

# BRIDGE IN THE CITY INCORPORATED NEWSLETTER

June 2024

[www.bridgeinthecity.net.au](http://www.bridgeinthecity.net.au)

## Pianola is Coming!

Pianola will soon be processing all your session results, then sending you emails telling you what your score was, how you performed as declarer, as dummy, and as a defender, what everybody else did on each hand, and a full analysis.

Pianola also provide a membership management system, which we will eventually be using.

## It Wasn't Stuart's Day

First hand of the day and Stuart Tuck, second to speak, vulnerable v not, picked up

♠AKQJ97543

♥9

♦J

♣KQ

Should he open 4♠ - no, it's too strong, a 2♣ opening coming up. But wait, Carmel Thompson as dealer has opened 1♦.

Oh well, there go our slam chances, 4♠ by Stuart.

Pass, pass, 5♣ by Carmel! This is suddenly a problem. Still, some wise person once said "What do you call a nine card suit? Trumps!", so 5♠ by Stuart.

6♣ from Norman Thompson! And such nice people too! Passed back to Stuart, all pass for a bottom board. The hand:

♠2

♥KJ864

♦Q62

♣9853

♠AKQJ97543

♥9

♦J

♣KQ

♠86

♥A10532

♦10743

♣74

♠10

♥Q7

♦AK985

♣AJ1062

As you can see, East West make 5 spades, but not six, 6♣ is two down.

## A PARABLE by Jill Lawson

And it came to pass that my partner bid a diamond, so the bid was a diamond and the bid was good. And the person at my right hand did bid two spades. Yea, I looked at my cards and beheld a singleton spade, five diamonds and thirteen points and bid four diamonds instead of three spades, so the bid was four diamonds and the bid was horrible.

And so my partner did bid five diamonds and the lead was made and I laid my hand upon the table. And there came from my partner the sound of gnashing teeth and beating of breast and another sound that could have been wailing. And lo, I looked up and beheld his face with great wonder for it had turned white, then red and then a rather fetching shade of green.

And thus it came to pass that my partner walked through the Valley of Death and whenst he emerged our score was -300 instead of 3NT +600.

And my partner spake unto me ..... eventually, and he didst say with great venom, "Thou art a fool."

And I bowed my head and was crestfallen and swore an oath that never again would I commit such a folly. Then I didst pick up as dealer my next hand and beheld five clubs to the queen, three hearts, three spades, two diamonds and only eleven points. But Beelzebub sat unto my left and didst whisper unto me, "Do it."

And I did spake "One club ".....

And my partner did forsake me and forthwith I was sent to the Director for want of another, and the Director didst say unto me, "Blessed be those who maketh not outrageous bids but be prudent for they shall inherit wondrous scores and thus keepeth their partners in a really good mood."

**QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY EVENING JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**A JOINT BRIDGE IN THE CITY AND CLARENCE GARDENS**

**BOWLING CLUB EVENT.**

**ENTRY FEE \$10 PER HEAD,**

**NOMINATIONS TO STUART TUCK OR NOLA STONE**

## No Trumps Bidding is Easy

Playing Standard, your No Trump ranges should be:

Opening	15-17
Rebid	12-14 (may have a shortage in partner's bid suit)
Jump Rebid	18-19
2NT opening	20-22
2♣, then 2NT rebid	23-24

If playing Acoll, swap the opening and the rebid.

The 16-18 1NT opening suffers from the fact that the 1NT rebid now shows 12-15, too wide a range.

Note: You should add a point for a good five card suit, and deduct a point if 4-3-3-3.

In closing, just about the first Bridge book that I ever read told me that, with two balanced hands, you needed 25 points for 3NT, 33 for 6NT, and 37 for 7NT. Last Friday East players saw partner open 1NT (15-17) and they held:

♠532  
♥A53  
♦AK6  
♣AK86

Surely an automatic 6NT call, shame on those players who bid anything else.

Partner's hand:

♠AKQJ  
♥K86  
♦J98  
♣Q32

6NT is an interesting contract. Superficially it needs a three-three club break, however you can improve your chances by conceding a heart trick at trick two (rectifying the count), play your red suit winners, then play the spades. You will now also make your contract if an opponent, besides having four clubs, also has the Q♦, allowing you to make 6NT on a squeeze!

**BRIDGE IN THE CITY GNOT QUALIFYING**

**GOLD MASTERPOINTS!**

**AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> AT THE CLUBROOMS**

**NOMINATIONS ONLINE OR NOTICEBOARD**

## Cheating at Bridge

There are many ways to cheat at bridge. The most common is taking action based on partner's hesitation or undue emphasis. In such situations you as the partner lose all discretion, and should make the normal bid or play in that circumstance. These occasions aren't really cheating, rather players not being fully aware of the consequences of their action, with the expression "subliminal influence" coming to mind.

