



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba Ph : (07) 46 384808 Email : secretary@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au



June, 2024

Ed: Glenys Clift

Management Committee 2023-2034

President	Greg Munck
Vice President	Tim Porter
Secretary	Trevor Henderson
Treasurer	Marie Steger
Committee	Paul Barrett
	Suzanne Brazier
	Michael Kaiser
	Adrienne
	Montague
	Ken Orange
	Elizabeth Thorne
	Ngairie Wills

Office Holders

Grounds Maint.	Tony Thorne
Teaching Co-ord	David Roberts
MP Secretary	Chris Snook
Tenancy	Bruce Hinchliffe
Librarian	Barbara Davies
Recorder	Ian Jesser
Chief Tournament	
Director	Chris Snook



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Trevor Henderson, Dave Roberts, Chris Snook, Tim Porter and others have been spending a large amount of time on getting as many playing members as possible ready for the MyABF payment session process.

They have just recently achieved a level of 92% of playing members who have a registered an account in the MyABF payment system. Great job people! So far, we have Tuesday night, Thursday night, Friday morning and afternoon sessions paying no cash and hopefully by the end of June, Monday and Wednesday sessions will be on board as well. Thanks to all for helping us achieve this! I am off to get rugged up for the Winter Woolies pairs event.

Greg Munck

OUR SESSION DIRECTORS



Henry Eeastment, Will Higgins, Glenys Clift, Ian Jesser, Chris Snook, Denise Hartwig Trevor Henderson, David Roberts,

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2024



Table fees received in April were \$7,189
As at 30 April 2024 the club held \$85,379.57 in a Term Deposit and \$23,721.76 in the Working Account. ABF funds held were \$210.

Statement of Cash Flow for April shows a net decrease of \$21,450 due to payment of the following: -

- ABF Masterpoint fees - \$987.48
- ABF Membership Subs - \$5,280
- QBA Membership Subs - \$5,280
- McConachie Stedman (7 months Bookkeeping fees) - \$1,074.55
- Progress payment of \$11,425.50 for Solar upgrade
- Enjoy your bridge! *Marie*

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT



Please welcome new member Peter Cannon to our club. Peter has transferred here from the Gunnedah Bridge Club. *Ngaire*



PATRONS DAY
SATURDAY 8TH JUNE
9.30AM



Convenor

The Toowoomba Bridge Club has been very fortunate in having Clive Berghofer AM as our Patron. To acknowledge his past and continuing contribution to our club, Patron's Day is the only club event to award winners prize money, with Clive contributing \$1000 and the club \$500.

The competition is broken up into 3 grades with the top three placegetters in each grade receiving the same prize money – 1st \$250, 2nd \$150 & 3rd \$100.

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| A Grade | Open to all players |
| B Grade | Both players must have less than 200 MP |
| C Grade | Both players must have less than 50 MP |

Entries close on Friday 7th June, 5pm.

This is an all-day event, bring your own lunch and the club will be supplying nibbles & drinks. You can enter via the events page in the appropriate MyABF link. If you have problems, you can contact David Roberts or Chris Snook or as a last resort you can email Glenys Clift at jgclift@bigpond.com who will be the Director.

DIRECTORS FOR THE FUTURE

When we opened the clubhouse in Stuart Street, with Ivy Dahler, Joyce Benson and Col Martin no longer available, the only qualified directors willing to run sessions were Chris Snook & Glenys Clift. While the Uni boys, Phil and Edwin did direct, they were not qualified. With Henry and Glenys about to hit their 8th decade, and Ian not far behind, it is terrific that David Roberts, Will Higgins and Trevor Henderson are now available. However, the club will certainly need more people in the future. Chris Snook runs our Director training programme – you need to have been playing bridge 4-5 years, although that is not essential, and be willing to give up a bit of your time. If you are interested, talk to Chris. We also need some more females in the mix – so come on girls, have a think about it.

IAN JESSER



I grew up in Brisbane where I attended CEGS (Churchie) before being employed at a local wool-broking firm in the early 1960's. In 1965, I was called up in the first intake of National Service which resulted in a long association with Army and Defence. I saw active service as an infantry platoon commander in South Vietnam and also served as a UN Observer in Kashmir in Northern India

I attended the Australian Staff College Fort Queenscliff in Victoria as a Major and the Joint Services Staff College Canberra as a Lieutenant Colonel. On retiring, after some 30 years of service, I was employed in various roles as a defence civilian primarily as the Manager of the Defence Support Group at the Army helicopter base at Oakey.

