



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

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March 2025

Ed: Glenys Clift

Management Committee 2024-2025

President	Greg Munck
Vice President	Ngaire Wills
Secretary	Trevor Henderson
Treasurer	Marie Steger
Committee	Ken Orange
	Suzanne Brazier
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	Henry Eastment
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Grounds Maint.	Margaret Tucker
Purchasing Officer	Ken Orange
Teaching Co-ord	David Roberts
MP Secretary	Chris Snook
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Recorder	Ian Jesser
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Director	Chris Snook
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Building Maint.	Terry Sheedy
Office Manager	Stephan Nugent
Congress Convenor	Ngaire Wills



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello fellow members. We are well and truly into the 2025 Bridge Year and table numbers during the week are continuing on at around the same level of last year. This is assuring as it means the 2026 year should have the same number of "red point" days as this year. A number of events have already been concluded and have been successes thanks mainly to our dedicated organisers – event organisers/promoters, directors, catering and kitchen groups, and all other helpers. Great work from these people. Coming up on Saturday 1st March is Patron's Day and our editor has already informed you all about the day in the newsletter – it would be great to see a "full house" attendance to thank Clive Berghofer, our long-standing Patron.

Dave Roberts has a new group of beginners with around 35 students on Wednesday morning and Thursday nights. Great work Dave and thanks to the teachers and helpers taking these people forward into the bridge playing fraternity in Toowoomba.

As everyone keeps telling me I have just returned from an overseas trip and I was fortunate that our wonderful Vice President Ngaire stood in for me on a number of occasions – many thanks Ngaire!

Happy bridging, Greg

BRIDGE CLUB TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP





Treasurer's Report for January 2025

As at 31 January 2025 the Club is in a sound financial position with the following funds held:-

- Heritage Bank General Account - **\$13,583.33**
- Online Saver Account - **\$13,033.18**
- Term Deposit (6 months) 4.65% matures 27 May 2025 - **\$70,000**
- MyABF - **\$10,539**

January Table Fees collected were \$7,919.

Significant expenditure in January included payment of \$6,872.50 honoraria for the six-month period ended 30 November 2024 in appreciation of the time generously given by our Directors, Teachers and Dealers; and \$957.00 annual rent paid to Toowoomba Regional Council.

With our Patron's Day coming up on 1st March, Clive Berghofer Developments will be supporting the event again this year with a \$1,000 donation towards total prize money of \$1,600. We look forward to welcoming Clive Berghofer for the presentations on the day.

At this time, I do not envisage the Club will be required to register for GST this reporting year.

Don't just count your cards, make your cards count! Marie

From your Ed.



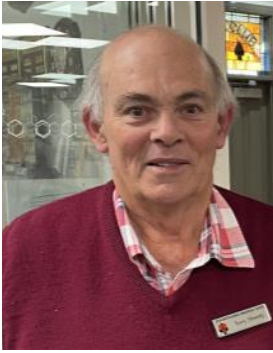
Normally the newsletter goes out the first week of the month. However, because Patron's Day is scheduled for Saturday the 1st March, 2025, it is being sent out a little earlier. With so much happening in February, it has crept up on us and there has been very little time for promotion.

This means of course, that there are no reports from our Master Point Secretary – Chris Snook, because he doesn't get the updates on masterpoints until the end of the month. However, there is a very interesting article from Chris starting on page 12 explaining why we use Web Mitchells occasionally.

This year on Patrons Day, to limit the amount of work by our Function & Catering Committee, it is a BYO lunch, with nibbles and drinks at the end of play. However, if you would like to bring something for the table or help in any way, contact Deb Archer 0418209701 who is giving up her day to run the kitchen.

Glenys

BUILDING MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT



Terry Sheedy

Late last year, I was asked by our President, Greg, if I would be prepared to help the club by taking over the Building Maintenance programme that Tim Porter has managed for the last 3 or 4 years. Sort of a direct request that was a bit difficult to refuse. So here I am.

First, I need to acknowledge the excellent state of all the facilities that we have in our clubhouse, which is a direct result of the splendid work that Tim, and several other members in past times have put into maintaining our clubhouse. That has made my job so much easier. Tim also passed onto me a comprehensive list of tradies who the club has been using for a whole range of work in our clubhouse. It certainly helps to have reliable trades people who know their way around the clubhouse and are familiar to the club.

Perhaps I should start by defining some of the responsibilities that go with the role of building management. Obviously, there are all the usual things such as plumbing and electrical installations, as well as furnishings, appliances, white goods etc. that need to be in good working order. Or paint, inside and out, guttering not blocked with leaves, dead cats (heaven forbid) or the like, water heating, air conditioning, floor coverings and so on. There are also a number of statutory requirements for public use buildings that also must be complied with.

One role that is associated with the clubhouse maintenance that Tim has undertaken to continue with for some time yet is the solar panels and battery storage system that he worked so hard to have installed. It certainly is Tim's baby, and as can be seen in his recent reports, is saving our club quite some substantial dollars. Now for an update on some recent activity that has been undertaken. Perhaps the mistake that I made that brought me to the attention of the management committee for this role was retrieving a solid gold earring for one of our ladies who had it disappear through the floor grate in the ladies' powder room during the King's Birthday teams competition. I offered to see if it could be retrieved and turned up on working bee Tuesday with the wet/dry vacuum cleaner from my shed at home.

