



# TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

April 2018

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



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### Presidents Report



As you all know by now Denise Hartwig, for health reasons, submitted her resignation as President effective from 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Consequently, I was elected by the management

committee to take on the role of President. I am sure you all join me in wishing Denise a full and speedy recovery.

Since taking on the role I have had a number of members wishing me well in the role. I want to thank them. I am fortunate to have a great team to work with to help manage the club, and I am certain all of the club members will do their best to help wherever possible.

I am sure everyone appreciates how much work is done by volunteers around the club. Our club functions only through the generosity of its members. The list is long and includes not only the management committee members but also those helping in the kitchen, the teachers, our gardening team, the dealers, and especially the directors. I am sure there are others that deserve a mention too. The directors play the most critical role of all. Without them, the sessions simply would not run.

So, on behalf of all of our members, I say a big thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers.

Happy bridging

Dave Roberts

President

### Pianola Decision

There has been much debate in the club in recent months over the Management Committee decision to trial the Pianola Management System. After consultation and input from members the Management Committee has come to the following decision.

“After noting that the use of Pianola would assist in the administration of the club and that the cost (\$60/\$95 per month for up to 400 tables/more than 400 tables per month) would be at least partially recovered by a reduction in postage and reduce the load on volunteers, Desley Hanrahan moved and Trevor Henderson seconded “that the club proceed with the implementation of Pianola”.

Further details are on Pages 10-11 of the Newsletter

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	David Roberts
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Trevor Henderson
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Chris Snook
<b>TREASURER</b>	Greg Munck
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	Henry Eastment Desley Hanrahan Michael Mumford Margaret Tucker Lyn Vary

### MANAGEMENT

<b>CHIEF TOURNAMENT</b>	
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Chris Snook
<b>CONGRESS CONVENOR</b>	David Roberts
<b>MASTERPOINT SECRETARY</b>	Chris Snook
<b>PROVIDOR</b>	Keith Jenkin
<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</b>	Desley Hanrahan
<b>QBA DELEGATES</b>	Chris Snook

## ZONAL DELEGATES

## PRESS OFFICER

## CLUB TEACHERS

## LIBRARIAN

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

## HOUSEKEEPER

## SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR

## WELFARE OFFICER

## FIRST AID KIT, WH&S

## RECORDER

## TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR

## INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

## & WEBMASTER

## BUILDING MAINTENANCE

## GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

## BOARD DEALING COORDINATOR

## BIRTHDAY CLUB

## PARTNERSHIP ARRANGER

Greg Munck  
Roger Ley  
Denise Hartwig  
Chris Snook  
Denise Hartwig  
Kim Nicoll  
Denise Hartwig  
Trudy Dunn  
Jean Moetara  
John Churchett  
Lyn Vary  
Henry Eastment  
Desley Hanrahan  
Roger Ley  
Ian Jesser  
Bruce Hinchliffe  
Chris Snook  
David Roberts  
Greg Munck  
John Ryan  
Roger Ley  
Desley Hanrahan  
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, 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:

Trudy Dunne, Denise Hartwig, Ann Klibbe Ian Jesser, Byron Longford, Chris Snook, Leonie Spence and Liz Zeller.

## Coming Events

Joyce Benson Cup Starting Wednesday May  
16<sup>th</sup> over 3 consecutive Wednesdays.  
GNOT Heat C Starting Wednesday June  
13<sup>th</sup> over 2 consecutive Wednesdays  
President's Cup Sunday June 17th

## Recent New Rankings



John Churchett	**National
Sandra Clarke	**National
Betty Steele	National
Fay Short	*State
David Edwards	State
Doug Clauson	Regional
Toni Tod	Regional
Aino Jaatinen	Regional
John Cox	Regional
Joan Mladen	**Local
Alastair Nixon	**Local
John Ryan	**Local
Paul Barrett	**Local
Peter Cory	**Local
Tony Thorne	**Local
Lawrence Price	**Local
Pamela Mackintosh	*Local
Peter Bryce	*Local
Tony Dunne	*Local
Glenda Downie	*Local
Marion Hunt	Local
Teena Haslam	Local
Sharyn Gierke	Local
Jan Flynn	Local
Shirley Cooley	Local
Robert Dodman	Club
John Hurran	Club
Anne Hurran	Club
Christine Gilshenan	Club
Elanor Johnson	Graduate
Rene Wellstead	Graduate
Heather Gall	Graduate

## Membership Secretary's Report

We currently have a total of 369 members with another 3 to be added after the next meeting

Desley Hanrahan  
Membership Secretary.

