



Bridgemates

Issue No. 12



MARIO'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our new members! While it does take time to settle into a new club, (particularly playing a strange, new game) our members wish you many years of good fun and friendship. You will find your niche over time as you become permanent players in this club.

This has all been made possible by the dedication of a small team headed by Greg O'Connor, Steve Ormerod and the helpers who provided assistance (not to mention sustenance). It is a big commitment stretching over sixteen weeks. Thank you all.

Expenses have increased this year due to the necessity of replacing obsolete and worn out equipment: computer, 10 tables, 24 covers, stainless steel teapots, whiteboard, updating of first aid box, amplifier repairs, replacing pads in the bridge mates, new book "2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge", and printing of revised constitution. As you can see, there has been a lot of work behind the scenes to keep the club functioning well and ensure play continues to be enjoyable. So I thank the committee and assistants for their support.



Mostly, I wish you all good fun. Continue to play most of all, and **enjoy** yourselves.

From President Mario

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMMITTEE

President	Mario Cresta
Vice President	Greg Jellis
Secretary	Joan Keeley
Treasurer	Lynda Laffan
Committee:	Daphne Britchford, June Beasley, Murray Schlecht, Sandi Owen, Therese Conroy, Upasana Shanti

Upcoming Special Events

RESTRICTED PAIRS 2	Wednesday 24 May, 2017
	Remember to phone Sandi Owen 54501575 0416081576 for any information

MEET YOUR MEMBERS

Continuing our series of conversations with Bridge Club members

SANDI OWEN

Sandi moved to the Sunshine Coast from the hustle and bustle of Sydney 9 years ago. She has been heard many times saying it was the best thing she ever did. Sandi loves her little home, has great neighbours and everything she needs is within a couple of kilometres.

Sandi's work background was in payroll and HR. After arriving to the coast as a retiree, Sandi found another job in payroll and worked there for six and half years.

As retirement approached once again there was an advert in the local paper for bridge lessons.....close to home, social, very reasonable cost and new good company. Sandi decided to give it a go. No one had said how difficult bridge would be. However, Sandi enjoys going along each week and hopes to improve. Her bridge partners are very patient with her.



These are the facts you might not know about Sandi. She has 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. She is the Queen of a Red Hat group. Sandi often makes her hats 5 minutes before leaving her home for a Red Hat outing, the bigger and more flamboyant the better. In a past life, Sandi skated Roller Derby at Sydney Stadium.

Sandi loves getting dressed up and has been seen wandering the streets of Bundaberg dressed as a clown, on stage as Whoopie Goldberg leading the choir in Sister Act as well as dressing as a Christmas cracker and a Christmas Present to name a few.

As partnership co-ordinator, Sandi gets to help the "desperate and dateless" make a match.

THERESE CONROY

Therese's mum brought John home for a cuppa one evening, then appeared totally surprised four years later when they became engaged.



Travel has been a fascinating experience over their 44 years together with many fond memories to recount. Therese's favourite trips include Zimbabwe, France and Egypt.

Her daughter and son have blessed her with five grandchildren aged between 19 and 3.

Although Therese worked mainly in administration and taxation, she also enjoyed several part time jobs including vet nurse, teacher of English as a Second Language and taxi driver.

In 1989 John, Therese and family moved to Hong Kong where they experienced all the colours and cultures of a vastly different way of life. During their 13 years in Hong Kong, Therese encountered the

aftermath of Tiananmen Square, typhoons, the Handover of the colony back to China, Bird Flu and the building of Chep Lap Kok Airport.

Between 1973 and 2009 Therese moved house 14 times, including 3 years in a hotel. Consequently, she became quite adept at packing.

As a result of finding Melbourne's winter too cold after Hong Kong, John and Therese retired to the Sunshine Coast where she joined the Beginner's Bridge Course. The aim was to find a social outlet and to meet new people. Four years on, she is still battling to obtain a better percentage but thoroughly enjoys the companionship and challenge the game of bridge presents each week – particularly the solidarity of newfound friendship.

Therese has a rather obsessive collection of sixty hats and fascinators, though lately John has started calling her "Imelda!!"

GEORGE P KAVANAGH

Born 13 June 1957

I was born in England the fourth child of eight (6 Boys 2 Girls).

