

Bridge in the City Newsletter August 2024

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Give Me Those Old Time Conventions

I usually play Thursday nights at Unley, that occasion providing the best bridge in the State against the toughest opponents. The continued success of our State Teams is mainly due to this session. The last time I played there were not one but two of the oldest conventions in use.

The first featured top local pair in Joe Haffer and Phil Markey.

Joe

♠AQJ105

♥AQ54

♦KQ

♣72

♠K74

♥8

♦J1087652

♣86

♠98632

♥J1096

♦93

♣J9

Phil

♠-

♥K732

♦A4

♣AKQ10543

Their elegant auction featured the Grand Slam force where partner is expected to bid seven of the agreed suit if holding two of the top three trump honours, as follows:

S	W	N	E
1♣	P	1♠	P
2♥	P	3♥	P
5NT	P	7♥	

The 2♥ rebid, being higher than the original opened suit, was natural and showed extra values. 2♠ by North at this stage would have been "Blackout", showing a poor hand, so 3♥ showed additional values, game a certainty, possible slam interest (4♥ would have been weaker).

North wanted to bid 7NT with his 18 point hand, however did as he was told, bidding 7♥, all pass – double by me with my sure trump trick would have prompted a quick change of contract.

Next match I used the Lightner Double. It's a defensive weapon, only applies to slam contracts, and asks partner to find an unusual lead. Recently we played the following hand, North South vulnerable, South dealer. I sat East against Paul Hudson and Peter Popp, members of the 2024 Open State team on the following board.

Dir: South	♠A2	
N-S Vulnerable	♥10	
	♦AK7542	
	♣KQJ2	
♠107		♠KQ9843
♥K653		♥J98742
♦Q10863		♦-
♣76		♣9
	♠J65	
	♥AQ	
	♦J9	
	♣A108543	

The auction

S	W	N	E
2♣*	P	4♣*	4♠
P	P	6♣	6♥ (only goes two down!)
X	P	7♣	X

All pass

2♣ was Precision, showing 11-15 points, a six card club suit or five clubs and a four card major. 4♣ was Keycard in clubs.

My bidding, as East, was natural, the double I thought suggesting a diamond lead that I could ruff. My partner (not Sharmini) had a long time away from the game so forgot the convention and led the ♥King, for a result -2330.

Your Committee

The Bridge in the City Committee consists of:

President: David Anderson, 0403 278 754,

Vice President: Stewart Kingsborough, 0417774666,

Secretary: Nola Stone, 0421593542

Committee member: Pam Bowman, 0415165835

Committee member: Cynthia Brinkman, 0438120528

Committee member: Dennis Reynolds, 0411899160

Committee member: Stuart Tuck, 0417894119

Please feel free to contact any of the above should you have any club related concerns – it's what they are there for!

Bridge in the City GN0T Qualifying

Teams event, 4 matches each of seven boards

Your Opportunity to get Gold Masterpoints.

Sunday afternoon 12:30 August 4th.

Table fee \$10 per head

Entries via noticeboard or website.

When the Bridge Gods Smile Upon Us by Sue Phillips

During the Australian Nationals in Orange Jackie and I bid two slams in a row and made them with a lot of luck on our side.

North

♠Q98742

♥T64

♦K

♣KJ6

Me

♠AK653

♥2

♦AQJT65

♣Q

East (Jackie)

♠T

♥AKJ9

♦742

♣AT873

South

♠J

♥Q8753

♦983

♣9542

Our auction

Me

1♠

3♦

4NT

6♦

Jackie

2♣

4♦

5♥* 2 key cards without the Q trumps

Lead ♠7 to the King

♣Q to the A then ♦2 from dummy.

What to do? The opponents had not bid so no clues there. I remembered the saying "8 ever 9 never (finesse)" so I plonked down the A and dropped the K of trumps. Smooth sailing after that. No one else was in 6D for good reason.

	North	
	♠T9	
	♥QJ75	
	♦87	
	♣K6532	
Me		East (Jackie)
♠AK8		♠J632
♥A86		♥K9
♦KJ9643		♦A2
♣T		♣AQJ97
	South	
	♠Q754	
	♥T432	
	♦QT5	
	♣84	

Bidding

West Me	East
1♦	2♣
3NT	4♣* Ace ask
4♠*	6NT (two aces)

The Play

♥Q lead round to my Ace. ♣10 finesse, winning.

♦3 to dummy's Ace then low diamond to finesse the J. ♦K now drops the Q and now all over, making 6NT, 6 diamonds two club tricks, two spades and two hearts, contract making via two finesses.

Sometimes your luck is in!

Cheers Sue

Do You Need a Partner?

If so, you should contact the Director, preferably at least 15 minutes beforehand. Bob's phone number is 0409 892 371, David's 0403 27 8 754, or you can leave a message via the Partner Wanted page on the web site.

