



CENTRAL COAST
BRIDGE CLUB

Newsletter August 2023



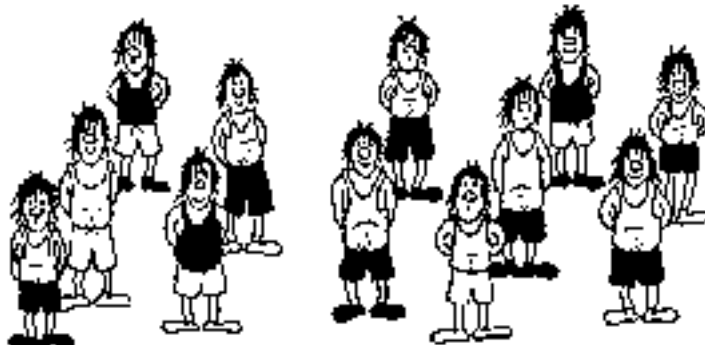
Dear Friends

You've heard that there are statistics, statistics and DAMN statistics. Here are some DAMN examples:

43.6 percent of all slam contracts fail.

62.7 percent of all bridge players are women.

97.8 percent of all bridge statistics, including these, are made up



HOWEVER, knowing the REAL ones can be a BIG help to your game.

These Principles of Probability will improve both your judgment and your game. They help you to estimate how the missing cards in a suit are LIKELY to be distributed between the two hands that you can't see. It's an important skill to develop and of greatest use to you when you are Declarer. Nevertheless, PROBABILITY is not CERTAINTY, it simply means that the missing cards in a suit are most likely to be distributed in a specific manner. The table below might be summarised thus:

*When an **odd** number of cards are missing, they're likely to be distributed as evenly as possible.*

*When an **even** number of cards are missing, they're likely to be distributed unevenly.*

TABLE OF PROBABILITY

<u>Number of cards missing</u>	<u>Probable distribution</u>
2	1-1 - 52% 2-0 - 48%. <i>no significant difference</i>
3	2-1 - 78% 3-0 -22%. <i>odds significantly favour 2/1</i>
4	3-1 - 50% 2-2 - 40% 4-0 - 10% <i>half the time they'll break 3/1</i>
5	3-2 - 68% 4-1 - 28% 5-0 - 4%. <i>3/2 break shows a significant margin</i>

6	4-2 - 48%
	3-3 - 36%
	5-1 - 15%
	6-0 - 1%. <i>odds favour a 4/2 break, nearly half the time</i>
7	4-3 - 62%
	5-2 - 31%
	6-1 - 6.6%
	7-0 - 0.4% <i>odds significantly favour 4/3</i>

When using probabilities, it's important to remember that if either of the opponents has bid a suit during the auction, this could affect the distribution of the missing cards. Likewise, if opponents have already shown a long suit, the missing cards in the other suits will be skewed.

More ammunition for your game:

If one of the players has a singleton or void, it is probable that at least one other player does, too.

If you and your partner each have a singleton or void, one or both of your opponents may, also.

If the opponents have not bid and you, as Declarer, are missing two honour cards in a suit, the missing honours are likely to be in different hands. This is probable IF neither opponent has bid and IF you have no other information to guide you.

(Adapted from an article copyrighted to Brian Richardson, 2012)

Looking Forward ...And Getting There

Congratulations to John who scored seven new students last week for his Lessons!

What else has been happening?



Christmas in July!





we had pixies and elves and happy people dancing to the best boy band on the Coast Five Shades of Gray (above).





We enjoyed fabulous food and even had time to play some bridge.
...and thank you Jill Wildey for recording these memories.

It was a wonderful day!

*Congratulations! Rank Promotions for
July 2023*

Lynette Bigland, Lucy d'Ambrosio and Gretchen Robertson have been promoted to Club Rank.

Jan Buchanan-Medina has achieved Local Rank.

Peter Greening has reached Bronze Local.

Annette Houtman and David Purkiss have stepped up to State Rank.

And this month's Events are...

AUGUST PAIRS, 17TH AUGUST, STARTS AT 9.30

This is a Red Point event, Open to all, \$8 with biscuits, coffee, tea and chocolate.
Enter via notice board or call the Club, entries close 16th August, please be seated by 9.20.

TORONTO BRIDGE CLUB: 20TH AUGUST, STARTS AT 9.30

Full Day Teams TROPHY Event for Open, Restricted and Novice Foursomes
It starts at 9.30, please arrive in time to be seated by 9.20. \$35, bring your own lunch, enter online NSWBA.

CLUB SWISS PAIRS: 23RD AUGUST, STARTS AT 9.30

A Trophy Open Full Day Event. Cost: \$25, nibbles, refreshments and lunch included.
Enter on NOTICE BOARD, **entries close Tuesday 22nd.**

AUSTRALIAWIDE OPEN PAIRS, 30TH AUGUST, STARTS AT 1PM

This is a SPECIAL PAIRS EVENT, open to all, \$8 with biscuits, tea, coffee and chocolate. Enter via notice board or online, entries close day before. Please be seated by 12.50.

