

Peninsula News and Views



Newsletter of the Peninsula Bridge Club

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FROM THE PRESIDENT Alan Davis

The year started with several of our members playing at the two big congresses, Canberra and the Gold Coast. Everyone enjoyed themselves as you may have seen from some of the photos on our website. Notable performances included: Sandy Mower and Bob Saville who won the warm up pairs in Canberra. At the Gold Coast, Rachael Loomes and Vivien Eldridge came fourth in the restricted Swiss pairs, David Grout and Yong White were second in division B of the restricted pairs, and Vivien and I came fourth in division B of the of the intermediate pairs.

A number of our members played in the teams events at different levels. Everyone acquitted themselves well and, hopefully improved their games in competitive surroundings. Of particular note was the efforts that the ABF are making to encourage less experienced players to play in novice events in both Canberra and the Gold Coast. I look forward to more of our inexperienced members playing next year.

Our new outside directors, Brian Soutter and Colin Mitchell have started directing sessions at the Club. I appreciate your welcome of them and look forward to their future involvement at the Club.

Our education programme is continuing. It is gratifying to see many of our beginners playing at our duplicate sessions and even at the recent National Open Teams qualifying sessions. I think that they will confirm that playing teams is no great step up from pairs.

We will be running our Swiss teams congress on April 21. There will be a prize for the best novice team, so I encourage members to sign up for the day.

Happy bridging

Bridge Education at PBC

We have a delightful group of new beginners discovering the best mind game in the world. Enrolled in the 6 week day or evening course are 24 Beginners who are very keen to get into the bidding and ask lots of questions that show they are really thinking. I continue to learn so much from working through their learning processes with them.

Our Beginners from the end of 2012 are concluding the 8 lessons of our Consolidation Course in April and now have a PLAN to help their play. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of our members, they can also practise supervised play on Friday mornings, Tuesday afternoons and/or Monday nights – special thanks to Jo Jarvis, Terry & Lois Rothwell, Vickie Busted, Camilla Barlowe and Susan Falkingham.

Many of those Beginners, along with regular members, have also been attending our in-house monthly workshops. All members are welcome to come along, no partner required, on either the 2nd Monday night or Wednesday morning to learn or review different conventions. (The dates may vary, so check on the Club's website and on the Bridge Education Monthly Whiteboard Calendar or join our email notice group.)

In February we looked at Doubles: Takeout & Negative Doubles and how to differentiate between those and Penalty Doubles (ie: Partner's "x" = takeout if Opponents have opened bidding; if Partner is the Opener and LHO Overcalls, then the Responder's "x" = Negative Double. If anyone: "X" – that's a "Penalty Double" – *just joking!*) In March we have been looking at Slam Bidding based on strength, fit and controls. This is in preparation for our professional workshop on Saturday 23 March with Joan Butts. This is being subsidised by the Peninsula Bridge Club and required pre-registration.

Looking ahead, In April we will workshop pre-empt the 2nd Monday night at 7.00pm and the 2nd Wednesday morning at 9.30 am... happy bridging!

Cath

Cath Whiddon has one of the most important jobs at Peninsular and a large part of that job is organising and running bridge lessons for new players. New players are the life blood of our club, without them we would soon disappear. If you think you can help Cath in any way please contact her

North

♠ 10 72

♥ J863

♦ AKQ

♣ A53

South

♠ A

♥ AKQ7542

♦ 865

♣ Q6

Bidding

South	West	North	East
1♥	1♠	2♦	P
2♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	p	5♥	P
6♥	P	P	P

West leads K♠

In duplicate every trick is important and an overtrick could mean a top board

This exercise is known as a simple squeeze. How would you play this hand?
Solution at the bottom of the page.

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**ntry to the established threat

Just Play

Responding to a double
Knowing when to pass
Forgiving partners sin's
Avoiding coming last

Giving every pair a hearty welcome,
While dodging partners stare
Making light of bottom boards
With not a tut tut, sigh or silent swear

Are these the rules you play by?
If so you are the lonely one
Say's I

M Stone

A man is stranded on a deserted island for 10 years. One day he notices a speck on the horizon, and he watches intently as it draws near. "It can't be a boat," he thinks. "It can't be a fish." Suddenly, a beautiful woman emerges from the sea wearing scuba gear and a wet suit.

