



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

January 2014

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



Editor: Floyd Wilson

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President's Report



Here we are at the start of another year. It's nice to see the bridge sessions back in full swing. Meanwhile, the clubrooms have been given some TLC over the break:

- * Carpets were professionally cleaned,
- * Gutters were cleaned out,
- * Hedges were trimmed and garden beds tidied,
- * The overflow carpark was given a dose of "weed-n-feed",
- * Airconditioning filters were washed, and
- * All the light fittings were "debugged".

I extend my appreciation to the Monday and Saturday people for packing up the room before the carpets were cleaned and for setting up the room again afterwards.

I'd also like to bring something obvious to everyone's attention – and that is item one of the objects of association from our Rules of Association (aka constitution):

The objects of the association are:

(1) the encouragement, promotion and advancement of duplicate bridge.

Trudy and Denise are starting a new series of lessons in February and this goes a long way toward fulfilling this object and contributing toward the long-term future of our club (new members are our lifeblood).

We will be advertising these lessons in the Saturday Chronicle newspaper in late January.

To further promote the club, and to encourage people to come to lessons – we are running an Open Day on Sunday 2nd February. Further details are included elsewhere in this newsletter. Please take this opportunity to find out how you can help and invite a friend, relative or neighbour on the day.

Don't forget that the Gold Coast Congress is coming up 22nd February – 1st March. The big events are Pairs Saturday-Monday, Teams Tuesday-Thursday, Butler Pairs Friday-Saturday; plus there are walk-in single session pairs each day. The big events are all graded with a special novice, restricted, intermediate and open section in each. Sadly, I only get to Direct this event – I wish I could play but you can!!!!

Chris Snook
President

Welfare Officer

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

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Chris Snook
VICE PRESIDENT	Keith Jenkin
SECRETARY	Trudy Dunne
TREASURER	Lorraine Sutton
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Jeff Aitchison Keith Jenkin Eileen Josey Byron Longford Ritamay Roberts Hugh Robinson Ian Steger

OFFICE HOLDERS

CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	Chris Snook
PROVIDORE	Keith Jenkin
CONGRESS CONVENOR	Hugh Robinson
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook Keith Jenkin Byron Longford Ritamay Roberts

ZONE REPRESENTATIVES

PRESS OFFICER	Kim Nicoll
LIBRARIAN	Lesley Meyer
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Floyd Wilson
CLUB TEACHERS	Trudy Dunne Denise Hartwig

MEMBERSHIP BADGES	Byron Longford
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Eileen Josey
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	John Clift
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Jeff Aitchison
HOUSEKEEPER	Bette Flamstead

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

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

Social Sub-committee: Led by Ian Steger, this group helps organise all the social events at the club such as Melbourne Cup party, Christmas party, Birthday party and perhaps a few other special events through the year.



Membership Secretary's Report



New Members

Please make the following new members feel welcome. Some of them have just completed lessons and will be looking for encouragement from everyone.

Michael Battle
Lesley Buck
Peter Cotterell
Terry Randall
Ailsa Simmie

Membership Subscriptions

Annual Subscriptions for 2014 were due by 31 December 2013. If you have not yet paid, would you please forward your payment as soon as possible. You can pay at any session, post it or pay by Direct Debit.

Enjoy your bridge during 2014.

Annette Sullivan

Membership Secretary

New Master Rankings

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

<u>GRADUATE MASTER</u>	Jim Rowen Maryann Ziser-Constable
<u>CLUB MASTER</u>	Gregory Crank David Edwards
<u>*LOCAL MASTER</u>	George McKinnon
<u>**LOCAL MASTER</u>	Reen Grayson
<u>REGIONAL MASTER</u>	Jan Stringer

Congratulations!

One Life, make the most of it

RI Toowoomba and Ipswich is a strong family orientated franchise and has been operating in the Darling Downs area for over 20 years.

We all want to make the most of this life. And while that means different things to different people, money always has a big role to play. That's where we come in.

Jeff English and his highly skilled team listen to your needs and goals, give you sound financial advice and provide quality ongoing service. We can assist with strategies to help you attain a secure comfortable lifestyle free from financial worry.

