



# BRIDGING THE GAP

Volume 36

Issue 1

February 2015

## EDITORIAL

Hello Everyone,

As I write, we are well into the New Year. I do hope everyone had a very happy Christmas and for those of you who went away, then a very happy holiday too and we are pleased to see you back. Amazing isn't it that each year appears to go faster than the year before? Each month skids by without touching sides? Do I believe it is part of getting older.... 'no', of course not how could it be!!

You will find photographs of our functions in this copy of the magazine and a big thank you to Lynne Bartleet who has agreed to be the Club's photographer and who took the photographs for the Christmas Party, and also a thank you to our trusted Margaret McRobbie, for filling in for Lynne on Australia Day, as Lynne was away. Just a little reminder for when ordering, please make sure you put the correct money into the pot as Lynne did have a discrepancy on her very first time in charge!

It is so good to be back at the Bridge Table and to see those friends we only see at bridge. I have looked around at so many other clubs and although I enjoy playing there, and they always make visitors more than welcome, there is nothing quite like 'home' !!!

The words for this edition from the book which inspires me, and I try to remember this when the 'chips are down'!!

*'It is not in the stars to hold our destiny, but in ourselves'*

*William Shakespeare (1564-1616)*

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Having just gone through the part of the year when we particularly remember our friends as well as our relatives, it has been brought home to me how many of our regular members have quit playing over the last few months. I'm thinking of Anne Boekelaar, Jean Bampfield, and Don Chisholm in particular.

This must be expected in an organisation like ours where most of us continue to play well into our senior years...and then, one day, it is just no longer possible. We shouldn't be surprised but it doesn't stop us feeling sad about it.

The ray of light through all this is that we are a very organic Club. Those of us that are forced to leave are replaced by others who have come to us from other clubs or through our Beginners' sessions. Look at the results sheet after our sessions and spot all the new names that crop up from time to time, sometimes with such frequency that we start to think that they have always played alongside us. The game of bridge is notorious for the lack of "stickability", that is to say that many start and only a few of those finish, and become regular (and obsessive!) players. The fact that so many persevere in our Club is due in no small part to the altruism of so many longstanding members who either mentor at the supervised sessions or give up their regular partner for a session in order to play with those that are just dipping their toes into the water.

You are doing a very worthwhile and essential job and the standard of play amongst our developing group is rapidly improving as a result

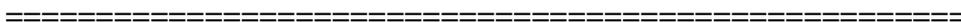
Finally, our Congress is only a few weeks away. I do hope that you will support your Club through this period, whether or not you intend to play, just as you always have done in the past. We have acquired a reputation in metropolitan Perth for the friendly atmosphere and for the ease with which the weekend goes by and we have set a standard which can only be maintained with help from you all.  
Many thanks



Do you have any idea at all who this man may be. He is a member of the Bridge Club and I am enclosing two photographs for you. I feel the younger one is very typical of ? today but see what you think. As usual you will find the solution and the article on his life, towards the end of the magazine.



Have you guessed? It is not easy.....



A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door.

Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote 'Revelation 3:20' on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, 'Genesis 3:10.'

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.' Genesis 3:10 reads, 'I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid, for I was naked.'

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#### AND OTHER NEWS:

I have just received a letter from Len Pratt sent to us all and it is just so good to know that Len has settled so well in New South Wales. We miss you Len and look forward to your updates. I copy below Len's letter:

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5<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear Members

It is now over 12 months since I moved to NSW. I have not written before because I wanted to wait until I was completely established here.

Firstly, on the home front. After quite a bit of searching in the Gosford area, I, with the help of my son Phil found the above home. It met most of my requirements of being a smaller house than my Kalamunda home and had a garden which would not need much maintenance. Any member who had been to no 29 Cotherstone Road would have seen all the gum trees on the block and the ensuing, continuous gathering and disposal of leaves and branches. The house needed the installation of a built in wardrobe in the main bedroom, air conditioning and new curtains. After 12 months of residence, I can now say that I am most comfortable here.