As a family, we migrated from England and arrived in Australia on the 28th of December 1970, We stayed at a famous migration camp in Bonegilla, Victoria. Tragedy struck our family when our father died on the 1st of January 1971. My mother was given the opportunity to go back to England but thankfully she knew that Australia would offer her family a greater future and she chose to stay.

Moving forward 8 years, I married my first wife, moved from Albury to Adelaide, trained and became a teacher, worked as a children's Storyteller, and along the way I raised my four sons.

In 1997, my marriage came to an end, but things picked up when friendship turned into a relationship and then marriage to Elaine Coleman in 2000.

Elaine retired from teaching in 2015. We then moved up to Buderim so Elaine could be close to her family who live in Brisbane.



As most members would know I am a Bridge nut and very competitive when the cards start flying. I first started playing when I was 9 and took up Contract bridge when I was 21.

Apart from Bridge I do have other interests such as Cricket, Soccer, Reading and Music.

In the future, I hope to spend time travelling around Australia with Elaine and our pets in order to catch up with our Grandchildren.

This is part of an article by **Peter Busch** of the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club that was published in their Newsletter in 2014. His points are true for all bridge clubs.

WHAT ANNOYS BRIDGE PLAYERS

Thanking opponents for doubling or pushing you to game when you make it:

No matter how much you mean it in jest, your opponents will feel uncomfortable and may be annoyed at themselves if they have doubled a making contract or pushed you into a making game when you weren't going there yourself. Making a gratuitous comment at this point will add fuel to the fire. If this happens to you, consider yourself lucky but say nothing. It is the nature of bridge that a good result by one pair at the table equals a bad result for the other pair. So when you get a top board and announce "top board, partner", it is equivalent to telling the opponents they got a bottom. Say nothing. If you like, just pass the Bridgmate to your partner if they seem interested.

Fiddling with the Bridgmate or scoring sheet before making the opening lead:

After the auction period, the whole table is waiting for the player on opening lead to make that lead. If you have other duties, like entering the details to the Bridgmate or writing on your personal scorer, make your *lead first*. When you have two tasks to do and people are waiting for one of them, it's just good manners to do that one first. Same applies to dummy if they are on Bridgmate duty – spread dummy before fiddling with the Bridgmate.

Not claiming as declarer when the outcome is obvious:

If you are nearing the end of play of a hand and it is quite clear that you have all the remaining tricks, it is bad manners to continue to play. The opponents are often squirming, wondering what cards they should keep, and it can be a difficult decision. It is very annoying for them when they later find that anything they did made no difference. Of course, don't claim if you are in doubt, and when you do claim, state what you are going to do "e.g. drawing trumps and the table is high". Similarly if you are in dummy and can't get back to hand and there's a potential loser on the table, the opponents won't be silly enough to throw out the winning card when they can see what is on the table, so saying "I'll give you the last trick" saves everyone time.

Asking questions during the auction when you have no intention to bid:

The laws allow players to ask questions about the bidding at their turn to call. But when you don't intend to bid regardless of what the meaning might be, then do not ask. It just slows the auction down. You will be entitled to a full explanation of the bidding at the completion of the auction so your rights are protected. In fact, asking questions needlessly can have a downside – firstly, the bidder's partner will hear the answer and will know whether or not partner took his bid the right way, and secondly, expressing interest about particular bids, especially alerted ones, suggests to partner that you have an interest in that suit and under the laws of unauthorised Information, this limits their options when they get on lead.

Saying "having none" when you trump an opponent's trick:

This happens typically when you are trumping when the opponents aren't expecting it. The opponents won't be happy about this, and saying "having none" is simply unnecessary, and sometimes seems like tightening the screws. Of course the partner of the player who is trumping can (and should) ask "No spades, partner?", as this serves a purpose.

Putting pen to the bidding pad without knowing what you want to bid:

Bidding often requires thought. While you are thinking, the other players will be looking at their cards and thinking about their next move. When you move your hand to the table, all players instinctively look across to the bidding pad waiting to see what you do, and tend to stay focussed till you make your bid. It can be annoying if you then retract your hand without doing anything, especially if you do it a number of times. It can also result in your left hand opponent thinking you've passed and making their call, which would be an infraction if you didn't actually write anything.