



Canberra Bridge Club

Bulletin Number 1 February/March 2015

Editor: Richard Hills



Dear Members, as foreshadowed to you in late 2014, we are relaunching the CBC Bulletin. I do trust you that enjoy the first of what we plan will be a publication issued about every 3 months. Our aim with the publication is to provide information, articles and bridge problems that cater to the wide diversity of skill levels within our club, from very new players to the advanced.

In looking forward with our club, an important aspect is its history. The Bulletin will feature a snap shot of ACT Bridge History from the early informal and casual games leading to what we know as the CBC of today. Over time features will cover key personalities that made major contributions to our game and club environment. The first person to be featured is a CBC Honorary Life Member (deceased) Olive Lott.

With clearly a huge amount of energy and foresight, Olive along with others embarked on a long term project to provide an enduring home for bridge in the ACT. From the beginning the aim was to provide a suitable venue for bridge and the associated socialisation. CBC is that outcome. It is my aim and endeavour to build on these efforts and ensure that the club remains at the forefront of bridge in the ACT. A recently reframed photo of Olive with her bio has been hung in the room named after her.

The Bulletin will announce and recognise the achievements of our members including Master Point Rankings, significant personal achievement(s) and other important milestones. Your contributions to the Bulletin are invited especially where you have

information on the above. Please direct your contributions via email to our Managers, our Editor in Chief, Richard Hills or myself. With your help and input we can ensure that the Bulletin is successful.

The weekly Managers Newsletters including my frequent President's Corner contributions will continue.

Happy Bridging
Peter Giles
President.

EDITORIAL

What is the point of playing in Duplicate Bridge competition? In the great Aussie family film *Paper Planes* one competitor thinks that the only point is winning. However, another competitor wanted to make something beautiful.

My team won lots of matches during the Summer Festival. But my favourite match was one we lost. This was because in that match I declared a "boring" 2D part score. Despite this, the card play was unusually beautiful. First I end played my RHO. Then a few tricks later I end played my LHO to scrape home with eight tricks.

This is **your** magazine. Please email your beautiful articles, letters to the editor and other bits-and-bobs to hildalirsch@gmail.com.

THE ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH GOOD CONVENTIONS

An aptly named convention is the Blackout convention. It has two flaws. Firstly, in it weak bids sound strong, and strong bids sound weak. Secondly, it is very rarely used – only after a reverse bid. The combination of these two factors make it very easy for one partner to forget the convention, thus playing a cold slam in a partscore.

Common rulings – incorrect explanation

If you give an incorrect explanation of partner's bid, then as soon as you become aware of your mistake you must immediately correct your mistaken explanation.

But it is not so simple if partner gives an incorrect explanation of your bid. You must keep a poker face, without twitches or grimaces, as directly or indirectly contradicting partner's wrong explanation would give pard unauthorised information.

If you end up as declarer or dummy, then now is the time (before the opening lead is made) to correct pard's false explanation. If any of the four players believe that the defenders were disadvantaged during the auction, then the Director should be summoned immediately, not at the end of play. This is because the Director has the power to restart the auction.

If you end up as defender, you must not correct pard's false explanation until the end of play (as otherwise you would be giving un-authorized information which may help pard in defense).

A SHORT NUGGET ON INSUFFICIENT BIDS

When an opponent makes an insufficient bid, and the Director is summoned to the table, the first option the Director offers is, "Do you wish to accept the insufficient bid?":

Many players automatically answer, "No!" however in some cases it can be advantageous to your side to answer, "Yes." For example –

You hold:
S. J432
H. 432
D. 432
C. A32

Partner is dealer and opens the bidding with 1S. You have a tough decision; whether to timidly Pass, or whether to aggressively raise to 2S. Ideally you would like to bid one-and-a-half spades.

But you are saved by the bell. Right Hand Opponent has not been paying attention, so RHO "opens the bidding" with an insufficient 1H. After summoning the Director, you accept RHO's 1H, then continue with a legal 1S non-raise of Pard's 1S opening, thus accurately describing your minimal values.

Frequently Asked Question – if 1S is passed out, who is dummy, given that both partners bid 1S.

Answer – You are dummy since pard bid 1S first.

HAND OF THE WEEK

This "Hand of the week" sent to us by Greg Quittner.

Before looking at this weeks hand, try these 2 questions –

1. W N
P ?
S3 HAKQJ752 DAQ C875

You are North. What do you bid?

