



Canberra Bridge Club

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Editor: Richard Hills



A word from the President

Dear Members

How really encouraging it is to see the renewed vigour in our club. At the last committee meeting it was truly amazing to hear and discuss the various programs underway including the large range of lessons. One of the many changes and improvements include our notice boards, the use of the big TV to provide details of the session, the director and other information. These great changes are bringing an added level of professionalism to the club and ensure that CBC is seen as the club of choice in the ACT.

The changes and improvements do not just happen. It takes a huge effort on the part of the committee and others to plan, develop and deliver all the programs and improvements underway. Fortunately there is an increasing number of members stepping up to join in with others to help in so many ways, be it fund raising, assisting in functions, the volunteer program, the list is almost endless. This is truly what a members club is all about. I can't thank everybody enough. Needless to say not all members can jump in and participate in the above ways for a host of reasons and that is understood. However, adding just one more session of bridge per month to your regular program will make a major difference to our revenue stream and improve our ability to fund refurbishments. So there are many ways for each member to make a difference and add to their club.

Happy Bridging

Peter Giles

Friday the 13th

This day is always filled with spooky superstitions and uneasy portents. While most people danced away their haunts and terrors, a few failed to shake a naughty little poltergeist. Pauly the Poltergeist, a mischievous little boy, trained in the art of illusion and generally misbehaviour, found his way to the bridge club the following Monday night. As board 11 hit the table, he presented East with the following collection of delights.

♠-

♥QT93

♦KJT983

♣AJ7

Dealer South, Nil Vul

West was the first to open the bidding with a quiet ONE CLUB. North decided to stick their nose in a little with TWO SPADES. East has a great hand for partner, but is unsure of which strain was best. So East chipped in with a DOUBLE. This was enough for West to get excited and bid FIVE CLUBS. There it rested and North proceeded to lead a spade. East became the dummy.

West now played a trump on the spade lead and then led the Jack of Clubs which held. This was a slightly bizarre play from dummy's point of view.

Nevertheless, Pauly sensed it was the right time to lift the illusion and reveal the surplus of rabbits in his hat. After everybody followed to the second trick, the cards in dummy magically became:

♠A

♥QT93

♦KJT983

♣-

The Ace of Clubs had transformed into the

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Ace of Spades. The defenders blinked in amazement at the dummy when this occurred. Declarer could not believe his eyes. When there's something strange at the card table, who do you call? Di-rec-tor! Pauly quickly escaped into the walls, ready to watch as the last piece of the entertaining puzzle was revealed.

The Director smiled. Most people will agree that the revoke is established and that it did occur. However, because the revoke constituted a faced card on the table, there is no rectification at the end. Or in other words, if four people at the table failed to recognise the Ace of Spades was in the incorrect position, there are only four people to blame.

Daryl Whitfield

Unintended Call – two scenarios

You are playing Standard American with your favourite partner. You hold

♠K7653
♥6
♦KQ4
♣KQJ2

Partner deals and opens with 1D. RHO passes. You respond with 1H. LHO passes.

Scenario One

At this point you notice to your horror that you pulled the 1H card from the bidding box, not the 1S card. The solution is to summon the Director. She will cancel your unintended 1H bid, and let you replace it with your intended 1S bid.

The Director will also cancel LHO's pass (for example, LHO may now overcall 2H if desired)

Scenario Two

Pard now bids 2H. Only at this belated point do you notice to your horror that you pulled the 1H card from the bidding box, not the 1S card. The solution is to keep schtum. Once pard has called your unintentional call is set in stone and cannot be changed.

Summoning the Director in this scenario would be worse than futile, as it would restrict pard's options by giving unauthorised information.

Defeating a cold contract

Barry Turner Teams, Match 2, Board 20

WEST	EAST
♠AK74	Q109532
♥A5	82
♦K109	74
♣A1082	K64

East declared 4S and on the KH lead, ducked. Now South switched to the 8D. East needed the KD for his tenth trick, but there were two ways to get it.

1. Play South to hold the AD, and rise with the K (a 50% chance), or
2. Play South to hold either or both of the queen and/or JD (a 70% chance).

So declarer tried the 9D, which lost to North's jack. North returned a heart to the ace, declarer drew trumps. Now declarer led another diamond towards dummy's king and ten. South again played a low diamond.

Surely it was now a 50/50 guess between the AD and the QD???

Not so. It was a 50/67 guess. The expert declarer, George Kozakos, was well versed in the Principle of Restricted Choice, which proves that finessing to 10D was an odds-on 67% chance.

Unlucky. One off. South Stephen Mendick had smoothly ducked twice with the AD.

Thanks to Elizabeth Havas for drawing this deal to my attention.

Beginner's Corner

Count your winners as well as your losers

When learning to play bridge it is often stressed that you must count your losing tricks when playing in a suit contract and to draw trumps as soon as possible. When playing in a No Trump contract you should always count your winning tricks.

Canberra player, Bill Hunt, in his book, "Mabel and Mary's Light Bulb Bridge", suggests that you should always count your winners before counting losers when playing a suit contract.

The following hand illustrated the importance of this.

