



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

January 2016

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba 4350

PO Box 16045, Northpoint 4350



Editor: John Churchett

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President's Report



The Club's Management Committee members have been very busy particularly those taking on new roles as they learn the ins and outs of those roles. Unfortunately, John Laker and Leonie Spence have resigned from the Management Committee

for personal reasons. The Management Committee has decided that their positions will remain unfilled as casual vacancies in the short term

David Roberts has agreed to be the Congress Convenor after the January 31st Congress and he will be assisted by Majella Wilson and Robbie Fulton. I would like to see another two members join this group with a view to becoming involved in convening congresses in the future. If you have an interest in doing this please talk to David, Majella, Robbie or me

Desley Hanrahan has replaced Glenda Filbee as Welfare Officer and members are asked to contact Desley if they feel she can assist a member or a member's family. Many thanks to Glenda for her time as Welfare Officer.

Margaret Wyche is the Club's Recorder replacing me as I am on the Management Committee and therefore unable to hold this position. Thanks for accepting this role Margaret.

The Management Committee has also created a Function and Catering Sub-Committee to replace the Fundraising and Social Sub-committee. This is chaired by Leonie Spence and more information about this is provided in this newsletter. Many thanks to Virginia Hathaway, Kim Nalder, Beth Brown, Gwen Francis and Pam Gebbett for their service on the Fundraising and Social Sub-Committee.

An updated listing of Management Committee members and Office Holders are in this newsletter.

Our Christmas Party on Saturday 5th December was a great success and many thanks to all who made it so. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, the Program Book was not ready for the Christmas Party. However, it should be available at the Club on 15th January.

The Open Day is to be held on Sunday February 14 2016 (St Valentine's Day). Glenys Clift is the Open Day Coordinator. Volunteers will be needed to assist with this event so please contact Glenys if you can help. More information is provided in this Newsletter. Please consider helping as this event assists in lifting the profile of our club and attracting new members.

Over the next few months, various sub-committees and the Management Committee will be reviewing the recommendations in the Strategic Plan and looking at ways to ensure the club will continue to prosper in the future.

I anticipate that any resultant changes that may have an effect on our members will be appropriately discussed and publicised.

Many thanks to every volunteer who helps inside or outside the clubrooms. The Club runs effectively thanks to the many volunteers of this Club.

Enjoy your Bridge

Henry Eastment
President

Providore's Report

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope you will continue to enjoy the goodies that I will provide in the coming year.

Keith Jenkin

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Henry Eastment
VICE PRESIDENT	Adrian Mayers
SECRETARY	Margaret Tucker
TREASURER	Chris Snook
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	John Churchett Desley Hanrahan Jean Moetara David Roberts Lyn Vary

OFFICE HOLDERS

CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	Chris Snook
CONGRESS CONVENOR	David Roberts
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Chris Snook
PROVIDOR	Keith Jenkin
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Glenys Clift
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook Lyn Vary David Roberts Roger Ley
ZONAL DELEGATES	Chris Snook Adrian Mayers Kim Nicoll
PRESS OFFICER	Glenys Clift
TEACHING COORDINATOR	Jean Moetara
LIBRARIAN	John Churchett
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Lyn Vary
HOUSEKEEPER	Henry Eastment
SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR	Desley Hanrahan
WELFARE OFFICER	Roger Ley
FIRST AID KIT, WH&S	Bruce Hinchliffe
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Chris Snook
INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY & WEBMASTER	David Roberts
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	Adrian Mayers
GROUPS MAINTENANCE	Trevor Glasby
BOARD DEALING COORDINATOR	Roger Ley
BIRTHDAY CLUB	Pam Gebbett
RECORDER/CONCILIATION	Margaret Wyche
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:

Tournament Directors: Val Buchanan, Glenys Clift, Henry Eastment, Gabrielle Elich, Ian Jesser, Adrian Mayers, Ray Moore, Chris Snook, Ed Willey, Floyd Wilson, Liz Zeller

Trainee Directors: Trudy Dunne, Keith Jenkin, Leonie Spence

FUNCTION and CATERING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Leonie Spence (Chair), Desley Hanrahan, the Provider (ex-officio) and the President (ex officio), Depending on the function, additional members will be the Congress Convenor, the Director of the session involved and the Chief Tournament Director or their nominees.

