

# Peninsula News and Views



Newsletter of the Peninsula Bridge Club

Volume 10 No 4 • December 2014

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the President I would like to take the time to thank the past President Alan Davies and the last years committee for their great work. Especially Viv Eldridge who served for 7 years as Master Points Secretary and last year as VP. Viv has done a wonderful job compiling the diary; this is not an easy job to do.

I am happy to report that besides myself, we the club now have 4 new committee members (sorry Trevor) 3 of whom are of our younger membership and are extremely enthusiastic, coming up with some great ideas. I can say with absolute certainty that the club is in good hands now and in the future.

Melbourne cup was a great success thanks to Rachel, Morris, Viv and all the volunteers to numerous to mention. It has been a successful 2014 with membership reaching 470+ making us one of the largest clubs in Sydney.

It was disappointing to see a lack of interest in the members playing special events including trophy events. In the prestigious Club Teams event we had only 7 teams play. A club our size should show its strength of membership by having a greater participation from members. We shouldn't be seeing situations like Stebin's first week where we only had 4.5 tables and found ourselves having to push members to make a 7 table movement.

The Xmas party is next on the agenda and I am sure as in past years it will be a success and enjoyed by everyone where surely we all will eat, drink and be merry. I and the committee wish you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy healthy 2015.

Happy Bridging for the future. Sue Riley



## Ask the Director—Frank, Fearless and Anonymous

Sometimes when I'm playing in Tournaments or important club events I come across very slow players, what is the best way to deal with glacial opponents? Fred

Fred, I feel your pain, I myself have played against people who seemed to expect cards to magically appear to save them from an obviously doomed contract, it's as though their logic is, the slower they play, the less likely they'll go down

I think there are a few ways to deal with this problem. Calling the Director, although confrontational is always useful to alert the opposition that they are "pushing the friendship".

One option I have toyed but have yet to use, is to return the favour. If someone regularly takes an inordinate time to play a card, or make a bid, make sure to take an equally long time yourself. This tit for tat option is going to burn some bridges but sometimes you stop caring and just want to make a point.

Another option I regularly use is internal dialogue. This is where I feel pity for a person so driven to win that they are paralysed into inaction. Rather than get mad, I internally (and silently) reach out and offer them counselling. During the course of this therapy, it's amazing how often I discover that Daddy didn't take them to the Circus and how they are burdened with psychological issues that would make Charles Manson look healthy.

So let's assume you just sat there, didn't call the Director, didn't take the tit for tat option, you did help them with silent therapy and now you are bidding on the last hand and the first bell sounds. **Place your hand down and walk away.**

Yes, you heard me—don't be convinced to quickly play the last hand. On many occasions I have been pressured to continue playing and wouldn't you know it, have found myself in a difficult contract. Now with the Director glaring, I have rushed and missed a gettable contract. Now I have a bottom board and my opponents have had their appalling behaviour reinforced.

To the sufferers of slow play— **TAKE THE AVERAGE** (An average is when you don't play and get the average score)

## Who's who at Peninsula for 2014-15

Verl Lawrence	Chief Director
Lyn Hamill	Partner Broker
Alan Erricker	House Manager
Cath Whiddon	Head Bridge Teacher
Terry Rothwell	Office Manager
Rosalie Black	Assistant Treasurer
Alan Davies	Masterpoints Secretary
Ken Watson	Technology Manager
Trevor Laughton	Session Cards & Winners Tickets
Jim Fairley	Board Dealing Roster
Rachael Loomes	Dealer Training
Mary Farrell	Welfare
Peter Clarke	Newsletter
Jennifer Ardill	Librarian
R & M Loomes	Catering
Maurice Loomes	Communications Officer
Anita Kite	Kitchen Roster

## Office Bearers

President	Sue Riley	0412 175 367	9944 6432
Vice-President	Vickie Busted	0414 650 204	9999 6127
Treasurer	Lyn Hamill	0419 409 125	9913 7215
Secretary	Rosalie Black	0412 554 755	9948 9314

## Other Committee Members

Kelly Barber	0421 723 986	9986 0737
Peter Clarke	0411 033 260	9440 8506
Alan Erricker	0459 342 079	9918 9808
Trevor Laughton	0422 432 250	9450 1670
Rachael Loomes	0414 248 942	9977 3552
Terry Rothwell		9973 1776
Ken Watson	0417 206 671	9451 8560

## Odds and Evens discards— extracts from "Bridge Banter" by L'Orange Magoo

Discards are perhaps the easiest way for a new player to improve their defensive game and in this short piece I am going to urge you to consider playing odds and evens . Memory for a new player is an precious resource, but fear not, odds and evens is memory friendly as I am about to show. Can you remember this phrase: "Odds are Gods"? No really, can you?