I am located about 1 km from Wyoming Village Shopping Centre. The Centre has all my shopping needs – food including a Baker's Delight – a butcher – a hairdresser – a hotel that serves good pub style meals – and a bottle shop. There is a bus stop about 5 minutes walk away which means I can go into Gosford and not worry about parking.

My second joy was to adopt a dog named Juno. She is about 6 years old and is very loyal and affectionate. She loves going for walks. One day I tripped over and let go of her lead. She came and sat by my side while I settled myself down. I exercise her at the Alan Davidson Park which is close to the bus stop.

**And now to bridge!** After being here for about 2 months I joined the Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club. It is a most interesting arrangement. To be a member, you first have to join the Central Coast Leagues Club. I did and paid the most exorbitant subscription of \$13.20 for 3 years! The subscription for Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club was \$31.

The Club is very active with about 220 members. The Club has day sessions every day except Sundays and an evening session on each Monday. The members are all very friendly and have made me most welcome. No different to KDBC!

The Club plays in a very small room which only permits about 14 tables. It has a low ceiling which makes the talking noise even worse than KDBC. At one session the Director requested that the members shout at a lower level! To get to the room the members have to walk through banks and banks of pokie machines.

Members are required to be seated 5 minutes before the start of a session and it is observed very well. Also System Cards are mandatory and are regularly referred to by opponents. The Club uses bidding slips which is quite acceptable due to the congestion of the tables. It is most interesting that there isn't much insistence on covering up the bidding slip once bidding has concluded as the Club, in general, is very firm on adhering to the Laws.

When I left KDBC, several members were teasing me that I would have to learn 5 card majors to which I have always had a great dislike. I was very fortunate to find a new member – Alan - who also played ACOL which is our basic system. All our 1 bids are NATURAL! But we are playing multi 2 bids. Most of the Club members play Standard American with a strong no trump and 5 card majors and the ubiquitous short club, although there are about 3 pairs that play Precision.

Our opening 1 no trump has been very interesting. While a lot of our opponents have a defence to the strong no trump quite a few don't have one to the 12-14 HCPs bid. Alan and I firmly believe that the bid has produced more good results than bad. Although, I do remember going for minus 800 once. As the late Mike Hopper used to say "a bottom is a bottom is a bottom is a bottom."

We have had some successes. A few months ago we played as pair of a team in a local congress that had over 80 teams. We were seeded at no. 39 and actually finished 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We were invited by a different pair at the Club to play in the Open Teams competition. The Event was played as a Swiss Movement over 3 weeks with 2 matches per day. After the 5<sup>th</sup> match we were lying second and 1 VP behind the top team having beaten them 23 VPs to 2 VPs in the 5<sup>th</sup> match. We won our 6<sup>th</sup> match 24VPs to 1 VP only to find that the other team had won 25VPs to nil so we finished second by 2 VPs.

A few weeks ago Nancy (one of the team that won the Teams Event) asked me to play with her in the Friday session. I was quite flattered. We met early and established a bidding and playing system. This included extended Staymen. On one board I opened 1 no trump and Nancy bid 3 diamonds???What now? I bid 3 no trumps and Nancy bid 4 hearts which I passed. We decided not to have a discussion at that time but talk about it after the end of the session where I explained my understanding of extended Staymen. Just before we went home I said to her that I had one disappointment with the session. Nancy raised her eyebrows! I went on to explain that I hadn't had one hand which I could open 1 club. We both had a good laugh.

Nancy and her partner Adele (another one of the winners of the Teams Event) have asked Alan and me to play with them in the Club's round of the GNOT. Once again it is good to know that we are a respected pair.

I can quite honestly say that I have not regretted my move to NSW despite having lived in Kalamunda for 45 years. My son Phillip lives about one and half hours drive away (on a good day) which means we can see each other regularly without living in each other's pocket.

Yours Truly  
Len Pratt

*Thanks Len, Hope you enjoy the magazine!*

Diane Smith has just returned or is just returning from and 'Iceland' holiday and hope to hear her news soon.

Guy Gaudet has recently returned from a holiday in Turkey and Israel and an article on his holiday is on its way and will be published in the next BTG.

