

# Peninsula News and Views



*Newsletter of the Peninsula Bridge Club*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT Alan Davis

The Club operates effectively because of the time donated by members, not only the members of the committee and the directors, but also others, too many to mention by name. There are the dealers of our pre-dealt boards; our kitchen helpers; librarian; those maintaining our bidding boxes; the buyers of our supplies; those who support our education programme; those who contribute on days like the charity day, Melbourne Cup day, the Christmas party, our teams congress. My thanks go to all of them.

Melbourne Cup day was an outstanding success. The food was excellent and the race an upset. Special thanks go to Sue Riley who went beyond the call of duty and Verl Lawrence our Director as well as the many others who helped in making the day a success.

Many of you will know Tony Howes who has directed our major events for several years. Tony has decided to cut back on his directing for more leisure time and as a consequence you will see two new directors next year. They are Stephen Lester and Colin Mitchell. Stephen recently presented a workshop at the Club on the Jacoby two no trump convention. Tony has made a significant contribution to the Club, not only through his directing but as a source of advice for the Club's Directors. I am sure you will welcome our two new directors next year.

The Sydney metropolitan final of the Grand National Pairs was held recently at North Shore Bridge Club. This is a gold point event run by the ABF for players below the level of Life Master. 61 pairs participated from the Sydney area, with the first four NS and EW pairs qualifying to play in the national final in Canberra in January. Colin Chase and Michael Hanvey had an exceptional day and won the EW section with 60% in the morning session and 71% in the afternoon. Daylight was second. Congratulations to them both and here's hoping they perform well in Canberra.

We have been working on our calendar for next year. One of our objectives has been to continue to provide more variety in our bridge offerings. This past year we have run a Swiss pairs competition once a month on a Tuesday night and we have participated in the ABF's Nationwide Pairs every fortnight on a Friday night. In October, Jim Rothwell and Peter Clarke won the Nationwide Pairs coming first out of around 400 pairs. Congratulations to them. Peter is the new editor of this newsletter.

As for next year, we plan to continue to participate in the Nationwide pairs, but to move it once a month to a Monday. Our Swiss pairs will continue and we plan to run one on a weekday as a trial. Other initiatives we are considering include an additional members only teams event bringing this to two for the year, and "teams of three" events where three members form a team and play with an "experienced" member. The idea is to make our regular players more familiar with the teams format. We also want to introduce some of our new members to teams.

We have decided to drop our winter, spring and summer pairs events as a result of lack of interest from our members. These will be replaced by an Autumn individual. This event will be run over four sessions and players must play with a different member each session, a similar format to the Jean Stebbins trophy.

Compliments of the season to you all and a successful 2013.



Being the President involves numerous ceremonial duties, some of them more arduous than others.—this one seems relatively straight forward. Here our beloved President is accepting a certificate of appreciation from Ken Hughes, Warringah Pittwater RFS after a donation of \$4000 raised on our bridge club charity day. The same amount was given to the Mona Vale Hospital Auxiliary.

This is a hand from **Bridge Squeezes Complete** by Clyde E Love

#### Bidding

North	West	North	East	South
♠ K72	P	1♣	P	1♠
♥ 96	P	2♠	P	4NT
♦ Q754	P	5♦	P	6♠
♣ AK76	P	P	P	P

South	West leads K♥
♠ AQ109	T1: K wins
♥ Q	T2: ♥A ruffed
♦ AK63	T3-4: Spades, both follow
♣ Q83	T5: Spade, west discards ♥7

**BLUE** is the system this book uses to teach people how to squeeze

- B** one defender is **B**usy in 2 suits
- L** declarer has only one **L**oser remaining
- U** at least one threat lies in the **U**pper hand
- E** there will be an **E**nter to the established threat

This exercise is known as a simple squeeze. How would you play this hand? Solution below

### Online Bridge resources

Bridge players are not the first group of people you think of as computer savvy and there is probably good reason for that perception, however the world is increasingly networked and if you are still resisting the internet then unfortunately you are missing out on a plethora of bridge resources.

If you're a little older than the typical geek but are not going to let some new fangled piece of technology get the better of you, why don't you contact your local Computer Pal Club, one that is close to the club is at 1395 Pittwater Road Narrabeen (02) 9913 1433.