My association with bridge began at the Canberra Bridge Club in the mid 1980's. I joined the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 1998 and have held various directing and teaching roles in the club. I became an accredited club director in 2009 and have held the appointment of Club Recorder since 2018. I was delighted to be appointed as an Honorary Life Member of our club in 2022. *Ian*

WILL HIGGINS



Growing up in a family of six boys, I had ample opportunity during daylight hours to hone my few sporting skills in the family backyard playing all sorts of games and at night playing the popular board and card games of the time. The card games included euchre and five hundred, which have some commonality with bridge.

.My chosen career was in civil engineering with high hopes of becoming a designer and builder of large bridges, but ended up accidentally specialising in wastewater treatment for which there were plenty of job opportunities in the late 1970's and throughout the 1980's, as community sewage collection and treatment systems were built for many Queensland towns and cities.

After employment with the State Government and then Engineering Consultants, with my wife Jane, we had a year off first backpacking for three months through North America, followed by 9 months in a dodgy campervan adventuring around Europe. After returning to Australia, I took a job in North Qld and had stints as the Shire Engineer based at Atherton and Innisfail.

As the Atherton Bridge Club was based in a Council owned and maintained building, it wasn't long before I finally took some bridge lessons and became hooked. In the early 2000's I had an opportunity to return to Toowoomba and in time project managing the Toowoomba Water Reuse Scheme, as well as many other local government water and wastewater projects. The move to Toowoomba also provided the opportunity to play regular bridge and golf, which with yearly long distance driving trips takes up most of my leisure time.

THE NEWSLETTER PHOTOGRAPHERS

The newsletter wouldn't be half as interesting without the photographs. If it was left to me, who takes forever to transfer photos from a phone to a computer, there wouldn't be any. And for that, I would like to make a special of thank you to the following people:



SUSIE FRASER

Susie not only takes photos but I ask Susie for layout ideas and the wide angle photos. Couldn't do it without you.



KATHY DUKE

If Kathy is playing on a Monday or Wednesday, I can always rely on her to take great photos. Thank you.



MARGARET TUCKER

Thanks Marg for the great job you did organising the Garden Group photos.



BEV McCASKER

I think I am about to give Bev another list for Fri AM
Thanks Bev



DAVID ROBERTS

Dave has taken dozens of photos for me. Poor man – as soon as has finished with a session, there I am with a list and people lined up, Thanks Dave.

And a BIG thank you to all those members not mentioned, who have also sent photos - both for articles and profiles – terrific!! *Glenys*

DON'T GIVE UP by Paul Marston



Mastering Bridge takes time. There are no overnight sensations. Everyone must first serve an apprenticeship. This is because learning Bridge is more about getting the hang of it than it is an intellectual exercise. You have to get a feel for the cards. The problem is complicated because some of the cards are hidden, forcing you to think about risk management.

I often see clever people acting frustrated with their slow progress. They should realize that no one has become a major force without five years' experience. Even young bridge players who start in their late teens or early 20's, few make it before their mid-20's.

Former World Champion, Mike Lawrence, once said it was not until he had been playing for three years that the fog suddenly lifted. For no apparent reason he could suddenly see how the game worked. **Don't give up.**

(Ed: The above article was written by Paul Marston some time ago and published in the Weekend Australian and he has given permission for the re-print. Paul was born in New Zealand in 1949 but emigrated to Australia in the early 1980s. He has represented both New Zealand and Australia several times in international bridge competitions. He now lives in Sydney where he is a bridge professional and club manager as well as being the columnist for the Weekend Australian and the author of several bridge books)

RECAP OF MAINTENANCE SINCE 2020
TIM PORTER



Repainting: The building had been occupied in 2007 and after 12 years was beginning to show a little wear and tear. There was some obvious deterioration in the wooden trims along the façade. After repairing these, it seemed obvious that the outside needed repainting. During the COVID downtime in 2020, we were able to also achieve a repaint of the inside.

Lighting: During 2021, some of the original recessed fluorescent light fittings in the playing rooms needed attention. It proved difficult to obtain satisfactory replacements and the result was a number of light fittings that were very variable in their brightness. Eventually, we opted to replace all the lights with new technology in the form of LED low glare fittings, which have been very well received. At about this time also, several of the exterior lights failed. Again, these were difficult to reinstate individually and were all replaced with LED fittings similar to the originals.

Ventilation : During the Covid restrictions, we were prompted to give serious thought to whether the building had sufficient fresh air flow. Over some weeks in mid-2023, we recorded the CO₂ levels in the room. It acts as a proxy for the adequacy of ventilation. It was consistently well above recommended levels – reflecting the numbers present. Ultimately, we decided that an attachment to the existing air conditioners, known as Heat Recovery Ventilation, would achieve the best result. Two machines were installed in November 2023. CO₂ levels afterwards have been much more satisfactory.