"Hi there!" she says.

The man is amazed. "But... but... how did you get here?"

"Never mind," says the woman as she unzips the left pocket of her wet suit and hands the man a cigarette.

"Wow, this is terrific! I haven't had a smoke in 10 years!"

"Enjoy!" says the woman as she unzips the right pocket of her wet suit and gives the man a flask of whiskey.

"I can't believe it! This tastes so good!"

Next the woman starts to unzip the long zipper that runs down the front of her wet suit. "Now I've got something you must really want bad."

"What!" he says, "Don't tell me you've got a deck of cards in there too!"

What is a Brown Sticker Convention?

Brown sticker conventions are usually only permitted at the highest levels of tournament play in most locations and must be listed on system cards. The information below is taken from the ABF web site and describes them as such:

a) 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.

Exceptions:

(i) A natural overcall in no trumps.

(ii) Any cue bid that shows a strong hand.

(iii) A cue bid in an opponent's known suit that asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in that suit.

c) Any weak two-suited bid (whether it be an overcall, an opening bid or a response) at the two or three level that may by agreement be made with three cards or fewer in one of the suits.

Analysis for the squeeze problem.

There is an excellent chance (because of the bidding) that W holds the QJ♠ and the K♣. If so **BLUE** is airtight, thanks to the **E** in ♣. Solution - Draw trumps, clear diamonds, ruff a spade and run the rest of the trumps.

West

♠ KQJ84

♥ 9

♦ 97

♣ KJ1092

East

♠ 9653

♥ 10

♦ J10432

♣ 874

This is a book that deserves a place in your bridge library.

This is primarily not a book for beginners but for intermediate or advanced players . Many club players do not read bridge books, after all why should they? They know how to play, get reasonable results and are happy with the status quo. This book is for the player who wants to improve and I am happy to give it a recommendation for Peninsular members.

Eric Rodwell, a modern American Bridge Master put together a series of notes about card analysis and card play, two topics of considerable interest to most bridge players. Being a team player he shared these notes with his contemporaries and these notes have become the basis of this book.

There is a lot of information in this book and at times I felt a little overwhelmed, it's frightening how complex bridge is and how many aspects to card play that exist, aspects that I had not really considered. I am sure that after reading this book I became a better player and I am sure that everyone at Peninsular would have a similar experience, glorious President excepted, (jk).

This book got my brain into overdrive, (possibly some sort of meltdown), thinking about the importance of unblocking manoeuvres ,endplays, milking that extra trick and card play generally .

Here is a classic example from the book —**The Chinese High Card Promotion**

You are trying to establish a suit (normally a 5-3 fit) and can afford 2 losers in it. If you need to get it going without entry problems, you can consider leading high from a holding of honour-third, as in this situation.

♦ KJ742

♦ Q65

In this first example , by leading the queen you make life very difficult for West if he has ♦A109x If West ducks the ace, you have taken a successful **Chinese Finesse** to promote your high cards in dummy — hence the name.

♠ QJ83

♠ K72

In this second example, leading the king sets up 2 fast tricks. If West has ♠ A1094, playing low to the queen first will inevitably establish a second trick for him as you develop your own second trick. However if West ducks the king when you lead it, you have **Chinese Finessed** him/her.

I posed the following question to Linda Lee, co-owner of Master Point Press, International Bridge Master and renowned Bridge teacher. Is it true that the majority of international players mainly use Standard American and if so why?

Actually I think the majority of people who play in world championships play many different systems and even if they play "Standard American" it is really nothing like what most people would call Standard American. So let me answer that question another way. In North America the majority of players do play Standard American with lots of variations.

Standard American has evolved over the years and now is based on 5 card majors, 15-17 NT openers, two clubs as the strong bid with other 2 level suit openers as weak. Over 1NT transfers are usually played. Over one of a suit 1NT is not forcing and 2 level responses, an invitation hand or better. But now quite a number of North Americans who would describe themselves as advanced or better play 2 over 1. The main difference being that the 1NT response is forcing and that 2 level responses in a new suit are game forcing. Most players doctor their system with all sorts of conventions and treatments. So bidding methods are not as uniform as it seems.

