



Editorial

Former Australian level bridge director, John McIlrath, has taken over as Hunter/Central Coast zone co-ordinator. John is all fired up and recently called a meeting of representatives from the four Central Coast clubs. Sylvia and I attended and it was great to find out some high level help is available. It was also reassuring to hear from the other clubs in particular how they are progressing after covid. Two of our local clubs are running online sessions and John believes this is an area clubs should be looking at. We also had a look at face to face congresses which have taken a back seat with the development of the online game. John is also particularly good at shouting a round of drinks. Seriously though, it's great to have such a knowledgeable person as John on our side.

Hopefully, you've noticed we've been mucking around with the office area. Basically, we've rotated it 90 degrees hoping to solve some congestion problems and make the directors work flow smoother. We've installed a new copier which is now located in the office. Over time some members who have to work alone in the room (e.g. board dealer) have expressed concerns about security. To this end we've purchased an infra-red portable door bell. When needed the bell is placed in the noticeboard area, turned on and will chime when a person enters the room. This is particularly handy when the computer operator has their back to the door. Although not implemented, we have some more thoughts on this for the future. Finally, some years ago the water cooler serviceman recommended the cooler be relocated to the kitchen area in order to avoid spillages, filling and other problems. To this end we have arranged for a plumbed in service to be installed on Thursday or Friday this week. The company salesman appreciates that bridge players hate noise and assures me the installation will be painless.

Due to the office changes our club library is currently out of action. One way or another it will reopen before Easter.

Beginner lessons are the life blood of bridge clubs. Our next lessons commence on Wednesday, 12th April at 10:00am. If you can help by delivering pamphlets it would be greatly appreciated. I'm not going to name names because I'll leave someone out. However, well done to the group of members who invaded Deepwater Plaza last week with a demonstration bridge game. There's sure to be stories to be told amongst that group.

Club Results – Special Events

♦ Open Teams and Country Teams Qualifier (4th March)

Seven teams played in the BWBC Open Teams Championship.

The Wulff team won the day with 5 wins and 1 loss. Well done to Judy Wulff, Susan McCall, Dasha Brandt and David Bowerman. Team Foster, Barry Foster, Hope Tomlinson, Martin Johnson and Jim Routledge were close runners up with the same win/loss record but 3 VPs in arrears.

Special mention goes to the Durrant team, with less than 15 MP between them, who were not afraid to take on Grandmasters, and whose performance was praised by many of the more experienced players.

♦ Autumn Pairs (8th March)

A good size field of 9 tables played in this red point event. The winners and runners up were -

N-S	1 st	Meg McGregor and Hilary Owen	59.84%
	2 nd	Marcelle Goslin and Rohan Creasey	56.39%
E-W	1 st	John Aldersley and Beryl Lowry	60.36%
	2 nd	Marilyn Jarrett and Jenny Buckley	56.57%

♦ Upside Down Pairs (13th March)

Always a popular event on our calendar the Upside Down Pairs allows newer players to partner those more experienced. A total of 24 pairs took part in an enjoyable afternoon. The winners and runners-up were -

N-S	1 st	Martin Johnson and Michael Greenfield	61.62%
	2 nd	Henrietta Hohnen and Beryl Lowry	61.11%
E-W	1 st	Sylvia Foster and Marcelle Goslin	58.42%
	2 nd	Dasha Brandt and Kerry Anderson	56.40%

Bridge Trivia

The most common hand shape is 4-4-3-2, which will occur, on average, about 21.5% of the time. The 'flattest' hand, 4-3-3-3, is only 5th on probabilities, and will occur about 10.5% of the time.

How often do you expect to hold a 7-card suit? The probability is about 3.5% - about once in a 30-board session.

Player Promotions

Last month 4 of our members improved their player rankings. Congratulations all, no doubt you'll be hearing from a friendly club director soon.

BRISBANE WATER BRIDGE CLUB INC		
NAME	RANK	TOTAL MPs
Durrant, Kerry-Anne	Graduate	2.56
Rose, Maria	Graduate	2.31
Clarke, Annette	Graduate	2.08
Anderson, Kerry	Graduate	2.03

At the Bridge Table – Some hands from the club.

Monday 6th March, board #26.

