

BRIDGE IN THE CITY INCORPORATED NEWSLETTER – February 2024

www.bridgeinthecity.net.au

2024 SubScriptionS are now due.

\$30 for home club members, \$10 for associates.

Payments can be made to the duty director or, preferably, to the club's bank account BSB 805-050, account number 102-790-715, indicating the purpose of your payment.



Meet our Treasurer, Darrell Mitton

Our Club Treasurer is Darrell Mitton, who plays on Monday afternoons with Pam Bowman. Born in England he spent several years in the British Navy, rising to the rank of Lieutenant in the submarine service. He moved to Australia in 1992, joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1996, and spent several years working on the sea trials for the Collins class submarines.

He learnt to play bridge in the Royal Navy, and came to us from the Coromandel Valley Bridge Club, which he joined after his retirement in 2009. He has been married to Josephine for nearly 40 years and they have an adult daughter.

Recent New Members

The following players have recently joined (or re-joined) our club, please help to make them feel welcome.

Chris Bradshaw	David & Jenny Cash	Evelyne Fraser
Janet Hegarty	Chris Lever	Brian Moten
Jan Paltridge	Varn Treleggan	Bronwyn Vale

2024 Annual General Meeting

Our first Annual General Meeting will be held at 11:00 am on Sunday February 25th at the Clarence Park Bowls club.

Lunch from Subway will be served, with a free pairs game to follow.

A Hand from the Past

The following occurred during a Thursday AM duplicate at SABA in 1993. The four women at the table were all regular B section (there were four different sections) placegetters.

Dealer East, all vulnerable

	♠ A74	
	♥ 42	
	♦ 753	
	♣ 107652	
♠ J10965		♠ -
♥ J753		♥ KQ1098
♦ AJ98		♦ KQ642
♣ -		♣ AQ8
	♠ KQ832	
	♥ A6	
	♦ 10	
	♣ KJ943	

Jan Coorey (East) and Lorna Milner (West) had the following auction against one of the strongest pairs in the field:

South	West	North	East
			1♥
2♥*	X	2♠	3♦
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	X	Pass	5♥
X	XX	Pass	Pass
5♠	X	Pass	6♥
X	XX	All pass	

* Michael's cue bid, showing spades and a minor.

South led her singleton diamond, then returned a trump when on lead with her Ace, but it was to no avail - the contract made for a score of -2070.

A special award should be given to Lorna, who at 82 years young, managed three penalty doubles and two redoubles in the one auction! She accepted her ovation at the end of the session with the aplomb of a prize-fighter who had just knocked out Joe Frazier.

South, now understanding the full implications of the expression "punch- drunk", decided to have a week's holiday in Melbourne to recuperate.

Safety Plays

There will be occasions where you will need to take every possible trick in an effort to make your contract. There will also be situations, particularly in IMPS scoring, where you need to ensure your contract, possibly, but certainly not always, at the cost of a trick. And, sometimes, you need to do the best you can.

How would you do the best for your contract on the following layouts? Some holdings you can't account for, others you can. Assume that you have a side entry to whichever suit you wish to lead from.

Q10732	A10987	A987	J987	Q65	A
AK92	6543	KQ654	AQ654	AJ8432	J106543
No losers	Best result	No losers	At most one	One loser	2 losers

At most one loser

A32	AQ87	A764	A982	K65	A1043
K10764	65432	QJ85	K10764	AJ873	Q87652

Play 3NT

752	A10872
842	A
J	A532
AKQ743	843

A843	K9
J1092	K102
AK5	K964
52	AK62

3NT by South, diamond lead,
won in dummy.

3NT by South, Q♥ lead taken
in dummy.

Ruling the Game - Correction of a Played Card.

A card once played can only be corrected if it is a revoke, or has been played by accident.

So, if you as declarer are leading towards dummy, and you call for a card from dummy e.g. a ruff, before realising that your left hand opponent has played a higher card, then no change is permitted.

The only time that a correction might be permitted is if the card played, or called for, is entirely illogical.

No Trump Bidding

I always favour a structured approach to bidding. So, if I have **15-17** points and a balanced hand I will **open 1NT**. Note: my 1NT opening doesn't guarantee a stopper in every suit- bidding such a hand to show its values could be very difficult otherwise.

If I have **11-14** and a balanced hand then, if I can't support partner, I will **rebid 1NT**. Further, with a limited hand that doesn't have support for partner's suit I will also rebid 1NT whenever I can, telling partner not to get excited.

Finally, with **18-19** points and a balanced hand, my rebid will usually be a **jump in no trumps**.

For the purpose of a no Trump opening a hand shape is defined as balanced if it is 4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2, or 5-3-3-2. So, what do we do with 15-17 points, 5-3-3-2 and a five card major?

The answer, however uncomfortable it may be, is to open 1NT on this hand as well. Otherwise, after opening one of your major, and a new suit or 1NT response from partner, you are going to have to either underbid or overbid your hand – there is no available rebid that accurately shows your values.

Finally, and not for the faint hearted, there are some special responses to 1NT where opener gets to show a five card major – see me for details.

Gas and Electricity Cost by Graham Stucley

My gas and electricity prices went up 50% on January 1 this year. It was an expensive shock and no doubt many of you have had a similar surprise.

So, I went online, eventually Googled "Energy Made Easy" and found a free Government comparison service. This website asks you to provide details of your recent Gas and Electricity bills, then comes back with comparative prices from other local suppliers.

The site, developed by the government to counter the incredible complexity and many and varied options available in these markets, then assists you in the transfer of your services to the new supplier.

