



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

April 2019

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba 4350
PO Box 16045, Northpoint 4350



Editor: John Churchett

email: secretary@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au

Presidents Report



There has been a record number of tables being played each week. I suspect this is of no surprise to anyone who has played on a Monday or Wednesday. With the extra players the car park

has been overflowing. There is no quick fix to this but we are exploring some options with the council. I don't anticipate a solution in the near future, so if possible, can you organise to car pool.

Clearly the extra tables being played has placed the directors under extra pressure. Chris has begun classes to train some new directors, but we need more. So, don't hesitate in volunteering in the future. Without directors the session cannot run.

Classes have started again for this year. Thursday night has around 16 beginners and Wednesday mornings has 26 beginners. Both of these sessions are run in parallel with another session that the beginners can migrate into when they feel confident to do so. In addition to the beginner's classes Chris and Denise have been running Intermediate lessons on a Friday morning. These have been very popular. Following the lesson, a social bridge session where the number of boards played is restricted to 24 in played. This is an open session and is quite popular.

A few housekeeping items are worthy of mention. Our new dishwasher has arrived, so we are back to normal operation. The outside of the building is going to be painted. It was decided that the interior does not need painting at this stage. And finally, we are investigating installing solar panels on the roof to help reduce our annual electricity bill which is approximately \$10000.

See you at the bridge table

Dave

Membership Secretary's Report

I have just completed the annual cancellations for the ABF. I had to cancel a total of 34 members which leaves the club with 304 Home members, 65 Away members and 5 Life members. Total 374.

A steady stream of new members is joining. This year we have welcomed Bill Brosnan, Betty McCleary, Cynthia Palmer and June-Mary Mott who have transferred in from other clubs and Roger Green and Mike Smith. Another group of new members are awaiting approval at the next Committee Meeting.

Cheers
Desley

Coming Events

GNOT Heat A	2 Tuesday nights 16 th & 23 rd April
Bridge for Brains	Monday 6 th May
Joyce Benson Cup	3 Wednesdays 15 th , 22 nd , & 29 th May

Welfare Officer

Please contact Desley Hanrahan on (0416136779) or at the club if you know of a member who is ill, hospitalized or suffering a bereavement and Desley will respond suitably on behalf of the Club.

VALE MELBA LEICHT

Born in Goondiwindi in 1933, Melba Leicht passed away on the 23/9/2018. She is survived by her husband Charles, their six children and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Melba and Charles joined the Toowoomba Bridge Club in September 2004 and attended Joyce Benson's lessons which were held in her home. They were also very involved in the fund raising for our new club house.



The above is a photo taken at Joyce Benson's farewell at the old club house in Water Street. Melba is seated in front of Joyce.

During Melba's bridge playing career, she rose to attain the rank of National Master and together with Charles, won the Novice Teams Congress in 2010, the B Grade at both Lockyer and the Darling Downs congresses.

Charles said the highlight of their bridge playing days was making 6HX against Neville Francis in a Teams of 3 event and then tying with them for first place. Well done!!

Melba is greatly missed by all of us.

Contributed by Glenys Clift.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

VALE ROGER LEY

Toowoomba Bridge Club lost one of its characters and big contributors when Roger Ley passed away on 21 March after a long illness.

Roger started playing bridge in 1988 and it became a big part of his life when he joined the Toowoomba club in 2010.

Roger had three interesting recreational passions: horse racing, bridge and AFL "go the Swannies" although he also had a soft spot for Geelong.

It was always interesting to watch Roger tear the corners off his form guide as each race was run and off of the bridge diary as each week was completed - old habits never go away! He also played major competitive squash in his early days.

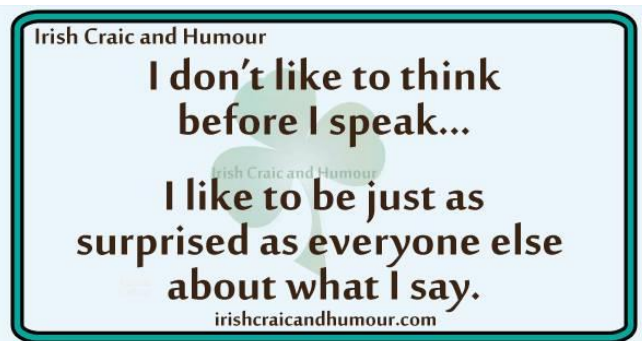
In 2012 Roger started to do some of the board dealing for the club, and quickly rose to be the coordinator of all our board dealing activities.

