



—TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

July 2013

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



Editor: Floyd Wilson

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President's Report



Toowoomba Bridge Club celebrated its 6th birthday in our new building on Saturday 6th July during the regular pairs session. Thirty-two years ago the Toowoomba Bridge Club, the Downs Club and the

City Bridge Club amalgamated to form the Toowoomba Bridge Club Incorporated and quickly built its clubrooms at 67 Water Street. I mention this because it is important for us to remember where we came from; this information helps us to understand our current environment and also helps us to plan for the future.

Our club has over 400 members with diverse backgrounds and aspirations at the bridge table. Some members view their bridge as a social outing that happens to involve cards; whilst at the other end of the spectrum, some treat it as a highly competitive sport. As a club, we try to cater for all, and the bridge calendar is very busy (as evidenced by the Winners and Grinners article). Social events such as the Stanthorpe trip and the upcoming Theatre Night are a nice extension to the traditional Congresses.

A club this big survives by the efforts of its more than 50 volunteers who all contribute often behind the scenes with board dealing, cleaning, helping in the kitchen, cooking or bringing treats, emptying bins, sharpening

pencils, greeting visitors, look after the gardens, help with restricted play sessions, wash the table cloths, and staying back to help the Director lock up. There are also contributions of the members of the Management Committee, the Social and the Tournament Subcommittee and the named Office Bearer positions.

Our AGM will be held on Saturday 26th October. At this meeting all Management Committee positions are declared vacant. I encourage you to consider nomination for a position on the Management Committee so that you can contribute towards serving the members of this great club. Our By-Laws have also been rewritten to better recognise the roles of the other named or Office Bearer positions and I also encourage you to put your name forward when expressions of interest are called for these positions.

Happy bridging,
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
SECRETARY	Lesley Meyer
TREASURER	Lorraine Sutton
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Glenys Clift Shaunagh Cowell Keith Jenkin Jan Lindau George McKinnon Hugh Robinson Ian Steger
CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	Chris Snook
PROVIDOR	Keith Jenkin
CONGRESS CONVENOR	Hugh Robinson
MASTERPOINT SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Annette Sullivan
QBA DELEGATES	Chris Snook / Ian Steger
ZONE REPRESENTATIVE	Chris Snook / Glenys Clift
PRESS OFFICER	Kim Nicoll
LIBRARIAN	Henry Eastment
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Floyd Wilson
CLUB TEACHER	Trudy Dunne/ Glenys Clift / Elizabeth Zeller
MEMBERSHIP BADGES	Lorraine Sutton
TENANCY CO-ORDINATOR	Shaunagh Cowell
MAINTENANCE CHAIRPERSON	John Clift
GARDENING CHAIRPERSON	Jeff Aitchison
HOUSEKEEPER	Bette Flamsteed

Four 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 cover all facets of bridge play at the club.

Social Sub-committee: This sub-committee, chaired by Ian Steger, helps organise all the social events at the club such as Melbourne Cup party, Christmas party, Birthday party and other special events throughout the year.

Maintenance Sub-committee: This sub-committee, led by John Clift, looks after the building. If you notice something needs repair, then let John know or add a note to the "maintenance register" next to the results noticeboard. Tell the Director if you think the matter is more urgent.

Grounds Sub-committee: This sub-committee, led by Jeff Aitchison, looks after the gardens of the club.

Membership Secretary's Report



New Members

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

Josef Alijagic
Penny Astridge
Len Bartz
Beth Bevan
John Compton
Ann Dujela
Frank Elston
Jan Flynn
Lyn Gunthorpe
Susan Hamilton
Alison Mylne
Peter Payne
Jim Rowen
John Ryan
Annette Topp
Bob Topp
Colleen Wildman
Maryann Ziser-Constable
Barbara Zadow

Membership Subscriptions

As at 11 July 2013, we have 349 Home members (including 5 Life Members) and 81 Away members.

