

Peninsula News and Views



Newsletter of the Peninsula Bridge Club

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A word from our President, Maurice Loomes

Happy New Year to all our members; may all your finesses succeed in 2016 (except against me!)

There has been a good deal of housekeeping going on at Peninsula over the Christmas break. Hard working club members have completed a spring clean on both the kitchen area and all the office cupboards. The playing cards in the boards have been replaced (and may be a bit slippery for a little while). The Bridgemates have had a good service.

At present, new scoring software is being installed and tested for the directors. There have been a few hiccups in getting scores onto the website, but in due course, the job will become a lot easier for directors.

Plans are in hand for the installation of a dishwasher in the kitchen; this, hopefully, will be a boon for our kitchen volunteers.

Thanks to all concerned in these various programmes for their hard work.

Since the last newsletter, the competitions for the Stebbins, Sloman and Padman Cups have been decided. Congratulations to the winners. Participation in these events has fallen off in recent years, and all members are urged to have a go in 2016.

Members are also encouraged to locate another pair for the inaugural "Invitation Teams" to be held at PBC on Thursday 28 January. Bring in a pair from another club (and showcase our facility) or find some other PBC pair that don't usually play teams. If you are playing, be mindful of the early 10am start.

A large contingent of members will be absent over the next few weeks, competing in teams and pairs events in Canberra and at the Gold Coast. Best wishes to all!

Finally, a reminder that annual fees are now due for payment.



Ask the Director—Frank, Fearless and Anonymous

Dear Frank, I've heard a lot about so called bridge etiquette, what the devil does it mean? Puzzled

Dear Puzzled, unlike poker in which all sorts of mannerisms, misleading statements and bluff tactics are part and parcel of the game, bridge is supposed to be played with a 'pokerface'. I urge to all to channel your inner Sphinx and stop the flow of information that can assist your partner.



The perfect bridge player

Some players give a verbal clues to their partner as they bid. Expressions such as "I don't know what to do", or making weird noises, should never be heard. If I (the opposition) can get an insight into a person's thinking processes think how much extra information is being passed on to a regular partner.

Bridge etiquette also requires that a harsh word never passes your lips. Prefer to say too little than too much. If partner has bid or played the hand like an idiot, say 'bad luck' and leave it at that. Do not harp on past errors.

To sum up:

- * Don't mislead the opposition through gestures, deliberate hesitations etc
- * Don't place your hand over the bidding box without immediately bidding
- * Don't assist your partner by thinking out loud, or by making weird sounds while you bid or play
- * Don't be mean to your partner or the opposition

If you witness unethical behaviour, please don't take issue with it at the bridge table but tell your Director, who can deal with it in a sympathetic, non embarrassing way. *Thanks to the ABF website*

What is 2 over 1 and why you should play it

The bidding system 2/1 is not for beginners or those who have just left supervised but it is an excellent choice for players who want to get better results than Standard can deliver. One of the desirable features of 2/1 is that it is very similar to Standard with just a couple of major differences:

1. After partners opening bid of a major, responders 2 over 1 response is forcing to game
2. Responders bid of 1NT to 1 of a major is forcing for one round

This of course is a gross simplification of the system and entire books have been written about it but it gives you the general idea.

I can hear you saying, "you've talked the talk but can you walk the walk", well here is an example of why you must abandon Standard.

Opener	Responder
♠KJ10753	♠Q2
♥AK72	♥Q83
♦84	♦AJ3
♣6	♣A10954

Playing American Standard the bidding would go

1♠ 2♣
2♥ ?

If responder were to jump to 4♥ the partnership would miss the spade fit and land in a precarious 4/3 heart fit. If responder were to jump to 3NT, opener would be unsure whether to bid 4♠ as responder could have a singleton or void in spades.

Using 2/1 Game Force the auction would go smoothly:

1♠	2♣	Since responder's 2NT bid is still forcing
2♥	2NT	opener can complete the description of
3♠	4♠	the hand pattern by rebidding the ♠

showing 6♠ and 4♥ Responder has an easy time deciding where the partnership should play, which in this case is 4♠

Now what about the forcing 1NT response?

Opener	Responder
♠AQ873	♠K2
♥K64	♥Q83
♦KJ6	♦Q10753
♣53	♣964

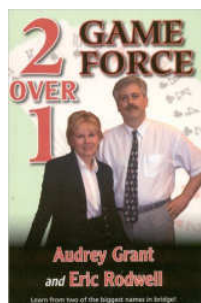
Playing Standard the bidding would go:

1♠ 1NT
Pass

However playing the forcing NT would see

1♠ 1NT
2♦ P

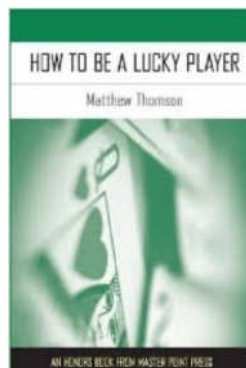
With 2♦ being a much better contract than 1NT and yes you can bid 2♦ because this is not Standard



The above examples come from the book "2 over 1 Game Force" by Audrey Grant and Eric Rodwell. This book is available from the Bridge Shop at Willoughby. Why not surprise your partner and buy 2 copies!

