



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

December 2012

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba 4350
PO Box 45, Northlands 4350



Editor: Floyd Wilson

email: secretary@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au

President's Report



At the club's Annual General Meeting on the 13th October, our new Management Committee was elected with me as President, Lorraine Sutton continuing as Treasurer, and Glenys Clift, Keith Jenkin and Hugh Robinson continuing as Committee Members. We welcome Lesley

Meyer as Secretary, and Jan Lindau, Shaunagh Cowell, Ian Steger and George McKinnon as Committee Members. Keith has also taken on the role of Providor, Hugh as Congress Convenor and Annette Sullivan as Masterpoint Secretary. This mix of experienced and new faces on the Management Committee is good for a large and growing club such as ours. Already we have seen many good ideas developed and introduced and existing practices further refined. We wish to make our management processes as streamlined as we can and our bridge as enjoyable as possible for all members.

Floyd Wilson, Bruce Hinchliffe, Gabrielle Ehlich, Robbie Fulton, Byron Longford and Glennis Cowell retired from the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Committee Members respectively. All have made excellent contributions to the management of our club, and we thank them for all their good work.

Unfortunately, I was not in attendance at the AGM because 15 months earlier (before our AGM date was set) I had accepted appointment as Director of the Tenterfield Bridge Club Swiss Pairs Congress. Nonetheless, I was following most of the AGM proceedings via txt messages and heard that it included some spirited discussion at times. It is important that all members get a say and are treated fairly, and that we openly discuss things and then we must all pull together as a team to work for the common good of the club membership

At the AGM, members approved adoption of the new Association Rules (still called Constitution by many)

so that they are consistent with the Incorporated Associations Act, and better reflect the way the club operates. These Association Rules have now been sent to the Office of Fair Trading for final ratification. Once this is done, all members will be advised of the start date of the new rules via the club website, noticeboards and Directors announcements.

The issue of catering for regular club sessions was again discussed at the AGM through a member's letter. The Management Committee has carefully considered the issues raised at the AGM, particularly in relation to the club finances, volunteer workload and equity amongst all sessions. For these reasons, the committee endorses the decision of the 2012 Management Committee that there will be no paid hostess service for any session and no systemic provision of sandwiches. As Providore, Keith has come up with some good ways to ensure members have access to sweet or savoury snacks with their afternoon tea, and we all support him in these initiatives.

I am deeply honoured to have been elected as a Life Member of this great club, and I thank the great number of people who proposed me, and especially those who support and encourage me throughout the year.

Finally, I'd like to express a word of thanks to all of the volunteers of the club who; deal boards for each session, direct sessions of bridge, help the Director prepare the room and kitchen before play, clean up the room after play, look after the gardens, clean the gutters, water the gardens, trim the hedges, help with the restricted and supervised play sessions, replenish the table supplies, sharpen pencils, wash the tablecloths, spot clean as required, and the dozens of other important jobs that I have not mentioned. The club runs as well as it does, and we all get to enjoy our bridge, because of your efforts. **So, well done and thank you!!!**

Happy bridging,
Chris Snook
President

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Chris Snook
SECRETARY	Lesley Meyer
TREASURER	Lorraine Sutton
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Glenys Clift Shaunagh Cowell Keith Jenkin Jan Lindau George McKinnon Hugh Robinson Ian Steger
CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	Chris Snook
PROVIDOR	Keith Jenkin
CONGRESS CONVENOR	Hugh Robinson
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook / Ian Steger
ZONE REPRESENTATIVE	Chris Snook / Glenys Clift
PRESS OFFICER	Kim Nicoll
LIBRARIAN	Henry Eastment
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Floyd Wilson
CLUB TEACHER	Trudy Dunne/ Glenys Clift / Elizabeth Zeller
MEMBERSHIP BADGES	Lorraine Sutton
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Shaunagh Cowell
MAINTENANCE CHAIRPERSON	John Clift
GARDENING CHAIRPERSON	Jeff Aitchison
HOUSEKEEPER	Bette Flamstead

Four sub-committees coordinate much of the work in the clubrooms:

Tournament Sub-committee: Talk to your Director or a Committee member about the activities of this sub-committee, which cover all facets of bridge play at the club.