BOARD 26		
BD: 26	♠ 6543	Dir: E
	♥ 763	Vul: ALL
	♦ T76	
	♣ 642	
♠ QJ9		♠ K72
♥ 82		♥ AJ5
♦ Q9543		♦ AKJ8
♣ JT3		♣ A98
	♠ AT8	
	♥ KQT94	
	♦ 2	
	♣ KQ75	

You, as East, are in 3NT and the lead is the ♥K. What is your plan? This is a 'Bath coup' setting, as discussed in the last newsletter. You should play small on the 1st trick. If you play the ace, and East gets the lead to return a heart, you are sunk. If you duck the first trick, South cannot continue hearts without conceding another trick and the contract.

Whatever South now chooses, you have time to safely establish 2 spade tricks, for at least 9 tricks. In the Open section everyone was in 3NT, with 5 declarers

making 10 tricks and one making 9. It is easy to make 10 tricks if South continues Hearts, but not so easy otherwise. In the Rookie section two declarers were in 3NT, with 1 making 10 tricks and the other only 6 (strange!). Another was in 2NT, making 10 tricks, and finally one was in 4 spades in a 3-3 fit (oops!).

Saturday 4th March – board #16 in the final session.

BOARD 16		
BD: 16	♠ AJ974	Dir: W
	♥ AJT98	Vul: E-W
	♦ T8	
	♣ 2	
♠ 2		♠ K863
♥ 75432		♥
♦ J7654		♦ AKQ3
♣ 97		♣ AKQJ3
	♠ QT5	
	♥ KQ6	
	♦ 92	
	♣ T8654	

West deals and passes. North bids 1 spade. How might the bidding continue? East could double, with a strong hand, South would raise spades, and E-W are now headed for trouble. If West passes, North may well bid 4 spades, and it is now virtually impossible for E-W to find their diamond fit.

There is a useful bidding gadget here the 'unusual 2NT', which shows a distributional hand with the lowest two unbid suits. At our table, East bid 2NT after the 1 spade opening, showing a

hand with diamonds and clubs. It could be weak or strong. Purists may say that it should be at least 5-5 in the suits, but in the real world a small lie is sometimes the best. South then bid 2 spades, pass from West, 4 spades from North. East bid 5 clubs, doubled by South. West then chose the other suit, 5 diamonds, which was doubled (?) by North. Declarer made 12 tricks for +950.

Coming Attractions



- ♦ Easter Pairs – Monday, 10th April – Red Points.
- ♦ Novice Teams Club Championship – Wednesdays, 19th and 26th April.
- ♦ Club Championship for Mixed Pairs 9:30 start. – Friday, 21st April.
This event doubles as a state qualifier.
- ♦ ANZAC Day Pairs – Tuesday, 25th April – Red Points.

Bridge Baron Help

Lots of players like to use Bridge Baron to speed up their understanding of our game. For interested people I've included some suggestions at the bottom of this newsletter to make your Bridge Baron session more productive.

Note: I use Bridge Baron regularly to work on card play (forget the bidding).

Stay safe out there... Cheers Barry and Jaan



Random Thought...

America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked.