If you can't remember this phrase, "Odds are Gods", then this system of attitude signalling is not for you, in fact there's a good chance that bridge isn't either, but I digress. If you can remember "Odds are Gods", a whole world of pain, for your opposition, is going to open up

Odds indicate a liking for the suit, evens are McKenney. McKenney means you don't like the suit. Some of the better Peninsula players , (yes Trish I'm thinking of you), use this system routinely for the first time a new suit is played, barring trumps. Let me give a classic example. You lead a A from an A,K combination, if partner plays an even card, you avoid leading the K. This information is gold. Occasionally partner will only have even cards to play, you change the suit and disaster ensues. Suck it up. Partner is always just suggesting (or forced by circumstance), not commanding . Sometimes you ignore partner and keep playing a suit because it suits your own particular master plan.

Playing McKenney also gives you some fun options. Your even discard can indicate a preference for the unlead suits, the lower the even discard the more you are urging a change to the lower of the unlead suits, the higher the discard, the opposite.

This discard system is simple and gives valuable information to your partner. Don't be that pair that when asked by the opposition what your partner's discard means, you look blankly and confess you have no system. Don't be that pair!!!!

**Magoo's Secret Tip**—You don't use odds or evens on a trump lead, however if you have 2 or more trumps, by playing a high-card first (assuming you can afford to do so) you are telling partner you have an A&K in an unlead suit. Muuhahahahahahaha

Whenever a partnership tries something new, problems ensue. Use these problems to embed this system of discards into your long term memory, don't give up. I can still remember my partner indicating a suit change via McKenney which would have allowed us to put down a contract, a suit indication that I, L'Orange, missed due to inattention. It's these fond memories of missed opportunities and smug opponents that help reinforce our memories. L'Orange urges you to give it a go, put on your togs and prepare to bathe in your opponents tears. Salty but nice.



Betty Postle, Welfare Officer Extraordinaire has moved from the Northern Beaches to the Southern Tablelands.

Good luck with the move Betty, we're all going to miss you

## Peninsula Bridge Club has just formed a Facebook Group

Are you on Facebook? If not why not? Facebook Groups are designed for easy access and are very popular with Facebook users. Find a partner, discuss difficult hands and share bridge stories etc etc

Just search for Peninsula Bridge Club on your Facebook page.

## Opening Lead out of Turn Part 1

Probably the most common call for the Director is an opening lead by the partner of the player whose turn it is to lead. The Laws require that the opening lead be made face down – one of the reasons is to try to eliminate the problem when the wrong player leads. However, the frequency of opening leads out of turn makes me wonder how many players know about this law.

When an opening lead out of turn is made (often abbreviated to OLOOT), the director will give declarer five options. The choice must be made by the player who would have been declarer had the correct player led. They may not consult with their partner as to what would be best for their side.

The five options are:

**1) the OLOOT is accepted as the correct lead and the would-have-been declarer becomes dummy.**

The player who chooses this option puts their own hand face up on the table as dummy, and their partner plays the hand.

**2) the OLOOT is accepted as the correct lead, but declarer chooses to still play the hand.**

In this case, dummy will go down on the table, declarer will play next from their own hand, with dummy playing last to the first trick.

**3) the OLOOT is not accepted and declarer demands the lead of the suit of the OLOOT.**

Here, the correct leader must lead a card of that suit if they have one. The card which was the OLOOT is returned to the player's hand and DOES NOT have to be played to Trick 1. If the opening leader does not have a card of that suit, they may lead any card. If the opening leader wins Trick 1, they are free to lead whatever they wish to Trick 2.

**4) the OLOOT is not accepted and declarer prohibits the lead of the suit of the OLOOT.**

Here, the correct leader must lead a card of any suit other than the one led in error. The card which was the OLOOT is returned to the player's hand. The prohibition on the lead of that suit remains in place for as long as the opening leader retains the lead. (For example: South is declarer, East leads CA out of turn. Declarer prohibits a club lead. Let's say that West leads HQ, which wins the trick. West is still prohibited from leading a club. If however, East had overtaken the HQ with the HK and had won the trick, then East is free to lead any card he wishes, including CA.)

**5) the OLOOT is not accepted and declarer allows the correct leader to lead whatever they want.**

In this case, the OLOOT stays face up on the table as a penalty card. If the opening leader leads the suit of the OLOOT, that card must be played. If the opening leader leads another suit and wins the trick, declarer still has options 3) and 4) available whenever the OLOOT is still on the table as a penalty card. In fact, they have these options at ANY time when that player is on lead and the OLOOT is still face up on the table.

## Opening Lead out of Turn Part 2

Last time, I detailed the five options declarer has when there is an opening lead out of turn.

Very roughly, they come down to either liking or disliking the lead, and making a decision as to whether to play the hand yourself or to let your partner be declarer. In this article, I will try to look into why you might choose one option above the others.

The primary factor in coming to a decision revolves around the suit which the other side has led out of turn. The question is: "is that suit likely to be good or bad for our side?"

Some examples of when it might be bad:

- we are in no-trumps, the opponents have bid and raised the suit they led and our stopper is tenuous;
- we are in a suit contract where we will probably need to do a lot of ruffing and the opponents have led trumps;
- we are in a slam and we only have small cards in a suit and the opponents lead the ace of that suit.