Contact our office today on 07 4639 3733 to find out how our vibrant and experienced advisory team can assist you, your family and your friends to:

- Streamline your Finances
- Grow your Wealth
- Reduce your Tax bill
- Manage your Debt
- Get the most from your Super
- Formulate a Retirement Plan
- Protect your Family and Livelihood
- Family Succession Planning
- Plan and Structure Aged Care arrangements
- Maximise and Manage Centrelink entitlements



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January 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BRIDGE CLUB

I am looking forward to continuing my support of your club over the coming year. It has been such a pleasure meeting many of you both at the Bridge Club and at our office at 23 Bridge Street. I am also very excited to come along to your Open Day next month and the Congress to be held at the end of April.

When I was little I loved visiting the airport. I loved reading the arrival and departure boards, watching them click over and imagining the exciting adventures that people would have at their destinations. I found myself at the airport earlier this month waiting to fly home from spending time in Melbourne for Christmas visiting family and friends and feeling that same excitement about returning to work to help my clients plan their 2014 exciting adventures. **WHERE WILL YOUR PLANE TAKE YOU THIS YEAR?**

Whether you are heading overseas or travelling within Australia, my staff Penny, Donna and I are here to help from the initial stages of planning until your return home.

There are still some great fares for Europe and the USA, and as the Ghan is celebrating its 10th birthday there are also some great specials on the Ghan and Indian Pacific train journeys. Thought about cruising? Celebrity Cruises have a special booking bonus until the end of February offering a choice between free drink packages, prepaid taxes & gratuities OR on board credit.

I am looking forward to helping you take the hassle out of your travel planning soon.

Ainsley Hardie
Owner at My Personal Travel Planner
07 46378235

Masterpoint Secretary's Report

The New Year has arrived and with it, our continued enthusiasm for playing bridge. Don't forget to check your programme book to see when the special events are being held. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at the regular social sessions. As a New Year's resolution, why not consider playing another session on a day that you would not normally attend. Tuesday nights and Saturday afternoons are but a couple to contemplate.

I have processed 117.83 green masterpoints and 7.80 red masterpoints for December.

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

Enjoy your bridge.

Annette Sullivan
Masterpoint Secretary



FACEBOOK

Did you know the club now has its own facebook page :

www.facebook.com/ToowoombaBridgeClub

or just login to Facebook and search for Toowoomba Bridge Club

Why not visit our page, and "follow" us or "like" some of the postings.

Cheers,
Chris

Treasurer's Report

Hello everyone, happy New Year to you all. I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas, and those who travelled over the holidays returned safely to enjoy another year of bridge.

Nothing out of the ordinary has happened financially which needs any mention since my last report in December 2013.

All expenses are scrutinized by the management committee; several quotes are obtained to make sure we get value for money.

All committee members and volunteers are doing an excellent job at promoting the club and bridge in general which is the core of our OBJECTS of our **Rules of Association**. The members involved with the promotion are energetic and passionate about our club.

Don't forget to support our sponsors, Retire Invest, LJ Hooker Toowoomba, Freedom Aged Care, and My Personal Travel Planner. Thanks also to our Auditors, Hooper Accountants, who also gave us a significant discount and to our Patron, Clive Berghofer.

I wish to again remind members that they can take advantage of 'travel insurance' through Tony Bembrose Insurance Broker (TBIB), which is an exclusive offer if you have an ABF number and are a financial member of a bridge club. No matter when you apply for the insurance, it covers the period 1st March 2013 to 1st March 2014.



Happy bridging,
Lorraine Sutton
Treasurer



Garden Report

The gardens have suffered from the heat over the last few weeks. Storms promised by the weather people have failed to arrive. No amount of watering can compensate for the extreme temperatures and lack of moisture from above.

The new carpark was sprayed on 22 December and some evidence of weed control is emerging. Some spot spraying of the more entrenched weeds may be required prior to any top dressing and further grass sowing.

Members who will be receiving and not using the TRC plant vouchers in coming weeks are requested to leave them at the office. The TRC plant nursery reopens in February and any donations will be used to regenerate our gardens.

Jeff Aitchison



Providore's Report

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and may you enjoy your bridge.

