



A Message from the President

On behalf of the Board I extend best wishes for the Festive Season.

Our members have been outstanding in 2006 and I know will be equally so in 2007. The Bring and Buy will raise in excess of \$3,000, raffles have been supported both with prizes and buying tickets, donations have been made to assist the club and a range of jobs done willingly by members.

The Board has passed a motion to waive membership dues for any member over 90 years old. We regret we can't waive the State or National dues ! It is a token effort but I hope it shows that the club is appreciative of these members' continued support. We have done this on a trial for 2007 to test members views.

The Brisbane City Council has offered an amount to settle our claim for damages. We are attempting to have an interview with the Lord Mayor to discuss several issues.

Don't forget the Christmas Party , Saturday 16 December.

Keith.



RESULTS:

QCBC NOVICE TEAMS

CHRIS ELMES ALAN WATSON
KAREN ELMES BEV WATSON

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

1ST DAVID APPLETON ANDY HUNG
TITLE GOES TO KEITH MCDONALD &
JOHN MILLS

QBA MIXED TEAMS

TONY JACKMAN META GOODMAN
MIKE ROBSON BETTY LEE
WEDNESDAY PM SWISS PAIRS
KEITH BISHOP BILL HEALY

THURSDAY SWISS PAIRS

MARION COOKE MARGARET
MILLAR



COMING EVENTS



SWISS PAIRS
SAT DECEMBER
SWISS PAIRS
WED 10.30AM 13 DECEMBER



CHRISTMAS PARTY
SAT 16 DECEMBER





NEW YEARS EVE TEAMS
 SUN 7.30PM 31 DECEMBER
 \$60 PER TEAMS - CHAMPAGNE
 SUPPER & CASH PRIZES

Thank you to all the Members and players who have helped with the congresses over the year. At the end of the last congress, many hands made light work - it was wonderful!!



OVERWHELMED

This word does not describe how I feel over the kind words and generosity that you have shown in your presentation to me the other day.

When Alan got up to speak I had no idea he was talking about me and I am just so touched by the card (and cheque too of course). Even as a stiff upper-lipped Englishwoman, I had a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye.

We did work hard to try to find alternate accommodation for us and we learned one very good lesson in not to trust any of our bureaucratic leaders, as all our efforts were eventually for nought.

We are still "fighting" with the Council with regard to compensation and although they have made us an offer, we feel our disruption and losses are worth a lot more - but we'll see.

At least we have installed air-conditioning which is working extremely well and will be paid for by the compensation.

I have bought an air-conditioner for my bedroom with your generous gift and I will think of you all as I doze off to sleep.

Thank you all so much and warmest wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

MARION



QCBC BUTLER SWISS PAIRS
 SUNDAY 14 JANUARY



QCBC WILL BE CLOSED CHRISTMAS
 DAY ONLY



12 teams participated in the recent QCBC Novice Teams. For at least 4 of our members it was their first congress. Well done for having a go and hope you enjoyed it.



Maurice Cullen



I was not interested in card games as a child. While at primary and high school I spent most afternoons and weekends playing tennis with my sister and or twin brother and father. We had our own tennis court and it was put to good use. My maternal grandmother lived with us and in the later stage of her life was confined to a wheelchair. She was a keen card player, euchre being the game of choice. On wet afternoons when tennis was not possible she was very happy to involve us in her euchre games. This did teach me to basics of card play, useful for when I came to bridge many years later.

University followed high school and I did a Science degree mostly studying Biochemistry and Microbiology. I was very fortunate to obtain my first job in the Bacteriology Department of P.A. Hospital. It was there that I was soon to meet the love of my life and soon to be mother of my three children Dawn. I found myself being co-opted into the lunchtime bridge game in the staff common room. This was usually only when a regular partner was not available (thank goodness). I very soon realised how important Bridge was in Dawn's life and I was soon getting lots of useful tips from her on this strange new game. Most of this good advice was totally lost on me at the time as I was more interested in the woman than what she was saying! Those games were certainly different, the bidding a lottery and I was totally lost in the card play. I felt it was wrong when the Jack of the trump suit was treated with so little respect after being the most important card in euchre.

Three years at P.A. Hospital were followed by another eight years at Greenslopes Hospital. During this time Dawn & I married, built a house and raised three children. Bridge was very much off the radar apart from the odd social game with friends at home. When our youngest baby son started school Dawn was keen to return to work. I also swapped my job to start a Veterinary Pathology practice I continued in for the next 23 years.

