

OVER THE YEARS

A group of 40 year old men, who had taken the lessons together and become friends, decided they would all go out to dinner. After some discussion it was agreed they should meet at Ocean View Restaurant because the waitresses there had tight pants and cute backsides.

Ten years later, at 50 years of age, the group once again discussed where to meet for dinner. The Ocean View Restaurant was chosen because the food was very good and the wine selection excellent.

Ten years on, at 60, the topic arose again. Once more they agreed on the Ocean View Restaurant because they could eat there in peace and quiet and the restaurant had a beautiful view of the ocean.

Ten years later, at 70 years of age, same discussion. Finally it was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the restaurant had wheel chair access and an elevator.

At 80, they chose the Ocean View Restaurant because none of them had ever been there before.

CHARACTERISTICALLY SPEAKING

Barry Vassella, while carrying out a password audit on the club computer, questioned your editor's rather lengthy password:

bashfuldocdopeygrumpyhappysleepysneezycanberra.

Well Barry, the passport requirements were quite specific, calling for 7 small characters and a capital.

And, everybody needs to know this. In an earlier version of the story by the Brothers Grimm, the seven dwarves were called *Flick, Glick, Blick, Snick, Plick, Whick* and *Quee*. Now there's a password!

TRUMPED by the One-Eyed Royal!! Ah, but which one? Was it Ogier, La Hire or the Man with the Axe?

TRUMPED by the Curse of Scotland! Could it be Anne McLeod or Jan Brown?

TRUMPED by the Death Card! That's scary!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Whenever you're feeling down, just remember, if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.

Anon



BRIDGE MATTERS



BE BOLD AND DARING WITH DISCRETION

Newsletter of the Caloundra Contract Bridge Club March 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Welcome to the first edition of our club newsletter for 2011.

I hope everyone had a happy and successful festive season.

For those who attended the Christmas Party we trust you enjoyed yourselves and the club looks forward to running another fun event later this year.



Our membership numbers continue to grow no doubt due to the successful beginners classes during the year and the continued running of our supervised play session by Lesley Beasley.

Our next beginners classes commence on Tuesday 8th March at 9.00 am. We would encourage you to spread the word regarding the classes and if you know anyone who is interested please let them know.

Enjoy your bridge this year and the club looks forward to another great year.

BRIDGE IS A BRIDGE

Games played with cards have entertained, challenged and infuriated mankind for centuries. And bridge, the most popular game of all, entertains, challenges and infuriates enough people to populate New York, London, Tokyo and a couple of the more crowded metropolises of India. It divides families, and it links human beings who appear to have nothing else in common. Despite all its abrasive and sometimes separating qualities, bridge is a bridge, and it spans the globe.

Life International v32 n11. June 4 1962



SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNALS ON THE OPENING LEAD OF A SUIT CONTRACT

Di Maltby

A suit preference signal is given to partner when it is self-evident, from looking at dummy, that continuation of the suit led is undesirable. It will be obvious in these circumstances that the signal is suit preference rather than the more common attitude or count signal.

There is a choice of two suits for the switch: not the suit led and not trumps. Therefore the choice is between the other two suits. To indicate which suit you prefer:

- a low card in the suit led indicates a switch to the lower ranking suit
- a high card in the suit led indicates a switch to the higher ranking suit

An example: the contract is 4 spades and partner has led the Ace of clubs. If dummy has a singleton club, or KQJx, or Kx, dummy can win the club continuation. To suggest to partner that a diamond switch is needed, play a low club. For a heart switch, play a high club.

OF COURSE IT'S NOT ABOUT WINNING!

If winning isn't everything, why do they keep score?

Vince Lombardi

I never did say that you can't be a nice guy and win. I said that if I was playing 3rd base and my mother rounded third with the winning run, I would trip her up.

Les Durocher

Yes but we bridge players are much nicer people. Except, I know a man who gleefully doubles his wife when he feels she has overbid, chuckling wickedly when he gets a good score

Overheard: *The trouble with women is that they treat bridge as a game. They do not realize it is war.*

Sure I am this day we are masters of our fate, that the task which has been set before us is not above our strength; that its pangs and toils are not beyond our endurance. As long as we have faith in our own cause and an unconquerable will to win, victory will not be denied us.

Winston Churchill



I can't win in my home club. I can't win away. I just can't figure out where else to play!

