



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

November 2015

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba 4350
PO Box 16045, Northpoint 4350



Editor: Floyd Wilson

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President's Report



At our Club's Annual General Meeting on 24th October, our new Management Committee was elected. A complete listing of Committee members and other Office Holders is in this newsletter.

Although I was not expecting to take on the role of President, I will do all I can to ensure the continued success of our club. Unfortunately, I will be absent on pre-planned holidays for some months, but I am sure the club will operate well in my absence because of the quality people we have on our committee. I would like to thank all the members who wished me well for the coming year.

I was pleased to see quite a few of our newer members on the Committee and I hope they will 'learn the ropes' and form a good basis for future committees.

Keith Jenkin (President), Glenys Clift (Secretary), Peter Cory, Robbie Fulton (Congress Convenor), Pam Gebbett, Ann Klibbe, Roger Ley and Diana McDougall all retired as Committee Members. They have made excellent contributions to the Management of the Club and I thank all of them for their contributions. They are all continuing to contribute to the club in a variety of other ways and I also thank them for that.

One very important position, which remains unfilled, is that of Congress Convenor as Robbie Fulton, who has served in this position for many years, would like a year or so off. Robbie has indicated he would be happy to have a chat with any person who may be interested in this role to discuss what is involved. The responsibilities of the Congress Convenor are in the Club's By-Laws at By-Law 4.5 Congress Convenor, which can be accessed from the Club's home page. Robbie has offered to be the Congress Convenor for the congress in January. Thanks Robbie.

Our Christmas Party is on Saturday 5th December starting at 11.00 am, and Leonie Spence has volunteered to coordinate this event and will be looking for volunteers to assist her. As Leonie cannot be at the party, we need a volunteer, not necessarily a

committee member, to take over the reins on 2nd December or earlier if need be. The format will be "bring a plate".

Unfortunately, due to time constraints, the Program Book will not be ready for the Christmas Party. Instead a single sheet with the program for January will be provided for members. This will also be available on our home page and at sessions after the Christmas Party. The complete Program Book will be distributed in January.

The Open Day will be held on Sunday 14th February 2016 (St Valentine's Day). Glenys Clift is the Open Day Coordinator. Volunteers will be needed to assist with this event so please contact Glenys if you can help. More information will be forthcoming in early January when Glenys will call a meeting of volunteers. Please consider helping, as this event assists in lifting the profile of our club and attracting new members.

A major focus of 2016 will be planning for the future of the club. This will involve considering the recommendations in the TBC Strategic Plan, which has been developed over several months by a small sub-committee and was tabled at the Committee Meeting on Monday 16th November, and trying to ensure that every management position has a trained stand-in should the incumbent not be able to carry out their duties.

I anticipate that any resultant changes that may have an effect on our members will be appropriately discussed and publicised.

Many thanks to every volunteer who helps inside or outside the clubrooms. The Club runs effectively thanks to the many volunteers of this Club.

Each member can help the club to operate smoothly and in ways that can contribute to the pleasure of playing bridge and socialising at the club by ensuring that we have a clean, safe and friendly environment in which to do so.

In closing, I wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.

Henry Eastment, President

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Henry Eastment
VICE PRESIDENT	Adrian Mayers
SECRETARY	Margaret Tucker
TREASURER	Chris Snook
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	John Churchett Desley Hanrahan John Laker Jean Moetara David Roberts Leonie Spence Lyn Vary

OFFICE HOLDERS

CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	Chris Snook
CONGRESS CONVENOR	Vacant
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Chris Snook
PROVIDORE	Keith Jenkin
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Glenys Clift
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook Lyn Vary David Roberts Roger Ley
ZONAL DELEGATES	Chris Snook Adrian Mayers Kim Nicoll
PRESS OFFICER	Kim Nicoll
TEACHING COORDINATOR	Glenys Clift
LIBRARIAN	Jean Moetara
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	John Churchett
HOUSEKEEPER	Lyn Vary
SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR	John Laker
WELFARE OFFICER	Glenda Filbee
FIRST AID KIT	Roger Ley
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Bruce Hinchliffe
INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY & WEBMASTER	Chris Snook David Roberts
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	Adrian Mayers
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Trevor Glasby
BOARD DEALING COORDINATOR	Roger Ley
BIRTHDAY CLUB	Pam Gebbett
RECORDER/CONCILIATION	Vacant
PARTNERSHIP ARRANGER	Pam Gebbett