TEACHING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Glenys Clift, Trudy Dunne, Denise Hartwig, Henry Eastment, Ian Jesser, Chris Snook, Leonie Spence, Liz Zeller, Ann Klibbe.

NOTES FROM COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Management Committee's meeting on the 21st December 2015 will appear on the noticeboard and on our website in due course. Club members are invited to read these minutes, and contact a member of the Management Committee if they would like further explanation. Members should also contact a Committee member if they have any issue that they wish to bring to the Committee's attention.

Best wishes,
Margaret Tucker.
Secretary.

CONGRESS CONVENOR

Robbie Fulton is the Congress Convenor for the Novice Pairs Congress on Sunday 31st January 2016.

David Roberts was appointed as Congress Convenor at the MC meeting on 21/12/2015 and will be Robbie's shadow (understudy/assistant) for the January Congress to learn the ropes.

Majella Wilson has agreed to assist David in this role and Robbie has also indicated that he will continue to assist. Many thanks to all of you for taking on these roles.

It would be to the Club's benefit if David, Majella and Robbie could be joined by at least another two members to learn the ropes with a view to assisting the Congress Convenor and possibly eventually taking on that role. If you are interested, please let David, Majella, Robbie or me know.

The club is offering 5 congresses in 2016 - Novice Pairs (31/1), Butler Pairs (3/4), Novice Teams (7/8), Swiss Teams (13/11) and Pairs and Teams at the October long weekend.

Henry Eastment

FUNCTION AND CATERING SUB-COMMITTEE

At its meeting on 21/12/2015, the Management Committee established this sub-committee to replace the Fundraising and Social Sub-committee by adopting the following By-Law.

Function and Catering Sub-Committee

The function of this Sub-Committee, subject to directions from the Management Committee, is to determine the format for functions (not Congresses) and organise catering and helpers for functions and Congresses.

Membership shall consist of a Chair appointed by the Management Committee, a member of the Management Committee, the Provider (ex-officio) and the President (ex officio), Depending on the function, additional members will be the Congress Convenor, the Director of the session involved and the Chief Tournament Director or their nominees. It is expected that the Chair will also invite some club members who may be assisting at a function to join the Sub-Committee temporarily for discussions and planning.

Leonie Spence accepted an invitation from the Management Committee to be Chair of this sub-committee and Desley Hanrahan was appointed as the Management Committee member of the sub-committee. Thanks to both of you for taking on these roles.

Henry Eastment

Sessions for 2016

Whilst I like to think that I am quite innovative, those that know me would also know that I am a conservative soul at heart. So it was with mixed feelings that I engaged in discussion with my fellow Directors and Management Committee members in planning for the future playing sessions of the club.

We started so many years ago as an amalgamation of three bridge clubs – the Toowoomba Bridge Club, the City Bridge Club and the Downs Bridge Club; and these groups naturally tended to play on “their” days. Thirty-four years later and we are a bit the same. Once players start in a session, they restructure their lives to play regularly in that session – and rarely change.

Recently the Management Committee received from a Working Party the first iteration of its Strategic Plan, and some of the data and ensuing recommendations have a direct influence on our playing schedule, with an evident focus on getting members to play in different sessions (and perhaps more sessions).

So, based on all the above and after discussion with a number of members, we are moving toward having graded sessions so that new and established members will have an opportunity to, and will feel comfortable at most sessions. Of course, there have to be enough table numbers to make grading viable.

