



# UNDERCROFT BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

## Spring in Kings Park





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From Graham Milward

A huge thanks to Helen Hyland, Gwen Kremer, Gloria James and Lesley Smith for the fantastic food they have prepared for recent Red Point competitions. Fortunately, these events don't occur too often or we would all need to watch our weight more closely.

It's been great to see the numbers of Members attending sessions over the last couple of months, even though occasional low turnouts occur. Total attendance during July was considerably greater than July '16. If you qualify for the restricted sessions now on offer, I would love to see you using them as a stepping stone to open competition.

Please remember what I have said in the past.....comply with the Laws of Bridge and treat your partner well. She/he is the only person in the room on your side!! A partner cherished will always perform better. Neither a partner nor opponents enjoy hearing lecturing from a player. If you must have these talks, please save them until you are away from the table and help make bridge a more enjoyable experience for everyone.

During daytime sessions Directors are fully available. PLEASE MAKE USE OF US. It isn't the role of a player to tell an opponent what they should or should not do. Please refrain and call the Director if ANY matter needs resolution.

Indications were that the Ossie Trigwell Pairs, run as a handicapped event, went down well. The Committee has decided to do the same next year. Determining handicaps was not a simple exercise, as the entire field had not played against each other on a regular basis. However, Director Bruce Penhey did lots of work to figure out a suitable arrangement. Congratulations to winners Jay Wongphasukchot and Fiona Han.

It was great to see relatively inexperienced players Jan Smith, Cathy Capper, Mary Purcell and Merilyn Letts join in the Jim and Irene

Sanderson Team of 4, and get some teams play experience. Very well done!!

The recently conducted BAWA Open Pairs State Championship saw some excellent performances by our Members, with Jenny Skinner/Chris Jenkins, Ann Hopfmueller/David Cowell and Chris Ross/Judy Havas taking out 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> places respectively.

The Australia Wide Open Pairs saw a terrific turnout and the afternoon seemed to be enjoyed by all, particularly the impromptu refreshments at the end of the day. Great suggestion Des. Thanks to Wim Wouts for officiating on the day.

Lesley Routledge is well into her next series of lessons with 16 class members. These lessons are greatly appreciated as students are given plenty of time to absorb the intricacies of the game.

Saturday morning continues to be our best attended session with Allan Doig and his able assistants providing wide ranging tuition in a relaxed environment.

Recently trained directors John Bayly and yours truly have “gone solo”, with Gwen Kremer, Willy Dadour and Ted Roscoe to follow shortly. Thanks to Des Warner, Peter Wilson, Lee Leech, Peter Stephenson, David Burn and Bill Kemp for the training assistance provided.

Many thanks to all Members who have contributed to the successful running of the Club and David Pitts who recently conducted an audit of our computer system and its management. The outcome has been a new machine for the Directors and improved back-up processes.

Happy bridging all. ■

## **BRIDGE RULES**

- *If in doubt, bid 3NT*
- *If in doubt, lead partner's suit*
- *Whenever defenders lead a new suit, they give away, on average, ½ a trick.*
- *Never double a contract when you are not willing to double whatever they may run to*



# Bridge Hand

## COUNT, COUNT, COUNT ...

[http://kwbridge.com/c\\_count.htm](http://kwbridge.com/c_count.htm)

One trait that all expert bridge players have in common is the ability -- and the energy -- to "count out" every hand they play. Counting involves using all the available clues from the bidding and play to count the high-card points in the unseen hands and count the number of cards each player holds in each suit.

This hand is an interesting example of the benefits that come from paying attention and drawing the correct inferences.

Dlr: N      ♠ AJ4  
 Vul:        ♥ 85432  
               ♦ A8  
               ♣ J73

♠ 109763	♠ KQ82
♥ J	♥ Q106
♦ J975	♦ Q632
♣ A102	♣ K8

♠ 5  
 ♥ AK97  
 ♦ K104  
 ♣ Q9654

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	2♦	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

South thought his 4-card suit was strong enough for a 1-level overcall, so he bid 1H over East's 1D opening. My 2D cuebid showed at least 3-card heart support and asked how good his overcall was. With the well-placed diamond king and the opponents bidding his singleton, South liked his hand. He saw no point in bidding the clubs, so he showed a little extra with a freebid of 3H, which I raised to game.