As well as the elected and appointed positions, the Toowoomba Bridge Club has three sub-committees to help coordinate the running of the club:

TOURNAMENT SUB-COMMITTEE:

Tournament Directors: Val Buchanan, Glenys Clift, Henry Eastment, Gabrielle Elich, Ian Jesser, Adrian Mayers, Ray Moore, Chris Snook, Ed Willey, Floyd Wilson, Liz Zeller.

Trainee Directors: Keith Jenkin, David Lynch, Leonie Spence.

SOCIAL SUB-COMMITTEE:

Leonie Spence, Virginia Hathaway, Kim Nalder, Beth Brown, Gwen Francis and Pam Gebbett.

TEACHING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Glenys Clift, Trudy Dunne, Henry Eastment, Denise Hartwig, Ian Jesser, Ann Klibbe, Chris Snook, Leonie Spence, Liz Zeller.



2016 Management Committee Members

Membership Secretary's Report

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2016

To qualify for the Birthday Club in 2016 you need to be a member of the club by the 31st December, 2015. We bought this rule in when it was first started because it is unfair if members join partway through the year after their birthday.

To ensure you are registered with the Australian Bridge Federation, members will need to pay their membership subscriptions by the end of February. Subs are actually due by the 1st January, but we have always allowed a little leeway on this. You can pay at the club, by post or bank transfer.

Paying by Bank Transfer

Heritage has made life a little interesting for people trying to pay by bank transfer.

- If you are paying from any other bank, then just use BSB = 630-070, Acct = 10157956.
- If you are using the Heritage Transfer between Heritage Accounts (as many people try to do), then Member Number = 10157956, Account = S21.

- If you are using Heritage but using the "Interbank Transfer" option, then Account Name = Toowoomba Bridge Club, BSB = 630-070, Account Number = 10157956 ... and then Heritage will recognise it is one of their own accounts and will add the S21 on itself.

Glenys Clift
Membership Secretary

Secretary's Report

The new Management Committee had its first meeting on the 16th November. The minutes from this meeting will appear on the noticeboard and on our website in due course.

Club members are invited to read these minutes, and contact a member of the Management Committee if they would like further explanation.

Members should also contact a Committee member if they have any issue that they wish to bring to the Committees' attention.

Best wishes,
Margaret Tucker
Secretary

Session Rules Reminder

- Players should be **seated** 10 minutes prior to the start of play for a session.
- The Director makes the final decision on seating arrangements and on playing arrangements in the room (eg windows, airconditioning).
- Only **green** and **blue** systems are permitted in club events.
- System cards are compulsory for competitions and red master point events and strongly recommended for all other sessions.
- No notices are permitted on the noticeboards unless approval is given from the club Executive.
- No trading is permitted on the club premises unless written permission is given via the Management Committee.

New Master Rankings

Congratulations to the following members who have achieved new Master rankings:

<u>Graduate</u>	Anne Fisher Alastair Nixon Lorraine Robinson Virginia Hathaway Anne Hall Kim Nalder Terr Randall
<u>Club</u>	Kathleen Beckwith Kay Duncan Jim Rowen Frances Leeson
<u>Local</u>	John Hughes Trevor Henderson Gregory Crank Philip Atkinson
<u>*Local</u>	Jane Tait John Cox John Maslen
<u>**Local</u>	Toni Tod Jan Lindau Pam Hosfield
<u>Regional</u>	Leonie Spence John Laker Jacki Horne Arthur Bilby
<u>State</u>	Judith Glasby Fleur Hopkins Trevor Glasby Pat Fenaughty Cel Phillips Janice Clark
<u>*State</u>	Keith Jenkin Judy Reynolds Rebecca Knight
<u>National</u>	John Elich Desiree Fenaughty
<u>Life</u>	Lorraine Sutton
<u>Gold Life</u>	Kent Taylor
<u>Grand</u>	Jacqueline Henderson



Congratulations!