## DIRECTORS CORNER

### **THE DREADED REVOKE**

Revoke...we all do it, and sometimes quite regularly. That, and the lead out of turn, constitute the bulk of the calls for the Director.

So it might be helpful to refresh you on how things are sorted out.

A revoke is a failure to follow suit when you have a card of that suit in your hand. It can also be the failure to lead or play a penalty card in your possession at the first legal opportunity. If certain others round the table think you may have unknowingly revoked they may enquire whether you are indeed void in that suit. Specifically declarer may ask any defender and defenders may ask the declarer or each other. Dummy may ask the declarer (one of the very few things they may do) but DEFINITELY NOT either defender.

A revoke only incurs a potential penalty if it is established. This means if it is not corrected BEFORE either the offender or their partner leads or plays to the following trick including calling for a card from dummy. If you recognise your error before the above occur, you have to put things right straightaway but there is no penalty.

To rectify things, you withdraw the card you played and substitute a legal one. If you are a defender, your card becomes a major penalty card. If you are declarer, your card or dummy's can simply be put back where they were. The non-offending pair can withdraw and substitute any card they played before attention was drawn to the problem. The hand then proceeds normally.

Fairly straightforward so far, but there is an anomaly to cope with if the revoke, established or otherwise, happens on the twelfth trick and it is discovered before all four hands are returned to the board. There is no penalty for this, you simply withdraw and play the correct card to that trick. If, by so doing, your partner has a choice of two suits to play on that new twelfth trick, they cannot choose to play the one that could have been suggested by seeing the revoke card earlier.

OK, so let's now look at the situation where no correction has been made in time and the revoke is now established and the trick on which the revoke occurred stands as played.

Firstly, call the Director, who will first of all confirm the establishment of the revoke. If there is dispute about whether a revoke has occurred, that will be sorted out first by inspection of the tricks on the table. If you are still in the process of playing the hand, there will be an instruction to continue as you are and then to recall the Director at the end of the hand.

Rectification is normally, and I emphasise normally, as follows:-

1. If the trick on which the revoke occurred was won by the offending player, that trick is transferred to the opposition. If one or more subsequent tricks was won by the offending side, one of those tricks is also transferred over.
2. If the trick on which the revoke occurred was won by either of the non-offending pair or by the offender's partner, that trick is not transferred to the opposition. "Offender's partner" in this case, includes dummy. However one trick is transferred again if the offending side wins one or more subsequent tricks.

*Are you still with me or have your eyes started to glaze over?*

This means that there is no rectification if the offending side didn't win either the revoke trick or any subsequent trick.

There are a number of other circumstances where rectification may not be made, including when both sides revoke on the same board, but I won't burden you with all of these. The Director will sort it out.

There is a catch all clause in the relevant Law which says the Director is responsible for equity. If they feel that the non-offending side is insufficiently compensated by applying the Law as it stands, they shall award an adjusted score. This most frequently crops up during a No Trump contract where the revoke occurs, opposition then places all the unknown cards in that suit in the other defender's hand and then, lo and behold, the winning card in the relevant suit crops up later in the wrong place, thus interrupting the flow of a continuous suit.

If an offender revokes once in a suit, there is a good chance they may do it again in the same suit later in the hand, particularly if the cause of the revoke was one card hidden by another. The second revoke isn't subject to rectification but it may be relevant in the catch all above.

By the way, if you are convinced that a revoke has occurred you are not bound to say so straightaway. You may do so at the end of the hand and before you make a call on any subsequent deal. Dummy may make a call on the Director at this stage also....they may have spotted the infringement by the opposition when declarer didn't, but they MUST NOT say anything while the hand is in play.

So there you have it in a nutshell .....the best thing is not to revoke, it can be costly!

### ***The Directing Team***

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During a visit to my Doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?",

"Well", he said "we fill a bathtub, and then we offer a teaspoon, a cup and a bucket to the person to use to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand" said I. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or tea cup." "No", he said, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want to be near a window?"

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On his chalkboard, an English Professor wrote the words "A WOMAN WITHOUT HER MAN IS NOTHING". The Professor asked his students to punctuate correctly.

