

Peninsula News and Views



Newsletter of the Peninsula Bridge Club

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is my last message as the Club's president. I will not be nominating for the Committee at the forthcoming annual general meeting. I have spent six of the last seven years on the Committee and believe it is time for change and renewal.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Committee and believe we have achieved a lot. Our membership numbers continue to grow. Two years ago we had approximately 400 members. At last count we have around 475. Through the untiring efforts of our Bridge Education team led by Cath Whiddon we are seeing more and more beginners playing at our regular session. My thanks go to Cath and Sue Falkingham, Jo Jarvis, Terry Rothwell and Vickie Busted who are responsible for our teaching.

We continue to introduce new Directors, the editor of this newsletter (Peter Clarke) being the latest. John Rogers has been a very able addition when he is not travelling the world.

There are so many people who contribute to the running of our Club, it is impossible to mention them all. I will have a go. The members of the committee, the directors, the teachers, the kitchen helpers, the dealers, the librarian, the editor of this newsletter, the welfare officer and so the list goes on. These people willingly volunteer their time for the benefit of our members.

I am sure the new committee will continue the good work.

In the meantime, happy bridging,

Alan Davies



Ask the Director—Frank, Fearless and Anonymous

In the last issue of the newsletter, my column expressed the view that the Club's decision to ban "brown sticker" conventions was a mistake because, as a club, we should encourage players to improve their game.

I think it is important to allow the Club to clarify why it made its decision., here goes:

Both the ABF and the NSWBA have rules in place to protect pairs from the use of these conventions. These conventions may not be used against such protected pairs when the protected pair has claimed exemption prior to the event. Presumably both the ABF and NSWBA believe that such pairs are potentially disadvantaged when such systems are used against them.

*The ABF defines a 'protected pair' as a pair where **both players are below the status of Life Master, or where one player is below the status of State Master**, and which chooses to play a Green System (eg Standard American) without the use of any Brown Sticker conventions throughout an event or stage of an event.*

*The NSWBA defines a "protected pair" as a pair playing a Green System (without any Brown Sticker conventions) throughout an event, which has **both of its players below National Master or one player below Local Master**.*

The ABF further states that the use of supplementary sheets (to the system card) is appropriate whenever methods that may require defensive preparation (Brown Sticker) are employed. Any opening or overcalling structure that causes a system to be so classified should be itemised; together with a summary of the possible options available to the responder and/or advancer.

By banning the use of brown sticker conventions in regular "Club events" the Club has made a pragmatic decision to avoid the red tape requirements which allow protected pairs to be exempted, and to extend the exemption to all pairs. "Brown sticker" conventions may still be used in state, national, and championship events. Further the Club is not aware of any pairs who use brown sticker conventions having the supplementary notes considered appropriate by the ABF.

The Club may well revisit the latter policy as it would seem that protection is not being afforded to all pairs as envisaged by the ABF and NSWBA. Official response from the committee



Mingay's Morsels

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We regret to report the death of late member Florence Wilkinson who passed away in July. The writer first met Flo when knee high to a grasshopper. She arrived outside my house on a horse (we attended the same school) and before I knew it I was up on the horse. It was a high horse and I was scared. Flo was then Florence Moses, related to Sir Charles Moses who ran the ABC. She was a long time member of Peninsula and liked by all.

We did not meet again for another eighty years when Una and I then enjoyed many games of Bridge with her. Florence's name appears on an Honour Board., have a look at it and think of her.

Pain Free is being experienced by Jan Coates since her back operation, She might be limping but she is happier.

To expand your Bridge activities - contact treasurer Lyn Hamill. If you have an extra day to fill in she will keep you in mind. You could meet people who don't play on your normal day



Where's Viv? Viv and husband, David, were at Coffs Harbour. Sky diving? No. White water rafting? No. Just good old Bridge. Did they teach the locals a thing or two? No, but it's a great place to go.