Social Sub-committee: Led by Jeff Aitchison, this group helps organise all the social events at the club such as Melbourne Cup party, Christmas party, Birthday party and other special events throughout the year.

Maintenance Sub-committee: This sub-committee, led by John Clift, looks after the building. If you notice something needs repair, then let John know or add a note to the "maintenance register" next to the results noticeboard. Tell the Director if you think the matter is more urgent.

Grounds Sub-committee: This sub-committee, led by Jeff Aitchison, looks after the gardens of the club.

Membership Secretary's Report



NEW MEMBERS

We would like to give a very warm welcome to the following who have become members of the Toowoomba Bridge Club since the issue of the last Newsletter.

Mary Gilchrist
Penelope Wyche

It is that time of year to pay your Annual Subscriptions for 2013. I have sent out letters to all members. If you have not received one, please let me know. The full amount for Home members is \$45, and for Away members is \$20. Payments are due by 31 December 2012. You can pay at any session, post it or pay by Direct Debit.

Our current membership numbers are:

1	Junior members
75	Away members
349	Home members
5	Life members

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Annette Sullivan
Membership Secretary



New Master Rankings

Congratulations are extended to the following members who have achieved new Master rankings since the last newsletter:

GRADUATE MASTER

Peter Cory
Shane Sullivan
John Thompson
Ros Dryden
Gregory Crank
Frank Cooper
Ray Haddrell

CLUB MASTER

Jean Moetara
Ria Molenaar
Ron Newbury
Marie Newbury
Carmel Purcell
Thomas Robinson
Christine Stiles
Judy Edwards
Isabella Geldard
Dave Mulherin
Mancel Robinson
Rosemary Rouse
Jean Bendall
Joyce Bourne
Jane Tait
Mary Rehburg
Ian Steger
Arthur Bilby

LOCAL MASTER

Marlie Walker
Robert Cheesman
Judy Desjardins
Helen Higgs
Helen Payne
James Babineau
Simone Ferguson
Carol Harris
Jan Lindau
Brenda Parry
David Lynch
Kath Phillips
Veronica Schmidt
Diana Drummond
Kathleen Munt

*LOCAL MASTER

Barry Copley
Michele Alroe
John Oxenham
Judy Hinchliffe
Barbara Power

**LOCAL MASTER

Vi Applegarth
Trevor Glasby
Pat Fenaughty
Gabrielle Elich
Ann Klippe
Jan Stringer
John Elich
Lesley Meyer
Sharyn Courtney
Norm Higgs
Rozalyn Wright

REGIONAL MASTER

Jeff Aitchison
Fleur Hopkins
Judith Glasby
John Clift
Keith Jenkin
Graeme Dalrymple

STATE MASTER

Desiree Fenaughty
Patricia Miller
Doreen Wood
Michael Doherty

*STATE MASTER

Melba Leicht
Peg Alcock
Carmen Powell
Brian Wippell

NATIONAL MASTER

Lorraine Sutton
Denise Hartwig

*NATIONAL MASTER

Byron Longford
Katherine Weaver

**NATIONAL MASTER

Harvey Billing

LIFE MASTER

Ian Jesser

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Patricia Penberthy

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Glenys Clift



WELL DONE!

*The best cure for sea sickness
is to sit under a tree.
Spike Milligan*

Treasurer's Report

Everything is running smoothly and I would like to thank all the people collecting daily takings as they are doing a great job, which makes my job easier. Membership subscriptions are coming in at a steady pace and the \$45 fee for this year certainly makes it easier with giving out change. I like to look on the bright side of things. Remember you can pay by cash, cheque, or direct deposit by internet transfer so keep them coming in as they are due by 31st December, 2012.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and if you are fortunate enough to go away, please come back safely.

Merry Christmas.

Happy bridging

Lorraine Sutton
Treasurer



Provider's Report

Firstly, I would like to wish everyone compliments of the festive season.

As everyone knows I am new to the job and just feeling my way.