Carpet: In mid-2022, a braided flexible hose attached to the vanity basin in the ladies bathroom burst, flooding the eastern half of the club. In the process of drying it out, the underfelt was removed and subsequently deemed beyond recovery. After some negotiation with our insurers, they agreed to pay for the half of the carpet that had been damaged. This allowed us to then replace the entire carpet in early 2023. The “new” carpet – now a year old – has recently been cleaned along with all the chairs and seems to be in good condition.

“Sinking Fund” An ongoing project I have been working on in spare moments, is to construct a chart of items likely to require repair or replacement and the likely timing of that and its expense. I hope it will act in the manner of a sinking fund to inform the club on the matter of how much cash reserve it should accumulate over the years. This in turn will provide a basis for deciding what level of table fees should apply.

Parking: Prior to the Covid Pandemic the Wednesday and Monday sessions had become very popular to the point that parking in the carpark had become very difficult. We had approached the Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) with the thought that they might grant us access to more land for parking to the north of our current footprint.

Council representatives came to the site to review this. They ultimately declined our suggestion but offered as an alternative, that we might use the area immediately to the west - down the slope for overflow parking when required. It would align with our northern and southern boundaries and the new western boundary would be 30 m to the west. With the numbers playing on Wednesday and Monday now increasing again, this is proving very useful on those days. *Tim*

PROFILE NGAIRE WILLS



I was born in Charleville and lived there for four years until my father, who was a weather forecaster, was transferred to Sydney. After 18 months of city living, my parents bought a sheep and wheat property near Hillston in western NSW. My primary schooling was at a one-teacher school near my parent's property, and my secondary at Broken Hill.

I completed an environmental science degree at Macquarie University and worked as a Technical Officer with CSIRO on a mining reclamation project in Broken Hill. Following a year travelling overseas, I worked again for CSIRO on wheat and cotton plant breeding projects in Canberra and Narrabri. After moving to Gatton, I taught science and geography at the local high school. I took time off work to be a stay-at-home mum before returning to work part-time as an Equity Officer at the Gatton Campus of UQ. I also worked part-time at USQ for several years.

At Gatton, members of the Lockyer Bridge Club taught me some of the basics of bridge. About 6-8 members played one afternoon a week on the verandah of the QAC student hospital (Gloria Collins was the resident nurse and one of the teachers). I used to attend after the school day was finished. When they thought I had learned "enough", I was encouraged to play in the competition session on Thursday nights. The Josey's and Helen Holmes were some of the regulars playing at the Lockyer Club in those days.

After retiring to Ballina in 2007, I started to play bridge regularly and benefited from learning so much from many of the more advanced players at the Ballina Club. We moved to Toowoomba in 2020 primarily to be close to our daughter and her family and to play a more active part in our grandchildren's lives. I was made to feel very welcome when I joined the Toowoomba Club when it re-opened after Covid restrictions were lifted later in 2020. I continue to enjoy the challenges of this addictive game in the friendly atmosphere of the TBC. *Ngaire*

PROFILE MARIE STEGER



I was born in Toowoomba and lived in the same family home near Lake Annand until I married in 1979. My first job was at the Commonwealth Bank, where I worked until the birth of our first of three children. I returned to work after completing a course in income tax return preparation. I then undertook further studies and obtained my qualification as a Registered Tax Agent in 2002 and was in private practice with a business partner until 2008. Due to family health issues, I decided to go back to work as an employee for a local firm where I stayed until my retirement in 2018.

My late husband had been a well-known member of the club, and I began lessons after my retirement, where I met my current bridge partner, Gretchen, at lessons in 2019. We found we played well together, and have continued to enjoy a great friendship, while always looking to improve our game.

The first question Dave Roberts asked me when I commenced playing bridge was where I had worked previously, and immediately suggested I could be the next Treasurer!

I enjoy being part of the community, and currently volunteer annually with Tax Help at the East Creek Community Centre. My other interests are musical theatre, travel, and currently reading children's books (as I have four wonderful grandchildren aged 3 to 6 years).

My favourite song is "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong. *Marie*

