



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

March 2017

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba 4350
PO Box 16045, Northpoint 4350



Editor: John Churchett

email: secretary@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au

Presidents Report



Since our last Newsletter, all the regular club sessions are well and truly back to full swing once again. January saw a record number of members playing bridge with a total of 441 tables, our second highest month ever.

This also sometimes means a lot more work for our club directors, so many thanks to our Directors who do such a brilliant job.

This year we have changed up the Wednesday and Friday morning supervised play sessions to help cater for the Beginners that are just out of lessons. Ian Jesser has been running the Wednesday morning Beginner supervised session. Members can play in a relaxed and supervised atmosphere and ask questions and this has been proving to be quite popular with an average of nine tables each week.

Chris Snook has been conducting the Friday morning Intermediate restricted session with a half hour lesson prior to commencement of play. This session has also been proving quite popular with an average of 9-10 tables. From the comments I have heard from members that attend, they are really enjoying it and getting so much from the way Chris presents it...as well as his quirky sense of humour.

The decision was made not to hold an Open Day this year to attract new members. What was held instead was an Information Session for two hours on 11 February. Chris Snook and I explained some of the very basics of what bridge encompassed and what the Club would offer students in the way of support after lessons. We also demonstrated a hand on how

it may possibly be bid and played, without going into a lot of detail with them...we kept it quite simple but let them know enough so that they were all intrigued. They then ventured into the other side of the room where a real game of bridge was in progress. Even though there was only twelve people that were able to attend, they were all so excited after watching the bidding and the play that I virtually had to drag them out of there to allow the bridge players to continue on with their game!

The Wednesday morning Beginners lessons commenced on 15 February and has seen ten new players commence whilst Thursday night has twelve new players, both days with a few players repeating the lessons.

The bridge Congress scene appears to be getting busier each year with an increasing number of events getting scheduled. Some of the achievements from our members were:

10-22nd January – Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge:

Open Pairs – 38th out of 228 pairs was Liz Zeller
Under 500 MP Swiss Pairs – 3rd place - Gabrielle Elich and Denise Hartwig

15th January – QCBC Novice Pairs:

2nd place – Diana Drummond and Lavinia Minchin

5th February – Toowoomba Novice Pairs:

2nd place – Dave and Carol Edwards

12th February – Warwick Swiss Pairs:

2nd place – Desley Mundell and John Erlandson
3rd place – Gabrielle and John Elich

11-12th March – Dalby Pairs and Teams:

2nd in pairs – Byron Longford and Pat Larson
1st in teams – Lorraine Sutton, Robbie Fulton,
Laurie-Marie McRoberts, Judith Briggs

12th March – Toowong Novice Pairs:

1st place – Carmel Caton and Trevor Henderson

The 57th Gold Coast Congress was held from 18-25 February. There was overwhelming support from Toowoomba with over forty members participating in at least one event. It was very exciting to see so many members attending, having some time away as well as having lots of fun. With many Rookie and Novice events available to play in, if you haven't yet played at the Gold Coast, mark it in your diary now for the 16-24 February 2018!

The Club will be engaging a contractor shortly to re-do all the line-marking in the car park. We are also receiving a quote to paint the concrete stops at the end of each parking bay with a fluoro-type paint so it can be easily seen at night. Whilst on the subject of car parks, a little reminder to everybody to drive slowly and please only park in the designated parking spaces. Cheers

Denise Hartwig

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Denise Hartwig
VICE PRESIDENT	John Churchett
SECRETARY	Margaret Tucker
TREASURER	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Desley Hanrahan Jean Moetara Greg Munck David Roberts Chris Snook Leonie Spence Lyn Vary

OFFICE HOLDERS

CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	Chris Snook
CONGRESS CONVENOR	David Roberts
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Chris Snook
PROVIDOR	Keith Jenkin
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Glenys Clift Desley Hanrahan
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook Gabrielle Elich Greg Munck Roger Ley
ZONAL DELEGATES	Chris Snook Denise Hartwig
PRESS OFFICER	Kim Nicoll
TEACHING COORDINATOR	Glenys Clift
LIBRARIAN	Jean Moetara
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	John Churchett

HOUSEKEEPER	Lyn Vary
SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR	Henry Eastment
WELFARE OFFICER	Desley Hanrahan
FIRST AID KIT, WH&S	Roger Ley
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Bruce Hinchliffe
INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY & WEBMASTER	Chris Snook David Roberts
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	Greg Munck
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	
BOARD DEALING COORDINATOR	Roger Ley
BIRTHDAY CLUB	Desley Hanrahan
PARTNERSHIP ARRANGER	Pam Gebbett