## Congress Report

Thanks to everyone who made this a successful congress. A special mention to our director, Chris Snook who did a great job, and to those who helped Leonie in the kitchen, to our caddies Neville Lutton and Alastair Nixon who did great job running around for us all day, and to all the other club members who helped to prepare and clean up.

Here are the day's winners: -



Champions:  
ADRIAN  
MAYERS /  
BYRON  
LONGFORD

2<sup>nd</sup>  
JIM WOOD /  
JENNI BUCKLEY



3<sup>rd</sup>  
JUSTINE WLODARCZYK /  
GABRIELLE ELICH



Category B 1<sup>st</sup>  
TRUDY DUNNE /  
LESLEY MEYERS



Category B 2<sup>nd</sup>  
DAVID J EDWARDS /  
JOHN HEDE



Category C 2<sup>nd</sup>  
PAM DAVEY / KEN ORANGE

### Session Rules Reminder

- Players should be **seated** 10 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 (eg windows, airconditioning).
- Only **green** and **blue** systems are permitted in club events.
- System cards are compulsory for competitions and red master point events and strongly recommended for all other sessions.
- NS are primarily responsible for the playing conditions at the table (bridgemates, management of boards and moving them if instructed to do so by the Director).
- EW are primarily responsible for tidy up and leaving the table in a good condition ready for the next session.
- All players should offer to help with general room clean-up to assist the Director.
- No notices are permitted on the noticeboards unless approval is given from the Management Committee.
- No trading is permitted on the club premises unless written permission is given via the Management Committee.
- Smoking is only permitted in the Designated Smoking Area or in the parklands off the premises.



## Who sits where, and when?

Law 5A charges the Director with the responsibility of assigning an initial position to each contestant (individual, pair or team) at the start of a session.

The first decision that applies is for graded events where the conditions of contest may place you in one section or another (eg Open or Restricted). For regular club play, on Mondays the Restricted section is limited to players with less than 35 masterpoints, and on Wednesdays the Restricted section is chosen so that the Open and Restricted sections are of approximately equal size.

Apart from this grading, the Director may assign initial seating for everyone or may allow players to choose their own seating. In Toowoomba we have traditionally allowed players to choose their own seating, but many players are creatures of habit and always sit in the same spot. There is also a natural tendency for strong players to sit NS.

Players can help the Director to seed movements and balance the playing strength of the NS and EW fields by:

1. Don't sit in the same seat every single week.
2. Try to sit EW on some days and NS on others.
3. Try to start at a table with players of similar strength to ourselves, spread around the room.
4. Move graciously if told to do so by the Director.

Even so, the Director may still have to move some players to "balance the field" which means moving players so there is a reasonable spread of player strength in both compass directions and around the room. Please graciously comply with such requests if asked to move. If your pair has been assigned a compass direction (eg EW) then you and your partner may decide who gets East and who gets West. I prefer North and East and am way out of my comfort zone if I end up in the other two seats. Once you have chosen your direction, Law 5A says you may not later change without permission from the Director. I have not heard of a Director ever saying no, but it's in the Laws just in case.

### Getting the move right

After the first round, the Director instructs the players on how they should move. In a Mitchell movement, this is very simple, NS remain stationary, EW move up one table and the set of boards move down one table.

If you are playing in a Howell or Switched Rover movement, then pairs are sometimes NS and sometimes EW ... so how can we, as players, avoid problems?

Here are two ways ....

1. The Director will give each table a movement sheet that shows who is playing at the table on each round and where players must move to at the end of the round. So, the simplest is to check the names of all four players when you first sit down. If they are not correct, check with the Director straight away.
2. Second check is that the "names" are shown on the Bridgemates during each round. When you first arrive at the table, you can see these as the round starts. If you arrive late, and the Bridgemate has been moved on and is waiting for the first board result. The second [options] button from the left is [Names] so you can press this and see the names of who should be at the table.

