

QCBC Newsletter



QCBC Clubhouse, 67 Ipswich Rd, Woolloongabba, QLD 4012

www.qcbc.org.au

Happy New Year to you all.

I think as you get older, time goes past far too fast.

I need to thank everyone who contributes to QCBC. There are a lot of people that do things of which you are possibly not aware so the people who work behind the scenes are: **Your Board – Cheryl Stone, Michael Fernon, Jan Peach, Barry Williams, Richard Fox, Val Holbrook** – they meet on a monthly basis and discuss issues relating to the club. Your newsletter editor – **Joan** – quiet as mouse a bi-monthly newsletter regarding the club gets published. All the members who take a pile of tablecloths, tea towels and lunch cloths home to wash – thank you. Our board dealers **Vivien, Peter, Val, Colin and Lex** – thank you. To those who help Toni with the bridgemates and putting out boards and general administration - **Jim, John**, Alan and our Fundraisers – **John, Jeannie**, our Masterpoint Secretary, **Julie Jeffries** and of course how could we not know and thank our Directors – **Barry, Richard, Julie, Nick, Neville, Jim, Jan, Richard and Maurie**. Our Teaching Mob – **Claire, Clare, Chris, Tony, Richard, Robyn** – without you the members would not be coming through. All of the members above do their jobs on a voluntary basis and without them this club would not run.

I am sorry if I have not named you individually but you were all personally thanked again at the Christmas Party which brings me to my next thank you. **Val and Lynne** – what a great job you did at the Christmas Party – thank you to all the people who assisted and you even dragged your husband in to help. Job well done. Well done to **Cheryl** and her team, who convene the New Year's Eve Bridge night – very successful – hope I will be there next year.

Two people I need to single out are your Manager **Toni** – this club could not run without her and she certainly makes my life easier as your President – she does all the jobs above plus more and this club is a good club because of her – thank you Toni; and the last is my wife **Kim** – she has nursed me through my illness over the last 13 months, she drives me to all my meetings and reminds me to go to my weekly games etc. Thank you all, Ray



Ray Ellaway
QCBC President

Coming Up

- Tues Jan 15 Under 50 MP Red Point Pairs - 10am
- Thurs 31 Jan Beginners Lessons 10 -12 Eight-week course \$40 per person (Contact Robyn Clark 0414 540 776 rcla@optusnet.com.au)
- Thurs 31/1 & 7/2 GNOT Heat 12 – 20 Jan Summer Festival of Bridge Canberra
- Sun Jan 20 Northern Suburbs Teams
- Sat 26 Jan Australia Day Pairs – Red Points
- Sun 27 Jan Kenmore Graded Pairs
- Mon 28 Jan Kenmore Graded Teams
- Sat Feb 2, Sun 3 QBA Senior Teams Sunshine Coast
- Sun 3 Feb Toowong Imp Pairs
- Sun 3 Feb Twba Novice Pairs
- Tues 5 & 12 Feb Novice Pairs under 100 MPs

Melbourne Cup Moments





Barbara Bright - Best Dressed



Lynne Gray and Val Holbrook did a sterling job of organising the Christmas celebration.



Dawn Cullen and Joan Jenkins - Best Dressed Pair



Grand Slam Club - Don Worner

On a given day of the week
It is a game of Bridge that we seek.
This game, considered good for the brain,
Hopefully keeps you from going insane.
We arrive hoping to get a good score

And to finish on top of the section for sure.
Always looking for a grand slam bid and made.
If you do, the memory will never fade.
This of course has been done by a few
And you always hope one day it will be you.
Club records show there is a Grand Slam group
And you want to be in that troupe.
This is equivalent to golf's hole in one,
Again, achieved not often, but by some.
When this happens you shout the bar,
And this story is now part of your repertoire
Of the golfing stories that you tell
One that you constantly refer to and dwell on
Like the size of the fish you once caught -
Thrown into the conversation as an afterthought.
Indicated by your hands at the start,
Every time told, your hands are further apart.
But you cannot embezzle a Grand Slam story.
If you got one, then bask in the glory
Because this fact can never be improved
And the benefit is: it can never be removed.