As well as the elected and appointed positions, the Toowoomba Bridge Club has three sub-committees to help coordinate the running of the club:

TOURNAMENT SUB-COMMITTEE:

Chris Snook (Chair), Val Buchanan, Glenys Clift, Henry Eastment, Gabrielle Elich, Ian Jesser, Adrian Mayers, Ray Moore, Leonie Spence, Floyd Wilson, Liz Zeller, David Roberts and the President (ex-officio)

FUNCTION AND CATERING SUB-COMMITTEE

Leonie Spence (Chair), Desley Hanrahan, the Providor (ex-officio) and the President (ex officio),

TEACHING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Glenys Clift (Chair), Trudy Dunne, Denise Hartwig, Ann Klibbe Ian Jesser, Byron Longford, Chris Snook, Leonie Spence and Liz Zeller.

Welfare Officer

Please contact Desley Hanrahan on (0416136779) or at the club if you know of a member who is ill, hospitalized or suffering a bereavement and Desley will respond suitably on behalf of the Club.

Thank You Trevor

Trevor (with advice from Judy) has for many years in his Grounds and Maintenance position led in keeping the club grounds and environs in a tip-top and attractive condition with his attention to detail together with his experience and practical abilities.

Trevor has now moved away from this role and the Club and all members would like to give a big Thank You to Trevor and all our ongoing best wishes.

PATRON'S DAY

Thanks to the generous ongoing support of Clive Berghofer, our Patrons Day Competition was held on 4th March which happened to be Clive's birthday.

The winners were:

A 1st Jenni Buckley & Jim Wood

A 2nd Susan Spinks & Carol Wilson

A 3rd Glenys Clift and Will Higgins

B 1st Margaret Tucker & John Cox

B 2nd Bruce Hinchliffe & Fay Short

B 3rd Esme & Jack Burnie

C 1st Michael Mumford & Frank Elston

C 2nd Peter Bryce & John Ryan

C 3rd Joan Mladen & Pam Davey

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to Clive for the substantial prize money.

LESSONS FOR 2017

MONDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS

Held last Monday of each month
9AM – 11.30AM

I will be conducting the following workshops which will be open to ALL MEMBERS. No partner needed.

27TH MARCH 2017

Bidding Strong Balanced Hands

24TH APRIL 2017

Counting losers for strong openings

29TH MAY, 2017

Who looks for Slam

26th JUNE, 2017

Coping with 2-suiters

24th JULY, 2017

Gerber with CRO responses

28th August, 2017

Hamilton

Each month there will be a list on the Results Notice board for interested members to put their name.

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

Friday 8.30 for 9AM start

Run by Chris Snook with Denise Hartwig assisting, this is a Restricted Session with a topic discussed prior to play. No partner needed.

Topics for April will deal with useful conventions such as Cue bidding, Jacoby response to a major opening, Landy, Drury and explaining what a Splinter bid is.

All these conventions are in common use with the more experienced players in our club and this is an opportunity for our up and coming players to at least become familiar with them.

BUILDING ON THE BASICS

Wednesday 8.30 for 9AM start

Run by Ian Jesser with Leonie Spence assisting this is a Supervised Session limited to members with 20MP or a pair with a combined masterpoint limit of 40. No partner needed.

The most important part of playing bridge is to have a good understanding of the basics. In fact it has been proven that you can play very good bridge, never miss a fit, never miss game, if the basics that underlie bridge bidding are understood.

Glenys Clift

Coming Events

- 2 April: Toowoomba Butler Pairs Congress
- 9 April: Zone QBA Teams Qualifier at Dalby
- 23 April: Club Teams Championship – Red Points

New Rankings for 2017



Kirkpatrick, Anne	*National
Edwards, David J	*Regional
Henderson, Trevor	Regional
Cavanagh, Elizabeth	Regional
Cox, John	**Local
King, Judy	**Local
Edwards, Judy	*Local
Price, Lawrence	*Local
Barrett, Paul	*Local
Crank, Gregory	*Local
Deitch, Janet	*Local
Power, Lynette	*Local
Dinsey, Gail	*Local
Lutton, Neville	Local
Ryan, John	Local
Nixon, Alastair	Local
Wise, John	Local
Duncan, Kay	Local
Cooper, Frank	Local
Wise, Margaret	Local
Edwards, Carol	Club
Carey, Kathleen	Club
Mladen, Joan	Graduate
Bryce, Peter	Graduate
McCasker, Beverley	Graduate
Mumford, Michael	Graduate

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our Current Membership totals 407, made up of 330 Home Members and 77 Away Members. This is very similar to where our membership was twelve months ago with 331 Home Members. When you consider that the majority of our members are aged over 70 and each year we lose a percentage purely through age related factors, to maintain our numbers is probably as good as it gets.

