



CAIRNS BRIDGE CLUB CAPERS

April, 2024

www.cairnsbridgeclub.org.au



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President - William van Bakel
Vice President - Joan Campbell
Secretary - Klarika Tortely`
Treasurer - Peerapan Maslen

Committee Members

Lesley Fraser Rick Gryg
Anna O'Brien Gidi Azar

Other Key Club Personnel

Card Dealing

Jenny Crawl, Cheryl Parks,
Helen McCarthy & Bruce Frost (NWP)

Directors' Roster

Josephina Burrie

Library

Cobie van Kruistum & Ruth Bartlett

Events Management

Joan Campbell & Anna O'Brien

Facilities Manager

Dave Mathieson

Lessons

Rebecca Delaney, Lesley Fraser,
& Brian Tierney

Cards & Flowers

Ann Sutherland & Helen Rial

Master Point Secretaries

Jan Cluff & Elaine Dickson

Partners / Newsletter

Andy Mathieson

Webmaster

Julie Duncan

Zonal Delegates

Jan Cluff & Michael Byrne

If you can't fly then run,
if you can't run then
walk, if you can't walk
then crawl, but whatever
you do you have to keep
moving forward.

—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Liz Litzow	Silver Life Master
Liz Agius	Regional Master
Collise Chinsee	Local Master
Robyn Brettell	Graduate Master
Jennifer Kembrey	Graduate Master
Leonie Sequeira	Graduate Master



ABF NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

Click (or copy & paste) below to read the latest ABF Newsletter (in flip book format)

www.abfevents.com.au/newsletter/April2024/#p=1

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President's Corner

Welcome everyone to April – wow the year is going so fast. We have just finished our Easter Congress and from all accounts everyone had a fun time. All players who participated on the weekend will receive some amount of red masterpoints. Congratulations to all our winners; especially the team winners. Everyone can win on the day provided they play consistent bridge. Thanks to everyone who provided the food and a special thanks to Julie Jeffries for coming from Brisbane to direct.

This is also a timely reminder that Covid19 is still regularly active within our community. If you do not feel well in any way, please do not attend the club.

Now that our lease is firmly in place for the next 30 years, the Club is starting on its refurbishment plan. The hot/chilled water in the kitchen has been replaced. We will start painting the clubhouse as from Monday 8th April; this should take around 2 days. Thus, the club will be closed on Monday (8th) and Tuesday (9th) – at this stage.

Thus, we will have a working bee on Sunday 7th April commencing at 10.30am. This working bee will prepare the club for the painters on the Monday. Depending on attendance of members, it should not take more than an hour. Your attendance, if possible, will be much appreciated.

The other work that desperately needs to be done is our electrical switchboard. Thirty years of unplanned work has resulted in a switchboard that is unstable and on the brink of collapse. We cannot add extra solar panels to our grid without first doing this work. It is anticipated that this work will cost around \$5,000.

The total work commitment over the next few months will be between \$60,000 - \$65,000. Any information needed please see Dave Mathieson. This expenditure will be paid for from existing

funds thus this will allay fears and rumours that we will increase fees. We will not.

During April we have Heat 1 of the Cairns GNOT on Sunday 14th. We are not charging extra only normal table fees. It is a team event which attracts gold points, and every team plays each other. Please consider an entry. Entry forms are available at the club.

The day before this, on Saturday 13th in the afternoon, we are trialling a new initiative; that is Swiss pairs. Gidi Azar has seen this to be very successful in Brisbane; and thus, urged to committee to try, as this is a good event for all levels to participate in together.

Mr Google says that: A Swiss Pair movement is a kind of barometer movement in which the order of meeting the other pairs depends on the results obtained in earlier rounds. The principle is that the highest pair meets the second highest, the third highest pair meets the fourth, etc.

Entries will be limited to 15 tables, and we cannot have a half table, therefore, a sign up sheet is near the west door. Again, I encourage your participation. Please see Gidi if you have any questions.

Happy bridging

William van Bakel



SUPERVISED PLAY

**Every Wednesday morning
10:30am to 12:30pm**

No partner is necessary. Come along to gain some practice and have the chance to ask questions to experienced players about anything you are unsure of.