Are you a lucky player?

Well are you? Rather than agonise over an answer I have a solution. Why don't you read Mathew Thompson's book "Are you a lucky player" Matthew Thompson is an Australian international and an accomplished bridge author. This book, the follow up to his successful "Bid more, play more, enjoy more, win more" has lots of tips to make you "lucky".



Matthew devotes an entire chapter to his favourite shape, 5,4,3,1. He believes that when a trump fit is found, hands with the 5,4,3,1 shape will often win 2 more tricks than would normally be expected.

The 5.4.3.1 hand shape is the 3rd most common shape occurring 13% of the time, a shape you can expect 3 or 4 times a duplicate session, a shape you cannot

afford to ignore.

Expanding on the 5.4.3.1 shape is his promotion of a convention known as Astro 2s. Developed in partnership with David Beauchamp, Astro Twos take advantage of the 5,4,3,1 shape and generate excellent results against opposition on hands that are traditionally hard to bid and especially cruel to the opposition, on hands where they hold the majority of the points

A weak 2 bid occurs approximately 1% to 1.3% of the time, an Astro Two will occur 4.2% of the time, an excellent return on your bidding investment.

What is an Astro Two?

An Astro Two shows exactly 4 cards in a major and a five card or longer minor suit with 10-14pts. A minimum opening hand that is too weak to reverse into the major.

Having played Fantunes for the past year, I discovered the killer bids of that system are the opening 2 level bids which show 9-13pts and a 5 card suit. Astro Twos are very similar.

Why are these bids so useful?

1. They enable you to quickly bid light major games
2. Slams can be bid after opener shows their minor suit and their shortage
3. They are pre-emptive and place pressure on the opposition, giving your partner lots of penalty double options,
4. They find major fits that would otherwise go through to the keeper

♠Q3			
♥1098752			
♦10853			
♣Q			
♠1082	♠AKJ6		
♥AK4	♥J63		
♦AJ2	♦Q76		
♣K732	♣864		
♠9754			
♥Q			
♦K94			
♣AJ1095			

N	E	S	W
-	-	2♠	-
3♣	-	-	-

After the Astro 2♠, West had a difficult decision and passed. The contract was down 4 which rather than being a disaster was an excellent result because 3NT is cold for E/W. In a teams event +10 imps!

Bridge Ed - Cath Whiddon

The Bridge Ed team of teachers and supervisors at PBC are trying a few new teaching bits in 2016.

We will continue to offer at least one day & evening lesson on a particular topic each month. We will also continue to offer a more advanced workshop at least one Saturday morning each month. The topic, dates and times are mailed out to anyone who has requested to be on the Bridge Ed email list - if you are not on our email list & would like to join, please email me & I will add your contact (emails are sent BCC, so no one else sees your name or details). The information is also posted on the Club's website (see under Education).

In January we will continue our REFRESH/REVIEW with a look at the Strong 2 Club Opening & how it fits within the Standard 5 Card Majors & Weak 2s system taught & played at Peninsula.

FRIDAY 29 January 9.30-11.30 am - all welcome. No partner required. No supervised play that morning. The Advanced WORKSHOP

Saturday 30 January 10-11.30 looks at 2 suiter overcall conventions (the Michaels Cue & the Unusual 2NT).

In February we will look at Doubles. At Peninsula we follow the principle that most low-level doubles are for take-out, and if partner hasn't bid, the double asks you to speak. If the opponents have a fit, and both sides are competing, then your double, even at higher levels, says "tell me more partner" not "we're going to beat them up". With this in mind, you'd think you couldn't go far wrong, but ...

Teaching doubles can be difficult ... so many types, so many possible misunderstandings ... luckily, the Club has purchased a whole new set of teaching materials (including the much loved, specially designed by experts, teaching cards) and we will be using these to look at the classic take-out X, as well as the "must have" negative X. In the advanced Saturday workshops we will also look at the lead-directing X, support X & XX.

Our supervised practise sessions are available Tuesday afternoons 2.30-4.30, Friday mornings 9.30-11.30 and Monday & Wednesday nights 7-9pm. Before the bridge game begins, the Supervisor will have a hand for you to look at to discuss how the bidding might go, final contract, best lead and Declarer's PLAN of the play. This new learning bit should take about 10 minutes. We hope many of you will come along to try it and hopefully enjoy the new additional learning opportunity to help your game continue to improve and increase partnership understanding.

A good thing about our lessons and supervised sessions, is that you can come without a partner and so maybe find new partners or an extra for when your partner is holidaying. And when you feel ready, you can try the walk-in Wednesday games (day & night) and the Friday afternoon duplicate sessions - no partner required.

Some Saturdays we run an impromptu HAND REVIEW. This will be announced at the beginning of the session so interested players can keep a hand record of the duplicate game. Then we meet afterwards to discuss.

