

# Peninsula News and Views



Newsletter of the Peninsula Bridge Club

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## What's up at Peninsula?

Peninsula is continuing to evolve and grow with the Committee making a number of decisions to maintain our club's position as Northern Sydney's premier bridge venue.

You have all received an email announcing that we are permanently using Pianola. This system has many benefits with members receiving an automatic email after each event detailing how they went. There is also an extra service (if you pay a monthly fee), that allows you to better analyze your play and improve it. However behind the scenes Pianola has made administration easier and more efficient, something that most of us never think about but something that is critical to the continued smooth running of the club as it continues to expand.

We now have an EFTPOS machine. Our Treasurer is hoping that over time Peninsula will become predominantly cashless which will make club finances more efficient and easier to administer. At the moment there is a \$25 minimum purchase and it is hoped that when you buy your next tranche of game cards you avail yourself of this new fangled gadget.

A Coffee pod machine has been installed to give caffeine addicts their choice of drug delivery. No more sleepy time!

Walk-in sessions, where you turn up without a partner and get a game are growing in number. Currently there are walk-in sessions on Wed afternoon (novices), Wed evening and Friday afternoon. This caters for the spontaneous decision to hop down to the club, sans partner, and get 3 hours entertainment.

Peninsula is one of Sydney's only accredited teaching clubs. Cath Whiddon and her team are producing quality bridge players from our education program. The next beginners session will start on Friday 17th July at 9:30am. For more information call Vickie on 0414650204 or email [ybusteed@bigpond.com](mailto:ybusteed@bigpond.com)

So how can you help Peninsula? After all you get a game for \$5, in a purpose built room with the latest bridge technology.

- Use the EFTPOS machine whenever possible
- Tidy up after yourself
- Support club initiatives such as the new Wednesday evening session



## Ask the Director—Frank, Fearless and Anonymous

Dear Director, is it true that a Director is like a barman, not only there to provide a service but to provide wisdom and advice to the depressed and lovelorn? Happy Jack

Dear Happy Jack, how true it is, many's the time I've had to provide counselling to a depressed bridge player experiencing partnership issues. What people fail to grasp is that your bridge partner is an analogue of your life partner, in fact many people have

said it's like a marriage without the messy bits. The same issues that cause a relationship to fail are echoed in the failure of a bridge partnership; sometimes it's up to your frank and fearless Director to pick up the pieces.

**Infidelity**—You've caught your partner with someone else, you forgiven them but when they fail to respond correctly to your multi 2, you know they're continuing with their dirty little tryst, you know because their new love only plays weak 2s.

**Initially cute characteristics that now drive you to despair**—At first you loved those unique foibles, those endearing passes after 1C. The little giggle every time the opposition trumps their winners because someone can't count to 13. Arrrrrrrrr.....

**Boredom**—I know what my partner is going to bid before the cards are even dealt..Arrrrrrrrrrrrrr

My advice is simple: life is too short, you owe it to yourself (and to your poor Director who has as much interest in hearing your complaints as undertaking to do it yourself brain surgery) to make a clean break. Time for a new partner.

## Losing Trick Count by Graeme Tuffnell

The Losing Trick Count (LTC) is a way of evaluating the strength of your hand when you have a fit (at least 8 trumps between you).

When you have a fit, LTC is more accurate than counting points. If your hand is balanced, however, or you don't have a fit, continue to count points.

### Step 1: Count your losers

Only the first three cards in the suit are potential losers. So, in a 3-card suit or longer, if you have the Ace, King and Queen, they are winners and you have no losers in that suit. AKQ8 has no losers.

Keep in mind that when it comes to playing the hand, you still might have a loser in the suit. The losing trick count is a way of estimating how many tricks you will win, rather like high card points.

If you have a 2-card suit, you have 2 potential losers. For each Ace or King subtract a loser.

A2 has 1 loser.

For a singleton you have 1 potential loser. Don't count a loser for a singleton Ace.

A singleton 2 This has 1 loser.

Count the number of losers in this hand.

♠ K98  
♥ AK987  
♦ Q54  
♣ A4

The hand has 2 losers in spades, one in hearts, two in diamonds and one in clubs.

### Step 2: Assess partner's losers

Here's how to estimate partner's losers.

