

From the President

So much has happened since our last Newsletter in February. At our Annual General Meeting on 13 March we welcomed Prunella Adams and John Garland to the Management Committee. Whilst we have been unable to meet so far since the AGM, we have received permission from Queensland Health to stage our next Committee Meeting at the Clubhouse on 26 May. Of course, we will be following the physical distancing rules but it will be good to get together again.

No doubt the question on everyone's lips is when will we be back on deck and playing at the Club again. We have received information from Kim Ellaway, Manager of the QBA, which isn't all that positive, maybe Level 5 or 6. However, Qantas have indicated they want to be back flying at the beginning of July and no self-distancing rules will apply. So I think it's just a matter of wait and see. The ABF have appointed a Health Officer to assist Clubs for when we do return because whatever the date is, things will be different.

As you would expect, all Congresses, Charity Days and other events have been cancelled through to July 2020. I sent out an email recently to all members inviting their interest in participating in the BBO/ABF Club games. Almost 100 of our members expressed an interest in playing. After two trial sessions we have established regular playing times as well as partnership arrangements. Hopefully this will increase the number of members playing regularly.

I know many of you are in touch with each other during these times, however if there is anyone who is in need of a helping hand or simply wants to have a chat, or clarify what is going on in these Covid times, please don't hesitate to call me or Sue or any member of the Committee.

Here's hoping that when we next communicate, we are all back at the Club enjoying each other's company.



Ross Gyde

Around the Club



While you all have been in lockdown, we have slowly been getting the Clubhouse ready for our Re-Opening. We've had the ceiling cleaned and carpet shampooed, as well as our own Band of Sadies who joined forces and scrubbed everything until it was shiny and new again. Thank you Ladies and thanks also to Michelle Behrens who immortalised our effort and was part of our Sadie Gang.



Sandy McCulloch
Ni Rowley



New Members – Jane Battikha, Heather Canterbury, Dinah Marsh, Beverley McCracken, Kerry Minchin, Margo Miranda, Bill Wellington
Past Members – John Gill

2020-21 Management Committee

Officer Bearers:

President – Ross Gyde
Vice President – Ted McNamara
Secretary – Sue Smith
Treasurer – Gerald Schaaf

Committee:

Prunella Adams	Pam Hawkins
Ian Callcott	Gilly Hogarth
Katherine Collins	Don Robertson
John Garland	

And

Congress Coordinator: Pat Lovell



Member Achievements

7-8 March – QBA Mixed Teams Congress



2nd B – Rozanne Thomas/Chrissy Baynes/Jan & Ed Beckett



3rd B – Jane Dalziell/Peter Tall/Gayna Ryan/Di Quigley/
Penny Sykes (absent)

Life Member

Congratulations to Gerald Schaaf on his
Life Membership.

As we all know Gerald is a key figure in this
Club and we couldn't function without him.

We also extend our very best wishes to Gerald
for a prompt recovery. He has been well cared
for and we look forward to having him back
on deck very soon.

Bridge online

QBA has provided the following links:

1. A message from the ABF President – link
<http://www.abf.com.au/covid-19-update/>
2. Joan Butts Online School is offering an extension of
her new members offer for her Online School and
to play random hands online. I know it will assist
your students/members in this time. There are
many interactive lessons and videos there. Joan
Butts was really pleased when the American
Contract Bridge League contacted her and asked
that they add it to the ACBL website. If interested
please contact Joan Butts on Joan Butts
joan@joanbuttsbridge.com.
3. If you're looking to stay in shape for your bridge
game, Andy Hung has started to write up an online
bridge magazine that has a lot of great and
interesting content. If you're interested, visit his
website www.andyhunbridge.com where you can
subscribe to it as he's intending to write up 6
issues. You can also have a look at the preview
version to have a look before subscribing. It's
certainly a good way to pass the time while bridge
clubs are closed. Cost is \$10 an issue or \$50 for 6
issues.
4. Every Saturday at 2pm there is a 28 board game on
BBO which is open to all Queensland bridge
players. It is free to play in and all you need is a
BBO name and a partner. Want to play or need
more information about BBO? Please email
Charles Page, QBA Management Committee
member: pele196519651965@gmail.com



**Bridge is a great comfort in your
old age. It also helps you get
there faster.**



**In Memoriam
Adrienne Marina**



A Contentious Area of Bidding

The highly-regarded professional player and teacher, Paul Lavings, expressed his views on a contentious area of bidding in the December 2019 edition of Australian Bridge magazine.