He served a term on Management Committee in 2014 and more recently started development of the clubs Health and Safety Risk Assessment processes.

Playing with or against Roger was sometimes interesting as he did have some funny bids (eg 2D), but that just reinforced his larger than life character.

We all miss you Roger.

Contributed by Chris Snook



The bidding system of 2 of our more colourful gentlemen members.

Congresses 2019

Toowoomba Bridge Club hosts six congresses per year as listed below. Please try to schedule your busy lives so that you are able to participate in these. In brackets are the number of entries from 2018. We had 40 entries in the 2019 Toowoomba Novice Pairs congress, and I would love for us to have similar increases in entries for the remaining congresses this year. We can only make them a success if you enter.

1. Toowoomba Novice Pairs congress
(36) Sunday 3 February
2. Toowoomba Butler Pairs congress (44)
Sunday, 7 April
3. Toowoomba Novice Teams congress
(16) Sunday, 4 August
4. Queens Birthday congress - Swiss Pairs
(54) Saturday, 5 October
5. Queens Birthday congress - Swiss
Teams (26) Sunday & Monday 6 & 7
October
6. Toowoomba Swiss Teams congress
(19) Sunday 10 November.

Your convenor

Dave



Gold Coast Congress

Recent New Rankings



Denise Hartwig	Silver Life
Anne Kirkpatrick	**National
Pat Fenaughty	*State
Paul Matthews	State
Desley Hanrahan	State
Jenny Speziali	*Regional
Judy Giesemann	Regional
Richard Behrend	Regional
Tony Thorne	Regional
Annette Griffiths	Regional
Susie Walker	Regional
Ann Downs	Regional
Carol Edwards	**Local
Pamela Mackintosh	**Local
Peter Bryce	**Local
Ken Orange	**Local
Lesley-Ann Parry	**Local
Penny Astridge	*Local
Ann Hall	*Local
Barbara Davies	*Local
Pamela Steele	*Local
Marion Hunt	*Local
Dennis Lincoln	*Local
Alison Banks	Local
Dennis Lincoln	Local
Valerie Inwood	Local
Bob Dodman	Local
Gary Street	Club
Gail Donovan	Club
Robyn Jackson	Club
Nuala O'Sullivan	Club
Maree Neale	Club
Grant Humble	Graduate
Sandy McNally	Graduate
Ian Spence	Graduate
Simon Strahorn	Graduate
Mark John Hunt	Graduate
Ian Moody Costin	Graduate
Susie Fraser	Graduate
Dale Burey	Graduate

Congratulations to Ian Jesser who recently achieved 1000 Master Points. We all know the next 1000 will be easier.

Top ten MASTERPOINTS 2018

Elizabeth Zeller	114.46
Ian Jesser	112.82
Byron Longford	94.33
Chris Snook	73.33
Henry Eastment	73.32
Denise Hartwig	73.18
Jim Wood	64.73
Jenni Buckley	63.51
John Churchett	63.35
Eileen Josey	58.30

Keep the Lowest Trump

1. Your lowest trump is often an important card that is worth preserving.
2. Suppose your trump holding is ♠ 6 3 2 in dummy and ♠ A K Q J 10 4 in your hand.
3. If the defenders force you to ruff early in the play, it will often be right to ruff high in hand. By preserving the ♠ 4, you gain an important entry to dummy.
4. When defenders' trumps break 2 – 2. You are able to cross to a seemingly entry-less dummy by playing a third round of trumps and overtaking your ♠ 4 with dummy's ♠ 6.

Extract from: Learn to Play Winning Bridge by David Bird

Ian Jesser

The Duke of Cumberland Hand

'The following remarkable hand of cards was dealt to the Duke of Cumberland as he was playing at whist at the rooms at Bath, by which he lost a wager of £20,000, not winning one trick,' says Richard Proctor in his book *How to Play Whist* (1885). The deal has passed from whist history into bridge folklore, and a similar coup appeared in Ian Fleming's fiction. The Duke of Cumberland in question was probably the son of King George III.

	♠		
	♥		
	♦	10 9 8 7	
		6 5 4 3 2	
	♣	A Q 10 8	
		N	
♠	A K Q		♠ J 10 9 8 7
♥	A K Q J	W	♥ 10 9 8 7 6
		E	
♦	A K		♦ Q J
♣	K J 9 7		♣
		S	
	♠	5 4 3 2	
	♥	5 4 3 2	
	♦		
	♣	6 5 4 3 2	

Clubs were trumps and the Duke of Cumberland (West) led a small trump. 'Ninety-nine players out of a hundred would lead trumps,' says Proctor. 'And in my opinion the hundredth would lead wrongly.'