I have been overwhelmed by the help offered to me by those playing on Wednesday and Friday.

I would like to thank Lesley Meyer for making sandwiches on Wednesdays and Jackie Henderson for her help in making sandwiches for the past few weeks on a Friday.

Pam Gebbett has committed herself to making sandwiches on Fridays commencing on Friday 7th December for which I am truly thankful.

The introduction of cheese and biscuits, together with green tea and decaffeinated coffee, has been well received.

Whilst I know Monday day and Thursday night bridge is well catered for, thanks to the generosity of those playing, it would be appreciated if on other days, particularly on Wednesday and Friday, if members could bring

along a plate of home made biscuits, cake, etc it would be very much appreciated.

Happy bridging everyone,

Keith Jenkin
Provider

Congress Convenor's Report

The Toowoomba Bridge Club held its annual Butler Pairs congress on Sunday 28th Oct 2012. Overall the competition was well represented by visitors from all our surrounding clubs as far west as Goondiwindi and east to the Gold Coast. 46 pairs were nominated and on the day 45 pairs arrived to play. An organized substitute pair evened the numbers up to a manageable number to make life easier for director Chris Snook.

The competition format consisted of 8 rounds of 7 boards each and was completed by 5 p.m.

In summary, a very well-run Congress - thanks Chris.

Results:

Category A

- 1 Liz Zeller - Alison Dawson
- 2 Diane Wenham - Margaret Keating
- 3 Ian Halford - Michelle Radke

Category B

- 1 John Erlandson - Rhondda Dean
- 2 Monica Pritchard - Byron Longford

Category C

- 1 Jordan Steenbeek - Rosemary Steenbeek
- 2 Betty Steele - Ray Steele

On behalf of the management committee I wish to thank all those members who helped in many various ways to prepare the Club for the day's play. The food donated and arranged by those members who arrived before play commenced ensured the players had something to enjoy during the day's play - thank you.

My best wishes to all club members for a merry Christmas and may you play many hands of good bridge during 2013

Hugh Robinson
Congress Convenor

Masterpoint Secretary

I took over this role after the AGM in October and hope that I can carry on the fine tradition that Chris Snook has established and continued for the past many years.

As at the ABF Census date of 30 September 2012, we had processed 1,895.72 green masterpoints for the year. This is an increase of 99.03 over the previous 12 months. There was also an increase of 38.66 red masterpoints processed for the year. Obviously, we are all enjoying playing bridge, and lots more of it.

Since then, I have processed 299.09 green masterpoints for October and November, and 52.30 red masterpoints.

Don't forget that it is easy to check your masterpoints on the ABF website at: <http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au> and click on "Player - Masterpoints Lookup". You can do this on the club computers at any time. If you feel that you are missing some masterpoints, check with the Club Masterpoint Secretary in the first instance.

Enjoy your bridge

Cheers

Annette Sullivan

Masterpoint Secretary



*I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad,
I take something for it.
Robert Benchley*

Welfare Officer

Please contact Glenda Filbee on her home phone (4636-7622) or at the club if you know of a member who is ill, hospitalized or suffering a bereavement and Glenda will respond suitably on behalf of the Club.

Mentoring Scheme?

I received a letter from one member who wished to raise an issue at the AGM but was not able to because of the time spent on other matters. It is an issue that I have a lot of empathy with, but I do not have a clear answer yet.

Most of our stronger players tend to play in established partnerships with other strong players. Thus they tend to place highly in most events at the club. It is not deliberately a closed shop, but could be viewed as such. The Tuesday Night and Thursday Singles are prime examples of this, but it occurs in regular sessions each week of the year. It has been suggested that newer players will improve if they play with the "better" players, but how do we make this happen?

We cannot mandate that player X must play with player Y - after all, X might just stop coming.

We have tried Teams of Three days (which I will do again next year); and a few other events but they do not seem to have the desired effect. I'll keep trying.

We designate one day per month as Invitation Days on Wednesday and Friday - and expect that you will play with someone who is not your regular partner. This is also a good social arrangement to get us to play with other club members. We do not see a lot of strong/new partnerships on these days, and will encourage this more next year.