THANK YOU PAUL

You are South, in 3NT.

Dummy

♠ 54
♥ A
♦ AK
♣ QJ109873

You

♠ A108
♥ KQ2
♦ QJ10843
♣ 5

The lead is the ♠ 6. You count your tricks. ♠ A, ♥ AKQ, ♦ AKQJ108. 10 tricks off the top and who knows what might happen to the clubs. You are about to set to with gusto when from somewhere out in left field Paul Marston's words come floating through the ether. *Good declarers always stop to consider the whole hand before they play to trick one. They need this time to form a plan.*

You take another look and you see it!! Shock, horror!! The minute a trick is won in dummy, you can never get back to your hand!! But Paul has given you time. Plan your play so dummy never wins a trick and with a favourable diamond break you will make your contract.

(We found this hand in Sachar, L, 2010 *The Card Turner*. London. Bloomsbury Publishing p304. A fun read. Dunno where he got it from.)

Solution

Duck the first two rounds of spades. On trick 3, discard dummy's ♠ A. Play your ♠ KQ throwing dummy's ♠ AK. The diamonds come good, for 9 tricks! Well played. OK Barry, we're ready for this one.

Did you ever stop to think and forget to start again?

Winnie the Pooh

MORE ABOUT HESITATIONS

During a high stakes game one day, the legendary Alvin Roth and his partner found themselves defending a 7NT contract.

On the third last trick, declarer, sitting East, with the ace and king in dummy, led the jack of spades. Roth's partner (sitting South) pretended a painful hesitation before playing his card; he hemmed and hawed, pulling out one card and then another, before playing low to the jack. Declarer, assuming after all this performance, that South must have the queen, took a chance and let the jack ride. Though Roth, in fact, possessed the queen and (playing last) could have won the trick and defeated the contract, he opted instead to play a lower card. Declarer won the trick and, with ace, king in dummy, easily made his contract.

Afterwards, Roth was upbraided by his partner for blowing the game. "For Heaven's sake, Alvin," he exclaimed, "why didn't you take the queen?"

Roth, a famously ethical player, stared the man down and wryly replied: "You hesitated so long, I thought you had it."

anecdote.com

CONVENTIONALLY SPEAKING

Gerber Ace Ask: John Gerber (1906 - 1981) won United States regional and national championships in the 1940s, 50s and 60s, and played for the USA at the international level in the early 1960s. Gerber CRO was **not** named after his pet raven.
♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Ghestem Overcall: Pierre Ghestem (1922 - 2000) was a French bridge and checkers player. In 1947 he became world champion in checkers. He played bridge for France in the 1950s and 60s, winning the Bermuda Bowl in 1956 and the World Team Olympiad in 1960.

Michaels Cue Bid: Michael Michaels, aka Mike, from Florida, bridge writer and lecturer, was one of Charles Goren's bridge partners.

Lebensohl: Nobody knows where the name came from, and, within a sentence, it is never capitalized. It was initially attributed (with an assumed misspelling) to Kenneth Lebensold, a Californian who had won several major bridge competitions, but he vigorously denied any connection. One theory is that it is derived from two German or Yiddish words, meaning 'life' and 'foot'.

Negative Doubles: Fred Negative, assistant 3rd Mate on the Endeavour, played bridge in his off-duty time with the Bosun and a couple of bridge mates. The convention is named after the ship's cross-eyed cat, *Doubles*. Fred was an ardent abolitionist, hence the **Negative Free Bid**.



Some may tell you the Negative Double was introduced by an American pair, **Alvin Roth and Tobias Stone**, in 1957, and was initially called the Sputnik Double after the Russian satellite launched earlier that year. Believe what you will.

Pottage, Cappelletti, Hamilton: It seems this convention was devised and claimed by 3 separate authors, **John Pottage** of the UK, **Michael Cappelletti** and **Fred Hamilton**, of the USA, and is designated separately under all 3 names. The convention was also claimed by Gerald Helms, USA, but is not designated as such, so you can't tell anybody you're playing Helms.

Brozel: This convention is sort of loosely named after its creator **Bernard Zeller**, of New Jersey, USA.

DONT: Ok, we won't!

Unassuming Cue Bid: The Hon. Marmeduke Unassuming starred on the international bridge stage for many years. Unfortunately he was of so modest and retiring a nature that nobody can remember anything about him.