If anyone has any suggestions on further improving our afternoon tea, I would dearly love to hear from you.

Keith Jenkin
Providore



Congress Convenor's Report

The management committee recently made the decision to allow a Club Sponsor to be appointed as the official sponsor for each one of our four congresses. This decision was made to provide each sponsor additional exposure within the bridge fraternity.

George McKinnon organised a meeting with the sponsors' representatives and the decision was made to allocate each congress as follows:

1. Toowoomba Butler Pairs, 30th March – L J Hooker
2. QBA Novice Pairs, 27th April – Your Travel Planner
3. Toowoomba Novice Teams, 3rd August – RI Advice Retireinvest
4. Toowoomba Pairs, 3rd October – Freedom Aged Care

The Management Committee appreciates the support the sponsors provide the Club and encourages members to consider using their services when the need arises.

Hugh Robinson

Congress Convenor

Social Report

A big thank you to all of the members who donated items to the Salvos. I am sure there are a lot of grateful families out there who had a very merry Christmas thanks to your generosity. It was a very nice story on the WIN TV News, which can only assist in raising the profile of Bridge in the community.

Our next social initiative is to kick start the Saturday afternoon Social & Sausage Sizzle. These will commence at the end of January. Watch the notice board and listen to the Director's announcements for details.

The next major event will be the Race Day on March 22nd. We will start releasing more information about the day as it gets closer.

As is always the case, if anyone has any ideas for a social activity, please let anyone on the Social Committee, Eileen Josey, Fleur Hopkins, Lesley Meyer, Paul & Carmel Barrett, George McKinnon, or myself, know.

Ian Steger

New Format For Supervised Play

Starts MONDAY 3rd February 2014

2014 will see a new format for Supervised Play on Monday afternoon. This year, as well as helping with the bidding, I will also try to play with as many players as possible. Byron Longford will also be joining me on Monday afternoons and when he is available he will also be partnering with players.

If the people we play with would like to, we are both happy to stay back at the end of the session and go over any bidding they had a problem with. So if I say "Let's keep the bidding slip" that will be why.

We will also be explaining why some of the lesson material has changed. However, if you are happy with what you are playing, there is certainly no reason to change. Like everything, all systems have their advantages and disadvantages.

Annette Sullivan will be running the restricted side and will be trying to update players knowledge on the Laws of Bridge by giving a very short talk on what should happen when players "Lead out of Turn", "Play out of Turn", "Change their bids", "Make an Inadvertent Call", etc. People have the misconception that calling the director is a punishment. It is to ensure fairness and that the game is played within the rules.

We all make mistakes, including top bridge players. People who do not go to Congresses would probably be shocked. The director is called all the time and no one takes umbrage because they are simply playing by the rules. It is a bit like playing tennis and pretending that the second serve was in when in fact the player served two faults when you don't call the director. And sometimes it is simply that people don't know the rules.

I am looking forward to playing with you all and the focus of my game is "Let's have some fun".

Glenys Clift



A Major Achievement Recognised

Club member, Byron Longford, is Queensland's new individual bridge champion.

Byron, who has been playing bridge for a relatively short three years, won the Queensland Bridge Association's Individual Congress in Brisbane to claim the title of the State's best individual bridge player.

He defeated 47 other players, all of whom were more experienced. Some have been playing for more than 50 years.

Congratulations are extended to Byron for this fantastic achievement. An excellent article was published in The Chronicle on 8th January.



Photo shows Byron with the State Individual Congress trophy, being congratulated by Club president, Chris Snook.





IF YOU THINK YOUR MUM AND DAD OR LOVED ONE MAY NEED AGED CARE, PLEASE READ THIS.

The people you see here are real people – typical ageing Australians who once lived alone and proudly told their families they were ok, that they could cope, not to worry. Yet every single one of them spent their days in lonely isolation, often depressed and increasingly-frail.

Their families were either innocently and totally unaware or genuinely feared there was nowhere in traditional aged care that would care enough; that their Mums and Dads wouldn't be loved and looked after like they deserved and that they would lose their precious privacy and independence. And then they discovered the

most loving and innovatively-caring aged care communities in all Australia; communities staffed by the most beautiful and highly-trained carers; communities dedicated to delivering every possible level of aged care through every stage of the ageing process.