To try and get the ball moving, I will arrange for two lists to be displayed on the club noticeboard. One for stronger players who are willing to share some of their time (say one day a month??) and one for newer players who are keen to improve their game. We will allow the members themselves to establish initial contact. Please support this new initiative.

If we see a lot of support for this, then we may try a more formal arrangement in the future.

It's in your hands.

Regards
Chris

Club Teachers' Report

TEACHING PROGRAM FOR 2013

Our club is extremely fortunate in that we have a very dedicated teaching team who are willing to give their time and energy in organising lessons, supervised play and workshops. The team comprises Liz Zeller, Henry Eastment, Trudy Dunne, Ian Jesser and Glenys Clift with Barbara Power and Peg Alcock assisting.

The following is the proposed teaching program for 2013. New on the agenda are Intermediate Lessons to be run by Liz Zeller. Programs for all the classes and workshops will be published in the New Year in the newsletter and on the web.

BEGINNER CLASSES:

Wednesday Morning starting 6th March, 2013
9am – 11.30am with Trudy Dunne.

Thursday Evening starting 7th March, 2013
7pm – 9.30pm with Glenys Clift.

The first 8 classes are designed to introduce new players to the etiquette of the game, basic opening bids, playing the cards and scoring. This is followed by 6 lessons where both partnerships are involved in the bidding and these topics will be reinforced during supervised play.

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES:

Monday Evening starting 4th March, 2013
7pm – 9.30pm with Liz Zeller

Liz will be introducing more advanced lessons covering 2 Over 1, Weak Twos with an emphasis on understanding the rationale behind the bidding and improving card play. Program to be announced.

SUPERVISED PLAY:

Wednesday morning until Beginner Classes start.

8.45am for 9am start with Ian Jesser.

Ian will be focusing on movements, use of the bridgemates, as well as help with the bidding and card play.

Monday afternoon starting February 2013 with Glenys Clift every second Monday. Program to be announced.

Glenys Clift

BRIDGE LESSONS

The second series of beginner's lessons for 2012 attracted a few new learners along with many members who chose to use the lessons as a refresher course and a chance to analyse their bidding and card play in a friendly environment. It is always a pleasure to assist all of the people who attend the lessons.

The use of the computer Power Point medium to convey information and allow people to review the full lesson at home on their own computer continues to be a huge success (these are emailed home).

The beginner's lessons focus on the basics of the Standard American convention and consist of 14 lessons with two revision weeks included. At the conclusion of the lessons, Ian Jesser offers the opportunity to enjoy supervised play to assist the absolute beginners to learn about movements and the use of the Bridge Mate machines for scoring. It also provides a safe environment to transition from lessons to a competition situation where players can use their notes and ask for assistance.

Any members of the Club are welcome to attend all of these sessions.

I wish all of the 2012 beginners success in their future Bridge.



Trudy Dunne
Club Teacher

Workshops

The Second Round of Workshops for 2012 ended on Wednesday 28th November.

The workshops held and the attendances are below:

Wednesday October 3rd - Transfers over 1NT Opening (4)

Wednesday October 10th, 17th and 24th - Defence (16, 11, 15)

Wednesday October 31st - End Plays & Gerber with Extended CRO Responses (7)

Wednesday November 14th, 21st and 28th - Multi-Twos (3 Weeks) (4)

I have enjoyed presenting the Workshops but would have liked a few more participants.

However, the participants seemed to enjoy the workshops and I am sure their play will improve as a result.

I will be announcing the workshop program for 2013 early in the new year. Ian Jesser may also do a workshop when I am away travelling.

Henry Eastment

MONDAY BRIDGE

Monday is a popular day to play Bridge for those with under 50 Master points. Players seem to enjoy the fellowship of other players, the Bridge and the delicious afternoon teas. We say goodbye to John Clift who has reached the cut off point. We usually have more than 20 tables and one Monday we hit an all time high of 27 tables. We have three sections and sometimes three different movements. Players may come without a partner. Matching up partners and planning the movements make a challenging afternoon for directors. Floyd Wilson has been helping out - thanks Floyd for your calm efficiency.

