



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

January 2021

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba 4350



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Presidents Report



Hi and thanks for having me as your new President, I'll do my best and ask that should you have any issue that you personally feel strongly about that you always should feel free to discuss this with me at any time.

That said we have a new Management Committee (MC) that was elected at our AGM in October with both Pam Steele & Greg Munck staying on as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, thanks again to you both. Joan Mladen has also continued as Membership Secretary. Thank you, Joan.

We have Henry Eastment yet again. We should all be appreciative of Henry continuing with us and sharing the vast experience he has of the club and its procedures from his many years of being on the MC. Thanks Henry and we understand fully why this will be your last year. We cannot thank you enough Henry and I can only say that being made a Life Member is well and truly deserved.

We also have Tim Porter and Elizabeth Thorne, staying on as Committee Members, thanks also to you both for your excellent contributions. We also welcome Paul Barrett, Adrienne Montague, Bev McCasker as incoming Committee Members, thanks for your affirmation that our club is worth your time and effort. It is appreciated.

We also thank those that have stepped down from the Committee for their hard work and their contributions to the management of our successful club. I would also like to add that Trudy Dunne, who as many of you will know, having attended Trudy's lessons, has been part of the Teaching team for many years. Trudy has decided to step down from this role. I am sure you would agree Trudy will be missed, thanks for your efforts Trudy. For some of us Bridge would not be part of our lives without your contribution.

Dave Roberts, our immediate Past President of 2+ years & who worked tirelessly in that role has generously agreed to stay on as a Committee member and has also agreed to take on the Vice Presidents Role. Thanks David, from the club's perspective it will be invaluable to be able to draw on, your, and our other continuing MC members recent experiences, around getting our club reopened safely in COVID environment. We as a club thank you all for this and are mindful of the effort that this has involved.

Our MC have put many hours into understanding and then implementing the government advice that our club should follow the COVID guidance for sports clubs when dealing with the pandemic and associated restrictions. Not all clubs have been able to return to face-to face (F2F) bridge but we have a robust COVIDsafe plan in place and I'm pleased to be able to confirm that even with our limited re-opening most of our players are adapting well. Special thanks to Pam, in particular, for her tireless efforts in drafting what was needed for COVID compliance and the ongoing effort to keep these documents and processes current.

With the advent of Online Bridge options also available many of our club members are getting their Bridge 'fix' one way or another, but several of us are not!

I made the offer at the AGM & make it again, please make contact with myself or any of the other MC members if you need any assistance in getting yourself comfortable or need a better understanding of what is involved with either an Online or our current F2F environment. I understand fully, especially for our age group, that several of us won't return until that elusive 'Vaccine' is available but I can assure you that what we have in place for your safety is 'second to none'.

As David mentioned last year, we are the fifth largest club in Queensland, and thanks also to our dealers, David Lynch, Kerri Brown and Lyn Vary and others who help them. Thanks also to Lee Hore who again will quietly collect and tally the session sheets monthly and ensure that our banking happens as Lee has done in the past.

It is appropriate to thank Chris Snook, on behalf of our club, for his tireless efforts to get our Online club bridge environment established relatively early on in a COVID restrictions. Chris also continues as a teacher, Masterpoint Secretary and Chief Tournament Director.

Most of you will not be aware, but as a result of Chris's efforts and those of his dedicated group of Directors that took to making club games online a reality (thanks also to Liz Zeller, Ian Jesser and Denise Hartwig) and (Trevor Henderson ed.). Toowoomba was able to host one of the first online congresses anywhere in the last month since we all shutdown in March.

No doubt that this is due to our demonstrated 'maturity' in being able to host these sessions & Chris's dedication to ensuring that these are run well, a reputation that as we all know is what Chris's Congresses are renown for everywhere. We also need to thank Henry, Floyd, Ian, Glenys, Chris & Denise for re-commencing the Club F2F sessions, please refer to our Website for session times and details but again it needs to be said that without these dedicated Directors our club cannot function.

These club sessions of F2F bridge also involve a dedicated 'COVID' Officer that is there before, during and after, each session to ensure that our COVIDsafe plan is being followed. We currently have a half dozen individuals that are freely giving up their time and in many instances not playing bridge!. This involves a half day+ , each time they assist and that they are there simply to ensure that you, as club members, can safely play Bridge. We could use more members that are willing to assist in this COVID officer role and if you are interested in understanding more of what is involved and would like to help, please contact myself or any of the MC.

F2F Bridge Teaching lessons on Tuesday nights has recommenced at 7pm, thanks Denise. Teaching is a Critical component of our clubs ongoing success.

On that note of Teaching being a Critical component of our clubs ongoing success both Denise and Chris have received ABF accreditation as teachers this year. This is a very significant achievement for which we as a club are very proud to have Teachers of this calibre.

Not many clubs can claim to have any, let alone two individuals, that have achieved National Teaching accreditation. I'd like to offer on behalf of all of our club members, and especially those that have had that have benefit of your teaching and guidance, our thanks to you both and see this as nothing less than well deserved.

As one of our best sources of 'bridge newbies' is by 'word of mouth' referrals, I'd ask you all to keep this achievement by two of 'our own' well know members 'top of mind' when discussing Bridge prospects with any of your associates.

I am sure to miss someone in this my first attempt at a newsletter (thanks to John Churchett that again this year will make sure that the newsletter is a quality one as always).

Just a reminder to everyone that our club can always have more members volunteering to assist instead of just a few carrying the load.

Please let me know if you'd like to help, I personally have found it can be quite inspiring to see how contributions from others can also enrich your own life!

Would be remiss of me to not thank all the numerous volunteers (eg, help clean up the room after play, replenish the table supplies, sharpen pencils, spot clean as required, look after and water the gardens, trim the hedges and numerous other important jobs that won't get a specific mention this time around and who continue to assist and support our club, it is appreciated.

