

BRIDGE IN THE CITY INCORPORATED NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2023

www.bridgeinthecity.net.au

We're Incorporated!

The State government department concerned has seen fit to grant us Incorporated body status, so that going forward the club will be owned by the members, rather than an individual, will have its own possessions, and won't be threatened with extinction should the director retire.

There will be a Special General Meeting at Midday on June 23rd to elect a committee. The positions are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee Members (4).

Nomination forms will be available at Clarence Park from this Friday.

The Monthly Quiz

Board Number 22															
Board : 22	S♠ AT8642	Dir: E	Makeable Contracts			NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	%				
	H♥ T4	Vul: E-W	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	RED							
	D♦ K3		N	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	3NTE=	♥ K		600	0%
	C♣ KJ3		S	-	-	1	-	1	2	5	3♠ N-3	♥ 9		150	17%
S♠ Q9		S♠ KJ53	E	3	1	-	1	-	3	7	3♦ W-1	♥ 10	100		59%
H♥ A		H♥ 98765	W	3	1	-	1	-	4	2	3NTS+1	♦ A	430		100%
D♦ AT9752		D♦							5	4	3♥ S=	♣ 4	140		84%
C♣ Q854		C♣ A976							6	6	4♥ xS-1	♦ A		100	34%
	S♠ 7								7	1	3♣ W-1	♠ A	100		59%
11	H♥ KQJ32														
12	8	D♦ QJ864													
9	C♣ T2														

The above hand comes from the Sunday afternoon session of the Rotary Pairs, and, with just 20 high card points each way, the questions that need to be asked are:

- How did a North South pair, and also an East West pair, bid to 3NT?
- How did they both make their contracts?

The opening leads confirm that in each instance the declarer is properly recorded. As Director I did query the results, and found that East-West at table 1 was looking very pleased with themselves, while East-West at table four would rather not discuss it.

MAY COMPETITION WINNERS

MONDAY MAY PAIRS

- 1 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough,
- 2 Genevieve Donnelly & Graham Stucley,
- 3 Carmel & Norman Thompson

FRIDAY MAY PAIRS

- 1 Jane & Werner Linde
- 2 Jinny Fuss & Jackie Ward,
- 3 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough

FRIDAY B GRADE MAY PAIRS

- 1 Nola Stone & Bob Thiele,
- 2 Veronica McCaffrey & Maja Reed,
- 3 Judy Larsen & Brenda McCarthy

HAND OF THE MONTH

Board : 12	S♠ AK6	Dir: W	Makeable Contracts					
	H♥ AKT962	Vul: N-S		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	D♦		N	7	-	7	7	-
	C♣ AKJ3		S	7	-	7	7	-
S♠ T92		S♠ 854	E	-	2	-	-	-
H♥ 7		H♥ 8	W	-	2	-	-	-
D♦ K8765432		D♦ AQJT9						
C♣ 2		C♣ T987						
	S♠ QJ73							
22	H♥ QJ543							
3 7	D♦							
8	C♣ Q654							

The above has to be the best hand for May 2023, apart from those in the 2♣ openings session. North South can make 13 tricks any of three suits (but not 6NT, the contract at one table), while East-West have a thirteen card fit.

West should open with a diamond pre-empt, with an 8 card suit and favourable vulnerability, leading to an exciting auction for all, while Ken Stone overcalled north's 2♣ opening with 2♦, to partner's amazement.

How would you bid the North-South cards if there was no interference? North should open 2♣, 2♦ by South, 2♥ by North, then 4♦ by South, showing strong support and a shortage. North can then call for keycards with 4NT (none), then non trump Kings with 5♦ (again none), and finally Queens - three!

Bidding Strong Unbalanced Hands

First of all, there is no need to open 2♣ just because you have 19 or so high card points. Singleton kings, queens and jacks should be devalued, while you know that partner will always respond with 6+ high card points. Further, two suited hands are often difficult to properly describe after a 2♣ opening, particularly if the longer suit is of a lower rank. Indeed, if your hand has an extreme distribution then you can expect your opponents to bid, even if your partner doesn't. So, I'm of the firm view that a 2♣ opening should either be 20+hcp, or have 9+ playing tricks with your primary suit as trumps.

Next, opener should be given as much bidding space as possible, the auction should not be cluttered up by responder bidding poor suits. Further, wherever possible opener should become declarer, particularly in No Trump contracts – having the strong hand concealed is worth on average more than half a trick.

So, the responses to 2♣ that I recommend are:

- 2♦ – responder hasn't the values for a positive response, defined as 7+ points, including an Ace or two Kings.
- 2♥ – responder has a positive response without a worthwhile suit, defined as 5+ cards to two of the top three honours
- 2♠, 3♣, 3♦, 3♥ – positive response with a good five card or longer suit.

Responder is not permitted to respond No Trumps.

Further bidding:

If opener rebids 2NT after partner's 2♦ or 2♥ response then 3♣ is Stayman (ordinary or Puppet), 3♦ and 3♥ are both Jacoby Transfers, 3♠ by agreement (Minor transfer?). After a 2♦ negative response a suit rebid by opener is forcing for a round, showing 5+ cards, seeking three card or doubleton Queen or better support. Responder can pass a rebid of that suit below game, but can't pass the rebid of a new suit.

After a positive response the auction can't stop below game. This means that you have plenty of time to find the right spot, you don't need to rush.