Many thanks to the volunteers too numerous to mention by name, and thanks to Peg Alcock for the roster. The volunteers sometimes play till afternoon tea and then clean the kitchen - quite a big job. Some of the players help by preparing the afternoon tea and donating sandwiches and cakes.

Happy Christmas to everyone and happy bridging in the New Year.

Mary McConachy

*When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.
Prince Philip*

Sign in a Vets waiting room:☒

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

TUESDAY (DAY SESSION) BRIDGE

As per the Programme Book, Tuesday Day Sessions run from 10.30 am (be there by 10.15 am) and participants bring their own lunch. This makes the session unique as the only regular session that runs over lunch time.

The session is very popular with the regular attendees as they like the idea of an early finish (usually around 2.30 pm) as it allows them time in the afternoon to do other things after bridge. The session has generally been attracting around 7-8 tables, but just recently, there were 11 tables and all indications are that this will continue to increase as Monday players gain more than 50 masterpoints and have to look for alternative sessions to play.

I would like to encourage more players of all experience levels to attend this very friendly session. Inexperienced players will be made particularly welcome as we help ease them into regular playing.

Melbourne Cup Function

The Melbourne Cup function is obviously always held during a Tuesday Day Session. The event this year was well subscribed with 52 players on the day. The lunch that was organised was a spit roast that proved to be so popular last year. We were not disappointed as the caterer again did a great job of providing a scrumptious hot meal followed by a fabulous collection of delicious desserts.

From all accounts, everybody thoroughly enjoyed the day. Almost everyone turned up in their Melbourne Cup finery and headwear. The day kicked off with a lucky door prize (won by Jill Cory) and then we managed to play 20 boards before all attention turned to the wide screen TV to watch the running of the cup and to cheer on backed horses. Sweeps and raffle tickets were very popular and resulted in at least some members leaving with a smile on their faces at the end of the day.

Prizes were awarded for the best dressed female (Judy Desjardins), best dressed male (Gerald Herden), best hat (Glenda Filbee) and best decorated name badge (Vi Applegarth).

Floyd Wilson



Above: Vi Applegarth sporting her winning highly decorated name badge.



Above: Glenda Filbee won the prize for best hat.



Above: Gerald Herden won the best dressed male.



Jeff Aitchison happily took our money for the sweeps that he organised.

Librarian's Report

I am concerned at the number of books and DVDs which have been borrowed and not returned within the 2 month borrowing time (overdue). I have listed all books and DVDs borrowed from the Library as at 15th November 2012 together with the dates they were borrowed.

If you have a book or DVD listed below and it is overdue, please return it to the Library before the end of January. If you do not do so, I will remind you again in February.

If you wish to borrow an item that is overdue, please check its card to see who has borrowed the item and call them to let you know that you would like to borrow the item.

Remember, the Library operates on an honesty system and is for the benefit of all members.

Books:

Code	Title	Date Borrowed
BIR 3	Planning in Suit Contracts	22/10/2012
BIR 4	Defending Suit Contracts	Unknown
BIR 5	Defending No trump Contracts	6/07/2012
BIR 6	Planning No Trump Contracts	22/10/2012
BOR 1	Our Precision Style	18/08/2012
BRO 1	Expert Defence	4/06/2011
DIC 3	Better Bidding for Improving Players	Unknown
DOR 1	The New Complete Book of Bridge	4/06/2011
IZD 1	Deadly Defence	Unknown
IZD 2	The Deadly Defence Quiz Book	Unknown
KLI 8	The Power System	Unknown
KLI 11	Ron Klinger's Guide to Better Bridge	23/04/2012
KLI 12	Ron Klinger's Guide to Better Bridge	Unknown
REE 6	The Complete Book of Bridge	27/06/2012
REE 5	How to Play a Good Game of Bridge	Unknown
REE 7.1	Blocking & Unblocking Plays in Bridge	14/03/2011
SEA 1	Splinter Bids	14/03/2011
SEA 2	25 Bridge Conventions you should know	17/10/2011
SEA 5	25 Ways to Be a Better Defender	20/10/2011
SEA 7	Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand	Unknown