Treasurer's Report

As at the end of June 2015, the club had a total of \$153,907.30 "cash at bank". Of course, there will always be some bills still in the pipeline. These funds are held in the following accounts:

\$27,725.66	General Account
\$ 7,605.10	Congress Account
\$56,159.35	Term Deposit – Sinking Fund
\$11,153.08	Term Deposit – Sinking Fund
\$51,264.11	Term Deposit – Sinking Fund

The three term deposits are a "sinking fund" to cover future major expenses such as repainting, replacing carpets, carpark repairs, replacing air-conditioners, etc. Our building is now eight years old and we are starting to have to expend money on minor repairs and updates. Fortunately, we are in a sound financial position to do so.

Significant expenses over the past few months have included:

ABF and QBA membership levies	\$10,818.19
Advertising for Open Day	\$2,874.31
Building Insurance	\$1,369.00
Electricity Bill	\$1,684.06
Water Rates	\$725.83
288 Queens Slipper playing cards	\$858.50
Honorariums	\$7,570.00
Masterpoints April-June	\$999.11
Fence on Southern boundary	\$1,534.00

Overall, our club continues to do well in providing excellent playing facilities for the game we all love so much.



Chris Snook
Treasurer

Congress Convenor's Report

Hi All,

Our new Congress got off to a flying start on Sunday 15th Nov.

It was a teams event and we had 22 tables. This is the same number of tables we had at our 3-day congress in October.

Entrants came from far and wide. TBC had 47 members playing followed by QCBC with 11, DDBC with 8, Lockyer and Dalby with 6 piece

and participants from Goondiwindi, Warwick, Northern Suburbs, Redcliffe and BBC.

It was a good roll-up, pleasant atmosphere and well directed, but I think Leonie had a bit of a gripe over the catering. We'll work that one out next time I see her.

Leonie also had a good team doing a fine job in the kitchen and that takes a lot of pressure off the Congress Convenor (me), as I am seldom at the club mid-week, and really hardly know anyone.

Anyway, thanks Leonie, your help is appreciated. Thanks also to John Churchett who collected the money. Without John, we wouldn't have made as much profit!!

A friendly reminder.

31st January sees us start the year with the Toowoomba Novice Pairs. This is a great leveller for our Novice members. No Grand Masters to give you the Heebie-Jeebies and everyone you play against will be just like you; Novices.

I'll have the entry forms up in the clubrooms round about Christmas week and the more entries the merrier. It's about time Chris was challenged with a really big field, so keep your eyes peeled for the entry forms.

Enjoy your festive season,

Robbie

PS: Anyone looking for a job as Congress Convenor? I've been doing it for 6 of the last 8 years at one club or another and I need a break. I will be able to help at all times. Contact Henry Eastment if you are interested.

Providores' Report

Here we are with another year ahead of us.

I enjoyed being your Providore during the last year. I would like to thank the members who helped me out either supplying sandwiches cakes etc so as we can enjoy the afternoons play. I am appreciative of the offers to help prepare for the afternoon also. I look forward to the following year and I hope you will continue to enjoy the afternoon teas that I love to supply you.

Good Bridging,

Keith Jenkin
Providore



Masterpoint Secretary's Report

Last year in the ABF census period (October 2014 - September 2015) members of the Toowoomba Bridge Club earned 1,741.96 green, 355.52 red and 19.20 gold masterpoints in regular club play. Based on these green points, we have been allocated 33 red masterpoint sessions for 2016 to be shared amongst all of our playing sessions.

A number of our players also earned many more masterpoints by playing in Congresses. With two months still to go, our top 20 masterpoint earners for the calendar year should come as no surprise to many of you.