CLUB OPEN PAIRS: 13TH SEPTEMBER, STARTS AT 9.30

Full details will be on weekly calendar.

**STOP PRESS: TODAY IS LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR AUGUST PAIRS *
THURSDAY 17TH * RED POINT EVENT * OPEN TO EVERYONE * MORNING
SESSION STARTING AT 9.30 * MINIMUM 5 TABLES REQUIRED**

CLUB SWISS PAIRS WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23RD

Open Trophy Full Day event starting 9.30.

Cost: \$25, nibbles, refreshments and lunch included

Enter: on NOTICE BOARD or call Club or Matt, **entries close Tuesday 22nd.**

FRIENDLY FEELGOOD FRIDAY AUGUST 25TH

Join us for this week's Friendly Feelgood Friday, starting at 1.30pm, to enjoy an afternoon of bridge and nibbles and fun with friends finishing with a flourish of wine, bubbles or beer. No partner required, just come along and sample our club hospitality.

If you know of someone who's just starting, invite them to taste our Friday feelgood fun. It's a great way to kick off the weekend and a warm welcome for a new player.

No partner required, everyone welcome. \$8.

AUSTRALIAWIDE OPEN PAIRS, 30TH AUGUST, STARTS AT 1PM This is a SPECIAL PAIRS EVENT, open to all, \$8 with biscuits, tea, coffee and chocolate. Enter via notice board or online, entries close day before. Please be seated by 12.50.

Time to Play

3 BIDDING EXERCISES

LHO opens 1D.. Partner bids 2S.
RHO passes. Over to you.

a)	b)	c)	
2	K1062	AK	A32
9	AKQJ		
AK6	K65	65	
Q87653	109532	109873	

WHAT WOULD YOU LEAD FROM:

Bidding goes:

SOUTH	NORTH
1C	1H
1NT	2NT
3NT	

a)	b)	c)	d)
A5	A543	J76	1097
J10985	543	Q432	KJ76
J86	Q1072	1093	K65

ANSWERS ARE IN A SMALLER SIZE SO THAT YOU DON'T ACCIDENTALLY SEE THEM BEFORE YOU'VE WORKED IT OUT.

THREE BIDDING EXERCISES:

- a) pass - you are in a misfit
- b) 4S - continue the pre-empt. Opponents look to have a good heart fit.
- c) c) 4S

WHAT WOULD YOU LEAD FROM:

- a) Jack of hearts, suit has been bid but is solid
- b) 2 of diamonds - suit contains two honours
- c) 10 of diamonds - partner has some HCP but did not bid spades, he may have diamonds
- d) 10 of spades - you have 12 HCP. Play the waiting game

Do you know.....

why the Club provides gluten-free snacks?????

There are several members of our Club who have **Coeliac Disease**, where the gluten in common foods (mostly grains) causes a serious allergic reaction, which can be life threatening. This is quite different to “gluten sensitivity or intolerance” which may cause a feeling of bloating. Some people feel that gluten free products may be healthier and may choose this option. This is not the case.

The Committee kindly requests your co-operation: **Gluten free alternative snacks are provided by the Club**

only for members with diagnosed Coeliac Disease.

Do you know what a Swiss System Tournament is?

We have the Club Swiss Pairs on August 23rd so it seems a good time to look into why it's called Swiss and what does that mean.

The System was first employed at a *chess* tournament in Zurich in 1895 by Julius Müller, hence the name "Swiss System" which is now used in many games including Bridge, Go and Scrabble.

The initial opponents are chosen at random and the overall strategy is to match pairs with pairs of similar strength based on the results of long matches, typically between six and eight boards each. At the end of each match the pairs are allocated Victory Points (VPs) - twenty are shared between the pairs at each table. Usually, the top and bottom scores on each board are removed and the average of the remaining scores is calculated. The scores of all pairs are ascertained by comparing their scores to the average score. Each pair is then assigned new opponents based on scores (VPs) to date. Several rounds of matches are played, typically from five to ten, so that you're usually playing against players of similar standard, which of course increases the likelihood of your winning.

Normally you would only play against another team once, even if you're leading the field you will not play against the pair lying second if you have already played them. You will be drawn against the closest contestant you've not previously played.

The ranking/result at the end of the tournament is determined by VPs gained, not matches won.

In Clubs, Swiss Pairs is often played as five by five board rounds in one session and relies on duplicated boards and computerised scoring for assignments to be done without delay.

When you're playing in Swiss Teams, the result of each match is determined by comparing your result with the result your partners achieved playing the same board. The difference in scores is converted to IMPs (International Match Points) in the same way as in league teams, using the table on your scorecard.