Partner was the opener

- An average opening hand (12-15) = 7 losers
- A stronger opening hand (16-18) = 6 losers
- A maximum 1-level opening ( 19) = 5 losers
- A strong 2CLUB opening (20+) = 4 losers or fewer

Partner was responding to your opening bid

- A raise to the 2-level = 9 losers
- A raise to the 3-level = 8 losers
- A raise to game = 7 losers

The stronger the hand, the fewer the losers

### Step 3: Combine your losers

Add your losers to partner's losers and subtract the total from 24. The answer will tell you how many tricks your side can expect to make

♠ K97                      S    W    N    E  
♥ AK965                  1♥   P    3♥   P  
♦ Q54  
♣ A4

You have 6 losers and partner's 3 bid shows 8 losers. That is a combined total of 14. Subtracting this number from 24 leaves 10 winners. You should bid 4 .

- add your losers to partner's
- subtract the total from 24
- result = the number of tricks your side can expect to make

Once you've got the hang of it, you'll find LTC much more accurate than counting points when you have a fit. Just a reminder, though, if you don't have a trump fit, LTC is not the right tool for the job. In that case, stick to counting your points.

### Some adjustments

You can get even more accuracy with the losing trick count by making a few adjustments.

LTC is most accurate with a 9-card fit. Add half a loser for an 8-card fit.

A32 as obviously stronger than Q32. Add half a loser for each queen. Subtract half a loser for each ace. So, A32 is 1 and half losers, and Q32 is 2 and a half losers.

## Facebook update

The Peninsula Facebook page continues to grow in popularity we have over 50 members and this is definitely where it's all happening.

It's proven to be a great resource for hand analysis, a useful conduit for news and an easy way to find a partner. It's also unearthed some club wits, here is a classic post by Len Evershed who posted: "I sent a bidding issue to Ron Klinger once and he said "my partner was wrong.....but I was more wrong"!!!!

One of our discussions focussed on whether bridge is a sport. after an article by Peter Fizzsimmons in the SMH. Vivien decided to apply tennis terms to bridge and with some help from Rachael and Beagle we came up with this list. Knowing the sharp minds we have at the club, I'm sure we could have come up with even more if we'd been able to involve more members.

- The serve is the lead and can be fast and obvious or devious with some spin,
- A winner down the line is a successful finesse
- A drop shot is naturally enough playing for the drop.
- A lob is a switch of a suit
- A smash is when you trump an opponents winner,
- A base line duel is a squeeze,
- A foot fault is a lead out of turn.
- A double fault is a revoke,
- A grand slam is a Rod Laver
- Umpire!/Director! You cannot be serious!!!



Where else but on the Peninsula Facebook Group page can you follow the adventures of our best pair as they prepare to conquer France?

Look for the  on our web page.

Click on it and join the conversation.

# Walk in Wednesday

Peninsula proudly announces 2 walk in sessions on Wednesdays at 12.30pm and 7.30 pm. Turn up without a partner and you are guaranteed a game. Help your club and give it a go!

## Bridge Education Report

Peninsula Bridge Club was honoured recently with a framed certificate of Accreditation & Appreciation from the Australian Bridge Federation. The certificate formally recognises the Club's demonstrated commitment to best practise and continuous improvement in its promotion of the game of bridge.

While the certificate particularly refers to the Club's Teaching Program and the work done by myself as an accredited teacher, I wish to widen that congratulations and formal recognition to all our members who daily support and promote our club and the great game of bridge.

The members (and their regular partners) who generously give their time to play with our fledglings at their first duplicate game or as captains to introduce them to the joys of teams. (The most recent being Saturday in May when 12 of our members captained teams of three for a very enjoyable learning experience)—see photo below.



The recent Australia wide novice pairs held in our Friday afternoon session saw 17 tables of happy, smiling faces most of them graduates of PBC Bridge Education (BE) Program).

Some of you might remember that four years ago the Committee considered closing this Friday session because it was regularly down to only four tables.

The rejuvenation of the Friday session is a testament to the Club's last four years of best practice and continuous improvement championed by the combined energies of our teachers, supervisors, directors, treasurers (past & present) IT experts and unsung Master Point secretaries.

All of these players know, but some at other sessions may not know, of the special role our past Presidents played in this development: Colin, who recognised the need to implement a teaching program to bring new players into the Club and Alan, who calmly dealt with all the issues that emerge when you go through a period of change and growth.