The lead of ♣7 was covered by ♣8, which won the trick. A diamond was ruffed, a second club finessed and another diamond ruffed to return to the hand. A third club was finessed and then North's ♣A could drop the Duke's last club. The last seven diamonds were good, making thirteen tricks.

The hand is worthy of a place in the archives of gambling coups. The Duke of Cumberland probably knew that the hand was staged but still thought he could win a trick.

(for those who are not sure. A major Suit lead would of course reduce dummy's trump holding and then the contract would go off !!)

www.haroldschogger.com

"Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players and who were willing to keep the game going 24 hours a day."

Warren Buffett

OMAR SHARIF

Omar Sharif enjoyed a phenomenal career as an actor and bridge player. Sharif was born in Egypt in 1932, and played cricket and football as a teenager. He did not learn bridge until his acting career began at age 21. According to Sharif, he was idle on a movie set when he noticed a bridge book lying around. After reading it, he became fascinated by the game and began playing both rubber and duplicate bridge in Cairo.¹

His first blockbuster movie, "Lawrence of Arabia", was released in 1962. However, Sharif was reportedly unhappy during filming because he had to spend 18 months in the desert without any bridge.² Afterward, Sharif resumed playing bridge in earnest. In 1964, he captained the United Arab Republic team at the World Bridge Olympiad. His acting career gained momentum in tandem. Sharif starred in the lead role of "Doctor Zhivago" in 1965. The film ultimately cemented his status as an internationally renowned actor.

At that stage in his career, Sharif enjoyed both the wealth and prestige to actually promote the card game which he declared his personal passion. Having developed into an expert player, he formed the "Omar Sharif Bridge Circus" in 1967 to showcase bridge. The Circus was a traveling tour of bridge players that promoted the game via exhibition matches. Team members included Leon Yallouze, an Egyptian bridge pro, and Claude Delmouly, a French expert, as well as **Benito Garozzo**, Pietro Forquet and Giorgio Belladonna of the Italian Blue Team.

Wheeling through Europe, the Circus attracted thousands of spectators who watched the matches via BRIDGE-O-RAMA, a new technology (and predecessor to the modern-day VuGraph) that displayed bidding and cardplay on television monitors. With Sharif playing the Blue Team Club bidding system with his expert teammates, the Circus won multiple matches against local experts in multiple cities. After their European tour, the Circus barnstormed through Canada and the United States in 1968. They were accompanied by the Dallas Aces, the top American pro team of the era, and played friendly matches with local teams in several North American cities. During that year, Sharif also found time to serve as Egypt's captain in the World Team Olympiad.

In 1970, Sharif led his Circus to London's famous Piccadilly Hotel for an 80-rubber match against British experts Jeremy Flint and Jonathan Cansino. The stakes were £1 per point - huge stakes even by today's standards. The purpose of the event, according to British expert and writer Tony Forrester, was "to present bridge as a rich, exciting spectacle; to break through into television and so bring the game within the reach of millions who were still denied its joys."³ The Circus ultimately won the match by 5,470 points, but Sharif still incurred a net loss after paying all related expenses.⁴

It was also during the 1970s that Sharif began writing a bridge column with the Chicago Tribune. Co-authored with Tannah Hirsch, the column has since been widely syndicated. Sharif also penned two bridge books in the '80s and '90s: "Omar Sharif's Life in Bridge" (1983), and "Play More Bridge With Omar Sharif" (1994). During this time, he continued playing bridge in London and Paris with top experts like Paul Chemla of France.

By 2000, regrettably, Sharif quit bridge entirely. Having once proudly declared the game his passion, he now considered it an addiction: "I didn't want to be a slave to any passion anymore. I gave up card playing altogether, even bridge and gambling."⁵ Sharif, however, continued to license his name to bridge software games, and even co-authored a book with bridge writer David Bird, "Omar Sharif Talks Bridge". Written in 2004, it includes some of his most famous deals and bridge stories.

Sharif passed away July 10, 2015. In retrospect, he will be remembered as one of the most famous and charismatic celebrities who ever played, promoted, and wrote about bridge. www.bridgebum.com



Winners are Grinnerers

The "Monthly Winners" are recognised as the "individual" winner of eclectic multi-session events that run on the same day over the course of a month.