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>	Janet Balch Maisie Clapham Barbara Davies Ann Downs
<u>CLUB MASTER</u>	Ray Haddrell Helen Horan Rachel Klupfel Pam Mackintosh Jill Rowen Lyn Vary
<u>LOCAL MASTER</u>	Lynette Bidgood Bette Flamstead Margie Maddison
<u>*LOCAL MASTER</u>	James Babineau Lucy Parker
<u>**LOCAL MASTER</u>	Barry Copley Nancy Geiger John Hede Jack Lloyd
<u>REGIONAL MASTER</u>	Trevor Glasby
<u>STATE MASTER</u>	Helen Holmes Lesley Meyers Majella Wilson
<u>*STATE MASTER</u>	Ray Steele
<u>NATIONAL MASTER</u>	Joan Harms
<u>BRONZE LIFE MASTER</u>	Mohan Trada



WELL DONE!



Treasurer's Report

The club now has five sponsors; RetireInvest, LJ Hooker Toowoomba, Freedom Aged Care, My Personal Travel Planner, and Clive Berghofer who supported the new club house and has sponsored our Patrons Day. To date, we have received a total of \$5,000 with another \$500 to be received within the next 6 months.

Our Term Deposits continue to grow, but due to the efforts of the Reserve Bank reducing and keeping interest rates down, they are growing slowly.

As our club was available this year to participate in the Bridge for Brains in May, members donated \$279.75 and the club donated the proceeds from the table money of \$475. So you can be proud to know that \$754.75 was donated to Neuroscience Research Australia which the ABF supports every year.

As we had previously purchased 4 new bridge tables earlier this year we are also buying 10 new chairs, which have been ordered for \$1309, but we will have to wait till September before we receive them and Betty Orth volunteered and made a large quantity of new bridge table cloths, and it only cost the club the cost of the fabric. Thanks Betty.

The club does a lot of photocopying and unfortunately the old one packed it in, so we have rented a brand new photocopier with the hope of receiving a grant for its purchase.

The water heater near the kitchen on the west side also had to be fixed, it must get more use than the one on the east side, it had to be taken away and cost \$364 to fix. Now it's back to normal for coffee and tea.

Keith with his keen eye for bargains continues to improve and source the clubs kitchen resources from different suppliers for the benefit of the club. Thanks Keith.

I am happy to say the club continues to run smoothly and is financial.

Happy bridging

Lorraine Sutton
Treasurer



Congress Convenor's Report

The next Congress on the Club's agenda is the annual Novice Teams event due to be held on Sunday 4th August. At the time of writing, with a little over 2 weeks to go, we only have 6 teams officially nominated. Last year 19 teams competed and the director was able to divide the field into 2 groups for prize money. As a reminder, nominations will be accepted from any player who had less than 100 master points prior to 31st March 2013. I encourage those Novice players who will be available to play on Sunday 4th August to have their nominations in as early as possible. Entries close on Friday 2nd and the nomination fee of \$80 per team can be paid on the morning of 4th August.

Members should also start to think about organizing themselves to play in the Toowoomba October Congress, which will be held over the long weekend of 5th, 6th and 7th October. We look forward to receiving many early nominations as the Congress entry form is now posted on the QBA website. This is our big event of the year, which attracts players from other clubs to Toowoomba for the weekend. I hope that both our players and volunteers can make it an even bigger and better Congress this year.

Hugh Robinson
Congress Convenor

Masterpoint Secretary's Report

Since the ABF Census date of 30 September 2012, we have processed 1,330 green masterpoints, slightly fewer than for the same period last year. For the same period, there were 229.38 red masterpoints, slightly more than for that period last year.

If you would like to earn more masterpoints, it is easy - play more bridge,

or better still, have more friends play with you in each session. Our Tuesday night and Thursday afternoon sessions are sadly lacking in numbers. Why not add one of these sessions to your agenda?

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.

