



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

December 2016

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



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Presidents Report



At the club's AGM on 12th November, nobody had pre-nominated for the position of President. Nominations were called from the floor and my name was put forward (thanks Kaye). Nobody present wanted to fight me for it, so I accepted the position!

A new Management Committee was elected with Margaret Tucker staying on as Secretary, and Dave Roberts, Lyn Vary, Desley Hanrahan, Jean Moetara and John Churchett staying on as Committee Members – John was elected by the Committee to be Vice-President. We also welcome Gabrielle Elich as Treasurer and Leonie Spence and Greg Munck as incoming Committee Members.

Henry Eastment, Adrian Mayers and Chris Snook retired from the positions of President, Vice-President and Treasurer respectively. Chris has continued on as a Committee Member. We thank them all for their hard work and excellent contributions to the management of our wonderful club.

Bridge lessons for beginners will commence on Wednesday 15th February at 9am with Trudy Dunne and Thursday nights from 16th February commencing at 7pm with myself. To assist with the promotion of beginner lessons, we previously held an Open Day prior to lessons commencing. However, from the surveys that were done last year, we found that the majority of people who came to the Open Day and interested in starting bridge were referred from family or friends of current members. This year we have decided to

run an Information Session only. This will be on Saturday 11th February between 1-3pm. Please take some brochures from the foyer to hand out to family and friends and invite them along to find out a bit about the game and meet the teachers at the Information Session.

A reminder to everybody that smoking is **only permitted** in the Club's Designated Smoking Area. This is the area adjacent to the western wall. This smoking area is 5 metres from the building entrance in accordance with the Queensland Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, amended from 1 September 2016. This has been the club's policy for quite some time. Directors are to apply a disciplinary penalty under Law 91 for continued non-compliance and the Management Committee will be on the lookout as well.

In June this year members were emailed about parking safety issues. A reminder to all members that parking is only permitted in the parking bays designated by two white lines or two lines of white discs. Their vehicle needs to be between the lines and not overlapping two bays, so that the line of sight for drivers is not blocked and the lanes of traffic movement are not blocked, parking is not permitted in the following areas:

1. The small area to the west of the avocado tree.
2. The area to the west of the Jacaranda tree at the front of the block.
3. The council strip to the south of the entrance.

Any vehicles parking on the verge north of the club's grounds need to park far enough away so as to not impede the line of sight of drivers departing from the Bridge Club grounds. They are to be parallel parked, not angle parked otherwise it is possible that they may receive an infringement

notice from the Council Traffic Management. There has been a mouse spotted again in the Club rooms during the week. Some mouse traps have been purchased and have been set in and around the kitchen area. Overnight success with one victim falling straight away! Members need to ensure that they spray down the benchtops with the metho spray bottle prior to use.

Coming up in February is one of Australia's largest and most successful Congresses. It's the 56th Gold Coast Congress and this year is being held from February 18-25th. There are numerous events for various levels of bridge players – open, intermediate, restricted and novice. There are also special sessions for Rookies with 0-10 Masterpoints and for players between 0-50 Masterpoints. These all attract Gold points, which are very rare in the bridge congress scene. If you only want to play shorter sessions, there are Holiday Walk-in Pairs every single day and these attract Red points. Hope to see you there!

Our Christmas party was held on Saturday 10th December and was a great success with over a hundred members attending. Congratulations to everyone who received an Award. Many thanks to all who helped out and made the day run very smoothly. See further in the Newsletter for more details.

After a few suggestions over the last few years that the size of the program book was too small, we have decided to trial an A5 size this year. This makes it much easier to read and more space to write appointments in. Quite a few clubs in NSW have adopted this format.

A special thanks to all the Directors who tirelessly put in a lot of their personal time. As incoming President, I ask all members to please continue to have a pleasant attitude and be respectful of them at all times. As we all know, without their efforts there would be no club. This goes for all of the other club's volunteers as well. So many thanks to all the numerous volunteers who continue to assist and support our club.

Since becoming President, I have had many well wishes of encouragement and support from members. I am truly grateful for this. Thank you all so very very much and I hope you all continue

to support me and the present Management Committee.