Flawed methods that players still use are to (1) just follow another pair but if they sit out or move early or late you get trouble, (2) just sit in the empty seats and start playing. Please don't do these two ☹

Cheers  
Chris

## Winners are Grinners

The "Monthly Winners" are recognised as the winner of eclectic multi-session events that run on the same day over the course of a month. These awards are displayed on the noticeboard and on the club website. This is an effective way to celebrate the high performing players in each session and provide additional green masterpoints to those players who play regularly in club sessions.

These events combine of all the green masterpoint sessions in a month that have not already counted toward a competition. If there are three available sessions then your best two scores are counted, if there are four available sessions then your best three scores are counted and if there are five available sessions then usually your best four scores are counted. To make it easier to see how many scores and sessions were included, there are two numbers in parentheses after the Eclectic event name. The first is the number of valid scores that are required and the second is the number of possible scores. A couple of examples :

TUESDAY DAYTIME APRIL ECLECTIC (3/4)  
Four green masterpoint sessions were played in April and your best three scores are counted.

### **WEDNESDAY OPEN APRIL ECLECTIC (2/2)**

There were four Wednesdays in April, but we do not count the one red masterpoint session and do not count the "invitational event". This leaves two green masterpoint sessions and you need a score in each of the two sessions.

### **MONDAY OPEN APRIL ECLECTIC (3/5)**

Whilst there were five Mondays in April, many people were missing for two of them, so the requirement is relaxed so your best three out of the five scores count.

#### **January Monthly Winners**

Monday Open Glenys Clift  
Monday Restr John Ryan & Peter Bryce  
Tuesday Day Byron Longford & Adrian Mayers  
Wed Open Henry Eastment  
Wed Restr Joan Mladen & Douglas Clauson  
Thursday Night Alastair Nixon & Desley Hanrahan  
Friday am John Ryan & Peter Bryce  
Friday pm Glenys Clift & Byron Longford

#### **February Monthly Winners**

Monday Open David Roberts & Paul Matthews  
Monday Restr Patricia Egan & Sue Hamilton  
Tuesday Byron Longford  
Wed Open Henry Eastment  
Wed Restr Joan Mladen & Douglas Clauson  
Thursday Night Alison Lewis  
Friday am John Ryan  
Friday pm Henry Eastment

#### **March Monthly Winners**

Monday Open David Edwards  
Monday Restr Michael Walsh  
Tuesday Night Will Higgins  
Wed Open Byron Longford & Eileen Josey  
Wed Restr Desley Hanrahan & Lyn Vary  
Thursday Night Lyn Vary & Jill Cory  
Friday am John Oxenham & Lynda Oxenham  
Friday pm Henry Eastment

#### **April Monthly Winners**

Monday Open Ian Jesser  
Monday Restr Michael Walsh & Bob Dodman  
Tuesday Day Gerry Hockin & Helga Hockin  
Tuesday Night Chris Snook  
Wed Open Laurie-Marie McRoberts  
& Carol Wilson  
Wed Restr Kathleen Beckwith  
Thursday Night Carol Edwards & David Edwards  
Friday am Ken Orange  
Friday pm Adrian Mayers & Henry Eastment

In recent club competitions:

#### **Club Teams Championship - Open**

1<sup>st</sup> Henry Eastment, Adrian Mayers,  
Will Higgins & John Erlandson

2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Snook, Denise Hartwig,  
Byron Longford & Mohan Trada  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ian Jesser, Rod Brilliant,  
Eileen Josey & John Churchett

#### **Club Teams Championship - Restricted**

1<sup>st</sup> Ray Steele, Betty Steele,  
Anne Kirkpatrick & Lesley Meyers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lesley Meyer, Fleur Hopkins,  
Jeff Aitchison & Pat Fenaughty  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floyd Wilson, Majella Wilson,  
Rebecca Knight & Heather Bradley

#### **Col Martin Shield**

Henry Eastment & Will Higgins

#### **Ivy Dahler Cup**

1<sup>st</sup> Jenni Buckley & Jim Wood  
2<sup>nd</sup> David Edwards & John Hede  
3<sup>rd</sup> Laurie-Marie McRoberts  
& Jacqueline Henderson