Today, as much-loved members of the exclusive – but incredibly inclusive – 'Freedom Family', the Mums and Dads enjoy the privacy and independence of their own self-contained homes in the vibrant community that does its heart-felt best to love and care for them as much as you would want us to.



Connect with us:
FTLCFamily

Call 1800 994 763 today,
anytime of the day or night or visit
us at www.FreedomTLC.com.au



Recycling

I have been admiring the recycling efforts, some extraordinary, past and present, of a few of our members and wondered how we could increase participation.

Recycling aluminum cans is the most efficacious of all recycling and, if the volume of recycling of glass, plastic and paper was to increase, I believe it would be next in line.

How about we start a Step-Up campaign in which those who are not True Recycling Believers join the few in recycling aluminum cans, glass, 'hard' plastic (for example, milk bottles) and paper?

We often see aluminum cans, glass and plastic and certainly, many black paper cups and bidding papers in the general rubbish which goes to landfill. Plastic bags, cling-wrap and other easily scrunchable plastic items are 'soft plastics' and are not recycled in Toowoomba so they go into the general rubbish. Unfortunately, the cold water cups are soft plastic and are not recyclable but the plastic wine glasses are recyclable.

Helpful comments, suggestions and magic solutions are welcome ... please pin them to our general notice board or catch me when you see me.

If you watch our President closely you will note where he puts his empty cans - he's stepped up - can we ?

Ritamay Roberts
Recycling Enthusiast



Remember to (be) Alert

Now that the new "Announcing Requirements" have become commonplace, it is time for a brief review of the remainder of the Alert Regulations:

1. Bridge is not a game of secrets. All agreements must be fully available and fully disclosed to the opponents.
2. Regulations enforce this by requiring each player to have a legible approved system card on the table at all times [It should be accessible to the opponents without them having to move handbags, cups, bridgemates, etc].
3. The purpose of an **alert** is to draw the opponents' attention to any call that has a **special meaning**, or a **meaning the opponents may not expect**.
4. Players should adhere to the principle of full disclosure (as required by the Laws) in following these Regulations and in explanations of calls. The principle is to disclose, not as little as you must, but **as much as you can**, and as comprehensibly as you can.
5. A **conventional call** is a call that, by partnership agreement, conveys a meaning other than willingness to play in the denomination named (or in the last denomination named), or high-card strength or length (three cards or more) there. However, an agreement as to overall strength does not make a call a convention. All opening bids and overcalls that show two or more suits, even if one of the suits is named, are by definition conventional.
6. A **natural bid** is a call that is not conventional. It conveys a willingness to play in the denomination named and shows high card strength or (at least 3 card) length in the named suit. A **natural NT** conveys a willingness to play in NT and conveys no other

information about particular suit holdings. A **natural pass** does not convey any message about suit nor playing strength.

7. **Self Alerting Calls** are sufficiently strange such that they carry their own alert and should not be separately alerted. These include:
 - (i) Doubles
 - (ii) Redoubles
 - (iii) Cue bid of the opponents suit that they called or the suit that they have shown (eg a transfer)
 - (iv) All calls at the 4 level or higher (except conventional opening bids)
 - (v) Any 2C response to a 1NT opening in a non-contested auction.
8. Players alert their partner's calls, not their own. Alerts should be made immediately after the alertable call has been completed. Alerts are made by audibly saying, "Alert" and circling the call on the bidding pad. Circling a call provides prima-facie evidence that it has been alerted.
9. The fact that the system card explains the meaning of a call does not remove the obligation to alert it when required by these regulations.
10. Merely to name a convention (e.g. Michaels, Lebensohl, etc.) is not an acceptable explanation. There are many variations of most conventions, and a more specific explanation is normally required. Similarly, the use of "Standard" or "Natural" to describe calls, signals or leads is rarely sufficient – nor are the terms "Weak", "Strong" or "Intermediate" - without appropriate qualification.

Some examples:

1D: Alert 1D if it may, by agreement, contain less than 3 diamonds. Of course you should have also told the opponents when you first sat down.