Barry Williams – Cutest Elf

QBA Bulletin

In 2019, we will only be printing two hard copies of the QBA Bulletin – March and September. The other two editions will be electronic only and you will be informed via this communication as to its availability.

My address list is 2500 strong and will go to most but there are a lot of players who would like to be advised of the Bulletin's availability but are not aware that it is on the website. If you are aware of any such people, please bring it to their attention.

Kim

Announcing an Improvers Workshop open to all players.

Are you playing club sessions but sometimes say to yourself, "I should go back to lessons"?

Do you feel as if you know the basics but there are some things that still confuse you?



Robyn Clark is offering a Refresher Course of lessons to recap some of the basics and focus on common problem areas.

Come to any or all, just come on the day and if you're on your own you'll be paired up

Questions to be covered:

- 1) When can I count points for shortages, singletons, voids? How do I get best value out of my trumps?
- 2) When should I open 1NT? What if I have 18/19 points? What if I have a singleton or two doubletons?
- 3) When should you bid on in competitive situations 1H (1S) 2H (2S); 3H do you go 3S?

If you have any particular burning questions, let Robyn know and they can be included.

Think about bringing lunch and staying on for the afternoon session.

Richard Fox and Robyn are happy to stay back for 30 minutes or so, after the afternoon session to help with any problem boards.

This workshop runs for 4 weeks and you can attend as many as you want. The cost is \$10 per person per lesson. Each lesson is approx. 2 hours.

Contact Robyn - rcla@optusnet.com.au - 0414 540 776

New books

Barbara Ryan, our librarian, has generously purchased some new books for the library.

Remember to record the numbers of the books you borrow along with the titles and the date borrowed. Most importantly, return the books in a timely manner. We know it is easy to forget a book so do a check every once in a while.

New Books:

All of these titles are by Barbara Seagram and David Bird

25 ways to take more tricks as declarer

Planning the play of a bridge hand

Defence play quiz book

Bidding at bridge a quiz book

Hervey Bay Bridge Holiday with Andy Hung

Joan Jenkins

I am so glad I attended Andy's class at Hervey Bay from 18 to 23 November. I was one of a group from every Australian State, the ACT and New Zealand.

The Oaks Resort was a stunning location, we were too well fed and the organisation was flawless.

The focus was on No Trump play: bidding, playing, defending, one of my big weaknesses. Most of you have been to some of Andy's workshops so you will be familiar with the high quality of the preparation and how thorough and engaging the teaching was.



Lorraine Moulds, Christine Bolger, Andy and Joan Jenkins

Throughout the week good planning was emphasized. With **bidding**, the value of Cue Bidding and Fourth Suit Forcing was stressed; with **play**, entry management, the importance of unblocking and order of play were demonstrated and leads were the main focus for **defence**.

Here is an example where order of play and unblocking are essential to success.

You are South in 3NT and West leads the ♥K.

On this deal, we see all nine of our tricks ready for the taking, but unfortunately there are two blocked suits that need to be untangled.

North
♠QJ96
♥6532
♦A74
♣KQ
South
♠AK
♥A87
♦8632
♣A752

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2♦

As West leads the ♥K, it knocks out our one and only heart stopper; so we need to be careful on this hand. You can hold up one or two rounds of hearts, but that won't be of any use. Since we already have our nine tricks, **we just need to take them in the right order.**

Let's say we win the ♥A and unblock the ♠AK. We would then go to dummy with a club and cash our spade winners along with the ♦A and the ♣Q; however, we would have no way back to our hand to cash the ♣A after the ♣KQ are unblocked.