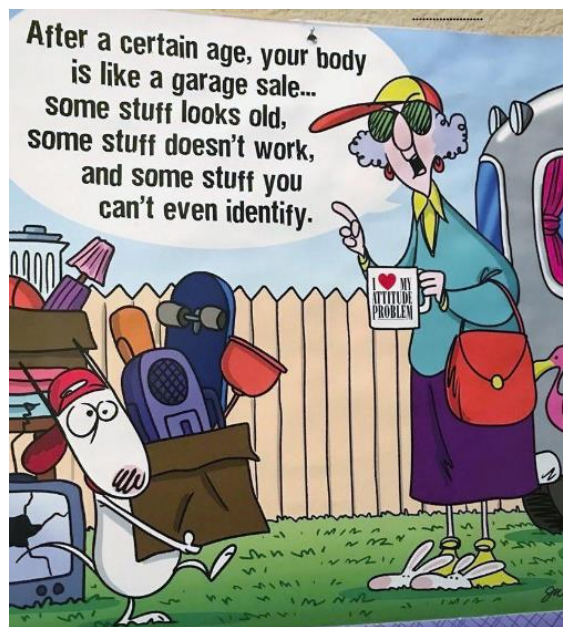
BILL BRYSON'S TAKE ON AGEING

Given that the average age of members of our club has to be somewhere in the low to mid-seventies, I was highly amused to read Bill Bryson's take on aging whilst he grumbled about the punishment to his body when doing a bit of hiking around parts of Britain. This was a book he wrote in 2015 called "*The Road to Little Dribbling...*" when he was 64.

"The worst part about ageing is the realization that your future is downhill. Bad as I am today, I am pretty well tip-top compared with what I am going to be next week or the week after. I recently realized with dismay that I am even too old now for early onset dementia. Any dementia I get will be right on time. The outlook is for infirmity, liver spots, baldness, senility, bladder dribble, purple blotches on the hands and head as if my wife has been beating me with a wooden spoon (always a possibility) and the conviction that no one in the world speaks loud enough. And that's the best-case scenario.

There are other scenarios that involve catheters, beds with side railings, plastic tubing with my blood in it, care homes, being lifted on and off toilets and having to guess what season it is outside – and those are still near the best-case end of the spectrum".

Sorry Bill, 64 is a walk in the park. Quite frankly. I think Maxine describes it perfectly. *Glenys*



LIBRARIANS REPORT

A new addition to our library is a folder with each month's newsletter in print form. Obviously, it is not for removal but can be accessed in the club rooms. You can also access the newsletter on our home page Website.

Barbara

TIPS ON BRIDGE ETTIQUETTE

1. Always greet your opponents, introduce yourselves and tell them what system you are playing. If you are beginners "We are playing Standard American with a 15-17 NT" and if you like, "we are still learning our system". If you muck up the bidding, well people have been warned.
2. Count your cards face down before you look at them. If there are 14 in one hand and 12 in another, the Director can fix this, and you play on as normal. Sometimes a board cannot be played if the missing card was significant – say an Ace – and the person with 14 cards looked at their hand without counting. You may even be penalised for this. If the missing card is under the previous table, you may inadvertently renege – you will not realise this until the 13th card is to be played and you don't have one. When the card is found, the Director will have to check how you played your hand to see if there has been a renege – and if so, your side will be penalised.
3. Prior to leading, you, as the person on lead, can ask for the auction to be explained. When you make the opening lead, always place the card face down – this gives your partner a chance to ask any questions about the auction.
4. When your partner as dummy puts his/her hand down, always thank him irrespective of how good or bad it is. When you make an adverse comment about dummy or your partner's bidding, you immediately alert the opposition that you are in trouble and make life uncomfortable for your partner.
5. Once you have played a card and turned it over, you cannot demand to see what the other players have played that round. But while your card is face up on the table, you can ask the opposition to show you what they played if their cards have been turned down.
6. You must agree with the opposition as to the number of tricks you have won or lost before you put the cards back into their pockets. If there is a disagreement about the number of tricks won or lost, ask your opponents if they would mind going through the cards – if they have a problem with this, you call the Director and let him sort it out. If it is shown that you were incorrect, always apologise – this is no big deal, better than feeling that you were cheated.
7. Once a hand has been played, congratulate the opposition if they have played well or commiserate with your partner if he/she went down "Bad luck partner". Unless your partner asks you, and really means it, as to how he/she could have made the contract – do not immediately tell him/her everything wrong about the play.
8. You must NEVER touch another player's cards under any circumstances. If you think the opposition have renege during the play, when the hand is played, ask everyone not to touch their cards because you think there may have been a renege (you might be wrong) and call the Director who will sort it out.
9. When you finish a round, do not ignore the opposition and talk across them about the hands you have just played. If you want to do that, ask their permission or include them in the conversation.

Editor's Note: This article is not only aimed at our newer players who may not be aware of their rights - it is also aimed at some of our more experienced players who, while their focus is purely on bridge, need to be reminded sometimes that for most people, club sessions are also regarded as social outings.