Multi-two bids: Any 2-level bid with a multiple meaning is alertable. The conventional responses, including correctable bids are also alertable.

Strong 2C or 2D: Alert these strong artificial bids.

Weak-twos: Do not alert a 2 level bid if it shows a single suit, no matter whether the bid is weak or strong (eg 2H showing 6 hearts).

Alert : Weak jump responses (eg 1H – 2S)

Alert : Inverted minors

Alert : Forcing 1NT response

Alert : Jacoby 2NT

Alert : Transfer bids below 4C

Alert : Unusual NT

Alert : Natural NT overcall that does not show a stopper



Winners are Grinners

December Monthly Eclectic Winners

Monday	David Edwards
Tuesday	Pam Gebbett & Shaunagh Cowell
Tuesday night	Roy Constantine & Henry Eastment
Wednesday	Adrian Mayers
Thursday night	John & Gabrielle Elich
Friday	Jackie Henderson & Val McClement
Saturday	Adrian Mayers

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





OPEN DAY
TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB
SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2014
10AM - 3PM



We will be having an Open Day on the first Sunday in February to showcase the club, its achievements and attractions to the public. An organising committee comprising Chris Snook, Eileen Josey, Fleur Hopkins, Byron Longford, Denise Hartwig, Trudy Dunne, George McKinnon, Ian Steger, Peter Cory, Pam Gebbett, Bruce Hinchliffe, Glenys Clift and Ian Jesser met to work out the program for the day. Ian Steger has taken on the job of Co-ordinator for which we all thank him.

As this is our first Open Day, we will be putting in a lot of effort to try and make it as enjoyable and informative as possible **BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

- Distribute flyers to friends and any other groups you belong to in order to help promote the day.
- Take some flyers to put on notice boards in shopping centres or other public places.
- If you have been trying to talk your wife or husband into learning, this would be a great day for them to check it all out.
- Manning an information table.
- Participating as part of the group playing bridge in a teams event.
- Be willing to partner people who have never played before in a fun session “Learn Bridge in 10 minutes.”
- Help in the kitchen – we will be putting on coffee, tea and biscuits.
- Help the sausage sizzle if the club ends up running it.
- Help decorate the club the day before.
- Help with the clean up at the end of the day.

The Committee has authorised a full page advertisement in the Chronicle to be run on Saturday 1st February and Pam and George will be approaching the TV and radio channels to see if we can get some community promotion.

For this to be successful we need the support of all our members. If you would like to participate, contact Ian Steger who will pass your name on.

LET’S MAKE IT A GREAT DAY!!



There's a strong correlation between the real estate industry and the game of Bridge. They both involve bidding, or rather auctioning, they're about getting the contract, and of course achieving the desired result.

The comparison might be a stretch of the imagination but when dealing with absolute truth, **LJ Hooker Toowoomba Residential and Commercial Real Estate** is exceptionally proud of its longstanding association with the Toowoomba Bridge Club.

LJ Hooker Toowoomba's Principals Mike and Julie Stewart have grown LJ Hooker Toowoomba into the largest full-service agency west of Brisbane over the past two decades.



"We employ over 35 staff and operate from Northern NSW to Central Queensland and right through the Surat Basin. When it comes to any real estate, development and management we have the staff and the experience to deliver the right outcome first time," Mr Stewart said.

Mr Stewart, who followed his mother Claire into the business in 1989, is a second generation real estate agent, with his family having been in real estate in Toowoomba since the early 1960's.

Julie Stewart came into the real estate business after a stellar shopping centre management career, where, at the age of 24, she was sent from Sydney to re-lease and manage Townsville's Nathan Plaza.

This involved 113 new lease agreements, re-locating 63 tenants, and converting many to new lease agreements.

Today she is acknowledged as one of the retail industry's leading leasing executives.

"What drives me? I enjoy it! Simple as that!" Ms Stewart said.

LJ Hooker Toowoomba wish all the Toowoomba Bridge Club members a safe and healthy 2014.

Contact - Phone: 07 4688 2222 Fax: 07 4688 2221 Email: toowoomba@ljh.com.au