Denise Hartwig President

Coming Events

Toowoomba Novice Pairs Congress: Sunday 5TH February 2017

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Denise Hartwig
VICE PRESIDENT	John Churchett
SECRETARY	Margaret Tucker
TREASURER	Gabrielle Elich
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 PROVIDOR	Chris Snook Keith Jenkin
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Glenys Clift Desley Hanrahan
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook Gabrielle Elich Greg Munck Roger Ley
ZONAL DELEGATES	Chris Snook Denise Hartwig Kim Nicoll
PRESS OFFICER	Glenys Clift
TEACHING COORDINATOR	Jean Moetara
LIBRARIAN	John Churchett
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Lyn Vary
HOUSEKEEPER	Henry Eastment
SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR	Desley Hanrahan
WELFARE OFFICER	Roger Ley
FIRST AID KIT, WH&S	Bruce Hinchliffe
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Chris Snook
INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY & WEBMASTER	David Roberts
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	Greg Munck
GROUND MAINTENANCE	Trevor Glasby
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.

Christmas Party

Once again the Management Committee approved that the Club provide donations to a charity to make Christmas a bit more enjoyable for those families in need. Members donated lots of gifts to the Salvation Army Christmas appeal. As well as the gifts, there was a very generous monetary donation from members totalling \$460.00. This was such a tremendous effort and I personally thank everybody who donated for being so kind and generous.



Receiving some of the Christmas goodies are President Denise Hartwig and Leanne Duncan from the Salvation Army (previous column).



Some of the members who were presented with Awards at the Club's Christmas party.

Many thanks to Floyd Wilson and Bruce Hinchliffe for the photos.

PROMOTION OF LESSONS FOR 2017

From questionnaires we have run after our Open Days, it has become obvious that more than half of the people who start our lesson program have come because of encouragement from a member.

So for 2017, rather than run an Open Day we will be running a quarter page advertisement for 4 weeks and will have an Information Session on Saturday 11th February, 2017 from 1PM -3PM run by the teachers.

The best promotion for any organisation is always word of mouth. So in December and January we will be leaving brochures in our entry for members to take and hand out to friends. **SO PLEASE TAKE SOME** and give them to your friends. Bridge has been a lifesaver for many people who have lost a long term partner and it has also been a marvellous way for new arrivals in Toowoomba as a way of meeting people.

Start date for lessons:

Wednesday morning with Trudy Dunne
start 15th Feb, 2017

Thursday evening with Denise Hartwig start
16th Feb, 2017



PROGRAM FOR 2017

BUILD ON THE BASICS

Wednesday morning 8.45 for 9am start
Supervised Play Open to all members under 20MP
or 40MP combined with a partner.

This session is to give Rookie players a chance to gain master points in an even playing field. While advanced conventions make life interesting (and complicated) it is more important that people have a good understanding of the basics. Ask Liz Zeller who won the QBA Pairs Championship. She said her partner is a brilliant bridge player, but plays a very basic system.

No partner needed as there will be a fill-in available.



IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

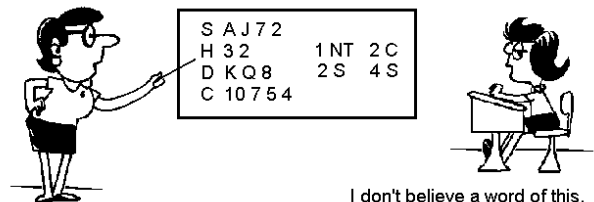
Friday morning 8.30 for 9AM start
(Restricted/ Graded with Supervised depending
on numbers)

Run by Chris Snook or Ian Jesser who will
conduct a discussion at 8.30AM with a handout.

Each month will have a common theme:

January: All about Overcalls
February: Tips for the Defence
March: Improve your card play
April: Useful conventions
May: Advanced bidding techniques.

No partner needed as the non-playing director will
act as the fill-in.



NOTE: Each month members will be emailed a
program for both Build on the Basics and Improve
your Play. For members without email, a copy
will be available at the club.

WORKSHOPS

Glenys Clift and Henry Eastment will be
conducting the following workshops which will be
open to ALL MEMBERS. No partner needed.

MONDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS

Held last Monday of each month
9AM – 11.30AM

30TH JANUARY, 2017

Using feature show with weak twos.

27TH FEBRUARY 2017

Taking the confusion out of doubles

27TH MARCH 2017

Responses to strong NT openings

24TH APRIL 2017

Counting losers for strong openings

29TH MAY, 2017

Who looks for slam

INTERMEDIATE TOPICS

JACOBY TRANSFERS

Thursday 9th February, 2017

1pm – 3.30pm

Jacoby Transfers are used after partner has opened or overcalled a natural 1NT and ensures the strong hand plays the contract thus limiting the amount of information the defenders have about where the high cards are located. A transfer always promises a 5-card or longer holding in the suit opener has been asked to transfer to.



