



Toowong Bridge Club Newsletter

January 2019

From the President



Dear Members,

Happy New Year everyone. 2019 arrived with the usual bang of fireworks celebrating the old year, and heralding what I hope will be many good times for all

of us in this new year.

It was the holiday season, but as ever, the running of the club didn't miss a beat during the festive season. It couldn't have been done without the help of our generous volunteer directors, dealers, scorers and support staff.

Thanks, in particular to Cheryl Shafferman and Hugh Buckham for turning up and directing on public holidays, and keeping the club alive for members looking for a game on those days. A round of applause to Bruce Sabine, one of our up and coming directors who has been learning the ropes by shadowing experienced director Keith Wright. With Keith away, Bruce stepped up and took full responsibility for the Christmas Eve session. From all reports he did a superb job.

It reminded me of how much the club depends on our volunteer people to keep the club bubbling along as it does. I have been encouraged in recent times by the number of new people ready to offer their skills and time to keep the club moving forward. We have a number of new dealers, scorers, trainee directors, housekeepers and kitchen assistants. Thank you all. I am sure you will find the work enjoyable and rewarding.

It was heart warming to have those participating in the Thursday evening mentoring session vote to continue on throughout the festive season.

I was also delighted to see several new faces at the mentoring nights over the holiday season. We are also looking forward to welcoming even more members who have a desire to improve their game with the generous support of more experienced and skilled players.

It was also pleasing to see several of those being mentored have decided to enter the upcoming Gold Coast Congress in the novice and restricted fields. Good luck in your Bridge endeavours.

With the festive season over it is on to the more serious period in the Bridge calendar with the Canberra Summer Festival of bridge in January, and the Gold Coast Bridge Congress in February. I encourage all member to become involved in the experience of playing in these events.

A project dear to my heart is the Youth Bridge Day on Sunday 20th January. TBC will host this event on behalf of the Queensland Bridge Association. This is free fun day to introduce young people to the wonderful world of Bridge. I was involved in teaching youth Bridge players many years ago and have seen many of those young players in the Youth Bridge program go forward. Andy Hung for one, has just been selected to play for Australia.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy and wonderful 2019, and as always, happy bridging.

Larry



Welcome to Our Newest Members

Jill Duffield
Bill Duffield
Thais Morgan-Pertus
Peter Allen
Marye Fenwick
Luis Labanti

Welcome everyone. Happy bridging at TBC.

Masterpoint Promotions

Graduate Club	Wayne Golding Peter Collins Denise Kinnane
Local	Sue English Helen Himstedt
Local*	Inta Devine
Local **	Raelene Clark Sue Wolf
Regional	Paul Sheth
Regional*	Susan Wootton
State	Ruth Anderson
National	Sue Ramsey
National*	Jonathan Burley Geoff Saxby

Bridge Lessons

Start the Bridge new year well with these opportunities to learn and improve your game. Spread the word amongst friends and family and invite them to play Bridge too.

Beginner lessons, conducted by Sue Eix, get under way in February. These are a free, day or evening, 8 weekly courses.

Day classes commence on Monday, 4 February, 9.45 am – 12.00 noon.

Evening classes commence on Thursday 7 February, 6.30 pm – 8.45 pm.

Flyers with details about the beginner lessons are on the bench near the front door. Pass them on to interested friends and family.

Thanks to all who have been spreading the word about the lessons.

For intermediate and advancing players, Pam Schoen will again conduct intermediate lessons, beginning on Monday afternoons, following the Gold Coast Congress. This will be some time in March.

The first lesson will be on - Defence.

Notice of the date and time will be posted on the club website and on the club room notice board.

Bridge Workshop

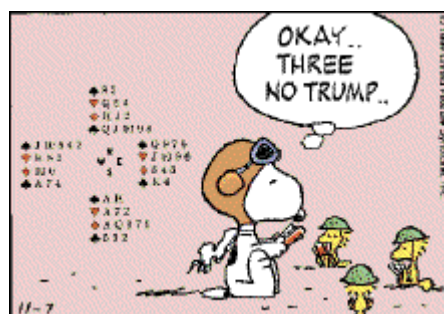
By Joan Butts on –

Partnership Coaching: Slam or Not?

This workshop will focus on partnership understanding to ensure you bid the makeable slams.

Saturday, 9 February, 9.30 am
Cost: \$20 per person

Enrolments can be made by completing the form on the bench near the library, or by email to education@toowongbridgeclub.com.



Coming Events

31 January & 7 February – Thursday Morning Pairs

3 February – Sunday, Toowong Imp Pairs Congress

5 & 12 February – Tuesday Afternoon Pairs

28 February & 7 March – Thursday Afternoon Novice Pairs

10 March – Sunday, Toowong Novice Imp Pairs Congress

19 March & 26 March – Tuesday Afternoon Teams

28 March & 4 April – Thursday Night Pairs

Note: The Friday afternoon Nationwide Pairs have temporarily been discontinued by the host organisation, the Australian Bridge Federation. An announcement will be made if and when the event is to be restarted in the future.

Volunteer

The holiday period was a reminder that often people are looking for a temporary partner because their regular partner is away on holiday.

Most of the sessions have a standby person ready to play with drop in players. So it is always possible to come along to the club and get a game.

There is also a need for a volunteer Partnership Co-ordinator whose job it is to place suitable players together who don't have a regular partner, either because they are new to the club, or their partner is away, or has dropped out of Bridge.

If you feel you might be prepared to take on the role of Partnership Co-ordinator please contact the President Larry Moses to discuss the role.

Christmas Time



It was the time to be jolly and TBC and members knew how to do it with style. There was plenty of Christmas cheer at the several Christmas parties held over various session times. There was good food and wine to be had, and time to stop, stop fussing about a missed grand slam, and wish fellow members the seasons greetings. The Christmas bling on show all helped to heighten the mood and atmosphere.





