

The Opening Bid

It has been two months since we have been in lockdown due to COVID 19. Hopefully, we have seen the worst of this contagion and we can start to regain our normal lifestyle again – be it with a few modifications. I thought I would put a bit of a newsletter together so we can all keep in touch with our bridge mates. The Bargara Bridge Club is a wonderful environment to meet people and start new friendships as well as enjoy the game of bridge.

Due to the lockdown it is a bit difficult for everyone to keep in touch. Hence this Newsletter. So, if anyone out there has any interesting information, articles, or jokes (politically correct of course) or even bridge stuff, then email them to me and I will put them into the next edition.

I would hope that you have all been sharpening your bridge skills with all the various bridge online applications available to us. There should be no reason for anyone being rusty when we do get back to playing as a club. From next week I can see no reason why you cannot get together for a few rounds of social bridge as well.

As you are aware the Premier has issued a Roadmap to Easing Restrictions. We are entering Stage 1 on 15th May and then 4 weeks later we will be able to start stage 2. We will not be included as a club until Stage 3 which starts on 10th July. This stage allows for gathering of at least 100 people will be permitted to clubs such as Sandhills Sports Club. The club itself must prepare a checklist to ensure it complies to the essential health requirements to provide a safe environment for its customers. We, therefore, must then comply to these requirements so these obligations are not breached.

As soon as the club reopens, we will have a meeting with the management to ascertain our obligations and see how we can best work within the parameters allowed under the health regulations. No doubt, it will be a game changer.

I believe Bundaberg Bridge Club will be returning sometime in August.

By the time we get back the AGM will be upon us. As some of you are aware Steve will not be standing as President again. You did a great job Steve; we will really miss you. Always the steadying influence.

Something to Think About

How can we reconcile these requirements, to allow us to play Bridge?

Bridge tables are approximately 86 cm square. (I haven't measured the tables at the Sports Club, but they do look close to standard card table size - near enough for these approximations). So, for partners to maintain a 1.5m gap requires only that they sit not nearer than $(150-86)/2$ cm from the table, i.e., 32 cm back from the edge. That is just about normal reading distance and should not be a problem to achieve.

What about distance from the opponents (RHO, LHO)? To achieve 1.5m, then, by Pythagoras, distance from centre of table = sq. rt. $(1.5)^2 - (.86)^2 = 1.06$ m

Player distance from the edge of the table then equals $1.06 - (.86/2)$, or 63 cm. This might not be so easy to maintain, being about arms-length from the edge of the table. But it may be a price we all have to learn to pay. It does not look out of the question.

Finally, what about distance between successive tables? To achieve a 1.5m gap between East at Table 1, and West at Table 2, while maintaining a 63 cm gap between players and table edge, the tables need to be $1.5 + (0.63 * 2)$ m, or 2.75m apart, edge to edge. Again, different to what we are used to, but not, I suspect, too hard to achieve at the Club.

So the net is that, with a few adjustments to our traditional attitudes, observing the law in regard to social distancing should, hopefully, not be a fundamental bar to resumption when the next step in the relaxation-of-restrictions is announced. Mid-June perhaps?

We may like to wear disposable masks as well if players like.

This is a submission from a member of the club.

This should be right up Allan Baker's alley!!

Members News

Jan Cuskelly is home at last. I believe she is talking quite well but she has to go back and have her arm set from the original break. I understand Pat has been doing some garden refurbishment as a result of her incident.

Chris and Gordon Willcox are well and are waiting to have a few procedures done when elective surgery restarts.

Leone has been in touch with the Gravers and they are both OK and looking forward to visiting when the borders reopen.

A Work In Progress

The new complex is taking shape quite nicely.







Some Bridge Jokes

Bikers were riding north on A1 when they saw a girl about to jump off a bridge. So they stopped.

George, their leader, a big burly man of 53, gets off his Harley, walks through a group of gawkers, past the local police who was trying to talk her down off the railing, and says, "Hey Baby.....whatcha doin' up there on that railin'?"

She says tearfully, "I'm going to jump!!"

While he didn't want to appear "sensitive," George also didn't want to miss this "be-a-legend" opportunity either so he asked ..."Well, before you jump, Honey-Babe...why don't you give ole George here your best last kiss?"

So, with no hesitation at all, she leaned back over the railing and did just that ... and it was a

long, deep, lingering kiss followed immediately by another even better one.

After they breathlessly finished, George gets a big thumbs-up approval from his biker-buddies, the onlookers, and even the local copper, and then says, "Wow! That was the best kiss I have ever had, Honey! That's a real talent you're wasting, Sugar Shorts. You could be famous if you rode with me. Why are you going to jump?"

"My parents don't like me dressing like a girl."

It's still unclear whether she jumped or was pushed??



A man was kibitzing in a big tournament

Suddenly a player at another table got sick and had to leave. No substitute was available, and the kibitzer was asked if he could play.

He sat south and told his partner that he didn't know anything about bidding, but his partner said, just tell me your hand.

The bidding went this way;

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♣ | pass | 1NT | pass |
| 2♥ | pass | 2NT | pass |
| 3♠ | pass | 3NT | pass |
| 7♦ | pass | pass | pass |

North

♠ J

♥ J x x x

♦ 6

♣ A K Q x x x x

West

♠ K T x x

♥ K x x x

♦ xxx

♣ xx

East

♠ Q x x x x

♥ A T x

♦ K J

♣ 8 7 6

South

♠ A x x

♥ Qx

♦ A Q T 9 8 7 5

♣ J

West leads 2♦ to J (east) taken with Q by south

South plays A♦ and discards ♥ in dummy then T♦ and gets rid of another ♥ in dummy

South plays J♣ to dummy then runs the ♣ from the top to make the contract.

West called the director of the tournament to the table – questioning the bidding.

The director asked the declarer what the bidding meant.

South answered: my partner told me to show my hand. I had 1♣, 2♥'s, 3♠'s and 7♦.

And you thought your privacy would be compromised if you downloaded the COVID – 19 App

Read on

Ordering Pizza in 2020

Caller: Is this Gordon's Pizza?

Google: No sir, it is Google pizza

Caller: I must have dialled the wrong number. Sorry.

Google: No sir, google bought Gordon's Pizza last month

Caller: OK. I would like to order a pizza

Google: Do you want your usual sir?

Caller: My usual? You know me?

Google: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three kinds of cheese, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meatballs with thick crust.

Caller: OK! That's what I want

Google: May I suggest that this time you order pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten free thin crust.

Caller: What!!! I detest vegetables

Google: Your cholesterol is not good sir.

Caller: How the hell do you know.

Google: Well, we cross referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.

Caller: OK, but I do not want rotten vegetable pizza! I already take my medication for my cholesterol.

Google: Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our data base you purchased only one box of 30 cholesterol tablets once, at Drug RX Network, 4 months ago.

Caller: I bought more from another drugstore

Google: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.

Caller: I paid in cash

Google: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement

Caller: I have other sources of cash.

Google: That doesn't show on your last tax return unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law.

Caller: WHAT THE HELL !!

Google: I'm sorry sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

Caller: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without internet or cable TV, where there are no mobile phones services and no one to spy on me.

Google: I understand sir. But Alexa says you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago.

Stay Safe and keep your Distance