In an earlier section of the magazine, Bidding Forum, the participants were asked their opinion on what to bid with the opening hand below after the auction starts:

Opener	Responder	(no bidding by E/W)
1C	1S	
?		
S -		
H KQ94		
D AK64		
C QT642		

One panelist refused to answer because he disagreed so strongly with the stated initial bidding sequence. Several other international players expressed the same view, namely that S should open 1D to allow a sensible rebid of 2C next.

Lavings takes a deeper look at this issue. He disagrees with the treatment of opening the shorter suit first to facilitate a re-bid, and recommends two principles to follow:

1. Do not re-bid a 5-card suit. So the re-bid of a suit opened shows 6+.
2. Be prepared to re-bid 1NT with a void.

Paul then illustrates the advantages of his method by posing a hand for Responder to go opposite the Opener's hand cited above.

S KJT94
 H A832
 D 752
 C 3

The proponents of opening 1C and simply repeating the poor 5-card suit would bid:

Opener	Responder
1C	1S
2C	pass

The proponents of opening 1D would bid:

Opener	Responder
1D	1S
2C	2D
pass	

Paul Lavings and partner would bid:

Opener	Responder
1C	1S
3H	

My own experience of playing with partners who advocate opening 1D with 4D/5C is that responder ALWAYS takes you for longer Ds; so you often play in a 4/2 fit.



Geoff Hart

Six Little Stories

1. One day, all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That's FAITH.

2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them.

That's TRUST.

3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarm to wake up.

That's HOPE.

4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future.

That's CONFIDENCE.

5. We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children.

That's LOVE.

6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence. "I am not 80 years old, I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience."

That's ATTITUDE.

Enjoy your life with these six little stories in mind. Remember too – good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace.

Source: Anonymous [<https://tcccblog.wordpress.com/2019/10/10/six-little-stories-with-lots-of-meaning/>]



BRIDGE & MARRIAGE go together like a horse and carriage ...

Bridge can transform a sweet-tempered spouse into an irrational monster. We've all heard the tragic tale of the woman shooting her husband after he failed to make four spades - in America of course. It could never happen here. As a precaution, our Committee asks that bags be placed on top of cupboards, well out of the way of fuming femmes. (Actually she didn't shoot him at the bridge table, but later during a related altercation, but that spoils a perfectly good story.)

Bridge with your life partner/spouse/beloved is a very different affair to playing with Joe Blow or that nice lady with the funny hairdo. Mr Blow would never fume at table, saving his diatribes for Mrs Blow over dinner. Funny Hairdo is equally well mannered; both know finding a reliable regular partner is not easy.

Readily available spouses, however, are likely to receive withering glances across the table whenever partner is miffed. A raised eyebrow on Mr Blow's handsome visage may mean a mere tic, poor chap. On the face of one's own spouse, however, it signals extreme displeasure. And whereas dear Joe B. goes off to Mrs B. after the game, you drive home with Eyebrow-Twitcher, sighing deeply most of the way, utterly dreading the inevitable post mortem.

Former teacher Bev Salter told us it was possible for married couples to become excellent bridge partners. Noosa's stellar performer (and possessor of 3260.36 points, at last count) Maureen Jakes says playing with one's life partner requires the maximum possible amount of tolerance. She has even witnessed a wife quitting a congress, leaving errant husband behind.

My life partner believes playing Bridge is much more fun than travel or art galleries. As a spatially challenged ignoramus, one of my favourite aspects of Bridge is it stresses me into losing 300 grams every time we play.

One of my cherished moments at our Club was when my beloved desperately needed a Spade. Normally a complete genius, on this occasion he had somewhat

inaccurately added up the number played and was firmly convinced I had one. Several times I got the lead, several times I sent back Heart, Diamond, Club, as he became more and more enraged. At the end of the game, just as he was about to explode, I sweetly told him I did NOT have a Spade, but if I had, I would have dug a hole with it and put him in it.

So we asked several regular spouse partners for their anecdotes on playing with life partners.

