



UNDERCROFT BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

Congratulations!
Mandurah BC Summer Congress Winners



Joanna Tennyson and
Lynne Errington

Joondalup BC Swiss Pairs Congress Winners



Debbie James and
Domenico DeGasperi

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From John Bayly

My name is John Bayly and I am happy to announce that I have been given the privilege of being elected the President of this fantastic bridge club for the 2019 year.

May I also take this opportunity of introducing my fellow office bearers:

- Vice President – Nick Jackowyna
- Secretary - Linda Reading
- Treasurer - Rupert Dodd

Ten other hard-working committee members.

We also have four Recorders in Peter Wilson, Connie Coltroner, Anne Hopfmueller and John Frzop – let's hope that they have an easy year.

Other volunteers include Anne Hopfmueller as the office manager and Beata Bieganski as the magazine co-ordinator. We are all looking forward to this year of bridge and the challenges that we face in ensuring that all of our members enjoy their time at the club.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking our immediate Past President in Graham Milward for his fantastic work over the past three years. During this time not only did Graham carry out his Presidential duties in an extremely professional and enthusiastic manner but as an owner/builder, built another house for his family but if that wasn't enough became a Director for bridge tournaments at the Club. Thanks once again Graham for all that you have achieved for Undercroft.

HESITATIONS, or the transformation of Unauthorised Information (UI)

By Richard Grenside

UI can occur in a myriad of ways, the most common being a Pass or a slow action at a critical time in the auction which often creates a problem for the partner. This subject is the least understood area of the game and I will try in this short article to shed some light on the situation.

First and foremost, it is not an infraction to hesitate, often players have a genuine problem whether to take an action or to Pass. What is a problem is the onus one now puts on partner to be able to defend any query as to the auction. Again, it is not an infraction to take action, however one must be able to justify such decision without the knowledge that partner was contemplating something different before deciding to Pass.

It is important to realise that the knowledge that partner was considering action gives you the added advantage over those not in receipt of this information who have to decide on purely bridge grounds whether to take, perhaps a risky decision.

The statement often used in defence is that I was always going to bid, whilst this comment is generally self-serving, this statement has to be taken in context to the advantage you possess over other players in a similar situation.

The Maximum Pass

A hesitation after Partner has raised clearly shows an impulse to bid again, thus in a competitive auction eg.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♥	Pass *	Pass	?

P* Noticeable Pause

South knows that N was considering a 3S bid and would find it difficult to justify further bidding. This is a classic case of NS having an advantage over other Pairs who have to make their decision in isolation.

The 2 ½ Bid

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	Pass	2♠*
Pass	?		

2S* Noticeable Pause

North holding a 5-2-3-2, 15 count has the knowledge that S was considering a different action, most likely a 2 ½ S support and with this UI would be tempted to try a 3S bid.

In conclusion: When faced with a possible UI consider whether you have an unfair advantage over other pairs faced with the same dilemma but without the knowledge that partner was considering an alternate action. Remember the LAW is there to protect the integrity of the game and any decision by the director is in no way suggestive of unethical play, only that LAW has been applied.

Opening Leads

By Karen Walker

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To Suit Contracts:

You usually want to make a "safe" opening lead that will set up tricks for your side without giving declarer extra tricks. Your general order of preference can be:

1. A singleton (hoping partner can lead the suit back for you to trump).
2. A suit partner has bid. **Lead low** if you have 3+ cards; **lead high** from 2 cards.
3. A suit that offers a good attacking combination -- two or more touching honors (KQ10x, QJ10, AKxx, J109).
4. Your longest suit. **Lead low** if you don't have touching honors.
5. A suit the opponents have not bid.
6. If there are no unbid suits, choose a suit that **dummy** has bid.
7. Lead trumps if you have no other safe lead **OR** if declarer has shown a two-suited hand. This may prevent declarer from using dummy's trumps separately.

When leading to a suit contract, AVOID:

- Leading an unsupported ace if you have another safe lead.
- Underleading an ace (don't lead a small card from a suit headed by the ace).
- Underleading broken honor combinations (KJxx, Q10x) unless it's in partner's suit.

- Leading a suit declarer has bid (unless you're leading trumps).

To Notrump Contracts:

You usually want to make an attacking opening lead to set up tricks in your long suit. **Lead the fourth-best card** (count down from the top) from your longest and strongest suit ***unless:***

1. Partner has bid a suit. You should then lead his suit.
2. Your long suit is one the opponents have bid. You should choose your longest unbid suit or a suit dummy has bid.
3. Your long suit has three or more touching honors (KQJx, QJ10x, AQJ10x, J109x, etc.). You should lead an honor to be sure you force declarer to win with the highest card possible.