Glenys



Scorer
Chris Snook

THE JOYCE BENSON CUP

Open 1st Adrian Mayers & Will Higgins
 2nd Chris Snook & Denise Hartwig
 3rd Elizabeth Zeller & Joan Mladen

Novice 1st Pauline Curin & Kerry Gibson
 2nd Andrew Mollison & Debra Coward
 3rd Rosanne Munns & Dale Burey



Director
Glenys Clift

This event was run with two grades, Open and Novice (fewer than 100 mp) with 13 and 12 tables entered respectively. First week was a qualifying round with the top six NS and top six EW then playing in a 6-table Barometer Howell final. This means it is like the Howell you are familiar with, where you are sometimes NS and sometimes EW. The difference is the rounds are longer and you play 5-boards against each other pair over the two weeks.

Whilst all this was going on, the non-finalists played in a separate field (also for red masterpoints). Top of the tree were:

Open Week 2: NS Laurie-Marie McRoberts & Kathy Duke
 EW Jim Wood & Robert Fulcher
Novice Week 2: Adrienne Montague & Angela Worrall
 Kerry Brown & Jan Lindau
Combined Week 3: Laurie-Marie McRoberts & Kathy Duke
 Fleur Hopkins & Alison Evans

Members earned 85.56 red masterpoints over the three days, compared with 66.46 in 2023, 86.06 in 2022, 78.48 in 2021, 89.90 in 2019 and the record 95.14 in 2018 (pre-Covid). The event was started in 2007 and the list of winners over the past 17 years is a bit of a who's who in the Toowoomba Bridge Club

- 2007 Peter Cooke & Eileen Josey
- 2008 Robbie Fulton & Lorraine Sutton
- 2009 Col Hutton & Graeme Hodgson
- 2010 Val McClement & Jackie Henderson
- 2011 Glenys Clift & Jackie Henderson
- 2012 Ian Jesser & Val McClement
- 2013 Val McClement & Ian Jesser
- 2014 Laurie-Marie McRoberts & Judy Briggs
- 2015 Ian Jesser & Kent Taylor
- 2016 Jim Wood & Jenni Buckley
- 2017 Jim Wood & Jenni Buckley
- 2018 Byron Longford & Mearon Geldard
- 2019 Byron Longford & Adrian Mayers
- 2020 Not held
- 2021 Chris Snook & Denise Hartwig
- 2022 Denise Hartwig & Chris Snook
- 2023 Elizabeth Zeller & Adrian Mayers
- 2024 Adrian Mayers & Will Higgins



WINNERS

Toowoomba Bridge Club

Joyce Benson Cup

1st, 8th & 15th
May 2024

Let's Play Bridge!



1st Adrian Mayers & Will Higgins
2nd Denise Hartwig & Chris Snook
3rd Liz Zeller & Joan Mladen



Adrian Mayers & Will Higgins



Denise Hartwig & Chris Snook



Liz Zeller & Joan Mladen

JOYCE BENSON CUP < 100MP



Pauline Curin & Kerry Gibson

1st Pauline Curin & Kerry Gibson
2nd Debra Coward & Andrew Mollison
= 3rd Rosanne Munns & Dale Bury
=3rd Murray Pietsch & Michael Rose-Miller



Debra Coward & Andrew Mollison

The ★★★★★ Caterers



Kim Nalder Michael Kaiser,
Val Shield



Rosanne Munns & Dale Bury

Murray Pietsch & Michael Rose-Miller

JOYCE BENSON CUP PLATE WINNERS
OPEN



Open Week 2: NS Laurie-Marie McRoberts & Kathy Duke
EW Jim Wood & Robert Fulcher

Combined Week 3: Laurie-Marie McRoberts & Kathy Duke
Fleur Hopkins & Alison Evans

JOYCE BENSON CUP PLATE WINNERS
NOVICE



Novice Week 2: Adrienne Montague & Angela Worrall
Kerry Brown & Jan Lindau

BRIDGE IS NOT A GAME OF SECRETS



The first (and as it turned out, the only time) I played against Tony Jackman was many years ago when congresses were not divided into levels. My partner and I knew he was a top Australian bridge player who had represented Australia, and we were horrified that we had drawn them in the first round. As it turned out, it was one of the most enlightening and enjoyable experiences I have had at bridge. He and his partner knew we were way out of our league but rather than treat us like a couple of chumps, they went out of their way to make us welcome and on winning the contract and prior to us leading, they made a point of explaining not only what each bid meant but how many cards would probably be in each suit in dummy. This wasn't to show off or make us feel stupid but is part of the etiquette of bridge where, when you are declarer, the opposition are entitled to know as much as your partner.

Now theoretically, if the opposition don't know they can ask what the bidding means, there is certainly no obligation to tell them. But when your bids may have a different interpretation to what newer players are taught, for instance with weak jumps 0-6 –then it is a courtesy that you should make sure they know it is not strong.

The other point I would like to mention is when the opposition ask for an explanation of your partner's bid, and you don't know, it is not acceptable to say, "I am not sure, but this is what I am taking it for". That is, another form of cheating even though you don't mean to. Just say "I don't know" or "we haven't discussed this" or "I can't remember" - the opposition can then call the director and you will have to leave the table while he/she explains what their bid means.