All the males in the class wrote : " A WOMAN, WITHOUT HER MAN, IS NOTHING"

All the females in the class wrote: "A WOMAN: WITHOUT HER, MAN IS NOTHING"

### **PUNCTUATION IS EVERYTHING!!!!**

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This happened to an Englishman in France who was totally drunk:  
The French Policeman stopped his car and asked the gentleman if he had been drinking. With great difficulty the Englishman admitted he had, that his daughter got married in the morning to a French man, and that he drank champagne and a few bottles of wine at the reception and quite a few glasses of single malt thereafter. Quite upset the policeman proceeded to alcotest (Breath test) him and asked the Englishman if he knew under French law why he was going to be arrested.

The Englishman answered with humour: No sir, I do not! But while we're asking questions, do you know that this is a British car and my wife is driving on the other ..... side?

And one more:  
IRISH TEXT MESSAGE:

*"Mary, I'm just having one more pint with the lads.  
If I'm not home in 20 minutes, read this message again"*

## RECENT COMPETITION RESULTS

### KALAMUNDA BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

#### Open Teams:

1<sup>st</sup>. Bente Hansen, Madge Myburgh , Carmen Jackson and Wendy Harman.

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Clarke, Ruth Ledger, Peter Cameron and Doug Hegarty.

#### Day Time Pairs:

1<sup>st</sup> : Gordon Brown and Sheila Pryce.

2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Louis and Guy Gaudet.

#### Wednesday Daytime Pairs:

1<sup>st</sup>. Nic Moniodis and Brian Davison

Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> : Gordon Brown and Sheila Pryce

Joe Louis and Guy Gaudet

#### Novice Pairs:

1<sup>st</sup>. Jacqueline Keir and Diane Smith.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mike and Mary Pepper

#### Mixed Pairs:

1<sup>st</sup> Bente Hansen and Peter Cameron

2<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Brown and Sheila Pryce.

### Inter Club Teams events

You will be delighted to hear that our Kalamunda Bridge Club team won the final of the Restricted Division, against South Perth Bridge Club, in fine style. The members of the team in the finals, was Gordon Brown, Sheila Pryce, Joe Louis and Guy Gaudet. It was a great effort and the second time that Kalamunda Bridge Club has won this division. There were several players from the club who also contributed to this win and our thanks go to them all. We will have to see what we can do in this year. The competition starts soon

### And from Clubs around Perth

BAWA Summer Swiss Pairs: Gerry Daly and Geoff Cross 3<sup>rd</sup>.

BAWA Swiss Pairs: Gerry Daly and Geoff Cross 4<sup>th</sup>.

BAWA State Mixed Pairs: Gerry Daly and Viv Wood 1<sup>st</sup>

BAWA Xmas Matched Pairs: Alf and Sheelagh Dupont 9th

And hot off the Press, played on the weekend of 31<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February: I have included some entrants from our club from those who came highest on the finishing list.

Mandurah Summer Swiss Pairs Congress: With 80 Entrants: Gerry Daly and Karol Miller 4<sup>th</sup> and our very own pair of Gordon Brown and Guy Gaudet 7<sup>th</sup> which was an amazing feat, and Garth Scotford and Jamie Paterson 27<sup>th</sup>, a great representation from our Club.

Mandurah Summer Teams Congress: 40 Teams: Cantatore Team which included Gerry Daly 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I may have missed some other events and despite searching through other Bridge Club results, which do not appear to stay on the web site for too long, I would be very grateful, if you play in some event, then you would be kind enough to let me know any results from members of this club. We all aspire to play better each and every time we sit at a bridge table, and by entering into some of the Congresses, or in fact the 'Teams of Three' which happen from time to time at Nedlands and includes the three playing with a 'Master' in their team, is the one way in which we hope to improve. So please remember to send me an email with any results as they will be entered into the next edition of the BTG.

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## MELBOURNE CUP 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2014

As always this event was well attended. Anita did much work in the background and members wishing to go into the sweep stakes were drawn a horse. Some of the uninitiated, as I am, do not know the ability of one horse to another, from one jockey to another and so it is always equally exciting, be it favourite or rank outsider. The excitement as the horses leave the stalls is expectant and members gathered around the televisions set up in the bridge room to watch the race and commiserate or rejoice at the result. However the hat parade is always well patronised and this year we had two men in the parade. Jack Gates in a smart 'red number' and Stephen Thyer in his Swiss costume and bringing with him 'Strudel' for the lunch table. Lots of laughter all around and much fun.