Blackwood and **Stayman** have been covered in earlier editions. Of course you will remember.

BUSCH BASCH

Peter Busch

MISUNDERSTOOD LAWS

Hesitation



Hesitation in bridge is a fact of life. Sometimes you have a difficult hand to bid, and other times you've worked out your bid in plenty of time but are caught short when an opponent makes a pre-emptive jump.

Hesitation in itself is not illegal. However, it does convey "unauthorised information" to partner (authorised information between partners is limited to legal calls and plays). It doesn't tell partner what exactly you have, but it does suggest some values in your hand, because if you had nothing, you wouldn't be hesitating.

When you have received unauthorised information from your partner, like a hesitation, it is important that you bid your hand, and disregard anything you might deduce from partner's hesitation.

However, when push comes to shove, the laws make things tougher. Even though you might believe your hand justifies your bid, and even if you decided to make that bid before partner's hesitation, unless 75% or more of similar players would make that bid, then you may be in trouble. That's what is referred to as "no logical alternative" – if 75% or more of players in your shoes would make that bid *without* the hesitation, then you will have no problems making it.

The picture is muddier if your action was a bit risky and it is decided that less than 75% of similar players would do it. In this instance, you need to look at whether the unauthorised information suggested one action over another. For example, consider this: in a competitive auction, the opponents have bid 4S and you need to decide whether or not to bid 5H or to pass, and it is a 50/50 choice. Partner has hesitated and passed at their turn to bid. That would suggest to you they had undisclosed values, and this would influence you to bid on rather than pass. It is this situation that is now not allowed, and the director would probably adjust the result.



In general terms, when pass is an option that more than 25% of players might consider in your position, it will usually be held that making any other call after partner's hesitation would be suggested by the hesitation and therefore would be illegal.

In summary, when you have received unauthorised information from partner's hesitation:

- (a) if there is 75% + action (one that three quarters of similar players would take without the benefit of the hesitation), then it is safe to take that action;
- (b) if it's not that clear cut, then you cannot take any action that might be suggested by the hesitation, even if you always intended to do it.

It has been suggested that once you have hesitated, you really should make a bid rather than pass in order to protect your partner's options. That is good advice, but it doesn't guarantee that your partner will be free of problems. Your hesitation still conveys unauthorised information by telling them that you have no clear cut action, but it is generally a safer path than hesitating and passing.

Remember that these rules apply to all forms of unauthorised information, not just hesitation. Comments and expressions, undue interest in an opponent's conventional bid, passing too quickly, changes in the way you write your bid all constitute unauthorised information.

Finally, it's important to remember that if the director decides that your action may be based on unauthorised information and adjusts your result, they are NOT accusing you of cheating. The laws simply state that once you have unauthorised information, your options are reduced. That's why it's important to try and make all your calls in tempo.

AN INTERESTING HAND

Rosemary Crowley

Dir: N ♠ KJ75
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q76
 ♦ J93
 ♣ Q107

♠ 86 ♠ A
 ♥ 8 ♥ AJ9
 ♦ AQ542 ♦ K1086
 ♣ J5432 ♣ AK986
 ♠ Q109432
 ♥ K105432
 ♦ 7
 ♣

An interesting hand from the Zone Pairs 2010. I'm sitting South. The bidding at our table:

N	E	S	W
/	1D	2D*	3D
3S	5D	5S	/
/	X	/	/
/			

(* promises 5/5 in the majors)

A hand for 2-suited overcalls. Over East's 1D, playing Michaels Cue Bid, I bid 2D, saying I have 2 x 5card majors. Over West's 3D North made

a free bid of 3S, knowing we have a double fit. So, especially with favourable vulnerability, I'm always going to push. 5SX making 9 tricks scored 10 of a possible 18 matchpoints. EW can make a slam in clubs, diamonds or notrumps. Partner did well to make 9 tricks. Deep Finesse says 8. All the scores on the board are shown on the following page.

with such well known players as Jim Jacoby (Ozzie's son), Mike Lawrence and Bobby Wolff.

How good a player was he? *He is not quite as good as the 4 international stars he has wisely assembled to perform as his supporting cast.....But Omar is also a topflight player. He has mastered the Blue Team system of bidding, and he has an unmistakable flair for play.* Charles Goren: 'The Circus Under Omar's Tent.' *Sports Illustrated* v29:11, Sept 09, 1968.