	Name	Ranking	Total	2015
1	Jesser, Ian	Silver Life	696.15	100.10
2	Zeller, Elizabeth	Silver Life	652.98	97.04
3	Marler, Dianne	Grand	1,803.94	92.71
4	Longford, Byron	Silver Life	588.50	63.87
5	Eastment, Henry	Silver Life	979.57	58.89
6	Larsen, Patricia	Grand	1,046.35	55.03
7	Mayers, Adrian	Silver Grand	3,216.25	54.21
8	Elich, Gabrielle	National	180.97	52.43
9	Wilson, Carol	Bronze Life	633.44	49.39
10	Wlodarczyk, Justine	*State	107.92	48.29
11	McRoberts, Laurie-Marie	Life	391.30	46.87
12	Kelley, Rosemary	Bronze Life	471.48	43.89
13	Fulton, Robert	Life	410.01	43.21
14	Elich, John	National	159.63	43.04
15	Clift, Glenys	Silver Life	730.07	42.64
16	Buckley, Jennifer	Silver Life	670.12	41.14
17	Gardner, Sheryl	*National	214.43	39.93
18	Wippell, Barbara	*National	281.04	39.91
19	Josey, Eileen	Gold Life	783.10	39.30
20	Sutton, Lorraine	Life	304.68	38.98

I do need to remind you that the "masterpoints" printed on the noticeboard or shown on our website in the Results section or the Individual Results section, are provisional until I check and process them at the end of the month and they are approved by the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

It is easy to check your masterpoints (or your friends) on the ABF website. Simply visit:

<http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au>

and click on "Player – Masterpoints Lookup".

You can do this on the club computers at any time. If you feel that you are missing some masterpoints, check with the Club Masterpoint Secretary in the first instance.

Cheers,
Chris
Masterpoint Secretary

In the Zone

Dates for 2016

Selecting dates for zone events is always a compromise:

- Too early in the year and people's plans and even partnerships can change by the time the Final comes around.
- Too late in the year and people are rushed to arrange accommodation for the Final.
- The second half of the year has become rather busy the last year or two.
- Avoid clashing with major congresses.
- Avoiding being the week before or after a local congress.
- Avoiding "school holidays" and have nothing in January.

Anyway, the dates for Zone events have not yet been finalised for 2016, but tentatively we are looking at:

- Zone Qualifying Round for Queensland Open Teams on Sunday 10th April 2016.
- Zone Qualifying Round for Queensland Open Pairs on Sunday 10th July 2016.
- Zone Qualifying Round for Grand National Open Teams on Sunday 21st August 2016.

Once confirmed, these will be included in our program book and added to the club website. You should also check the "Zones" section of the QBA website for more details.

The "Elich" team (John Elich, Gabrielle Elich, Carol Wilson and Desiree Fenaughty) had a very good win at the Zone Final of the Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) hosted by Dalby on 25th October. Over 1,000 teams entered this event in clubs all around Australia –

now they are down to the top 64. We wish them well as they proceed to the National Final at Tweed Heads at the end of November.

Chris

OPEN DAY Sunday 14th February 2016

The last two years our Club has used our Open Day to promote our lessons plus it is a wonderful way to showcase our club and what we have to offer to the community. At their last meeting, our Committee voted to run this again next year.

Once the dates for the start of lessons are worked out, our promotional flyer should be available for members to distribute by early December. And going on past experience, the best form of advertising comes from our members. If you know of friends or family who might be interested in learning bridge, please feel free to help yourself to a flyer/s, which will be left in the entry. If you live in a Retirement Village, you can take as many as you like for distribution. Once again, there will be a display advertisement in the Chronicle.

The Amputee & Family Support Group are very keen to be involved with the sausage sizzle, as it is their only fund raiser.

There will be a planning meeting in the first half of January and if you have any ideas where you think the Club can improve on what we have done in the past, it would be great to hear from you. We have a lot of very clever people in our club and the more ideas, the better.

Glenys Clift – Promotions

BRIDGE TIP

“When you are dealt a bad hand or your partner gives you a rotten dummy in bridge – it is a bit like life. It reflects on you as to how you handle your life as to how you handle a bridge hand. Do the best you can and hope that life or bridge deals you a better hand next time”

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would like to acknowledge our outgoing Editor, Floyd Wilson for the great job he has done over the last 10 years.

Floyd Wilson took over the newsletter when we started our fundraising and planning for the new club house in Stuart Street in 2005. As well as keeping everyone up to date on latest happenings, he revamped the newsletter into its present form adding photos etc., and has done a marvellous job.

The printing, collating and enveloping of our newsletter prior to getting our present you-beaut photocopier was a major production back then taking up many hours - Majella being his main helper.