The lunch, as always, was excellent with members once again excelling in their choice and variety of dishes brought with them. It was a very good day in every respect.



Anne Boekelaar and Jenny Tedeschi



Stephen Thyer and winner of the Hat Parade, Lynne Sninnick



Some of the Hats and with Jack Gates in his Red Hat  
Bridge Winners on Melbourne Cup Day.

### North/South

1<sup>st</sup> Mike Grenfell and Anne Boekelaar  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jenny Tedeschi and Margaret McRobbie

### East/West

1<sup>st</sup> Jane Pike and Anita Davis  
2<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Brown and Sheila Pryce

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*By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere!.... Billy Crystal*

*Two blondes walk into a building.....you'd think at least one of them would have seen it ..Tommy Cooper*

*My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled him in.... Tommy Cooper*

*And maybe I should not include this one but I had to giggle: A guy walks into a psychiatrist's office wearing only cling film shorts. The shrink says 'Well I can clearly see you're nuts'.....Tommy Cooper again!*

## CHRISTMAS PARTY , 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014

Another 'fun' function, and a great bridge day. The club provided the ham and chicken and members provided the rest. Wonderful food, wonderful company, and good bridge.

Also, of course, it was the annual Trophy presentation to the winners of Club Competitions won throughout the year. I have taken a cross section of photographs, in which, each of the winners is represented. Some winners won more than once. A list of the competitions and winners is printed earlier.

Winners of the Christmas Bridge:

North /South

1<sup>st</sup> Jeanne Hay and Carmen Jackson

2<sup>nd</sup> Denise Borger and Elizabeth Bazen

**Our Golden Girls:**

**Madge, Carmen, Bente and Wendy**

East/West

1<sup>st</sup> Gordon Brown and Sheila Pryce

2<sup>nd</sup> Dianne Smith and Jacqueline Keir

Winners of Trophies



**AUSTRALIA DAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015 – SAUSAGE SIZZLE!!**



THE NATIONAL ANTHEM



Stephen Thyer with his Cup for  
The most Master Points won in 2014



‘THE’ sausage Sizzle

As always Australia Day was celebrated in style. There were nineteen tables and challenging bridge. I was, unfortunately, unable to attend but am told it was a great occasion.



**ENJOYING THE DAY!!!!**

The Bridge Winners on Australia Day:  
North/South  
1<sup>st</sup> Peter Clarke and Ruth Ledger  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bente Hansen and Carmen Jackson

East/West  
1<sup>st</sup> Alf and Sheelagh Dupont  
2<sup>nd</sup> John and Rosemary Offer  
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Yes it is **ALAN HARPER** .....



Alan was born on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1937 and has two brothers Donald, Keith and sister Maureen. Alan's early years were in war time England and Alan recounted various stories of life during these times. Alan's Father was away, fighting in France and was evacuated at DunKirk. Alan's first school was Moulsham Primary School. The children carried gas masks to school and sometimes, returning after classes, and lying flat on their backs in the street, they watched 'dog fights' in the sky above. At home the family had two bomb shelters and underground Anderson shelter and a 'Morrison' shelter indoors. This was approximately 8' x6' constructed of four steel posts on each corner with a strong steel top and wire mesh surrounding the gap in between. The family slept in this shelter every night. Alan remembers one particular 'doodlebug' which flew low over their house, ending up in the Town's Swimming Pool. At the end of his road there was a Barrage balloon and an Anti-aircraft ACK-ACK gun that seemed determined to deny them sleep.

From Junior School, Alan attended Leigh High School from 1945 – 1948 and developed a love of flying with the Air Training Corps. During this time Alan gained a Gliding Certificate, and had a newspaper round in order to earn pocket money. He joined the Salvation Army Band and learned to play a number of musical instruments. Even in those days Alan enjoyed 'serious music' and disliked the modern styles.

