

Peninsula News and Views



Newsletter of the Peninsula Bridge Club

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the last quarter we finally replaced the carpet following the overflow from the water bubbler late last year. At the same time we had all the curtains cleaned and all the bidding boxes were put through a dishwasher (without the cards!). It was a great opportunity to have an Autumn clean. Remarkably very few things have gone missing. We also replaced the dealing machine computer and had the dealing machine serviced. Our dealers have asked whether we had bought a new machine, that's how good the service was. I think the result is outstanding and for that I thank all involved, in particular Alan Erricker, Rosalie Black and Ken Watson.

We continue to attempt to provide a little variety in our bridge offerings. To that end we recently ran a teams of three on a Saturday afternoon following the "pro-am" earlier this year. It was great to see twenty teams participate in the recent members only teams on a Monday afternoon. We appreciate any feedback from participants to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our members and provide some variety.

Our members continue to compete in congresses and other events at other venues. We recently had two teams at the recent NSW Bridge Association teams of 3 with great success. Seven pairs competed recently at the Northern Sydney inter-club pairs, with Loraine Neville and Jeanette Weaver placing second in the restricted section. For those of you who do not access our website, I encourage you to do so, as it is kept up to date with all the latest news.

On August 10 we will be running a Swiss pairs congress following our first running of this last year. It is open to all-comers and there will be prizes for the restricted section as well as the best Peninsula pair. I encourage you to participate to improve your bridge.

Finally a word regarding our charity pairs. Following the success of the recent Bridge for Brains day, we have decided to move the charity day from the usual Sunday. It will now be held on Monday September 8. Details will be provided in due course.

Happy bridging

Alan Davies



Ask the Director—Frank, Fearless and Anonymous

Dear Director—recently Peninsula banned Brown Sticker conventions for club games, do you agree with this? Bemused

Dear Bemused, this decision has provoked a lot of discussion, I'll start with some background information.

A Brown Sticker convention is "Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that: could be weak and does not promise at least four cards in a known suit."

Exceptions:

(i) Where all the weak meanings guarantee at least four cards in one known suit and only the strong options do not.

(ii) A two level opening bid in a minor may show a weak hand with 5+ cards in either major only, or as an option among any number of strong hand types.

b) An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

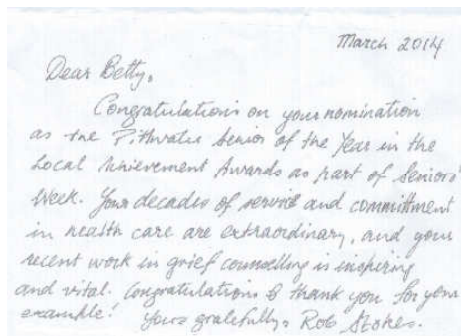
I understand that the intent of this ruling is to protect the majority of members who play a basic Standard American system and who would potentially be disadvantaged as they would have no understanding or defence against such bids.

I think this ruling is a mistake because as a club we should encourage players to improve their game. When Peninsula players compete in tournaments we have to play opponents who use these conventions, our lack of experience of them do our teams no favours. Do we pander to the weak, or strive for greatness? I'll let the committee decide.



Eureka! Hallelujah! I've got 39 points! Aaaaaarrrrrrrrrgh! These were the last words uttered by Cornwall Bridge Champion, Wendy Brown, reports Tina Hewes. It was all too much for Wendy who expired on the spot. Experts say 39 points only come up once in 150,000 times. What about the other members who held the same hand? Was the day declared a disaster or was Wendy consigned to a corner and the game proceeded. History does not say.

Margaret and John Rogers love their Golf as well as their Bridge and they have just been to New Zealand. We heard John was about to sink a 20 metre putt when a quake struck, and it missed. Declaring a Force Majeure (French for 'slips goes over') he tried again but History has failed to record if he sank it. Margaret and John are two of the loyal members who front up to operate the dealing machine.....



Elisabeth Postle was in seventh Heaven when she was nominated Senior of the Year by politico Rob Stokes, he was so sincere he personally sent the this note to Betty. A touch like that is really appreciated.....