December Monthly Winners

Monday Open Delma Clark
Monday Restr John Hurran & Anne Hurran
Tuesday Day Byron Longford & Adrian Mayers
Tuesday Night Eileen Josey & John Churchett
Wed Open John Churchett & Lee Hore
Wed Restr Alastair Nixon
Thursday Night Denise Hartwig
Friday am Jane Tait / Kaze Fisher
Friday pm Ian Jesser

January Monthly Winners

Monday Open Diana Drummond & Lyndall Hore
Monday Restr John Ryan & Peter Bryce
Tuesday Day Adrian Mayers & Byron Longford
Wed Open Henry Eastment & Ian Jesser
Wed Restr John Ryan & Peter Bryce
Thursday Night Carol Edwards & David Edwards
Friday am Paul Matthews
Friday pm Henry Eastment & Adrian Mayers

February Monthly Winners

Monday Open Jenny Speziali & Philip Atkinson
Monday Restr Maree Neale & Nuala O'Sullivan
Tuesday Day Carmel Caton & Pat Larsen
Wed Open Henry Eastment & Ian Jesser
Wed Restr Joan Mladen
Thursday Night Elizabeth Thorne & Tony Thorne
Friday am Paul Matthews & David Roberts
Friday pm Adrian Mayers

In recent club competitions:

Club Teams Championship – Open

Mearon Geldard, Rhondda Dean,
Will Higgins & John Erlandson

Club Teams Championship – Restricted

Lyndall Hore, Diana Drummond,
Rozalyn Wright & Lavinia Minchin

Patrons Day "Clive Berghofer Pairs"

A 1st Ian Jesser & Henry Eastment

A 2nd John Erlandson & Will Higgins
A 3rd Eileen Josey & Liz Zeller
B 1st Kaye Fisher & Jane Tait
B 2nd Jill Cory & Desley Hanrahan
B 3rd Dave Mulherin & Marilyn Oakroot
C 1st Pamela Steele & Dennis Lincoln
C 2nd Jan Flynn & Lorrie Robinson
C 3rd Gary Street & Robert Fulcher

Col Martin Shield

Henry Eastment & Will Higgins

Ivy Dahler Cup

Byron Longford & Adrian Mayers

And on the recent Congress scene:

Toowoomba Novice Pairs

2nd Jill Cory & Desley Hanrahan
3rd Geni Russ & Kathleen Carey
B 2nd Alastair Nixon & Tim Porter
C 1st Pamela Steele & Dennis Lincoln
C 2nd Ian Costin & Peter Bryce

Arana Swiss Teams

B 1st Gabrielle Elich, Denise Hartwig,
Bev Stacey & Alison Dawson

Stanthorpe Swiss Pairs

2nd Pat Larsen & Byron Longford

OBA Mixed Teams

B 1st Chris Snook, Denise Hartwig,
Gabrielle Elich & John Elich

Dalby Swiss Pairs

1st John Erlandson & Desire Fenaughty
3rd Mearon Geldard & Rhondda Dean
B 1st Sue Croke & Trevor Henderson

Dalby Swiss Teams

1st Jenni Buckley, Jim Wood,
Eileen Josey & John Churchett
2nd Ian Jesser, Henry Eastment,
Mearon Geldard & Rhondda Dean
B 2nd Floyd Wilson, Majella Wilson,
Trevor Glasby & Judy Glasby

Presidents Cup

This year the Presidents Cup was run over three Monday afternoons. Scores were accumulated and one substitute was allowed. For those interested in

Masterpoint Secretary's Report

Total masterpoints earned in the club over the past few months were:

	Green	Red	Gold	Tables
December	127.79	16.72		318.5
January	179.72	41.16		472.5
February	168.15	30.46		439.5

Members are reminded that the number of masterpoints you earn is based on the total number of tables in your section, the status of the event (supervised, club, red points, gold points and congresses) and your position in the top half of the field. Some of the red and gold point calculations can be complex, so masterpoints displayed on our noticeboards or website are provisional until approved at the end of each month.

If you feel that you are missing some masterpoints, check with the Club Masterpoint Secretary in the first instance, advising of the date and session that you played in, who your partner was and who the Director was. If you added up the points you think you might receive, and the actual amount is different, then tell me the points/events you think you did achieve.

Remember that I only process club masterpoints. Those from congresses, nationwide pairs and other events are done by other people, usually months later. If you think you are missing points from an event run somewhere else, then tell me the event name and date, and I'll follow up where possible.

For interest, here is a breakdown of the master rank of our club members. We have 161 players with below 35 masterpoints, 132 players with 35 up to 100 masterpoints and 93 players with over 100 masterpoints.



technical movements, each session was run as a Web Mitchell with eleven 3-board rounds. Clever positioning of boards meant that player movement was the familiar EW up one table. Each board was played the same number of times which is much fairer than having separate (potentially different sized sections) and scoring across the field. It was a full house each day (30 tables).