Some examples of when it might be good:

- one player has bid a suit strongly, we have a good holding in that suit (eg. AQ), but the suit is sitting over our hand – it would be good if we can make them lead around into our holding;
- they lead a suit where we are void and so can trump – accepting the lead might avoid an early attack on a danger suit;
- they lead a trump and we know that we have plenty of them between the two hands – again accepting the lead might protect a danger suit.

Sometimes, of course, it is not clear whether or not the lead is good or bad for our side.

A general principle to follow when you are not sure is that if it is a high card it is more likely to be dangerous for us than if it is a low card.

If we come to the decision that the suit led is bad for our side, then the option we should take is to prohibit the lead of that suit. The card will be returned to the hand which led out of turn and the correct leader must lead some other suit.

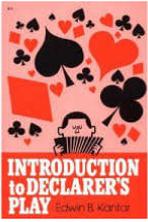
The least used option – to keep the lead out of turn as a penalty card and allow the correct leader to lead whatever they want – is often overlooked. It can be particularly useful when you are unsure whether the lead is good or bad for your side.

As an example, say you are in 3NT with weakish holdings (for example, Jxx) in both clubs and diamonds but your partner is likely to have some help there. The wrong hand leads ♣6. Your best choice may be to have the correct hand lead what they want but to keep the ♣6 as a penalty card. Let's assume now the correct hand leads the ♦A and dummy comes down with ♦Qxx and ♣AKx – so diamonds is the problem suit. Because there is a penalty card, you now have the right to demand a club lead at trick two and catastrophe may be avoided.

**Matthew McManus  
November 2012**

**Holiday reading** there isn't a player at Peninsula who doesn't need to improve their defensive play, ....except of course for Madam President and L'Orange Magoo. If you don't do anything else this year, please, please, read a book on defence.

### The first MUST HAVE book



This book has been in print since 1968, one of the best books on card defence ever written

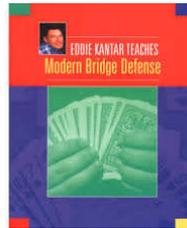
I agree with Kantar that defence in bridge is an extremely important and difficult aspect of the game. It is given insufficient attention in teaching books.

After reading this book, I no longer complained when I had a "lousy" hand, but looked at it in a completely different light, thinking to myself, "Well, how can I make the most of these measly points and set the contract?"

Amazon Review

All these books are available at the Bridge Shop 9967 0644 182 Penshurst St Willoughby

### The second to consolidate



I found this to be the best book to improve bridge for an intermediate player.

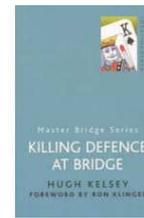
I've read it four times and learned from each chapter each time. Since one plays defence on half the hands, it provides the best time investment to improve one's bridge play. It is also an entertaining read.

I have recommended it to the bridge players I mentor, gaining more tricks on defense.

Highly recommended!

Amazon Review

### The third is the charm



This classic bridge book is a must for every serious bridge player who wants to advance to the next level.

**It is not for beginners**, and even intermediate players could find its concepts a bit too advanced. But for the bridge player who is seeking to reach the expert or near expert level, it is required reading.

The book is well written and interesting and is one of the top bridge books of all time

Amazon Review

## BRIDGE EDUCATION AT PENINSULA

Our regular Bridge Education supervised sessions at Peninsula Bridge Club will stop **after** Noon Friday 19 Dec & **start again** Monday night 5 Jan.

If anyone wants to take advantage of our special coaching service, "**book-a-table**", for partnership practise (especially before Canberra &/or the GCC) – just let Cath Whiddon know via email or phone. You need at least 4 players & we can cover any topic at any scheduled supervised or regular duplicate session (even over the holiday break). Currently it is a popular feature Monday evenings, 7-9pm. (Cost is \$5 for members.)

**John Medina** in his book, "**Brain Rules**", tells us that people will forget 90% of what they learn in a class within 30 days, and most of the forgetting occurs early on. He goes on to add that repetition is the answer for this, but the timing of the repetition is a big component, needing to be at spaced intervals.

So, bridge players, try to reinforce what's learned in lessons, with practice, be it online or at the club. Do it very soon after the lesson too, playing hands that match the lesson. The BE Team has many lessons and training hands to practise all the topics we cover. (In 2014, we covered Overcalls, Doubles, pre-empts, strong 2C openings, Stayman, Jacoby transfers, Unusual 2NT, DONT, Slam bidding & lots more.)

We will revise/refresh these in 2015, as well as run more advanced workshops to develop the finer details of these conventions. We also plan to run defence classes in 2015 to improve leads & signals.

For our newly graduated beginners we will run a consolidation course that focuses on reviewing our standard bidding system, improving our play by counting winners/losers & using tools to make the contract (such as the finesse).

The BE Team: Susan, Jo, Terry, Cath, Vickie & Jen, look forward to seeing you at a bridge table – albeit supervised, duplicate or group booked – early in 2015.

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