When leading to a notrump contract, AVOID:

- Leading a short suit, unless it's the suit partner has bid.
- Leading aces or "unprotected" high cards, especially ones in your short suits.
- Leading a suit declarer has bid.

AT THE TABLE

A. Your LHO opens 1C, partner overcalls 1S and RHO bids 2H. LHO jumps to 4H. What is your lead?

1. ♠1072 ♥642 ♦9843 ♣KQ8
2. ♠K4 ♥943 ♦AJ8 ♣87532
3. ♠5432 ♥A74 ♦4 ♣108543

B. The opponents have bid 1NT-3NT. What is your opening lead?

1. QJ1082 ♥K43 ♦A5 ♣10543
2. ♠AK8 ♥854 ♦75 ♣KJ542
3. ♠95 ♥43 ♦K10976 ♣AQ102

C. Partner opens 1C, RHO bids 1H, you bid 1S. LHO bids 2H and all pass. What is your opening lead?

1. ♠KJ43 ♥843 ♦AJ2 ♣854
2. AK743 ♥86 ♦J532 ♣105

Answers on page ... 8

Chamonix

By Carol Fensome

My boss once said to me “go on a skiing holiday Carol and you’ll never want to go on a Summer holiday again”. I was in my 20’s then (long time ago), but a skiing holiday was never really on my list of “must do holidays”, so imagine the surprise when my son said “mum how about you and the family coming over for Christmas and we can spend my 40th birthday on a skiing holiday in France. (He lives in the UK with his family). I replied “Oh that would be nice David, but you do realise I don’t ski”!! However, I have 5 children, 4 of whom either ski or snowboard, so I was outnumbered. My 5 grandchildren were also there; three of them ski, but the other two are a bit young at the moment, so I came in handy as the live in babysitter!! (I love them really!!)

We spent Christmas in England and caught up with various relatives, then on the 28th December, we flew out to Geneva and spent the night there before our bus transfer to Chamonix. If you ever go to Geneva make sure you take lots of money with you,

it is such an expensive city. As we were only there for one night we decided to eat in the hotel, bad mistake!! A Beef Burger, which my older grandchildren love, came to 40 odd dollars each!! (McDonalds, all is forgiven!!)



So, after our expensive night in Geneva, we headed off for Chamonix. We have a bridge player at our club, Jacques, who assures me that the letter X at the end of Chamonix is definitely not silent, but I think that is still open for discussion!! We booked a chalet just outside Chamonix in a place called Les Houches and if I say so myself, it was perfect. There were 15 of us altogether, but it could have accommodated at least another couple of people.



There was a Steam Room, Hot Tub and a Sauna; we were surrounded by beautiful snow capped mountains, seriously what more could you want out of life. I was quite happy not to ski really as there were many nice walks and at least I had bought myself a pair of snow boots!! We went to a nice restaurant for David's special birthday which was lovely and literally across the road from the Chalet, so not far to walk home in our drunken state!! We also found a newly opened Micro Brewery run by an ex Canadian guy and had a wonderful afternoon/evening there (bit further to walk that time). We decided to stay at the Chalet for New Year's Eve and had a fabulous night. My daughter's friend cooked a beautiful Spaghetti Bolognais and again a boozy time was had by all (well the adults that is!!).



However, our boozy sessions, peace and tranquillity lasted for about 4 days; it was then we received a message from my daughter to say she was at the hospital with David as he had had an accident on his snowboard!! Apparently a young boy had lost his pole whilst skiing and David, being the lovely person he is, tried some brilliant manoeuvre (his words) to pick up "said pole" on his way past Didn't work unfortunately and off he came with an almighty thud!! My daughter managed to get him to the hospital where they did various x-rays on his shoulder. It wasn't something the French hospital could tackle apparently and they advised him to go back to England. So the next day David, his wife and two little girls had to pack up and go home three days early. Such a shame really, but unfortunately, these things happen in life. It turned

out to be an injury of his acromioclavicular joint and basically all he could do was wear a sling, have physio and take pain killers!! He will now always have a lump on his shoulder, but at least he is ok. Apparently (and I'm glad I didn't know before going on my skiing holiday) so many people die or are seriously injured on skiing holidays in any one season. In fact two people had been killed on the mountain just days before we arrived. So, if my boss was alive today (I don't think he died skiing), I'd be telling him "I'll stick to my summer holidays

thank you very much Michael". Having said that, Chamonix is a beautiful place and I am so pleased we went there as a family for my son's 40th birthday. •