#### **Clive Berghofer Pairs Patrons Day**

A 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Wood & Jenni Buckley  
A 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhondda Dean & Mearon Geldard  
A 3<sup>rd</sup> Ian Jesser & Henry Eastment  
B 1<sup>st</sup> David Edwards & Greg Munck  
B 2<sup>nd</sup> Desley Hanrahan & Lyn Vary  
B 3<sup>rd</sup> Jacki Horne & Anneke Bierenbroodspot  
C 1<sup>st</sup> Diana McDougall & Lynette Power  
C 2<sup>nd</sup> Louise Barrett & Bill Barrett  
C 3<sup>rd</sup> Carol Edwards & Jan Flynn

And on the recent Congress scene:

#### **Toowoomba Novice Pairs**

3<sup>rd</sup> Trevor Henderson & Carmel Caton  
B 1<sup>st</sup> Alison Banks & Michael Mumford  
B 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken Orange & Pam Davey  
C 1<sup>st</sup> Beverley McCasker & Ross McCasker  
C 2<sup>nd</sup> Carmel Purcell & Margaret Wyche

#### **Commonwealth Nations Teams Qualifier**

25<sup>th</sup> Liz Zeller with team mates Alison Dawson,  
Alan Gibson & Brian Patterson

#### **Dalby Swiss Pairs**

2<sup>nd</sup> Henry Eastment & Byron Longford  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jenni Buckley & Jim Wood

#### **Dalby Swiss Teams**

1<sup>st</sup> Jenni Buckley, Jim Wood,  
Eileen Josey & John Churchett  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floyd Wilson, Majella Wilson,  
Lesley Meyers & Anneke Bierenbroodspot

### **Warwick Cross-IMP Pairs**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Anne Kirkpatrick & Carol Wilson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Denise Hartwig & Mavis Simpson  
C 1<sup>st</sup> Marion Hunt & Joan Mladen  
C 2<sup>nd</sup> Majella Wilson & Floyd Wilson

### **Darling Downs Swiss Pairs**

- B 1<sup>st</sup> Lorraine Sutton & Robbie Fulton  
C 1<sup>st</sup> Glenys Look & Sue Crooke  
C 2<sup>nd</sup> Fay Short & Mary McConachy

Well done everyone ☺

Cheers  
Chris

## **Masterpoint Secretary's Report**

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

	<b>Green</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Tables</b>
December	115.25	-	-	287.0
January	159.74	61.04	-	410.0
February	142.03	17.60	-	385.5
March	148.37	26.86	-	400.5
April	135.51	38.52	33.60	440.5

### **Graded events and the dreaded Master Factor:**

The ABF Masterpoint scheme requires players to earn red and gold masterpoints to progress up the Award Rankings. As an example: you need at least 25 red or gold points plus 50 points overall before you are recognised as a State Master. To be a Life Master you need at least 180 red or gold points, at least 30 gold points plus 300 points overall. To be a Grand Master you need at least 700 red or gold points, at least 200 gold points and 1000 points overall.

The ABF expects that red and gold points are harder to get because you will be playing in a larger and stronger field. So, if the section you are playing in does not meet this criterion, they adjust the number of masterpoints available by a number called the Master Factor (which is less than one in a weaker field, and greater than one in state and national events).

There are two ways that the Master Factor is determined and the fairest is to base it on the average (actually "median") player strength – and this, of course, won't be known until the names are entered. The Master Factor can be estimated but is not known until the event is running. Thus ...

1. Masterpoints shown on club websites and noticeboards are provisional until confirmed. This means your provisional masterpoints might change at the end of the month.

2. Red masterpoints in a Mitchell movement are awarded to the winner at a rate of 0.02 points per table x 2.5 factor for the expected higher standard of a red point event x "Master Factor".

3. The "Master Factor" is applied when a field is limited to players of a particular strength (ie if a room is graded).

On Mondays, the Restricted section is below 35 masterpoints and the median player is often a Club Master which leads to a master factor of **0.50**. The Open section is against full strength players and so, the master factor is **1.0**.

On Wednesdays there is a Restricted section which is limited to players below average strength and the median player is often a \*\*Local player which means the master factor is **0.65**. The Open section is against full strength players and so, the master factor is 1.0.

If the Wednesday Restricted section had 12 tables, the winner would get  $0.02 \times 12 \text{ tables} \times 2.5 \text{ red points} \times 0.65 = 0.39$ . Second place gets 70% of this, third place gets 1/2, fourth place gets 1/3, fifth place gets 1/4 and sixth place gets 1/5.

