

Brisbane Bridge Centre Newsletter



May 2026

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Not the President's Report

The Graded Butler Pairs Congress held last Sunday was a great success, and many thanks to all those who contributed food. Special thanks to Penny for convening the event, to Peter Burke and Hazel Lahey who worked hard in the kitchen, and also to Lynne Henley and Lesleigh Egan who came in early and helped with food preparation. Elaine's contribution was significant in a wide range of areas. Julie Jeffries was her usual efficient self as director and Marie Buckley worked hard as caddy and casual kitchen helper.

We hope to see a few more entries to the BBC GNOT event, which is a full day event on Sunday June 21st. This is a great way to earn gold points and teams events are always great fun. So put in a team.

The Gold Coast Congress will be replaced next year by the Brisbane Gold Congress, held from 30 Jan to 6 Feb, 2027. This gold point congress will be held in a city central location and will almost certainly be over-subscribed. Entries, via My ABF, open for the pairs and teams events on 1st July, so I recommend getting in an early entry to avoid disappointment.

Penny's Administrator's Corner

Hello BBC members

New members

A warm welcome to three new members who were enrolled this month -

- Julie Collins
- Susan Hall
- Julie Richardson

BBC Graded Butler Pairs

The Graded Butler Pairs was held on Sunday 17th May. This was a very well attended event and included entries from all over Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Thank you to the helpers on the day, some who brought in food and others who helped in the kitchen. It was a very well organised and successful event with particular

thanks to Elaine, Julie Jeffries and Marie Buckley. Congratulations to the winners.

BBC GNOT

The next major event at the club is the BBC GNOT heat, which will be held on Sun 21st June. This is an all day Gold Points teams event. Teams may consist of 4 to 6 players and the cost is \$160 per team. BYO lunch. Entries are open on MyABF. Teams must notify the director on the day whether they are contending or non-contending.

South's Rugby Club

A reminder that the fixture list for the Souths Rugby Club home games is on the noticeboard. If you are playing on Saturdays, please make

sure to arrive early when there is a home game to ensure a parking space. The next home games are on 30th May and 6th June.

BBC Badges

An order for name badges is ready to send off to the supplier. If you would like a new badge, please let me know asap. The cost of the badges is \$15 and they are available with a pin clip or a

magnet.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following members who have been promoted this month –

- Graduate - Noela Siddans
- Bronze National - Flo Hall and Neil Hansen

Happy Bridging! Penny Grace

Bridge Hands from the BBC Graded Butler Pairs

42 pairs competed in the 2026 BBC Graded Butler Pairs. The event was extremely well run under very capable Congress Director Julie Jeffries. Many thanks to all those who put in so much effort in organising and catering – particularly Elaine and Arne Jonsberg, Marie Buckley and Penny Grace.

Of the 7 out of 11 A grade pairs who got to the 4♥ contract on this board, only 3 made it:

Dealer: E

Vul: NS

<p>♠ K J 2 ♥ 7 3 ♦ A J 8 7 ♣ A 9 7 4</p>	<p>♠ 8 ♥ A K J 9 8 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ J 5 3 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 5 ♥ 6 4 2 ♦ 10 9 6 5 4 ♣ Q 10 6</p>
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I was in 4♥ from the North hand. I got the ♦10 lead, with West winning with the ♦A and returning a trump.

Any attempt to try to ruff a diamond loser and two club losers in dummy was likely to be defeated by ongoing defensive trump leads. So, I decided to try to set up dummy's spades.

To do this, it looked like I'd need a 3/2 spade break along with a 3/2 trump break to get back to the spades.

I won the trump return with the ♥A, played a spade to the ♠A and ruffed a spade with the ♥K. I played a heart to the ♥10 and ruff another spade with the ♥J. I threw a club on ♦Q and played my final trump to the ♥Q and ran the spades, losing just the ♣K at the end.

My partner Tony Treloar and I had a good day and we were in the lead going into the final round. However, our simple system came unstuck on this hand:

Dealer: E

Vul: EW

<p>♠ 10 6 5 ♥ A K Q 9 3 ♦ J 9 8 7 ♣ 4</p>	<p>♠ K Q J 8 ♥ 6 2 ♦ A K Q ♣ Q 9 8 3</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 4 ♥ 10 8 7 5 4 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ K 5</p>
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	<p>♠ A 3 2 ♥ J ♦ 10 6 5 ♣ A J 0 7 6 2</p>		
E	S	W	N
P	P	P (1)	1NT
P	3NT	///	

(1) Did some Wests open this a light 1♥ in third seat? I am not a fan of light third seat openings when vulnerable as you are going down in 100s and it can get quite expensive if partner, thinking you have an opening hand, bids too high or doubles the opponents. On this hand it would also point out the potential heart danger to NS and keep them out of trouble.

My opponents had no problem in immediately cashing 5 heart tricks to put the contract straight down. It's hard to detect the problem in basic bridge as it's almost always better to try for the 9 trick game than the 11 trick game. In 3NT, the defence have to find the weak point, their suit can get blocked or partner might turn up with something in the suit.

Top players play a transfer to a minor followed by a new suit as showing a shortage (singleton or void) in the second suit. This would have found the heart problem and allowed us to play in 5♣.