COVID may be with us for some time and we need to say safe still, but it doesn't mean we can't enjoy. We're privileged to live in the part of the world we do live in and Toowoomba is particularly special. I'd like to think that with the input and assistance from you, our members, that we will see this very successful club thrive well into the future. Happy new year to you all.

Thanks, Trev Henderson – President.

Membership Secretary's Report

Our Membership currently stands at 386, consisting of 310 Home Members, 70 Away Members and 6 Life Members. In the last few months, we have had an increase of 6 members. The Club extends a warm welcome to these new members:

Alison Eising, Peter Morton, Gus Govan, Pat Kelly, Amanda Edwards and Ngaire Wills

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members

Thanks
Joan.

Welfare Officer's Report

I have continued to mail Birthday Cards plus free game Vouchers to members throughout the Covid imposed lockdown and then limited play sessions. The Club would love to see more members at these sessions.

If you know of a member who is ill, hospitalised or suffering a bereavement, please let me know and I will respond suitably on behalf of the Club.

Thanks
Joan



VALE PEG ALCOCK

1/08/1925- 19/8/2020



Born in Berkshire, Peg learned to become very self-reliant being part of a family of 13 children whose father died when she was very young. When WW11 broke out Peg joined the Land Army -an army of 80,000 young women working on farms replacing the men called up for active duty.

At one of the local dances Peg met her future husband, a young RAF officer, Jack Alcock. At the age of 21, Peg became afflicted with Bells Palsy which paralysed half her face – the photo to right was taken prior to this. What a pretty young woman she was.

Peg came to Australia to join her daughters after the death of her husband in 1987 and joined the Bridge Club in 1992. In 2004, Peg joined the Bridge Committee as Secretary and I will never forget the first time she sent out minutes to the Committee. Henry did the unforgiveable – he corrected her minutes and he was never sent another copy ever again. Hmm. Apparently, they weren't for checking, they were for viewing.



Peg became my right- hand girl when we ran the Bridge Classes and she was absolutely wonderful. And this continued when I handed the day classes over to Trudy Dunne. Everyone liked Peg – and her participation was one of the reasons the classes were so successful.

All her life, Peg was involved with community organisations. In Toowoomba for many years she did voluntary work with the East Creek Neighbourhood Centre and then with Headway, helping people with acquired brain injuries. She was a very talented artist and a sample of her work is on the back page of this Newsletter.

VALE BRIAN WIPPELL

15/11/1938 - 21/8/2020



Born in St George, Brian completed his education in Toowoomba, trained as a pharmacist and after securing a position in Warwick, met the girl who would be his life companion and bride for the next 55 years.

Barbara and Brian were then encouraged to open a pharmacy in St George where they stayed for 33 years until they relocated to Toowoomba 1999. During their St George years, apart from bringing up their three children - David, James and Melissa, both Barbara and Brian were very involved with their community, Brian, being involved with both Apex and the St George Lions Club, the Bowls Club as well as becoming President of the Jockey Club.

Arriving in in Toowoomba where they bought a share in two pharmacies, life began to become hectic again. Joining the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 2004 where they both played in the evening - Brian with Mick Doherty or Denzil Reader and occasionally playing with his wife under sufferance. Later playing at both bridge clubs, with John Hede as well as Mick Doherty. And of course, the Toowoomba Bowls Club and later the Middle Ridge Probus Club when it didn't interfere with his bowls.

Brian finally retired in his early seventies and now had the time to start spoiling his five grandchildren. Brian had always been a softie even with his own kids and as Barbara says– it was useless her threatening punishment from him because they knew they wouldn't get it.

A gentleman, a scholar, an upstanding community member, a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, we will miss him.

Glenys Clift

New Rankings



You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else. Albert Einstein

Glenys Clift	Gold Life
Gabrielle Erlich	Silver Life
Will Higgins	Silver Life
John Churchett	Bronze Life
Mearon Geldard	Bronze Life
Anne Kirkpatrick	Life
Sue Crooke	*National
Keith Jenkin	National
Rod Brilliant	National
David Edwards	*State
Pamela Steele	*State
Lesley Meyer	*State
Dennis Lincoln	*State
Joan Mladen	State
Jenny Speziali	State
Robert Fulcher	State
Annette Griffiths	State
Mary Gilchrist	State
John Clift	*Regional
Coral Apel	*Regional
Ken Orange	Regional
Dave Mulherin	Regional
Judy Edwards	Regional
Marlie Walker	Regional
Brenda Parry	Regional
Neville Lutton	**Local
Anne Hall	**Local
Jan Flynn	*Local
Valarie Inwood	*Local
Carol Dashwood	*Local
Kathleen Mulherin	*Local
Helen Kemp	*Local
Susie Fraser	*Local
Ann Robertson	*Local
Sandy Fraser	*Local
Tim Porter	Local
Ritamay Roberts	Local

Murray Pietsch	Club
Paul Davey	Club
Michael Rose-Miller	Club
Martin Carey	Club
Jeanette Morgan	Club
Alby Wellsted	Club
Sandy McNally	Club
Peter Taylor	Club
Simon Wicks	Club
Val Shield	Club
Terry Sheedy	Club
Mike Smith	Club
Neil Crees	Graduate
Terry Sheedy	Graduate
Roger Green	Graduate
Val Shield	Graduate
Mike Smith	Graduate
Trevor Corthorne	Graduate
Andrew Mollison	Graduate
Bruce Coward	Graduate
Michael Kaiser	Graduate
Hazel Weis	Graduate
Adrienne Montague	Graduate
Marie Steger	Graduate
Annette Mitchell	Graduate
Gretchen Graff	Graduate
Amanda Edwards	Graduate

Congratulations to Lee Hore, Eileen Josey and Chris Snook who have all recently passed the great milestone of 1000 Master Points.