It was around this time that Dawn's bridge interest was revived. She started playing at Sunnybank Club and was soon also going to Q.C.B.C. The bookshelf was gathering a huge collection of Bridge titles all of which I was told were "Great books that I should read", more good advice I did not take. As the years

passed our household discussion involved more and more bridge talk, a great deal of it very foreign to me. I was hearing of endplays, stripping and throw in, trump coups, dummy reversal and lot of different squeezes. I would nod understanding as all these situations were being gleefully shown to me, I actually understood about 2% of what I was hearing. It was fated that on Monday night about 16 years ago I would find myself playing with Dawn at Q.C.B.C. This was just before the Manning Street property was sold and at a session being run by the late (and wonderful) Margaret Lahey.

After that experience Dawn suggested I could probably benefit from some beginners lessons, she was correct. I had lessons with Paul Lavings, Rosemary Atherton and later with Keith Bishop and Joan Butts. I was and still am a slow learner. I was also fortunate to be given a great deal of help early in the piece by the late Des Bainbridge. I played with him at Sunnybank and Q.C.B.C. for several years and I was able to make lots of basic errors in his presence without fear of rebuke. I started to enjoy the game for the first time and over the next few years was playing 4 and 5 times a week in 3 different clubs. I was also working fulltime at this stage and wondered why I felt constantly tired and cranky! My solution was to give up bridge for 3 years only starting again just before I retired in 2000.

I remember back to my competitive tennis days we would make the observation that "Those who could not actually play the game took up coaching and those who could neither play nor coach became umpires or officials". I do not actually believe this statement and can give you lots of examples of very good players who have become excellent coaches and officials. In my case, I feel the statement is however correct. I have no interest in becoming a top player, am certainly not much good at teaching and currently find that it is Directing that interests me most about Bridge. I am back to playing 3 and 4 times a week with a lot of very tolerant partners who all realise I am not at all interested in our session results. I now do understand most of what Dawn is talking about when she comes home and talks of her recent bridge experiences.



Maurie doing what he does best –Directing



Bedtime Story

A bumbling bridge player explained to his friend how he planned to improve his game: "Every night when I go to bed I think about the mistakes I made that day at the bridge table."

"Gee," his friend said, "how do you get any sleep?"

In Other Words

After spending the night in a blizzard, a tourist incurred frostbite on his left palm and fingers.

In other words: The hand was ice cold.

A land developer was appalled with the high estimates to construct an apartment complex, and he pleaded with the contractors to lower their proposals. Almost immediately, the F.H.A. intervened and forced him to accept the lowest proposal. **In other words:** Because of the interference, he was unable to reverse the bidding.

Incompetance

Incompetance! Who needs it! We got to do something about the ever-increasing incompetance in the bridge world, especially among it's writers. If we don't stop it now, its hardly never going to quit by itself.



Private Benjamin

"Benjaminised Acol", better known as "Benji Acol" – and its variant "Reverse Benji" – are among the most commonly played bidding systems in Britain. But until reading the obituary pages last week I had no idea that 'Benji' was a real person, a Scottish international named Albert Benjamin. Benjamin, who has died aged 96, invented his system – a combination of Strong Twos and Weak Twos – in the early 70s, and he himself had no idea how popular it would prove; not many people can boast that their name is cited literally hundreds of times a week up and down the country. (I've been fantasising about going to tournaments where everyone is playing 'Grossified Acol' or 'Reverse Gross'.) It must sometimes have been tempting for Benjamin to exclaim, 'That's Me!'. But he was a modest chap and never did so.

His fellow Scot, Ross Harper partnered him occasionally, and told me that some years ago – when Benjamin was 85 – they played in the Isle of Man Fours. At the start of the very first match the opponents announced: 'We play Benji Acol.' "Really?" said Ross, 'and have you ever met the great Albert Benjamin?' 'No,' they replied. 'Have you?' "No," said Ross. 'I doubt he's even still alive.'

They proceeded to play the following deal:

Contract: 7♠ by South

♠K 10 7 6
♥K Q 4 3 2
♦9
♣A K 5

♠J 9 4 2
♥J 8 5
♦5 4 3
♣7 6 3

N E
W S
♠3
♥A 10 9 7 6
♦7 6 2
♣J 9 8 2

♠A Q 8 5
♥-
♦A K Q J 10 8
♣Q 10 4

Benjamin (West) led a club. Declarer won in hand and cashed the ♠A. Had Benjamin followed small, declarer would have had no option but to continue with the ♠Q, which would have revealed the distribution and enabled him to take the marked finesse. But Benjamin decided to give declarer another, losing option – he made the classic deceptive play of following with the ♠9! Deciding this was a singleton, declarer now tried to pick up East's Jxxx by going to dummy and cashing the ♠K, intending to finesse the ♠8. Of course, when East showed out, the grand slam was doomed. Declarer looked at his 85 year old opponent with reluctant admiration. At which point Ross said, 'And now ...may I introduce you to Mr Benjamin?'

From An article by Susanna Gross in The Spectator.



Birthday Boy



Bill Scheikowski is celebrating a birthday. The question is does he get an OBE (Over Bloody Eighty) or a telegram from the Queen.

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