If you are still reading, and hoping for something salacious you must be advised that Editor, Peter Clarke, told Mingay's Morsels "All the news that's fit to print". Not to be daunted, Social News advertised for a quality reporter looking for a new posting and received one from a lovely lady with a fuzzy hair style, accompanied by a reference from someone who signed Rupert Mxxxxxxx. We will try her out, wonder why she spells her name Rebekah?

Back to 39 points, rumour has it that once upon a time our dealing machine was told every deal must contain one hand with an opening bid. Why can't we have a 39 pointer? (Ed... Be careful what you wish for Scoop!)

It's the day of an important game at Peninsula, when you go to leave, your car won't start. The hourly bus just went up the street. The club is not yet open, cabs are expensive and even if you rang for one how long would it take to get to you? Never fear, Mingay's Morsels is here! We have an alphabetical list of our 430 members sorted into suburbs. In the time it takes to say "No Bid", Mingay's Morsels can tell you who lives nearby. Just ring 94498075. The club list shows members by surnames but the nimble fingers of Ken Watson danced across the keyboard and the man inside the computer instantly reshuffled everything as ordered. Thanks Ken. Just as a precaution, Tina Hews has a printout of the list in case of hail, rain or fire. If any members would like to make a new friend of someone who lives nearby and has no car or would like to share cars on alternate days, this is your chance.

Which is the suburb with the most members? Bayview 27, Avalon 29, Collaroy 30, Narrabeen 39 and the winner is Mona Vale with 62. Now, which is the most popular Retirement Village? For starters, Fernbank has 5. Surely someone can beat that.

Dorit Taylor has a lovely white car and she was most upset to find a long black scar down one side. It was not necessarily done by a club member but these things happen somewhere, to most of us eventually. Now it has been fixed. Once upon a time, a club member was spotted committing such a crime but that member is no longer a member.

When you leave the Bridge table you may replace "Thank you" with "Lang may your lum reek", if you have been playing against Agnes Cootes, she will understand your good wishes, being a true Scot. It means "long may your chimney smoke", or "long life and happiness".

Rowan Sault and Beth Bethnall had a win recently and are now celebrating it with a cruise together to Polynesia.

Falls! An unpopular way of being in the news. Jutta Gradwell had a bad one and the photo we saw resembled a boxer who had just lost a fight. Therefore no reproduction is permitted in Mingay's Morsels. Our best wishes go to Jutta

It's off to Willandra Retirement Village at Cromer for Ted and Pat Cummings, Ted will have a new shed and Pat will have a new dishwasher, well might you ask why Pat gets a new dishwasher when she has Ted?

Not once, not twice, but three times per week, Wendy Starkie runs up Alexander Street in Collaroy. What we want to know is, does she park at the top and run down or does she park at the bottom and run up? If you admire Wendy for doing this, let her know by making a donation, see Wendy for details

Rebekah went for her driving test and passed. She could hardly fail as Chris Van de Peer who is a RMS Accredited Driving Instructor for Older Drivers, took her for a run first. Fee is \$80 but before each traffic sign, lights etc he gives a warning, alerts you for upcoming speed limits RING CHRIS ON 0412 135 359 or after hours 9440 1836

When you need a new hip and a new shoulder how do you decide which comes first? Beryl Dawson can't sleep because of her shoulder so that gets the chop, oops sorry, we mean gets the op. July is the time.

Peninsula Bridge Club Beginners Bridge Program

PBC Lesson No.	Browne Chapter No.	Day Friday 9:30am - 11:30am	Night Monday 7pm - 9pm	Topics	Lecture VIDEO www.abf.com.au
1	1	04-Jul-14	07-Jul-14	Intro to the basics: * Bidding * Play * Etiquette * Leads	L. 1
2	2	11-Jul-14	14-Jul-14	Suit openings Responding <i>Drawing trumps</i>	L. 2
3	3	18-Jul-14	21-Jul-14	Game Contracts <i>High from short side</i>	L. 4
4	5	25-Jul-14	28-Jul-14	No Trumps & balanced responses <i>Promotion & Long Suits</i>	L. 3
5	5	01-Aug-14	04-Aug-14	No Trumps & unbalanced responses	
6	6	08-Aug-14	11-Aug-14	Competitive Bidding: O/C <i>Both sides bidding</i> <i>The Finesse</i>	
Practice		15-Aug-14	18-Aug-14	Supervised Practice Session <i>Scoring & Travellers</i>	
Practice		SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER	Supervised Practice Session	
Optional		OCTOBER	OCTOBER	Consolidation Course <i>DEFENCE PLAY & BIDDING</i> <i>REVIEW</i>	