In Clubs, the normal arrangement is six x eight board rounds played over two sessions. For whole day events it may be six x eight board or seven by seven board

matches. Duplicated boards and computer scoring are not essential but are often used.

(Wikipedia/ BridgeWebs suggests that the winning strategy for Swiss Teams is to choose the longest trump fit and bid the game that's most likely to make, even if it's 5C instead of 3NT. If you're not vulnerable, the odds favour bidding only those games that you are reasonably sure will make.)



Thank you, Carolyn, for looking after our garden.

Your green fingers show that our members care about the Club as much as the Club cares about its members.



We sadly farewelled Di Mutch last month.
Di was a long-standing member of the CCBC,
much loved and always brought a ray of sunshine to our tables.

Our condolences to Peter and the rest of Di's family.

We already miss her wonderful 'gold coast look' and warm, sunny smile





Do you know.....?????

..... that The Australian Bridge Federation has reciprocal arrangements acknowledging Masterpoints with The English Bridge Union and the New Zealand Contract Bridge Association.

Have you ever looked at the reverse of your ABF membership card? It tells you what you need to know about how Masterpoints are accumulated and what they indicate.

“Director, please” Do you know.....?????

Your Director is there to ensure that everyone enjoys a fair and pleasant game of bridge and to sort out slip-ups that are bound to occur from time to time. Only

the Director is entitled to put right any irregularities and this is done by applying the **Laws of Duplicate Bridge** in the way that is fairest to all the players in the session.

Matt explains here when it is imperative to call the Director, how this should be done and what happens next.

When **must** the Director be called?

There are two types of ruling that the Director may be required to make: **Book Rulings**, where there is a clear course of action and **Judgment Decisions**, where there is an element of discretion.

Book Rulings apply to the mechanics of the game: calls, leads or plays out of turn; insufficient bids; revokes; a defender's exposed card; or a disputed claim. Even in these cases, which may seem to be simple situations, the Laws of Duplicate Bridge can be surprisingly complex and it is mandatory to call the Director. Book Rulings are made and applied immediately at the table.

Judgment Decisions apply to situations that are less clear cut, when it may not be obvious that an infringement has occurred or whether an unfair advantage has been gained. These include:

- a) Corrected or conflicting information regarding a call or play by either member of a partnership, including *Alerts and Announcements
- b) When a player cannot or will not answer questions about a call or play
- c) A discussion overheard about a board at another table.
- d) A bid which may be a Deviation or Psychic Bid.
- e) Possible Unauthorised Information from a hesitation.
- f) Bad behaviour of any sort at your own or another table.

The result of a Judgment Decision may have to wait till the end of the session for the Director to review the full impact of the event, to consult with other directors, and to adjust any scores.

*** The declaring side must make any corrections regarding calls, alerts and announcements before the lead is made: the defending side must wait till the play is over.**

There is no shame or embarrassment in calling for the Director. Nor is it an aggressive action. When something goes awry it needs to be fixed as quickly as possible. Any player may call the Director **during the auction**, but **during the play**, only the three active participants may. Dummy must wait until play is over. When needed, simply call the Director without delay, clearly and audibly, not forgetting to say 'please'. Our Directors are sometimes also playing so hold up your hand to show where the call has come from.

The Director will acknowledge your call, but you may have to wait a minute or two to be attended. The bids or cards should be left exactly as they were when the Director was called. The Director will ask who called and the person - and **only that person** - should explain the situation calmly and clearly. The other players should remain silent even if they think the explanation is incorrect. The Director may ask for clarification and for any additional or conflicting information from the other players. **Only the Director may touch the bidding pads or playing cards.**

The Director may ask to be called back at the end of the hand.

If you disagree with a Director's ruling, or want more information, please say so politely and ask to discuss it at the end of the session with the other players and the Director.

Making a scene at the table is likely to upset the whole room. If you are still dissatisfied, you may lodge an appeal with the Director which will require consultation with other directors to determine whether the initial ruling was correct or not. Please do not make your own rulings at the table regardless of how trivial the issue.

It is important that everyone understands how and why rulings are made - so never be upset when the Director is called - the ruling may be in your favour.

Next Newsletter:

Calling and Playing in Tempo, Dummy's Rights, Permitted Bids, Best Behaviour and Claims - all of which refer to calling the Director. Plus Club Rules & Etiquette.

Please remember that whenever there is doubt of any sort at your table, it is important that you do call "Director, please!" and hold up a hand to show where you are sitting.

Our "Do You Know?" section answers questions asked by Clubmembers during the month. Expect our next publication around mid-September and if you have anything "bridge" that you'd like to know more about - write to Editor, Newsletter at ccbridgeclub@gmail.com. Until then, I leave you with a link to our website <https://www.centralcoast.bridge-club.org/>

Your Editor