In December, while I was laid up with Covid, a water leak developed in the plumbing of one of the hot water wall urns. Marie and Ken organised to have a plumber from my tradie list fix that quickly.

In January, Chris had one of the office chairs in the dealing room attempt to buck him off when one of the castors collapsed. After receiving approval from the management committee, I purchased and assembled a new replacement chair. Also in January, I organised for an electrician to inspect the emergency lights in the clubhouse.

Should we be playing bridge at night, and have a power failure, we need to be able to see long enough to continue to play or vacate the building. It is a statutory requirement that these lights be inspected by a person qualified to do so. They are activated, and must remain on for at least 40 minutes, and must be so inspected every 6 months. While he was there, he replaced a fluorescent light tube and starter in the dealing room.

In addition, the main switchboard in the dealing room has a number of Residual Current Devices (RCD's) that must be inspected every 6 months to ensure that they are functioning correctly. I am permitted to do that, but every 2 years, they must be inspected by a qualified electrician.

What you might ask are RCD's? They are devices, one step up the scale from the earth leakage circuit breakers most, if not all of us, have in our house electrical meter boxes, to save us from electrocution when something that shouldn't happen does.

In February, our fire extinguishers and fire blanket were inspected by a qualified technician to ensure that they are still in good working order. They are retagged as proof the inspection has been undertaken. Another 6 monthly statutory requirement. Also in February, the air conditioning system is checked, and all of the filters were cleaned. This task is carried out on a 3 monthly basis, to ensure the system is functioning correctly, and clean filters make for a healthy environment.

As for general unexpected repairs, or appliances misbehaving or not working, any member can contact me by phone during the day, or in person on my bridge days, to draw my attention to the matter, and I will organise to contact the relevant trades person or do whatever else is required to fix the problem.

Terry Sheedy Phone: 0477 674 205

**PATRONS DAY
SATURDAY 1st MARCH 2025**



For those members who are relatively new to the Toowoomba Bridge Club, the following is a synopsis of what Clive Berghofer has contributed towards our club and why we are so fortunate in having him as our Patron.

There is a detailed explanation of Clive Berghofer's contribution to our building fund in the Bridge Club History, but briefly, after he had already agreed to fund the air-conditioning (\$70,000), just prior to the commencement of construction a quantity surveyor gave us a new update on costs and at that point, we found we were \$55,000 short. When we approached Clive and explained our problem, he bought all his construction workers back from leave and had them do all the site works given that the site for the club was on a sloping hill, in preparation for the builder. Problem solved. When the club started fund-raising in 2004, we had \$110,000 – the final cost including building, gardens & car parking was well in excess of \$700,000

Since then, each year he has contributed \$1000 towards the prize money for Patron's Day with the club contributing another \$500. Clive will be turning 90 this year and hopefully he will be coming at the end of the day to present the prizes.



Cash prizes in each grade 1st \$250, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100

Additional \$100 prize in C-grade for highest placed Rookie (<10) pair.

Director: Glenys Clift
Convenor/Scorer: Chris Snook **Tel:** 0413 136 435
Date: Saturday 1st March 2025

Play Starts: 9:30am – please be seated by 9:15.

- A two-session pairs event (9:30am-12:45pm and 1:15pm-4:30pm).
- **Prior entry** is required to allow for seeding and to plan the movement.
- **Entry Fee:** \$12 per player (eg \$6 normal table fees per session) payable by MyABF Credits when you enter.
- Format to be decided by the Director based on the number of entries.
 - A Grade – Open to all players
 - B Grade – Both players must have fewer than 150 masterpoints
 - C Grade – Both players must have fewer than 50 masterpoints
 - Small fields may be combined, but prize money will be awarded in each grade.
 - Pairs may ask to play in a higher grade, but not a lower one.
 - Winners of Open section awarded the **Clive Berghofer Pairs** title.
- Glenys will assist if you need help finding a partner:
07-46328932 or jgclift@bigpond.com

Please enter via the “events” section of the club website (which will lead you to the MyABF system where you will enter and pay in advance). If you need assistance with MyABF please speak with Trevor Henderson, David Roberts or Chris Snook.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE REPORT



February has given us some cooler temperatures to work in – a pleasant change. The gardens are looking good, with weeding and pruning being the main tasks that Melanie and I have been attending to. Tony has been dealing with most of the mowing and hedging, with John Ryan lending a hand.

There is a problem with the mower, and Tony has taken it to Toowoomba Mower Centre for a quote for repairs. He has been finding it very frustrating and thinks that there is more than one problem. I would explain it to you if I understood enough to do so! In the meantime, Tony is using our mower, and there is no rush to get that back to us. I flag this issue with you as the best solution may be to buy a new mower.

While on the subject of machinery, I also flag the issue of a hedge trimmer. While we do have a hedge trimmer, it is very rough for both operators and plants. It is suitable for shrubs and I use that one myself for shrubs in the gardens. The hedge trimming really needs a better piece of equipment to make the job less arduous for our volunteers. Tony has been using his own Stihl trimmer and one of those would be a suitable replacement. We already have a compatible Stihl charger. The front Photinia hedge and the Western Star Jasmine hedge will be trimmed by Graham's in the next few weeks.

