

MORETON-BRIBIE BRIDGE CLUB

AUGUST 2017 NEWS LETTER



Photo: Brad Kinross



President's Contribution

The Bi-Annual meeting of our Club was held on Saturday 12th August. 41 members attended the meeting and 11 apologies were received. This was a disappointing response from a total membership of 115. Members have only two opportunities to hear reports of Club activity for the previous six months and it would be encouraging for the Management Committee to see more member representation at these meetings.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a sandwich lunch prepared by Club members was provided. At the conclusion of lunch, the Winter Pairs red point event was played and won by Jim Breene and Shirley Pascoe. I believe everyone present felt well satisfied as they left that the day had been a social success.

The Committee will be initiating regular monthly sandwich lunches prior to play.

I am sure all members will have noticed the new look in the Clubrooms. Our shields and trophies are now proudly displayed around the walls on timber shelving installed by our Project Co-ordinator, Richard Medhurst.

Our new cook top has been installed and tiling of the kitchen and surrounds will commence on 24th August. This should give the Clubhouse a great lift. Carpets and chairs will be cleaned when the tiling is complete. Our kitchen has been given a spring clean and it is my hope that members on kitchen duty will ensure that it remains in this condition.

Contact has been made with the Council to improve the front lawn area. The lawn is almost completely taken over by weeds. It is our hope that we can use pebbles, mulch and new shrubs to give the front entrance to our Clubhouse a fresh new look.

As you would be aware, our Friday supervised play session has been cancelled. Sue's health has dictated that she can no longer continue to run these classes. This is a very sad outcome for the Club. So many players' Bridge skills have improved under Sue's tuition. We thank Sue for her contribution to the Club and hope that she now enjoys many years of relaxed Bridge in our Club.

Lorraine Carr's beginners class and supervised play continues. New players have begun playing in Wednesday and Thursday Club sessions. This is a great result for the Club and particularly for Lorraine who has made such a huge commitment to these novices. Lorraine will run the Older and Bolder introduction to Bridge morning in October, and we will hold our information stall at Woolworths again this year.

It was with regret that a decision was made to cancel Tuesday Bridge. The decision was not made lightly but dwindling numbers rendered the event unsustainable. We hope that the cancellation of Tuesday play does not impact any player's ability to play Bridge at our Club and that another playing day can be arranged.

The Management Committee's main project for the rest of this year will be the development of a strategic plan which incorporates members' current expectations of our Club. It is vital that we, as a management group, establish a common vision which is both realistic and achievable. In order to gather your input, we have compiled a questionnaire which will be available to all members. It has been distributed at Bridge sessions and is available for download from our Website. It is imperative that our questionnaire is received as a positive attempt to improve the Club and so is answered thoughtfully and honestly.

I pointed out in my Report to the Bi-Annual meeting that our average table numbers for the past six months are 109. This figure is disappointing and follows a trend towards consistently lower table numbers in this Club. Table numbers peaked in 2015 when numbers for the first six months averaged 130. The Management Committee is a very pro-active group with a desire to see this Club grow and remain healthy. We have to try to stop this trend of declining numbers.

The Management Committee will do whatever it can to draw players to the Club but we can only do so much. I strongly urge all members to get behind us, be positive and support our Club which offers us many happy hours of Bridge play – our passion!

Regards
Noreen Weyling



A champion Bridge player is an amateur who didn't give up!

Provedore's Piece



Jocelyn is grateful for all the help from our kitchen workers for the various events this year. The sandwiches for the Bi- Annual meeting were a great success. The combined effort was great. Thank you all! Jocelyn.

A married couple are not speaking to each other after a horrible game and are driving home from a distant bridge tournament. They pass a paddock where there are donkeys grazing. The husband breaks the silence by asking his wife- “relations of yours?” “Yes” she says – “in-laws!”



Bridge Etiquette

Courtesy:

This is probably the Golden Rule. Always be courteous at the Bridge table. This applies to how one relates to partner, the opponents and the Director when he/she is called. Greet your new opponents at the table. The Director should always be called to the table in a courteous manner.

Conversation at the table:

Once the bidding has commenced, general conversation is not encouraged at the table. Bridge is a competitive game and each player needs to respect the rights of other players.

Table Manners:

1. Cards should not be taken out of the board until all players are at the table
2. Before you look at your cards count your hand and ensure that you have exactly 13 cards'
3. The board should be left on the table during the bidding and play of the hand so everyone can see the vulnerability.
4. At the end of the hand ensure that you do not mix up your cards until the result is agreed with the opponents.
5. During play you may not, without permission, touch or handle your opponents' cards. If necessary, ask your opponent to show you a particular card.
6. Do not ask for information until it is your turn to call or play. Dummy or Defender may draw attention to a card pointed incorrectly. The right expires when the lead is made to the following trick.
7. The North player is responsible for the boards and for ensuring the boards are not “fouled” before they are sent to the next table.