This picture is from the consolidation classes run by Cath for our newer players, who are getting ready for involvement in the regular duplicate sessions at the club

For further info please call Cath Whiddon: 9979 5752 or email: cwhiddon@live.com

We know Peninsula is a great club, but we're always looking for new members. Your mission noble Peninsula member is to bring a friend along to play this frustrating, occasionally enjoyable game and take advantage of the excellent classes run by Cath Whiddon. I know you've been thinking about doing this, but you don't know how to broach the subject, well worry no more. We have the spiel and have eliminated your excuse -go forth Warrior of the CARD and unleash yourself.

Looking for a new hobby? New friends? (everyone is looking for new friends, the old ones are so yesterday), so this pitch is right on the money.

Then why not learn to(the next part of this sentence is the key, please memorise).....Play Bridge?

This fascinating game is mentally stimulating and great fun (we have to stretch the truth here a bit) for men and women of all ages.

2014: 6 week beginners' bridge course starts: Friday 4 JULY 9.30-11.30am



Gino Morello, almost a founding member of Peninsula, was kind enough to allow himself to be probed by your intrepid Editor in the latest Peninsula News interview. His garrulous and all encompassing views belie his newly earned nickname — “The Enigma”.

Who taught you to play bridge? The Headmistress of a school. We were boarders in the same Pensione in 1949. (Ed I’m sure there is a story here, but Gino is ever the gentleman).

What system do you play? 5 card Standard American.

How often do you play a week? 2-3 times per week.

Do you have any tricks for maintaining your concentration? I try to concentrate on the important cards

If you could change anything about bridge, what would it be? I do not think anything needs to be changed in duplicate bridge

What characteristics make for a good partner? One that is understanding, even if I play a wrong card

Do you find it hard to find a regular partner? No.

Have you made many friends through playing bridge? A few, not that many.

Who is your favourite Director? I think the club is lucky in having many excellent Directors, thus no particular favourite.

Are multi 2s essential for the modern bridge player? Don’t know.

What criteria do you use for a penalty double? A sure (at least) one down.

Have you ever redoubled a slam contract and made it? Not that I can recall (Ed - Come on Gino this isn’t ICAC).

What advice would you give a new player? Not to worry if you lose, perseverance will improve your game eventually.

Is Peninsula is good club, if so, why? Peninsula is a good club and all those who run it should be congratulated for all the hard work they do (for free!).

Una’s Rhubarb Cake Recipe

1 cup cream (or 300mls)
 1 cup sugar
 vanilla essence
 Beat these three ingredients together till light and fluffy, then add
 1 beaten egg
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1 1/4 cups S.R. Flour
 1/4 teas. baking soda

Beat again and when well mixed add
 2 1/2 cups finely diced raw rhubarb

Put mixture into square tin approx.
 9x9" (or equivalent]

Sprinkle top with brown sugar and
 bake 45mts. In mod. oven, lower half.

Bid more, play more, enjoy more, win more—Matthew Thomson

If you insist on playing Standard American you might as well try and squeeze the last drop of goodness out of its outdated and primitive carcass.

This book is written for the new bridge player or the new intermediate player who is still playing a basic Standard American and wants to start crushing the dreams of those smug opponents who are using superior systems or advanced conventions

I’m continually astounded by how many people bid a reflexive 2D after a 2C opening. You might find a great contract but it’s in spite of your bidding system, not because of it. This book very well might change your life. Matthew presents some great relays to the 2C opening, who knows, with his help you might even find a slam based on ruthless and precise bidding. Then you too can be sustained by the tears of your opponents. He has myriad tips on bidding Standard, as well as valuable information on leads, defence and hand evaluation.

Matthew is an Australian international player and often Directs at North Turrumurra Bridge Club. He is very approachable and this book is a resource that will definitely assist Standard American diehards.

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