Clubhouse Session times

Monday afternoon	- 1:30pm
Tuesday morning	- 9:30am
*Wednesday afternoon	- 1:30pm
Wednesday evening	- 7:15pm
Thursday afternoon	- 1:30pm
**Friday afternoon	- 1:30pm
Saturday afternoon	- 1:30pm

*over 50 points only play with a partner under 50 points.

**Players with between 50 & 400 points must have a partner with fewer than 50 points. Players with more than 400 points must partner someone with fewer than 10 points.

COMING CAIRNS EVENTS

NATIONWIDE PAIRS

Red points online & **Green** points in the club.
NWP will cost an extra \$1 at the table.

As these dates do not appear in our club program, this is the list of dates we have so far – please add them to your calendar...

- (7) Sat 6th April
- (8) Sat 20 April
- (9) Thurs 2nd May
- (10) Sat 18th May
- (11) Thurs 30th May
- (12) Sat 15th June
- (13) Thurs 4th July
- (14) Thurs 18th July
- (15) Sat 3rd August
- (16) Thurs 15 August
- (17) Thurs 5th September
- (18) Thurs 19th September
- (19) Thurs 3rd October
- (20) Thurs 17th October

FRIDAY FORUM

1st Friday of the month @ 12:45pm
with Sandy Long & Brian Tierney

5th April: Openers Rebids



CLUB LADDER

To stay in the competition, you need to have at least 4 different partners out of the 6 sessions.

1. 20th January
2. 2nd March
3. **25th May**
4. 6th July
5. 21st September
6. 9th November



Results so far are on the next page. Full results are on the board at the clubhouse

SWISS PAIRS

New Monthly Event

2nd Saturday of every month

NEXT: Saturday, 13th April

PLEASE PUT YOUR NAMES ON THE LIST

This is a fun format that gives you more opportunities to have a win with a more even playing field

For more information about this new event, see page 5

GNOT QUALIFYING HEAT 1 CAIRNS

GOLD POINTS – 2 Sessions

Sunday, 14th April @ 9am & 1pm

Entry form required

BYO Lunch

Teams of up to 6 players.



Lest We Forget.

ANZAC DAY PAIRS

RED POINT EVENT

Thursday, 25th April

1 Session @ 1:30pm

ZONAL TEAMS CAIRNS

RED POINTS

Sunday, 28th April @ 9am & 1pm

The winning team will receive a \$1600 subsidy to represent the Far Northern Zone at the QBA Festival of Bridge on 12-14 Oct.

MOTHERS DAY PAIRS

RED POINTS

Saturday, 11th May @ 1:30pm

Come & celebrate Mothers Day with red points



GNOT QUALIFYING HEAT 2 CAIRNS

GOLD POINTS – 2 Sessions

Sunday, 19th May @ 9am & 1pm

Entry form required

BYO Lunch

Teams of up to 6 players.

FURTHER AFIELD

28th BARRIER REEF CONGRESS 2024 - Mackay

GOLD POINTS

3rd - 6th May

Venue: Mackay Showgrounds, Milton St

Walk-in Pairs: Fri @ 9:30am (\$30/pair at session)

Swiss Pairs (Open, Restricted & Novice):

Friday @ 2pm & Sat @ 9:30am

Swiss Teams (Open & BRC 300):

Saturday @ 1:30pm;

Sunday @ 9:30am & 1:30pm

& Monday @ 9am

Farewell Luncheon: Monday after play

Chief Tournament Director: Jan Peach

INTERCLUB ATHERTON

RED POINTS

Saturday, 1st June

2 sessions **9am start**

Write your name in the book.

RESULTS FOR LAST MONTH

CLUB LADDER

Results so far...

After 2 sessions, the top 3 players according to total scores are:

1. Tony Lusk 131.00

2. Peerapan Maslen 116.15

3. Camilla Nicholson 112.67

For full results, see the sheet on the results board.