**bridge-game.info** David Farmer's excellent local site. This site is full of local news and events

**http://www.bridgeshop.com.au** Well stocked bridge shop at Chatswood - it's Xmas, what more should I say

**www.abf.com.au** Australian Bridge Federation's page. We fund this site through our fees so you should at least visit it

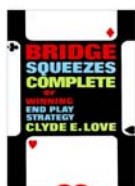
**http://www.acbl.org** The American Contract Bridge League—consider joining, it's worth it

**www.bridgebase.com** - Free online bridge on the largest bridge site in the world and great forums

**groups.google.com/group/rec.games.bridge** Active bridge forum

**http://www.ebooksbridge.com** Lots of digital bridge books ready for your Kindle, Nook, iPad etc

**https://twitter.com** peninsularbridgeclub Yes we have a twitter account, check it out!



### Bridge Squeezes Complete [Love] ISBN 978-0- 9566576-0-2

This book was first published in 1959, and quickly became one of the classics of the game. Generations of bridge players have learned the fundamentals of squeeze play from Love. Available for about \$37 from bridge stores and \$26 electronically. Here is a typical Amazon review:

If you read this book thoroughly it will improve your game tremendously. The bidding in it is antiquated and it is written as a very dense textbook, but the declarer play is incredible. Love describes in detail all the different kinds of squeezes and how to execute them. He has detailed examples for you to work through, and then problems for you to try on your own before looking at the answers. His coverage of strip squeezes was a bit confusing, but he covers simple, double and compound squeezes wonderfully (he covers more exotic squeezes, too). However, I wish he had discussed defending against squeeze plays more (it was only mentioned briefly).

#### Solution

Run all the spades, only watching diamond discards, then run the diamonds - it really is that easy

West	East
♠ 83	♠ 654
♥ AK7	♥ J1085432
♦ J982	♦ 10
♣ J1054	♣ 92

**Analysis:** Even if neither minor runs there is a chance the 2 suits might lie in the same hand. Then with the threats ♦6, ♣7 **BLUE** is in hand against any adversary.

## Cath Whiddon - PBC Education Director presents an overview of the year

We started the year by offering two new beginners courses on a Monday and a Thursday evening. Thanks to the great “word-of-mouth” advertising from members and last years’ happy beginners we signed up 21 for the daytime and 25 evening new players and a few returning players who wanted to refresh or consolidate previous lessons. With such a large group it was great that we now also have a band of volunteer bridge educators to share the joy of introducing new people to the “Best mind game in the World” - THANKS: Pam Bailey, Kelly Barber, Vickie Busteed, Jo Jarvis, Terry and Lois Rothwell.

Our beginners course and the follow up consolidation lessons have developed in consultation with bridge educators locally and around Australia and overseas, so that our Bridge Education programme is aligned with current best practices. As a result we have an extremely high completion rate and consistently receive excellent performance reviews from happy graduates in our formal satisfaction surveys.

We encourage our beginners to try a supervised session (Monday night 7pm, Tuesday afternoon 2.15pm and Friday morning 9.45am) about half-way through the Beginners Course. The aim of the supervised sessions is to build our students’ confidence by making them feel secure in their new environment. Deciding which play point applies to which situation has to be learned through experience and practise, and the idea here is to encourage the players to get into the habit of making a plan on each hand and then play it, hopefully in around 7 minutes, to prepare for the next step: a regular duplicate session. Our supervised sessions also reinforce the bridge etiquette our club values, as well as familiarising new players with scoring and moving.

This year we introduced beginners and improvers to a regular club session on a Saturday. We “eased” them into this with the offer of playing with an experienced member. Thanks to bridge educators, committee members and directors we were able to run a complete section of 9 tables at the end of May and a repeat in June for those who missed out the first time. We developed a special basic system card for play and a “7 Tips for Starting in the Big Time!”. It was a great success, with many beginners commenting on how welcomed they felt and deciding to take the plunge and play in more regular club sessions. We are repeating this special “protected” section at our Christmas party to encourage new members to enjoy the social side of the game.

We also run a series of in-house workshops on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday night of each month to introduce (or revise/practise) different Conventions (Stayman, Transfers, 2C Openings Blackwood & Gerber) , as well as pre-empt, leads and defence strategies. After attending a teacher training weekend workshop, Kelly and I have been using “Transitions” – a “cards-on-the table” method of teaching (ie: a practical, student-focused, activity-based way to develop concepts in bidding and defence by playing the cards). That probably sounds obvious to many of you – especially ex-teachers, but it is quite a challenge for us to develop our bridge teaching skills to cater to a diverse group of players with a wide range of experience, skill, learning style, age, and reasons for taking a class. Luckily we enjoy the challenge and the game.

