



# NEWSLETTER

## Illawarra Bridge Association

Edited by Peter Graham

**Dec 2014**

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### Doing It Right

Are you one of those players who keep a running score sheet so you can check at the end of the session how you played?.

You are> That's good.

Are you one of those players who keep a running score sheet but keep it open as you go along?.

You are> That's bad.

If you keep a running score sheet, then you should not leave it open where others can see hand results. If an opponent looks at your score sheet, then that opponent is a cheat and there is no place for cheating in the World of Bridge. However, you should not have put temptation in the path of the opponent in the first place.

X x x

### How about you.

Now we have all read the Annual Report, we must all be aware of the large number of jobs that require doing just so we can all enjoy our games of bridge. Whilst there are those amongst us who do a lot more than others, it is good to see so many members involved in doing 'Their little bit'. If you don't have a position, are you prepared to volunteer to help somewhere? You don't have to take a position to help. Maybe an offer for an hour or two on a special day, only happening once or twice a year. Maybe a little one or two minute job when you are there on a normal playing day. As they say in Scotland, 'Mony mickles mak a muckle', and we all know what happened to the camel

when the load became too much. Let a committee member know you will do something to help those who are doing so much.

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### Cheeky Boy

Jill Regterschot and Rob Kinloch were partners recently for a session. Jill became declarer in 4 Spades. After the opening lead card was played, as Rob put his hand on the table as dummy, **containing seventeen high card points and three aces**, he had the audacity to say to Jill, "That is the type of dummy hand I expect from you every time you are dummy". Bloody cheek, I reckon. For the record, small slam was made.

X x x

### Thinking Of Others

Margaret Carr, who looks after our members who are suffering medical misfortunes, sending them 'Get Well' cards etc, is going on a vacation. Shona Kahler has volunteered to look after this job whilst Margaret is 'Walkabout'. Shona must be thanked for raising her hand. However, I must emphasize that Shona is not physic and, unless she is told who is on the sick list, she will not know. So, if you know of a member who is ill and don't tell Shona, then Shona cannot let that member know that we are thinking of him/her.

X x x

### Melbourne Cup

Melbourne Cup Day was another big success at Figtree. A real fun day enjoyed by all.

Even some of the bridge bidding and play could also be put into the funny class. I congratulate our hard working committee for their planning and efforts in making this day as good as it was. Evidently we had a different member than in previous years who made the sweep draw. I congratulate that member, such skill and consideration for the needy by picking the winning horses to those who most needed the winnings. Marvellous. I recommend the same person draws the sweep horses next year.

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### **Wagga Newsletter**

Some weeks ago I was looking on the computer for something in Wagga. For some obscure reason, whilst there, I decided to look at the the Wagga bridge club site and their newsletter. First thing I saw was the name Margaret Carr. It was a note to say that Margaret and Jennette Rosetta,(our former member), had teamed up with a New Zealand pair and played in the Restricted Teams Event, (less than 300 points), at the Gold Coast Congress. They were ranked 58 out of 64 and finished second. A great result. Congrats Margaret. (Ed). What made me decide to look at the Wagga site I have no idea. I can't help but think it was a strange coincidence.

Also in their newsletter was an article on 'etiquette'. I copy it here. Hope you find it as interesting as I did.

#### **What's Been Happening Wagga club newsletter**

Jennette Rosetta headed to the Gold Coast Congress for the first time this year. She and Margaret Carr, a friend from Wollongong, teamed up with an unknown couple from New Zealand. They were ranked 58 out of 64 in the Restricted Teams (less than 300 points). At the end of the four day tournament, they placed SECOND. Great result.

