- Margarett Golden)

*You will remember - when I called a spade,
And, like a shot, she put me up to three?
A miniature she was, in blue brocade.*