Cheers
Annette Sullivan
Masterpoint Secretary

Club Teachers' Report

HOW IMPORTANT ARE LESSONS ?

Beginner Bridge lessons are the lifeblood of our Club, which is why we commit so much in money and resources to running them. This year we will probably spend over \$3,000 in advertising and between \$8,000 - \$10,000 paying members to run basic lessons, workshops and act as non- playing directors for supervised play sessions. If you think that sounds a lot, remember that most of these people are getting paid about \$5 an hour if they are lucky, when you factor in all the preparation work.

HOW CAN OUR MEMBERS HELP? Our next lot of lessons start on Wednesday 7th August and just as important as advertising are the referrals given by our members to friends and acquaintances. In the entry we have brochures for members to take and hand out to anyone whom you think might enjoy playing bridge. In fact, **PERSONAL REFERRALS ARE THE VERY BEST FORM OF ADVERTISING.**

While our teaching group comprises Trudy Dunne, Henry Eastment, Ian Jesser and

myself, I need to acknowledge that the lessons and follow up practice play would not work without the backup of Barbara Power, Shaunagh Cowell and Peg Alcock who act as teaching assistants.

Monday afternoon would not work without the support and help given by Brenda Parry, Nancy Geiger, Zara Clemesha, Shaunagh Cowell, Bernadette Williams, Judy Shipway and of course, Peg Alcock who organises the roster. Your help is really appreciated.

Cheers
GlenysClift



Bridge Classes for Beginners

CLASSES START 9AM WED 7TH AUGUST 2013

The Toowoomba Bridge and Recreation Centre

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba

First Lesson Free

Subsequent lessons \$5/lesson
Includes lesson notes and coffee.

ENQUIRIES GLENYS CLIFT 4632 8932

OR TRUDY DUNNE 4639 2447

Details also available on our website
www.toowoombabridgeclub.com.au

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For the Directors

One role within the club that merits special attention is the Director who runs each bridge session. Our club uses playing Directors who, besides having come along for a game of bridge, are volunteering their time and expertise to organise your game for you as well. All our Directors are accredited QBA Club Directors or higher and participate in ongoing training and development. We welcome Annette Sullivan and Ray Moore who recently passed their exams.

The Laws of bridge are designed to define correct procedure and to provide an adequate remedy when there is a departure from correct procedure. They are primarily designed not as punishment for irregularities but rather for the rectification of situations where non-offenders may otherwise be damaged. Players should be ready to accept gracefully any rectification or adjusted score awarded by the Director.

Following on from this, you will agree it is highly improper to argue with the Director. If you have concerns with a ruling then you may appeal their judgement, or may speak to me after the event. Similarly, it is poor form to pass running commentary on the Directors choice of movement, or seating arrangements.

Our club has set procedures and forms to be completed if you wish to:

- Appeal a decision of the Director; or
- Report a possible psyche by yourself or by someone else at the table.

If you are unhappy with the behaviour of another player then you should report this immediately to the Director.

If we all abide by the above then we will have an enjoyable time at each bridge session.

Happy bridging

Chris Snook



Librarian's Report

Many of you will have noticed that the Library is now located in the North East corner of the Western room.

I have re-arranged the library items so that the most recent items (Post 1998) are on the bottom shelf and the oldest items (Pre 1989) are on the top shelf. The Borrowing Cards have also been separated in the same manner.

I have also updated the signage and ask that you follow the instructions on those signs when borrowing or returning items.

If you wish to borrow an item that is overdue, please check its card to see who has borrowed the item and call them to let them know that you would like to borrow the item.

Remember, the Library operates on an honesty system and is for the benefit of all members.

Enjoy your Library and your Bridge.

Henry Eastment
Librarian

Grounds Maintenance

Planting of annuals has been undertaken in the last few weeks and will continue for a short period. In the garden just south of the main driveway onto Stuart Street, violas have been planted on the western border, Cinerarias on the southern border and Salvias on the hill.