An hour or so of work on this comparison is going to save me some hundreds of dollars a year. Hopefully it can do the same for you.

Masterpoint Promotions

Christina Cheung	Graduate	Harris	Local
Sharon Junner	Bronze Local	Christine Niemann	Silver Local
Megan Norton	Bronze National	Ken Stone	Regional

Prepayment Scheme - Please Check the Account Number

Payments can be made either to the Director on duty, or else online into the following Bridge in the City bank account. BSB **805-050**, account number **102-790-715**. **Note this is a different account from the one used initially.**

Finally, when making an online deposit, please make sure that you give your name.

Alerts – When to, and when not to.

Some 25 years ago the Alerts process in Australian Bridge was in a mess, players didn't know what to do. For example, did you alert a weak two, or a strong two? When your partner doubled an overcall, should you alert the call if it was for penalty, or takeout, or even showing support for partner?

Additionally, there was a concern that alerts were helping partner more than the opponents – an alert in the middle of an involved auction, e.g. for a 4 clubs call, was often very reassuring.

With all this in mind the ABF came up with the concept of self-alerting, where a call, by its very nature, is automatically alerted, and should be questioned by the opponents (if they are need to know). Such calls are:

- *All doubles*
- *Cue bids of the opponents suit, whether or not that suit has been bid, or implied*
- *All Bids beyond 3NT*
- *A 2♣ response to a 1NT opening, or 1NT overcall.*

NOTE: You don't alert self-alerting calls!

What Should Be Alerted?

Bearing in mind the exclusions above, you should alert partner's call if it satisfies one or more of the following conditions

- *The call is unnatural, e.g. a Jacoby transfer to a 1NT opening*
- *The call promises length in a suit beside the one shown, e.g. a 2 heart opening showing a weak hand with five + cards in hearts and another suit.*
- *The call is non-forcing, when the opponents would expect otherwise*
- *The call has an unexpected meaning, e.g. a forcing pass when partner's 1NT opening has been doubled.*
- *5 A preemptive raise of partner's opening, e.g. 1♥ – 3♥ showing support and 3-6 hcp.*
- *6 A four level opening that shows a holding in a suit other than the one called*

NOTE – the call may be weak, strong, or indifferent – if it only shows the bid suit then it shouldn't be alerted! So, if your 2♥ opening is weak or strong you don't have to alert it, however you should do so if it promises a side suit.

Ruling the Game - Penalty Cards

The Penalty card circumstance applies when an honour (10 or higher) has accidentally been dropped, or else through the correction of a revoke.

Note, however, that declarer can't have a penalty card, since knowing that partner has this card is of no use to declarer's partner (dummy).

The penalty card rules are as follows:

- The player with the penalty card is on lead – the card must be led.
- The suit of that card is played – the penalty card must be played.
- The offender has to discard – the card must be played
- The offender's partner is on lead – if the lead of that suit is requested, or barred by declarer then the card is restored to the offender's hand. If instead the offender's partner has a choice of leads, then the penalty card stays until played.

Finally, please note that if a card that is a nine or lower accidentally falls from an offender's hand then it becomes a minor penalty card, the only restraint being that when next the offender wants to play a low card of that suit he must play that card.

Recent Placegetters

FRIDAY JANUARY PAIRS

1 Geraldine & Murray Eitzen

2 Moira Smith & Graham Stucley

3 Jackie & Warren Ward

FRIDAY B GRADE JANUARY PAIRS

1 Veronica McCaffrey & Maja Reed

2 George Cresp & Jennifer Hammer

3 Jenny Kernbach & Sue Riddle

MONDAY JANUARY PAIRS

1 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey

2 Clive Hardwick & Ingrid Payne

3 Jackie & Warren Ward

Meet our Secretary, Nola Stone



Nola is our club secretary and she plays on Mondays with Janice Benton and Fridays with Terry Healey.

Nola worked most recently in the areas of Public Relations, Office Management, and, earlier, Sales. She has three children, and three grand children who she spends a lot of time with.

She learnt to play bridge at SABA after seeing an advert of theirs on television seven or eight years ago, and has only played at Bridge in the City for the past three years.

Safety Plays - the Answers

A	B	C	D	E	F
Q10732	A10987	A987	J987	Q65	A
AK92	6543	KQ654	AQ654	AJ8432	J106543
No losers	Best result	No losers	At most one	One loser	2 losers

A Play the Ace, allowing you to capture J865 on either side

B Low to dummy's 10, picking up KQJ2 onside – I did this once!

C Ace first. You can't pick up J1032 on your left, but can on your right.

D Low to the Queen, you are now safe from K1032 on either side.

E Low to the Queen allows you to capture K1097 on your right

F Play the Ace then lead low, hoping for 3-3 break or doubleton high honour.

At most one loser

G	H	I	J	K	L
A32	AQ87	A764	A982	K65	A1043
K10764	65432	QJ85	K10764	AJ873	Q87652

G Low to the Ace, then to the 10

H Play the Ace, then low to the Queen.

I Play the Ace, then low to the Queen.

J Low to the 9 or 10

K King then lead to the Jack

L Low to dummy's 10 (unless West shows out)

M ♠752 ♥842 ♦J ♣AKQ743

♠A843 ♥J1092 ♦AK5 ♣52

3NT by south, diamond lead won in dummy

Low club from dummy, accounting for a 4-1 break

N ♠A10872 ♥A ♦A532 ♣843

♠K9 ♥K102 ♦K964 ♣AK62

3NT by South, Q♥ lead won in dummy

Low spade to the 9, protecting your heart holding. On any return win in hand, overtake your ♠K with the Ace, and give up a spade trick. Nine tricks are assured.