A slightly stronger field with a median player of State master has a Master Factor of **0.8**, and if the median player is Life master then the Master Factor would be **1.25**.

You can check your masterpoints on the ABF website at: <http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/> and click on "Players -> Masterpoints Lookup".

If you feel that you are missing some masterpoints, check with the Club Masterpoint Secretary in the first instance, advising of the session that you played in, who your partner was and who the Director was. If you think you are missing points from an event, then tell me the event name and date. If you added up the points you think you might receive and the actual amount is different, then tell me the points/events you think you did achieve. Remember that I only process club masterpoints. Those from congresses, nationwide pairs and other events are done by other people, usually many months later.

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 7 teams play in the Tuesday Night Heat A in April. There are two more elimination heats: Heat B on Saturday afternoons 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May, and Heat C which will be held on two Wednesdays in June (13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>).

The Toowoomba Club Qualifier will then be limited to those who earned a place and will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July. 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 Warwick Bridge Club on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August against teams from all the other clubs in the zone.

It is a fantastic opportunity to gain practice in playing teams and for you and your team to earn gold masterpoints per win.

### Queensland Open Teams

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March, Toowoomba Bridge Club hosted the qualifying round for the Queensland Open Teams. The top two teams qualified to advance to the state final in August:

1<sup>st</sup> Chris Snook, Denise Hartwig, Henry Eastment  
& Byron Longford  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jenni Buckley, Jim Wood, Robert Fulton  
& Lorraine Sutton

### Queensland Open Pairs

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September Toowoomba Bridge Club is hosting the qualifying round for the Queensland Open pairs. We encourage as many pairs as possible to support this event.

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

Cheers  
Chris

### Recent discussions and outcomes from Management Committee:

- Discussion held with Toowoomba Regional Council regarding the surface condition in the southern carpark. We are considering options for hard surfacing.
- Due to long mail delivery times, the club will move towards receiving all bills electronically and to pay Ergon, Telstra and other major bills over the counter via Australia Post.
- Club/Treasurer to further investigate methods for electronic (EFT) payment of bills.
- David Roberts to continue liaising with U3A with a view to us running bridge lessons for their members (at our premises).
- Strategic/future planning for the club is underway.
- The club purchased two 60" television monitors (one for East room and one for West room) to display promotion material, lesson material and congress draws and results. These to be installed soon.
- The number of nightly security patrols has been reduced from three to one effective from April.
- Trials of book-keeper have been completed and appointment is underway at present.
- New regime of focus on recycling bidding slips (ie paper only) commenced and thanks to Henry for arranging the new bins and notices.
- Noisy water cooler was considered but decision was not to replace now, instead to continue to use with the benefits of the filtered water that it provides.
- The NEC computers in the south west corner of the room are over eight years old and no longer fulfil any useful function. Method of disposal will be advised via Directors Announcements.
- Trevor agreed to audit the current computers used by the club to consider aging and maintenance issues.
- Many minor building and grounds maintenance issues have been addressed as the building ages.
- The club decided to proceed with full implementation of the Pianola management system, primarily for the benefits in management and communication. If you wish to discuss Pianola you can speak with Trevor, David, Henry or Chris.

### 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.

## Teaching Report

This year beginner's classes are being held on Wednesday mornings, Thursday nights and Saturday afternoons and commenced on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday have approximately five tables each week, being a mixture of beginners and repeaters. Thursday night has been getting four tables of players and Saturday afternoon has between two to three tables, with a mixture of beginners and repeaters as well.

We are currently starting to introduce the bidding techniques and teaching methods of the ABF Teaching Coordinator, Joan Butts. We do four basic lessons followed by four weeks of help with card play techniques followed by another four lessons that are a bit more involved. Another four weeks of help with play follow that.

On Wednesday mornings, Trudy has adapted the bidding and integrated the changes into the previous lessons. Her teaching methods are like what has been done over previous years and she has been receiving positive feedback from the students. Thursday nights and Saturday afternoons lessons follow a slightly different structure to Wednesday mornings. They are based totally on the teaching methods of Joan Butts and follow her lesson structure. Each of the beginner lessons follow the format she advocates in her book, Play Bridge: A Workbook for the Absolute Beginner. They are student-centred, with a hands-on approach where each table plays the same board at the same time. The students all bid and play the hand, then all 52 cards are place face up on the table in front of each player. The teacher then explains the bidding and shows the students how the hand is played to give yourself the best chance to make the contract. Lots of positive comments have been made that is so much easier to recognize how to bid and play the hand once you can see all the cards on the table.