Perhaps John Serry wins the contest for hilarity : *My wife felt that an extensive infiltration with a paralysing dose of Botox to prevent my facial expressions of disapproval would help. I felt that unnecessary, if she just followed our rules and gave me licence for my innovative departures.*



John & Susan Serry

Joan Reeve had been playing for a while before her husband Simon joined the fray. The first time they won together she told me she hadn't seen him so excited since their wedding day :

We have played sport together all our lives. At tennis the reproofs were "That was your shot !" .. at golf "You put me in the bushes again". Bridge sure is different : dark looks under the eyes and huffs of horror when a winner is left on the table or an incorrect bid made. (But like other brave spouse partners, they persevere and have a lot of fun.)



Dorothy & Adam Hertelendy

Directing Wednesday mornings, Adam Hertelendy always welcomes everyone to 'paradise'. And he sounds like the spouse partner from paradise himself, saying : *In the course of the years I have learned to simply keep zipped, no matter if it's the spouse or someone else. Sometimes I even manage to keep to my intention.*



He's right : one memorable day in my contract of 1 no trump, I made one ... one trick that is. While his partner, Johnny and I all collapsed in (a) laughter, (b) horror and (c) shame, Adam did not even blink. What a hero.

When Bill Howard is at the table, junior players can expect helpful hints and tips on how to climb the points ladder. However he's never recommended to us what bride Geraldine recalls he did at one of their earliest games. Bill 'No Trump' Howard heroically opened the bidding with a double.

Marriage and Bridge have made Maggie Murray quite poetic :

*Director please, whatever shall I do?
My partner's put me into slam - a decision he shall rue
I'd like to kill him here and now but this is not the time.
Murder is frowned upon never mind a row
Director sadly shakes his head and offers sage advice :
Find another partner mate other than the wife.*

Barbara van der Horst says : *I like to look at the big picture and beloved likes to look at the facts. I like to plan ahead and be prepared. He on the other hand has attitude and knows how to count. At the end of four hours I like to talk and he doesn't !!!*

Don Robertson tells us : *Three months out of lessons, I played with Margaret on a Friday. She had been playing for nearly four years and was intrigued by the game. I had played a couple of hands less than well. We had just got in the car to drive home. "Now on board 6, you could have...", Margie started. I asked her to leave off 'til we got home. She started again at the next roundabout with : "But I just want to help". I pulled over, stopped the car and suggested that she walk home. All went quiet.*

Six months later I wasn't allowed a glass of wine in the evening until after we had discussed boards X and Y. The only way to escape homework was with a result of 70%. Four years later we played in the Barrier Reef Congress in Yeppoon. We had just reached the outskirts of the town for the drive home. I said "You know board 28. How could we have bid that better?" The discussion lasted three and a half days.

Ed Beckett had been playing Bridge long before he met Jan. After she began they played kitchen bridge around Noosa Springs. When Ed declared he wanted to join the Bridge Club Jan said 'you're not going without me' and teacher Kathy Reid was invited to take a class at Noosa Springs.

Ed reports : *In our early games I was sitting on the edge of my seat, wondering what was going to happen next. Jan progressed brilliantly but declared dissolution of the partnership when I decided to substitute golf for bridge once a month. My new partner and I scored well together, while Jan and her new partner were not as successful. That settled it, Jan decided I was to play with her again and now, several years later, we've played together against some of the big names in Bridge all around the country — and we're still married.*

Anne Mellings used to play with her life partner Larry Norden. When things became heated one day, the lady ran out of patience, called the Director and asked that her partner be instructed to be civil to her.



Anne Mellings

Contributions to this article were sought from several members who play with life partners, but we did not invite comment from some fellow called John Osmaston. However he demands to be included:

My Bridge partner and real life partner Susie has been playing for about seven years. It took me six years to work out that I should never ever criticise or comment on her play at the Bridge table. The slightest raising of an eyebrow when there has been a winner left on the table or even a twitch of a nostril leaves Susie in an absolute fury and a panic for the rest of the session. The journey home is a nightmare. The next few days are very frosty and walking on glass is an understatement. All sorts of privileges are withdrawn but the worst scenario is that the extra special red wine of which I am very fond is locked up for a month.

(Editor's note : Said vino was actually a gift from his partner, to be quaffed on special occasions, not after twitching eyebrows.

by Susie Osmaston