One member I would like to mention is one of John and my favourite people, Glennis Cowell. Glennis joined the club in 2005 having done lessons with Jackie Henderson the previous year. Whilst Glennis has rejoined, she tells me she doesn't think she will be back as she is pretty much confined to a wheelchair. I did tell her if she came in on her wheelchair, there would be a rousing shout of welcome.

So it would be lovely if someone could talk her into coming back. I did try but failed miserably.

Desley Hanrahan will be taking over as Membership Secretary once we have updated the ABF list this month. I know Desley will do an excellent job and wish her all the best in her new role.

Glenys Clift
Membership Secretary

Treasurer's Announcement

It is with regret that I am resigning from the Toowoomba Bridge Club Committee and from the Treasurer role. Family commitments are necessitating my frequent absence from Toowoomba and I am unable to carry out the necessary requirements of this job. Thank you to the club for entrusting me with this role.

Gabrielle Elich

PROVIDOR

I would like to thank the assistance given to me by Fleur Hopkins and Lesley Meyer on Wednesdays. It is greatly appreciated.

I really enjoy being your Providor and your continual feedback is wonderful.

Keith Jenkin
PROVIDOR

Keys and Codes

Recently the general security code to the clubrooms has been changed. This means that anyone with a key entering the building and using this code will trip the alarms.

As a consequence could all key holders check the validity of their codes with Dave Roberts and any key holder who no longer needs a key return it to Dave please.

Winners are Grinners

The "Monthly Winner" awards are displayed on the noticeboard and on the club website. This is a good way to celebrate the high performing players in each session and provide additional green masterpoints to those players who play regularly in club sessions.

December Monthly Winners

Monday A Doug Clauson & Glenys Clift
Monday B Ann Downs & Judy Giesmann
Tuesday Byron Longford & Adrian Mayers
Wednesday Adrian Mayers
Thursday Night Elizabeth & Tony Thorne
Friday am Paul Matthews
Friday pm Glenys Clift

January Monthly Winners

Monday Open Pam Gebbett
Monday Restr Ann Hall & Alastair Nixon
Tuesday John & Gabrielle Elich
Tuesday Night Will Higgins
Wednesday Judith Briggs & Val McClement
Thursday Night David Roberts
Friday am Carol & David Edwards

Friday pm Denise Hartwig
Saturday Jenni Buckley & Jim Wood

February Monthly Winners

Monday Open Denise Hartwig & Byron Longford
Monday Restr Nev Lutton & Pam Davey
Tuesday Byron Longford & Adrian Mayers
Tuesday Night Will Higgins
Wednesday Jeff Aitchison & Pat Fenaughty
Thursday Night Margaret Tucker & Lyndall Hore
Friday am David Roberts & Paul Matthews
Friday pm Marlene Mirtschin
Saturday Judith Briggs & Laurie-Marie McRoberts

Our top three masterpoint earners to the end of February are:

19.86 Liz Zeller
18.17 Gabrielle Elich
18.00 Denise Hartwig

And on the recent Congress scene:

OBA Teams of Three

B 1st Byron Longford, David J Edwards,
Rita Fatseas, Hugh Robinson

QCBC Novice Pairs

C 2nd Lavinia Minchin & Diana Drummond

Northern Suburbs Teams

B 3rd Chris Snook & Denise Hartwig &
Cheryl Stone & Joanna Bratko

Toowoomba Novice Pairs

A 2nd David & Carol Edwards
B 1st John Cox & Jamie Long
B 2nd Judy King & Colleen Wildman
B 3rd Tony & Libbie Thorne
C 1st Pam Davey & Nev Lutton
C 2nd Lawence Price & Greg Munck
C 3rd Alastair Nixon & Desley Hanrahan
Well done everyone ☺

Cheers
Chris

In the Zone

Grand National Open Teams

The GNOT is a gold masterpoint teams competition comprised of three stages. The first is a qualifying heat that runs in every club in Australia, then each zone runs an area semi-final, and then the top 60 teams play in the National Final (hosted at Tweed Heads at the end of November).