South backed up his judgment with careful declarer play to make his thin game. He won the spade opening lead in dummy and ruffed a spade in his hand, then led a diamond to dummy's ace for another spade ruff. When he now cashed the AK of trumps, he had all the

information he needed about the opponents' distribution.

East had shown up with 3 hearts and presumably 4 spades (if spades had been 6-3, West would surely have bid his spades again over the 3H bid). It also appeared that East had at least 4 diamonds, because if he had held 3-3 in the minors, he would have opened 1C.

That left East with 1 or 2 cards in the critical club suit, but which ones? South had also been counting the high-card points, and he was virtually certain East had a singleton or doubleton club honor for two reasons:

**(1)** Without the club ace or king, East would have at best a poor 10-count, not enough for an opening bid; **and**

**(2)** If West had held AKx(x) of clubs, he would probably have led one of the honors on opening lead.

With that picture of the layout, South led the Club Queen from his hand, guaranteeing only two club losers if East held Ax, Kx or a singleton honor in the suit. West won the club ace and led a diamond to South's king. South now played East for the

doubleton honor by leading a low club and ducking in dummy, which collected the now-singleton king. East could cash his trump queen, but dummy was up and South scored his +420.

### **Bidding Tip**

An overcall usually promises a 5-card suit, but competing with a 4-card suit can be good strategy when you have the right type of hand. Consider making an overcall with a 4-card suit if you have:

- ✓ **A strong suit** -- usually three of the top five honors (KQ104, AQJ7, AJ107), or two of the top three honors with good "body" (high spot cards in suits like AK98, KQ97, AQ87).
- ✓ **A ruffing value** -- an outside singleton or doubleton.
- ✓ **Good outside strength** -- quick tricks and well-placed honors.
- ✓ **A hand pattern not suitable for a takeout double** -- shortness in an unbid suit, for example.
- ✓ **Room to bid your suit at the 1-level** (2-level overcalls on 4-card suits are reserved for those with death wishes).

■

## **BRIDGE LAW**

By Graham Milward

### **When is a Card “Played”**

Bridge Laws state:

“Declarer is deemed to have played a card from his hand if it is:

- (a) held face up, touching or nearly touching the table; or
- (b) maintained in such a position as to indicate that it has been played.”

and

“A Defender’s card held so that it is possible for his partner to see its face is deemed played to the current trick”

THEREFORE, the fact that a Defender sees Declarer’s card, before the card is in a position described by (a) or (b) above, does not mean that Declarer must play that card. If Declarer changes his/her mind before the card is in a “played” position, it is the Defender’s good luck that they have some information about a card which Declarer still holds.

In the case of a Defender playing a card, it does not matter that partner has NOT seen the card. If the card was in a position where it was POSSIBLE for partner to see it, the card is deemed played. ■

### **Body Language**

Be helpful to your partner by avoiding Body Language. Any signals you give, intentionally or unintentionally, may provide information to which your partner has no right. The Laws of Duplicate Bridge call this information Unauthorised Information (UI). If a player receives UI they MUST NOT use it to aid their game and may therefore be placed into an awkward situation. Body language is best avoided by not reacting in ANY manner, to a bid or play and avoiding eye contact with partner.

Many players are occasionally guilty of an unintended reaction, but, if you do it frequently, opponents will begin to wonder about the reason for your actions. ■

## DIRECTORS' CORNER

By Jan Peach

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THE comparable call concept of Law 23 expands upon the “same meaning as or more precise meaning than” phrasing of the 2007 Laws. No residual information should remain from the withdrawn call. Insignificant differences in points or suit length may be ignored. The new call will often have more specific information that reduces the number of hands the offender could hold. Should the director decide that a non-comparable call has been allowed or that the outcome of the board could well have been different without assistance gained through the infraction (and in consequence the non-offending side is damaged) he awards an adjusted score. That means an assigned adjusted score if at all possible.

(a) NS are playing Standard American. North is Dealer however South passes. West does not accept South’s pass so it is cancelled.