David kindly offered to award a "Presidents Cup" for three player categories (0-35, 35-100 and 100+). Congratulations to:

- A 1st Chris Snook & Denise Hartwig
- B 1st Pam Davey & Nuala O'Sullivan
- C 1st Pamela Steele & Dennis Lincoln

For interest, a list of Presidents of the Toowoomba Bridge Club is listed below.

1959-61	Dr George McCutcheon
1962	Mrs Esther Conroy
1963-64	Mr S. Gillespie
1965-66	Mrs Nancy Penfold
1967-68	Mr R. Kent
1969-72	Mr Cyril Conroy
1973-74	Mr Geoff Ball
1975	Miss Irma Neill
1976	Mrs Ivy Dahler
1977-78	Mr Bruce Meakins
1979-83	Mr David Edwards
1984	Mr Bruce Meakins
1985-88	Dr Phil Dobney
1989-91	Mrs Val Buchanan
1992-95	Mrs Vi Vella
1996-99	Mrs Jackie Henderson
2000-01	Mrs Pamela Gebbett
2002-03	Mrs Marlene Stanley
2004-06	Mrs Glenys Clift
2007	Mr Henry Eastment
2008-10	Mr Chris Snook
2011	Mr Floyd Wilson
2012-13	Mr Chris Snook
2014	Mr Keith Jenkin
2015	Mr Henry Eastment
2016-17	Ms Denise Hartwig
2017-18	Dr David Roberts

Well done everyone ☺ Cheers Chris

Master Rank	Number of members
Nil	35
Graduate Master	25
Club Master	41
Local Master	33
Local * Master	27
Local ** Master	36
Regional Master	51
State Master	45
Regional * Master	6
State * Master	19
National Master	12
National * Master	14
National ** Master	4
Life Master	10
Bronze Life Master	6
Silver Life Master	11
Gold Life Master	7
Grand Master	3
Silver Grand	1
Total	386

Cheers Chris

In the Zone

Queensland Open Teams

On 24th March, twelve teams competed in the Zone Qualifying event for the Queensland Open Teams. Three teams qualified to receive a subsidy to play in the State Final on 24-25th August. Congratulations to:

Diane Wenham, Margaret Keating, Penny Trenerry and Rita Groom (Dalby)

Chris Snook, Denise Hartwig, Pat Larsen and Byron Longford (Toowoomba)

Jenni Buckley, Jim Wood, Eileen Josey and Rod Brilliant (Toowoomba)

The highest placed Novice Team will also receive support to play in a Brisbane Novice Teams congress this year:

Phillip Atkinson, Bronwyn Hamilton, Beryl McKay and Bunty Woollett (Dalby)

Grand National Open Teams

The Grand National Open Teams is an Australia wide event to select the 64 teams to attend the National Final, a 4-day event at the end of November. Around Australia there are around

2000 teams that enter the event at club level. It is an excellent opportunity (indeed the only opportunity) for players to earn gold masterpoints in their own club.

For Toowoomba, it all starts with our three “Club Elimination Rounds”. These are:

- Tuesday nights – 16 & 23 April
- Wednesday afternoons – 12 & 19 June
- Saturday afternoons – 29 June & 6 July

The teams who place in the top half of these rounds are eligible to play in the Club Qualifying Heat on Sunday 21 July. The top two teams from the Club Qualifying Heat play in the Zone/Area Final on Sunday 11th August against the winners from the Darling Downs, Dalby, Warwick and Goondiwindi Clubs. The winner of the Area Final then advances to the National Final. In the Club Elimination Rounds you play against players that you see every week.

Queensland Open Pairs

Later in the year (on Sunday 22nd September) we will be hosting the Qualifying Heat for the Queensland Open Pairs. This is for red masterpoints with the top few pairs (depending on number of entries) supported to play in the State Final in October.

Cheers
Chris

Tournament Subcommittee

At our most recent Tournament subcommittee meeting, we discussed a number of issues related to players and playing conditions.

Movements and session timing

It was agreed that the target number of boards for regular daytime club sessions is 30-32/33. The final number depends on the number of tables and the movement that is chosen. We allow six minutes per board and two minutes for contingencies and move time, and players are expected to monitor their own progress against these times. The clock is on for your benefit – not just the Director.

The Monday Restricted session (27-30), Wednesday Supervised (18-24), Thursday night

(27-28) and Friday morning sessions (24) play less boards to fit in the time available and may be given slightly more time per round to accommodate the less experienced players.