THURSDAY PAIRS

Thursday 14th March

N/S Liz Litzow & Danny Bowden

E/W Tony Lusk & Lesley Fraser

GNOT ATHERTON

Saturday, 16th March

1. Byorg Rislá, Dee Jierasak, Allison Finch & Stewart Dunlop
2. William van Bakel, Peerapan Maslen, Tony Lusk & Sandy Long
3. Sonja Ramsund, Margaret Azar, Debra Peters, Kate Gargan & Patricia Ottone

INTERCLUB Malanda

Monday, 25th March

1. Pam Jamieson & Bruce Bowden
2. Lois Pollock & Peggy Ladner
3. Sonja Ramsund & Lynn Viegel



CAIRNS EASTER CONGRESS

29th March – 1st April

Walk-In Pairs

N/S Liz Litzow & William van Bakel

E/W Joan Campbell & Klarika Tortely

Swiss Pairs

OPEN

1. Sandy Long & William van Bakel
2. Tony Lusk & Peerapan Maslen
3. Margaret Azar & Sonja Ramsund

RESTRICTED

1. Melissa Pressley & Jane Gryg

NOVICE

1. Robyn Boase & Sonja de Rooy

Swiss Teams

1. Cobie van Kruistum; Simon van Kruistum;
Gidi Azar & Josephina Burrie

2. Klarika Tortely; Joan Campbell;
Danny Bowden & Helen Rial

Encouragement Award:

Ruth Bartlett; Yvonne Pearson;

Phil Dempster & Janine Yates.

Nationwide Pairs Event (5)

Thursday 29th February – 347 Pairs registered

Rank	Pair	%	Red Pts
5	Azar, van Bakel	65.063	1.250
10	Litzow, Pollock	63.078	0.556
42	Bowden, Rial	58.760	0.300
68	Lusk, Silberberg	56.209	0.300
72	Tierney, Bruce	56.095	0.200
76	Conlan, Gryg	55.929	0.200
106	Dempster, Thomas	53.575	0.200
125	Horseman, Nykamp	52.308	0.100
136	Jones, Dickson	51.985	0.100
165	McMahon, Ryan	50.665	0.100
168	Gryg, Pressley	50.482	0.100
175	Winkworth, Kik-Kemp	50.269	0.000
250	Firth, Firth	46.126	0.000
264	Boase, de Rooy	45.151	0.000
284	Wurzel, O'Gorman	43.987	0.000
317	Howard, McCarthy	39.583	0.000
320	O'Brien, van Basel	38.787	0.000
324	Chapman, Turner	38.013	0.000
333	Frost, Hubbard	36.482	0.000

Nationwide Pairs Event (6)

Saturday, 16th March – 442 Pairs registered

Rank	Pair	%	Red Pts
8	Conlan, Horseman	66.046	0.714
83	Tierney, Bruce	57.159	0.300
105	Van Kruistum, Anderson	55.824	0.200
109	Dennis, Rial	55.730	0.200
118	Flanagan, McCarthy	54.994	0.200
180	Burrie, Azar	51.141	0.100
181	Bell, Peters	51.125	0.100
196	Bowden, Litzow	50.608	0.100
214	Mathieson, Mathieson	50.076	0.100
225	Kik, Kik-Kemp	49.816	0.000
228	Firth, Firth	49.784	0.000
240	Knobel, Cluff	49.028	0.000
262	Zoia, McMahon	48.178	0.000
264	Duncan, Parks	48.066	0.000
279	O'Brien, Clarke	47.651	0.000
286	Howard, Dempster	47.401	0.000
317	Thomas, Silberberg	45.894	0.000
366	Spurrier, Spurrier	42.496	0.000
396	Waters, Morison	40.408	0.000
409	Frost, O'Gorman	39.304	0.000



NEW MEMBERS

We have 6 new members to the Club this month: 2 associate members – **Gaye Allen & Greg Eustace**, and 4 full members – **Robert Dowdell, Woody Fraser, Rod Krenske** and returning member, **Lai Knight**. A hearty welcome to you all!

Monthly Swiss Pairs

We are introducing Swiss pairs sessions on the second Saturday of every month, starting 13 April. If you haven't played this format before, you must come. If you have, you know that it's fun and you will surely come.