Dealer: W
Vul: All

<p>♠ 7 6 4 ♥ A 7 6 4 ♦ J 5 3 ♣ A K 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 3 ♥ K J 9 8 5 2 ♦ 10 8 ♣ 10 9</p>	<p>♠ Q J 10 9 8 5 ♥ - ♦ A K Q 9 6 4 2 ♣ -</p>
	<p>♠ 2 ♥ Q 10 3 ♦ 7 ♣ Q J 8 7 6 5 4 3</p>	

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥
2♠	2NT(1)	4NT(2)	P
5♥(3)	P	5♠	///

(1) Good/Bad 2NT. This shows a hand that wished to just compete to 3♥. This is on the basis of the 9 card trump fit. An immediate 3♥ would invite to 4♥.

(2) Roman Keycard Blackwood.

(3) 2 keycards without the trump queen. This was the wildest hand of the day. East just wants to know if partner has either or both of the ♠A and ♠K. But how do you do it?

Unfortunately for me, the East at my table showed commendable restraint in not punting on the 2 keycard response to include at least one spade keycard and stayed out of slam. This restraint was not shown by the majority of the field who went for the slam, to the delight of Norths who often doubled.

It's hard to suggest any form of scientific bidding for the East hand. There is something called "Exclusion Blackwood" where you can ask partner to give the Roman Keycard Blackwood responses while ignoring an ace in one suit you are void in. But how do you handle 2 voids?

It was suggested to me after the event that it might be effective to try to set diamonds as trumps and then see if you can get spade control bids out of partner. A sequence like this:

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♥	2♦	2♥
3♦	3♥	4♣(1)	P
5♦(2)	///		

(1) A control bid showing first or second round control in clubs. By bypassing 3♠, you show no first or second round control in spades.

(2) Realising EW are wide open in spades.

The problem with this sequence? NS now also know you are wide open in spades and on South's opening lead of the singleton ♠2, NS get ♠AK and a spade ruff to put your 5♦ game down never mind any slam.

Silly game.

Final Standings were:

A Grade

1st Justin Mill & Magnus Moren
2nd Peter Evans & Tony Treloar
3rd Barbara MacKay & Barry Koster

B Grade

1st Speros & Andrea Pappas
2nd Sandra & Dov Berns
3rd Oliver Goodman & Kathleen Clifford

Peter Evans

Heard at the Bridge Table

Winning does not really matter, as long as you win.

Some people are so busy learning the various conventions and gadgets of the game; they never fully enjoy the game.

Don't let worries get you down - play Bridge instead

(He) is so bad that he admits to mistakes before he makes them

People shouldn't be allowed to use conventions they don't understand. It's not fair to the opponents.

If I work very hard at it, I may be able to achieve mediocrity.

I expect the worst in bridge and am rarely disappointed.

You made your Ace of trumps. What else can you possibly want?

I am so good I only need a partner who can tell one suit from another.

I know no one whom I would rather see in charge of the dummy.

I am such a fine player, no one can deny my right to be rude.

Partners are extremely important. Who else to blame when you lose?

Isn't it a shame how 99% of bridge players give the whole game a bad name.

They have invented this skin patch that will immediately cure depression. I tested it out during my Bridge session and it worked perfectly. All you need to do is to peel away the backing and stick it across your partner's mouth.

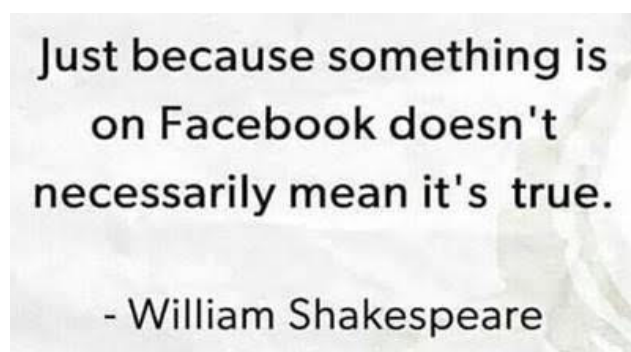
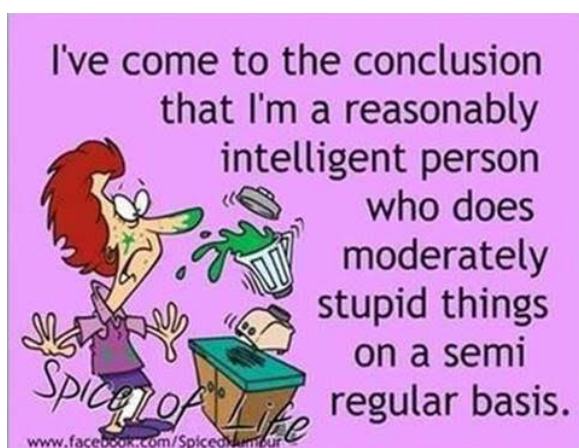
The element of luck ensures that even the best bridge players do not always win. For example, under-bidders gain when the distribution is bad and over-bidders score on those hands where finesses always work.

Bridge is the last refuge of brain-damaged intellectuals.

Bridge is basically Poker on Valium.

Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain - and most fools do.

Dave's Funnies



Endgame

Please send all material for future newsletters to the **Editor, Arne Jonsberg**, via email at arnejuser2@bigpond.com, or contact Arne by phone on 0404 085 712. Current and past newsletters available on BBC's web-site: www.bbc.bridgeaustralia.org