Bridge Classes for Beginners

CLASSES START

Monday 1st February from 9am to 11:30am

Tuesday 2nd February from 7pm to 9:30pm

Each Lesson Costs \$5

Includes lesson notes

ENQUIRIES

See Denise for further details or phone 0432 838 022

DONT

(Disturb the Opponent's No Trump)

1. You need a mechanism to interfere over the opponents' 1NT opening. Hamilton and Landy are well known. Another popular method, created by Marty Bergen, is called DONT. It's an acronym for **Disturb the Opponents' No Trump**.

2. The purpose of DONT is to be able to compete over the opponents' opening 1NT with many hands, yet with some safety. The object of interfering is not necessarily to get to game, but to try to find a fit and, at the same time, make it difficult for the opponents to find their own fit. Two-suited hands are the most common ones that players compete with and at least 5-4 distribution is necessary.

3. What is the DONT structure? Double shows any one-suited (6+) hand. 2♣ shows clubs and a higher suit. 2♦ shows diamonds and a major. 2♥ shows hearts and spades. 2♠ shows spades. Since you can get to 2♠ by bidding it directly or by doubling first, most pairs play doubling first is stronger than bidding 2♠ directly.

Responding after partner bids

4. If partner doubles, you should bid 2♣ with most hands to let partner pass or name his suit. Bids other than 2♣ show a long suit and suggest a playable contract. Over 2♣ or 2♦, you can pass with three-card support. If you don't have support, bid the next higher suit to ask partner to pass (if that's the other suit) or to show the second suit by bidding it.

5. Over 2♥ (majors) you can pass or correct to 2♠ if you prefer that suit. A raise of partner's suit is only mildly invitational and usually passed. With a good hand, you can bid 2NT asking the DONT bidder to describe his shape and range. You should discuss this with partner. If the opponents bid over your partner's conventional DONT call, double or redouble asks partner to name his unknown suit.

Hamilton or DONT

6. Which is better, Hamilton or DONT? There are advantages to both. For example, DONT allows you to play 2♣ with either a one-suited or a two-suited hand. On the other hand, when you play DONT, you give up the double showing values since it is used for the one-suited overcall.

7. Some partnerships compromise by playing DONT only over strong 1NT bids and playing Hamilton over the weak 1NT (12-14 HCP).

Ian Jesser

Did you know these Bridge Probabilities?

- The number of different hands a player can receive 635,013,559,600
- The number of possible deals 53,644,737,765,488,792,839,237,440,000
- The number of possible auctions 128,745,650,347,030,683,120,231,926,111,609,371,363,122,697,557

DENISE'S DOUBLES

Strong Doubles

18+ points as Overcaller

With 18+ points (HCP and length points), either balanced or not, you are **too strong** to make a normal bid. It's best to **Double first**, even if you have the wrong shape for a Double, and **then overcall**.

If you Double, you will always get a second bid, since either your opponent will bid, or your partner must respond to the Double.

Double then overcall a suit shows 18+ and five+ cards.

Double then No-trumps shows a balanced hand of 19+ points.

Support Doubles

Support Doubles are an excellent way for finding fits in low-level competitive auctions. A support Double shows exactly three card support for responder's Major.

When do Support Doubles apply?

After the Opener starts with one of a minor suit, Responder makes a new suit reply in a major and the next player interferes. The goal is to help you distinguish 3- and 4-card trump support.

What do Support Doubles show?

The Double shows any hand that has exactly 3-card support for Responder. Supporting partner's suit immediately promises 4-card support.

Any other bid by Opener denies 3- or 4-card support. Making a Support Double is Opener's priority – more important than rebidding no-trumps or rebidding a 6-card minor.

If the opponents' interference is in the form of a Double, a Redouble by Opener shows 3-card support. This is called a Support Redouble.

OPENER	OPPONENT	RESPONDER	OPPONENT
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
Double			

The Double on above example shows Opener has exactly 3 hearts. It says nothing about strength – Opener could be minimum opening or could have 20 points. If Opener had four hearts, he'd raise to either 2♥ with minimum, to 3♥ to invite, or to 4♥ with enough for game. If opener had less than three hearts, he'd either pass or make some other call, all of which would deny three hearts.

When not to use Support Doubles

After a 1NT intervention. Doubles of No-Trumps are for penalties.

Teaching Report

Basic beginner Lessons: After approximately ten years of teaching beginners how to play bridge, Trudy Dunne has elected not to continue as a Teacher. There is a lot of time and preparation that goes into teaching bridge. The Club and players who have been taught by Trudy are all so appreciative and thankful to her for giving up her valuable time to help them.

Beginner classes at the start of next year will be held on Monday mornings and Tuesday evenings – Monday 1 February 9-11.30am and Tuesday 7-9.30pm.

Most club members come from family and friends, so please encourage anyone you know to come along and try it. Contact me for any further details.

Most of the beginners who had started lessons on the Thursday nights with me before Covid closed the Club, have commenced back with me again. I have been conducting some revision lessons since start of October and have four who are already members that are repeating lessons and six basic beginners. They will all move on to the Improver lessons sometime in January next year.

Wednesday and Friday Mornings: Both sessions started back at the Club in August. It follows a similar format as before with both Ian Jesser and Chris Snook giving a brief but informative lesson before the start of play. Whilst these sessions are getting about seven tables of players, I encourage members to support the Club and grow these numbers to a similar state before Covid.

Denise Hartwig
Teaching Coordinator

Winners are Grinners

The “Monthly Winners” are recognised as the “individual” winner of eclectic multi-session events. These events combine of all the green masterpoint sessions in a month that have not already counted toward a competition. If there are three available sessions then your best two scores are counted, if there are four available sessions then your best three scores are counted and if there are five available sessions then your best four scores are counted.

These are a bit jumbled this year with our community response to the Covid-19, especially for the BBO sessions.