Monday afternoon

This will be a “graded” session. There will be an Open section (open to anyone) and a beginners section (just as there is now) and if numbers permit there will be a middle section as well. Approximate divisions might be 0-10 master points, 10-30, and Open. The lower grades will be protected but anyone can choose to play in a higher section if they wish. We will still label one day per month as **invitational**, and these will not be graded to encourage players to mix. At many clubs who run graded sessions, the players tend to grade themselves and I think this is most likely what will happen here too.

A non-playing Director will be in charge of this session – so you may come without a partner. The Director will arrange partnerships or may fill-in themselves.

Tuesday daytime (10:30-2:30)

This will run the same as 2015, a single session duplicate pairs.

Tuesday night

This will run the same as 2015, with mostly pairs and some teams events.

Wednesday morning – intermediate supervised

A short popular session for the more experienced beginner. "Supervised" means you can ask for advice and may consult your notes if necessary.

Ian Jesser gives a short talk each week on conventions and card play issues. No partner needed.

Wednesday afternoon

A "graded" session, most likely with two sections. "Invitational" once per month.

Thursday afternoon

This will run the same as 2015, with mostly pairs and some teams events.

Thursday night - Restricted

This will run with the same general format as 2015, for players with less than 150 master points. We will divide into two graded sections if the number of tables permit ... Mostly to accommodate those players straight out of lessons. A non-playing Director runs this session, so you may come without a partner, and one will be arranged for you or you may get stuck with me.

Friday morning

This will run as two sections. The first will be a Supervised Play section specifically for beginners (less than 10 master points) and a Restricted sessions for players up to 150 master points. Non-playing Director will help arrange partnerships – but primary focus is on the Supervised Play section.

Friday afternoon

This will run the same as 2015, but will be graded if the number of tables allows this.

Saturday afternoon

This will run the same as 2015, but there will be no play the day before any major local event. Check the club Bridge Diary or website or ask one of the Directors.

Special events

The Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) is one of the top national events in Australia – with an opportunity for you to play in it at your local club for **gold** master points. This year we are trying a new format. There will be three qualifying heats: Tuesday Night (5&12 Apr), Wednesday Afternoon (10&17 Feb) and Saturday Afternoon (4&11 Jun) – and you will earn gold master points per win in these events. The top half of each qualifying field will then be eligible to play in the Club Elimination heat (on Sunday 24 July) to determine

which team/s will play in the Zone Final on 21 August.

We will also be running the Patrons Day, Clive Berghofer Pairs, Club Pairs and Club Teams Championships, Col Martin Shield, Joyce Benson Cup, Ivy Dahler Cup, Ivy Dahler Novice Pairs and Ivy Dahler Novice Teams.

We will also host our five Congresses (Butler Pairs, Swiss Teams, Novice Pairs, Novice Teams and our Long Weekend Congress in October), and there are plenty of Congresses at our near neighbours (Darling Downs, Dalby, Lockyer, Warwick and Goondiwindi).

It looks like an exciting bridge year!!!

Cheers

Chris

Foreign Correspondent

Alison and I have been pretty busy on our trip, but I couldn't visit London without also visiting the Acol Bridge Club in West Hampstead (they moved from Acol Rd years ago).

It is now a private club and the manager Noorul Malik was very welcoming. We played in a small session on Friday Night. We arrived early and enjoyed the complimentary meal (Alison more than I, as it was all "hot" food) and then the pairs session was IMP (teams) scoring.

Mostly Acol players but there were a few playing Standard American. The standard was quite high so I won't say where we placed. They don't call the Director ... "I'll just pick it up shall I?" Of course it made me cringe but we were guests so I said nothing :-)

I hope you appreciate your \$5 games - a normal session here costs £11 for visitors and £8 for members. They also had a lovely assistant behind the bar - most people had a drink with dinner or during play - there was no "tea break", that is why you are dummy.

Cheers

Chris



BRIDGE CLUB LIBRARY

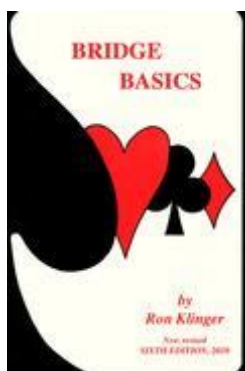
Hi folks!