The next lot of new beginner basic lessons will be commencing from Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July. This will be the only set of beginner lessons in the second half of the year as numbers do not generally warrant further sessions.

### Improver Play

From Friday morning 13<sup>th</sup> July, some Improver lessons will be held in the Eastern side of the room to cater for players who have just finished the basic lessons and want to advance their knowledge as well as for any players who want a refresher on any of the topics. The following week will be

supervised play where some hands relative to the previous weeks lesson will be included. All members are welcome. Below is the schedule:

Week 1 – 13 July - **Pre-emptive Bids** – weak 2 & 3 level opening bids

Week 2 – 20 July - Supervised Play

Week 3 – 27 July - **Simple Transfers after 1NT opening**: 2D → 2H, 2H → 2S

Week 4 – 3 Aug - Supervised Play

Week 5 – 10 Aug – **2C Stayman**

Week 6 – 17 Aug – Supervised Play

Week 7 – 24 Aug – **Blackwood 4NT**

Week 8 – 31 Aug - Supervised Play

### Workshops

Workshops will be held on every second Saturday morning during June, these being the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> June. They will be focusing on tactics at teams and include topics: system cards, scoring and strategies when playing in team events. There will be a list on the notice board where you can add your name to if you are interested. Workshops on other topics will be held later in the year

Denise Hartwig

## Founding Members

### WE WOULDN'T BE HERE IN STUART STREET.....

if it wasn't for people like Val Buchanan, Henry Eastment, Lennie Goodson, Lee Hore, Val McClement, Pat Miller, Marlene Mirtschin, Julie O'Connor and Joan Wenck who started the ball rolling in 1982 with the establishment of the Toowoomba Bridge Club with the coming together of three distinct clubs and building the Water Street club house. Ten years ago we had 26 founding members and with the passing of Pat Penberthy we now have 9. So I thought it is probably overdue that we acknowledge the contribution of these people.

Post WW11, Toowoomba was renowned for the number of people who played bridge, particularly after George McCutcheon ran the first country congress at Lennon's Hotel (now the Burke & Wills) in 1960. Look him up on the QBA website under Profiles.

(<http://www.qldbridge.com/qba/qldProfiles.php?p=mccutcheon>)



Nearly all these people started playing bridge socially and over time went to Joyce Benson or Ivy Dahler who gave lessons from their homes or Enid Busch who came to their home. Marlene Mirtschin had a few lessons in Brisbane prior to joining the staff at Concordia College. Henry started playing bridge at the Uni when he joined their staff in 1969. Marlene and Henry never went to any lessons in Toowoomba but picked it up from playing.

There were no structured lessons as we know them today until Jackie Henderson took on the role of Club Teacher in the early 1990's after obtaining her teaching accreditation from Audrey Grant

Where did they play bridge prior to Water Street?

From what I can gather all over the place. Ivy was using the Dry Canberra Hotel as was Col (the old Graingrowers Building on the cnr Hume and Margaret Sts.). Earlier on Col Martin had used Lennon's Hotel. The Red Cross Rooms were used by Joyce and Val Buchanan's group plus when the Canberra became unavailable, Ivy and Col both moved there as well. Val Buchanan told me that for a time, a group of them also used Lennon's hotel in the day time, the deal being they were given two adjoining bedrooms upstairs for no charge as long as they ordered a counter lunch.

Lennie told me the first fundraiser they had for the building in Water Street was at her home, where they had 7 tables. And the politics that were involved getting all these groups to merge under one umbrella, with the egos involved, must have been remarkable.

While all these people have contributed in many ways during the last 35 years, I need to acknowledge the following.

Lennie Goodson was the Press Officer putting the results in the Chronicle for many years.

Marlene Mirtschin was our Secretary the first year I was President.

Val McClement was Jackie Henderson's right hand girl when Jackie was the Provider (when at the same time Jackie was also the President and Teacher).