January Monthly Winners

Monday Open	Rod Brilliant
Monday Restricted	Nuala O’Sullivan & Grant Humble
Tuesday Day	Will Higgins
Tuesday Night	Will Higgins & Henry Eastment
Wednesday Open	Glenys Clift
Wednesday Restricted	Nuala O’Sullivan & Grant Humble
Thursday Night	Carol Edwards & David Edwards
Friday am	Robert Fulcher & Joan Mladen
Friday pm	Eileen Josey & Rod Brilliant

February Monthly Winners

Monday Open	Rod Brilliant
Monday Restricted	Bob Dodman
Tuesday Day	Will Higgins & Adrian Mayers
Tuesday Night	Will Higgins
Wednesday Open	John Churchett
Wednesday Restricted	Dave Mulherin and Kathleen Mulherin
Thursday Night	Pamela Steele & Dennis Lincoln
Friday am	Robert Fulcher & Joan Mladen
Friday pm	Henry Eastment & Adrian Mayers

March Monthly Winners

Monday Open	Jane Tait
Monday Restricted	Bob Dodman & Michael Walsh
Tuesday Night	Will Higgins
Wednesday Open	Carol Wilson
Wednesday Restricted	Kaye Fisher & Jane Tait
Thursday Night	Lavinia Minchin & Marilyn Oakroot
Friday am	Paul Matthews & David Roberts
Friday pm	Henry Eastment

May Monthly Winners

Monday BBO	David Roberts & Margaret Wyche
Tuesday BBO	Adrian Mayers & Will Higgins
Friday BBO	Pat Larsen & Ian Jesser

June Monthly Winners

Monday BBO	Will Higgins
Tuesday BBO	Ian Jesser
Friday BBO	Jim Wood & Mearon Geldard

July Monthly Winners

Monday BBO	Pamela Steele & Dennis Lincoln
Tuesday BBO	John Churchett & Carmel Caton
Friday BBO	Carmel Caton

August Monthly Winners

Monday BBO	Eileen Josey & John Churchett
Tuesday BBO	John Brilliant & Eileen Josey
Wednesday	Joan Mladen
Thursday Night	Greg Munck
Friday AM	Joan Mladen
Friday BBO	Jim Wood

September Monthly Winners

Monday BBO	Henry Eastment & Will Higgins
Monday pm	Anne Hall
Tuesday am	Gail Blencoe & Anne Kirkpatrick
Wednesday	Ian Jesser & Henry Eastment
Thursday BBO	Jim Wood & Robert Fulton
Thursday Night	Dennis Lincoln
Friday am	Delma Clark & Oliver Dashwood
Friday BBO	Henry Eastment & Adrian Mayers

October Monthly Winners

Monday pm	Jane Tait
Tuesday am	Adrian Mayers & Will Higgins
Wednesday	Jeff Aitchison
Thursday Night	Rozalyn Wright & Coral Apel
Friday am	Pamela Steele & Dennis Lincoln

[We don't have access to all the BBO sessions]

November Monthly Winners

Monday BBO	Will Higgins & Henry Eastment
Monday pm	Esme Burnie & Jack Burnie
Tuesday am	Denise Hartwig & Chris Snook
Wednesday	Trevor Henderson & Glenys Clift
Thursday BBO	Jim Wood & Robert Fulton
Thursday Night	Robert Fulcher & Mohan Trada
Friday am	Pamela Steele & Dennis Lincoln

In the QBA or ABF weekend online pairs:

ABF Open Online Pairs – 14 June

3rd of 80 NS Chris Snook & Denise Hartwig

ABF Restricted Online Pairs – 28 August

4th of 16 NS Joan Mladen & Robert Fulcher

ABF Open Online Pairs – 4 September

5th of 27 NS Chris Snook & Mohan Trada

ABF Open Online Pairs – 6 November

3rd of 17 NS Chris Snook & Mohan Trada

Old Wide BBO Pairs – 15 August

4th of 33 NS Jim Wood & Ian Jesser

Old Wide BBO Pairs – 22 August

4th of 34 EW Liz Zeller & Alison Dawson

Old Wide BBO Pairs – 29 August

4th of 28 NS Jim Wood & Ian Jesser

3rd of 28 EW Liz Zeller & Alison Dawson

Old Wide BBO Pairs – 12 September

1st of 26 EW Jim Wood & Ian Jesser

Old Wide BBO Pairs – 26 September

1st of 21 NS Jim Wood & Ian Jesser

Old Wide BBO Pairs – 10 October

4th of 22 EW Chris Snook & Denise Hartwig

Old Wide BBO Pairs – 31 October

4th of 18 NS Rhondda Dean & Ian Jesser

Old Wide BBO Pairs – 14 November

2nd of 19 NS

Liz Zeller & Alison Dawson

In club competitions:

Patrons Day “Clive Berghofer Pairs”

A 1 st	Ian Jesser & Henry Eastment
A 2 nd	Anne Kirkpatrick & Jim Wood
A 3 rd	John Erlandson & Will Higgins
B 1 st	Elizabeth Thorne & Tony Thorne
B 2 nd	Peter Bryce & John Ryan
B 3 rd	Pamela Steele & Dennis Lincoln
C 1 st	Murray Pietsch & Michael Rose-Miller
C 2 nd	Simon Wicks & Ian Costin
C 3 rd	Nuala O’Sullivan & Grant Humble

Ivy Dahler Cup

Mearon Geldard & Jim Wood

Col Martin Shield

Pamela Steele & Dennis Lincoln

Club Pairs Championship

Open	Jim Wood & Ian Jesser
Novice	Tony Thorne & Elizabeth Thorne

Presidents Cup

Open	Mearon Geldard & Jim Wood
<100	Aino Jaatinen & Kay Duncan
<35	Tim Porter & Roger Green

This year the Presidents Cup started in March but was cancelled when we closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. When we resumed play, we restarted the event run on three Fridays in November on BBO with 14 tables in each session.

Here is a list of all the former Presidents of the Toowoomba Bridge Club. How many do you know?