System cards and full disclosure:

All partnerships should have a completed systems card at the table. This is important as it ensures you disclose your conventions and systemic agreements to your opponents. Your opponents are entitled to know every systemic agreement you and your partner have.

A player may not refer to his/her system card during an auction or play.

Asking for explanations and not bidding:

Do not ask what a bid means unless you are intending to bid. Asking for explanations without bidding could in certain circumstances be construed as passing unauthorised information to one's partner. If one does not intend to bid, questions of the opponents should be made after the auction has concluded.

The opening lead:

The opening lead should be made face down until it is accepted by partner. This prevents irregularities. It also enables your partner to ask any questions about the auction or alerts that have been made.

Play generally:

As declarer do not call for a card in dummy until LHO has played. Do not detach a card from your hand until it is your turn to play. Every player has the right to inspect a quitted trick (trick turned face over) until she/he or partner has played to a subsequent trick.

Tempo/hesitation:

Acquire the habit of playing "smoothly" and in tempo. Avoid mannerisms, meaningful eye contact, sighs, grimaces, and using extra words such as "I guess I need to pass."

Avoid hesitations by being consistent and deliberate in your bidding. A hesitation, followed by a pass places an extra burden on partner to justify continuing with the bidding as this may have communicated information to one's partner.

If you have a difficult decision you have a right to think but partner cannot take advantage of the knowledge that you had a problem. So, if your partner takes time to bid/ bids out of tempo and then passes, you should also pass unless that action would be totally illogically considering your hand.

On Dummy play:

1. Dummy may not ask for a review of the auction
2. Dummy should not touch a card before receiving instruction from the declarer. This includes playing a card even when it is a singleton.
3. Dummy is not entitled to call the Director when there has been an infraction of the Law or other problem during play.
4. Dummy may call the Director after the hand has been played out.
5. Dummy can attempt to prevent an irregularity by declarer or defender.

Post-Mortems:

Wait until the game is over for post-mortems. Not only could a post-mortem undermine partnership confidence, but it may communicate information to players who have not yet played the hand at other tables.



After 17 years of instruction at our club every Friday, Sue Morgan has now taken a rest. We thank her for her many years of devotion to us, even if her advice sometimes bewildered us. We wish her all the best and a restful time enjoying the game she loves.



Geraldine Newbegin was one of the winning team from Caboolture in the recent interclub challenge.

Kitchen duties:

Below a list of duties expected of members on kitchen roster:

Replenish tea-tray

Fill milk jugs & biscuit trays

Wipe plastic covers on tables

Fill hand towel and cup dispensers

Clean dishwasher filter each Saturday

Empty bathroom and kitchen bin

Launder kitchen towels

Clean kitchen refrigerator Monthly on Saturday

The difference between genius and stupidity at the Bridge table is that genius has its limits!

Bridge prayer.

Lord grant me a partner who won't trump my aces.
 Deliver me from short suits and cards without faces.
 grant me finesses that work as I have planned...and
 Just once a day Lord let me win a nice grand slam.

Amen





Director's Corner.

We feel it is important to again remind all players of the need to call the Director whenever a query or incident arises at a table. Senior players must resist the temptation to correct errors or make determinations themselves. We must all set good examples to our new players.

New Laws. The 2017 new laws have now come into use and although changes are minor we will be advising of the important differences when QBA has completed it's summary of changes. In the meanwhile two changes will be mentioned.

Dummy's Rights.

We have talked about these on previous occasions but these have been changed. Under the new laws Dummy can now try to prevent any irregularity by opponents as well as by declarer.

Replacement of a withdrawn call.

A new concept of comparable calls has been introduced. This is used when either an insufficient bid has to be corrected or a rejected bid out of turn has to be later repeated. A comparable call is defined as-

- (a) Having the same or similar meaning to the call being replaced.
- (b) Further defines an alternative meaning of the withdrawn call.
- (c) Has the same purpose (e.g. an asking bid or a relay) as that of the withdrawn call.

When such a call is agreed to be comparable by the Director there is no penalty or restriction on offenders partner.

Declaration. When a declarer decides that he/she can take the remaining tricks a "Declaration" is made. Previously all play had to cease and the Director called. Under the 2017 laws the Director is still called but the players at the table now have the option, if all agree, to play out the hand. If this cannot be agreed then the Director makes a ruling as previously.

With the 'Flu season upon us, it is important that Bridge players do not attend Bridge sessions when unwell. Masks are available at the Club should any member feel the need for them. Hand washing is important.