DVDs:

Code	Title	Date Borrowed
DVD 1	Opening Leads Part 1	22/10/2012
DVD 2	Opening Leads Part 2	17/12/2011
DVD 3	Competitive Bidding 1	7/02/2011
DVD 4	Competitive Bidding 2	24/07/2012
DVD 5	Defensive Play	Unknown
DVD 7	Advanced Bidding Technique	3/03/2012
DVD 8	Bidding over Pre-empts	20/06/2012
DVD 9	Improve Your Hand Valuation	25/06/2012
DVD 10	Responder's Strategy	3/03/2012
DVD 11	Signals and Discards	14/11/2012
DVD 12	Tips on Bidding	12/07/2012

The following books have recently been donated by Phyllis Morton. Thanks Phyllis.

KLI 10 Bridge is Fun Learn and Laugh with Ron Klinger
KLI 13 Guide to Better Card Play Klinger R
KLI 14 Guide to Better Duplicate Bridge Klinger R

Enjoy your Library and your Bridge and have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Henry Eastment
Librarian

Grounds Maintenance

The main focus in recent weeks has been to get recent plantings of shrubs and perennials through the prolonged hot and dry Spring and early Summer. A number of natives and other shrubs were obtained using the TRC vouchers provided by members and were planted predominately in the garden in the south-east corner of the property (in the new car park). A dozen red Salvias have also been planted in this area and should show some colour early in the new year.

The Gazanias around the garden in front of the main entrance are now established and present a splash of colour to arriving members. This garden has also been planted with pink and red Salvias, which should become more noticeable by March. Another row of Gazanias has been partly planted in front of the Murraya on the southern side of the new car park and will be completed during cooler periods over Summer.

Ralph Geddes has recently been to work trimming a lot of our shrubs and hedges and continues to amaze members with his energy and diligence (and still accumulating points at the table).

Jeff Aitchison
Grounds Co-ordinator

Sign at an Optometrist's Office:

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

Winners are Grinners

September Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	Margaret & John Vines
Tuesday	Carol Wilson & Ian Jesser
Tuesday night	Chris Snook & Mohan Trada
Wednesday	Glenys Clift
Thursday night	Jim Babineau
Friday	Val Buchanan & Lee Hore
Saturday	Robbie Fulton & Lorraine Sutton

October Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	Ian Steger
Tuesday	Rae Capon
Wednesday	Edwina Willis
Thursday	Ed Willey & Bruce Meakins
Thursday night	Roger Ley
Saturday	Rosemary & Ned Kelley

November Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	Jan Stockley & Peter Morton
Tuesday	Ann Klibbe
Tuesday night	Liz Zeller
Wednesday	Val McClement & Ian Jesser
Thursday	Henry Eastment
Thursday night	Roger Ley & Jeff Aitchison
Friday	Lennie Goodson & Marlene Mirtschin
Saturday	Henry Eastment

Thursday Pairs Championship

Edwin Willey & Bruce Meakins

Tuesday Night Pairs Championship

Lee Hore & John Churchett

Patrons Day - Sunday 16 September

This was a new event on the calendar, and proved very popular with 57 pairs competing in a single session match pointed event. Our club patron, Mr Clive Berghofer, AM, was on hand to support the event and to award the very generous prize money that he donated.

A-Grade 1 st	Eileen Josey & Val McClement
A-Grade 2 nd	Edwina Willis & Rhondda Dean
A-Grade 3 rd	Rosemary & Ned Kelley
B-Grade 1 st	Carmel Stephens & Zara Clemesha
B-Grade 2 nd	Hugh Robinson

B-Grade 3rd & Michele Alroe
Trevor & Judy Glasby

C-Grade 1st NS Carol Harris & Bob Cheesman

C-Grade 2nd NS Kaye Fisher & Lavinia Minchin

C-Grade 3rd NS Dave Mulherin
& George McKinnon

C-Grade 1st EW Lynette Bidgood
& Judy Hinchliffe

C-Grade 2nd EW Elizabeth Cox & Lyn Power

C-Grade 3rd EW Jean Bendall & Mary Rehbarg

Join me in congratulating all these players for the success they have enjoyed.