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
2017-19	Mr David Roberts
2020	Mr Trevor Henderson

On the Congress scene:

QCBC Novice Pairs

1st Joan Mladen & Robert Fulcher

Kenmore Swiss Teams – C Grade

3rd Pamela Steele, Dennis Lincoln, Joan Mladen & Robert Fulcher

Old Senior Teams

1st Rosemary Crowley, Richard Perry, Alison Dawson & Elizabeth Zeller

Toowoomba Novice Pairs

1st Dennis Lincoln & Pamela Steele
3rd Bronwyn Hamilton & Philip Atkinson
B 1st Sharyn Gierke & Jan Flynn
B 2nd Ian Costin & Simon Wicks
C 1st Nuala O’Sullivan & Grant Humble
C 2nd Murray Pietsch & Michael Rose-Miller

Dalby Swiss Pairs

1st Elizabeth Zeller & Carmel Caton

Dalby Swiss Teams

1st Henry Eastment, Ian Jesser, Eileen Josey & Rod Brilliant
2nd Desley Mundell, Rosemary Kelley, Elizabeth Zeller & Carmel Caton
B 1st Pamela Steele, Dennis Lincoln, Joan Mladen & Robert Fulcher

Toowoomba November Online Congress

3rd Ian Jesser & Jim Wood
B 1st Pamela Steele & Dennis Lincoln
C 1st Michael Walsh & Ken Orange

Well done everyone 😊

Cheers
Chris

Welcome Back Gloria



It has been a difficult year for many nursing home residents with limited social contact and outside activities and concerns about Covid19.

However, for Gloria Collins, a resident of Brodribb Home, the last Wednesday of November marked a return to some normality. Gloria, who celebrated her 99th birthday in July, returned to Bridge competition at the Toowoomba Bridge Club after a nine-month hiatus. Gloria said that she had missed the social aspect of playing Bridge and seeing old friends.

Gloria played with retired teacher Ralph Geddes, a relative youngster at 92. Although their return to competition wasn't very successful Gloria said that it was a waste of time discussing their play with Ralph- "he doesn't hear a word I say".

Jeff Aitchison

Masterpoint Secretary's Report

There are three types of masterpoints available:

- **Green** for regular club play (E or D)
- **Red** for major club championships (B4c) and for Congresses (B4)
- **Gold** for major National events such as the GNOT, Gold Coast Congress, Australian Festival of Bridge, etc (A1, A2 or A3).

I process all of the club masterpoints and our local congresses at the end of each month. Those from elsewhere, nationwide pairs and other events are done by other people, usually months later.

BBO

The ABF processes masterpoints for our single session BBO events and I process the outright awards (multi-session). A new rule from the ABF is that *robot-robot* and *robot-human* partnerships will not be awarded masterpoints. They are removed from the masterpoint calculation and players ranked lower than this pair are promoted.

Missing some points?

If you feel that you are missing some masterpoints, check with me as the Club Masterpoint Secretary, 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. Please put the information in writing via email or letter so I can check exact details.

Master Rank

Masterpoints won by players over their lifetime are used to determine each player's **Master Ranking**. Players receive an official ABF certificate with each promotion within the masterpoint scheme. You can see a list of these rankings and the number of masterpoints required for each on the back of your ABF membership card.

All masterpoints contribute towards Graduate, Club, Local and Regional master ranks. For the higher ranks there is a requirement for a percentage of the points to be red or gold.

Master Rank	Minimum masterpoints required		
	Total	Red/Gold	Gold
Graduate Master	2		
Club Master	5		
Local Master	15		
Local * Master	25		
Local ** Master	35		
Regional Master	50		
Regional * Master	100		
State Master	50	25	
State * Master	100	50	
National Master	150	75	

National * Master	200	100	
National ** Master	300	150	
Life Master	300	180	30
Bronze Life Master	400	240	40
Silver Life Master	500	300	50
Gold Life Master	750	450	75
Grand Master	1000	700	200
Silver Grand	2500	1900	600
Gold Grand	5000	4000	1400
Emerald Grand	10000	8500	3000
Diamond Grand	15000	13000	5000

The following table lists the current highest masterpoint earners in each master rank at our club.

Player	Nov 2020	Rank
Adrian Mayers	23.04	Silver Grand
Elizabeth Zeller	71.69	Grand
Ian Jesser	67.04	Gold Life
Denise Hartwig	54.50	Silver Life
Gabrielle Elich	79.47	Bronze Life
John Churchett	48.44	Life
Anne Kirkpatrick	28.00	**National

Mavis Simpson	24.85	*National
Trevor Henderson	37.06	National
Carmel Caton	34.61	*State
Pamela Steele	65.43	State
Joan Mladen	47.94	*Regional
Robert Fulcher	58.46	Regional
Beverley McCasker	11.33	**Local
Michael Walsh	3.88	*Local
Helen Fitzgerald	5.14	Local
Susie Fraser	20.48	Club
Murray Pietsch	6.06	Graduate
Michael Rose-Miller	6.93	Nil

Grand Masters

At the moment we have one Silver Grand Master: Adrian Mayers; and two Grand Masters: Elizabeth Zeller and Jackie Henderson.

The One Thousand Club

The ABF have just created a new master rank (over 1000 points of any colour) and so we congratulate the following for achieving this rank:

1335.61	Henry Eastment
1178.00	Ian Jesser
1023.19	Eileen Josey
1010.11	Chris Snook
1008.06	Lee Hore

Cheers
Chris

In the Zone

The “Zone” is comprised of Toowoomba, Darling Downs, Dalby, Warwick, Lockyer, Roma, Goondiwindi and Stanthorpe. Darling Downs, Dalby, Stanthorpe and Lockyer have no bridge at the present time. We hope to see the rest back soon.

Not much news from the Zone for this year because of the Covid-19 situation.

QBA Pairs and Teams Championships

Usually there is a local event to select the top pairs and top teams to represent the Darling Downs Zone at the state championships, but not this year 😞.

