

Peninsula News and Views



Newsletter of the Peninsula Bridge Club

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FROM THE PRESIDENT Alan Davies

The first quarter of 2014 has been eventful. Many of our members have acquitted themselves well at the ABF's two major congresses in Canberra in January and the Gold Coast at the end of February. I am proud that our members perform so well. On top of that we won, for the first time, the Northern Sydney inter-club teams, beating the two other major clubs, Trumps and North Shore, in the process. The strength of our less experienced players got us over the line.

The Northern Sydney inter-club pairs is being played this year at Trumps on Sunday June 15. The entry lists for this event will be posted on our noticeboard shortly. We are able to enter up to eight pairs in open and under life master sections. I encourage members to enter.

We have reached agreement with our insurers for the complete replacement of the bridge room carpet. The laying will take two to three days and we anticipate that the Club will be closed for the last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in May. We will continue to keep you up to date on this by notices in the bridgeroom and on our website.

It is pleasing to see the increase in numbers of players at our Tuesday and Friday Sessions. The increase is attributable to players coming through our beginners program and supervised sessions. Our overall member numbers have also increased in the last year after remaining static for the past several years. All of this is encouraging and indicates we are doing something right.

Finally, congratulations to our 2014 pairs champions, Anne Small and Cath Whiddon.

Happy bridging

Social News...That's the heading of an additional feature commencing in this issue. Peninsula is a rarity among Bridge Clubs in that it's members work hard in the interest of all. There are several distinct groups. First are the diehard players who are strong in attack and defence and come here to play top class Bridge. Then there are those whose brain does not allow them the privilege of accurately counting and assessing the position of every card in play. Then we have that band of players for whom it is a Social Club, they arrive early, meet their friends, have a chat and then settle down to a friendly game, God bless them. Finally there are the New Members, who are the life blood of the club. Due to natural attrition, without them our membership would decrease, costs would go up and where would the next band of diehards come from?

Thanks to people like Cath Whiddon and Jo Jarvis there is a steady flow of recruits and we want you recruits to know that through Social News the sooner we can assimilate you the better.

I'm **Colin Mingay**, pictured elsewhere, next to the lady with the winsome smile. Contact me with social news about yourself or other members. Think of your enjoyment when Social News reports on a friend and they wonder how their name appears in print. 94498075 or xyzcolin@bigpond.com or catch me Monday, Saturday and some Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



Welcome to our new Welfare Officer

I love this story because I get the opportunity to recycle a picture from the last edition of the Peninsula News. Not only is Betty involved with www.griefandsympathy.com but she is also the Club's new Welfare Officer. This position duties include sending get well wishes or condolence messages to members and families.

The Club appointed Betty at last years AGM and you could help by letting her know if any of your friends from the Club are sick or in hospital.

On behalf of the Club Betty would like to take the opportunity to thank Ada Duigan for her 7 years fulfilling this role. "Well done. Ada has been a hard working member of the club for almost 20 years. A big thank you from all your friends".
bettypostle@optusnet.com.au



Without new players we are nothing

Our 2014 Beginners course kicked off at the end of January with 18 new daytime students and 10 evening learners along with four "refreshers". Unexpectedly, Cath was laid up in hospital getting used to her new hip for the first 2 lessons, so Vickie kindly stepped up to the podium and ably assisted by Rosalie, introduced our keen new morning beginners to the basics. The evening class shuffled into the game with our evening supervisor, Susan Falkingham, and a new volunteer helper: Jill Sherlock (Welcome Jill!).



Sylvia and Ian



Jen, Sandi, Sarah and Suzanne

Cath returned (without a limp - hurrah!) to find the beginners all concentrating determinedly, sorting their cards, adding HCPs, planning their play & looking forward to their social cuppa.

As we go to press, the beginners are about to finish their six week course and start practising what they have learned in the Club's Supervised Sessions (Monday nights 7-9; Tuesday arvo 2.15, & Friday 9.30 -11.30). As the new graduates move into the Supervised Sessions, many of last year's beginners are trying their hands in the Club's regular duplicate sessions.

It is really pleasing to see our Friday Duplicate Session now often hosting 2 sections, with over half the players being new members who have come through Peninsula's Bridge Education Program - and the new members are not only enjoying their duplicate game, many are winning a free game and accumulating master points! Indeed, some of our original Bridge Education Program graduates ventured up to the Gold Coast with great personal successes - well done Jen & Suzanne for making the NOVICE PAIRS Final and winning 1 session and along with Bill, Sarah and Sandi, performing well above their rankings. Their keen, smiling, young faces were noted by quite a few and were a real credit to Peninsula! We have a waiting list for our next beginners course, scheduled to start in June.

We also continue to offer a workshop each month to improve play or introduce a convention - check the Bridge Calendar Whiteboard for dates & topics or our website. **Cath Widdon**

Snakes and Ladders on the Gold Coast



Until a couple of years ago Maurice and I hadn't experienced playing bridge out of the 'insular Peninsula'. We flew the coop and booked tickets to go to the Gold Coast to play in the congress. Can you imagine playing in one room 2500 others? What a great experience. This year we played in the restricted division of the Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs. This event is played over two days and was light relief after having played in the teams event for three days. Like the teams, you are playing for imps and therefore have to be aggressive in bidding to game.