At age seventeen Alan was apprenticed as an Instrument maker with Marconi Wireless and Telegraph Company. During this time Alan spent one day and two evenings a week at Chelmsford College for Further Education studying for the Higher National Certificate in Engineering. Alan was also determined to fly and went for a physical examination for Air Crew selection but sadly failed due to perforated ear drums. It was now 1956 and as happened in those days Alan was required for National Service and so had to break his apprenticeship and enter the R.A.F. He trained in Wiltshire as an Airborne Electrician and was also invited to join and play in the Boscombe Down R.A.F. Band. The reward was the promise of a 'Home' posting after training was completed but when postings were announced, Alan was sent with Air Force 28 Squadron to Sek Kong, up country from Hong Kong. So much for the Home Posting!!

1958-1964 and home again, saw the completion of Alan's apprenticeship and an assignment in the Drawing Office of Marconi. During this time Alan completed his Higher National Certificate and took extended educational units in order to qualify for the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Alan was married during this time and there followed three children Ian, David and Karen. Alan was accepted into the Ministry of Defence and was employed on various projects. His favourite assignment was to the Royal Aircraft Establishment where he was employed as an Experimental Officer assigned to a group investigating the phenomenon of Clear Air Turbulence which had caused a number of accidents.

Finally in 1974 came the year when Alan and his family decided to immigrate to Australia and took the long flight to Perth. Alan was accepted as a Chartered Engineer and took employment in the State Public Works Department. But this was not his final move and he went into private industry but was disenchanted with the different ethical approach to projects and returned eventually to join the Commonwealth Government.

Alan's marriage collapsed and he was divorced, taking with him, his older son. In time to come Alan and Jackie met. Their sons were 'mates' and both loved canoeing. Jackie and Alan officiated at the Canoe Club on race days and the inevitable happened and in 1979 they were married.

It was now that the two of them decided to learn bridge. In those days it was twelve basic lessons and then the students 'were thrown to the wolves'. Jackie remembers it well but said although it was a 'baptism by fire', it made them learn very quickly. In those days there was just one evening session on a Wednesday and that too was the session for more experienced players as is our Thursday session today. Both Alan and Jackie recalled the early years of their marriage with four children and themselves in a small house, where they had to share one bathroom and Alan rigging up a time meter for the shower so that the last one showering did not end up with cold water!! From 1984 and for many years Alan was Master Point Secretary at the Bridge Club, but without computers everything was calculated and added manually and Alan remembers many days each month, poring over figures. Today, results arrive soon after the close of play but 'way back then', Alan used to take results sheets with him on the bus, and score them in the mornings and evenings on his way to and fro to work. Alan became a Director at the Club and following on to this, Secretary and President of Kalamunda Bridge Club. Still, today, Alan is Chief Director and his expertise and his experience is huge.

Since becoming Secretary, of the Club, Alan has been my computer 'mentor', and I am so grateful to him for all the help he has given to me. Alan, I am delighted to be writing this article for you and about you, and wish you well going into the future.

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## **A RECENT CONGRESS EXPERIENCE**

The Directing Team has often reminded you all, in this magazine, of some of the basic misunderstandings in interpreting the laws of bridge. One thing that we have urged is that you do not ask questions of your opponents during the auction unless you are considering bidding yourself. It just holds things up and any such queries should be made after the bidding has ceased and before play starts. It isn't, in itself, illegal to do so ...it is more a question of etiquette.

Knowing this, I personally do not ask such questions unless I am considering taking part in the auction. I want to tell you about a recent experience at a Congress where this backfired on me. I'm telling you this with no taste of sour grapes but in order to enable you to tread carefully when you find yourself in a similar position.

Having had some early success in a Swiss Teams event, Jamie Paterson and I found ourselves in the rarefied air of one of the top tables. That being the case we found ourselves playing against a pair who were very competent and experienced in tournament bridge. They opened this particular hand with a 2D bid which was alerted. Jamie enquired, was told that it showed a weak long suited major and passed. Responder bid 2H which was also alerted and I asked if it meant "pass or correct" to which the opener responded in the affirmative. I thought for a moment and then passed and the opener bid 2S showing that was his major suit. Jamie then bid 3D and that was the contract that we played in and made.