For 2021, these two state finals will be held over three days, 9-11 October, in Brisbane. We will run our qualifying events in March and June (approximately, precise details will be confirmed early in the new year). These qualifying events are a good opportunity to earn red masterpoints and to play in a state championship.

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.

In recent years, we have been running three elimination rounds at club level, but this was all condensed into one event this year. We had seven teams this year, won comfortably by John Erlandson, Will Higgins, Mavis Simpson and Mearon Geldard.

The GNOT Area Final is set by the QBA as 22nd August 2021, so our own GNOT dates have to fit in before this.

Cheers
Chris

Tournament Subcommittee

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

- Committee to continue to provide Covid officer to manage entry testing.
- Director to seat players as quickly as possible to prevent mingling.
- Aim for movements with 24-27 boards.
- Start times for sessions of 9:00am, 1:00pm and 7:00pm to allow time for player changeover and room cleaning.
- Collecting money at each table.
- Current sessions were discussed:
 - BBO Monday morning
 - Monday afternoon (Henry)
 - Tuesday morning (Floyd)
 - Tuesday evening lessons (Denise)
 - Wednesday morning Supervised (Ian)
 - Wednesday afternoon (Glenys)
 - BBO Thursday morning
 - Thursday evening (Chris)
 - Friday morning (Chris)
 - BBO Friday afternoon
- BBO issues include players are still not self-alerting and not explaining calls, poor and incorrect use of undos, slow play, and overuse of robots
- Agreed to use non-playing Directors whenever possible.
- Try adding an evening BBO session.
- Complete as many named competitions as possible.

More on Comparable Calls

Directors and players both appear to be having problems in deciding if a call is “comparable” or not. This article is a continuation of one I wrote previously, and I have added an actual bridge hand to each explanation to make it easier to see what is going on.

Insufficient bids and calls out of rotation

If you make a call that you are not allowed to make (eg an insufficient bid, or you make a call when it is not your turn), then you have accidentally given extra information to your partner that they were not entitled to.

In all these cases, you should call the Director as soon as the illegal call is noticed. At first, the Director will allow the player on your left to accept that call, and if they do then the auction proceeds with no further rectification.

If not, then ...

If your **call was out of rotation**, then the Director will get the correct person to call and the auction continues. When it gets to your turn you may make any legal call that you wish. If your replacement call is *comparable* to the withdrawn call then the auction proceeds with no other restrictions, if your replacement call is not *comparable* then your partner will have to pass on their next turn.

If your **call was insufficient**, then the Director will get you to substitute a legal call. If your replacement call is *comparable* to the withdrawn call then the auction proceeds with no other restrictions, if your replacement call is not *comparable* then your partner will have to pass for the remainder of the auction.

Law 23 – Comparable Call.

A call that replaces a withdraw call is a comparable call, if it:

1. *Has the **same or similar meaning** as that attributable to the withdrawn call, or*
2. *Defines a **subset** of the possible meanings attributable to the withdrawn call, or*
3. *Has the **same purpose** (eg an asking bid or a relay) as that attributable to the withdrawn call.*

Example 1 – Call out of rotation – same or similar meaning:

♠ K2, ♥ AQT432, ♦ 864, ♣ 92

As South, I open 2H which in my system shows 6-9 HCP and 6 Hearts, but it is not my turn. My call is not accepted so it is withdrawn. The correct opener, East, opens 1D.

In my system a jump overcall of 2H shows 6-9 HCP and 6 Hearts. It meets criterion 1 and the Director deems that my replacement 2H is comparable to my withdrawn 2H. After my replacement 2H there is no restriction on my partner.

If instead I had decided to pass or bid something else, then my partner would have to pass on their next turn to call.

Example 2 – Call out of rotation – subset of the original call:

♠ JT86, ♥ Q32, ♦ K632, ♣ 94

As South, I pass but it is not my turn, it is my partners. West does not accept my pass out of rotation. The first call now goes to the correct dealer which is my partner (North) who opens 1H showing 5+ Hearts and 12-

19 HCP (there is no restriction on my partner at this stage). East passes. The information attributable to my withdrawn call (the illegal pass) was about 0-10 HCP and a hand not suitable for a weak 2 opening.

If I now bid 2H in response to partner, it will show 5-9 HCP (this is a subset of the hands indicated by the withdrawn 0-10). 5-9 fits inside all possible hands with 0-10. My replacement call of 2H satisfies criterion 2 and the Director deems it a comparable call. I make my 2H and there is no restriction on partner. As you can see, there is more chance to have a normal auction.

If instead I had decided to call 3H, then I may do so, but 3H is not a subset of my withdrawn pass so will not be comparable – thus my partner will have to pass on their next turn. If I bid something else such as 1S it will not be comparable because that is unlimited (it could have more points than my withdrawn pass showed).

Example 3 – Call out of rotation – same or similar meaning:

♠ J2, ♥ AQT43, ♦ QJ4, ♣ K2

As South, I open 1H showing 5+ Hearts and 12-19 HCP, but it is not my turn, it is East's! West does not accept my call, so my 1H is withdrawn, and now East opens 1S. Now that it is my turn, I know that I may call anything but if it is not a comparable call then I know my partner will have to pass on their next turn. The Director invites me away from the table so that they can give me their decision on whether a call will be comparable or not. I must not start reciting possible calls at the table because that would be giving too much unauthorised information to partner. The Director must not suggest calls to me. Away from the table I can tell the Director what I intend to do, and they will tell me whether they will deem it comparable or not. I can make more than one suggestion and in rare cases I may have more than one comparable call available to me.

Anyway, I arrive back at the table and overcall 2H, which the Director deems as a call that is comparable to my withdrawn attempt to open 1H. My two-level overcall shows 5+ good Hearts and 10-17 HCP. 10-17 is not exactly the same as 12-19 but the playing strength is *similar* and the Director will try to get the auction to continue as normal.