Lee Hore was Congress Convenor, Treasurer for 5 years, assisted Jean Crandell when she was Treasurer with balance sheets, GST and continues to this day by doing all the banking for the Treasurer.

Henry Eastment has been President at two different times; first Treasurer of the Club, Membership Secretary when he computerised the Club Members Register; Chaired the Finance Sub-Committee for the Stuart St building; helped set up the By-Laws

and Strategic Plan; Librarian; Club Director and continues to this day on the Committee.

Val Buchanan was Treasurer for 6 years, President for 3 years and a Club Director for many years at Water Street.

Pat Miller, Julie O'Connor and Joan Wenck whilst not serving any official role, are part of the reason this club survives to this day. Because - everyone in our club contributed towards the fundraising for Stuart Street. And if we didn't have members who support the club by playing, we wouldn't have a club at all. Pat Miller tells me she is ready to retire from club bridge and play social bridge. If that is the case, thank you Pat for your support and we wish you all the best.

Glenys Clift



Farewell for Joyce Benson in March 2007, by this time Joyce was almost blind.





Joyce Benson playing with Val McClement



Pat Miller, Marg Vickers, Joan Wench and Di Austin

Thank you Glenys

## PIANOLA INFORMATION SHEET FOR TBC MEMBERS

### UPDATE

Whilst many members have signed up for Pianola, it appears that some members still have some concerns about the Management Committee's proposal to implement Pianola to improve the technology available to club members and the Management Committee.

This is still to occur, but it is being trialled until March 2018 when a decision will be made to implement it or not.

A list of some other Clubs in Australia of similar size to the Toowoomba Bridge Club (336 home members) that are using Pianola was given in the previous version of this document.

Following are further responses to those concerns.

1. **The Members' Register** is currently held on the club's scoring computer and is integrated into the scoring database. This database is shared with Altosoft Pty Ltd (our scoring and website provider) whenever necessary for technical support purposes. Members name, address, telephone number, email address, gender and date of birth are also housed on the ABF Masterpoint Centre server. Altosoft and the ABF Masterpoint Centre pay Net Quadrant Pty Ltd to host these websites. If Pianola is adopted, the members' register will be held on a server operated by Pianola. So, the situation regarding the storage of the Members Register is essentially the same.  
**The only emails that members should get regarding Pianola are:**

- (a) 'sign up' email from the club which members need to accept to allow their details to be released to Pianola;
- (b) After signing up, an email from Pianola giving them an opportunity to sign up for Pianola Plus which they may accept or reject.

All other emails will come from the Club but using Pianola as the emailing system.

2. **The MC has received legal advice** that it does have the authority vested in it by its election by members to manage the affairs of the club and may, *pursuant to rule 14(2), approve the use and/or disclosure of the information contained in the register of members and to implement Pianola. In rule 14(2) the proper interpretation of the word 'association' is the Management Committee.*



This advice was also received from the Office of Fair Trading and the QBA.

3. **Regarding security of members' information**, there is no company that can give a 100% guarantee that their systems will not be hacked.
4. **Regarding privacy**, if members do not have an email address or do not wish to supply it to the club, the Management Committee will communicate with them by phone or ordinary mail by sending printed copies of material to their postal address or by making copies available at the club rooms. However, members who do have an email address and do not supply it will be creating more work for the members of the Management Committee.  
It has also been suggested that concerned members may establish and give to the club an email address that they use only for Bridge Club related matters.
5. **Members' information required for the Session results to be uploaded to Pianola.**  
The minimum amount of a member's information to allow the results of a session to be uploaded is the member's Name (or a nickname provided by the member), ABF number, Club Number, and Member type (Home or Away) all of which are readily available. Individual members' session history is available to them upon signing in to Pianola.
6. **Altosoft Session results.** These will still be accessible from the Club's website.
7. **Pianola has some features** that members may opt into if they wish and a few members are using these during the trial. These include a Partner Finder.
8. **Members can also sign up for Pianola Plus for a fee.** This will provide them with a facility to review their card play.

The main administrative benefits for the Management Committee include:

- (a) All members with emails in the system can be emailed simultaneously without the possibility of the email being bounced because of the number of addressees. This

will reduce the time devoted to emailing under the present system, which has externally imposed restrictions on the number of recipients per email and number of emails per hour (eg spam filters).