As his movie career declined (from the early 70s), Omar devoted more time to the game. *"I'd rather be playing bridge than making a bad movie."* Regrettably he was obliged to go on making bad movies to support his other passions, gambling and horse racing. *"I was always one film behind my debts."*

Sharif returned to Egypt permanently in 1992, residing with his son and his two grandsons, to whom he is devoted. Then, in 2006, he publicly renounced bridge and gambling. *"I had too many passions: bridge, horses, gambling. I want to live a different kind of life, be with my family more, because I didn't give them enough time."* And he finally stopped making movies. *"My own grandchildren used to make fun of my films, which is very serious. They used to say, the previous one was terrible grandfather, but this one is even worse, so I decided it was time to stop and keep some dignity."*

But if you have a moment to spare ladies, go online and let Omar talk to you about bridge. Plenty of dignity, and absolutely oozing charm.

MORE FROM JOHN BROCKWELL

A long time ago, someone said that "bridge is a game for ladies and gentlemen". Nowadays, that idea seems quaint and old-fashioned but there is still something nice about it. Someone else once said that "bridge is a beautiful game, let's keep it that way". I like that. If I were to have my two-bob's-worth, I would say "cherish the new players: they deserve to enjoy our wonderful game". QBA Bulletin March-April 2010

X XX BETTER NOT !

Two ladies were playing in a local duplicate against a player of some repute who had escalated himself into a somewhat lofty contract of 4 hearts which went 2 down. During the course of the play it transpired that one of the ladies had ♥ KQJ10 + 2 aces at which point her partner duly admonished her and enquired why she hadn't doubled, to which she replied:

"Oh, no, I know him. He always redoubles!"

bridgetuition.co.uk

♥ ♠ X XX ♦ ♣ X XX ♥ ♠

HOT GOSSIP

OMAR SHARIF 1932 -

This column is brought to you by our dedicated columnist *The Queen of Tarts*. This one is for the ladies.

Born Michael Shalhoub, 1932, in Alexandria, to a prosperous Lebanese - Egyptian family, Omar Sharif graduated from Cairo's Victory College in Maths and Physics. Before the revolution of 1962, King Farouk was a frequent visitor to the family home, and a card-playing partner of Omar's mother.

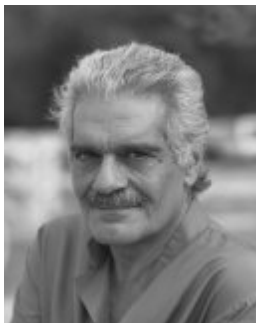


On graduating, Sharif worked briefly in his father's lumber business, before pursuing an acting career. He married the glamorous Egyptian movie star, Faten Hamama and they had one son, Tarek. (He appeared in *Dr Zhivago* as the 8 year old Yuri).

Under President Nasser, exit visas became a requirement before leaving the country and Sharif's ability to take part in international films was seriously impeded. This influenced his decision to remain in Europe between movies, a decision which cost him his marriage, and transformed him from an established family man to a life long bachelor, living in hotels and out of suitcases. He later moved to Hollywood. His most famous movies were *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Dr Zhivago*. Of his fame, he said: *"It gave me glory but it gave me loneliness also. And a lot of missing my own people and my own country."*

Sitting around on a set between filming, he picked up an old bridge book, and so began his great love for the game. *"Acting is my Profession ... Bridge is my Passion."*

Omar represented the UAR in the World Olympiad, 1964. At one time he co-authored a bridge column with Charles Goren. He authored or co-authored several bridge books and produced several bridge videos. He also licensed his name to *Omar Sharif Bridge*, a computer game. But perhaps he is most famous for the ***Omar Sharif Bridge Circus***. In 1967 he led a cast of some of the world's greatest players, including Giorgio Belladonna and Benito Garozzo of the famous Italian Blue Team. For two years the circus toured several continents, playing exhibition matches against local champions. A second tour (1970-71) *one of the most spectacular extravaganzas ever to grace the bridge horizon*, swung through the USA, including a second team, *The Dallas Aces*,



Contract	Tricks	Score		Match points	
		NS	EW	NS	EW
5 ♠ X N	9		300	8	10
4 ♠ S	9		50	16	2
5 ♠ X N	9		300	8	10
5 ♠ X N	11	650		18	0
5 ♠ X N	9		300	8	10
4 ♠ X S	9		100	13	5
4 ♠ X S	9		100	13	5
5 ♣ E	12		620	4	14
6 ♦ W	12		1370	0	18
3NT E	12		690	2	16

Question: If you are South and dealer on this hand, what would you bid?