My Bridge History

By Adrian Pollock



I cannot recall when I first started to learn bridge. I do know it was around the lunch table at work.

As a child, we did not have all the electronic and off-the-shelf gadgets and toys that kids have today. I had to make my own toys, except for model kits which I loved making.

But as a family, for entertainment before TV came along, we used to play board games and card games. The card games were relatively simple ones – Patience, Canasta, Snap etc. but I took this love of cards to high school, where my friends and I used to play 500 every lunch time.

When I joined the Railways in 1985, it was a natural progression to go from 500 to bridge – I was told it was more complex but more interesting. And so I learnt the basics of bridge from a friend – who also taught me all I know about English beers!

In those years, there were a number of social and sporting clubs under the umbrella of the Queensland Railways Institute – a sort of social club for railway employees. One of these clubs was the Railway Bridge Club – which had nothing to do with railway bridges, a vital part of railway infrastructure.

So I joined the Railway Bridge Club. Well, in hindsight, that was an interesting experience. It was not what most of you would recognize as a bridge club. The club played an older form of bridge – Auction Bridge – which I doubt is played much anywhere anymore.

Given that Contract Bridge was developed and began to predominate back in the late 1920s, you can see how unique the Railway Bridge Club was – perhaps it was a reflection of the age of most of the members and maybe a result of the inertia of tradition (or just railway tradition?).

On top of this, we played rubber bridge (the game for professional bridge players) rather than duplicate bridge. This meant that the cards were dealt afresh at each table for each “board”. So each table played different, randomly-dealt hands meaning that, rather than you playing the same hands in comparison to all other E-W or N-S pairs, it was the luck of the draw.

I can say from bitter experience that some of the pairs seemed to have all the luck – I often said that they were mad if they weren’t investing heavily in the purchase of Lotto tickets (or Casket tickets as it was in those days) because they always seemed to deal themselves the best hands and therefore went on to win time after time. Of course, my playing ability might have also had something to do with my team’s lack of success, but that’s another discussion.

The other interesting aspect of the Railway Bridge Club was the fact that the playing venue was the Bookies Club, and we always had a non-playing member or friend who performed the role of barman for the night. By the end of the night, it was not uncommon to have a few players barely able to sit straight in their chairs, let alone to be able to bid coherently.

But it was all a lot of fun and I guess I learnt something about playing bridge, even if it much of it wasn’t of “modern” application. I’m not sure, but I suspect the Railway Bridge Club is no more – most of its members probably played their last hands many years ago.

My move to “proper” bridge came when I was asked by the mother of one of my son’s school friends if I would like to play with her in a recognized bridge club. Tentatively I agreed, not being sure of what I was getting into or whether I had it in me to be successful and happy outside of my routine habits learnt around the card table at work.

But I did agree and I began playing with Claire Christiansen at John Summerhayes’ exotic venue at the old Paddington Fire Station. I can’t remember what year I began playing this “real” bridge, but it must have been at least 15 years ago. I do remember it was fun – and the venue was quite amazing, along with the wine.

But all good things come to an end, and John’s club closed. Claire and I then began playing at Toowong, and I’ve been playing here ever since. Claire gave up playing, and I found a new playing partner – Wardina Oghanna.

Wardina and I are not Life Masters (yet!?!), but we do have our successes. And while the point of our partnership is bridge, it is also more than this. I like playing bridge and I like to do well, but I also see it as only a part of my life’s journey, which covers a whole range of interest. Wardina and I have developed a friendship based on shared interests – we are both engineers with a shared working experience in railway engineering, and we also share similar views on politics – always an interesting topic of conversation, especially when the Middle East comes into it.

Anyway, I’ll finish my story with one of my most “memorable” bridge moments. I was playing against John Summerhayes (on my left). I opened 1 Club, and the bidding passed out all round. At the end of the play, I had made 1 Club – unfortunately what this really meant is that I had only made 1 trick. The opposition made the other 12 tricks. John had most of the Clubs and most of the points. Oh well, that’s bridge.

Club Rooms

The new automatic sliding front door is a welcome addition to the club rooms. All of us are enjoying the easy access, but it has been a particular boon for many of our senior members who have appreciated the more independent, safe and comfortable means of entry.

The cost of installing the new door has been fully covered by a very generous \$4,200 funding grant from the Commonwealth Government Stronger Communities Programme. A big thank you to the programme. A very big thank you also goes to TBC member Di Swan. Di was the main driver behind preparing, submitting and negotiating the funding application with the funding body.

Also, the much needed improvement to the club room lighting has now been resolved. The new LED lighting has finally been installed.

Note:

The contact details for members mentioned in the newsletter can be found in the TBC List of Members 2018 booklet.

News and stories from members, for inclusion in the newsletter, would be greatly appreciated. Particularly nice would be member stories about how and why they got into Bridge, different places they have played, etc



Club Grounds

Plans are a foot to improve the garden area adjacent to the outside seating area. Some improvements have already been made with the old Camphor Laurel tree stump having had a face lift with a coat of red varnish. Although one member has been over heard to say the look is a little on the spooky side.



Spooky? A little odd looking maybe. How often do you see a red varnished Camphor Laurel stump? At TBC of course.

Several members who know their plants have shared their know how and helped with ideas for improving the garden itself. Thanks to them for their interest and ideas which have helped form the basis for progressing the work.



The Petrea Volubilis, a blue flowering vine planted around the base of this old stump will grow and climb up and over the stump and attractively cover the eye sore.

Thanks to the volunteer working bee of Peter Cuff, Tony Boddice and Larry Moses.