- (b) Groups of members can easily be selected for particular situations eg all Novice players can be sent an email advising/reminding them of upcoming Novice events.
- (c) Membership Renewal Notices can be sent by email rather than by post thus saving the hours of work involved in printing, inserting them in envelopes, creating and applying address labels and mailing more than 400 such notices. Of course, those members without an email on the system will have their notices sent by mail. It is also easy to send reminder notices to late payers.

If any member has any queries about the above or any other aspects of Pianola, please talk to a Management Committee member.

Henry Eastment  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## Functions and Events Report

Seventy-two people attended our Novice Pairs Congress and I want to thank those who helped prepare, serve and clean up after the event. You are the wheels of our club events.

I'd like to encourage those who are new to our club to consider helping in this way so you see how we run congresses.

Lastly, thank you to all who have pitched in and helped in the kitchen while I have been away these last few weeks looking after my daughter. Much appreciated. Leonie. Chair of Catering etc etc

Leonie Spence, Caterer for Events and Congresses

## Library

Hi folks!

If you are looking for ways that you and your Bridge partner can improve your game, don't forget to check out our little library in the corner of the west room. For instance there are series of Ron Klinger's books and DVDs that give very good practice examples of how to bid and play hands.

If you want to take a book home here's how:

- Books are arranged by author, alphabetically in two tiers – newer editions in bottom bookcase
- There is a corresponding card in the **card box in the bottom shelf**
- To borrow a book - simply find the correct card, then add your name & date and refile the card
- To return - add the date of return to the card and put book & card back in the **correct place**



PLEASE RETURN any books & DVDs that you still have out ASAP. There are quite a few unaccounted for - be fair and bring them back so other members can have a chance to study, and perhaps add some inspiration to their card play!

Thanking you

*Jean Moetara*

## Bridge Quiz

Andy Hung, one of the top Australian bridge players, wrote an article a while ago on whether to bid on or double the opponents when the opponents are doing a sacrifice bid. I found it quite helpful and wish to share it with you.

**You are South (you are vulnerable, opponents are not):**

**South**

♠ 8 3 ♥ A Q T 7 6 3 ♦ A 5 ♣ A J 9

West	Partner	East	You
			1 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♥	4 ♠	??

## What do you bid?

High level decisions are never easy – this is why pre-empts work! We know from looking at our hand that the opponents are sacrificing in 4♠. The question is, given that we are vulnerable, should we take the push to 5♥, or should we defend 4♠ X?

There is no 100% right answer, but a good way of helping you make these decisions is to look at the *number of cards you have in the opponent's suit*. Having a singleton is definitely good, and also having three cards is also good (i.e. partner will be marked with a singleton or void). However, having a doubleton is the **worst** number of cards you can have in the opponent's suit as there's no guarantee that partner has a singleton.

If you push to 5♥, you might see the opponents cash two spades, and await their slow third winner elsewhere. Although it's tempting to bid 5♥ here, Andy recommends to double. It may be annoying to defend 4♠ when it turns out that 5♥ is makeable, but it is also equally annoying to go down in 5♥ when we could've got a free plus score against 4♠!

It's not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.  
-S. J. Simon

## Ethics

Alvin Roth, a very ethical player is defending 7NT, vulnerable, in a money rubber bridge game where the declarer reduces to a three card ending. Dummy has the Axx of spades and declarer the KJ10. The lead is in declarer's hand and he leads the SJ. Second hand has xxx and Roth Qxx. Second hand goes into an act trying to make declarer think he has the queen and finally plays low. Declarer, taken in by the hesitation, also plays low. Roth, holding the queen, also plays low allowing the jack to take the trick and the declarer to make 7NT. When Roth's partner asks him why he didn't take the SQ, Roth says: "Because I thought you had it."

## Sponsorship

The Club has two sponsorship places available. Any member who may be able to assist in filling these places is asked to contact the Sponsorship Coordinator, Henry Eastment, as soon as practicable with contact details of the proposed sponsor.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Henry Eastment

[eastmenth@gmail.com](mailto:eastmenth@gmail.com)

## Did this happen at the Gold Coast Congress

The awkward moment when you're so focused on taking a photo that you lose Nanna.



From our Gold Coast correspondent

## Christmas Party

Thanks to Bruce









Wendy Allen



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