

# BRIDGE IN THE CITY NEWSLETTER – MAY 2023

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

## Tales from the Golden Bunnies

We had 17 teams compete this year, with the competition being won by the Phillips team, consisting of Sue Phillips, Bronny & Peter Colmer, and Sharmini Anderson, who made the incredible afternoon tea.

The biggest score of the day occurred when south opened 1NT, double, redouble, all pass, for a score of +1960 - not a score you see every day.

However the best hand was board 28, below

Board : 28	S♠ AT3	Dir: W	Makeable Contracts					
	H♥ Q9653	Vul: N-S		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	D♦ 63		N	-	-	-	-	-
	C♣ 854		S	-	-	-	-	-
S♠		S♠ KQ87642	E	3	5	1	4	5
H♥ J		H♥ AT8	W	3	5	1	4	5
D♦ AKQT8754		D♦ 2						
C♣ AQ93		C♣ T6						
	S♠ J95							
6	H♥ K742							
16 9	D♦ J9							
9	C♣ KJ72							

As dealer, what would you bid with the West cards? Having just played in 4 clubs with a 2-2 fit (partner thought she had bid 4 spades), Liz Jones opened 6 diamonds, all pass, opening lead the spade Ace, 13 tricks!

Elsewhere the auctions were more sedate, with the slam being made on any lead other than a trump.

## Newsletter Contributions

Do you have an interesting or amusing bridge-related story worth of mention in this newsletter. If so, please let me know, where necessary confidentiality assured.

**RED POINTS ON FRIDAY AFTERNOONS IN MAY**

## Bridge in the City Incorporated

The State government department responsible for incorporated bodies is being very particular in their demands. I submitted a slightly modified version of the constitution from a sister club that was approved five years ago, but that wasn't good enough.

A new draft has been submitted, and it is intended to have the inaugural general meeting shortly after approval has been granted.

The incoming committee will consist of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four committee positions. If you are interested in representing your fellow players please let me know.

## Minimum Requirements for One & Two level Openings

A few years ago the ABF Systems Regulations included the concept of Opening Points, being the sum of a player's high card points and the length of the two longest suits.

Whilst the ABF no longer uses this scheme we have decided to re-introduce it at Bridge in the City where at least one of the opponents is under Regional Master (50 masterpoints in total), as follows.

A one level opening must have at least 18 opening points.

A two level opening must have at least 15 opening points.

Examples:

♠J109876 ♥Q73 ♦Q64 ♣2 - has only 14 opening points, so doesn't qualify for a weak two,

♠J109642 ♥Q7 ♦Q643 ♣ 2 has the 15 points, due to the extra card in the second suit, so qualifies as a legitimate two level opening.

Similarly a 10 point 4-3-3-3 hand can't be opened 1NT, having only 17 opening points, however a 4-4-3-2 10 point is alright.

These rules have been introduced to counter a few players who have been making excessively light openings, often to the discomfort of their inexperienced opponents. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the offending pair getting 0% on the board, whilst their opponents will get 60% or their score on the board, whichever is the better.

**BRIDGE IN THE CITY GNOT QUALIFYING**

**GOLD MASTERPOINTS**

**SUNDAY JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 10:30 AM START.**

## How to bid Balanced Hands

Playing Standard, or a similar strong no Trump system, it is my firm opinion that your 1NT opening should fall into the range of 15-17 high card points. Further, you should always open 1NT with a balanced hand within this point range - to bid something else because you don't have a stopper in a specific suit causes too many problems later in the auction..

The structure that I recommend is as follows:

- Open one of a suit, then rebid 1NT – 12-14 high card points
- 1NT opening – 15-17
- Open one of a suit and after partner's suit response jump to 2NT – 18-19
- Open 2NT – 20-22
- Two clubs followed by 2NT – 23-24.

This also means that your two clubs opening, if balanced, will be stronger than the 19 points lower limit used by some players.

Why 15-17, instead of 16-18? Because otherwise the 1NT rebid has a point range of 12 to 15. Instead I prefer to play three point ranges throughout.

Next question – should you open 1NT holding a balanced hand and a five card major? All the experts say yes, since to do otherwise again means that you can't properly describe your values. Note: with a good five card major and 17 points you may consider treating it as an 18 pointer.

## 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.

## Monthly Winners

MONDAY APRIL PAIRS 1 Glenda & John Marshall 2 Antonina Hayles & Terry Healey 3 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough

FRIDAY APRIL PAIRS 1 Carmel & Norman Thompson 2 Jinny Fuss & Jackie Ward 3 Genevieve Donnelly & Antonina Hayles

FRIDAY B GRADE APRIL PAIRS 1 Veronica McCaffrey & Maja Reed 2 Ken Stone & Peter Tuck 3 Pam Bowman & Lois Glanfield

## Listening to the Auction

Recently I picked up the following hand;

♠ A Q J  
♥ A Q 10  
♦ Q J 8 2  
♣ A 9 8

Nice hand, I thought, should enjoy playing this. However, I was in second seat, all vulnerable, and my right hand opponent opened 1 club, which was described as showing 15+ high card points, any shape.

I doubled, my left hand opponent bid 1 diamond, also alerted, pass, 1NT from opener. I enquired about the 1 diamond, and was told that it showed 5 -7 high card points and a spade suit.. Hmm. 15+ on my right, 5+ on my left, nothing left for partner.

I passed, and the opponents eventually played in 2S, making, for a top board to the good guys - elsewhere people with my cards bid on, to unfortunate results.

The diagram shows a hand layout with four players and their High Card Points (HCPs):

Player	Spades	Hearts	Diamonds	Clubs	HCPs
North	K 10 9 7 2	J 8 3	4	J 6 3 2	5
West	A Q J	A Q 10	Q J 8 2	A 9 8	20
East	8 6 5	6 5 4 2	9 6 3	7 5 4	0
South	4 3	K 9 7	A K 10 7 5	K Q 10	15