Since this is the start of a new year, I would ask all those who still have books or DVDs that they have borrowed to rummage around to find them and return them. It will be good to get those books and DVDs circulating – especially to give our newer players a chance to study, and perhaps add some inspiration to their card play.

NB: There are series of Ron Klinger's books that give very good practice examples of how to bid and play hands.

The Library:

- Books are arranged by author, alphabetically in two tiers – newer editions in bottom bookcase



- To borrow a book - simply sign & date the correct card in the card box in bottom shelf
- To return - add the date of return and put book back
- I will chase up any late returns and also requests
- For further info
<http://www.toowoombabridgeclub.com.au/lessons.asp> - Library

We are planning some new acquisitions too so if you have any recommendations please pass on details to me or a committee member.

Jean Moetara

Membership Secretary's Report

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Club would like to welcome Ann Kirkpatrick who recently relocated to Toowoomba from Sydney. Welcome to both Toowoomba and the Toowoomba Bridge Club.

Membership subs were due by the 1st January 2016. However we do make allowance for members who are travelling or have simply overlooked paying their subs and a reminder will be posted in the middle of January to those members still outstanding.

If you receive a reminder and have actually paid your subscription please let me know as soon as possible so we can sort it. If for whatever reason, you are not rejoining, again if you could let me know so we can take your name off our mailing list and not bother you with unwanted emails or letters.

To finish, I would like to wish everyone good health, good times and good bridging for 2016.

Glenys Clift

Membership Secretary

OPEN DAY
TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB
SUNDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2016
10AM -1PM

Running an Open Day has proven to be a great way to showcase our club to the public and provide an opportunity for people interested in learning bridge to find out what it is all about.

BUT FOR THIS DAY TO BE A SUCCESS WE NEED THE SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS.

HOW YOU CAN HELP –

- **Distribute flyers to friends and any other groups you belong to in order to help promote the day. There are brochures and flyers in the entry – *TAKE AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.***
- **If you have been trying to talk your wife or husband into learning, this would be a great day for them to check it all out.**
- **Be willing to partner people who have never played before in a fun session “Learn Bridge in 10 minutes.”**
- **Help in the kitchen – we will be putting on coffee, tea and nibbles**
- **Help decorate the club the day before.**
- **Act as a host/hostess to show new people around.**

We will be running a full page Ad in the Chronicle on the Saturday but it has been proven time and time again that the best promotion comes from our members.

If you can help on the day, could you let our President Henry Eastment or our Secretary Margaret Tucker or myself know. That would be great!! We hope to have a very short meeting a couple of weeks prior to the Open Day to finalise the program.

Cheers
Glenys Clift

BIRTHDAY CLUB



The criteria to be eligible for the Birthday Club is you need to be a member by the 1st January, 2016.

There is a leeway period for existing members who have overlooked paying their subs but this cuts off at the end of January so the vouchers can be printed for the rest of the year.

If for any reason you do not wish to receive a voucher because you find it intrusive or for any other reason, could you please let Pam Gebbett know so she can cross you off the list. This is simply meant to be an acknowledgement of your special day – and a thank you for being a member of our club.

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE REMINDER

One of the things that impressed me in the past when I used to play in Congresses and found myself playing against Tony Jackman or God forbid, Ron Klinger, was how polite these guys were, and how helpful they were. They never made you feel foolish or ignored you. If you played a hand well, they made a point of telling you even though the ultimate outcome was you were done like a dinner.

This is just a gentle reminder that when we play social bridge at the club good players already have the advantage of being slightly intimidating just by their reputation. So it doesn't help if in between boards they ignore the opposition and only talk about what they “should” or “could” have done. If this happens people feel as though they might as well be invisible and don't matter much. And I know it is not done to be intentionally rude.