Bob Dodman has undertaken to continue the treatment of the Eastern avocado for root rot, a fungal disease. It is already showing signs of improvement. I have given him the chemical that we had on hand for this treatment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank club members who have donated TRC plant vouchers and will use them as required.
Margaret Tucker.

HOUSEKEEPING REPORT

Firstly, a big thank you to Libby Thorne, who has continued to come to the club after hours on a fortnightly basis to ensure bathroom supplies are in order and check on the general housekeeping needs of the club.

Libby cannot continue to do this in 2025; so, we are asking for help. The role involves ensuring the club is clean, comfortable, safe and usable as a large working space.

Tasks:-

- Bathrooms- fill up hand wash every 2 weeks and put paper supplies under vanities for members to fill up as needed.
- Change corduroy tablecloths every 2 months
- Liaise with Purchasing Officer re supplies needed
- Arrange members to assist with an annual spring clean
- Liaise with Congress Convenor before congresses
- Liaise with Garden City Cleaning re twice weekly clean; currently Wednesday night and after play Friday.

If you are able to assist in any way, or, if you see any major issues with the current cleaning, please contact a Committee Member.

Thanks *Marie Steger*



**DIRECTOR
CHRIS SNOOK**

A GRADE



- 1ST** Elizabeth Zeller, Julie Pigdon, Jim Wood, Joan Mladen
- 2nd** Laurie-Marie McRoberts, Kathy Duke, Dennis Lincoln, Pamela Steele
- 3rd** Ian Jesser, Jenni Buckley, John Churchett, Mearon Geldard

B GRADE



- 1ST** Andrew Mollison, Kerry Gibson, Pauline Curin, Helen Fitzgerald
- 2nd** Murray Pietsch, Alison Lewis, Tim Porter, Roger Green
- 3rd** Sandy Fraser, Susie Fraser, Dave Mulherin, Ken Orange



C GRADE

1ST Bernie Wills, Graham Ryan, Athol Kerridge, Julie Kerridge

2nd Margaret Savage, Steve Savage, Joan Brownlie, Necia Bach



Helen Fitzgerald, Pauline Curin Andrew Mollison Kerry Gibson

Deb Archer Michele Alroe



Roger Green

Alison Lewis

Murray Pietsch

Tim Porter



Athol Kerridge, Bernie Wills Grham Ryan Julie Kerridge

(All photos taken by Susie Fraser- thank you Susie)

Ivy Dahler Cup (Red Masterpoints)



MONDAY - 3- WEEKLY EVENT
3rd, 10th & 17th March, 2025

Why do we honour Ivy Dahler:

To quote “Mind Games,” by the mid-nineties, “Ivy Dahler had one of the most outstanding records of any woman player in Queensland or Australia.”

Ivy Dahler served on twenty-five Management Committees at the Toowoomba Bridge Club in every capacity from 1970 through to 2006. She never took any payment for running Congresses at the Toowoomba Club or from the ABF or QBA other than expenses she may have incurred such as for airfares and accommodation.

Ivy was Secretary of the QBA in 1971 and President of the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 1976, but typically, her longest involvement in administration was in the generally thankless position of the QBA’s Masterpoint Secretary which she held for thirteen years between 1977 and 1990. In 1988, she chaired the new Masterpoint Committee of the ABF, almost immediately earning the praise of Australian Bridge for resolving a long running issue and making quarterly Masterpoint lists available to the journal.

She served the ABF in many capacities, including representing Queensland and chairing the Tournament and Ethics Committees. Ivy Dahler was elected to the ABF’s Committee of Honour in 1995. She died on 5th March 2006, aged 83, a week after she had been directing at the Gold Coast Congress. (taken from A History of the Toowoomba Bridge Club).

This is a walk-in event – if you would like to play and do not have a partner, please contact Glenys Clift 46328932 prior to the event. There will be no non-playing director available to partner members.

You are not required to play for the 3 weeks – however to qualify for the competition and extra masterpoints, you must play in all three sessions – you are allowed one fill-in only if your partner cannot play one of the sessions.

The field will be broken into two fields, Open and Novice as per usual.

PROFILE OF FLOYD WILSON



Conceived in Australia, but born in England, I returned to Australia at the age of 7 in 1954. I started school at Richlands State School before transferring to Darra State School and then to Corinda State High School. I then joined the RAAF as a cadet in 1965 undertaking studies at RMIT in Melbourne to graduate as an Aeronautical Engineering Officer – a career that spanned 24 years and involved a number of different and diverse postings and bases, including Laverton, Point Cook, Headquarters Support Command in Melbourne, Wagga Wagga, Amberley, Butterworth (Malaysia), Air Force Office and Fairbairn in Canberra. I saw a lot of the world during my defence service with visits or deployments to England, France, Switzerland, PNG, Singapore and The Philippines.

I retired from Service life in 1989 and began a 14-year career as the Director of Engineering and Building Services at Prince Charles Hospital. During that time, the hospital underwent a \$M240 rebuilding program, so it was a very interesting time to be in that position. I retired from the hospital in 2002, and after travelling the country in a motorhome for the next two years, we settled down in Toowoomba.

No sooner had we settled down in Toowoomba than we joined the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 2005 when it was operating from the Water Street building. Our first teacher was Jacqui Henderson. In 2014 I also became a member of the Darling Downs Bridge Club (DDBC) at the Showgrounds where I have been President for the last 3 years (the maximum allowed) but will continue to be actively involved with all aspects of club management. I have thoroughly enjoyed my years of bridge playing at both clubs – although I don't think I have improved much over the years. I hope to continue to enjoy the game for many years to come.