GNP: CHANGES TO MASTERPOINTING

Effective from 2011, the weighting of this event will be reduced to three-quarters of its original weighting.

A second change will be the reduction of masterpoint awards from 75% and 100% of the field (club heats and regional final respectively) to 50% and 50%.

BE BOLD AND DARING WITH DISCRETION

You may have noticed our watchword under the newsletter header. But what, exactly do we mean?

Well, it's somewhere between André Gide: *The most beaten paths are certainly the surest; but do not hope to scare up much game on them* and Aesop: *Better one safe way than a hundred on which you cannot reckon*.

That should make everything clear!

LESSONS

Lessons start at CCBC Tuesday March 8th, at SCCBC Wednesday March 9th. It is not too late to encourage a friend to come along. For further information, pick up a brochure or ring the Gulleys (CCBC) # 5499 6471 or Dot Borchardt (SCCBC) #54442761.

FROM YOUR GAMES DIRECTOR

Rosemary Crowley

I have asked your editor to reprint the following article, from our second newsletter.

A word about entering data into the Bridgemates

If you are on lead, please make your lead before you enter anything into the Bridgemate. Nothing can happen until the opening lead is made. You will then have ample time to enter all the data while dummy is going down and declarer contemplates strategy.

If you are dummy, wait until the first lead is made, put your cards down, then enter the data.

If you are the defender not on lead, you can enter the data immediately before the first lead is made - but keep an eye on partner so you can okay the lead as soon as it is tabled.

If you are declarer, wait until the hand is finished to enter the data. You don't have time to do it beforehand.

The objective is to avoid holding anyone up and avoid any unnecessary waste of time at the table.

Bullying

The following extract comes from an article by John Brockwell: **Ramblings: Confessions of a Recorder** published in the QBA Bulletin March-April 2010, reproduced with kind permission of the author.

John Brockwell served as one of three Recorders at the Gold Coast Congress last year. The function of a Recorder is to deal with incidents which do not fall within the jurisdiction of a Director, frequently involving inappropriate player behaviour.

The aspect of recording that troubles me most is bullying of opponents. I take a dim view of it. The most frequent victims are players who are new to tournament play. More-experienced opponents are sometimes inclined to admonish them for some perceived breach of procedure. That is not their function. There are also those who usurp the Director's job by giving table rulings. That is foolish and improper. The Laws of the game require that a Director be summoned whenever an infraction occurs, however trivial that infraction might appear. It is unnecessary, indeed unbecoming, to summon the Director in aggressive or intimidatory fashion. It is easy to say to your less-experienced opponents "I think something has happened; do you mind if we call a Director?" Likewise, and I know that this is not an easy thing to do, less-experienced players should call a Director if they are bullied and, later, they should report the incident to a Recorder. Far too many incidents of bullying are not reported as they should be. The authorities have ways and means of dealing with bullies.

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Following a study carried out in the US by Larry Cohen, Peter Busch analysed the 1.4 million auctions from about 150,000 separate hands available to him from the various bridge websites he manages, to determine the most frequently played contracts.

3NT was the most frequent final contract, played 15.5% of the time, followed by 4S (13.6%) then 4H (12.0%). 1NT was played 5.7% of the time, and 1C just 0.2% - that's 2 in a thousand. The most infrequently played contracts were 7D and 7C at 0.01%.

It seems the Yanks are not as frightened of NT as some of us appear to be, with 3NT leading at 18.1% in the Cohen study.

It would appear to follow, percentage-wise, that NT, at some level, would be the most frequent contract. In the Cohen study that was the case. Auctions ending in a no trump contract were the most frequent of all the denominations at 28.4%, followed by spades (27.2%). In the Busch study, these figures were reversed, with spades, at 28.7%, narrowly edging out no trumps (27.5%). This again suggests that in Australia we are more reticent about playing no trumps than our American cousins. The Busch results for hearts (24.7%), followed by diamonds (10.9%), then clubs (8.1%), were virtually identical to the Cohen study.