Much more interesting is a trip to France and Spain, made earlier. On arriving at their cottage, in France, they found a snake skin, minus snake, which had not been there an hour earlier. No doubt hearing some Australians had arrived it shed its skin and shot through. Then some "locals" arrived, **see pic**. Viv and Dave then went to Spain and checked out the bed bugs. Then to Greece where they encountered a "plague" of tortoises who were attracted to the local eggplants. We have possums,

the Greeks have tortoises

Edna and Jim Fairley have plans to go to Melbourne. It's the 21st birthday of granddaughter, Eleanor. More details on your return please.

CHICKEN TANTE CELESTINE

3 full chicken breasts (cut in halves to provide 6 pieces)
Flour and season with salt and pepper.
2 oz. butter
3 tablespoons Grand Marnier
3 tablespoons chicken stock
1 cup cream
4 medium Granny Smith apples
2 oz. melted butter
1 oz. toasted flaked almonds Coat chicken in seasoned flour and shake off excess.
Heat butter in a heavy frying pan and fry chicken over medium heat until golden brown, turning to brown evenly.
Sprinkle with 2 tablespoons of Grand Marnier and the chicken stock, then cover tightly and simmer for 30 minutes.
Remove chicken to a serving dish and keep warm.
Add remaining Grand Marnier, and the cream, to the pan, scraping up the brown pieces from the bottom. Stir gently until heated through. Taste for seasoning and spoon over chicken.
Serve garnished with apples and sprinkle with toasted almonds.
Serves 6.

Apple Garnish

Peel and core apples and cut into small cubes. Place in shallow baking dish in one layer. Pour over the butter, tossing the apples lightly to coat. Bake in a preheated oven (180 C) for approx. 15 minutes or until apples are soft. Do not stir to avoid breaking apples. Use apple garnish hot. Sprinkle with the toasted flaked almonds.
Aunt Celestine knew her flavours, and this dish is rated A1.



Am I cute? My mother thinks so.

We are looking for the cutest baby as recommended by members of Peninsula Bridge Club. Amongst your relatives is there a cute baby? What a silly question! Submit photos or emails to xyzcolin@bigpond.com or bring to the Club.

Bidding Boxes Rumour has it that there is a new style bidding box which, at the end of the day's play, sorts itself into correct order and stacks into a group of four in the middle of the table. Until the club can afford them, Rosalie Black stays back to do that job on your behalf. Our committee members really work hard for us!

Everyone has a story. What you have done, or are going to do, may not seem important to anyone else, so you think. It may be something they have intended to do but not got around to it. People are interested in what other members are doing. Tell Social News because that is what makes it interesting.

Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB, 1430) is a variation of the Blackwood convention. It is used when the partnership has agreed to a trump suit and is interested in slam. A 4NT bid asks partner how many "key cards" he holds. A key card is any ace or the trump suit king.

Playing 1430:

5♣ Shows 1 or 4 key cards. (14)

5♦ Shows 0 or 3 key cards. (30)

5♥ Shows 2 or 5 key cards without the trump queen.

5♠ Shows 2 or 5 key cards with the trump queen.

The 4NT bidder can usually (!) determine if responder has 0/3, 1/4, or 2/5 key cards.

Asking for Kings (5NT)

A 5NT rebid asks partner for kings. It is a grand slam try, and should only be bid if the partnership holds all 5 key cards and the queen of trumps. So, 5NT asks partner how many kings he holds (standard Blackwood responses):

6♣ - 0 kings.

6♦ - 1 king.

6♥ - 2 kings.

6♠ - 3 kings.

An example auction playing RKCB with the 5NT king-ask:

Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	1.	RKCB for hearts.
K	A65	1♥	3♥	2.	2 key cards without the Q.
AQT754	K632	4NT (1)	5♥ (2)	3.	Asking for partner's kings.
A5	K6	5NT (3)	6♦ (4)	4.	Showing 1 king (excluding the King of trumps).
AQ54	J932	6♥ (5)		5.	Signing off because missing 1 king

Asking for the Trump Queen

The 5♣ or 5♦ replies don't indicate whether responder holds the queen of trumps. The 4NT bidder can bid the cheapest non-trump suit to ask this question. The responses to the queen-ask are:

Bidding the trump suit No trump queen

5NT The trump queen without any side-suit kings

Bidding any non-trump suit The trump queen AND the king of that suit

An example auction playing RKCB 1430 with a queen-ask:

Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	1.	RKCB for spades.
AJT75	K93	1♠	2♣	2.	1 key card.
AKT	Q3	3♦	3♠	3.	Asking for the Q.
AKT2	J8	4NT (1)	5♣ (2)	4.	Denies the Q.
5	KQ7642	5♦ (3)	5♠ (4)		
		Pass			

First Professional Development Day in Sydney

On Sunday 21 September, 31 teachers came to Peninsula Bridge Club, from various clubs in Sydney, and country areas, to attend the first ABF/NSWBA Continuing Professional Development Day. As always, these get-togethers generate lots of energy.



Joan Butts ran the session using Audrey Grant's new material, called "Modern Bidding Methods".

Cath Whiddon was sensational in her role as local liaison person. Her organisation was superb. And to top it off she has just qualified as our very first ABF Accredited (Star) Teacher. Congrats, and thanks Cath.

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Everyone knows that bidding is the part of this game that changes and that it does so almost constantly. It's a language and like language it evolves. The fact is that "Standard American" isn't the same as it was ten years ago and it won't be the same ten years from now. You can wax nostalgic all you want for the good ol' days of the Goren Bidding System, but that dog won't hunt. There's a reason almost no one in duplicate plays that way any more and hasn't in many years. Any reasonable bridge player can see that while the bidding has become more complex over time, it has also vastly improved.

The way in which bidding systems improve is that there are always a handful of stone-cold weirdos out there playing something new and strange. Some of the things they play will work better than what everyone else is doing, but most of them won't. Eventually the good players will stop laughing just long enough to cherry pick what's working and incorporate it into their own systems.

A new complicated system is much more likely to bite us in the ass than it is to damage you; so when you see us getting into yet another muddled sequence your best bet is just to kick back, relax and collect your matchpoints. You may even catch a glimpse of the future.

devilsbedpost.com one of the better bridge blogs out there

DEFENDING

Opening Lead:

If your Partner has bid a suit, but you did not win the contract, lead partner's suit if you can, if not use the below suggestions:

1. From top of touching honours – **Q**, J, 10 lead the **Q**
2. 4th highest of your longest suit – J, 7, 4, **3** lead the **3**
3. **MUD** (Middle up down) - 9, **7**, 3 lead the 7 then play the 9 next
4. **Doubleton**, high card first then low card – **10**, 2 lead the **10**
5. **Singleton**, lead the only card in this suit – **9**, lead the **9**

If partner leads an Ace (promising the King):

Play a **Low** card to say I **LIKE** this suit; or
Play a **High** card to say I **HATE** (dislike) this suit

If you win the first trick: return partner's lead suit *unless there is a VERY good reason not to continue that suit.*

SIGNALS:

Discards (the first time you cannot follow suit):

Suit Contract

Discard a low card to show you have an honour in that suit
(Signal: you **LIKE** this suit; please play this suit if they get on lead).

No Trumps Contract

Discard a card in a suit that you **DO NOT** want partner to lead you if they get on lead. (Signal: you **Hate** this suit; play some other suit if on lead).

If you get on lead: play the suit partner signalled:

Lead a **Low** card to say I **Like** this suit too.
Lead a **High** card to say I **Hate** (dislike) this suit
(but I'm leading it because you told me you liked this suit)

SLAM BIDDING: (33+ HCP)

Gerber Convention (Only over 1NT or 2NT opening)

- 4♣ asks partner how many Aces they have.
Partner's reply:
4♦ = 4 or no Aces, 4♥ = 1 Ace, 4♠ = 2 Aces, 4NT = 3 Aces
- 5♣ asks partner how many Kings they have.
Partner's reply:
5♦ = 4 or no Kings, 5♥ = 1 King, 5♠ = 2 Kings, 5NT = 3 Kings

Blackwood Convention (Only in suit contracts)

