

GRINNING WINNERS of 2011



ANNIE GALLI & BARBARA JOHNS
Tony Delaney Novice Category



JOYCE HOLEHOUSE & TRISH TANNER
Tony Delaney Restricted Category



SUSAN POWLEY

Joan Rathbun Trophy for the novice who gained the most points at the Club in 2011



JOY COOP & JAN O'CONNELL
President's Trophy Intermediate

And already in 2012!



SAM MURRAY

Encouragement Award for the Best Performing Nil master



SANDY REGAN & KEMAL AVUNDUK
2nd in the Zone Pairs

AGM – MARCH 9TH – BE THERE TO DISCUSS THE CLUB'S FUTURE



TEACHING AND LIBRARY

Which Conventions Should I Play?

(assuming use of Standard system)

This question is often asked by beginners aware of an array of available conventions. While conventions in use have changed enormously over time, the literature of all eras has been consistent in advising beginners to focus first on hand evaluation, judgement and partnership understandings, and to add conventions progressively.

In the table below, I have attempted to provide some answers to the headline question, but it's not meant to be exhaustive. Other experienced players will have different ideas, which we might be able to show in later Bulletins.

(e)=essential (r)=recommended (c)=consider (l)=later

Reason/purpose	Conventions and recommendation
Essential, as early as possible	Stayman (e) & transfers (e) in response to 1NT and 2NT Blackwood (e), 2C as multi-purpose force (e)
Following the law of total tricks	Bergen raises (r) and Jacoby 2NT (r) over 1M openings * inverted minor raises (r) splinter support bids (r); weak freak 1M:4M bids (e) pre-emptive jump raises in competition (r)
Further describing or exploring fits	Support doubles and re-doubles (r) Targetted game-trial bids eg after 1M:2M (r) Cue raises, of overcalls and after interference (r)

Enabling a further description of your hands	Reverse bids show extra strength and shape (e); 4 th suit forcing (you can't play bridge without this one). New Minor Forcing (also called The Other Minor) (r)
Seeking the power of fit	weak 2-suited openings (r) 2-suited overcalls, eg Michaels and 2NT (r)
Aids to slam bidding	** cue bids (e); add RKC to Blackwood (r) ***make limited use of Gerber 4C eg only directly over NT by pard (c)
Competing over interference	Negative doubles (e) non-forcing free bids (c)
Expanding responses to NT	Puppet Stayman (r) showing minors eg minor suit Stayman; 3S in response to 2NT & others (l)
Competing over strong openings	Over their strong 1NT (r) eg DONT

* The alternative of a strong 1m:3m is of little help in judging the choice between a suit and NT.

** To investigate slam, cue bids offer advantages over a direct ace ask. Cue bids allow specific controls to be identified at an economic level, and allow both partners to contribute to the decision.

*** Experts do not recommend Gerber (see Klinger). It is common for newcomers to adopt Gerber for extensive use but change to no or restricted use once they find better uses for the 4C bid.

References

Ron Klinger, *Cue Bidding to Slams*

Ron Klinger, *Bridge Conventions, Defences and Countermeasures*

Paul Marston, *Winning Decisions in Competitive Bidding*

B Seagram & M Smith, *Bridge Conventions You Should Know*

B Seagram & L Lee, *Splinter Bids*

Audry Grant, *Commonly Used Conventions*

M Horton & J Van Cleeff, *The Mysterious Multi*

Paul Marston, *Opening Two Bids*

Geoff Hart

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KEVIN'S CORNER

THE POWER OF SHAPE

I wonder what £20,000 in 1750 would be worth today. I often have problems with hands that have singletons or voids so decided to do some research on the power of shape and came across an article first published in 1750 by Edmund Hoyle. Legend has it that the Duke of Cumberland lost the £20,000 on a wager against N-S in the hand below. Why wouldn't you double when you could see East's hand?

♠ -	
♥ 5432	
♦ 5432	
♣ 65432	
♠ JT	♠ AKQ
♥ JT9876	♥ AKQ
♦ T9876	♦ AKQJ
♣ -	♣ KJ9
♠ 98765432	
♥ -	
♦ -	
♣ AQT87	

Dealer E Vulnerable: Both

Contract 7C XX

Declarer is South. There is no way of stopping this grand slam no matter which suit is led as any Spade, Heart or Diamond can be ruffed. If ruffed in dummy, a Club is returned to CT. Declarer ruffs another Spade and again takes the trump finesse. He repeats the process until he has drawn all trumps and his spades are high. He chalks up all thirteen tricks as East's high cards crash on South's good spades. Our library has several good books on The Power of Shape. Happy bridging.....

Kevin Feeney

X from the opposition says, "I don't believe you can make this contract". The second X comes from Declarer who says "Oh yes I can". Needless to say the point count is very high if a redoubled contract is made!

DIRECTORS' NEWS

Pre-alerts

There have been some instances recently where a failure to pre-alert an unusual or unexpected 2-level opening has caused some angst at the table.

Players are reminded that QBA regs (3.1.1) state that unusual partnership agreements that you might have might surprise your opponents, or to which they might need to arrange a defence **MUST** be pre-alerted. These should appear on your system card and should also be verbally pre-alerted on arrival at the table.

When there is reason to believe that a failure to alert has caused damage, the Director will consider awarding an adjusted score provided there is a direct link between the irregularity and the result achieved at the table.



STOP PRESS

Calendar Omission:

July 8th
Noosa Swiss Pairs
Congress



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