With our newsletter now being sent by email where possible and hard copies only posted to those members without email, the job has certainly become a lot more manageable for our new Editor, John Churchett.

Thanks Floyd and thanks Majella.

Glenys Clift.

Groundnut Soup

(Recipe provided by Pam Gebbett)

Fry onions chopped in small amount of oil. Add chopped vegetables mushrooms, tomatoes, (any old boots lying around), good dollop of tomato puree, Worcestershire sauce, Magi sauce, soy sauce.

Add stock, either home made or bought stuff and bring to the boil, simmer until vegetables are cooked. Cool down before blending with a magic stick, add salt, pepper and a good pinch of chilli powder.

Warn guests of the content because there are so many allergies about. More peanut paste makes the soup thicker.

Welfare Officer

Please contact Glenda Filbee on her home phone (4636-7622) or at the club if you know of a member who is ill, hospitalized or suffering a bereavement and Glenda will respond suitably on behalf of the Club.

Winners are Grinners

The “Monthly Winner” awards are displayed on the noticeboard and on the club website. This is a good way to celebrate the high performing players in each session and also provide additional green masterpoints to those players who play regularly in club sessions. They are officially called “**multisession individual eclectic events**”.

Here is how it works:

- They are a **multisession** event combining the overall scores of all your sessions on a given day in the month that have not already been counted in other events.
- They are an **individual** event so that you are not locked out of a monthly award because you are a social butterfly who plays with different people. If you happen to play with the same partner all the time and win then you will share the combined masterpoints for first and second.
- They are an **eclectic** event which means that your best X scores are counted out of Y sessions. In a typical month there might be 4 sessions available and your best 3 of these scores are counted. If only 3 sessions are available then your best 2 scores are counted. Thus you can miss one session or have a bad day and still be in the monthly competition. Only pairs events are counted in these eclectics – not teams.

July Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	Paul Matthews
Wednesday	Roy Reynolds
Thursday Morning	Jane Lawson
Thursday Arvo	Edwin Willey & Bruce Meakins
Thursday Night	Margie Maddison & Suzanne Brazier
Friday	Ian Jesser
Saturday	Lorraine Sutton & Robbie Fulton

August Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	Val Witenden
Tuesday	Carol Wilson & Ian Jesser
Tuesday Night	Edwin Willey & Harvey Billing
Wednesday	Glenys Clift
Thursday night	Dave Edwards
Friday	Val Buchanan

September Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	Kathleen Beckwith
Tuesday	Carol Wilson & Ian Jesser
Tuesday Night	Henry Eastment
Wednesday	Ian Jesser
Thursday Morning	Glenda Filbee & Aino Jaatinen
Thursday	Ian Jesser & Henry Eastment
Thursday night	Alison Lewis
Friday	Kent Taylor

October Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	Dave & Kathleen Mulherin
Tuesday	Ian Jesser & Carol Wilson
Wednesday	Jeff Aitchison
Thursday Morning	Greg Crank
Thursday Arvo	Edwin Willey
Thursday Night	Michelle Alroe & Hugh Robinson
Friday	Jackie Henderson & Val McClement
Saturday	Henry Eastment & Adrian Mayers

In local competitions:

Tuesday Pairs Competition

Carol Wilson & Ian Jesser

Tuesday Night Pairs Competition

Chris Snook & Mohan Trada

Tuesday Night Teams

Edwin Willey, Harvey Billing, Robert Fulton & Trevor Henderson

Thursday Pairs Competition

Jenni Buckley & Jim Wood
Edwin Willey & Bruce Meakins

Club Pairs Championship

Open: Liz Zeller & Gabrielle Elich
Novice: Vi Woollett & Philip Atkinson

And on the congress scene:

Lockyer Swiss Pairs

B 1st Leonie Spence & Lavinia Minchin
B 2nd Diana Drummond & Barbara Power
B 3rd Majella & Floyd Wilson

Darling Downs Swiss Pairs

1st Will Higgins & Mohan Trada
3rd Edwin Willey & Bruce Meakins
B 2nd Lesley Meyer & John Churchett
B 3rd Jane Lindenberg & Patricia Ford