Ed: Floyd Wilson was on the TBC committee for 3 years including 2012 - the year he was President. He revamped the newsletter in 2007 and remained Editor for the next 9 years. Floyd has also been a director for both clubs since 2010 and his contribution to bridge in Toowoomba has been outstanding.

TEACHING REPORT



Wednesday AM Class with Trudy Dunne

The Wednesday morning class had 7 full tables of new people and Trudy was assisted by four helpers, Andrew Mollison, Ngaire Wills, John Oxenham, Alison Lewis who made themselves available to either make up a table and assist as needed.



Thursday Evening Class with David Roberts

The Thursday evening class had 10 players with Roger Green and Oliver Dashwood assisting by making up a full table where needed and assisting with the bidding.

Born in Ipswich on 6/12/40. Lived in Lowood, Amiens, & then 5 years at Qld. Agric. College. Studied Veterinary Science at University of Queensland. My Parents played auction bridge & I also played at UQ & at work at Dept. of Ag & Stock.

I married Eileen who was my secretary in 1965.

Helped found AI in cattle. L lectured at QAC Gatton, and then consulted to Beef, Dairy Cattle & Pig Industry, and developed 2 new breeds of cattle in Northern Australia. Joined Toowoomba Bridge Club in 1980's. Learnt Precision from Ivy Dahler. Met a lot of new friends but do not take bridge over seriously in my later years. ♠♥♦♣

Maurice Josey

Ed: Maurice served on five Committees 2000-05 and was also Congress Convenor for 2yrs



I was born in Toowoomba on 27/6/45 youngest of five children. My father passed away suddenly in 1960, so I left school & got a job in public service, Agriculture & Stock Dept. I Brisbane and then transferred to the Stock Office in Margaret Street, Toowoomba. In 1964 a young blond, good looking vet started there & as they say the rest is history. We had four beautiful daughters & now have 11 grandchildren - 2 girls & 9 boys who we love spending time with. My mother taught us "auction bridge" growing up & it proved a bonus when we returned to Toowoomba in 1984 & we learnt Precision Bridge from Ivy Dahler. We went on a few Ron Klinger holidays & Ivy was on hand to teach us precision as he taught standard. Bridge is a great game both mentally & socially & has been kind to Maurice & I. **Eileen Josey**

Ed; Eileen served on two Committees – (2007-2009 & the 1st Open Day sub-committee

THE DANCING QUEEN

Born and raised on the Atherton Tablelands with the most wonderful family, 7 siblings and a mother who was my best friend till she died in a terrible car accident and a father who took the lead and encouraged us to be the best we could be. At no time did we sit at our dining table that I didn't hear laughter ringing out and a love between us all that I still feel today.



I got dux of the school and my teachers had big ideas for me, but I also had big ideas and so went off to teach the bible without any pay for about 9 years. During this time oddly enough, I made part time cash as a calendar girl. Now don't get any ideas here lol, I was a fully dressed model to add to the flora and fauna of north Qld. Bubbling brooks flowering trees etc. These pictures went worldwide and one day many years later when I lived in Charters Towers and had my 2 lovely girls, by chance a lad from Holland came to work with my husband. When he came to our home one of his first words were "I know you- you are hanging on my bedroom wall and mum dare not remove you." Don't get any ideas here either, it was definitely the Poinsettia tree he was taken up with.

I love stress free no pressure so I took up home renovating so I could do whatever whenever as it suited me. As far as bridge goes. I got a call one day - I need a partner can you help me out. I thought it was like Snap, so I said yes and ended up tangled in all sorts of contracts lol. These days I believe laughter is the best medicine and people are the most important miracles on this earth. Imagine no one around forever and you will know what I mean. Another interest I have is dancing. I love Waltzing with my wonderful partner. It is a privilege to come to the bridge club and play with you all and enjoy you. *Ruth Hanson*

"YES, I CAN PLAY BRIDGE"

When I first fronted up to the Toowoomba Bridge Club to enquire about joining, soon after we moved here in 1985, the first thing I was asked was "Can you play bridge?" "Yes, I can play bridge" I answered, having played bridge for the previous 4 years. After joining I was asked what system I played. System? What are they talking about – I had never heard of Acol or Standard American.

We had previously lived in Mundubbera -in those days a very wealthy citrus town where I was given a very quick lesson on the status of women in rural Australia. As the locals came to check us out, I was greeted with "G'day missus, is the boss in?" The first time it happened I couldn't talk for a couple of secs, however at least I was smart enough to get John. Over time I discovered we were way down in the pecking order. Top tier were the graziers and the big orchard owners, next anyone born in the town including the town drunk. Then all the outsiders including teachers, the doctor, nurses, the chemist, public servants, bank managers, business owners or managers of businesses who came from outside the town. The wives of these people were expected to spend their time looking after their children, supporting both their husbands and all the local fundraisers with the school, churches, rotary club etc.