- (i) North now opens 1D and East passes. The information from the withdrawn pass is, “I do not have an opening hand” so, to be comparable, the replacement call needs to say, “I do not have an opening hand” as part of its systemic meaning. Pass; 1NT (6-9); 2NT (if less than an opening hand); 2D (6-9 when not playing inverted minors); 3D (6-9 when playing inverted minors); 2H/2S (Weak Jump Shift 0-5 with 6+ hearts/spades). Calls that are not comparable: 1H/1S (6+ unlimited); 2C (10+ unlimited); 2D (10+ unlimited playing inverted minors); 2NT (11-13). These bids could be made on hands with opening values.
- (ii) North opens 1D and East bids 1S. Pass; 1NT 6-9; 2S if it shows an invitational hand; 2C/2H as non-forcing negative free bids all sound comparable. A 2S cue bid that showed an invitational hand or better would not be comparable as some hands would be opening hands. A double will not be comparable if the system caters for a double when holding an opening hand.

*(1) If South may pass with an opening hand because North must always re-open the auction then Pass is no longer comparable.*

(iii) North opens 1H and East doubles for take-out. Pass from the offender is now suspect as a comparable call. Might South pass with an opening hand? As always, to rule whether a call is comparable, the director needs to understand the offending side's system. Two level bids that are 6-9 and non-forcing would be comparable. 1S that is 6+ and forcing would not be comparable.

(b) North is Dealer; however South opens 1H. West does not accept South's bid so it is cancelled.

(i) North opens 1H and East passes. Jacoby 2NT is considered comparable; 3S/4C/4D splinters will usually be comparable; 4+ hearts 11+ points and slam interest. It may be worth checking the partnership agreement. If the agreement is that splinters may be made on much flimsier hands then there is information left over from the withdrawn call. Not a flimsy hand but real opening values. 4H systemically showing 4+ hearts 6-9 points with a singleton or void is not comparable to a 1H opening bid.

(ii) North passes and East opens 1D. 1H is not considered comparable because 1H could be bid with a great deal less than an opening hand.

(iii) North passes and East opens 1S. 2H is considered comparable. 2H may show only 10+ but is considered similar to a 1H opening bid.

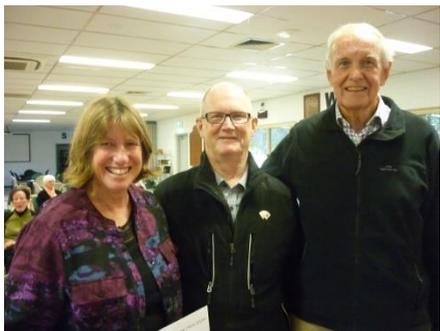
(c) South opens a Multi 2D when East is dealer. West does not accept South's bid so it is cancelled. East opens 1H and South makes a weak jump overcall of 2S. 2S is comparable. It defines a subset of the possible hands for a Multi 2D opening bid.

(d) 4NT Keycard Blackwood is considered similar to a withdrawn 4C Gerber. Both are moves towards slam that ask for information. Withdrawn "pass or correct" bids may be replaced with different bids that are also "pass or correct". ■

*(With thanks to Bruce Penhey spotting this article in The QBA Bulletin)*

## RESULTS

### Don Fraser Swiss Pairs



1st Stella Steer & Max Havercroft



2nd Joan Schneider & Maria Pirajno



3rd Anne DeSouza & Jenny Dawson

### Kath Brosnan Winter Pairs



1st Pauline Coulter & David Coulter



2nd Frances Thompson & Ken Smith



3rd Sheila Parker & Tony Eardley

**Ossie Trigwell  
Handicapped Open Pairs**



1<sup>st</sup> Jay Wongphasukhot &  
Fiona Han



2<sup>nd</sup> David & Pauline Coulter  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jenny Pope & Barbara Lyall.

