



Bridgemates

Issue No. 19 February 2019



MARIO'S MESSAGE

Fellow Club Members,

It is very satisfying to report that club business is functioning nicely - this, of course, is due to the "spade work" undertaken by previous presidents/committees, current "executive" and the goodwill of our members.

You would all be aware of the progress of the lessons under Linda Boyle and her team of willing workers. These lessons are time consuming both in preparation and delivery to the 27 enthusiastic learners. We are very grateful to all for their input. Thank you, Linda. The club is appreciative and welcoming to all new members.



Another item that was noteworthy was the seminar hosted by Lend Lease. They were very hospitable and treated us royally. Several club members have expressed definite interest in the complex which may come to fruition and the \$500.00 Visa card from them has been passed on to our caterer.

Small clubs such as this can only exist because of the generosity and willingness of its members. In reminding you of this, I mention that Norm de Chastel has trained another group into the position of Directorship (Mary Williams, James Basso, Michelle Rafter and Joanne Eriksen). Thank you, Norm, and thanks to the new directors for coming forward. Once again, this is a very worthy effort and we are grateful for this contribution.

Restricted Pairs Competition will be held on Friday, March 15th. Forms for players to nominate are "on the board", and the usual section for the over 50% will be conducted with a separate director.

Long before I came on the scene, a very clever person with a sense of humour compiled The Ten Commandments of the BCBC. This little laminated form deserves more than a perfunctory glance and should produce some soul searching. Do read it and consider its contents.

It would be remiss if I did not thank my committee members for their support as they are an integral part of the club, so thank you all.

Happy bridging
from President Mario.



Events to look forward to

Restricted Pairs – Friday 15 March

and lots of fun – need to put your names on sheet to register.

There will be two playing sections, one for members who do not want to participate in the restricted pairs and the others competing in the RESTRICTED PAIRS competition.

MEET YOUR MEMBERS

Continuing our series of conversations with Bridge Club members

Kay and Fred (Manfred) Manthei



Kay was born in Proserpine, North Queensland, spent all her schooling years and part of her working life until she was 22 living there.

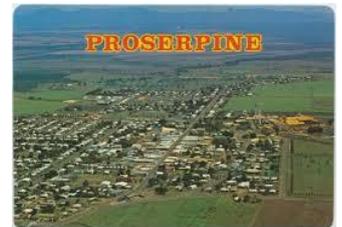
I had three sisters. My youngest sister passed away ten years ago. My other sisters live on the Gold Coast and Hervey Bay, both providing enjoyable places to visit.

Fred was born in Berlin, Germany, did his schooling there and apprenticeship with Electrolux as a fitter/turner. He had two brothers. One brother died during the war aged 2. Fred's father died from war wounds in 1945. His other brother died aged 50, in 1992. Fred's Mother passed away 29th



December 1999. He had an Aunt but sadly, she is no longer with us.

Proserpine is a sugar cane area and now the gateway to the "Whitsundays". Our family spent most of the school holidays down at Airlie Beach in a little 2 roomed beach cottage (later enlarged to 4 rooms). These were the days with lots of swimming, fishing and bonfires at night on the beach. What fun, worry free days these were.



After completing high school, I worked for the Co-operative Store, which was a grocery and hardware shop. The office work was extremely busy. After a couple of years at the Co-op, I changed vocations and worked for the Proserpine Shire Council in the front office. When I was 22, I moved to Brisbane working for the elite John Hicks & Co which was a very big furniture Company in George Street (it is now longer there) as head cashier.

After a year in Brisbane, I travelled to New Zealand on a working holiday. I arrived in Auckland with friends whom I met on the trip over. We rented a house together in Auckland.



My first working holiday job was with North Island Motor Union (like our RACQ) for about three months, then off to the Nelson area, South Island, picking raspberries. After a month of raspberries, I was off to Milford Sound working in a Hotel as a washer-upper (all the big pots). Fortunately, I graduated to housemaid, and was there for about three months. After Milford Sound, I travelled to Wellington, working in the Waterloo Hotel (silver service) as a waitress. This completed my twelve months of New Zealand travelling. It was time to return to Australia.



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I decided on Sydney but did not enjoy the Sydney office scene very much, so applied for a position in New Guinea with Guinea Co, Madang. New Guinea was another world before the country become independent.