In desperation, I contacted the QBA who sent me a box of boards and some notes. I gathered together 11 other girls and asked one of them who was an ex-teacher to give us a lesson. Which was the equivalent of the first lesson where you learn the format and the value of cards. 4 years later when we left, that group was still going but there was an ugly rumour going around town, if you wanted a drink before the pubs open, find out where the bridge girls were, because their bar seemed to open pretty early. Well, what do you expect, we were free of children and husbands. But obviously, we never advanced in our bridge knowledge past the first lesson. "Yes, I can play bridge". Ho hum.

Glenys

Web Mitchells - Movements for Large Numbers of Tables

This article is a follow-up to “Fair Movements” that I wrote for the April 2024 newsletter. The take home message from that article was that choice of movements is a compromise between conflicting requirements. Some of these are based on technical issues, some on convenience issues and some on player perception. In this article, I will focus on Mitchell-type movements where the NS players remain NS and the EW players remain EW. These are also called “two-winner” movements because there is a NS winner and an EW winner.

The main factors that guide the choice of a bridge movement are:

1. The **time available** - Afternoon sessions at our club run from 1:00pm to about 4:40pm. If a session finishes early one week and late the next, then some players are not happy (they might have an appointment after bridge).
2. The **total number of boards** to be played –We generally allow six minutes to play a board and then two extra minutes for the move between rounds, and then some time for afternoon tea. For our afternoon sessions we aim for around 30 boards, although this can be heavily influenced by other factors. With 3-board rounds, each round takes about 20-minutes, so 10 rounds is 200-minutes, plus about 10-minutes for afternoon tea give 210 minutes for the session. Then allowing for contingencies (every extra minute has to come from somewhere) give a finish time around 4:35.
3. **Number of tables** – With about 2-6 tables a Howell or Reduced Howell suits, with about 6-12 tables, a Mitchell works for an odd number of tables and a Share&Bye or a Skip Mitchell for an even number of tables. For 12 tables and above we need a different approach. I’ll write more on Howells in a later article, although if you are keen you could take a sneak peek at an article that I wrote for the February 2010 newsletter (did you know you can look back that far in our website?).
4. **Is there a sitout?** – If there is a sitout then we try to have no more than three board sit outs (which is about 20-minutes). Two board sitouts feel nice, four is tolerable and most players find a 5-board sit out abhorrent.
5. **Preferred number of boards per round** – Three board rounds are the most common around the world, although if you have 8-tables and want to play about 30-32 boards then a 4-board round works perfectly. Two boards are technically feasible but are generally unpopular with players because of the inconvenience and additional time lost moving so often and because there are more opportunities for slow play delaying the move.
6. **Director and player familiarity with the movement** – There are some lovely exotic movements that would be ideal for some situations, but with playing Directors it is better for consistency of movements from week to week.
7. **Stationary Pairs** – We need to have sufficient stationary pairs to accommodate those who cannot easily move. Mitchell-type movements provide this.
8. **Balance** – If the two fields are entirely separate (eg NS is always NS; and EW is always EW) then there must be an even spread of player strength in both fields and spread around the room – not all the strong NS sitting in a row.

The best way to make this happen is for players to start at a table with players of similar strength to yourself, otherwise the Director may have to move people after you are all settled.

9. **Play all the boards** – You are being compared to all the other people who sit in the same compass direction as you. If you play a set of boards and they don't then the number of comparisons with your direct opponents is reduced. If they play a set and you don't then you quickly get to a situation where you might only be compared with your opponents less than 70% of the boards – how can this be fair???

I know a club in Brisbane that plays 9x3-board rounds in a session. If they have 13-tables then they put out 13-sets of boards, etc 1-39. If I visit and am NS1, then I play boards 1-27. Pair NS5 plays boards 13-39. We are only being compared on 15 boards out of the 27 that we played!! There must be a better way. This club 'could' play 13x2-board rounds but, like Toowoomba, they will grumble about that.

10. **Play all the same opponents** – an ideal movement will let you play against all the people sitting in the opposite compass direction. If you are NS and you only miss one EW pair then you might be lucky and miss the strongest EW or unlucky and miss the weakest. As the number of pairs that you miss increases the player strength tends to even out (provided the field was balanced).

Items 2, 9 and 10 are often in conflict.

Options for big movements?

- **Mitchell** – one way to do this is to have one big field with (say) 15-tables, and everyone playing 15x2-board rounds. This is fair, but not popular (except it used to be in NZ). It is also a nightmare for Directors and players because of the time lost with so many moves.

- **Two separate sections** – another approach is to divide the players into two groups and play separate movements. For our 15-table example this could be a 6-table and a 9-table; or a 7-table and an 8-table. You then have 2 NS winners and 2EW winners but it can be pot luck that determines which section you are in and thus who you are being compared with and who you are playing against. There can also be issues with the different length of each round and different finish times. For competitions it is usual to play the same boards and then compare the scores "across the field" to determine one NS and one EW winner. Missed boards and missed opponents then becomes more significant.

If we start with exactly 16-tables then dividing into two 8-table sections is quite good except for the time lost in moving players at the last minute and the lack of a single winner.

- **Web Mitchell.** This is best explained by an overall description and then an example.

Web Mitchells

A Web Mitchell is a variation on a standard Mitchell except that the layout of the boards is different. These movements are named after its creator, John Harris (whose nickname was 'spider' – get it?), who created them for major multi-session single winner movements.

