

BRIDGE IN THE CITY NEWSLETTER

www.bridgeinthecity.net.au

Golden Bunny Teams

It's on again, the Golden Bunny Good Friday teams, 12:30 pm April 7th. Nominations via the website or on the noticeboard. There will also be a gold masterpoint GNOT teams event on Sunday 2nd July.

Bridge in the City Incorporated

It is a State government requirement that we have a fit and proper constitution that has in it all those matters that are deemed necessary for a club to be able to operate. Thanks to Norman Thompson such a document has been lodged, together with the fee, and a special General Meeting will be called when approval has been given. The constitution, incidentally, is in no way controversial, is available on our website, and can certainly be amended at future General Meetings, while the Rules can be amended by the incoming and future committees.

I will be nominating for the position of president (for this year only), we will also be seeking people to fill the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and the four committee places.

Cross-Ruffs are Fun.

The books say that you should always draw trumps at the first opportunity. That's not always the case, particularly when you have a solid trump fit. I played the following hand during a recent a Friday session.

Board : 9	S♠ AK92	Dir: N
	H♥ AK72	Vul: E-W
	D♦ 5	
	C♣ JT74	
S♠ J843		S♠ Q75
H♥ 53		H♥ QJT864
D♦ K987		D♦ QJ4
C♣ 852		C♣ A
	S♠ T6	
15	H♥ 9	
4 12	D♦ AT632	
9	C♣ KQ963	

Playing in a club contract, if you draw trumps you can make just 10 ten tricks. However on a cross ruff a small slam is there for the taking. Try it yourself.

Membership

I'm pleased to say that nearly everyone has paid their 2023 subscription, and that we now have more than 100 members. Murray Eitzen, Diane Harvey and Darrell Mitton have all recently joined, please make them welcome.

Ruling the Game- Alerts

Twenty 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 need to know). Such calls are:

- *All doubles*
- *Cue bids of the opponent's suit, whether or not that suit has been bid, or implied.*
- *Nearly all calls beyond 3NT*
- *A 2♣ response to a 1NT opening – regardless of meaning.*

What Should be Alerted?

The most common alerts will be for Jacoby Transfer responses to 1NT, 2♣ openings, also a 2♦ response to a 2♣ opening.

NOTE – A call may be weak, strong, or indifferent – if it only shows the bid suit then it shouldn't be alerted!

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.

Monthly Placegetters

FRIDAY FEBRUARY PAIRS 1 Stewart Kingsborough & Jackie Ward, 2 Terry Healey & Maureen Wilson 3 Chris Lever & Ingrid Payne

FRIDAY B GRADE FEBRUARY PAIRS 1 Ken Stone & Peter Tuck 2 Judy Larsen & Brenda McCarthy 3 Judith Harris & Molly Johnson

MONDAY FEBRUARY PAIRS 1 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough 2 Carmel & Norman Thompson 3 Graham McLean & Dennis Miles

Two Clubs Opening and Responses

First of all, opening 2♣ on hands with just 18 or 19 high card points should be banned. With a strong balanced hand you can describe your values particularly well by a jump No Trumps rebid. Instead, the 2♣ opening should be reserved for hands that are particularly strong and balanced, or else are distributional and have too many playing tricks for a one level opening, and you can't afford partner to pass.

So, the 2♣ opening now shows either a strong balanced hand, or nearly a game force in an unspecified suit. To make a positive, and therefore game forcing, response partner needs at least two controls (Ace = 2, King = 1) and 7+ high card points. (This information, whether shown or denied, can be particularly useful when determining your slam prospects later in the auction).

Responses

2♦ = negative.

2♥/2♠/3♣/3♦ = respectable 5+ cards suit, positive values.

2NT = positive, no biddable five card or longer suit, may be off shape. Note: all immediate suit responses, apart from 2♦, guarantee five+ cards.

After a 2♦ response

2NT shows 23-24 balanced, same responses as to a 1NT or 2NT opening.

3NT shows 25-26 balanced, again same responses as to a 1NT or 2NT opening.

If opener rebids a suit responder must bid!

After a positive response.

You must finish in game (or even slam), so all below game calls are therefore forcing – partner cannot pass! So, you can take your time to find the right contract.

Opponents intervene

Over an intervention double by responder shows a positive without a convenient call.

After a three level interpose a 3NT call by responder is for play, and may have less than a full positive response.

All suit responses are natural after an overcall.

Other Two Level Openings

In my preferred system I like to play multi twos, as follows:

2♦ = weak two in a major, or 23+ balanced.

2♥ = 5+ hearts, 4+ other, less than an opening hand (5-5 if vul.)

2♠ = 5+ spades, 4+ minor, less than opening values (5-5 if vul.)

2NT = 5+/5+ in the minors, again weak (so my 2♣ opening is now 20-22).

Test your Slam Bidding

On the fifth Monday of a month we are going to have a set of hands where, playing four board rounds, dealer will have 20+ high card points, and dealer's partner will have the pick of the other three hands.

The Senility Prayer

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now that I'm older (but refuse to grow up), here's what I've discovered:

1. I started out with nothing, and still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
3. I finally got my head together; now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.
5. All reports are in; life is now officially unfair.
6. If all is not lost, where is it?
7. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
8. I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few.
9. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
10. The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.
11. If God wanted me to touch my toes he would have put them on my knees.
12. It's not hard to meet expenses ... they're everywhere.
13. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
14. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter.... I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm here after.

Author unknown