



Editorial

Live bridge seems to be making a strong return, post Covid, although the virus is still with us. Numbers at the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra were good, and some teams on the waiting list for the Gold Coast Congress missed out. In 2022 we held our club Congress on-line, but this year it will return to face-to-face. Details are still being finalised.

The club Individual Championship, held recently, allowed newer players to mix it with those more experienced, and, by all reports, was enjoyed by all. In March the club will run its 'upside down' pairs event where, again, players of all levels will compete with each other. Should we have more events of this type?

Club News – Changes to Sessions

Following discussions, the Committee has decided to implement the following changes.

The Monday afternoon game will have an Open section and a 'Rookie' section. The Rookie section will be determined by level of experience, rather than number of masterpoints. It is anticipated that players, after gaining experience and confidence will transition over time to the Open section. The current 'Rookie' players will be evaluated at the end of this year.

The Wednesday afternoon game will be a 'soft' session, with restrictions on complex bidding systems, and limited to players below Gold Life Master.

It is hoped that these changes will provide a pleasant playing environment for newer players, and overcome some of the issues which have arisen recently.

Club Results – Special Events

◆ Australia Day Pairs (26 Jan.)

Winners - Christine Hadaway and Chris Hannan - 59.67%

2nd - Hope Tomlinson and Barry Foster - 57.78%

◆ Summer Pairs (28 Jan.)

Winners - Sylvia Foster and Jaan Oitmaa - 62.15%

2nd - Ed Vaughan and Robin Vaughan - 60.19%

◆ Club Individual Championship (30 Jan./6 Feb.)

Winner - Blair Glass - 63.7% 2nd - Robin Vaughan - 57.2%

The Gold Coast Congress

The Gold Coast Congress, arguably one of Australia's two premier bridge events, took place from 17-26 Feb. Numbers were up considerably on last year, with 772 pairs and 336 teams competing at various levels.

The event always sees many visiting New Zealand players and often a few top internationals from further afield.

The premier pairs event, the Bobby Richman Open Pairs, was won by the young U.S. pair Finn Kolesnik, who is still a teenager, and Adam Kaplan. This pair teamed up with compatriots Kevin Rosenberg and Amber Lin to lead the qualifying rounds of the Open Teams, and are battling it out in the finals with local teams.

A few BWBC members played in various events at the congress. An outstanding result was achieved in the Open Teams by Noel and Shirley Crockett, teamed with former BWBC members Ian McKinnon and Virginia Dressler. Their team finished in 32nd place, in a very strong field of 144 teams, with an 8/4 win-loss record. Congratulations to them on a great result!

At the Bridge Table - Deceptive Declarer Play

You find yourself declarer in a contract of 4 spades. When dummy is tabled you see four apparently unavoidable losers. Can you do something about this?

What many players, particularly newer players, forget is that opponents don't know this. So don't tell them by looking despondent, or angry at partner for overbidding again. It may be possible to mislead the opponents in various ways, and to make your 'impossible' contract. Here are three simple examples. You are South in each case, and the contract in each case is 4 spades.

Case 1.

North	
♠	KTx
♥	AQxx
♦	Tx
♣	JT9x

South	
♠	AQJxx
♥	Kx
♦	QJxx
♣	Qx

- The lead is the club A. You can see 4 top losers, 2 clubs and 2 diamonds.
- Try the effect of playing the club Q ♣ on the opening lead.
- LHO may look suspicious, but has a real problem.
- If your Q ♣ is a true card, continuing with the club K ♣ will be fatal, as your J, T in dummy will be established.
- If LHO shifts to a heart or a spade, your other club loser goes away. This is quite a common situation.

 **You are South. Playing the Q puts your opponent in 2 minds.**

Case 2.

North	
♠	KTxx
♥	xxx
♦	xxx
♣	AJx

South	
♠	QJxx
♥	Ax
♦	AJx
♣	KQxx

- The contract is again 4 spades, and the lead is the diamond king.
- You can see 1 spade loser, 1 heart loser and 2 probable diamond losers.
- Try the effect of playing low (ducking) on the 1st trick. If West continues with another diamond, your 2nd diamond loser disappears.
- This play even has a name – it is called a ‘Bath coup’, after the English town.
- If West smells a rat and shifts you may have time to establish

Case 3.

North	
♠	Qxx
♥	KTxx
♦	KQxx
♣	Jx

South	
♠	KTxxx
♥	AQx
♦	Jxx
♣	Ax

- This example is a bit different. You are still in 4 spades, and the opening lead is the club K♣.
- There are two sure losers outside the trump suit, but if you are forced to play trumps yourself you might lose two trump tricks.
- You can avoid a nasty guess if you can persuade the opponents to open the suit for you.
- Suppose you win the opening lead with your Ace and immediately return another club.
- LHO does not know that you started with only two clubs, and might lead a trump to prevent possible club ruffs in dummy.
- If this happens, your troubles are over. If not, you haven’t lost anything.

There are countless other examples of deceptive play, and can be found in books and on the internet. A first step is to be aware of these possibilities. Of course defenders can also make deceptive plays, but the risk here is that you might fool your partner rather than declarer. If you are declarer it doesn’t matter if dummy is bemused by what is going on.

Welcome to New Member

Chris Williams

Bridge Trivia

Many well-known people have been top rank amateur and even semi-professional bridge players. These include Winston Churchill, Dwight Eisenhower, Agatha Christie, Mahatma Ghandi, Bill Gates, Omar Sharif, Martina Navratilova, Warren Buffett and, undoubtedly, many others.

Coming Attractions

- ◆ March Point Score (best 3 of 5 Thursday results)
- ◆ Saturday, 4th March – Open Teams (doubles as Country Qualifier)
- ◆ Wednesday, 8th March – Autumn Pairs
- ◆ Monday, 13th March – Upsidedown Pairs (Pre-enter)

Player Promotions

Last month 6 of our members improved their player rankings. Congratulations all, no doubt you'll be hearing from a friendly club director soon.

WATER BRI		
NAME	RANK	TOTAL MPs
Sheehan, Wendy	State	106.71
Rainford, Lynne	Silver Local	35.15
Birt, Anne	Silver Local	35.04
Adams, Merran	Bronze Local	25.55
Anderson, Steve	Graduate	2.12
Amos, Larry	Graduate	2.03



Stay safe out there... Cheers Barry and Jaan

Random Thought...

When the white missionaries came to Africa, they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes.

When we opened them, we had the Bible and they had the land.

- Desmond Tutu