Twenty years ago, these movements were rare because they needed multiple sets of identical boards, so old bridge movement books have little information on them. The advent and widespread use of dealing machines now mean that the multiple sets of boards are easy to produce. Our dealers do a great job, and we generally have two sets of 4-boxes the same, three

sets of 3-boxes, four sets of 2-boxes and about 9 single boxes available for Directors to choose from.

Web Mitchells are (were, I guess) used for the qualifying rounds of the Bobby Richman pairs at the Gold Coast congress, with 9x3-boards for each of the qualifying rounds. There were 307 tables spread over four grades. Webs are also used in all walk-in pairs at every ABF gold masterpoint event. They are also used in many of the large clubs around Australia.

Web Mitchells are used when there are more tables than there will be rounds to be played, and they allow everyone to play the same boards and thus the number of comparisons is maximised. Good numbers for a Web Mitchell are 9 rounds and 11 rounds (although with a bit of trickery other choices are available).

Pairs move up one table like a regular Mitchell. The boards are put out differently and this is where the magic happens. A Web is comprised of two segments. If we start with 14 tables and plan to play 9-rounds, then the Web is divided into a lower 7-table segment and a higher 7-table segment. One box of boards is put out in the regular fashion for the lower segment (boards 1-3 on table 1, boards 4-6 on table 2, ..., boards 19-21 on table 7 and the remaining boards sit on a bye table and the next set 22-24 feed into table 7 when move is called). The second box of boards get handled differently, the highest boards 25-27 are put on the highest numbered table 14, 1-3 goes on table 13, 4-6 goes on table 12, ..., 16-18 on table 8. The excess boards go next to table 14. On each round boards move down one table but only inside their segment. Some Directors might choose to juggle the table layout so 1&7 and 8&14 are next to each other, so board movement is easy. I generally prefer tables to be in rows because there are less opportunities for players to get lost.

If the technical detail hasn't overwhelmed you yet, here is a movement sheet for our 14-table example so you can check it out yourself.

Round	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4	Table 5	Table 6	Table 7	Table 8	Table 9	Table 10	Table 11	Table 12	Table 13	Table 14
1	1 v 1 Bds 1-3	2 v 2 Bds 4-6	3 v 3 Bds 7-9	4 v 4 Bds 10-12	5 v 5 Bds 13-15	6 v 6 Bds 16-18	7 v 7 Bds 19-21	8 v 8 Bds 16-18	9 v 9 Bds 13-15	10 v 10 Bds 10-12	11 v 11 Bds 7-9	12 v 12 Bds 4-6	13 v 13 Bds 1-3	14 v 14 Bds 25-27
2	1 v 14 Bds 4-6	2 v 1 Bds 7-9	3 v 2 Bds 10-12	4 v 3 Bds 13-15	5 v 4 Bds 16-18	6 v 5 Bds 19-21	7 v 6 Bds 22-24	8 v 7 Bds 13-15	9 v 8 Bds 10-12	10 v 9 Bds 7-9	11 v 10 Bds 4-6	12 v 11 Bds 1-3	13 v 12 Bds 25-27	14 v 13 Bds 22-24
3	1 v 13 Bds 7-9	2 v 14 Bds 10-12	3 v 1 Bds 13-15	4 v 2 Bds 16-18	5 v 3 Bds 19-21	6 v 4 Bds 22-24	7 v 5 Bds 25-27	8 v 6 Bds 10-12	9 v 7 Bds 7-9	10 v 8 Bds 4-6	11 v 9 Bds 1-3	12 v 10 Bds 25-27	13 v 11 Bds 22-24	14 v 12 Bds 19-21
4	1 v 12 Bds 10-12	2 v 13 Bds 13-15	3 v 14 Bds 16-18	4 v 1 Bds 19-21	5 v 2 Bds 22-24	6 v 3 Bds 25-27	7 v 4 Bds 1-3	8 v 5 Bds 7-9	9 v 6 Bds 4-6	10 v 7 Bds 1-3	11 v 8 Bds 25-27	12 v 9 Bds 22-24	13 v 10 Bds 19-21	14 v 11 Bds 16-18
5	1 v 11 Bds 13-15	2 v 12 Bds 16-18	3 v 13 Bds 19-21	4 v 14 Bds 22-24	5 v 1 Bds 25-27	6 v 2 Bds 1-3	7 v 3 Bds 4-6	8 v 4 Bds 4-6	9 v 5 Bds 1-3	10 v 6 Bds 25-27	11 v 7 Bds 22-24	12 v 8 Bds 19-21	13 v 9 Bds 16-18	14 v 10 Bds 13-15
6	1 v 10 Bds 16-18	2 v 11 Bds 19-21	3 v 12 Bds 22-24	4 v 13 Bds 25-27	5 v 14 Bds 1-3	6 v 1 Bds 4-6	7 v 2 Bds 7-9	8 v 3 Bds 1-3	9 v 4 Bds 25-27	10 v 5 Bds 22-24	11 v 6 Bds 19-21	12 v 7 Bds 16-18	13 v 8 Bds 13-15	14 v 9 Bds 10-12
7	1 v 9 Bds 19-21	2 v 10 Bds 22-24	3 v 11 Bds 25-27	4 v 12 Bds 1-3	5 v 13 Bds 4-6	6 v 14 Bds 7-9	7 v 1 Bds 10-12	8 v 2 Bds 25-27	9 v 3 Bds 22-24	10 v 4 Bds 19-21	11 v 5 Bds 16-18	12 v 6 Bds 13-15	13 v 7 Bds 10-12	14 v 8 Bds 7-9
8	1 v 8 Bds 22-24	2 v 9 Bds 25-27	3 v 10 Bds 1-3	4 v 11 Bds 4-6	5 v 12 Bds 7-9	6 v 13 Bds 10-12	7 v 14 Bds 13-15	8 v 1 Bds 22-24	9 v 2 Bds 19-21	10 v 3 Bds 16-18	11 v 4 Bds 13-15	12 v 5 Bds 10-12	13 v 6 Bds 7-9	14 v 7 Bds 4-6
9	1 v 7 Bds 25-27	2 v 8 Bds 1-3	3 v 9 Bds 4-6	4 v 10 Bds 7-9	5 v 11 Bds 10-12	6 v 12 Bds 13-15	7 v 13 Bds 16-18	8 v 14 Bds 19-21	9 v 1 Bds 16-18	10 v 2 Bds 13-15	11 v 3 Bds 10-12	12 v 4 Bds 7-9	13 v 5 Bds 4-6	14 v 6 Bds 1-3