- ✓ B 3rd Desiree Fenaughty & Denise Hartwig
- ✓ C 1st Roger Ley & Rene Grayson
- ✓ C 2nd John Laker & John Oxenham

✓ **Toowoomba Novice Teams**

- ✓ 2nd Rebecca Knight, Naureen Gearon,
Heather Bradley & Vi Woollett
- ✓ 3rd Hugh Robinson, John Laker, David
Lynch & Chris Evans
- ✓ B 1st Leonie Spence, Lavinia Minchin, Marilyn
Oakroot & Robyn Pearson
- ✓ B 2nd Pam Hosfield, Steve Hosfield, Coral Apel
& Margie Maddison
- ✓ C 1st Joy Orrin, Gerry Orrin, Annette Topp
& Michelle Porter

✓ **Dalby Swiss Pairs**

- ✓ 1st Alison Dawson & Liz Zeller
- ✓ 2nd Chris Snook & Glenys Clift
- ✓ B 1st Roger Ley & Ann Klibbe
- ✓ B 1st Mary McConachy & Fay Short

✓ **Dalby Swiss Teams**

- ✓ 1st Jackie Henderson, Laurie-Marie
McRoberts, Byron Longford & Henry
Eastment
- ✓ 2nd Pat Larsen, Sue Spinks, Liz Zeller
& Alison Dawson

✓ **Toowoomba Labour Day Congress – Pairs**

- ✓ 2nd Liz Zeller & Pat Larsen
- ✓ B 1st Robbie Fulton & Lorraine Sutton
- ✓ B 2nd Denise Hartwig & Sheryl Gardner
- ✓ C 1st Ruth Sargent & Grace Ireland
- ✓ C 2nd Tony & Libby Thorne

✓ **Toowoomba Labour Day Congress – Teams**

- ✓ B 2nd John Elich, Gabrielle Elich, Carol Wilson
& Desire Fenaughty

✓ **Toowoomba Swiss Teams (November)**

- ✓ B 2nd Denise Hartwig, Mavis Simpson,
Lawrie Price & Greg Munck
- ✓ C 1st Roz Wright, Robyn Parry, Margie
Maddison & Coral Apel
- ✓ C 2nd Annette Topp, Michelle Porter,
Joy Orrin & Gerry Orrins

✓ Join me in congratulating all these players for the
success they have enjoyed.

✓ Chris

✓ **Congratulations!**

✓ The following photos (featuring Toowoomba
Place-getters) were taken at the Labour Day
Congress in October.



✓ Second in the Pairs: Elizabeth Zeller and Pat
Larsen.



✓ B Category Pairs winners: Robbie Fulton and
Lorraine Sutton.



✓ Second in B Category Pairs: Sheryl Gardner and
Denise Hartwig.



Tony and Elizabeth Thorne were second in C Category.



Winners of the Swiss Teams event were, left to right: Sue O'Brien, Margaret Millar, Ivy Luck and Paul Collins. This was a team of 5; missing was John Luck.



Sisters Mary McConachy and Eileen Josey competed at the Congress.



They hoped to "clean up" at the Congress – but not necessarily THIS way! Rebecca Knight and Heather Bradley came in from Dalby to join our own popular pair Judy and Trevor Glasby.

HO HO HO

Christmas Party 2015

To be held on the 5th December.

Come along and join the fun at the Club's Christmas party and presentation of prizes. Please arrive around 10:30am for an 11am start. We want everyone seated by 11am so we can present prizes, etc.

Lunch will be at 12 noon and then we start playing bridge at 1 pm.

If you need to keep your food warm or need it heated then use the oven or the pie warmer.



A Few Directing Matters

Club Program

We are in the process of developing the playing schedule and the Program Booklet for 2016, and at a recent joint meeting of the Management Committee and Tournament Subcommittee, the following were considered:

- We have been granted 33 red masterpoint sessions for 2016 and these will be distributed amongst the Open sessions in the club throughout the year (eg not at Restricted nor Supervised sessions).
- Move the Beginners Supervised session and Thursday morning Restricted session to Friday morning.
- Reduce the number of multi-session events unless it is a major competition. (In other words, have more single sessions for Social play).
- Work towards greater consistency in the number of boards played in each session (eg target for Thursday night is 24-27, Regular session is 30-33, etc)
- Move towards grading each of the larger sessions. The grading will be gentle and will depend on the playing strength of the overall field. A single field will be used for major competitions.