Chris

Social Sub-Committee

The Christmas Party on 8 December was the last scheduled event on the social calendar for a busy 2012. The main events during the year were a visit to Warwick for the Jumpers and Jazz Festival, a visit to the Repertory Theatre and the Melbourne Cup function.

We look forward to more interesting events in 2013 and would appreciate any ideas from members on events they would like to participate in. Better still, get involved and have a say in what events are considered, and how they are conducted.

Jeff Aitchison

Sub-Committee Chairman

In the Zone

Queensland Open Teams

Two teams from the Darling Downs Zone qualified to play in the two day Queensland Open Teams hosted by the Toowong Bridge Club on 25-26 August. There were 32 teams competing, and it was a veritable who's who of Queensland bridge.

One zone team was formed at the last minute, comprised of Byron Longford, Carol Wilson, Laurie-Marie McRoberts and Phil Dobney. They performed very well placing 21st with 3 wins and 5 losses in a very strong field.

My team of Chris Snook, Mohan Trada, Edwin Willey and Ian Jesser had a much tougher time of

it but still recorded 2 wins, despite illness making most of the team look like the walking wounded.

Queensland Open/Novice Pairs

Our zone also supported three pairs to play in the State Open Pairs Championship on 20/21 October. Edwin Willey & Bruce Meakins, Byron Longford & Denise Hartwig and John & Valerie Rose (from Warwick) all had a wonderful experience playing against the state's top players, but it is a very strong field to try and bring home silverware or prize money.

The QBA also run a separate novice section, but it was disappointing to note that there were only 6 pairs competing. Many of our novice pairs would do well in this field and I encourage you to consider playing in the event next year.

Grand National Open Teams

The GNOT National Final was held at Tweed Heads last weekend. The team from the Darling Downs Zone (Chris Snook, Mohan Trada, Edwin Willey and Bruce Meakins) fared reasonably well coming away with 3 wins, 2 draws and 5 losses.

Mohan says that to do well in such competitions "you have to play well and your opponents have to play poorly". It is a simplistic view but very true! Whilst we showed the occasional flash of brilliance (in my opinion, anyway) the opponents didn't seem to make a mistake the whole time we were there, so there were no gifts for us.

Grand National Pairs

Toowoomba Bridge Club hosted the Zone Final of the GNP on Sunday 11 November with 23 pairs competing. I don't think I have ever had an even number of pairs for this complex event – a sitout was most unfortunate. Run as a two-session match-point event, the top two pairs were Ian Jesser & Rhondda Dean and Byron Longford & Col Hutton. Both pairs now proceed to the National Final to be held in Canberra in January. We wish them well.

The ABF have decided not to continue this event after January, so if you are still on the quest for more gold masterpoints, then I suggest playing in the novice or intermediate fields at the Gold Coast Congress at the end of February. It is one of the worlds to bridge competitions – right on your doorstep.

Chris

Dealing with Strong 3-suited Hands

by Edwin Willey

Strong three-suited hands are often difficult to describe in most systems and thus perhaps deserve special attention. Some agreements have ways of showing them, *e.g.* multi-two 2D openers include such an option, which are shown at the three-level. With some of my regular partners, we use a 2D* opener which **only** shows a strong 3-suiter. It is a green system and typically shows 17-22pts with any 4441 **or** 18-22pts any 5440 **or** 20-22pts any 5431. Responses are an indication of length of suit holdings: 2H* only 4-card suits and 2S* 5+-card suit. Should opponents interfere, the two steps are PASS*(=2H) and X(=2S) over a suit call and PASS*(=2H) and XX (=2S) over a double. Openers rebids are 2NT* with either 4441 or 5440 and a suit-bid with the 5-carder in a 5431. From here the auction proceeds naturally.