When I am taken down because of some stupid thing I did, the first thing I always do is congratulate them, then I give myself a good kick and boasting about getting a top also doesn't help. So let's not forget, that “good” players once upon a time, were also new players and relied on the encouragement of better players to improve their game.

Glenys Clift

TEACHING PROGRAM FOR 2016

The 2016 Beginner course starts on the first week in March – Wednesday 2nd and Thursday Evening 3rd.

8 WEEK BEGINNER COURSE

WED 9AM WITH TRUDY DUNNE

THURS 7PM DENISE HARTWIG

Introduction to Bridge

Opening 1No-Trump

Stayman over 1NT

Opening the majors with a Fit

Opening the minors

Opening Balanced Hands with 12-14 or 19-20

Both sides in the bidding, Overcalls,

Both sides in the bidding Take-Out Doubles

LESSONS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY 4 WEEKS PRACTICE PLAY WITH A SHORT LESSON ABOUT TIPS ON CARD PLAY AND THEN BEGINNER SUPERVISED WITH CHRIS SNOOK

ADVANCED CLASSES

The Advanced classes will start in June on Friday mornings 9am with Glenys Clift. To reinforce each lesson there will be a practice Supervised the following week dealing with each lesson. (Most of us need to do these 2-3 times for reinforcement)

6 WEEK ADVANCED COURSE

Both sides in the bidding Negative Doubles

Opening Strong Balanced hands

Opening Strong Unbalanced hands

Weak Twos

Coping with pre-empt

Slam bidding

WORKSHOPS FOR 2016

Provided there is enough interest, I am hoping we can run workshops on a Saturday when there is no bridge listed on the following topics. These will not start until April and will continue on a two monthly interval.

Transfers

I notice people are playing transfers who understand how to do the transfer, but then have a limited understanding of what happens next or how to show a 5-4 in the majors or how to show a 5-5 in the majors. What does super accept mean? Why should you transfer in the minors and when?

Hamilton (Capaletti)

Interference over a strong NT. What are the responses by your partner? How to cope with Hamilton when your partner has opened 1NT.

Gerber with CRO responses

A variation of the Gerber convention, where certain pairs of Aces can be identified.

Roman Keycard Blackwood

A variation of the Blackwood convention, when the partnership has agreed on a trump suit and is interested in slam.

Glenys Clift

Session Rules Reminder

- Players should be seated 10 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 (eg windows, airconditioning).
- 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.
- No notices are permitted on the noticeboards unless approval is given from the club Executive.
- No trading is permitted on the club premises unless written permission is given via the Management Committee

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Toowoomba Bridge Club members tried to make Christmas a little more enjoyable for needy Toowoomba families by donating goods and gifts to the Salvation Army's Christmas appeal.



Receiving some of the Christmas fare from club president Henry Eastment are volunteer Lorna Decker and Major Kevin Holland.



Winners are grinners . . . Some of the high-achievers who were presented with awards at the Club's Christmas Party



The Big Two – Adrian Mayers and Henry Eastment – winners of the club pairs championship.



Jean Moetara did a great job organising the kitchen at the Christmas Party. She also did a great job cutting the Christmas fruit cake baked by Sandy Parker

Photos thanks to Bruce Hinchliffe

Thanks to Our Sponsors

A reminder to members that we enjoy sponsorship support from the following companies:

RetireInvest
My Personal Travel Planner
Freedom Aged Care
LJ Hooker Real Estate

For contact details and other information provided by these companies, please refer to the sponsorship noticeboard in the club rooms.

Please support the companies that support us.

RETIREINVEST

RIadvice
one life, make the most of it

RI Toowoomba
647 Ruthven Street
Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph: 07 4639 3733
Email: enquiries@ritoowoomba.com.au
Website: www.ritoowoomba.com.au

My Personal
TRAVEL  **PLANNER**

Contact Ainslie Hardie
Owner at My Personal Travel Planner
(07) 4637-8235



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Contact - Phone: 07 4688 2222 Fax: 07 4688 2221 Email: toowoomba@ljh.com.au

LJ Hooker

Toowoomba

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