WORKSHOPS

NOTE: For members who wish to come to the following workshop on Opening 1NT with 5-card Major, it is important they understand Jacoby Transfers which are part of that convention

OPENING 1NT WITH A 5-CARD MAJOR

Thursday 9th March, 2017 1pm – 3.30pm

You think you know how it is, and then everything changes! That's bridge for you! It used to be a no-no to open 1NT with a 5-card major but, slowly but surely a few years ago, players started to convert. This workshop is based on Ron Klinger's book "5-card Major Stayman" who offers good reasons to make the change.

NOTE: All Monday and Thursday workshops will have a form on the notice board for members to indicate their interest. Workshops will only go ahead with a minimum of 8 people.

There will be a handout with a discussion followed by at least 8 boards for people to practice what they have been taught.



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 also provide additional green masterpoints to those players who play regularly in club sessions.

September Monthly Winners

Monday A	Anne Kirkpatrick & Diana Drummond
Monday B	Judy Giesemann & Ann Downs
Tuesday	Adrian Mayers & Byron Longford
Wednesday am	Paul Matthews & David Roberts
Wednesday pm	Pat Larsen & Eileen Josey
Thursday Night	David Roberts
Friday am	Paul Matthews & David Roberts
Friday pm	Val Buchanan & Lee Hore
Saturday	Robbie Fulton

October Monthly Winners

Monday A	David Edwards
Monday B	Judy Edwards & Val Witenden
Tuesday	Adrian Mayers & Byron Longford
Tuesday Night	Will Higgins
Wednesday am	Paul Matthews
Wednesday pm	Adrian Mayers & Henry Eastment
Thursday Night	Coral Apel

Friday am Jan Flynn & Kathleen Beckwith
Friday pm Bruce Hinchliffe & Val Buchanan
Saturday Gabrielle Elich

November Monthly Winners

Monday A Robin Reader
Monday B Judy Edwards & Val Witenden
Tuesday Gabrielle Elich
Tuesday Night Henry Eastment
Wednesday pm Leonie Spence
Thursday Night Reen Grayson
Friday am Paul Matthews & David Roberts
Friday pm Val McClement & Jackie Henderson

In club events:

Tuesday Night ProAm (October)

Will Higgins & Kathleen Beckwith

Friday Red Point Two-Weekly (October)

Jackie Henderson & Val McClement

Club Pairs Championship – Open Section

Pat Larsen & Byron Longford

Club Pairs Championship – Novice Section

Lawrence Price & Paul Matthews

And on the Congress scene:

Dalby Swiss Pairs

1st Adrian Mayers & Henry Eastment
2nd Alison Dawson & Liz Zeller
B 1st Rebecca Knight & Heather Bradley
B 2nd Laurie-Marie McRoberts
& Judith Briggs

Dalby Swiss Teams

1st Henry Eastment & Byron Longford
& Elizabeth Zeller & Alison Dawson
2nd Jenni Buckley & Jim Wood
& Mohan Trada & Will Higgins

Toowoomba Long Weekend Congress - Pairs

A 3rd Adrian Mayers & Henry Eastment
B 1st John Elich & Gabrielle Elich
C 1st Rebecca Knight & Janny McAinsh
C 3rd Zara Clemesha & Lesley Meyer
Nancy Penfold Trophy
Val McClement & Judy Briggs

Toowoomba Long Weekend Congress – Teams

A 3rd Adrian Mayers & Henry Eastment
& Patricia Larsen & Elizabeth Zeller
C 1st Trevor Henderson & Paul Matthews
& Annette Scott & Narelle Mciver

Toowoomba Swiss Teams Congress

1st Elizabeth Zeller & Patricia Larsen
& Byron Longford & Adrian Mayers
2nd Jenni Buckley & Jim Wood
& June Glenn & Alan Hamilton
3rd Diane Wenham & Margaret Keating &
& Rita Groom & Penny Trenerry

Well done everyone ☺

Cheers
Chris

In the Zone

Grand National Open Teams

Congratulations to the Eastment team who placed 19th out of the 64 teams at the national final of the GNOT this year.

- Elizabeth Zeller & Patricia Larsen
& Adrian Mayers & Henry Eastment

Masterpoint Secretary's Report

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

	Green	Red	Gold	Tables
September	121.83	16.72		366.5
October	116.42	27.28		335.5
November	142.69	39.50		395.5

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

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.

When is a card played?

If a typical session is 32 boards, then on average you might play 8 hands per session as declarer, help your partner play 8 hands as dummy and play 16 hands as a defender. To get there, you will have counted about 320 high card points and will have made around 100 calls of which over 60 will be passes. If these numbers are not sufficiently mind-boggling then note that as Declarer you will play 104 cards, as Dummy you will play 104 cards and as a Defender you will play 208 cards per session – so you better play your cards right!!!!