If my mistake gives me a result that I would not have reached in a purely legal auction then the Director may adjust the result to “restore equity”.

Example 4 – Call out of rotation - not the same or similar meaning:

♠ AK942, ♥ QT4, ♦ A864, ♣ 9

This is a similar situation to Example 3, but the outcome is different. As South, I open 1S showing 5+ Spades and 12-19 HCP. It was not my turn, my call out of rotation is not accepted by West and so is withdrawn. East opens 1H.

Now I am in a dilemma – if I overcall 1S then this shows 5+ good Spades but could be with 8-17 HCP. The difference in points is now large compared to my withdrawn call of 12-19 and my attempted 1S overcall show a wider range of points than the withdrawn call. My 1S overcall is not comparable to my 1S opening.

If I overcall 2S then it is not a similar meaning. If I try Michaels Cue bid (calling the opponents suit of 2H) then this shows extra information about a second suit that was not a part of my withdrawn call, so 2H will not be comparable.

I may still call whatever I wish but my partner will have to pass on their next turn. In this situation, some players guess what the final contract might be and just go for broke.

Example 5 – Insufficient call – same purpose:

We're having a jolly good auction and partner has bid 4H and I think the baby slam is possible provided we don't lose more than one quick trick, so I ask for Aces by bidding 4C (after Gerber we use CRO responses, not that it is relevant here). My 4C bid is insufficient and is not accepted by West, so must be withdrawn and I must pass or make a legal bid.

The *purpose* attributable to my 4C bid was to *ask for Aces*. If in my system 4NT is Blackwood and also *asks for Aces* then 4NT is a comparable call (criterion 3) and I may make it and there is no further restriction on partner. (Note: if 4NT is Roman Keycard Blackwood then it is not a comparable call to 4C, and if I am silly enough to call it anyway, then partner must **pass for the rest of the auction**).

If you are in a similar situation to this and you cannot find a comparable call, then just guess the final contract – you might be lucky.

Example 6 – Call out of rotation – subset of the original call:

♠ K2, ♥ AQT432, ♦ 864, ♣ 92

Suppose I play the multi-two diamond system, where a 2D opening call shows either 6-9 and 6H; or 6-9 and 6S; or 17+ and a 4441 shape; or 22-23 balanced. It is East's turn but I get excited and open 2D. West does not accept my call so it is withdrawn and the correct call goes to East, who opens 1D. Whilst my attempt at opening 2D had a number of possibilities, I am lucky in this case and I could overcall 2H showing 6-9 HCP and 6+ Hearts. My mistaken opening of 2D has not given away any more *useful* information than my legal 2H call – so it is a comparable call (by criterion 3) and has not had an adverse effect on the auction.

Note the distinction:

- If I do not replace a withdrawn call out of rotation with a comparable call, then my partner must pass on their next turn.
- If I do not replace an insufficient call with either a call showing the same denomination at the cheapest level or by a comparable call then my partner must pass for the rest of the auction.

In all cases, if you are allowed to make a comparable call, and end up in a contract and score that you would not have reached with a legal auction – then the Director will award an adjusted score to take away the advantage.

It is not to your advantage and not fair to the opponents to give up because it is too hard and just pass. Spend the time and try to make a comparable call so that you have a normal auction at your table.

Happy Bridging
Chris



Playing with Robots

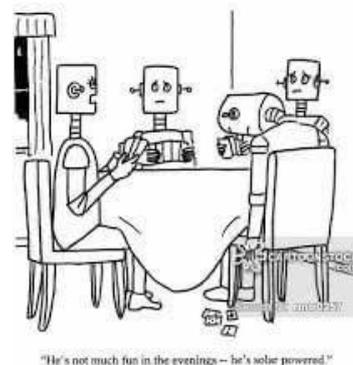
If you play on BBO you will undoubtedly have had experience of playing with or against a robot. It can be frustrating when playing against, however it can equally be challenging if you have elected to play with a robot. Not least is the speed that robots play the cards. Many complain “but I don’t have time to think” and some players feel psychologically pressured by this speed. However, we do expect that a robot will deliver a positive outcome. Recently a regular partner of mine played for the first time with a robot. Dennis and I played as opposition and we gained 2 top boards, leading to the expression that we were playing against a “beginner robot”!

I came across an article recently where Gunnar Hallberg, a world class professional, played in his free time, a hand involving 3 robots on the site, FunBridge. Gunnar had apparently said that the robots’ “bidding is really bad -they rely too much on points and not on shape, although their play and defence is pure”. Gunnar produced the hand below:

♠ A
♥ K Q 10 7 4
♦ K 10 4 3
♣ K 7 4

♠ 6 5 4 3
♥ 9 6
♦ 7 6
♣ Q J 9 6 5

♠ K Q 9 8 7
♥ J 8 3 2
♦ Q J 5
♣ 10



♠ J 10 2
♥ J 8 3 2
♦ A 9 8 2
♣ A 8 3 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	1♠	1♣
Pass	Dble	Pass	1NT
2♠	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♠5 to dummy’s ♠A and West played the ♠7. Perhaps hearts would yield a ninth trick? Perhaps he should cash a top diamond to see if an honour fell. No, Gunnar made the crucial play of cashing the ♣AK to find out more about the distribution. When East discarded the ♠8, a picture emerged. Why a spade? Robots don’t make mistakes: the reason was it couldn’t afford a heart or diamond. So East must have ♥Jxxx and the ♦QJ. Why had West only supported spades so belatedly? Because even holding four, those silly robots don’t raise first time with fewer than 4 points. (Remember Gunnar now knew that West held QJ diamonds). Besides East would have made a weak jump with 6 spades. So East was 4 small spades. Gunnar had his plan. He cashed three top hearts and played a fourth round. East won, cashed three top spades (the suit was blocked so he couldn’t play one to West) – and that was it. Back from whence you came, ROBOTS!