#### **Etiquette Tips**

This month's 'tip' is a –rather long -set of Rules of Being a Good Partner

1. Do not give lessons unless you are being paid to do so.
2. Never say anything to your partner unless you would want him/her to say the same to you. If you are unsure whether your partner would want you to say something, don't.
3. Never "result" (criticize your partner for a normal action just because it did not work this time).
4. Unless your intent is to clear up a misunderstanding, avoid discussing the hand just played. If you cannot resist, be discreet.
5. Remember that you and your partner are on the same side.
6. Do not forget that your partner wants to win as much as you do.
7. If you feel the urge to be nasty, sarcastic, critical or loud – excuse yourself and take a walk.
8. When there is time between hands, do not discuss bridge.
9. When you want to consult another player about a disaster, ask about your hand, not your partner's.
10. Do not ever criticize or embarrass your partner in front of others.
11. Remember that bridge is only a card game.
12. Have a good time, and make sure that your partner does also. "Bridge is for fun. You should play the game for no other reason. You should not play bridge to make money, to show how smart you are, or show how stupid your partner is..... or to prove any of the several hundred other things bridge players are so often trying to prove." Bridge legend, Charles Goren.
13. Trust your partner. Do not assume that she/he has made a mistake.
14. Although it may be unfashionable, it really is okay to be pleasant to a partner with whom you also happen to live.
15. Remember: "The worst analysts and the biggest talkers are often one and the same." Bridge columnist Frank Stewart. Think twice before verbally analysing a hand.
16. When you voluntarily choose to play bridge with someone, it is not fair to get

upset when partner does not play any better than usual.

17. Never side with an opponent against your partner. If you cannot support your partner, say nothing.

18. If you think you are too good for a partner, and do not enjoy playing bridge with him/her, do everyone a favour and play with someone else. That is clearly much better than being a martyr. However, be careful before burning bridges.

19. Learn your partner's style, regardless of how you feel about it. Do not expect your partner to bid exactly as you would. When partner makes a bid, consider what she/he will have, not what you would.

20. Sympathize with partner if she/he makes a mistake. Let your partner know that you back her/him 100%.

And muse on this: "According to an evening paper, there are only five real authorities on bridge in this country. Odd how often one gets one of them as a partner". Punch magazine.

(from [bbc.bridgeaustralia.org](http://bbc.bridgeaustralia.org))

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A fellow made a bad bid and went down 1400. "I'm sorry" he said to partner. "I had a card misplaced."

"Only one card?"

There is no place for sarcasm either.

X x x

### **Silence is Sometimes Best**

Playing against Larry & Jill Regtershot, Jill became declarer. As Larry put his hand down as dummy, Jill looked at his hand and said, "You made a good bid". Larry immediately looked at me and said, "Did you note that Mr Graham?". Yes, Larry, I did note that and, as you obviously wish it to be known, I am printing it so that all our members can know that Larry Regtershot made a good bid- - - - - for once.

X x x

The above table was the last one before the interval. First hand after the interval, Larry and Jill were playing against Malcolm Kerr and Colin Bale. Malcolm still hadn't finished

his coffee so he brought his cup to the table and put it on the stool. As the bidding went on, Malcolm took a mouthful of coffee. After a few cards were played, he took another mouthful. As he did so, he was aware that Larry was smiling at him.

Malcolm knew something was amiss so he asked Larry, "What's up?". Larry smiled and replied, "Let's put it this way, I was just wondering, when you've finished MY coffee, will you wash My cup". Malcolm had put his cup on the stool on the south side and was drinking from the cup on the north stool, which, of course, was Larry's.

Stealing coffee from a fellow member, Shame on you Malcolm, Shame on you.

X x x

### **Keep it Quiet**

As most of you know, I sometimes put a photo of members in the newsletter. It was pointed out to me that I have never put my own photograph in the newsletter.

I do not put a photo of myself in any newsletter for security reasons- - - - - Social security.

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### **Excellent Result**

Steve & Liz Hurley did our Illawarra Bridge Club proud by an excellent result in The Spring Nationals. Many top players played in this tournament. I asked Steve if he would be good enough to write a report on the event and he has obliged. I have pleasure in printing same so we can all, in a way, share in their success.

This then from Steve Hurley.

### **Spring Nationals in Sydney**

Held annually, the Spring Nationals this year ran for 8 days over late October, early November. Played at the Canterbury Race course Sydney, it comprised of 2 major events, a 9 round teams event, and a 12 round Swiss Pairs event, along with other pairs and teams events including restricted and novice events. It is just over an hour away so in easy reach for anyone wanting to travel from Wollongong.