A relatively common reason for calling the Director is when someone thinks this vital step has not been done correctly - usually when the alleged offender wants to put that card back into their hand and play another instead! Remember that bridge is all about following correct procedure – and the point at which a card is played is different depending your role at the table.

For everyone, Law 45A sets out correct procedure and says “Each player except dummy plays a card by detaching it from his hand and facing it on the table immediately before him”. I will now examine each role for the situation where the correct procedure is not followed.

Defender

Law 45C(1) states that “A defender’s card held so that it is possible for his partner to see its face must be played to the current trick”.

- i. It says *if it was possible* for partner to see the trick. If partner swears black and blue that they were looking out of the window – it does not matter. If they *could* have seen it then it is played.
- ii. If declarer happens to see the card, then they should not blurt out what it was. If the Director decided that the defenders card was not played, then all you have done is tell their partner what it is.

Declarer

Law 45C(2) states “Declarer must play a card from his hand if it is:

- (a) Held face up, touching or nearly touching the table; or
 - (b) Maintained in such a position as to indicate that it has been played”.
- i. If declarer is still waving the card around in the air, it is annoying but it has not been played.
 - ii. If a defender sees the card in the air it is good luck to them but it has not been played. They should not blurt out what card they say,

because it might be giving unauthorised information to the other defender.

- iii. Declarers cards never become penalty cards – the director will always tell them to restore accidentally or deliberately exposed cards to their hand.

Dummy

Law 46 says “When calling for a card to be played from dummy declarer should clearly state both the suit and the rank of the desired card”. There is a whole page in the law book to cover the situation whereby declarer gives an incomplete designation (eg says “play low” or “ruff”) – so don’t try and fix it yourself, just call for the Director!

The answer in all cases is, of course, to call the Director and let them sort out the details.

Happy bridging
Chris

Trying to get better - PLAN

We all have aims and aspirations in the things we do in life ... perhaps more so in our bridge world where the teachers are always telling us to make a plan before we start play. I’ll leave the precise bridge details for them, and just look at the big picture PLAN.

Do you have a goal for the end of the year, for where you will be in the bridge world in two years time, five years time, ten years time, or even longer? Only a few people can be world champion ... so how do the rest of us measure our bridge goals?

Whether we like them or not, **masterpoints** are a reasonable way to measure how you are going over a long term basis. In general terms in pairs:

- Winner gets the most masterpoints, second gets 70% of the winner award, third gets ½ of the winner award, fourth gets 1/3rd etc to the top half of the field – so the more you win the more you get.
- The winner award is based on the number of tables that played. In a 12 table section, the winner gets 0.36 but in a 5 table section the winner award is only 0.15 – so the more people you beat the more you get.
- The winner award depends on the “status” of the event. In a Supervised play session, there is a multiplier of 0.75, and for a club duplicate pairs session it is a 1.5 multiplier. Red masterpoints sessions are assumed to be a stronger field (have

you found that?) and the multiplier is 2.5, the same as local congresses. For minor national events (eg GNOT) the multiplier is 5.0 and for big national events the multiplier is 10.0 both for gold masterpoints.

An obvious way to do as well as you can is to play with a **good partner**. Most people think this means a strong partner, but I still think it is more important to play with a nice partner who does as well as they can.

Most experts and sports psychologists agree that you need to **play against stronger players** whenever possible. You'll get lower scores in the short term, but with the correct approach, your game will definitely start to improve.

Read and learn as much as possible, but make sure you and your partner are on the same page.

Practice, practice, practice. As you practice and gain more experience, you can make decisions based in your experience and intuition and the heavy thinking for when it is really needed. Make sure you practice with humans, you can develop bad habits playing against the computer alone.

Treat every hand seriously and try to **learn** something from it. Even if you got a top board, was it the best you could do?

Now for the acronym at the start of this article

Play Lots And Nicely.

Now I apologise to all my long suffering partners, because I:

- I happily play with beginners and play at their level.
- I very rarely penalty double in club play.
- I don't take too long to think about the next trick.
- I sometimes pay more attention to the room rather than the current play (this is the Directors instinct kicking in).
- I sometimes miss partners signals because I think the card play is obvious. I sometimes fall asleep (seriously) during play, even as Declarer!

My bridge goal is to get to Grand Master by the time I am 60, but to get there I am going to have to work hard to fix all the above, and play and do well in more major events – this will be hard because I miss lots of congresses because of my Directing commitments.

Cheers
Chris

Thanks to Our Sponsors

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

My Personal Travel Planner

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.

Please support the companies that support us.



WHAT'S LIFE WITHOUT FREEDOM