A more serious form of cheating, since it is deliberate, is for a player to take advantage of information that has been overheard. If you are in receipt of such knowledge you should call the Director who will then monitor your bidding and play to ensure that no advantage has been taken, otherwise apply an adjusted score of 60% to the affected parties.

Over the years there have, at the International level in particular, been several instances where pairs have set out deliberately flout the Laws of the game, some of them being as follows:

- Using written bidding an Indonesian pair communicated illegally by using the direction at which they put down their pencils after each call. My partner and I put paid to this by discarding our own pens and using theirs, to our advantage.
- An American pair wired their calf muscles, then sent their version of Morse code signals to each other.
- Terence Reese and partner were alleged to advised each other of how many hearts they held by the number of fingers behind the hand.
- A top international pair admitted to cheating recently, their tactic being based on where they put their cards down during the auction – left meant poor values, middle medium, right upper range.
- In his book the Bridge Bum the author, Alan Sonntag, a professional player tells his sponsor partner that some pairs are known to designate the four corners of the table as being the four suits, so staring at that corner suggests that particular lead.
- A top Israeli pair were found to have cheated by placing the board in various positions once the auction was over.
- The best Italian pair at that time were charged after being found to be playing their cards horizontally or vertically while defending, thereby signalling to partner.
- Finally, the then president of the Welsh Bridge Federation used to write a weekly column in which he often described his latest brilliancy. Unfortunately for him one of his readers was a subscriber to the same Italian Bridge magazine that the hands came from! (This was from the time when hands were dealt at the table, so the culprit always managed to be seated first, then told his first-round table companions that the shuffling had been completed).

## Tourney Dominated by Hooves and Antlers - by Richard Pavlicek

N-S Vul.	♠ KQ105432	
	♥ 32	
	♦ 54	
	♣ 109	
♠ J987		♠ 6
♥ 987		♥ J654
♦ 876		♦ J932
♣ 765		♣ J432
	♠ A	
	♥ AKQ10	
	♦ AKQ10	
	♣ AKQ8	

The auction:

W	N	E	S
			4NT
pass	5C	pass	5NT
pass	6D	pass	6NT
All Pass			

Today's deal occurred at the annual North Pole Regional, an unusual tournament in that local reindeer are invited to attend. This has caused complaints from the Eskimos who cite "hoofings" and "antler gougings" as reasons for barring the reindeer; but the truth is that no Eskimo has won since the reindeer were admitted in 1976.

At one table Mush, the top Eskimo player, opened the South hand with four notrump, Blackwood. (Eskimo bidding left a lot to be desired.) His partner, Slush, showed no aces (what a surprise) and Mush continued with five notrump to ask for kings. When Slush showed one king, Mush still had no idea what to bid and he took a stab at six notrump.

West led a spade and Mush was . . . well, in the slush. He had 10 top tricks in his hand and two in dummy, but there was no way to reach the dummy. He played skillfully (endplaying East) to escape for down one. After the session he asked some of the reindeer what they had done on this annoying deal.

"Oh, we bid seven spades," said Randolph, "and I made it on a trump coup. After ruffing three times in the North hand, I ended with South on lead and West's spade jack was trapped in the end position. Not much to it really."

"We bid seven hearts," exclaimed Raymond. "West led a spade and I had to hope for miracles. I ruffed the third round of diamonds in dummy then, fearing a bad spade break, I led the club ten for a finesse. When this held I took the heart finesse and all of a sudden my hand was good. Making seven!"

"How about that!" echoed Ralph. "We bid seven diamonds and I made it the same way."

"Guess what?" chimed Rudolph. "We bid seven clubs . . . some kind of Gerber malfunction as I recall. I won the spade lead, cashed all my red-nosed . . . er, red-suit winners, and ruffed a heart. The spade king was ruffed and overruffed, then a diamond ruff gave me 13 tricks. Rather easy."

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*. Visit his website at [For Bridge Players \(rpbridge.net\)](http://For Bridge Players (rpbridge.net))

## Recent placegetters

### MONDAY MAY PAIRS

- 1 Glenda & John Marshall
- 2 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- 3 Pam Bowman & Darrell Mitton

### FRIDAY PURPLE MAY PAIRS

- 1 Paul Acfield & Susan Phillips
- 2 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- 3 Jinny Fuss & Jackie Ward

### FRIDAY PINK MAY PAIRS

- 1 Ken Stone & Peter Tuck
- 2 Lynne Cotton & Cynthia Hickey
- 3 Judy Larsen & Brenda McCarthy

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

WARRADALE HOTEL JULY 21<sup>ST</sup>

BOOKINGS THROUGH STUART TUCK.

**Cheese and mustard croquettes**

**Caramelized onion and whipped feta croutons**

**Roast grain fed sirloin, Yorkshire pudding, horseradish cream, seasonal vegetables, red wine gravy.**

**Atlantic salmon filet, steamed chat and herb potato salad, grilled marinated asparagus hollandaise sauce.**

**Lemon meringue pie, fruit compote.**

**Roasted macadamia and cinnamon pavlova roulade, seasonal berries**