Liz and I participated in the 12 round Swiss

Pairs of 8 boards per round. The event is unusual where each hand was scored as match points (i.e. pairs scoring) but each match was converted to Victory Points (i.e. teams results). Providing play off qualifying points (necessary to join teams to play off for Australia representation), the event attracted quality pairs.

The first day of 6 rounds was tough, with three wins, two losses and a draw. The second day was a hit, with 6 wins. Some interesting hands included the following.

With EW vul against NS not vul, as South, you hold:

♠ AQT9  
♥ 76  
♦ KJ8  
♣ AQT9

Nice. East to deal, and you are ready to bid 1NT. But East opens first with 1H. With no Heart stop but 4 Spades, I doubled. Next hand passed, and partner bids 1S, minimum values with Spades. East is still there, and bid 3H. I have more than just my initial take out values so I competed with 3S, and partner up the ante bidding 4S. East and I passed, then West comes to life with 5H. I doubled this and 5HX became the final contract.

Summerising, the auction went:

East	South	West	North
1H	X	P	1S
3H	3S	P	4S
P	P	5H	P
P	X	All pass	

Your lead. Anything but Hearts is fraught with giving a trick away. And when the opposition have bid on thin high card values, it is usually best to draw trumps to reduce their ruffs. So a Heart was led. Dummy came down.

♠ 7  
♥ Q953  
♦ QT952  
♣ 754

So what's the situation? This is pairs scoring. West has pushed vul against not, with great respect for East's declarer skills, along with an expectation that the Diamond suit will likely produce tricks. With East's bidding indicating most of the remaining values, I can expect to win the two aces and the K diamonds, but if we can make 4H, one off will only be 200 against the other NS pairs making 420. So another trick is required.

Declarer wins the first trick in hand and plays a second high trump. Partner discards 3S on this. With trumps drawn, declarer plays the AD then another D. With no reason to hold up, you win the K. With the Diamonds set up and entries to them via Spade ruffs, I could now cash out for one off. But partner has played the 3S, and in our methods, this is an encouraging card.

It's time to bite the bullet. Underleading the Ace, the 9S was lead. Partner won the KS and switched to the obvious choice of Clubs, through the KC and provided a second defensive trick for a penalty of 500.

The full hand was:

♠ K8643  
♥ 4  
♦ 764  
♣ J862

♠ 7  
♥ Q953  
♦ QT952  
♣ 754

♠ J52  
♥ AKJT82  
♦ A3  
♣ K3

♠ AQT9  
♥ 76  
♦ KJ8  
♣ AQT9

A second hand. You have the following hand and the bidding has been three passes to you.

♠ 84  
 ♥ J94  
 ♦ AQJT6  
 ♣ K85

If you pass, the hand will be passed in.

What do you do?

You have a nice hand and can rebid your Diamonds. With three passes to you, the hands appear to have roughly the same 10 or so points around the table. So if you open and the opposition have the majors, and they will likely compete and outbid you in a part score with higher ranking suits.

So the answer is to pass.

The actual hand was:

♠ AQ53  
 ♥ QT5  
 ♦ K42  
 ♣ 742

♠ 84	♠ T2
♥ J94	♥ A8732
♦ AQJT6	♦ 987
♣ K85	♣ A96

♠ KJ976  
 ♥ K6  
 ♦ 53  
 ♣ QJT3

NS competed with Spades and easily made 9 tricks.

Lastly, a quirky hand. Sitting West, EW are not Vul and NS are vul, you hold:

♠ 5  
 ♥ 82  
 ♦ AKQJT2  
 ♣ KQT53

Partner is first to bid and the auction proceeds:

<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>
P	P	1D	2C
X (1)	P	???	

1. Take out

It's your bid. This is pairs, and as partner initially passed, game is unlikely. Pass looks like a good option to pick up 200 or a greater penalty against a part score for EW. Do you pass to convert the take out double?

If you do, bad luck. The full hand is below.