It's starting at the normal time: 1.30pm to 5pm. Please register on the entry sheet at the club. We can't have half a table, so unregistered players may play if they can make a full table and at the director's discretion. Other than registration – no special preparation is required.

This format is particularly suitable for novice players. We will play four 7-board matches, so you will only play against four other pairs. After each match, you will be seeded according to how well you did, so newbies are likely to avoid the grand masters (unless you do really well, and that's not a bad thing)..

Come and enjoy – we encourage players who don't normally play on Saturday to come and experience this format. It's a bit different and it's fun.

For more information contact Gidi on gidi@wateroz.com.au



“As a matter of fact, it IS the first time we've played Swiss Pairs... why do you ask?”



Happy birthday Marcia!! - Celebrating 85 years with all her friends at the club today ❤️
(Posted 12-3-24)



The Easter Congress with Director, Julie Jeffries took off yesterday. Winners for **Friday's Walk-In Pairs** were William van Bakel & Liz Litzow, and also Klarika Tortely & Joan Campbell. Stay tuned for today's winners of the Swiss Pairs



Results for the **Swiss Pairs** yesterday:

Open:

1st William van Bakel & Sandy Long

2nd Tony Lusk & Peerapan Maslen

3rd Margaret Azar & Sonja Ramsund

Restricted:

1st Melissa Pressley & Jane Gryg

Novice:

1st Robyn Boase & Sonja de Rooy

Well done to you all!

One more session to go for teams tomorrow....



The winners of the **Easter Teams** event are:
1st Simon van Kruistum, Cobie van Kruistum, Gidi Azar & Josephina Burrie
2nd Klarika Tortely, Joan Campbell, Helen Rial & Danny Bowden
Encouragement Award goes to:
Ruth Bartlett, Yvonne Pearson, Phil Dempster & Janine Yates
Thank you to our Director, Julie Jeffries, & organisers, William van Bakel and our fabulous committee for a great weekend.
Happy Easter to everyone 🐰🥚





To Accept or Reject – Part 2

By Gidi Azar

Sometimes, after the opponents commit an infraction, the director gives you the option to accept or reject their action. If you accept, it's no longer an infraction and the play continues.

The most common opportunities to accept or reject are:

- Illegal call by an opponent – this was covered by the Directors' Note last month.

- Illegal play by an opponent – this is the topic of today's column.

Types of Illegal Play

Today we focus on two types of Illegal play by your opponents that you may accept:

1. Opening lead out of turn – the wrong defender leads to the first trick, before dummy has gone down.

2. Lead out of turn. That is, a player leads when it is not their turn.

Other types of illegal play (not covered here) include:

3. Failure to play a penalty card when required.

4. Premature play - a defender leads to the next trick before their partner has played to the current trick, or plays out of turn before his partner has played.

If there is interest, these may be the topic of a future column.

Opening Lead out of Turn

Suppose you are North, the auction just ended and you are declarer. You expect your LHO (East) to lead before your partner puts down their cards, but your RHO (West) leads a card, face up.

You call the director who gives you a number of options:

a. Accept the lead, with you as declarer.

b. Accept the lead with your partner as declarer.

c. Reject the lead. The lead goes to your LHO, and the card led by your RHO remains on the table as a major penalty card. This leaves you to make another decision about lead restrictions, which we will discuss in next month's column (spoiler alert).

Right now you are on the spot, having to choose from 3 options. What's the best option for your side? Your decision will depend on the circumstances. There are no rules, but here are some tips.

Decision 1: Should you be the declarer, or your partner? Assuming that you both are of similar ability and talent, think of the cards. Typically, it's better for the stronger hand to be the declarer. From the auction you would know which hand is stronger, so the first inclination is for that hand to be declarer.

If you decide that partner should be declarer, the lead is accepted.

Decision 2: If you decide that you will be the declarer, you now have to decide whether to accept the lead. Tips:

- If the lead is in your weak suit, accept it if you believe that partner has better stoppers in that suit. For example, you are in 3NT and the lead from your RHO is 6H. You hold J-10-8-2 in H, and you expect your partner to have the A or the K.