D. North	♠ Q1042		
Vul: EW	♥ J76		
	♦ A9842		
	♣ J		
♠ J9		♠ 876	
♥ K9852		♥ A43	
♦ J103		♦ Q75	
♣ 763		♣ KQ105	
	♠ AK53		
	♥ Q10		
	♦ K6		
	♣ A9842		

South plays the hand in 4 Spades. When counting winners, if he draws trumps first he will have 3 rounds of trumps and 2 ruffs 1 Heart, 2 Diamonds and 1 Club : 9 winners.

When counting losers, there are 2 Hearts, 3 Diamonds in North's hand and 4 Clubs in South's hand : 9 losers. It is clear that some of these losers must be trumped before trumps are drawn.

East / West take the Ace and King of Hearts and South throws a small Club on the 3rd Heart. He then plays K and Ace of Diamonds and trumps a Diamond in hand.

Now that the Diamonds are set up he can

now play the Ace and King of trumps, Ace of clubs, ruff a club, draw the last trump and the rest of his hand is high.

Beginner's Corner written by Alison Farthing

Bridge is a thinking game

There are some bridge players who erroneously believe that hesitations are intrinsically evil, and that each and every hesitation deserves to be punished by the Director.

But a favourite saying of the Chief Director of the World Bridge Federation, Max Bavin, is "Bridge is a thinking game." And, of course, thinking takes time.

So therefore the Laws of Duplicate Bridge state that usually a hesitation is not in itself an infraction".

The exception to this non-infraction rule is a Deceptive Hesitation; hesitating with zero problems in order to deceive an opponent (for example hesitating before playing a singleton).

However, when one partner hesitates the other partner may have her choice of future actions constrained.

ANU Film Group

The ANU film group is available to members of the public.

Membership is open to everyone.

Annual Fees are \$70, \$40 for a Semester and \$15 weekly. Any questions can be directed to Brett on 6281 7684.

The website for information about what is on is www.anufg.org.au

This is **your** magazine. Please email your beautiful articles, letters to the editor and other bits-and-pieces to:

hildalirsch@gmail.com.

Bridge in the ACT

The purpose of this brief note is to help establish an agreed chronology of the very early history of bridge in Canberra and the main organisational milestones and developments of organisations strongly linked to the current Canberra Bridge Club. It does not intend to be a comprehensive history of the club or bridge in the ACT and does not cover the achievements of either players or administrators in this period.

The first recorded bridge competition in the ACT was held in 1926 at the Ainslie Hostel but until the 1930s, bridge in Canberra was very much a personal and largely social affair. People learned from friends and played either at home or in one-off contests, usually associated with charity fund-raising.

The game was auction bridge rather than contract or a popular variant known as 'flag bridge' or 'war bridge' that was very similar to the old game of whist. As elsewhere, women formed the majority of bridge players and the majority of those promoting and organising the game – and in Canberra it was the YWCA that took the lead in organised competitive bridge.

The YWCA began to offer weekly lessons from 1930 and in 1932 started a bridge club that operated for more than forty years. At the beginning, the aim seems to have been to cater for men and young working women by scheduling meetings in the evenings – initially once a fortnight. This did not last for long though and within about a year, it reverted to Wednesday afternoons.

The bridge played seems to have primarily been auction rather than contract but the YWCA clearly produced some competent contract players. A leading player was Mrs Calthorpe (of Calthorpe's House) who was part of the ACT team that competed against the crack Sydney team of Dr J McAdam, JR Adams, Frank Cayley and LW Donaldson to raise money for Legacy in October 1932.

The other members of the team were Mrs CW Davies, Mrs J Starling and Mr A Blair.

The ACT team lost narrowly by 11 boards to 9.

The development of competitive bridge in Canberra in the post-war era owes much to the energy of Maud Marshall, a prominent Canberra businesswoman of the 1940s. Maud Marshall, born in 1877, came to Canberra to work in and later manage the various government hostels. In the 1930s, she bought the private Acton Hostel, which she successfully ran until her retirement in the late 1940s.

In late 1949 Maud, and a number of other ladies (including Olive Lott who was the club's auditor for eight years and subsequently President), formed the Canberra Card Club to cater for those with a serious interest in card play. The Card Club met at the Hockey Pavilion in Kingston.

The Club catered for all of the major card games but Maud was developing a strong interest in contract bridge and in 1952 took out an ad in the Canberra Times seeking players with an interest in joining a bridge club.

While there is no mention in the contemporary records, an anonymous history in the Canberra Times in 1965 recorded that a Canberra Bridge Club was first formed that year with Mr A Ceicys, a prominent local builder and President of the local Lithuanian community, as its first President.

The first iteration of the club seems not to have lasted long. In early 1954, following a meeting at the YWCA in Civic, the club reformed and met on Wednesday evenings at the Hotel Civic. In 1954, Olive Lott became President of the Club, Mr Ceicys Treasurer and Mrs Schintoff, the Secretary.

This outline history of Bridge in the ACT is being prepared by Keith Ogborn with major contributions from David Hoffman and John Brockwell. It is our intention to serialise it in the Bulletin.

As you can imagine Keith, David and John have spent many hours on this project. We thank them.