The 2D* opener promises to keep the auction open until either partner passes or game is reached. This commitment by opener seems extreme; however, this is based on the high probability of responder holding 6+points. This would bring the combined point count of both hands to a minimum of 23, sufficient values for a major game, given a fit. Interestingly, from many years of experience, the 2D opener has consistently produced good results (even up to 7D) and never resulted in a poor one. If responder holds very poor values, the auction will rarely go above the three level, usually playing in a 4-3 or even 4-4 fit.

Such 2D openers do not arise often, in practice perhaps once in two hundred deals. Very occasionally, they may turn up more often as they did in the Tuesday night session on 10 July (Boards 14, 18 and 26).

Bd 14

Dealer: E

Vul: None

	972	
	KT64	
	QJ83	
AT	T8	KQJ5
J7		A82
AT964		5
7542	8643	AKQ93
	Q953	
	K72	
	J6	

Auction:

2D* ¹	n.b.	2S* ²	n.b.
3C* ³	n.b.	3D ⁴	n.b.

3S* ⁵	n.b.	4C* ⁶	n.b.
5H* ⁷	n.b.	6C ⁸	End.

- 1 Strong three suited hand.
- 2 North will bid a 5-card suit next round.
- 3 5431 shape with 5 clubs and 20-22pts (admittedly only 19, but it has great sequences in the blacks).
- 4 5-card diamond suit. Yes: there is 5-4 club fit, but with West's values this hand deserves further exploration. Partner still has to keep the auction open.
- 5 Partner has four spades and has not supported diamonds so has a singleton. So East has 4(spades), 3(hearts), 1(diamond), 5(clubs).
- 6 This bid is below game so East is still obliged to continue bidding. Also 4C cannot be suit preference and thus can only be Gerber, with a weaker hand of this shape, West would pass (or stab 5C) instead of bidding 3D.
- 7 Two odd aces and two kings!!!
- 8 A great contract, which in the event made 13 tricks.

Most other auctions would reach game, but may not locate the 5-4 club fit and thus not reach slam.

Bd 18

Dealer: E

Vul: NS

	KQT83	
	A9	
	K753	
A	JT	76542
KQ542		T3
A98		QT64
AK95	J9	Q4
	J876	
	J2	
	87632	

Auction:

n.b.	n.b.	2D* ¹	n.b.
2S* ²	n.b.	3H* ³	n.b.
3S* ⁴	n.b.	3NT ⁵	n.b.
4H* ⁶	End.		

- 1 Strong three suited hand.
- 2 North will bid a 5-card suit next round.
- 3 5431 shape with 5 hearts and 20-22pts.
- 4 5-card spade suit, in the hope that partner has 3 or 4 spades.
- 5 No luck, partner has only one spade.
- 6 Better option than 3NT; spades are useless and the minor Qs are gold.

Careful play brought in ten tricks for a top result.

Bd 26
Dealer: E
Vul: Both

	QJT952	
	JT	
	J7	
A	875	63
A875		Q962
AKQT9		862
K93	K874	A962
	K43	
	543	
	QJ6	

Auction:

n.b.	n.b.	2D*1	n.b.
2H*2	n.b.	3D*3	n.b.
3H*4	n.b.	4H ⁵	n.b.
n.b. ⁶	End.		

- 1 Strong three suited hand.
- 2 East only has 4-card suits.
- 3 5431 shape with 5 diamonds and 20-22pts
- 4 4-card heart suit.
- 5 West also has 4 hearts.
- 6 Where else?

And here is a bizarre recent example.

Bd 10
Dealer: E
Vul: Both

	87432	
	Q8	
	9854	
A6	96	K5
954		K762
KJT2		Q763
T853	QJT9	AJ2
	AJT3	
	A	
	KQ74	

Auction:

n.b.	2D*1	n.b.	2S*2
n.b.	2NT*3	n.b.	3S ⁴
n.b.	4S ⁵		

- 1 Strong three suited hand.
- 2 North will bid a 5-card suit next round.
- 3 4441 or 5440 shape.
- 4 5-card spade suit.
- 5 Lovely.

Lead: D3 Result: 10 tricks, +620.