**BAWA Daytime Open Pairs – 38 Pairs**

3<sup>rd</sup> Christine Jenkins and Jennifer Skinner

4<sup>th</sup> David Cowell and Ann Hopfmueller

10<sup>th</sup> Judy Havas and Chris Ross

**Jim and Irene Sanderson  
Teams of 4**

1<sup>st</sup> Mary Lang, Tony Martin,  
Wilhelmina Piller and  
Debbie James

2<sup>nd</sup> Beata Bieganski,  
Tad Bieganski, Carol Fensome  
and Brian Fensome

3<sup>rd</sup> Wendy Baillie, Dawn Duly,  
Alan Tolley and Lorraine Rea

**John Beyfus Spring Pairs**

=1<sup>st</sup> David Cowell and  
Ann Hopfmueller

=1<sup>st</sup> Jairo Giraldo and  
Wilhelmina Piller

3<sup>rd</sup> Christine Shawcross and  
Dorothy Stagoll

Congratulations

## PROMOTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

NAME	RANK	TOTAL MPs	2017 RANK
Fisher, Janet	Life	767.06	4,187
Day, Betty	**National	301.24	1,353
Hicks, Peter	*National	200.93	2,154
Lyall, Barbara	*Regional	100.02	11,762
Bacon, Christine	**Local	37.78	2,330
Nicolaou, Kathleen	**Local	36.25	5,519
Summerville, Marilyn	**Local	35.21	11,420
Darmody, Karen	*Local	25.90	6,287
Hayes, Jane	*Local	25.81	9,187
Kremer, Gwen	Local	16.36	9,692
Fredericks, Ingrid	Local	15.10	7,077
Aggarwal, Pravin	Graduate	2.95	15,886
Dyball, Sharon	Graduate	2.39	17,481
Aggarwal, Shakuntla	Graduate	2.23	20,316
Frzop, John	Graduate	2.10	18,396

## MOST IMPROVED PLAYERS as at 30 SEP 2017

	NAME	RANK	TOTAL MPs	2017 MPs
1	Han, Fiona	State	74.14	47.43
2	Wongphasukchot, Jay	**Local	47.86	31.12
3	Bacon, Christine	**Local	37.78	24.50
4	Wheaton, David	Regional	89.06	32.96
5	Duly, Dawn	*Local	33.04	21.08
6	Huang, Mei	State	84.18	28.99
7	James, Debbie	*National	225.39	46.84
8	O'Grady, Carol	Regional	56.64	22.28
9	Blakey, Ross	*Local	28.43	18.23
10	Broome, Martin	Life	303.70	50.06

# ASKING QUESTIONS PART 1

By Andrew Gumperz



<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/asking-and-answering-questions/>  
*This article is reprinted with kind permission of the author.*

*Unfortunately, asking questions about an opponent's agreements is not as simple as it might seem. Your questions can communicate extraneous information about your own hand to partner. Further, many players have trouble explaining their agreements clearly. This article provides advice for both asking and answering questions. For experienced players, this article will be no more than a helpful review. For the less experienced, it contains useful guidelines for asking and answering questions clearly while minimizing **UI** (Unauthorized Information).*

## ASKING QUESTIONS

### WHY ASK QUESTIONS?

Before asking a question, consider why you need the information. For example, suppose you are in fourth chair and the opponents have bid:

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♥!	?

Are you considering a bid at this turn? If not, then there is no reason to ask about the alert of 1♥ right now. If you don't need the information immediately, don't ask. **ASKING ONLY RISKS TRANSMITTING UI.** Should you ignore the alert completely? No, the information may be important to your defense even if you don't bid. However, you can wait until the play before asking questions.

What if you are considering a bid at this turn? Then ask for more information. I usually say simply, "Please explain."

What if you know what 1♥ means but your partner probably does not? Unfortunately, it is not OK to ask questions for partner's benefit. If partner has a habit of forgetting to ask, give him this article but don't ask questions for him. Ask questions only if you need the answer to:

- Make your next bid
- Interpret your partner's bid correctly
- Declare or defend to best advantage

## WHEN SHOULD I ASK?

The rules say you may ask during the auction or during the play, but **ONLY AT YOUR TURN**. Here are some guidelines on when to ask.

During the auction:

Ask questions about a call only if the answer might affect *your next call*. Some players prefer to ask after every alert. This does no real harm although it can slow the auction. The advantage is that partner will soon learn that you're asking a question contains no implication about whether or not you are close to bidding yourself. **DON'T** ask unless you really need to know.

Occasionally, you may need information about an opposing call when it is not your turn. Suppose you use an artificial defense to a Precision 1♣ but a natural defense to a short 1♣. As South in the auction below, you will need to know whether 1♣ is strong before you can tell whether to alert partner's 1♦ overcall.