A CONTACT SPORT by Monica Pritchard

Although I love the game just as it is
I'm sometimes seduced by the thought
Of how indescribably good it would be
If Bridge were a contact sport

I know this contravenes all that we know
Of the spirit and laws of the game
And if we made such a radical change
The game would not be the same

But remember that feeling of rage you had
When he trumped your beautiful Ace
Then sat with a loathsome detestable smirk
On his loathsome detestable face

And remember your helpless frustration
When the play of the truly inept
Robbed you of what you know you deserved
Then they gloated while you sat and wept

Now imagine the rush of euphoric glee
If at the end of each round
You could legally target these creatures
And pummel them into the ground.

I know that it doesn't sound gracious
It doesn't sound terribly nice
But let's get a grip, if you're playing Bridge
You're closely acquainted with vice

The game involves dealing and scoring
The laws describe turning of tricks
I ask you, who in the world could object
To occasional headbutts and kicks?

But quite a few players are gentle or frail
And not really up to a tussle
So in the interests of equity
We'd allow them some substitute muscle

A number of players spring to my mind
Who are perfect for playing a sub
They're cranky, they're bulky, they're up for a fight
There are dozens in every club

I know that this concept is brilliant
But its time is not yet at hand
And I probably have to resign myself
To behaviour that's proper and bland

But if we should meet at the table
And my eyes have a gleam quite insane
You'll know that I'm off in some fantasy world
Inflicting incredible pain

Can you bid this hand? Have a go, answer on the back page

West
♠953
♥9862
♦97
♣K1032

East
♠AQ86
♥AQ1075
AJ6
♣A

Assume that East is opening
the bidding without any
interference

Thanks to Greg Quittner for
this brain teaser



This month your erstwhile editor interviews Greg Quittner a man who has devoted his life to bridge. Greg founded and ran the Gordon Bridge Club, just recently bought out by the North Shore Bridge Club

When did you learn bridge? I learned at 13 with my parents and a friend with a private coach. I didn't really become involved with the game until after I left uni.

What system do you play? Whilst I really enjoy playing 2 over 1 (Ed—bravo), those who I play with prefer Standard American. (Ed—don't worry Greg, this will change)

What characteristics make for a good partner? Tolerance of partner's errors. The ability to enjoy company. Willing to discuss possible changes to the system. (Ed—I can testify to most of those qualities. Playing with Greg I opened 1♥ with 5 heroic pts eventually going down 1100, Greg mentioned that he did not approve of my opening strategy, although I had some difficulty hearing what he said due to the sound of his teeth grinding. Really Greg, what happened to tolerance?)

What was your greatest success? In 1989 when seeded 66 out of 200 teams, we made the semi finals of the National Teams in Canberra. Sadly I am teetotal so I didn't celebrate as much as my teammates!

Who is the most famous player you have played against? In 1975 I played against Omar Sharif when he was here on a promotional tour. It cost \$10 to play 2 boards against him (Ed—In 1975 \$10 would buy you a small car) and his world champion partner. We thrashed them on both hands mainly because he was eyeing off the women in the audience!

What was the funniest event in your career? My LHO opened 1S, partner passed. My RHO bid 4♣, I held ♠62 ♥543 ♦6 ♣AKQ8754 and decided to pass. My LHO passed as did my partner. We took the first 7 tricks for 3 down when the opponents could make 7♠. My partner and I made a quick exit to the other side of the room unable to contain our laughter. (Ed—Another Gerber /splinter shocker, almost as bad as when your partner opens 1♥ with 5pts).

You have been involved in all areas of bridge. What is your favourite area? Teaching by a long stretch. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing the bulb lighting up as it all starts to fall into place for the students. Teaching bridge is a real art as it's not so easy to come down to the level of beginners.

Do you have a favourite convention? I really do like splinters because they often lead to bidding a slam one would normally never reach.

What criteria do you use for a penalty double? Don't stop doubling even if they sometimes. If the opponents have stretched too far or made a terrible overcall don't hesitate to double.

Do you have a favourite bridge book? Card play technique by Victor Mollo. He has a wonderful style of writing.

What are your plans now that you have retired? Providing support for those players who are really keen but are finding it hard to make the next step.

	E	S	W	N	E/W VUL
♠42	2♣ (a) P		2♦ (b)	x (c)	
♥K4	2♥ P		4♥ (d)	All Pass	
♦K10843	a) Game force				
♣J987	b) Waiting bid - could be weak or strong				
♠953	c) Showing ♦ so South can lead them unless he has a better choice.				
♠AQ86	d) The jump to game in a game force situation is weaker than 2♣-2♦ 2♥-3♥				
♥9862					
♥AQ1075					
♦97					
♦AJ6					
♣K1032					
♣A					
♠KJ107	The hand was played 7 times with the following results:				
♥J3	3 pairs bid 2H for +170, 1 pair bid 2H for +230, 1 pair bid 1H for +170, 1 pair bid 2NT for 150 ,				
♦Q52	1 pair bid 3NT for +630				
♣Q654	(Ed—Bridge Ed is running a number of sessions, to help PBC players improve, if you wouldn't have bid to game, maybe you should attend.)				

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