North had a powerhouse, chose to overcall, and had no problem racking up 8 tricks on a Spade lead.

♠ A  
 ♥ AK43  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ AJ98642

♠ 5	♠ QJT94
♥ 82	♥ QJT75
♦ AKQJT2	♦ J94
♣ KQT53	♣ -

♠ K87632  
 ♥ 96  
 ♦ 8753  
 ♣ 7

Normally North would have doubled then bid Clubs to show a hand too strong to overcall, but the suit is gappy and instead bid a quiet 2C.

As West, the percentage option is to pass, and only sometimes would you get a bloody nose.

For the event, Liz and myself finished well. We arrived at table one in the last round, had a good win against the leaders, and finished third for the event, which was wonderfully satisfying given the quality of the field.

(Ed)Thanks Steve for this report. Very comprehensive.

X x x

In the eternal battle of the sexes, the following question was asked. "If a man is alone in the middle of the jungle, and there are no women within a hundred km of him, Is he still wrong?."

Well----- is he?.

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### **A Beautiful Mind?**

As all our Figtree club members know, opposite our rooms are playing fields and marked car parking spots. One of the marked car spots is 'No parking. Emergency vehicles only'. Immediately next to that spot is a toilet block. Colin Bale was wondering if the emergency car spot was deliberately put there for anyone suffering from severe constipation. I don't know Colin, I don't know. Perhaps if any of our members know, they might good enough to tell you.

### **This from David Ling.**

To Dear Peter,

David Ling and family would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets and contributed to Jacob's (David's 19year old grandson) benefit night on the 8th Nov. It was a great success and \$17,000 was raised to help with his ongoing medical and accommodation expenses. He is currently having his 5th chemotherapy treatment at the Prince of Wales Hospital and has one more in December. Then if all goes to plan, he will have an operation in January 2015, and more chemo and radiation, which will hopefully lead to remission.

Thank you once again for your generosity, prayers and good wishes,

Kind Regards

David Ling

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### **Cooking Recipe**

One of our local churches has printed a cooking recipe book. I particularly like the recipe for boiling eggs.

Ingredients. One or more eggs. A hymn book. Pan of water.

### **Method.**

1. Bring the water to the boil.
2. Place egg(s) into the boiling water.
3. For hard boiled eggs, sing all the verses of 'Onward Christian Soldiers'.
4. For medium eggs, omit one of the verses.
5. For soft boiled eggs, only sing two verses.

I wonder if that came out of Grandmas' old recipe folder.

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### **Little Johnny**

With some trepidation I will finish with a 'Little Johnny' story, hoping I don't offend anyone.

In the school classroom, teacher was asking the pupils to state what they would like to be when they grew up. Little Johnny was keen to say his piece, "me Miss, me Miss" but, of course, teacher knew Johnny only too well. However, he was in her class, so she finally asked him. "When I grow up", said Little Johnny, "I am going to commit the biggest bank robbery ever in this country and I will

be fabuously rich. I am going to get me a girl and buy her a Cadillac and she won't have to worry about maintenance and running costs, they will be done for her. I will give her enough money to buy any clothes she wants, no matter the price. I will set her up in a top of the range penthouse, all rents and expenses paid. Then I will make mad passionate love to her like she never could have imagined was possible"

"That's enough ', said the teacher," We'll have no more of that rubbish. Sit down".

To try to get the rest of the class back to reality, the teacher looked around and, seeing quiet, timid Mary, she asked Mary to state what she would like to be when she grew up. "Please Miss, when I grow up I **want to be Johnnys' girl**".

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The committee minutes will be attached to this letter. I would like to say the following to our Committee Members.

I enjoy playing bridge and I enjoy the fact that it is always set up so I can play at any of the regular sessions. I certainly appreciate all the time, effort and skill you provide in setting up these sessions. From me, and I would hope, all members, **Grateful, Grateful Thanks** for all the work you do for us. (Ed).

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As this is, of course, the last letter this year, I will leave you with this Xmas wish.

May you have the pleasure of being made happy by someone, and may you have the pleasure of making someone else happy.

Till next time,

P.B.G.(Ed).