Avoiding an Interrogation (or how to survive one)

I'll explain this article by way of some examples (some real, some modified to protect the innocent and some made up to make a point) and in each case we assume I am sitting South.

Case 1: Not enough information

As South, I open 1H. West overcalls 2H. My partner, North, correctly asks East the meaning of the 2H call and is told "Michaels".

Now, the problem is the general understanding of Michaels is 5-5 in the other major and a minor with typically 7-11 HCP. As the hand is played we belatedly discover that West was 5-5 but had 2 HCP. There is nothing wrong with them having a system that allows this – but they must disclose it!! The QBA System

Regulations tell a player that they must describe their partnership agreement NOT just give a name of a system.

Case 2: A bit more information

Same auction but this time the explanation comes back "Michaels, could be weak could be strong". This is still not enough. The explanation should be short and complete Perhaps something like "Shows 5 spades and 5 of a minor. Can be as low as 2 points. If partner has more than XX points then later they will".

Case 3: Pulling teeth

Same auction 1H-2H-question.

Answer comes back "Michaels"

Partner asks "what's that"

Answer comes back "5-5"

Partner asks "what's that"

Answer comes back "5 spade and 5 of minor"

Partner asks "how many points"

Answer comes back "7-11"

Partner asks "Can he have a void"

Partner asks "How many hearts does he have"
This sequence can be fixed at step one by as clear an explanation as possible. This would avoid the sequence starting to lead towards an interrogation by my partner (which is not allowed).

Case 4: I forget

This time it is poor me. As South I open 1H, Leftie passes and my partner calls 4C. I am stumped. Then the sequence starts ...

They ask "what's that"

"I don't know. I think it has a special meaning but I have forgotten. We better call the Director"

The Director arrives, and in a nice gentle manner guides me away from the table, my partner explains our system to the opponents, I come back and we continue an enjoyable game.

Case 5: I Dunno

I'm in a similar situation to last time, except now the auction goes 1H-pass-4D-question. They ask "What's that"

"I don't know, it is not part of our system".

They ask "But what's that. You must know"

"It has no meaning in our system. Partner appears to have made up a call".

They ask "Is it a cue bid or a control ask"

"I don't know what they are"

... and the interrogation continues.

This is NOT ACCEPTABLE. We do not interrogate people. If a player has genuinely forgotten their system they will tell you and you call the Director, or they will realise as the hand is played and will call the Director.

If a partnership does not have an agreement on a particular call, then that is the rub of the green. The auction or play continues and the score stands.

The answer in all these cases is that we should call for the Director as soon as the communication between the asker and responder appears to be failing.

When I say call for the Director, I mean in a gentle polite voice, something like "Director please". Bellowing or screeching for the Director will put everyone on edge and really is in breach of Law 74.

Ask nice, answer nice, play nice.

SUPERVISED PLAY 2016

Beginner Supervised - Friday 9AM

Supervised playing sessions are a great way for all novice players to get started. If you have recently been doing beginners lessons or are simply new to playing duplicate bridge at our club, these are the sessions where you can practise, improve your skills and reinforce the basics.

Chris Snook will be running the Beginner Supervised next year on Friday mornings starting at 9AM. THIS WILL START ON THE 15TH JANUARY, 2016.

It will be limited to players under 5 MP and will focus on reinforcing the basics. You do not need a partner; you can refer to your notes and you can ask for help.

Intermediate Supervised - Wednesday 9AM

Ian Jesser will continue his Intermediate Supervised sessions open to all members.

This is a very popular session and introduces more advanced bidding techniques.



The Editor wishes all readers of the Newsletter a very merry Christmas and a New Year filled with good cheer and great bridge.



Merry
Christmas

Thanks to Our Sponsors

A reminder to members that we enjoy sponsorship support from the following companies:

RetireInvest
My Personal Travel Planner
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For contact details and other information provided by these companies, please refer to the sponsorship noticeboard in the club rooms.

Please support the companies that support us.



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