Remember, bridge is not a game of secrets.

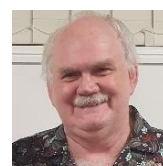
Glenys

Toowoomba Under 500 & Novice Teams Congress Sunday 16th June 2024



Congress Convenor
Tim Porter

UNDER 500 Limited to players under 500 MP
NOVICE Limited to players under 100 MP
as at 30/4/24



Tournament Director
Chrs Snook

**PLEASE ARRIVE BY 9AM
STARTING TIME 9.30AM**

This is an all-day event, you will need to bring your own lunch, however there will be refreshments available all day and the club will be providing savouries and drinks at the end of play.

PRIZE MONEY - 1ST \$400 2ND \$200.00 and there may be additional prize money depending on the size of the field.

Use this link to take you to the entry. <http://www.toowoombabridgeclub.com.au/comingevents.asp?id=30013>

**QBA regulations apply.
Entry fee \$120 per team**

You will need to enter via your MyABF Account. If you are having problems entering, you can contact Tim Porter 0418693631 or Chris Snook 0413136435.



Masterpoint Secretary's Report

In May I processed results for 45 sections from 33 sessions yielding 118.93 green, 85.56 red and 35.84 gold masterpoints. It has been a busy month for all of us.

Master Rank Promotions for May

Carol Wilson	Promoted to Gold Life master with 750 points at least 450 red and gold
Mavis Simpson	Promoted to Bronze Life master with 400 points at least 240 red and gold
David Roberts	Promoted to National master with 150 points at least 75 red and gold
Kerry Gibson	Promoted to State master with 50 points at least 25 red and gold
Tim Porter	Promoted to State master with 50 points at least 25 red and gold
Andrew Mollison	Promoted to Bronze Regional master with 100 masterpoints
Peter Cannon	Promoted to Silver Local master with 35 masterpoints
Kathleen Carey	Promoted to Bronze Local master with 25 masterpoints
Dale Burey	Promoted to Bronze Local master with 25 masterpoints

There has been a small change in the presentation of results on our website in the "70% Club" section. This used to show any results, and that meant people were showing with greater than 70% in 5-board matches that were part of a bigger event. It is a lot easier to get 70% over five boards and a lot harder to sustain this performance over a whole session. This webpage has now changed so it only shows for a whole session (e.g. around 24-33 boards).

You can check this out by going to our website:

- ➔ www.toowoombabridgeclub.com.au
- ➔ Click on [**Results**]
- ➔ Click on [**70% Club**].

Whilst there you can also look at **individual history** for you or your partner, and can also see a list of who has recently bid and made a Grand Slam.

Improvers Class

These classes continue on Monday mornings with about 7-8 tables most weeks. We start at 8:45 finishing at 11:30.

We have just covered checking that it is safe to bid Slam using Blackwood after suit has been called/agreed and Gerber after partner has shown a balanced no-trump call. Our responses are up-the-line, so after 4NT, 5C shows 0 or 4 aces, 5D shows 1, etc; and after 4C Gerber, responses are 4D shows 0 or 4 aces, etc.

If you play with one of these developing players, please use their system so they can practice what they have learnt.

Monday 10th June is Supervised play with hands focussed on Ace asking

Monday 17th June is lesson and practice on opening strong balanced hands

Monday 24th June is Supervised play with hands focussed on opening strong balanced hands

Monday 1st July is lesson and practice on opening strong unbalanced hands

Monday 8th July is Supervised play with hand focussed on opening strong unbalanced hands

Any player wishing to brush up on their bidding skills or just have fun with lots of strong hands is welcome to attend

Winners are Grinner

May Monthly Winners

Monday PM Open	David Roberts
Monday PM Novice	Debra Coward & Pauline Curin
Tuesday Night	Denise Hartwig & Mohan Trada
Wednesday AM Restricted Keating	Robert Ramsay & Chris
Wednesday PM Open	Denise Hartwig
Wednesday PM Novice	Ian Costin
Thursday Night	Lawrence Price
Friday Morning	Greg Munck
Friday PM	Jenni Buckley & Jim Wood

Goondiwindi Swiss Pairs

2 nd	Alison Dawson & Liz Zeller
5 th	Denise Hartwig & Chris Snook
B 2 nd	Laurie-Marie McRoberts & Kathy Duke
C 1 st	Yvonne Mallory & Trevor Mallory