Therefore we need to tweak the plan. After winning the ♥A, we should first unblock the ♣KQ. We now come back to our hand by unblocking the ♠AK, cash the ♣A and finally cross over to dummy with the ♦A to enjoy the rest of dummy's spades.



This deal demonstrates the importance of planning ahead. Playing the whole hand in our heads before touching a single card will often pay dividends. This will prevent you from making hasty plays which you might end up regretting, and that's what will happen if you play the spades first in this hand.

Unfortunately, Andy will be mostly be relocating to Perth this year, as he has been accepted by the Western Australia Bridge Club (third largest club membership in the country with a very extensive bridge teaching programme!) as their new bridge teacher. Sadly, this means we won't see him in Brisbane as much, but he will try to organise some bridge lessons for us when possible.

Andy will run a seminar on Mastering Defence May 6-11 2019 at Ivory Palms Resort in Noosaville. Don't miss it!

GOLD COAST CONGRESS 2019



Entries as of December 15th are up on the same time last year which is great news. On that basis 2019 is going to be even bigger and better!

TBIB: Something a little different this year, the TBIB Prize Wheel! Each day, 5 names will be drawn from the Congress register and those 5 will get a chance to spin the TBIB Prize Wheel to win Bridge gift vouchers and a bunch of TBIB goodies. Don't miss out!

TIMING: Bobby Richman Pairs Championship – All Levels: Please remember both Qualifying rounds will be held on Saturday 16th February at the earlier commencement of 10.30 am (11.30 EST) and finishing around 6.15 pm and that the **Weekend Swiss** is now commencing at 3.00pm (4.00pm EST). The **Monday Butler Swiss** also commences earlier at 9.30am (10.30am EST).

CELEBRITY SPEAKERS: The six speakers are locked in and keen to provide another exciting programme with all entry fees going towards supporting Youth Bridge. Paul Marston, Joan Butts, Andy Hung, Kate McCallum, Laura Ginnan/Pete Hollands & Will Jenner-O'Shea are all back in 2019 – exciting new topics, don't miss them!

ZEPHYR: For the third consecutive year, the QBA is sponsoring Zephyr as their charity to be supported at the Gold Coast Congress. Zephyr Education Inc is a Brisbane-based charity whose sole purpose is to help children whose lives and education have been disrupted by domestic violence to get back to school as quickly as possible.

BRIDGE WIDOWS: Sue has this well under control with all the activities now booked in. For those players whose partners don't play Bridge they can look forward to such trips as Crystal Castle & Shambhala Gardens, Sanctuary Cove, Kingscliff, and Fingal Head, David Fleay Wildlife Park and Sirromet Winery & tasting. As well, the popular Fashion Parade on Monday starting at 10.30am and "In Her Shoes" on Friday 22nd with a Champagne Breakfast commencing at 8.15am are back again. Under the Info tab on the Gold Coast Webpage, you will find a helpful document on Bridge Widows information.

THE OASIS SHOPPING CENTRE: It's great to have them back as a sponsor in 2019, so please support them as you venture down towards the Broadbeach Mall; the **Trivia night** will be held at the Beachside Pavilion again (part of the Oasis) on Monday night ably run by Dominique and Tony Treloar supporting Youth Bridge.



COATS: If anyone has spare shawls, pashminas or coats they are prepared to donate to the GCC they would be most appreciated. If you happen to have accidentally taken home any borrowed from our stock, we would love to have them back. Please remember that you do need to bring a wrap as there will always be cold spots even if the outside temperature is over 30.

FACEBOOK: Take the time to like and follow our page – either go to the Gold Coast Congress website or click <https://www.facebook.com/Gold-Coast-Bridge-Congress-126609190720551/>

ENTRIES: As mentioned at the start of this update, entries are coming in well, but please don't delay! The early bird discounts require payment before 4/2/19. Pele Rankin is our entry co-ordinator and if you have any trouble entering please contact her on gccentries@qldbridge.com.au 0439 949060



HELP! Caddies, Substitutes and House Pairs are needed. Contact Kim on 0412064903.