Pam Steele

UNDO BUTTONS

The UNDO Button seems to be the device that BBO players find the most difficult to come to grips with. If you are not a BBO player this button allows you to correct a bid or play provided your opponents agree. This is of course something not available to you in table play. The UNDO system recognises that in the technological world when we are dealing with computers, “misclicks” sometimes happen and it is intended only for clear cases of mechanical error – eg [apologies to Zara] when you accidentally hit “7NT” when you had intended to “Pass”. As soon as you realise you have made a mistake ie misclick, you can hit the UNDO which has the effect of asking your opponents if they will accept. They can accept or reject. It must be requested however before the opponents have bid. Mostly, “UNDOS” are requested in the bidding phase but they do occasionally occur in the play and even more occasionally, allowing an UNDO is the only way you can make your contract as the following hand demonstrates. This hand occurred in a recent on-line international play.

Dealer South

E/W vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♣5 to the Queen and Ace. Declarer has no problems if diamonds break but if they don't, he may not have an entry to hand. If he could make the defence win the Diamond Jack on the first round of that suit then he would have eight on top and no real problem establishing a 9th somewhere else.

At trick two South made the play of a small diamond to the nine in dummy. This was clearly not expected by East who followed small, but 2 seconds later he hit the UNDO button. East was quickly allowed to change his card and he hurriedly collected the trick with the Jack. By changing his mind and requesting an UNDO, East had let South make his contract.

Pam Steele

The real test of a Bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in."– Alfred Sheinwold

When I take a 50-50 chance, I expect it to come off 8 or 9 times out of 10. – Hideous Hog

"I can always tell a good man by the way he plays Bridge: hard and long."– Mae West

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Trevor Henderson
VICE PRESIDENT	David Roberts
SECRETARY	Pam Steele
TREASURER	Greg Munck
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Paul Barrett Henry Eastment Bev McCasker Joan Mladen Adrienne Montague Tim Porter Elizabeth Thorne

MANAGEMENT

CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	Chris Snook
SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR	Henry Eastment
WELFARE OFFICER	Joan Mladen
WH&S	Paul Barrett
RECORDER	Ian Jesser
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Bruce Hinchliffe
INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY & WEBMASTER	Chris Snook
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	Tim Porter
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	John Ryan
BOARD DEALING COORDINATOR	David Lynch
BIRTHDAY CLUB	Joan Mladen
PARTNERSHIP ORGANISER	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), Glenys Clift, Henry Eastment, Denise Hartwig, Ian Jesser, Floyd Wilson, Liz Zeller, Will Higgins, John Churchett and the President (ex-officio).

FUNCTION AND CATERING SUB-COMMITTEE

Adrienne Montague (Interim Chair), Bev McCasker, Dave Roberts and the President (ex officio).

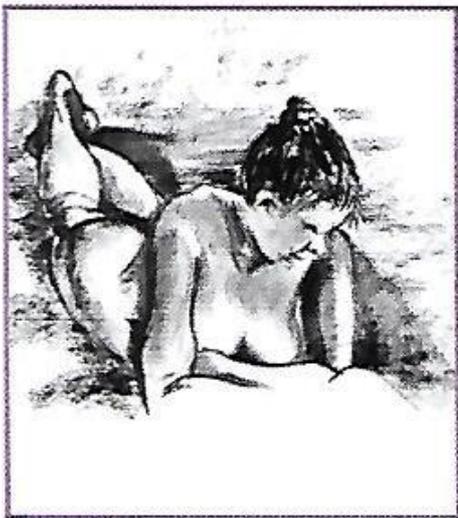
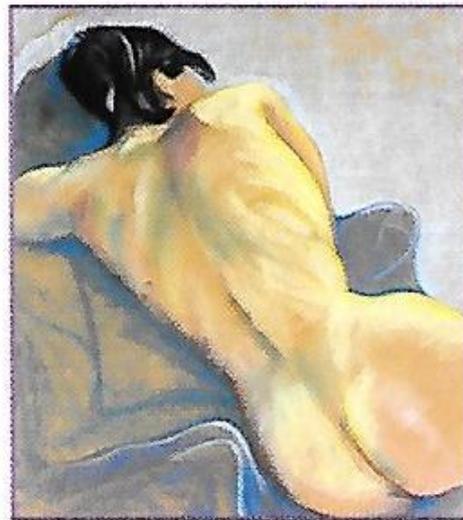
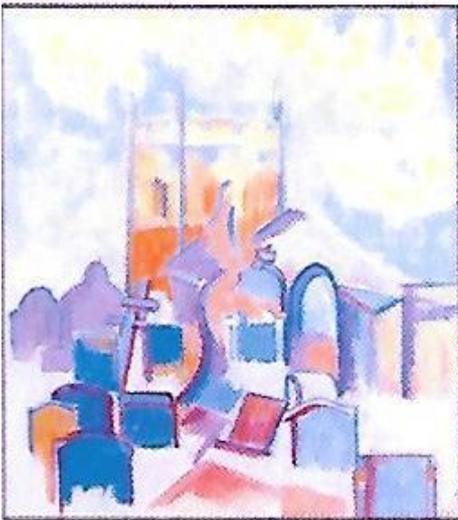
TEACHING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Denise Hartwig, Ian Jesser, Chris Snook, Liz Zeller and the President (ex officio).

CONGRESS CONVENOR	David Roberts
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Chris Snook
PURCHASING OFFICER	Paul Barrett
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Joan Mladen
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook Greg Munck Denise Hartwig
ZONAL DELEGATES	Chris Snook Denise Hartwig
PRESS OFFICER	Kim Nicoll
CLUB TEACHERS	Denise Hartwig Chris Snook
LIBRARIAN	Barbara Davies
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	John Churchett
KITCHEN MANAGER	Adrienne Montague

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.



- **A SAMPLE OF PEG ALCOCK'S PAINTINGS**
- **(Peg was a graduate of York University with a Diploma in Art)**