In the garden to the south of the clubhouse and surrounding the new carpark, the Gazanias are now well established and multiplying and the Salvias beyond the Murraya hedge are thriving. I have given up on the Salvias around the Avocado trees due to the combined efforts of possums and roaming dogs. Those remaining will be relocated to other areas. The Wild Shamrocks planted in the garden near the handrail on the south-eastern corner of the clubhouse present a happy welcome to members using the southern entrances.

In the garden immediately in front of the main clubhouse entrance, a number of border plantings have been made and will become more obvious in future weeks. These include Gazanias, Paludosm Daisies, Salvias and Marigolds. These are all reasonably drought tolerant and will remain beyond the Spring flowering flush.

Jeff Aitchison
Grounds Co-ordinator

TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT THE AGM

While our President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members are elected at our AGM, there are 20 other Office Bearers that need to be appointed in order for our Club to function!!

Some of these positions are picked up by Committee Members but the majority rely on members of our Club putting their name forward. And if you really look around at our members, there is an extraordinary amount of talent and experience on offer. Just about every profession is represented and the combined life experiences of all our members must be quite something.

Your Committee has just completed a revision of our By-laws, which included the responsibilities of all Office Bearers. In August, we will be putting a description of the responsibilities of each Office Bearer on the blue notice board near the office for members' information.

While hopefully some of our current Office Bearers will carry on for another year there is always a certain amount of turnover. The two biggest jobs are the Treasurer and the Secretary and there is no reason why assistants could not be appointed to help with these jobs.

To give you an idea of how our Club works, listed below are the Office Bearers:

- Club Teacher
- Librarian
- Membership Secretary
- Newsletter Editor
- Press Officer
- QBA Delegates
- Zonal Representatives
- Housekeeper
- Provider
- Masterpoint Secretary
- Congress Convenor
- Promotions Officer
- Sponsorship Coordinator
- Name Badge Coordinator
- Welfare Officer
- Tenancy Coordinator
- Information & Technology Officer

- Building Maintenance Coordinator
- Grounds Maintenance Coordinator
- Webmaster

Our Club is only as good as the people who help run it and we are very fortunate in the calibre of people who have put their hands up to take on these jobs. But no doubt we will need some new people next year and with so much talent in our Club, there is no reason why this would not always be the case.

If you would like to get involved, check out the Notice Board in August or talk to the President.

In the Zone

Queensland Open Teams

Eight teams from Dalby, Warwick, Toowoomba and the Darling Downs clubs competed in the Zone Qualifying Heat of the Queensland Open Teams hosted by Dalby on **Sunday 16th June**. The top two teams have qualified for support to play in the State Championship at Toowong on 24/25 August:

- 1st Penny Trenerry, Rita Groom,
Diane Wenham & Margaret Keating
- 2nd Chris Snook, Mohan Trada,
Will Higgins & John Erlandson

Queensland Open Pairs

Players from all zone clubs can play in the qualifying event held on **Sunday 8th September** hosted by the Toowoomba Bridge Club. The top two or three pairs are then supported to play in the State Championship on 19/20 October.

Queensland Novice Pairs

Numbers have been low for the Queensland Novice Pairs for some years, so as a trial it will be hosted by the Hervey Bay Club on **Saturday 17th August** – please support this event if at all possible. In 2014, Toowoomba Bridge Club will be hosting the event.