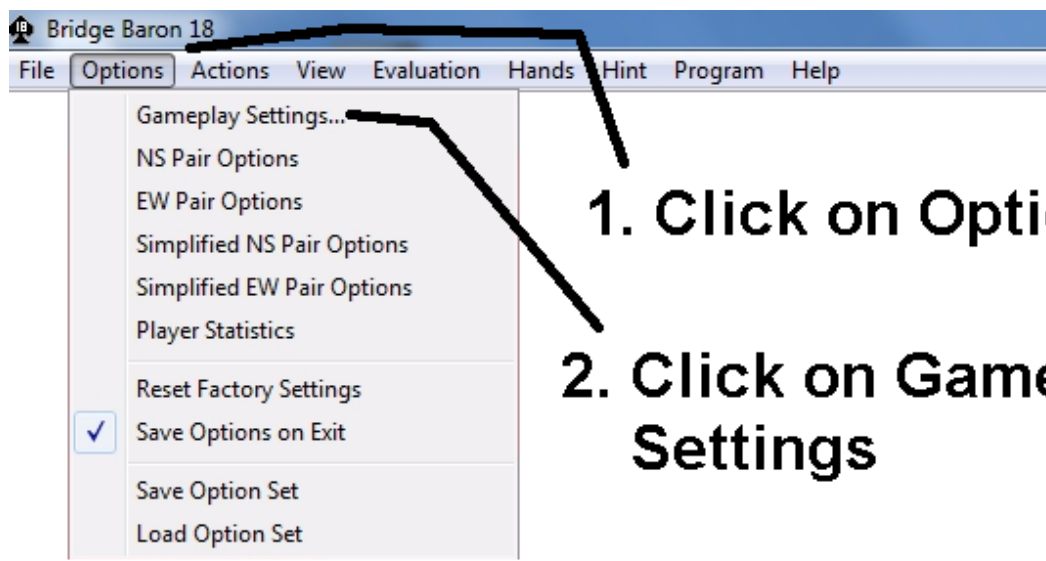
- David Letterman



Getting the Most from Your Bridge Baron

There are many versions of Bridge Baron out there. To get the most from your software you need to make it suit you. Most people tire of the bidding quickly and just want to practise playing the hands. Defending can also be painful and so often the computer plays so quickly you have difficulty following what's happening. No matter what version of Bridge Baron you have it will work in a similar way. Make the suggested changes and life will get a whole lot easier. Remember, each version looks a little different but the principles are the same.

Open your Bridge Baron and find the Menu Bar across the top of the game.

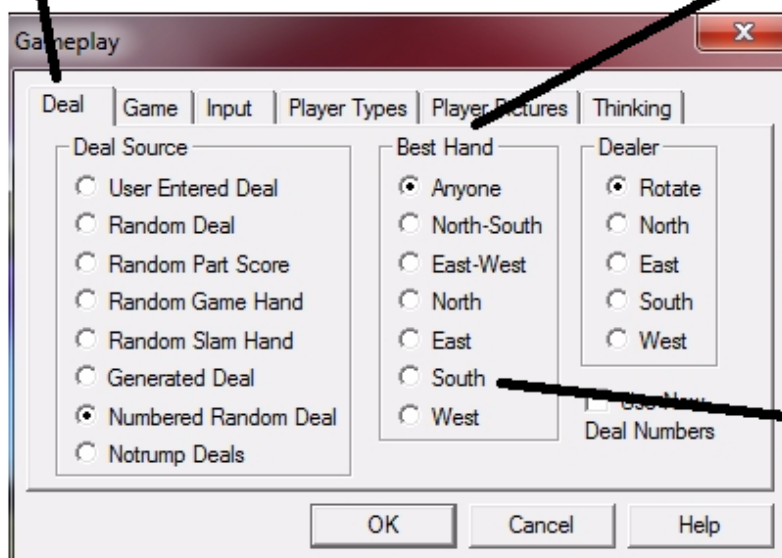


1. Click on Options

2. Click on Gameplay Settings

Now we want to set up the game so you are the declarer all the time.

3. Click on Deal

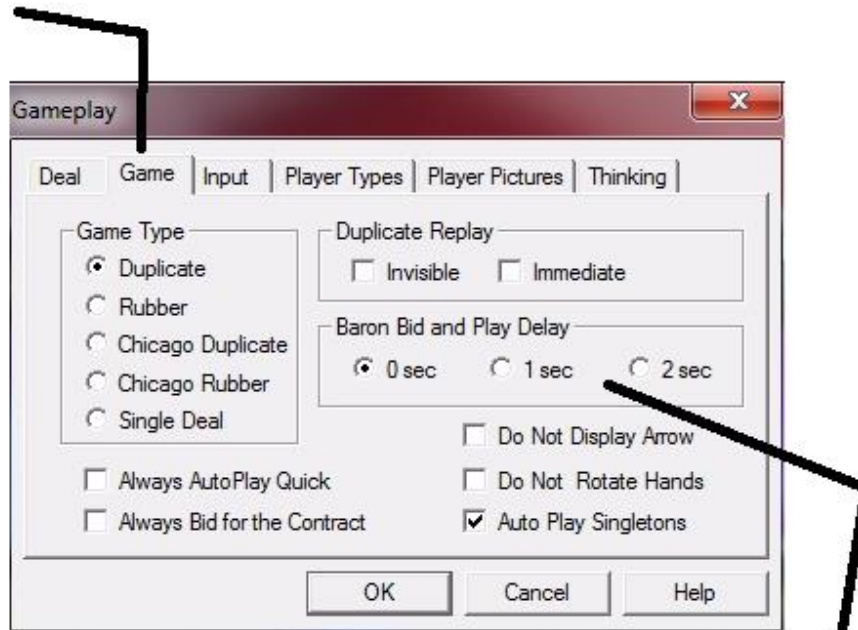


4. Select South for Best Hand

Taking these steps will ensure you are always declarer 😊 and therefore will be playing all the hands.

Now we want to slow the game so you can see what's happening.

5. Now click on Game



6. Change to 1 or 2 sec

Hope this helps...

Stay safe out there – Cheers Barry