2. W N E S
P 1H P 1S
P 4H All Pass
S Q97 H1094 DK1053 CK42

You are East. Your lead?

Happy Bridging!
Greg

Answers on Page 3.

Answers to Page 2 problem
Dir: W All vul.

3
AKQJ52
AQ
875
K86 Q97
63 1094
984 K1053
AQJ106 K42

AJ10542
8
J762
93

W N E S
P 1H P 1S
2C 4H P P
P

BIDDING

Any opening bid from 3C to 5D is a pre-emptive bid. N is far too strong to open 4H so a 1H bid suffices (unless you are playing Benjamin Twos and can open 2C with 5 losers) Over 1S response N bids 4H.

THE PLAY

E has a difficult lead. Any lead could give declarer a vital trick, so E settles for a trump lead. N can twist and turn but he has to lose 3 clubs and a diamond. Had E lead the 5D N loses only 3 clubs.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Avoid pre-empting with a strong hand, you could easily miss slam.
Playing Benjamin Twos you don't need 19 points to open.
When you have a difficult lead problem, A trump lead is often a good choice.
Trump leads from QXX, QX are to be avoided.

Happy Bridging
Greg.

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Learning to play bridge is quite easy if you have sound logic and a youthful mind. For the rest of us it is a fascinating, confusing and occasionally nerve-wracking process. Bridge lessons give you a good basic knowledge of the rules of the game but to progress you must practise and read.

When playing a hand you must take the time to plan the play. If you are playing in a suit contract you must:-

- Count your trump cards and work out how many are in the opponents' hands.
- Count your losers.
- Look for ways to discard the losers that will defeat your contract.
- Is there anything you need to do before drawing trumps? If not, then draw trumps.

In the following hand you have bid to 4 Hearts. Plan your play.

West leads the 4 of clubs

Q862
73
KJ96
AKQ
A74 K93
A7 62
A852 742
J864 109753
5
QJ10954
Q10
3

- You have 4 Hearts out against you
- You have 4 losers, ie 2 losing spade tricks (A and K), 1 losing heart trick (A) and 1 losing diamond trick (A)
- You must win the lead and before drawing trumps discard 2 spades on the winning clubs.
- Now** draw trumps and your contract is safe.

Hand by Alison Farthing

Biography by David Hoffman

It is proposed to update the CBC website with biographies of prominent players from the past. As a start to this process it is appropriate to start with Olive Lott. Below is the proposed biography. However I would appreciate any comments which would enhance the biography.

Olive Francis Lott

1902 - 18 January 1986

Olive Lott was arguably the most influential person in the creation of organised bridge in the ACT. Born in Sydney to James and Isabella Ewart, she married Leslie Lott in Sydney in 1926. Her husband had moved to Canberra two years earlier, so on their return they moved into a house in Paterson Street, Ainslie.

In those early years, bridge was often played during social evenings at a number of places, such as the Ainslie Hostel (Canberra Times, 10 September 1926) and the Hotel Kurrajong (Canberra Times, 16 December 1926). While Olive was not mentioned at these functions, her husband was MC at a euchre tournament organised by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Social Service Association at the Ainslie School, to be followed later by a large bridge evening (Canberra Times, 29 November 1927). Olive was a foundation member of the Canberra Croquet Club, established in 1928 (A Canberra Croquet Club 1928-98). As part of the club's activities, bridge evenings were often held in the Albert Hall.

The Lott family moved to Furneaux Street Forrest during the WW2, her home for the

rest of her life. In 1949 the Canberra Card Club was established, with Olive as their auditor, and on its 5th birthday Olive was now its president as well (Canberra Times, 16 November 1954).

When the ACT Bridge Association was created in late 1962, with affiliation with the Australian Bridge Federation, Olive was elected as its first president, a position she held for 4 years. As was the custom in those days, when Canberra held the Australian Bridge Championship in 1966, Olive held the presidency of the ABF for that year.

As a bridge player, Olive won the State Pairs with Bill Terry in 1964, and the State Mixed Pairs with Bill Hunt in both 1963 and 1964. As well she represented the ACT in the ANC from 1965 to 1968.

In 1970 Olive was honoured by becoming the first honorary life member of the ACTBA, and when the club rooms at Duff Place were opened in 1975, the playing area was named after her. In 1976 the inaugural Olive Lott Anniversary Pairs was played.

As well the State Teams is played annually for the Lott-Caplehorn Trophy.

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