One reason these type of systems are popular in North America is that most teachers start out their students on Standard American. One good reason is that is what their friends will play and that is what they will meet in the games they will play at the bridge club. The ACBL promoted Standard American with a series of subsidized text books and some free how to play material that is based on Standard American. Not only that but players are expected to know Standard when they play in tournaments. So it is only later in your career that players who want to become experts or better start to think about other systems.

The first thing they will encounter is 2/1 which has some advantages and isn't too much of a departure. Only the more adventurous will venture into forcing club systems which require more change. In other countries for other reasons, forcing club systems are popular. Players in China are taught Precision. C.C. Wei and Kathy Wei introduced Precision and bridge to China. As you travel around the world you find Acol (England) Polish Club, SEF (France) and so on. It would be fun to have some challenge matches to pit one system against the other but in the end at the top level, the calibre of the players will lead to the outcome not the system they play. For one thing at this level partnerships have put a lot of work into their system and it doesn't resemble what is taught to beginners.

Hopefully this will put to rest the furphy that Standard American is the system of choice for the majority of internationals. If anyone is interested in learning Blue Club, please contact the Editor



Verl Lawrence, another well known PBC member faces the press

Who taught you to play bridge? John Roberts who I still believe to be one of the best teachers.

What system do you play? American Standard , however I play the system that my partner of the day prefers.

Who is your fantasy bridge partner? Omar Sharif

What is the most expensive bid you've made? Down 1400, a sacrifice that didn't work!

If you could change anything about bridge, what would it be? I would like Directors, including myself to be tougher on people talking when bidding! Which of course is illegal and hard to stop.

What characteristics make for a good partner? Understanding and consistency in bidding. Worst fault is when partner fails to acknowledge good play by the opposition or skates about how they played or bid a hand.

Have you made many friends through playing bridge? Many, many friends—wonderful people and most of them great fun.

Who is your favourite Director? Tony Howes is my favourite Director, always charming, helpful with a great sense of humour.

Do you have a favourite contract you would like to share? Yes, my favourite contract was being pushed into 6D (which I did as a sacrifice) being doubled and then making all 13 tricks due to favourable distribution.

What slam convention/s do you use? I use Gerber when I intend to stay in NT, Blackwood and RKCB in other instances.

Have you ever successfully undertaken a squeeze play? It is one of my favourite plays, even if it looks impossible that they will discard the card you want them to, give it a try, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain

Do you have any tricks for maintaining concentration? I haven't any tricks to maintain concentration other than to try not to be distracted, this becomes harder when you are directing and playing!

What advice would you give a new player? Play as often as you can—more important than lessons—lots of experience with card play is very important to you becoming a good or even great player

Finding that pesky grand slam

Most club players are delirious with joy to make a slam but rarely look for the holy grail of Bridge—the grand slam. In my last look at slam conventions I examined Blackwood, this time I am examining a convention specifically designed to find grand slam. This involves jumping to 5 NT to determine the quality of trumps.

Josephine Convention:

A jump to 5NT when the trump suit has been clearly agreed is an asking bid in the trump suit. The exact responses

If the suit is ♠—5 steps

6 ♣: Jack or less

6 ♦: Queen

6 ♥: Not better than Axxx or Kxxx

6 ♠: Axxxx or Kxxxx

7 ♠: 2 or the top 3 honours

If the suit is ♥ — 4 steps

6 ♣: Queen or less

6 ♦: Not better than Axxx or Kxxx

6 ♥: Axxxx or Kxxxx

7 ♥: 2 of the top 3 honours

If the suit is ♦ — 3 steps

6 ♣: Queen or less

6 ♦: Ace of King

7 ♦: 2 of the top 3 honours

If the suit is ♣ — 2 steps

6 ♣: 1 top honour

7 ♣: 2 of the top 3 honours

You may sometimes want to ask about the trump holding, when your bid on the previous round was a Blackwood 4NT. In this case 5 NT is unavailable as it is asking for kings, so you bid 6C and omit the weakest response, if clubs are the trump suit bid 5 of an unbid suit.

If you use this convention to find a grand slam, please contact the editor and have your triumph featured in the next edition of the Peninsular Bridge News.