We started off on the lowly ranked table 26. The aim of the game is to ascend to table number 1 sitting North/South and

then stay there. After three rounds we briefly found ourselves in this position only to topple back to table 2 and then further back to table 4. By the end of the day we had stabilised into 3rd position at table 2.

Going into day 2 we had 3 rounds to go and trailed behind the leaders by over 13 points. This couple hadn't been beaten and had thrashed us 15-5. Now mortal enemies!

After the first round we trailed by 14 points but had claimed the number 2 position. We knew we had to do something big to make up this impossible lead. The opportunity came in round 9 when we bid and were lucky enough to make 7 hearts on a singleton trump lead (thanks o bridge god!). This pushed us a little closer to being 11 points behind the frontrunners. With only one round to go we knew it was out of our hands. We had to do something big but they had to do something horrible.

Miracles can happen! We saved the best until last and the leaders crashed. We won by the narrowest of margins 146.9 to 146.5. Yes, we will be back next year! **Rachael Loomes**

Ed what an inspiring tale, if this doesn't get you to pack your bags then nothing will.

Evolve or die

Many advanced bridge players enjoy the benefits of the 2/1 system. One appealing aspect of this system is that a large portion of the Standard American bidding system is identical to 2/1 bidding. You will need to modify your basic approach on a few bids – those where your partner opened in a higher-level suit than your suit with two-level response, as 1C – 2C. Such a bid by responder promises an opening hand with a “good” 12+ points. You need to learn a new stopgap bid to cover certain hands with invitational values, the forcing Notrump. This fundamental change allows 2/1 players to quickly identify game going and slam invitational hands using low level bids, a concept referred to as “slow shows, fast denies” (extra values). Reflecting on this concept, it seems reasonable to bid slowly with extra values. Bidding is a communication process and it is important to tell the whole story rather than prematurely jump into a contract without fully discussing the attributes of the partnership assets. Consistent with this approach, 2/1 players have numerous conventions to obstruct the opponent’s bidding with weak, preemptive bids.

Background

Max Hardy was the first professional player to thoroughly describe the 2/1 system. Over time, the benefits of the 2/1 system were noted by other leading players. Of today’s leading duplicate players who use natural bidding, the majority play some version of the 2/1 system. Your ability to play 2/1 will increase the number of potential partners willing to play with you. Even if you do not choose to play 2/1, many of your opponents are using 2/1; having a working knowledge of their methods will help you with your bidding and play.

Basic 2/1 bidding strategy:

- 1) Find an 8+ major card “golden fit” using methods similar to those used by Standard American players. However, when the responder makes a two-level bid in a lower ranking suit than the opener, the bid signifies the responder has 12+ points and is making a game forcing bid.
- 2) Discover notrump stoppers without a golden fit – most players also use a “temporizing” Notrump response as a prelude to show a modest trump fit with the opener. When the responder makes a 1 Notrump bid in response to opener’s 1H or 1S bid, the response promises a wide range response of 5+ to 12 points – this bid is forcing for one round.
- 3) Consider an alternative minor suit contract. Since the partners require additional strength to make game in a minor, these contracts are considered as a last resort when major suit or Notrump contracts are not appropriate.
- 4) The 1 Notrump and 2 Notrump bids, usually 15-17 and 20-21 points precisely describe opener’s strength and shape, identical to the Standard American treatment.
- 5) 2/1 emphasizes finding major suit fit at a low level with methods such as “slow shows, fast denies” bids by responder.

The 2/1 game forcing auction applies to responders first bid. Early in our bridge career we learned to bid game when our combined partnership assets are 25-26 or more points. Ideally, these assets will sustain 10 tricks in a major or 9 tricks in Notrump. Again, a fundamental construct of the 2/1 system is the philosophy is to quickly identify and communicate game-going partnership values without consuming excessive bidding space. With responder hands that are 10-12 points (or a questionable 13 points with several queens and Jacks), consider the forcing No Trump

The forcing Notrump

The 2/1 bid by responder is game forcing. After the opener bids 1H or 1S (unpassed hand), the responder needs a method to describe hands such as those with 10 – 11 and “bad” 12 point hands. The Forcing Notrump allows the responder to make an interim “catch all” bid with a greater range of values than the 3 point range associated with most bids.

Social News...Eileen Barnett is now doing well and has been moved to Mona Vale Hospital, Jan Coates reports that Eileen is happy to receive calls from her friends at the Bridge Club.....When the surgeon sewed him up he said " Now I'm off to golf." "So am I" said Kerry Busted. "No, you are not" said the doc. "Not this week, not next week, nor the week after!" Vickie has to put up with a frustrated golfer. Kerry, you have been so lucky, now you have three weeks in which to become the World's Best Putter.....Bridge, wine and dine, not necessarily in that order is the plan for Ron Smith up on the Central Coast, accompanied by Anne (with an e, according to our membership book) Small, Vona Hadfield and Maureen Cooksey.....Terry Mat(one t)hews has been in Rehab reports Val Miller, best wishes to her from all.....Where is Anita Kite? Checking with our Chinese satellite it seems she has been in Europe and England. Meanwhile Trish Giles has been enjoying new partners, hurry back, Anita.....