AT THE TABLE - Answers

A. Your LHO opens 1C, partner overcalls 1S and RHO bids 2H. LHO jumps to 4H. What is your lead?

1.	2 of spades. You should almost always lead the suit partner overcalls (with 3 or more, lead low). Although a KQ is sometimes a good attacking combination, it isn't here because you know clubs is LHO's suit.
2.	King of Spades. Since partner has shown strength in spades, leading an unprotected honor is safe. If your king holds the trick, you'll lead the spade 4 to partner's ace and be able to trump the third round. From your high-low leads, partner will know you have only 2 spades.
3.	4 of Diamonds. This is an exception to the rule about leading partner's suit. Partner will know you had a good reason for not leading spades. If he has the diamond ace, he'll lead one back for you to trump. If partner can't win the first diamond lead,

	you'll have another chance later. When you win the ace of trumps, you can try to get partner on lead with a spade.
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B. The opponents have bid 1NT-3NT. What is your opening lead?

1.	Queen of Spades. You should plan to keep attacking spades whenever you're on lead. Even if declarer has the AK, there's a good chance you can set up and "run" your suit later.
2.	4 of Clubs. You have no sequence, so lead the 4th best card and hope partner has fillers. Resist the temptation to cash the spades. You'll need them as entries to run your club suit.
3.	Ten of Diamonds. Lead your longer suit, even though the clubs are stronger. To force out an honor, lead the top of an "interior" sequence.

C. Partner opens 1C, RHO bids 1H, you bid 1S. LHO bids 2H and all pass. What is your opening lead?

1.	3 of Hearts. You could lead a club (partner's suit), but a trump is better for two reasons: (1) It's safe (partner didn't promise great honor strength in clubs, and a spade or diamond could give up a trick); (2) Your side has most of the high-cards, so declarer may have to trump losers in dummy to make his contract. A trump lead will take one of his trumps out of dummy right away.
2.	King of Spades. An AK is usually a good lead because it lets you look at dummy and decide what to do next. Here, you're hoping partner has only one or two spades (a good possibility, since he didn't raise) and can trump the third round. Depending on dummy's spade holding and partner's signal (he'll play a high card if he has a doubleton, a low card if he has three), you can decide whether to continue with the spade ace or to switch suits. If you decide to switch to partner's suit (clubs), lead the 10 (the top card to show 2). If partner has the AK of clubs, you may get to trump the third round of that suit.

RESULTS

New Year's Pairs



1st Peter Mccann - Trevor Burr

2nd David Cowell - Beata Bieganski

3rd John Lees - David Womersley

Syd Noaks Trophy



1st Zbigniew Balicki - Zbigniew Tuleja

2nd Satish Bedekar - Brian Kaye

3rd Valerie Broome - Jenny Skinner

Jim and Irene Sanderson Pairs

Best Qualifying

NS Dorothy Stagoll - Jack Bana

EW Tuya Cooke - Carol Fensome

Final

Plate



1st Metka Agrez - Joanna Tennyson

2nd Satish Bedekar - Peter Mccann

3rd David Cowell - Ann Hopfmueller



1st Dawn Duly - Alan Tolley

2nd Maria Pirajno - Joan Schneider

3rd Fiona Han - Denis Gimblett

Allan Doig Pairs

Section A & B	Section C & D
	
1 st Jairo Giraldo - David Cowell	1 st Jamie Luxton - William Cox
2 nd Anthony Eardley - Wilhelmina Piller	2 nd Lyn Mol - Linda Reading
3 rd Ted Sakashita - Noriko Sakashita	3 rd Wendy Baillie - Barbara Hendrie
ANC Restricted Butler	
1 st Lilia Male - Tuya Cooke	
2 nd Ken Partridge - Barbara Partridge	
3 rd Jay Wongphasukhot - Sarita Singh	

2018 Session Winners

<i>Monday Afternoon</i>	Anthony Eardley
<i>Monday Evening</i>	David Cowell
<i>Tuesday Afternoon</i>	Philip Oldershaw
<i>Wednesday Afternoon</i>	Jean Muller
<i>Wednesday Evening</i>	Tad Bieganski
<i>Thursday Afternoon</i>	Tad Bieganski
<i>Thursday Evening</i>	Nerilyn Mack
<i>Friday Afternoon</i>	= Raine Woodhead and Jean Muller
<i>Saturday Afternoon</i>	Jean Muller



L to R - Connie Coltrona, Debbie James, Elke Gartner, George Belin, Sharon Dyball, Graham Milward, Desmond Warner, Rupert Dodd (Treasurer) and John Bayly (President)

Committee Contact Numbers

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