Toowoomba Bridge Club is running three "elimination heats" and the top teams from these heats play in the Club Qualifying event. So far we have had 20 teams play in the Wednesday Heat A in March. There are two more elimination heats: Heat B on Tuesday nights 23rd & 30th May, and Heat C which will be held on two Saturdays in June (3rd & 10th).

The Toowoomba Club Qualifier will then be limited to those who earned a place and will be held on Sunday 18th June. The top two (or three) teams from the Club Qualifier will advance to the Zone Area Final. The Zone Area Final will be hosted by Toowoomba on Sunday 21st August against teams from all the other clubs in the zone.

It is a great opportunity to gain practice in playing teams and for your team earns gold masterpoints per win.

Queensland Open Teams

On Sunday 9th April, Dalby Bridge Club is hosting the qualifying round for the Queensland Open Teams. We encourage as many teams as possible to support Dalby in this event.

Queensland Open Pairs

On Sunday 16th July, Darling Downs Bridge Club is hosting the qualifying round for the Queensland Open pairs. We encourage as many pairs as possible to support the Darling Downs club in this event.

The Zone Pairs and Zone Teams are your opportunity to play in the qualifying round of State Championship events!

Cheers
Chris

Masterpoint Secretary's Report

Total masterpoints earned in the club over the past few months were:

	Green	Red	Gold	Tables
December	91.71	20.44		284.0
January	176.17	2.80		441.0
February	152.08	9.28		393.0

It is easy to check your masterpoints (or your friends) on the ABF website. Simply visit:

<http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au>

and click on "Player – Masterpoints Lookup".

You can do this on the NEC computers in the club at any time. If you feel that you are missing some masterpoints, check with the Club Masterpoint Secretary in the first instance.

Cheers
Chris

Rules and Regulations

System Cards

- Did you know that it is compulsory for each player in a partnership to have a correctly completed "system card" in all QBA Congress and Sanctioned Events?
- Did you know that it is policy at the Toowoomba Bridge Club that you display a correctly completed system card for all red point events and competition events longer than one session?

The system cards of both partners must be identical, and both cards must be displayed at the table prior to play commencing. Bridge is not a game of secrets and the system card is used to tell the opponents about the system and conventions that you are playing so they don't have to ask about every bid. A side benefit is that before play commences you and your partner can use the card to help remind yourself about the system and conventions that you are playing.

If you don't have a system card, then you and your partner should complete one each as soon as you can.

Ask your friendly Director or a senior player (who are also friendly) to help explain what all the terms on the card mean.

The club has blank system cards that you can obtain from a Director; or you can print one from the ABF website (you can fill it in online or can print a blank one):

<http://www.abf.com.au/member-services/system-cards/>

System Classifications

Systems are classified according to the characteristics of their opening and overcalling structures and this must be indicated on your system card. A colour scheme is used to quickly identify between system classifications: GREEN, BLUE, RED and YELLOW.

You must make sure you correctly identify your system!!

You determine your system classification by applying the green, blue, red and yellow criteria in order.

GREEN: This will be most natural systems such as Standard American, Goren and Acol.

- One level bids show at least 8 HCP.
- One level bids are natural and promise at least 3 cards in the suit named. (Except that a 4-4-3-2 hand may call the short club).
- One no-trump must be balanced.

BLUE: Typically a Precision system, or other systems that have a strong artificial one bid.

- One level bids show at least 8 HCP.
- One no-trump is natural.
- One club (or diamond in some systems) is artificial, forcing and **always** strong.
- The other minor may or may not be artificial.
- One level major bids are natural.

RED and YELLOW are highly unusual systems and are **not permitted during normal club play**.

Those additional conventions !!!

The following types of conventions are allowed and do not change the basic system classification:

- European-type multi-two Diamonds (showing strength plus 4441, weak major or a strong no-trump hand);
- Opening 2NT showing both minors
- Transfer pre-empt bids

Brown Sticker

Some conventions might modify your basic system and these are indicated by adding a brown sticker to your convention card. These include un-anchored multi-meaning 2 and 3 level openings, some un-anchored overcalls, and 2 and 3 level two-suited bids where one of the suits might be 3 cards or shorter.

Summary

- In club sessions, we allow Green and Blue systems. You are not allowed Red and Yellow systems and are not allowed Brown Sticker treatments.
- In congresses, and zone events you are allowed Green, Blue and Red systems and Brown Sticker treatments.