Grading of Club Events

Monday and Wednesday afternoon sessions are normally divided into grades (the cut-off is determined for each month on the basis of the average number of tables, so that both fields are of an appropriate size). This gives players an opportunity to play against players at a similar level as themselves.

Major competitions are played in one combined field, although there may be separate categories to recognise the performance of newer players. The cut-offs were confirmed as normally being 0-35 masterpoints, 35-100 masterpoints and an open section. These will divide the field into approximately equal sizes and are the cut-offs familiar to those who play at other clubs and congresses.

Some players have asked if we can have additional categories because they are just over one of the cut-offs. This was discussed at length, but consensus was that these cut-offs were the most appropriate.

Invitational Events

In “Invitationals”, players are encouraged to play with members who are not one of their regular partners. Regular is defined as once a month or more frequently.

The club has a long history of having “invitationals” on Wednesdays and Fridays, and some players booked their partners for the invitationals at the Christmas Party when they received their Bridge Diary. Benefits of the invitations is for newer players to play with a more experienced partner and the social benefits of meeting and playing with different people.

Numbers started to decline in 2012. Since then we have tried a number of approaches to try and encourage people to participate, but none appear to be successful. A review of recent “Invitationals” shows that only around 40% of pairs are playing in the spirit of the Invitational with the remainder playing with a regular partner. This is especially

bad when there is a single field such as Friday afternoons.

The demise of invitationals would be sad, so the Tournament subcommittee is considering a different approach where instead of an invitational day, occasionally Mondays and Wednesdays might just all play as one large field (similar to this year’s Presidents Cup). This will still provide the social aspects. Those players keen to play with different partners will still be able to do so.

Information on Bridgemates

Another issue raised by some members is the information that is shown on the Bridgemates. Possibilities include:

1. See all the scores for the board you just played.
2. See the current percentage you have for the board you just played.
3. See your current percentage and rank/position at the end of each round.
4. See your final percentage and rank/position at the end of your session (although there might be some tables still in play).
5. Turn off all session information.

It is hard to please everyone and there are supporters for all five options above. We have decided to continue with the current information of percentage and rank at the end of the round and the end of the session. Please remember that information during the early rounds does not mean much (see my article in the October 2016 newsletter – available on website).

Also remember Law 74 Conduct and Etiquette, part of which says you should “*carefully avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game*”. How do you think your opponents feel when:

- At the end of the session you blurt out to your partner that “we came 5th” and to the opponents “**you** came 9th”;
- “We had a good round and went up 5%” [so, who went down 5%];
- We only made that because of the lead [who lead?].
- Blurting out well done partner when it is obvious an opponent has just made a mistake;
- Giving a thumbs up (or similar).

Start of play

The period just before play starts is the most hectic for the Director and there have been some problems recently which arose because players were still wandering around when the Director chose the movement and number of boards. On some occasions a player arrived late, and their partner was in the kitchen or the office; on another occasion a pair were sitting at another table for a chat.

Our **Session rules** (see elsewhere in this or any other newsletter) stipulate that players should be seated 15 minutes before the start of play – so please do so. This will allow the Director to choose the most appropriate movement and to start on time. If you are running late or need a last-minute toilet break, then make sure your partner is seated.

Other issues

Other common playing issues were again discussed, and we ask you for your help:

- Keep the noise down during play and especially when about to move;
- Turn off mobile phones or at least turn off volume;
- Do not speak on your phone at the table whilst people around you are trying to play;
- EW clean up the table and replenish bridge supplies at the end of the session;
- All players help clean up the room before leaving.

We also spent time discussing some bridge rulings.

Cheers
Chris



Appeals Training

Appeals are rare at a club level, but the Laws of bridge allow them, and so they can happen. They are a bit more common in congresses.

If there is an appeal, it is normally heard by a panel of players (not necessarily Directors). I am keen to help make this as painless as possible by establishing a small panel of players willing to sit on appeals and giving these players some basic training in the mechanics and thought processes required.

Please speak with me if you are willing to help (or at least don't run away when I approach you).

Thanks
Chris

Teaching Report

Wednesday morning lessons commenced at the end of January this year to coincide with the start of the U3A term.

It was agreed last year that the Club Committee would investigate a possible link with U3A as a marketing process.

This has been a great success and there are 7+ tables each Wednesday morning, with about half being students from U3A.

They are a keen, motivated group and it is a wonderful experience planning and running the lessons. They question, do their "homework" exercises, and provide wonderful feedback.