- If the lead is in a suit with gaps in your hand, reject. Same as the previous example but this time you hold K-J-10 in H. You want the hearts to come from LHO (which you can demand as the 6H is now a major penalty card).

- If the lead is in a suit that is the Achilles heel of your partnership, reject. Example: your H holding is A-9-8 and your partner is likely to have only 2 or 3 cards in hearts. After rejecting the lead, forbid a H lead from LHO. Hopefully this would give you time to develop tricks in other suits, while you still have a H stopper.

Lead out of Turn (not opening lead)

As declarer, if one of the defenders leads out of turn, you call the director. The director gives you the option to accept the lead. Most people give some consideration to this option. It's time to think of what is best for your side. The tips in Decision 2 above are relevant here too.

But when you are defending and declarer leads from hand instead of from dummy (or vice versa), most players tell declarer to lead from the correct hand and don't even call the director. Wrong. Again, think about what's better for your side. Don't automatically reject the lead. Wait for 15 seconds and consider if accepting the lead has an advantage for your side. For example, if declarer leads (out of turn) to what you suspect is a losing finesse, accept it.

Note that either defender may accept the lead from the wrong hand by declarer.

AND NOW FOR A FEW WORDS FROM RON KLINGER'S BOOK, "THE BRIDGE PLAYER WHO LAUGHED"

The call was loud and clear: "*Di-rek-tor!*"
The Director hurried over to the table:
"Yes?"
"My opponent," said the declarer, "has made a premature gloat."

Life Lessons from the Bridge Table

I've played bridge my whole adult life. Sometimes I wonder who I would have been, had I lived in a parallel existence without bridge to shape my character all these years. Most of my friends are bridge players, most of my travels are for tournaments, most of my free time I spend in activities associated with bridge in one way or another, and even my professional interests are related to the psychology of games. Basically, my cat is the only important part of my life that is bridgeless, but even she was named after a bridge player. So, obviously I am influenced by bridge more than a regular player. However, I think that playing bridge affects us all, and that there are many valuable lessons we learn by playing bridge that we can apply to our regular lives. In this article, I will discuss some of the beliefs that bridge can reinforce or enhance in people. I hope it will encourage you to share your thoughts on this topic.

Don't discriminate.

Bridge tournaments have that special power to remove all the differences that exist among players except for the skill itself. If Mr. Doe is known to be the best player in the room, once the tournament starts we don't care less if he is 18 or 80, married or not, a lawyer or a scavenger, a Buddhist or a Christian. Age may be the most obvious, but it also applies to differences in social background, education, culture and so on. Therefore, we can find some very amusing partnerships or teams consisting of seemingly mismatched people who join together in the game. Bridge has taught me that people engaged in an all-consuming activity will disregard the differences, and concentrate on what is important. Therefore, in work or my private life, I am less concerned about how people who have nothing in common will function. I just try to make the task engaging and challenging, and so far I can confirm that

once they really get involved, the differences become irrelevant.

Intelligence is multidimensional.

It's amazing how regularly people who have been successful in business, academia or life in general, just can't get past intermediate level in bridge. On the other hand, you probably know players who struggle with the simplest of life challenges but shine at the table. Bridge shows very clearly what cognitive scientists try to explain: intelligence consists of various domains, and one may excel in some, while being almost hopeless in others. I doubt there is a better example than bridge.

Perfection is overrated.

There are not any areas of human existence where one can experience one's own incompetence in such a blatant way as is possible at the bridge table. Bridge shows us how incredibly incapable we can be. If we take a lesson from this, we may become a bit less smug and understand and accept our own limitations. Moreover, we become aware that everyone can produce a blunder. In some areas of human existence, it's easy to find excuses and convince ourselves that we haven't made that big a lapse, whereas in bridge our mistakes often stare at us unforgivingly without any camouflage whatsoever. Therefore by playing bridge, we learn to acknowledge, admit and cope with being imperfect. Forgive yourself and apologize to the other(s).