PARTNERS: Toni Bardon is our partnership coordinator & wonderful at matching people up so please drop her a line if you need help. tmbardon@hotmail.com 0401082054

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Under the Info tab <http://www.qldbridge.com.au/gcc/info.php> on our website you will find:

- Frequently Asked Questions 2019
- 0-50 Rookie and Novice Events 2019
- Walk-In Events Schedule 2019
- Prizes 2019

Kim and I wish you all the very best and hope 2019 will bring everyone some peace and happiness along with a few more points in your hands!

Tim gccconvenor@qldbridge.com.au Kim manager@qldbridge.com.au

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So you think you're a fast player? Try this quick quiz...

The major complaint that directors have to deal with is slow play (although air-conditioning does come a close second). Whether it's because there's no time to play all the boards, whether it's players waiting for a table to finish so they can move there or because most of the players are hanging around for tables to finish play so the director can make the draw for the next round, slow play is the main cause of discontent for most players. So, if you are brave enough to take it, here is a quiz to see if you are one of those players who cause dissatisfaction...are you ready to start?

Question 1. Are you ready to start?

One of the very obvious things that I observe is that players who are notorious for their slow play are also typically those who, when the round or match is starting, are making a cup of tea, chatting with friends, arguing with their partner or team mates - anything but being ready to commence play. If you do have a reputation as a slow player, how about trying the effect of sitting at the table before the director hands out the boards, all set to start play immediately? Those extra couple of minutes will make a difference.

Question 2. Are you carrying too much weight?

No, I am not being personal, but like a racehorse which is handicapped to slow it down by having to carry additional weight, a lot of slow players add to the delay by what they have to transport when they get up to move to the next table. A coat or jumper, a bag, a book or magazine, a score book, a pen, a glass of water or cup of tea, and various other paraphernalia. Why not try the effect of travelling light? Put as much as you can away in a corner before the



start of the session.

Question 3. Are you guilty of “scoring on the green”?

Golfers will know that one of the big no-no's is scoring on the green. That is, filling in your scorecard immediately after putting out, rather than moving off the green so that the group following can hit up. Bridge has its own version of this. It can be the players who are running late filling in personal scorecards before moving on. But there are other instances. Looking at the travelling score sheet to see what others have done, or inspecting the Bridgemate to see your percentage on the board is a privilege, not a right. If you are running late and other players are waiting to come to the table, you have lost that entitlement. The director, if he is on the ball and able to do so, should take responsibility for entering the score on the traveller/Bridgemate, so that EW can move on and NS can start play in the next round. (Of course, playing directors are unlikely to be in a position to do this – one of the reasons why it is even more difficult for playing directors to keep track of slow play.) Similarly, spending too much time poring over the results at the end of a hand, and engaging in lengthy post mortems with partner, is a significant cause of slow play.

Furthermore, there can be similar problems during the play of the hand. Some easy directions: if you are on opening lead, NEVER fill in your personal scoresheet until after you have made the lead. If you are dummy, ALWAYS put your cards down on the table immediately after the opening lead is faced. If play is being delayed by having to enter the data in the Bridgemate, try this procedure: after dummy's hand goes down, give the Bridgemate to dummy, who can then enter the board number, the contract, the declarer and (if recorded) the opening lead, before handing the unit back to North or South. At the end of the hand, it is then a simple matter of entering the number of tricks and having the score confirmed by the opponents. Finally, at the end of the hand, after the number of tricks is agreed, the very first thing you should do is to put the cards back into the board. If the director does need to move the board on, it will greatly speed things up.

Question 4. Do you feel bad/remorseful when the director says “take an average”?

If I had a dollar for every time I've been told, “it wasn't our fault”, I wouldn't be directing, I'd be living in the lap of luxury on the Riviera!