The Americans do tend to pass in more hands than we do (except they pass them out), at 1.5%, compared to our 0.4%. We suggest a further study to determine whether this is based on wisdom or wimpishness. Perhaps it is a consequence of the source of Cohen's research being on-line bridge games, whereas the Busch study was from club sessions.

A further interesting statistic revealed by the Busch study is the comparison of part/game/slam contracts. Part contracts 47.65%, game 48.79%, slam 2.99% and grand slam 0.13%.

So get with it. Bid more slams, up the NT contracts, pass in fewer hands and we'll be way ahead.

SAVE THE CLUB SUIT



The Busch study (above) indicates that, like many other of our endangered natural species, the club suit is headed for extinction. Its natural habitat is being wiped out in our greed for conventions. For many people an opening bid of 1C is artificial, for most of us 2C is artificial, and for a lot of players a bid of 4C has nothing to do with that suit. How can any sort of club contract ever be reached?

Bridge Matters is launching a campaign to revive the club suit. No more conventions! All club bids to be natural! Please donate generously. In the interests of conservation, no receipts will be issued.



BRIDGING THE GAP

WITH FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by OLIVE JAMES CCBC

CHICKEN SURPRISE AND RICE

The surprise being: (a) it's so easy
(b) it's so tasty
(c) it's pretty quick

Ingredients

Small amount of oil
Approx 6-8 shallots (chopped)
2 cups chopped cooked chicken
1 tin chopped tomatoes
1 tin coconut cream
Jasmine rice

Method

Cook rice by your own method
Heat oil in wok or frying pan
Add shallots and stir fry one minute
Add chicken and move around in the pan until hot and bubbly
Add tinned tomatoes and coconut cream
Add salt and pepper to taste and cook until reduced
Serve over rice

MOOMBA SLICE - Quick and Tasty

Ingredients

4 oz butter
4 oz castor sugar
1 egg
1 cup mixed fruit
2 cups S.R, flour
Pinch salt

Method

Melt butter and sugar - cool
Add beaten egg, fruit and sifted flour
Press into lamington tray which has been lined with Glad Bake
Bake 370° 25-30 minutes
Cool slightly, ice with lemon icing

Lemon Icing

1 cup icing sugar mixture
1 teaspoon butter (melted)
1 tablespoon hot water
1 tablespoon lemon juice

Mix together while slice is still warm, then add grated lemon on top.

Maureen Lamont substitutes passion fruit for lemon—very nice too!

BRIDGE REASONING #2

Ken Dawson

Scenario

Your right hand opponent has dealt and opened the bidding with 7H which becomes the final contract. You hold

♠A753

♥76

♦QJT6

♣J73

Challenge

What is your opening lead and why?

Solution

1. What sort of hand can be expected for the 7H opening bid?
2. I would expect 12.5 or 13 tricks with opener. Otherwise, surely he would have gone through some hoops looking for a cover for the possible loser. Perhaps he has 7-6 or something like that. Certainly, he won't have a loser off the top. If there is a loser, it will probably be a missing Queen. That ♠A will not be cashing - but partner doesn't know it. The other problem is that we hold so many goodies that there is not much left for partner.
3. The textbooks say lead a trump against a grand slam. However, I doubt that an opening bid of 7H was envisaged by the authors.
4. I would select ♦Q telling partner that I have any loser in that suit covered. Declarer is going to run the long heart suit hoping that we will pitch the wrong cards if he has a deep minor loser.

Depending on dummy, I will pitch ♠A as soon as possible telling partner that declarer has no loser in that suit. My discards should also be able to show that I haven't got the clubs. Now, partner can pitch his spades also and keep a cover in *clubs*

For the record, declarer held

♠---

♥AKQJT852

♦AK

♣AK2 opposite ♣8654

The contract can't make if one opponent keeps the clubs until trick 13.

BRIDGE MOVIES

Bridge to Terabithia, Bridge over the River Kwai, A Bridge Too Far, The Bridges of Madison County, Waterloo Bridge, The Bridge of San Luis Rey,

But by far the most intriguing: *Spellbound*.

Watching your partner compress 10 tricks into 7.

EARLY DAYS AT CALOUNDRA BRIDGE CLUB

Alan Maltby

We all enjoyed Maria Lindsay's and Tony Timmer's articles on the history of the club. Alan has revisited those days for us.