At the end of the hand, one of the opposing pair said that I had hesitated and then passed and that Jamie should not have gone on bidding with the hand that he had. His partner demurred saying that he didn't think that there had been any excess hesitation. However the Director was called and our opponents reserved their rights but changed their tack from hesitation to their belief that, by virtue of asking whether it was "pass or correct" I had implied that I had points in my hand and that my partner had taken advantage of that.

By the way, I had 11 points and Jamie had 9, with 5 diamonds in his hand. As it happened I had 4 diamonds in my hand. Why did I ask the question? Well in normal club play I would assume that 2H would be Pass or Correct but against players of this calibre it may have meant something entirely different. At the end of the round, the Director ruled against us and the contract was wound back to 2S by the opposition making 9 tricks. His reasoning would have been based upon Law 73, which says, amongst other things that inappropriate communication with partner includes "questions asked or not asked of the opponents".

Jamie and I consulted the hand record and noted that 3 diamonds was makeable as was 3 spades by the opposition. A subsequent analysis of the board played by everyone in the room (and not available to us at the time) showed that 8 pairs played in 3 or 4 diamonds (E/W) and 16 played in 3 or 4 spades (N/S), invariably making. The remainder who played in 2S exceeded 8 tricks in nearly every case.

We contemplated an appeal and were allocated an appeals advisor. I won't relay the entire conversation but he concluded by saying that he had much sympathy for our case but on balance he did not feel that an Appeals Committee would overturn the Director's decision.

So there you have it. Both sides had 20HCP . Jamie's argument, if he had had the opportunity to express one, was that he knew opener was weak and he knew that responder was probably weak or he would have encouraged. Therefore I probably had a few points and he was quite willing to sacrifice anyway because we were not vulnerable. The other thing that concerned us was that the opposition could well have bid over the three diamonds as many others round the room did, so did they contribute to their own downfall? Did they only call the Director at the end of the hand because they realised that, having now seen each other's hands and ours?

Had we gone to appeal, despite the advice to the contrary, I would have been happy to press our case...by then we would have seen what the others around the room did. However I think we had lost the will to live by this stage and what's one hand amongst the 56 we played that day. So take this for what it is intended... to remind you to just be very careful about querying the bidding during the auction...you may be held to account for it under the laws. Had I asked the question and then called, everything would have been fine. Had I not asked the question, Jamie's bid would have been fine. I considered, and still do consider, that my question was valid in order to clear up any uncertainty but, unwittingly it did betray that I had points. Had I not asked the question, I know that Jamie would have bid anyway. He always regards a 2 level contract as fair game for a sacrificing overcall when he has an unbid 5 card suit, even with 9 points. It has worked to our advantage many a time.

Something like this does not often crop up at club level but it's a salutary reminder to you that you have to be very careful when you ask questions during the bidding process and take no action after being answered. If you have few points and are not "in" the auction, that's poor etiquette and timewasting. If you are potentially "in" the auction, you are showing points. The best thing to do is to wait until the bidding is complete and then ask for an explanation of the complete bidding process. Whatever you do, don't be selective...you can't say "what did the 2D mean" ...that is in itself a communication with partner! C'est la vie!

Garth

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And so I come to the end of this copy of our very own 'Bridging the Gap'. Without distractions in the form of illness, I hope in 2015, to bring to you, more regularly spaced copies of the BTG, bringing with it, I hope, topics which are of interest to us all and a few smiles to take with us each and every day. I really would like you to come forward with your articles, news of your travels and anything else which the 'family' of Kalamunda Bridge Club would enjoy. So, to just a small degree, I am 'passing the buck' and hope to hear from many of you.

We, as a club, welcome the new members joining us and look forward to seeing them at the bridge table often, but more than that, look forward to seeing them around the club and hopefully enjoying the parties we hold, the fun we have and the bridge we so enjoy.

The Bridge Club Sponsors are advertised on the following page. We are ever grateful to them for their continuing support.

Until next time,

All the Best,



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