When I discovered how difficult it was to get around to each table to provide support, I appealed for volunteers from our club membership to assist. I am so appreciative of the time given by these members and the beginners also express their appreciation.

My only concern this year is – where will we fit them in when they move to the next stage of playing in our club competitions?

What a great problem to have!

Thanks to Trudy

And from Denise

Basic Beginner Lessons: It was felt that the new format of doing Joan Butts' methods last year worked well. Hence the lesson format for 2019 on Wednesday mornings and Thursday nights will be much the same as 2018.

Beginner classes for Wednesday mornings and Thursday nights commenced at different times. Wednesday mornings started on 30th January 9 – 11.30am and Thursday nights from 28th February. 7-9.30pm This was to coincide with the U3A term. The first lesson was free, and member were asked to distribute free vouchers to family and friends.

There are currently 26 attending Wednesday morning lessons with half of them U3A members. Thursday night has 15 newcomers to lessons, with none of them coming as a result of U3A advertising – most of them were from either the Chronicle advert or from family and friends' encouragement.

Next Beginner Lessons:

The next lot of Basic Beginner Lessons start on Wednesday mornings 24th April from 9-11.30am. Please encourage any family or friends who couldn't start the earlier lot of lessons to give it a try. Contact Trudy Dunne for further information.

Improvers:

From Friday morning 24th May, some Improver lessons will be held in the Eastern side of the room to cater for players who have just finished the basic lessons and want to advance their knowledge as well as for any players who want a refresher on any of the topics. The following week will be supervised play where some hands relative to the previous weeks lesson will be included. All members are welcome.

Week 1 – 24 May – **The Simple Overcall** – both sides in the bidding

Week 2 – 31 May - Supervised Play

Week 3 – 7 June - **Pre-emptive Bids** – weak 3 & 4 level opening bids

Week 4 – 14 June - Supervised Play

Week 5 – 21 June - **Pre-emptive Bids** – weak 2 & 3 level opening bids

Week 6 – 28 June - Supervised Play

Week 7 – 5 July - **Simple Transfers after 1NT opening:** 2D → 2H, 2H → 2S

Week 8 – 12 July - Supervised Play

Week 9 – 19 July – **2C Stayman** – looking for a major fit

Week 10 – 26 July – Supervised Play

Week 11 – 2 Aug - **Slam Bidding Suit Contracts - Blackwood 4NT**

Week 12 – 9 Aug - Supervised Play

Week 13 – 16 Aug – Revision

Week 14 – 23 Aug – **Slam Bidding Notrump Contracts – 4C Gerber**

Week 15 – 30 Aug – Supervised Play

Week 16 – 6 Sept – **Opening Strong Balanced Hands**

Week 17 – 13 Sept - Supervised Play

Week 18 – 20 Sept – **Opening Strong Unbalanced Hands**

Week 19 – 27 Sept - Supervised Play

Wednesday and Friday mornings sessions 2019: Wednesday mornings to continue with the same format of supervised play with Ian Jesser. This is for players with less than 20 masterpoints or a combined partnership of less than 40 masterpoints. Friday morning in the Western room also continues with a half hour lesson at 8.30am followed by play of 24 boards after that.

Denise Hartwig

Teaching Coordinator

DO YOU KNOW THE RULES OF BRIDGE

Can you imagine playing tennis, making a serve, the ball hits the serve line, you don't know the rules and being told it was out rather than being entitled to another serve. Who is disadvantaged?

Can you imagine playing golf, you don't know the rules, your fellow player tells you that his air swings don't count – who is disadvantaged?

This is pretty much the same in bridge. When you don't know the rules and don't call the Director, you are going to be disadvantaged. There still seems to be a perception with some of our players that calling the Director is insulting and infers people are cheating. We ALL make mistakes! At some stage or another, we have all led out of turn, bid out of turn, inadvertently reneged, underbid, bid the wrong suit (which can sometimes be corrected if you call the Director before the next person bids), accidentally dropped a card, given our opponents the wrong information.

The Director needs to be called in these situations to ensure that FAIRNESS is applied, and players are not disadvantaged. I am going to give you a beautiful example of something that happened before I became a Director. A player at our table led out of turn so I started to call the Director.

However the person at fault said “You are not going to do that are you? Oh yes, I have played against you before and that is the type of thing you would do”. I started to try and say that my partner has some rights but was quickly told “That is enough from you”.

Needless to say, we did nothing, and sat mutely while her partner led her suit. Now we did nothing because we realized that this player didn't know the rules, probably thought I was insulting her and it just wasn't worth the hassle.