You'll see that you play the same boards as all your direct opponents and play against 9 of the 14 pairs sitting in the opposite direction. This is not a problem unless all the strong pairs sit in adjacent tables (or weak pairs). If a club uses 9x3 as its default number of boards then this session always finishes at the same time.

Variations

- If there is an **odd number of tables**, eg 15, then the three boxes of boards are used, the 15 tables are divided into a 9-table section as usual, and the remaining 6 are divided into a mini-web with 3 tables in each of the lower and upper segments. Boards move down as usual and EW players move up throughout the section.
- If 9x3-board rounds is **not long enough**, then a Web Mitchell with 11x3-boards works well.
- If 11 rounds will make the session **too long**, then a reasonable compromise is to run the 11x3-Web Mitchell for 10 rounds only. It does mean you are only being compared for 10 of the 11 sets of boards, which means the worst case is 82% comparison between some pairs. 80% is the recommended minimum number of comparisons so it meets that requirement.
- I have created some other Web Mitchell variations, but these are a bit complex and thus fail our criterion 6.

Good Reasons for Web Michells

- Everyone plays the same boards so there is fair comparison.
- Boards are played the same number of times so a 'top' is worth the same on each board.
- You meet a cross-section of those sitting in the opposite seats.

If there are 15 tables and we play ten 3-board rounds then, if you are NS, you will always be compared against the other 14 NS pairs on every board and will play against 10 of the 15 EW pairs. If instead we divided the session into a 7 and an 8-table section then in the 7-table section you are only playing against 7 of the 15 EW opponents and being compared with only 6 of the remaining NS people.

- The preferred movement (eg 10 rounds of 3) can occur whenever there are many tables and so the session will always finish at a regular time.
- Board and player movement are familiar to all players.

Problems with Web Mitchells

- They are less forgiving if there is an attempted late change to the movement (adding a table is particularly difficult). This puts pressure on Directors which is why we beg you to be seated well before start time.
- Putting out the boards is more complex than a regular Michell – again, more pressure on Directors.
- Web Mitchells provide for a good and fair game. They are not good at finding an overall winner of an event. This is why they are used for qualifying rounds in major competitions that then have some other movement for a final (eg a Barometer pairs like we do for the Ivy Dahler Cup and Joyce Benson Pairs).
- We've been doing these movements since 2019 (although the Covid hiatus did leave quite a gap), so it is still taking time for players to become familiar with them.

The advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Cheers
Chris

GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS



Rachel Klupfel

Born in Northern Ireland, I arrived in Australia when I was 10 years old and settled in Brisbane. I moved to Toowoomba approximately 45 years ago from Boonah where my 3 children were born.

The Bridge Club has been part of my life for the past 15 years and I enjoy the fun and friendship it provides. *Rachel*

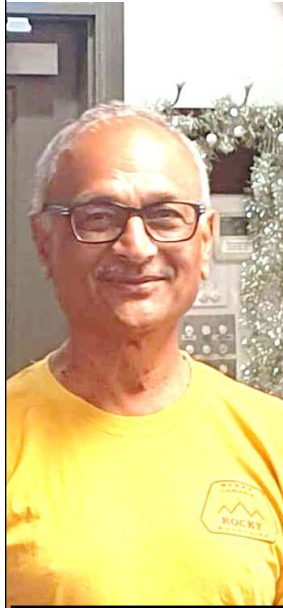


Jenni Buckley

Grew up on a dairy farm in NZ with 5 sisters and 7 brothers. Joined the hippy trail in the 60's. Came to Oz from London, then to Darwin in 1974. In 1985 I saw an ad for bridge in Darwin and went with my daughter, Jacinta (whom I still play bridge with). Represented the NT at the ANC. Moved to Lismore, completed BSc at Southern Cross Uni then lived in Mackay & Townsville. Came to Toowoomba in 2008. As I achieved Grand Master status a few years ago, will die happy.