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♦	?	?

Unfortunately, your alert needs to come during RHO's turn, before you can ask about the meaning of 1♣ or read the opponent's card. Partner should ask about 1♣ before making a bid with a meaning that depends on the meaning of 1♣, but perhaps he saw the opponents' card earlier or didn't hear the alert. Since you are not allowed to ask at this point, alert 1♦ and explain that if 1♣ is strong, then 1♦ is conventional and if it is not strong then 1♦ is natural.

What if partner does not know that 1♣ is a Precision club opener and has bid a natural 1♦? If I alert 1♦ as artificial, haven't I then given misinformation? Actually, no you haven't. Your duty is to explain your agreement correctly, not to explain what he holds. As long as you explain your agreement, you have given accurate information even if he forgot your agreement. If you fail to explain, you will be guilty of

providing misinformation and the opponents may be entitled to a score correction if partner knew it was a precision club all along. If partner has misbid, that is his problem not yours and damage, if any, will accrue from his failing to remember your agreement, not from any misinformation you gave.

Won't partner unfairly be aware of his error after I alert? Yes he will, but your alert and explanation are UI to him. He is obligated to ignore them and to treat your response as though it were a response to a natural 1♦ overcall. If the result is a disastrous contract, well, so be it.

On defense:

Before leading, ask your questions about the auction. If partner is on lead and he does not obtain the information you need, ask him to lead face-down then ask your questions after he has chosen his lead. This avoids the possibility of inadvertently guiding him to the suit you would like led.

When declaring:

Ask your questions about the auction and signalling agreements when it is dummy's first turn to play, after the opening lead has been turned face up.

## **HOW SHOULD I ASK?**

The best way to avoid communicating UI with a question is not to ask at all. **GET YOUR ANSWERS BY READING AN OPPONENT'S CARD INSTEAD.**

However in many situations questions that risk communicating UI are unavoidable. When you do ask questions, use a neutral tone and ask broad, non-leading questions. For example:

"May I have a review of the auction with explanations?"

Frequently, your interest will be in one particular bid by the opponents. By asking for a review of the entire auction, you conceal your interest in one call reducing the chance of UI. You may also gain some other information you didn't know to ask about.

"Please explain"

Be particularly careful to avoid questions that could direct an opening lead or show interest in bidding a particular suit. For example, a question like, "What does that 2♦ bid show?" carries an implication that diamonds are important to you. The plainer request, "Please explain," will get you the same information without suggesting as strongly that diamonds is your suit.

"Anything more I should know before I lead?"

This is a great question if you suspect an opponent's explanation has left something out. Players sometimes unintentionally omit some implications of a call in their initial explanation.

### **CAN I ASK ABOUT NON-ALERTED CALLS?**

Yes. You can and should ask about non-alerted calls. Though 2NT is natural and non-alertable in the auction below, you still want to know whether it was invitational or game-forcing in this auction.

<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
1♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Ask about their partnership bidding style for many other non-alertable calls, such as:

2♥	Do they open weak 2's on 5-card suits? Unusually soundly or aggressively?
1NT	Could opener open 1NT light or offshape?
1♣ - 1♥ 1NT	Does the 1NT rebid deny a 4-card spade suit?
P-P-1NT	You hold a balanced 20 HCP - does opener have a history of psyching 1NT in 3rd chair?

### **WHAT IF I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE EXPLANATION?**

Unfortunately, many opponents habitually explain their agreements poorly. Don't be afraid to ask followup questions until you get the information that you need. When an explanation is unclear, look at their card or ask probing questions. ■

## CAN YOU HELP?

I'd like to dedicate some articles in our next newsletters about players who have events named in the honor. These players include:

Syd Noakes, Don Fraser, Jim and Irene Sanderson, Ossie Trigwell, Kath Brosnan, John Beyfus, Betty Connolly, Gwen Johnson.

I reach out to anyone who can contribute any stories, photos and information that will provide an interesting read about those players.

No matter how small the information may be, it all gets put together. Either e-mail, write it down or contact me at the bridge club:

Beata Bieganski: b.bieganski@yahoo.com.au

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Linda Reading (Secretary)	9447 9708	Debbie James	9243 7154, 0400 420 339
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