You should make sure you have completed and correctly classified system card with you at all times during play. Make sure you alert all conventional bids, but do not alert doubles, redoubles, cue bids or bids at the 4-level or higher. Give a full explanation of the mean of a bid if asked by an opponent.

New Laws!!!!

Every ten years the World Bridge Federation reviews the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, make amendments and release a new version. Our current laws were released in 2007, so as you might expect, new laws are on the horizon. There are still some approvals required via the ABF and the QBA but the plan is that the new laws come into force in September this year.

I plan to run a workshop for our Directors and another workshop for Players in August once all the details are confirmed.

Don't panic – the game is essentially the same, only a few details have changed,

Cheers
Chris

Bridge for Brains Recipe Book

Central Coast Bridge Club have printed a Recipe Book – all proceeds to go to Neuro Research Australia which is where our Bridge for Brains money goes.

On the left side of each page, there are bridge hands and on the right side the recipes. They were available at the Gold Coast Congress and a considerable number were sold.

If you would like to support this cause, could you add your name to the list on the Notice Board by Easter please.

Our Sponsors

Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers (TBIB) are one of our two sponsors. They are particularly interested in supporting Novice bridge players and are supporting many other clubs. We should, therefore, support them where we can. When my Home Insurance Policy was about to fall due last year, I asked TBIB to review it. They did so and were able to offer me a policy with the same conditions for \$300 less. So, when your policy falls due, you may like to contact TBIB. If you have any queries about Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers you can access their web site via our home page or by emailing tbib@tbib.com.au.

Three members accepted Freedom Aged Care's invitation to Happy Hour on 9th March. Samantha Jarrett described their Care and Business Models and the members were then shown a self-contained unit. Drinks and nibbles followed this and further discussions about our relationship with them were held. I was presented with an Olive tree which is now in the club gardens.

If you have any queries about Freedom Aged Care you can access their web site via our home page or contact Bree Moore at bmoore@freedomagedcare.com.au.

Please support our sponsors as they support us.

Henry Eastment
Sponsorship Coordinator

Legacy Event

On the second last page of the Newsletter there is information concerning a fund raising event for Legacy to be held in Ipswich on Sunday 23rd April. A wide variety of games are on offer and it will be a fun day. Please support this event if you can.

Dishwasher Instructions

The new dishwasher and how to use it.

90 seconds is the longest it takes to wash and sterilise a load.

For me personally it showed its value after the Melbourne Cup lunch 2016 when we had all the China plates, wine glasses, the lot done in 30mins.

Like all things new, most of us bawk at learning something new. But hang on aren't we all here learning a challenging game called Bridge. So learning how to operate the machine shouldn't be that hard for us?

1. The dishwasher must be turned on 20 mins before use. You must press the big right hand button for 3-5 sec.
2. Remove food particles by rinsing, remove lipstick marks and use the white magic block to remove stains from cups. Rinse teaspoons.
3. Load dishwasher trays. Press the plate icon and the big spray symbol. That's it.
4. Remove tray and place on towel and place a clean tea towel on top of washed items to soak up the excess water. Put away, be aware the china is hot or place a washed sign on the tray.

It's not hard, and I look forward to seeing you in the kitchen.

Leonie, Chair and Events Coordinator.

GROUNDS KEEPER NEEDED

Currently the Club is looking for at least two (2) volunteers...the more the merrier... to assist with maintaining the grounds:

1. To assist Ralph Geddes with a little mowing and gathering up the clippings from the hedge trimmings.
2. To maintain the garden beds by weeding, watering, trimming shrubs and replacing any if need be, using the blower to keep the close surrounds of the building free from leaves and debris

If anyone is able to assist, please contact any of the Management Committee members.

Patons Day Photos Courtesy of Bruce Hinchcliffe



I can relate to this one – Ed





Painting - The Last Trump - Kevin Charles Hart

Poem - The Last Trump – A B Patterson

"You led the trump," the old man said
 With fury in his eye,
 "And yet you hope my girl to wed!
 Young man! your hopes of love are fled,
 'Twere better she should die!

"My sweet young daughter sitting there,
 So innocent and plump!
 You don't suppose that she would care
 To wed an outlawed man who'd dare
 To lead the thirteenth trump!

"If you had drawn their leading spade
 It meant a certain win!
 But no! By Pembroke's mighty shade
 The thirteenth trump you went and played
 And let their diamonds in!

"My girl, return at my command
 His presents in a lump!
 Return his ring! For, understand,
 No man is fit to hold your hand
 Who leads a thirteenth trump!