- 4NT asks partner how many Aces they have.
Partner's reply:
5♠ = 4 or no Aces, 5♦ = 1 Ace, 5♥ = 2 Aces, 5♣ = 3 Aces
- 5NT asks partner how many Kings they have.
Partner's reply:
6♠ = 4 or no Kings, 6♦ = 1 King, 6♥ = 2 Kings, 6♣ = 3 Kings

QUANTITATIVE 4NT (Only after P opens 1NT)

- 4NT asks partner:
- PASS if minimum (15HCP)
- BID 6NT if maximum (17 HCP)

OPPONENTS OPEN THE BIDDING

Overcall: Promises 10+ HCP & Good 5+ card suit
Double: Promises 13+ HCP and support for unbid suits

(NB: You must bid over Partner's low level X, unless Opponent bids)

PENINSULA BRIDGE CLUB

American Standard (5 Card Majors) Duplicate Bridge system **BASIC**

NAMES.....

(Yours and your partner's name)

ABF Nos

(Yours and your partner's numbers)

OPENING BIDS

High Card Points & Length

- 1♣ 12+ HCP & 3-4 cards in that suit
1♦ 12+ HCP & 3-4 cards in that suit
1♥ 12+ HCP & 5 cards in that suit
1♠ 12+ HCP & 5 cards in that suit
1NT 15 – 17 HCP, balanced with maximum 1 doubleton, no voids or singletons & no 5 card major
2 NT 20 – 21 HCP, balanced with maximum 1 doubleton, no voids or singletons & no 5 card major

Strong Bid..... 2♣ strong 19+ (22 + HCP Balanced)

(This is an artificial bid so partner must alert)

Weak Bids..... 2♦ 6-9 HCP & a Good 6 card suit

2♥ 6-9 HCP & a Good 6 card suit

2♠ 6-9 HCP & a Good 6 card suit

Preempts..... 3♣ 6-9 HCP & a Good 7 card suit

3♦ 6-9 HCP & a Good 7 card suit

3♥ 6-9 HCP & a Good 7 card suit

3♠ 6-9 HCP & a Good 7 card suit

RESPONSES to Partners Opening at the ONE Level

0-5 HCP = Pass

6-9 HCP = bid suit (4/5 cards) suit at the 1 level or 1NT

10+HCP bid suit (5 cards) at the 2 level or 2NT

RESPONSES to Partners Opening of INT

Balanced Hand

0-7 HCP = Pass

8-9 HCP = 2NT

10 – 15 HCP = 3NT

16+ HCP bid 4NT - If partner has min 15 points = Pass

If partner has max 17 points = 6NT

18+ HCP = 6NT

22+ HCP = 7NT

Unbalanced Hand

0-7 HCP = Pass (unless you have a 5/6 card suit: bid that suit at 2 level ("Drop Dead" e.g. Partner opens 1NT you have 5/6 hearts/spades. bid 2♥/2♠ - Partner will NOT bid again)

10+ HCP and 6 card suit bid your major long suit at the 4 level, either 4♥, 4♠ or if long suit is a minor bid 3NT

10+ HCP and 5 card suit bid your major long suit at the 3 level, either 3♥, 3♠. Partner will bid 3NT (with only 2 card support) or game.

16+ Bid 4♣ = Gerber Convention (Ace and King Ask) looking for a Slam

RESPONSES to Partners Opening of 2♣ – Strong Bid

Bid 2♦ which is a waiting bid to confirm partner's best suit.

(This is an artificial bid so partner must alert)

When partner has bid, re-look at your hand and count HCP and shape – void add 5 points, singleton add 3 points and doubleton add 1 point
Bid game with fit in partner's suit (26 total points (TP)) or NT with no fit

RESPONSES to Partners Opening of 2♦, 2♥, or 2♠ – Weak Bid

PASS = no support (even with an opening hand)

Raise the suit to the 3 level with 3-card support

Raise the suit to the 4 level with 4-card support

16+ HCP and 2 or more trumps = bid game

16+ HCP & 5 card suit = bid own new suit (forcing to game & hoping partner might have 3-card support in the new bid suit – you must bid)