For our experienced members we organised expert bridge players and teachers to come on a different day spread throughout the year and run a workshop of their choice. This year our guest presenters were:

- \* **John Roberts** Bidding over opponents pre-empt
- \* **Joan Butts** Comp Bidding w/o a fit
- \* **David Beauchamp** “Talk to me Partner”
- \* **Will Jenner-O’Shea** “World’s Worst leads”
- \* **Stephen Lester** Refining the use of Jacoby 2NT to find/avoid Slams

These workshops were well attended, averaging about 30 Members & Visitors at each session, and subsidised by PBC.

To finish the year, we offered another beginners course on Thursday nights & Friday mornings. We have 23 beginners currently learning this great game. Some are already enjoying practising the play in our Supervised Sessions and we hope you will meet them in your regular duplicate sessions next year and give them the same wonderful warm welcome you have been giving our new members this year. (Approximately 50 of our beginners and improvers have joined the club.)

Looking ahead to 2013, we plan to offer beginners courses day and evening as well as continue our supervised sessions, in-house workshops and professional workshops – no partner required and everyone is very welcome. We also hope to organise a “Team-of-3” event to allow beginners, improvers and other interested members who would like to learn more about playing teams bridge to play with an experienced member to learn “team strategy”.

If you have any questions about our bridge education programme at PBC, please ask me – I’m usually at the club most days and nights. ☺

### Joke of the quarter:

Two weeks ago a regular player called in sick at the last minute. Unable to get a decent replacement, the host in desperation called in a friend who was very mediocre with an attitude. During the game he had to go to the bathroom leaving the door slightly ajar and everyone had the misfortune of listening while he urinated into the toilet.

Embarrassed the host called out, “John would you please close the door!”

Whereupon his partner responded “Never mind, it’s the first time since we started playing that I know what he has in his hand.”



## Anita Kite, well known PBC member faces the press

**Who taught you to play bridge?** John Roberts for which I am eternally grateful. I first began lessons back in 1990 and by luck it was John. With 22 years hindsight I still think he is the best teacher I have encountered.

**What system do you play?** American Standard when we get it right.

**If you could change anything about bridge, what would it be?** I wouldn't change anything, particularly at our club. Many of our older players (look who's talking) come for a good game and also to meet up with others for some social interaction. Long may it continue.

**What characteristics make for a good partner?** Over and above a smart player, who hopefully is playing the same system as myself, it must be someone you are happy to sit opposite for 3 -1/2 hours; as well, non judgemental and forgiving of my misdemeanours.

**Have you made many friends through playing bridge?** Of course I cannot imagine my life without bridge and the many friends I have made through playing this fabulous game.

**Who is your favourite Director?** Overall John Roberts, however let me say how appreciative I am of our Cub Directors, in particular Verl Lawrence who is very experienced and highly regarded. We are very lucky to have her as our Chief Director.

**Are multi 2s essential for the modern bridge player?** Obviously not, as so many top players regard them as a total waste of time. Having said that I enjoy playing them and will continue to do so, at least for the time being.

**What slam convention/s do you use?** Roman Keycard and Gerber.

**Have you ever successfully undertaken a squeeze play?** Yes often and just as often I've been squeezed.

**Do you have a favourite bridge book?** A beginners book called "Let's play Bridge" by Ron Klinger.

**What advice would you give a new player?** Read your notes over and over and learn them thoroughly so you don't rely on aids at the bridge table. Play and enjoy heaps of bridge.

## Finding that pesky slam

Many new players use the Blackwood 4NT convention for finding slam:

After 4NT, with no aces or four, partner replies 5♣, with one, two, or three aces, 5♦, 5♥, or 5♠, respectively. Blackwood is a useful convention but relatively primitive. Here are a couple of alternatives:

### Roman Blackwood:

Responses to 4NT

5♣ with 4 or 1 aces (41)

5♦ for 3 or no aces (30)

5♥ for 2 aces of the same rank **R**

5♠ for 2 aces of mixed rank **M**

5NT for 2 aces of the same colour **C**

Roman Blackwood often allows you to bail from a suicide slam contract. The way you remember it is 41, 30, R, M, C. I dare you to tell me that this is too difficult.

**Roman Keycard** 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.

5♣ shows 1 or 4 key cards

5♦ shows 0 or 3 key cards

5♥ shows 2 or 5 key cards without the trump queen

5♠ shows 2 or 5 key cards with the trump queen

Blackwood is a tool, not a guarantee to slam success and it is a brave bridge player who launches into it without agreement on suit. When I say brave I really mean crazy brave — I'm begging you, don't be that person!

I'm also surprised at how many people use Blackwood to find kings. By asking for kings with a 5NT bid, you are committing the partnership to a small slam. Considering how few people go on to bid grand slam this bid seems a waste of time. It seems better to me to reserve 5NT for something such as the Josephine Convention, which will be discussed next edition