*Ray Hurst & Heidi Colenbrander winners of the Novice Pairs*

So, THANK YOU EVERYONE! I hope you all feel very proud to be part of the ABF's recognition of a job well done.

Cath Whiddon, Director of BE at PBC

## Major or No Trump by Martin Johnson

Many bridge players, once they locate an eight card major fit look no further for a contract.

However, a substantial percentage of the time, the best denomination is actually no trump, or less often a solid or long combined minor fit.

My experience suggests that the eight card fit is best on about 2/3 of all hands but inferior on 1/3 of all hands.

Since you want to be right more than 2/3 of the time, you need tools to both find the 8 card major fit and to explore other contracts once it is found. There are practical tools and hand evaluation methods that help in these decisions. For more information please go to Bobby knows Bridge and read my Major or No Trump article

## When No Trump is better?

There are a number of indications of when no trump may be preferable to an 8 card major fit

- 1) When the trump suit is very weak.
- 2) When the short trump hand has no ruffing values
- 3) When there is a surplus of points
- 4) When there is a long strong side minor.

**The following are indicators of when the major fit is likely to be better**

- 1) When the short trump hand has a ruffing value (singleton or doubleton)
- 2) When the long trump hand has a second 4+ suit
- 3) When there is a weak or unstopped suit
- 4) When the short trump hand has a long non-solid side suit



Once again your probing editor dons the safety gear, lights up the blow torch of truth, to interview some more Peninsula celebrities—the Rothwells, Lois and Terry

**Who taught you to play bridge?** T: My grandmother, when I was a child, then about 12 years ago Greg Quittner introduced Lois and I to duplicate bridge in classes at the Peninsula Club. L: Self-taught back in the Dark Ages, using a book by Charles Goren. Then, with Terry I learnt duplicate from Greg Quittner.

**What system do you play?** Standard American, with various add-ons.(Ed. facepalm)

**How often do you play a week?** Two or three times. More if it is raining

**Why do you like teaching bridge?** We don't look on ourselves as bridge teachers. We supervise learners struggling with the game, hopefully leading to their becoming regular Peninsula players. The occasional Eureka moments are a tonic for us both. The exercise is also very instructive for us and also improves our game.

**Do you have any tricks for maintaining your concentration?** T: Coffee! L: Sit north at the first table. So I cannot look around the room.

**If you could change anything about bridge, what would it be?** Better hands with finesse opportunities that work more than 50% of the time.

**What characteristics make for a good partner?** T: Someone who never ever trumps my aces and accepts my blunders with good grace. L: Tolerance and good humour, as well as a bit of Bridge Brain.

**Have you made many friends through playing bridge?** Of course!

**Do you have a favourite convention?** 'Baby Blackwood' which allows you to get out of slam bidding at game level.

**What criteria do you have for a penalty double?** Double of bids of 1 no trump and 3 spades and over.

**Is squeeze play a part of your repertoire?** It happens by chance sometimes and I was once even complemented for it!

**Do you have a favourite bridge book?** Ron Klinger's Guides to Better Bridge and Better Duplicate Bridge and Matthew Thomson's Bid More Play More.

**What advice would you give to a new player?** Get out of supervised bridge into the ordinary sessions ASAP and remember it is just a GAME!

**Is Peninsula a good club, if so, why?** Yes, of course. It has a very pleasant setting, is very well run, has regular sessions both day and night, a large group of very agreeable fellow members and a regular intake of new members.

Many readers have wondered who L'Orange Magoo is and what makes him tick. Today we are fortunate to get an insight into the strange and bizarre mind of Magoo

L'Orange strangely enough was never a great student but the one subject he mastered was Latin. Many's the time he has delighted the bridge table with his erudition, here for your pleasure are some of his more famous bridge pronouncements.

Sorry partner, aces and spaces	Oopsii, aceii et spacii
A good game is a fast game	Speedus goodus
My finesses never work	Mea finessus suckus
Partner is always correct	Partnerii smartus maximus
Partner, where are the cards you promised	Partnerii est scumbo lyiis
Why did you trump my ace?	Trumpus idiotii
I played that very badly	Declarus idiotii
I had nothing but you didn't believe me	Biddus nillus, cardus nillus!
Didn't you see my signal?	Eyeus brokenus idiotii?

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