"But hold! Give every man his due
 And every dog his day.
 Speak up and say what made you do
 This dreadful thing -- that is, if you
 Have anything to say!"

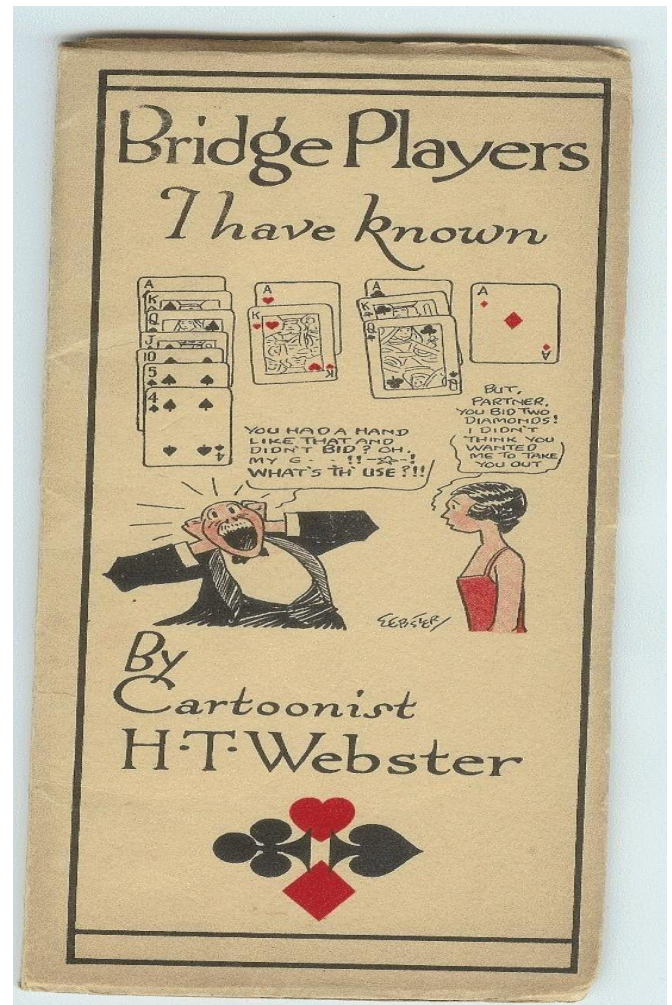
He spoke. "I meant at first," said he,
 "To give their spades a bump,

Or lead the hearts; but then you see
 I thought against us there might be,
 Perhaps, a fourteenth trump!"

* * * * *

They buried him at dawn of day
 Beside a ruined stump:
 And there he sleeps the hours away
 And waits for Gabriel to play
 The last -- the fourteenth trump.

Thanks to Lyndall Hore and Margaret Tucker



Lets play
WORLD GAMES

A fund-raiser for Legacy.

BRIDGE



A tournament and a social session will be available.

A surcharge of \$1 will apply for the tournament to cover associated costs.

Please join us for a great afternoon's play.

Sunday, April 23
 from 2.00 - 6.00pm
Ipswich Country Club
 1A Samford Rd, Leichhardt

\$5 per person

With generous support from **The Ipswich Country Club** all monies raised will go to Legacy.

GAMES TO PLAY

Coon Can	Bridge	Dominoes	Ayo
500	Mahjong	Canasta	Chess
Backgammon	Chinese chess	Klaverjassen	Scrabble

Please let us know if you would like to add a game.

Due to the complex logistics involved, please let John Steley know if you will attend and what game you will play. A week's notice would be appreciated.

Email jpsteley@yahoo.com.au
 Phone: 0417 171 151

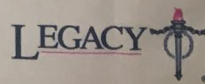
Everyone is invited to socialise before and after play.

The Ipswich Country Club has some great \$10 lunch options and our sponsors, Good Games Ipswich, will provide a generous float on the bar from 6pm.

A courtesy bus for Ipswich residents is available the entire day, although at least two days notice is required.

For bookings phone the Ipswich Country Club on 3812 0488.

People in colourful clothing are especially welcome.
 If you have a portable card table, please bring it.
 To register or for more information contact John Steley on 0417 171 151.



Thanks to Our Sponsors

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

Freedom Aged Care
Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers

For contact details and other information provided by these companies, please refer to the sponsorship noticeboard in the club rooms and the Sponsors page at www.toowoombabridgeclub.com.au.

Please support the companies that support us.



Freedom Aged Care