There are two possibilities: one – it really wasn't your fault. In that case, it will be a very rare occurrence for the director to say, “Take an average”. As it is so uncommon, it will hardly make a difference to you, and you will understand that what the director is doing is for the benefit of the game, keeping it moving and making things better for everyone. However, if it is happening to you a lot, you need to ask the question, “why?”



The standard amount of time allowed per board is about 7 minutes. That means, each player has about 2 minutes per hand to consider his bids and plays. (The reason it doesn't quite add up is that dummy doesn't need any thinking time during the play period.) Of course, occasionally there will be particularly difficult problems when you may need to take extra time. That is not an issue. However, if you are consistently taking more than your fair share, that is a big problem. Apart from being discourteous to the opponents – and anyone who has to wait for you to finish – it is a significant breach of the proprieties of the game. In tournament chess, a player who exceeds the time limit automatically loses the match.

The penalties imposed in bridge (on the rare occasions that they are implemented) are usually of far less significance - often just getting average minus on a board.

Experienced directors know who the slow players are. Apart from having to consistently hurry them up, directors regularly receive complaints about having to play against “so and so, who is so slow”. When the same names keep coming up, the pattern and the truth is pretty well established. When these players react with comments like “we weren’t slow” or “it wasn’t me”, either they are being disingenuous, or are unacceptably unaware of their behaviour. In either case, clearly something needs to change for the good of the game and the enjoyment of all.

Question 5. Are we done yet?

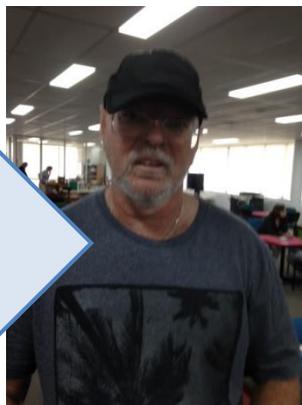
The fact that all the boards have been played is not a good indication that play has been timely. The biggest grumbles that the opponents of slow players have involve being pressured to rush through the last couple of boards because of the amount of time that has been used up earlier. A far better test of whether you are slow is to monitor where you are midway through the round. When the director says, “we have reached the half way point, you should have finished ___ boards”, have you completed at least half your boards? If the answer to this is “no” more than 25% of the time, you cannot keep blaming your opponents - you are a slow player.

How did you go? I expect you passed. But maybe you may know of someone else for whom this article might be useful? Your partner perhaps? Remember that saying, “It’s not me, it’s my partner” is not really an excuse. Bridge is a partnership game. If your partner is to blame for making the game less pleasant for others, then at some point you have to take responsibility as well.



Sandra Aring

Neville Francis first in the James O’Sullivan Awards



Richard Ward second in the James O’Sullivan Awards



Lynne Gray

Masterpoint Promotions

November 2018

- Janette Kollisch *National
- Sandra Aring *Local
- Peter Green Club
- Greg Secomb Club
- Sue Green Club

Masterpoint Promotions

December 2018

- Lynne Gray *National
- Chris Green Club
- Thais Morgan-Pertus Graduate
- Stephen Bennett Graduate

Starting Wednesday Night

16th January
6.30 pm to 6.50 pm

Pre-session discussion for improving players.



Bidding, defence, declarer play, interesting boards from the previous week,
Perhaps just the basics that may have been forgotten.

Coming events

Thursday GNOT - 31 January & 7 February

1 day GNOT - March 3

Wednesday GNOT - March 13 & 20

Novice Pairs Competition - <100mp -

Tuesdays 5 & 12

BEGINNERS LESSONS

Starting:

Thursdays 10am to 12 - January 31

Saturdays 10am to 12 - 2 March

**\$50 Tuesday nights - January 29, February
12 & 2, March 12 & 26**

Welcome to new members

Jane Bell
Leonie MacGregor
Andrew Trowse
Tim Prowse
Sunil Mukherjee
Dewi Eastman
Dean Scully
Paul Davis
Louis Labanti