Chris



Winners are Grinners

Clive Berghofer Pairs Championship

Glenys Clift & Chris Snook

Ivy Dahler Novice Pairs

Ian Steger & Frank Cooper

Ivy Dahler Novice Teams

George McKinnon, Dave Mulherin, Jack Lloyd & John Laker

Joyce Benson Cup

Val McClement & Ian Jesser

Tuesday Night Singles Championship

Mohan Trada

Thursday Singles Championship

Lee Hore

Thursday Teams Championship

Ian Jesser, Pat Larsen, Eileen Josey,
Val McClement & Edwina Willis

May Monthly Winners

Tuesday	Pam Gebbett
Wednesday	Ian Jesser & Val McClement
Thursday N	John & Gabrielle Elich
Friday	Pat Penberthy

June Monthly Winners

Monday	Peter Morton & Jan Stockley
Tuesday	Carol Wilson & Ian Jesser
Tuesday N	Henry Eastment
Thursday N	John & Gabrielle Elich
Friday	Kathy Weaver
Saturday	Ian Jesser

And on the Congress scene:

Brisbane Bridge Centre Graded Butler Pairs (C grade)

1st John & Gabrielle Elich

Arana Swiss Teams (Plate/B Section)

1st Byron Longford, Judy Perl, Phil Hale & Pam Schoen

QCBC Restricted Pairs

1st Graeme Dalrymple & Ann Dujela

Lockyer Pairs (B grade)

1st Helen Holmes & Carmen Powell

2nd Jorden & Rosemary Steenbeek
3rd Denise Hartwig & Sheryl Haslam

Stanthorpe Butler Pairs (B Grade)

3rd Trevor & Judy Glasby

Chris

Changes to the ABF Alert Procedures

The following article is by Laurie Kelso, National Director for the ABF. These changes in alert procedures apply in all ABF, QBA and Toowoomba Bridge Club events from August 1st, 2013.

Changes to the ABF Alert Procedures

As of 1st August 2013 there will be two significant changes to the current alerting procedures and both of these changes will have an impact on the average club player.

The first is that when a player opens the bidding with 1♣, his partner will no longer need to alert it. This is irrespective of whether the 1♣ opening is natural or conventional. Instead the responder will be required to make a prescribed statement (otherwise termed an 'Announcement').

The actual 'announcement' required will vary depending upon the nature of the 1♣ bid:

- For natural (Green) systems; the appropriate minimum length of the club suit (i.e., 2+, 3+, 4+, etc.) should be announced.
- For Strong Club (Blue) systems; the word "Strong" together with the minimum HCP holding (e.g. "16+") should be announced.
- For system options other than those above (e.g. a Polish 1♣); the word "Unusual" should be used.

The second area where an announcement will be required is after any natural 1NT opening. The responder will now be obligated to state:

- The appropriate HCP range (e.g. "12-14" or "15-17" etc.).

All such announcements will need to be made consistently in the prescribed manner.

Alternative designations or terminologies should not be used.

It is the responsibility of the Responder to make the announcement whenever their partner opens either 1♣ or 1NT. Either call will now trigger the prescribed announcement, or in the case of a conventional 1♣, the announcement will replace the current requirement to alert. These are the only two calls that will lead to an announcement, the Alert Regulations remain unchanged in respect all other actions.

After any announcement, the opponents will still be able to ask supplementary questions; however, hopefully the basic information already conveyed will obviate much of that need. A side benefit of this new approach is that many of the problems currently created due to inopportune (and sometimes pointed) enquiries will now disappear.

Another major positive is that announcements will lead to a better level of disclosure than was previously possible. Up until now the task of providing adequate levels of disclosure has been quite difficult for those partnerships employing either a variable 1NT or for those using a quite different system in 3rd and 4th seat. A reduction in the likelihood of any opposition confusion about the methods being employed (and the agreed countermeasures) should be a benefit to all concerned. The Laws relating to mistaken explanations and unauthorised information will still however apply to incorrect announcements in the same way that they currently apply to incorrect Alerts.

Since these new procedures represent a significant change in approach, it is to be expected that some players will need time to adjust. Consequently, Directors will be encouraged to exercise suitable tolerance in respect to inadvertent non-compliance and this will continue until most of the players become familiar with the newly promulgated procedures.

Announcements have been used in both England and the United States for a number of years and it is felt that the above application of the same approach will also be beneficial in Australia.