Prepayment Scheme

Bridge in the City has its own prepayment scheme, allowing players to pay their table fees in advance.

Players then get a weekly email advising them of their balance, while containing a link to an internet schedule of all their deposits and deductions.

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 102-725-070

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

RUDOLPH'S THROW-IN PLAY by Richard Pavlicek

The Arctic Bridge League assembled today for a special investigation of an unfortunate incident at its annual Polar Bridge Fest. This week-long tournament attracts all of the top players, including the notorious reindeer pair Rudolph and Randolph. On the deal below they opposed their Eskimo rivals, Mush and Slush, who were eager to seek revenge after the drubbing they took last year.

	Randolph			
Dealer South	♠ 432			
East-West Vul.	♥ A9832			
	♦ 543			
	♣ 32			
Mush				Slush
♠ Q				♠ KJ10987
♥ K76				♥ -
♦ J6				♦ Q10987
♣ KJ109876				♣ Q4
	Rudolph			
	♠ A65			
	♥ QJ1054			
	♦ AK2			
	♣ A5			
West	North	East	South	
			1♥	
4♣	4♥	All Pass		

Rudolph, South, opened one heart and Mush overcalled four clubs, a rather obnoxious preempt at the vulnerability. Mush later he explained that he had his spade Queen in with his clubs -- a likely story. This would have silenced some North players, but Randolph was right there with four hearts. He knew it was safe to overbid when Rudolph would be declarer.

Mush "discovered" the spade Queen in time to lead it, and Slush overtook with the King as Rudolph won the Ace. With 10 trumps it is clear to finesse, and since anyone could lead the queen, Rudolph made the more artistic play of leading low to dummy's eight.

Finessing an eight is nothing! Rudolph showed his real class by next taking the club finesse -- low from dummy, four, five. (This was just shy of the record he set back in '79 by finessing a four-spot.)

The club play couldn't win, of course, but a finesse is a finesse - it's like climbing a mountain; you do it because it is there. It actually served a purpose in keeping Slush off lead so he couldn't cash his spade tricks.

After winning the club six, Mush exited with a club to the now blank Ace, and Rudolph repeated the heart finesse; Queen, King, Ace. Rudolph next won the Ace and King of diamonds to leave this position:

Dealer South	♠ 43		
East-West Vul.	♥ 932		
	♦ 5		
	♣ -		
♠ -		♠ J109	
♥ 7		♥ -	
♦ -		♦ Q109	
♣ KJ1098		♣ -	
	♠ 65		
	♥ J105		
	♦ 2		
	♣ -		

Rudolph next led the heart Jack ... or so he thought. In fact, he accidentally led the heart five and, to make matters worse, he called a small heart from dummy allowing Mush to win the trick with his seven. Rudolph tried to correct this, but almost in unison Mush and Slush shouted, "The play stands!"

Rudolph knew it would be useless to call a Director (they were all Eskimos), so he finished out the hand. Mush was on lead with nothing but clubs left and was forced to concede a ruff and a sluff.

"Wait a second," thought Rudolph, "If I ruff this trick I will just break even for the trick I gave away. Maybe there's a way to gain something."

Sure enough, Rudolph came up with a masterful plan. Instead of trumping he took a "sluff and a sluff," throwing a spade from dummy and a diamond from his hand.

Mush had to lead another club, allowing Rudolph to throw dummy's last spade as he ruffed in hand. Making four hearts! Not only that, but the subtle throw-in play to sacrifice a trump trick was the only way to succeed. Mush and Slush soon realized this too, and with fire in their eyes they screamed, "D-I-R-E-C-T-O-R." Twenty Eskimos rushed to the table and unanimously ruled that Rudolph was down one.

"But..." pleaded Rudolph.

"That's right!" Mush interjected, "And if you don't like it, we'll kick your butt."

At this moment Rudolph lunged toward Mush with his antlers, and the whole room broke into a frenzy. Reindeer running amok is a horrible sight; in less than five minutes there wasn't a table standing. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt. The investigation committee should release its report by the end of the week.

Epilogue: The committee reversed the ruling and awarded Rudolph his four hearts contract. The logic was that even if Rudolph had led the heart Jack as intended, he would next have led a diamond to Slush, who probably would have led a fourth diamond not knowing his spades were good (his brain was slush too). The committee's decision was fair and impartial.

Signed: Dasher, Dancer, Donner and Blitzen.

A special thanks to Richard Pavlicek for this article, taken (with his permission) from his Internet homepage.

Richard Pavlicek of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is a bridge expert, writer, teacher, and a 10-time North American champion. He is co-author of the internationally acclaimed book, Modern Bridge Conventions. You can visit his website at <http://rpbridge.net>

2023 Masterpoint Promotions

Shirley Chandler	Club
Jinny Fuss	Silver Life
Brian Lapsley	Bronze Regional
Nola Stone	Silver Local
Graham Stucley	National
Peter Tuck	Silver Local

Using the website

If you want to see the scores or the hands from a previous week you need to click onto the appropriate date in the master sheet column headings, as shown below

PLAYER NAMES	05May23	12May23	19May23	26May23
FULL BOARD DETAILS	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4

So, to get the session scores click onto the date, for the results on each board, including the hand records, click onto the column immediately below that.

Bridge in the City **Qualifying**
Gold Masterpoints
Sunday July 2nd, 10:30 am start