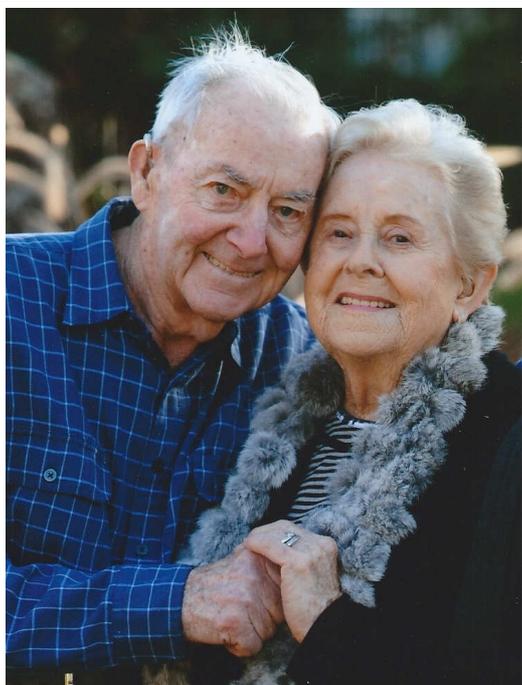
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Wendy Starky tells all

The fund raising Humpty Foundation buys special equipment for children's wards and hospitals. They raise several millions a year through a number of events and functions ranging from balls and lunches to the Balmoral Burn and City to Surf.

I run in the Balmoral Burn and raise about \$1300 each year for the Foundation, which is why I won the Balmoral Burn Award. When given the award I asked that it be presented at the bridge club as you are the people who give me most of the money. Thankyou.



We continue our sometimes popular, series of probing interviews and learn that the meaning of life has nothing to do with 42 but a lot to do with bridge.

As the Editor of this Newsletter it has been brought to my attention that two of our members aged in their 90s, married for a ridiculously long time, still regularly play bridge together and continue to experience the heady delights of victory. Their age, continued success and popularity have caused many people to ask: Who are the Mingays? What secret do they possess? Well wonder no more as your faithful Editor applies the blowtorch to Colin and Una to uncover the**“Mingay Secrets.”**.....**muuhahahahaha**

Who taught you to play bridge?

CM A nameless expert player from Lindfield Bridge Club in the 1950s, who after 6 mths of inept teaching almost convinced Una and I to give up. **UM** A not very good teacher who sat us down at a table and said “Now if you have 13 pts you open”.

What system do you play

CM We started with Goren which has now evolved into Benjamin 2s, with the addition of multi 2s with each other and certain other players .

UM Basically Goren—5 card majors, 15-18 NT and Benjamin 2s

How often do you play at week?

UM 2 sometimes 3 times a week. **CM** At least 3 times

Do you have any tricks to maintaining your concentration?

CM If only **UM** I have no tricks but if the mind starts wondering I tell myself to concentrate

If you could change anything about Bridge, what would it be?

CM A bridge mate that showed the opening lead **UM** There are too many systems needed for different partners

What characteristics make for a good partner?

UM Don't criticise, occasionally have a short discussion about a hand, never be rude. **CM** The ability to never make your partner feel bad. The game is tough enough without wishing you had stayed home. (*Ed—sounds like some good life tips there*)

Who is your favourite Director?

UM For big events Brian Souter and also Verl Lawrence. She is very knowledgeable and if playing at her table, (after things are sorted out) she can sit down and resume without having to go over the play.

Are multi 2s essential for the modern bridge player?

CM Yes to understand them but not to play them **UM** I think so, it makes it more difficult for the opposition to bid

What trump asking conventions do you use?

UM Roman Key Card and Gerber (this can be done at a lower level)

What criteria do you use for a penalty double?

CM Gotcha **UM** I rarely double when the bidding seems to be distributional, we are told we don't double often enough

Is squeeze play part of your repertoire?

CM Rarely **UM** It has to be, so watch your discards

Do you have a favourite bridge book?

CM Klinger's book on Opening Leads, also Alfred Sheinwold's “5 weeks to winning bridge. **UM** No though I have read many

What advice would you give a new player?

UM Have one lot of beginners lessons and then repeat the lessons so that you remember the basics before proceeding.

CM Select your teacher carefully & buy the Rule Book. How can you play the game honestly if you don't know the rules?

Is Peninsula a good Club and if so, why?

CM Yes it's great. A) the premises are excellent, B) members pull their weight as a team and as a result it is economical

C) people are friendly D) we have a good hard working committee **UM** Yes, nice friendly people, good premises and a good hard-working committee

Ed—While recently speaking to Uma, she mentioned that she would like to see more social articles in the newsletter. Well knock me over with a feather but Colin immediately nominated himself as our new Social News contributor.

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