I joined the club in 1983. The president was Pat Porter, secretary Van Altena and treasurer Fay Houser. Van and Fay performed wonderfully in those positions for many years. Pat was a marvellous member and it was due to her efforts that we gained from the Landsborough Shire Council the licence to occupy the land for our clubhouse.

In the early days, we had only one session a week, Tuesday night. We rented premises, and, in my time, we used the CCSA hall, the Junior Rugby League rooms and the Meals on Wheels building. This entailed members getting to the session early and getting tables and chairs out of storage. It was a far cry from the luxury we now enjoy. Also, in those days, there was no such thing as computer scoring, and every night's session had to be scored by hand, a job which usually took a couple of hours.

The first club congress I attended was held at the Currimundi Hotel. It was a 2 day event, with qualifying rounds on Saturday, and on Sunday the field was divided into Championship, Plate and a number of Consolation sections. The players competed against all those in their section, and again, barometer scoring was done by hand. I remember there was much anguish as the director had not had a great deal of experience, and she faced a mammoth task. Other early congresses were held at the Rolling Surf Motel, the *old* RSL club and the Civic Centre. These venues all had significant drawbacks, either for playing conditions or, in the case of the Civic Centre, the cost of the catering, which had to be done by the council caterer. One year we had 57 tables and barely broke even on the weekend. I wrote endless letters to the council but to no avail. One thing that did improve immensely was that we were able to get Reg Busch and Joan McPheat to direct with their computer scoring, and they were fantastic. In those days nearly every member played in the congress or carried out some of the many tasks.

The push was on to get our own clubhouse. We had progressed to 2 sessions a week, and 1st Friday was 'bring and buy' day. Nearly everyone would bring cakes, plants, sausage rolls, books etc, and these would be sold, with all proceeds going to the club. We also had a raffle on that day. The take from the day was usually around \$300, which was a lot, given this was 25 years ago and there would usually be about 30 to 40 players. We decided to go ahead, and a Building Committee started work. One member was an engineer and he came up with a plan which featured the hopper windows we now have. Maria and Bill Lindsay had an architect friend whom they convinced to work for a vastly reduced fee, and he came up with an improved plan for the first stage, which was about half of the building we now have. We had funds of something in excess of \$20 000.

The president at the time brought forward the idea of raising the remainder by

having loans or debentures from members. Of course there would be no security, and the interest on offer was less than half the rate we would have had to pay a bank, but we had no trouble getting the funds, and the building was constructed for about \$60 000. First Friday continued. Also we could now run events in our own venue, making more profit. Members donated their services as directors, caddies, kitchen hands, cooks etc. The first stage went up in 1988, and by 1992 we had paid off the debt, and went down the debenture track again to build basically what we have today.

We are lucky to have a wonderful clubhouse, made possible by the hard work of many 'old' members.

A BRIDGE PLAYER'S PRAYER

(Seen at the Gold Coast Bridge Club)

Oh Lord, grant us this session of bridge for our enlightenment and bring forth only the good from the alleged Devil's picture book, the 52 pieces which Thou hast snatched from Hell and rendered so beneficial.

Please show us that we came here not to inflate our vanity by winning but to train the brain and share the soul in humility and in good fellowship

May we learn from Thee, in life as in bridge, the habit and power of constructive thought, the growth of reason, the development of imagination and self-control in all things that we do; also how to befriend our enemies by communication and cooperation.

Please teach us, Oh Lord, that bridge is a relaxing hobby and only a game to play for fun. Let us play now as if this were our last session on earth, yet plan as if we were going to play bridge forever.

Blessed are the losers, for they shall inherit all the bridge games on earth.

WHAT DO WE WANT FROM OUR CLUB?

While we all share in common our love for the game, people arrive at a bridge session with a variety of expectations.

Some are looking forward to a pleasant afternoon in congenial company, enjoying a game they love. Socializing, sharing family stories, telling jokes, having a good laugh, are all part of the fun.

Others are focussed on the competitive nature of the game. All they want to do is concentrate on the 13 cards dealt to them and figure out how best to bid, play, defend. They want to analyse the hands, discuss the auctions. At home, they pore over the hand records, looking to improve their skills.

Then there are the new players, trying not to get lost, struggling with the bidding, seeking to improve. They need our encouragement and guidance.

We welcome all players and hope to be gracious to all.