BUT would I allow that today – of course not, and neither should anyone else. So if you are not sure about something, call the Director. You are only penalising yourself and your partner if you don't.

Glenys Clift (Repeat of an article written in 2003)

COMPLAINTS

When Directors are approached at the end of play with a complaint against a player there is very little we can do unless, correct procedure has been followed. The following is for your information.

BY-LAW 7.1

The Toowoomba Bridge Club has adopted a policy of Zero Tolerance of Poor Behaviour. This policy must be displayed in the clubrooms at all times. This policy applies in all bridge sessions run by the club.

Expected Behaviour

1. Greet players prior to start of play of each round.
2. Be a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.
3. Do everything possible to make bridge enjoyable for yourself, your partner and your opponents.
4. Give credit when opponents make a good bid or play.

Unacceptable Behaviour

1. Criticising partner or opponents
2. Badgering, rudeness, insinuation, profanity, threats of violence, violence.
3. Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
4. Discussing hands after the round is called.
5. Objecting to a call for the director.
6. Disputing a Director's ruling during the game. (Lodging an appeal is the appropriate action.)

Procedure When unacceptable behaviour occurs, opponents should call the Director immediately, indicating that the player/pair are 'interfering with our enjoyment of the game.' (breach of Law 74 A)

Copyrighted Material

Charles M. Schulz



3

Copyrighted Material

Thanks Keith and Fleur for the great afternoon teas

Many games provide fun, but bridge grips you. It exercises your mind. Your mind can rust, you know, but bridge prevents the rust from forming.”
Omar Sharif



“TRUST ME, JOHN! JUST BECAUSE YOUR BRIDGE PARTNER DUMPS YOU... DOESN'T MEAN I WILL!”

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	David Roberts
VICE PRESIDENT	Trevor Henderson
SECRETARY	Pam Steele
TREASURER	Greg Munck
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Glenys Clift Pam Davey Henry Eastment Desley Hanrahan Keith Jenkins Ken Orange Tim Porter

MANAGEMENT

CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	Chris Snook
CONGRESS CONVENOR	David Roberts Ken Orange
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY PROVIDOR	Chris Snook Keith Jenkin
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Desley Hanrahan
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook Greg Munck Denise Hartwig
ZONAL DELEGATES	Chris Snook Denise Hartwig
PRESS OFFICER	Kim Nicoll
CLUB TEACHERS	Denise Hartwig Trudy Dunne
LIBRARIAN	Jean Moetara
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	John Churchett
HOUSEKEEPER	Val Witenden
SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR	Henry Eastment
WELFARE OFFICER	Desley Hanrahan
FIRST AID KIT, WH&S	Neville Lutton
RECORDER	Ian Jesser
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Bruce Hinchliffe
INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY & WEBMASTER	Chris Snook Michael Mumford
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	Greg Munck Tim Porter
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	John Ryan
BOARD DEALING COORDINATOR	
BIRTHDAY CLUB	Pam Davey
PARTNERSHIP ARRANGER	Pam Gebbett

As well as the elected and appointed positions, the Toowoomba Bridge Club has three sub-committees to help coordinate the running of the club:

TOURNAMENT SUB-COMMITTEE: Chris Snook (Chair), John Churchett, Glenys Clift, Henry Eastment, Denise Hartwig, Will Higgins, Ian Jesser, Leonie Spence, Floyd Wilson, Liz Zeller and the President (ex-officio).

FUNCTION AND CATERING SUB-COMMITTEE

Leonie Spence (Chair), Desley Hanrahan, the Providor (ex-officio) and the President (ex officio).

TEACHING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Denise Hartwig, Trudy Dunne, Ian Jesser, Byron Longford, Chris Snook, Leonie Spence and Liz Zeller.

Session Rules Reminder

- **Players should be seated 15 minutes prior to the start of play for a session.**
- **The Director makes the final decision on seating arrangements and on playing arrangements in the room (e.g. windows, air-conditioning).**
- **Only green and blue systems are permitted in club events.**
- **System cards are compulsory for competitions and red master point events and strongly recommended for all other sessions.**
- **NS are primarily responsible for the playing conditions at the table (bridgemates, management of boards and moving them if instructed to do so by the Director).**
- **EW are primarily responsible for tidy up and leaving the table in a good condition ready for the next session.**
- **All players should offer to help with general room clean-up to assist the Director.**
- **No notices are permitted on the noticeboards unless approval is given from the Management Committee.**
- **No trading is permitted on the club premises unless written permission is given via the Management Committee.**
- **Smoking is only permitted in the Designated Smoking Area or in the parklands off the premises**