In Recent Club Competitions

May Friday Morning Two-Weekly Pairs	Kerry Gibson & Pauline Curin
May Friday Afternoon Two-Weekly Pairs	Jim Wood & Jenni Buckley
May Wednesday Morning Two-Weekly Pairs	Robert Ramsay & Chris Keating
May Thursday Night Two-Weekly Pairs	Michelle Porter & Andrew Mollison

Well done everyone ☺

Cheers *Chris*

Date Claimers

- **Patron's Day** Saturday 8th June (two sessions). This event is normally divided into three grades, with substantial prizemoney – but we do need to have sufficient entries to make this happen.
- **Toowoomba Under 500 and Novice Teams congress** Sunday 16th June.
- **Graded Birthday Pairs** Tuesday 2nd July (it will be 17 years in our new building and 41 years for the Toowoomba Bridge Club Inc).
- **GNOT Qualifier** Wednesday Afternoons 10th & 17th July.
Teams event for gold masterpoints. Be part of a national competition (the only one where you can play in your own clubrooms). The top (contending) teams will advance to the Zone Final on 11th August competing against all the other clubs in our zone. The top two contending teams from our zone final advance to play online in the GNOT 64 Team Knockout in September. The top four teams nationally, plus the eight highest placed non-metropolitan teams play in the national final in November. “Non-contending” means that you are eligible to play and earn masterpoints in a stage of the event but will not be advancing to the next stage (because of other commitments, disinterest in the next stage, already qualified via another mechanism).
- **Presidents Cup** Two Saturday afternoons 13th & 20th July

IF ONLY I HAD A GOOD PARTNER

by Monica Pritchard

I've always secretly relished the fact
That Bridge is a partnership game.
So whenever I didn't do wonderfully well
There was always the partner to blame.
So imagine my horror and disbelief
When some so-called friend made me see
That instead of me blaming my partners.
My partners were all blaming me!!

I've looked at some really good players.
They're not much better than me.
But the reason they win when I never do
Is painfully easy to see.
They all have a really good partner
While I've got the partners from hell.
I know if I had a good partner
I would be winning as well.

My partners complain I'm erratic.
They say that my bidding is crook.
They say that I hog all the contracts.
Then play like a psychotic chook.

They claim.....
I lead away from aces.
I trump their winning card.
I double certain contracts.
I make the wrong discard.
I often leave them stranded.
I don't lead what I should.
I ignore all their signals.
In short I am no good.

Now although I don't like to upset them
It simply has to be said.
If they cannot see how brilliant I am
They're not really right in the head.

If only I had a good partner
I know that I'd do really well.
Instead of which I am languishing here
In the horror of partnership hell

IF ONLY I HAD A GOOD PARTNER

I accept it's a partnership duty
To clarify bidding mistakes
But a casual conversational chat
Is honestly all that it takes.

I'm happy to be corrected
In language that isn't too strong.
But to call me deranged, demented, insane
Is simply uncalled for and wrong.

Now I know it occasionally happens
That I'll open when I'm a bit light
But when partner does see that I've just 2 or 3
There is no need to be impolite.
I bid and I play by instinct.
I like to perform with some flair.
I won't stick to a rigid system.
That thousands of others might share.
I'm idiosyncratic.

My bidding and play must be free.
So why can't I find a good partner?
A partner who'll just let me be me.

Why should we always be docile
And always conform to the rules
I tell my partners they're spineless.
They're timid incompetent fools.
Strangely enough my partnerships
Never last very long
And I don't understand it.
But when they break up it seems
I am the one in the wrong!

So if you're a really good player
And your partner is not very hot.
Why don't you get in touch with me
And we can give it a shot.

But I've just about given up waiting
For the partner I dream of to phone
And if I don't find a good partner soon
I'm playing this game on my own.



Monica Pritchard is a past President of the QCBC who has kindly given me permission to re-print her poetry and has forwarded several other poems she has written on the topic of playing bridge to use. While Monica has had a very interesting professional career, she is obviously a woman of many talents. The above poem was originally forwarded to me courtesy of Kaye Fisher and Barbara Davies - thanks Kaye, thanks Barbara.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS



**Michael
Rose-Miller**

Born in Nairn, Scotland, grew up on a farm near MacBeth's Cawdor. Studied Modern History at Oxford, hitch-hiked Europe and qualified as a Chartered Accountant. Worked for Deloittes in Melbourne then Toowoomba.

Love the theatre and singing in Choirs. At the club I enjoy the ethos of friendship, respect and professionalism.

Michael



Mark John Hunt

After 40 years living in Mackay, Blackwater & Emerald in the career that creates all others – teaching, we retired to Toowoomba and began our travels. On a world cruise in 2017 they ran bridge lessons which prompted me to attend lessons at the club. Now bridge is a regular part of my life and I enjoy the camaraderie and challenge.

Mark.