Fred and I returned to Madang two years ago on a cruise, but I did not recognize Madang at all. Madang looked run down, unlike the beautiful Madang of early sixties.



Following the Madang experience, it was time for me to return to Australia. In 1964, I applied for a position with the Mt Isa Shire Council, living in Mt Isa for two years. These were enjoyable, Australian bush fun filled years.

In February 1966, I returned to my Proserpine home to manage my father's Motel as he and my Mother were going overseas for 8 months. On their return in 1967, I went back to Mt Isa and the Council.



Fred, in the meantime, had come to Australia settling in Sydney in 1960 and working in Sydney for four years before going to Mt Isa Mines as a Diesel Mechanic.

We met in Mt Isa February 1967, and married in October 1967. Fred and I do not have any children. We spent 14 years living in Mt Isa before moving in February 1981 to manage my father's Hotel at Airlie Beach. In June 1982, the Airlie Beach Hotel was sold, so we moved to Brisbane.



Brisbane opportunities beckoned, so we bought a takeaway food bar in an industrial area, operating it for one year and then sold it.



It was time for me to return to office work, and for Fred to operate his own home maintenance business.



Fred and I moved to the Sunshine Coast in November 1991. I continued to commute to Brisbane for work 3 days a week for another five years while Fred was the efficient house husband, working husband.

Fred has been in Lions since 1975, plays bowls, and of course bridge. We have been in a Probus Club since 1993 and for the past year I have been the President. We have travelled all over the world since our retirement and have loved and enjoyed all our trips.



We wish the Club all the best for now and the future.

Fred and Kay

The Wikipedia of Bridge, where you can find an answer for any bridge questions:
www.acbl.org/marketing/publicity/bridge-bites/

To practise playing bridge online (for free) go to: www.bridgebase.com/

To check how these hands are best played, check- bridgevid.com



Are you languishing at the wrong end of the winners table?

Why don't you try Bridge Vid? <https://bridgevid.com>

Peter Hollands is a young National Player who is trying to make a living from bridge. For the cost of about 1 cappuccino a week you can access hundreds of videos suitable for new players, improvers and experts

Every day he puts out the "Daily Dose" a short 5 minute video - there are literally 100s of hours of material for the bridge tragic. He runs courses and if you're really keen you can purchase personal coaching sessions

What I particularly like is his commentary as to how he approaches declarer or defensive play, it's much better than just being told what card you should play and in what order, he gives the logic behind his decisions.

It's the best bridge investment you can make to use these web sites.

Should I Open 1NT w/ a 5-card Major?

By Larry Cohen

This is the #1 question. If bridge teachers had a dollar for every time this question is asked, they'd be wealthy people.

Let me start by saying, that there is no "right" answer.

With 15-17 balanced, and a 5-card major, open 1NT (balanced means 5-3-3-2. With 5-4-2-2, open the major). The biggest reason I have for opening 1NT is that if you don't open 1NT, you will have a major (pardon the pun) headache when it comes time to rebid. For example, say you hold:

♠Q 10 ♥A Q 10 4 2 ♦K J 2 ♣K J 3

If you open 1♥, what will you do next? Suppose partner answers with 1♠. How do you show this hand? If you rebid 1NT, you are showing less than 15. If you rebid 2NT, you are showing more than 17. That is why I prefer to start with 1NT. You have 16 balanced and if you open 1♥, you will never be able to convey that information. Whatever partner responds to 1♥, you will have trouble telling partner that you have 16 HCP.

Is there a downside? Of course, by opening with 1NT, you will sometimes miss out on a proper contract in your major. You will miss some 5-3 major-suit fits (and occasionally, even a 5-4 fit). There are conventions (such as Puppet Stayman) to get out of this mess, but those are outside the scope of this article.

I have found (in 30+ years) of experience, that my way is the best way. I have my good and bad moments, but in the long run, the money goes to the 1NT opening. Even when I do miss a 5-3 major-suit fit, I find that no trump plays just as well (and even if it is the same, it is worth a fortune at match points to get the 10 extra points for your contract).

I think it best for less-experienced players to blindly open all balanced 15-17 hands with 1NT. That is because opening with the major ends up creating annoying rebid problems. For example, players who open the hand above with 1♥, will have to invent a rebid (typically in a 3-card suit). Bridge is hard enough. Intermediate players need to keep things simple.