Jenni

Grew up in India where I earned a BEng & worked in the engineering industry for 14 yrs. Moved to Oz in 1994 & joined USQ where I worked until retiring in 2022. My love for card games began in childhood. I discovered bridge in 1997 & have been playing ever since. Enjoy time I spend with my wonderful wife Lata, our son's family & our two amazing grandchildren. Love gardening & travelling to new places. Am so grateful for this fantastic bridge club & am looking forward to more hands, more laughs & maybe a few exciting 3NT bids. *Mohan*



Mohan Trada

Grew up in Broken Hill. Married Malcolm, a stock & station agent with Elders who transferred us to SA where our 2 children were born. Ran a cattle station in the NT (homestead a Sidney Williams hut) then a bush pub at Wauchope. Marriage collapsed, moved to Dalby then Toowoomba where I worked for the Endeavour Foundation. Married Neil 30 yrs ago and worked for USQ for 26 yrs -last job overseeing Ceremonies – which I loved. I love playing bridge and have met some great people at the club. *Jan*



Jan Lindau



John Clift

Soldier in Malasia. Inspector Police Northern Rhodesia & Snr Sgt NT Police. Motelier (toilet cleaner, gardener & general dogsbody). Deli proprietor – working with wife – shared as few shifts as possible with her so I could do what I liked (me chatting to customers – drove her mad when we were busy). Taxi owner. Member of Lions then Probus Club. Volunteer Tourist Bureau. Conned into learning bridge -the bonus has been the friends I have made. Married 56 yrs -still trying to win an argument when we have drinks at night. *Clifty*



Kathleen Munt

Grew up in Dalby until age 13, moved to Caboolture & after school, completed a hair dressing apprenticeship. Married Greg and moved to central Qld where we ran a hotel and news agency. On return to Brisbane, we ran a 108-unit apartment block. Moved to Toowoomba when Greg was appointed Sales Manager for Suncorp. I am so happy I took up bridge – main reason the lovely membership who have been so welcoming. I am fortunate to have joined such a wonderful group of players and friends.

Kate

GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS



Rhonda Duck

Grew up on a farm near Chinchilla. Went to DDIAE – qualified as a primary school teacher and taught out west before marrying Michael. Widowed a few years later leaving me with 2 small sons. Taught for 40 yrs around Toowoomba then travelled the world and learnt to play bridge. I am never at home – either working for the Empire, dancing with U3A, doing cryptic crosswords or playing bridge and making the most of this retirement. Not enough time to do nothing. *Rhonda*



Michael Doherty

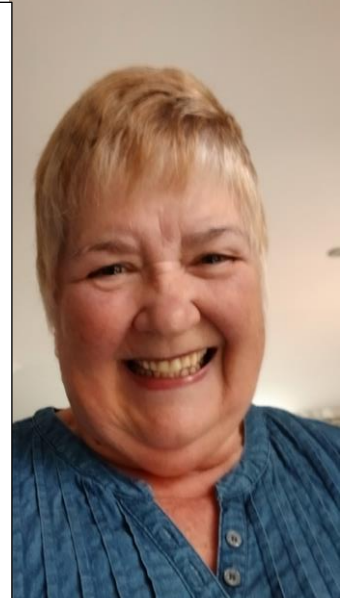
Grew up on a farm at Greymare, 28kms west of Warwick. One teacher school – few amenities but a great life with no worries. Given a bit of a shakeup at Downlands with discipline & schedules etc. Studied dentistry at UQ then off to swinging London in the 60's where I met my wife, Janet. A great time to be there. We have 4 wonderful boys & 9 grandchildren. I have greatly enjoyed tennis, gee gees, cycling, road running & now bridge. *Mick.*

Born in Dalby, after boarding school, worked in finance & grocery industries prior to buying a Novus Windscreen franchise in 1999 opposite the TBC in Water St. Early memories of reading Goren at age 21 prompted me to join with Ivy Dahler & Jackie Henderson being my teachers. Work, family (wife, 3 kids, now 5 grandkids) golf, cricket baseball, cooking & travel limited my bridge playing and still does. I enjoy the friendships that have come from bridge, the food at country congresses plus the occasional recipe, thanks Rita. *John*



John Erlandson

Born in the UK, came to Oz on a working holiday which took me all over Australia from the being a governess in the Kimberley's to Tassie. Stopped travelling when I came to Qld – love the place and the people. Interests range from writing poetry, short stories & acting at Rep Theatre. I love baking, dogs and ofcourse bridge. Will never be a champion player - more interested in the challenge. My partners deserve a medal for putting up with my risk taking. After a gypsy life, am content now to be a homing pigeon. *Helen*



Helen Holmes



Maree Neale

Born in Toowoomba, my career as a neonatal nurse took me to Brisbane & Perth. Returned to Toowoomba & worked for 46 yrs as a neonatal nurse at the Base Hospital. Retired in 2017 and as I played bridge as a child, it was a delight to join the TBC soon after. I am married and have one daughter. When we are not part of her support crew at horse events, I enjoy bridge, mahjong and puzzles. TBC has been a warm and friendly club to be part of. *Maree*



Del Clark

Early years as a farm girl outside Dalby with 5 brothers. Schooled at Square Top, Kaimkillenbun and Bell. Worked at the Dalby Town Council then after marrying Dudley, spent 13 years in Blackwater before returning to Dalby with our 3 children. We moved to Toowoomba in 2000. Fully retired in 2019. Having learnt Bridge in Dalby I was keen to keep playing while enjoying Lawn Bowns at the North Toowoomba Bowling Club. I have 8 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter. Visit our children when we can. Life can be so busy sometimes. *Del*

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.