Born in Rocky but grew up in Canberra. Taught for 20 years then studied Chinese at Canberra Uni -. my third year I studied in Beijing & travelled China – the most interesting year in my life., I taught Chinese at Centenary Heights State High School in 1998. After retiring in 2018, I took up Bridge lessons. The things I love (apart from Bridge) are literature, languages, Australian wildlife and international travel. I am an avid reader, gardener, bird watcher, walker and memoir writer.

Gretchen



Gretchen Graf

Born & grew up in Brisbane. Studying part-time at UQ enabled me to become one of the 3% of women who were qualified public accountants in 1968. I have had my own practice for 50+ years, mainly in the Jimboomba area. Volunteered with the Girl Guides, Kairos Outside, Toowoomba Photographic Society and local chaplaincy committees. In 2018 I retired to Toowoomba and joined the club after lessons in 2019 and the rest is history. *Val*



Val Shield



Peter Taylor

Born Bulli 1941, MBBS U.Q. Married Roslyn 1966. Family doctor Toowoomba from July 1969 after hospital training. 3 children, 6 grandchildren. Widowed 2012, married Dr. Lynne King 2019. Wary of learning Bridge but Trudy great teacher. Enjoy the camaraderie. Memorable moment - the late indefatigable Pam Gebbett -" Peter, you don't pass a takeout double unless you haven't got a pulse " *Peter*



**Trevor
Corthorne**

Born in the UK, played soccer, rugby, rowing, squash, Taekwondo & table tennis. Worked as an Analytical Chemist in different industries in the UK Came to Oz in 1970 and worked for Rowntree in Melbourne. Worked in Asia & later with Qld Public Service retiring in 2007.

I jam in a small music group, play bridge 3x and table tennis 2x a week.

Motto for life at 80+ – Use it or lose it! *Trevor*

GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS



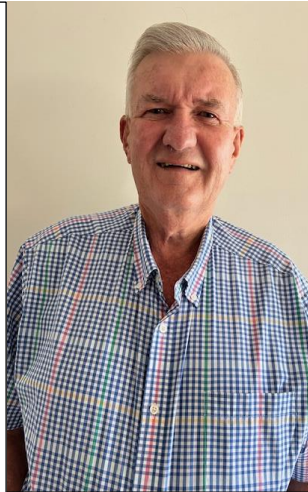
Bruce Coward

I grew up on the family property at Mungindi and farmed in the area until retirement to Toowoomba in 2019.

I had some bridge lessons at Mungindi 25 years ago and then played a little at the TBC pre- covid and have just started playing again.

I enjoy playing golf and we enjoy travelling with and without the caravan.

Cheers *Bruce*



Robert Beaumont

Born in Chinchilla, grew up at Mango Hill on a pineapple farm and completed my education in Brisbane where I represented my school in Rugby & played with Norths Rugby League Club. Started a career in finance, then was called up for 2 yrs National Service – posted to signals in Carbarlah and married Carmel. Resumed my job in finance, which took us from Brisbane to Cairns and then Melbourne for 16 yrs. We have 3 children & 4 grandchildren. *Bob*

Born in Warwick, grew up in Greenmount & attended St Saviours. Worked in Rowes, then after marrying & 3 children, I studied computer skills & worked for SEQ then 7SD Airforce Base & after the base closed, Centrelink. We have 7 grandchildren who visit us regularly. I really appreciate what the Bridge committee does & I have met so many wonderful people at bridge and hope to have many more years enjoying this wonderful friendship.

Annette



Annette Mitchell

I grew up as a country girl who enjoyed being educated at one teacher schools. I became a trainee nurse in 1962. Got married, had three children and became a registered nurse 2004. I'm a slow leaner!! Working in the community was my favorite job as a RN. Being a Ready Reader at a primary school also brought many hours of pleasure and satisfaction. I enjoy playing bridge and interacting with other members of TBC.

Bev



Beverley Mitchell



Terry Sheedy

Born in Toowoomba, educated in Chinchilla & Oakey. Was a Cadet Engineer with Toowoomba Foundry & night classes at QITDD now USQ. Early Interests included sailing, cricket, squash & later Karting with my sons. Became Qld Tech Officer training people to check engines for compliance with technical regulations. Learnt 500 when I was 8 but prefer bridge as it is fairer -we all play the same cards. *Terry*



Roger Green

Born in Zimbabwe, joined the Airforce then farming until the farm was lost to Mugabe's regime. The best day in our lives was being accepted into Australia in 1984. Worked at Boyne Island Smelter then back to farming until 2007. I then worked as an economic adviser for Dept State Development & was on the Board of Regional Development Australia. After retiring, worked as a volunteer at Borallon Prison. We now have 7 grandchildren. *Roger*

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 (bridge mates, 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.