Being risk adverse can be risky

A beginner will sometimes refuse to bid (e.g. overcall, preempt) because they "don't want to take a risk". Very soon, when opponents land at the best contract and/or partner fails to lead their suit, they will realize that passing is at least as risky as bidding. In the same manner, people may be reluctant to invest, to change jobs, to leave a relationship, because taking this action may be risky. It is in human nature to believe that being passive and maintaining the status quo is safer than taking action. But, simple, every-day examples from the bridge table teach us that there is no safety in being passive.

(Although they teach you otherwise), luck matters.

When bridge teachers explain how bridge is fairer compared to other (card) games, they will stress that by duplication we manage to control the factor of luck. Aspiring students are often amazed by this newly discovered method and do not question it further. However, while for a beginner it may be a hook, any experienced player will know that luck plays an important, although sometimes disguised role in bridge. Getting a flat board against the weakest pair, getting away with a ridiculous bid or play, or discovering an unfortunate lie of cards when the contract seemed cold. Bridge teaches us that if we do our best we will profit in the long run, but there is no guarantee that it will work in any specific case. Understanding this will help in dealing with real life situations where we felt a sense of injustice and that we deserved better. Bridge teaches us to be skeptical about complete fairness in any life domain, and to appreciate an occasional stroke of luck.

Take one for the team (partner).

We were all in situations when partner or teammates compensated for our mistakes and when we did the same for them. Bridge teaches us to trust, to rely on others, to be responsible and to put the common goal in front of personal wishes. If you keep your partner happy, you will be happy too. Playing competitive team bridge develops a team player mindset that is so needed and appreciated in both private and professional domains.

Live in the present.

Bridge is a fast game and every ten minutes or so we have to completely switch our thoughts and adjust to a new situation or challenge. Those who dwell on the past will not be able to focus on a current task. Whatever happens, you have to leave it behind, clear your mind and move onto the next board in order to survive. This mantra of many a life coach is brought into sharp focus in bridge and is a valuable lesson to learn: you can't change the past so focus on the here and now.

Don't give up, 20% is better than 0%

On some boards we just don't have a chance to make a decent result. We have to accept the fact that our opponents reached the best spot and the most we can hope for are a few matchpoints. But every board counts and a handful of matchpoints might be all we need to win the tournament. So, when things don't look bright, in both bridge and life, we have to accept that obstacles are part of life, and that on bad days (hands), even little increments count.

Analyze carefully.

In my opinion, there are three main techniques that need to be developed to play bridge reasonably well: visualization, judging possibility, and stepping into someone else's shoes. Visualization involves imagining the various layouts possible during bidding and play; judging possibility is necessary to take the correct view of the hand and choose the best line; while stepping into partner's and opponents' shoes may answer the question of why they made a particular bid, or chose this card instead of another one. Carefully analyzing moves thinking about motives gives us deeper insight into circumstances and it is equally useful in real life as it is in bridge.

Don't let negativity consume you.

There will be many occasions in bridge when you will have an urge to run away, fight or cry. I admit, bridge is quite good in provoking a spectrum of negative emotions. However, it helps you to learn to deal with such feelings, to recognize, shape and control them. Don't let negativity overwhelm you, even if it seems everything is against you. Players who manage to stay calm after a bad board have an enormous advantage, in bridge and life, as you probably guessed.

There are so many things we can learn in bridge that apply to life, I think I could continue to write on the topic forever. In so many ways bridge reflects fairly the challenges, struggles and relationships we encounter in ordinary life. Even if we do not put a particular effort into this knowledge transfer we may have spontaneously

noticed how bridge improved the way we think and behave. It is almost as if we have gained clear evidence of a general wisdom that most people are not entitled to.

About the Author

Tihana Brkljacic is a psychologist and bridge player. She teaches psychology and bridge at Zagreb university. She represented Croatia at multiple European championships and at the World Championship (Wuhan cup) in 2022. As a psychologist, her main areas of interest are quality of life, well-being and communication. Additionally, she studies the psychology of games (focusing on bridge in particular) and consults players on various topics.

MANY THANKS TO JAN CLUFF FOR SOURCING THIS INTERESTING ARTICLE.



til' May
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