Single players will almost always get a game on Mondays, since the director will play if necessary. Unfortunately, due to the recent increase in attendances, the director can't usually play on Fridays.

It's Your Bid, Partner

♠J32		
♥K10953		
♦82		
♣864		
♠K87		♠Q65
♥-		♥A8642
♦63		♦J1094
♣AKQJ10952		♣3
	♠A1094	
	♥QJ7	
	♦AKQ75	
	♣7	

South opens 1♦, and what do you bid on the West hand?

At my table the auction was

S	W	N	E
1♦	4♣	P	P
X	P	4♥	P
P	5♣	X	

Down two, 4♥ North South will make unless East finds an inspired opening trump lead. Elsewhere a West player found a call much more to my liking. Over 1♦ he bid 3♦, asking partner to bid 3NT with a diamond stopper. She had a stopper, so bid 3NT, and it always makes!

What is the ANC?

ANC stands for Australian National Championships, which are held each year, the venue rotating from one state to the next. The competition first began more than 80 years ago, while your Newsletter editor played in the Grand Final in 1967 – such a long time ago!

It's a teams event, each state usually sending four teams, one for each of the categories Open, Women, Seniors and Youth. The qualifying is over four days, the final usually 60 boards.

Each team usually has six players, four playing in a match and two sitting out. They play a double round robin, usually with 16 board matches, and then a grand final between the top two teams in each division.

South Australia, despite its small number of players, has a very good record, frequently winning the Open, Seniors and Youth events. We managed three seconds and a first this year, three firsts and a second the year before.

Recent placegetters

MONDAY JULY PAIRS

- 1 John Neuling & Trevor Parr
- 2 Janet Faber & Dennis Reynolds
- 3 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough

FRIDAY PURPLE JULY PAIRS

- 1 Moira Smith & Graham Stucley
- 2 Jinny Fuss & Jackie Ward
- 3 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey

FRIDAY PINK JULY PAIRS

- 1 Veronica McCaffrey & Maja Reed
- 2 Marlene Chapman & Christina Cheung
- 3 Lynne Cotton & Cynthia Hickey

Opening Leads

I know that I have said it before, but fourth best of longest and strongest isn't always the best option.

It's OK against lower level No Trump contracts, since you are hoping to develop defensive tricks in that suit, however it is a different story when leading against suit contracts, or higher level No Trumps.

You should never underlead an Ace against a suit contract. It may well give a trick away, and you are unlikely to get it back.

If partner has little in the way of values then an aggressive lead is much more likely to give a trick away than be successful.

So, what is a safe lead? Obviously leading from the top of a sequence such as QJ10x is great, however we don't always have that option.

A trump lead, particularly with three or more is often a good way out, and may also help to reduce declarer's ruffs in dummy.

The lead of a long suit (5+cards) that hasn't been bid by the opponents rarely costs, and is often productive.

When Partner Forgets to Alert.

You should inform the opponents as soon as partner isn't in a position to take advantage of the information. So, if your side is declaring, you should tell the opponents before they make their opening lead, if defending you need to wait until play is finished. This also applies if partner has given information that you believe to be systemically incorrect.

Recent New Members

Anne Darwin, Sue Giles, Lyn Mitchell, Brenda and David Parker, and Helen Trengove have all recently joined, please make them welcome.

Another Friday Hand

Friday afternoon, last board, partner opens 1NT, showing 15-17, and it's your bid, holding ♠A5 ♥Q52 ♦AK732 ♣QJ2. What's your call?

You have 16 points and a good five card suit, so slam is definitely a possibility, how should you proceed?

I would bid 4NT, quantitative, asking partner to pass with a minimum with a minimum, or bid on with upper range values.

♠A5
♥Q52
♦AK732
♣QJ2

♠KQ2
♥A1098
♦85
♣AK93

Next problem, how to play 6NT on a spade lead. You have ten tricks on top, need two more.

Ducking a diamond, in the hope that the suit divides 3-3 is an option, however the odds are against it. Leading a heart towards dummy's Queen will get you one trick if the King is onside, the twelfth will still be a problem.

The best line: Cross to dummy then play the ♥Q. Should East cover then you automatically have 12 tricks by conceding a heart trick to the Jack. If instead the ♥Q is taken by the King on your left, then go back to dummy, this time leading a heart to your ten, repeating the finesse if it is successful. This line of play has a 75% chance, only failing when the King and Jack of hearts are both on your left.

The full deal:

	♠A5	
	♥Q52	
	♦AK732	
	♣QJ2	
♠J10843		♠976
♥J43		♥K76
♦J9		♦Q1064
♣854		♣1076
	♠KQ2	
	♥A1098	
	♦85	
	♣AK93	