



Toowong Bridge Club Newsletter

November 2018

From the President



Dear Members,

We are quickly winding down into Christmas and heading bravely into 2019.

With the dedicated help of a host of volunteers, the club

has enjoyed another good year. Table numbers are solid, membership up, the club remains in a solid financial position, and most importantly, people seem to be enjoying their time and Bridge at TBC.

One of the areas I personally wanted to see advance within the club was the options available for developing and advancing member Bridge skills. With the help of many people I think we are making the advances I had hoped for.

Sue Eix, Pam Schoen and Margaret Prentice have all contributed in large part to the beginner and advancing class lessons.

The mentor night has also been helpful in lifting the standard of Bridge of those participating in the programme. The evidence of this can be seen with some of those who have attended the sessions, featuring in the placings in recent TBC and other club competitions and congresses.

The success of the mentoring sessions requires the help of a legion of experienced mentors. I would like to thank them for offering their continuing support. Although I hesitate to single anyone out, I feel that Richard Fox and Laurie Skeate deserve special mention for the success of this programme. Players being mentored have given me rave reviews about their participation. This is encouraging to me and also their mentors.

This programme is vital in developing relationships between expert and advancing players, which helps foster the skills and confidence of developing players to move into the more competitive world of congress Bridge.

The handicap scoring for red point events, where the prize money for an event is equally shared between the overall winners and the winners based on handicap, is now in operation.

The committee is still considering the different methods used in arriving at your handicap to ensure the fairest option is being used. No method is likely to be perfect, although any method has to be fairer than the previous arrangement where 80% of the prize money was shared between the top 20% of the ranked players in red point events.

The club has also looked towards assisting those who have not been so lucky during the past year such as our farmers and others. I have been impressed with the generosity of our members and thank you all for backing these worthy charities so willingly.

On the home front, it has been good to witness how much our senior members are enjoying the ease of access to the club room with the new sliding glass door. I know some members had reservations about installing the door, but I hope their fears have been overcome and they too feel more comfortable with the way it is working.

This will be the final newsletter in print form for 2018. Next print issue in the new year.

I wish you all a great Christmas, and as always, happy Bridging.

Larry

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Paul Wright
Barbara White
Rose Sturley
Peter Monroe
Judy Nankiville
Ken Fischer
Diane McClintock
Shirley O'Donoghue
Jamshid Vazirzadeh
Heather England
Misako James
Jenny Thompson

Welcome everyone. Happy bridging at TBC.

Bridge Lessons

The last beginner lessons for 2018 have now drawn to a conclusion. The next set of beginner lessons are scheduled for February 2019. The date and times will be advertised after Christmas, in the new year.

Help with play sessions are still ongoing. Session times are -

Monday - 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Tuesday - 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm
Saturday - 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Bridge Workshop

by leading expert, Andy Hung on -

Improve Your Competitive Bidding Judgement
Saturday 17 November 9.30 am – 12.00 noon
Cost: \$20

To enrol, sign up in the entry form near the library,
or by contacting Sue Eix.

Coming Events

13 & 20 November – Tuesday afternoon, Novice Pairs <100 MP

16 November - Friday afternoon, Nationwide Pairs

18 November - Sunday, Brisbane Zone Interclub Teams, to be played at TBC

21 November - Wednesday morning, Queensland Wide Pairs

22 November - Thursday night, Christmas Teams

25 November - Sunday, TBC Graded Teams Congress

30 November - Friday afternoon, Nationwide Pairs

12 December - Wednesday night, Christmas Party

14 December - Friday afternoon, Nationwide Pairs

Masterpoint Promotions

Club	Diana Bendeich Beau Jones Lyn O'Callaghan Gwenda Simmons
Local	Eileen Cooke
Local*	Dennis Gibson Angela Lawson
Local**	Merrill Lance
Regional	Denise Deane Sandra Hall Rhonda Henry Kim Robson
State	Aijun Yang
Life	Sharon Clifford
Silver Life	Helen Chamberlin

TBC Pairs Championship

The TBC Pairs Championship was played in September. The champions for 2018 are -

Champions: Nikolas Moore
 Larry Moses
2nd Margaret Plunkett
 Greg Gosney
3rd Paul Han
 Dianne Brinkworth
1st Plate Helen Clayton
 Kathy Males

Congratulations to the place getters, and to all who played. Thanks to convenor Janet Lovell, and the many volunteers who worked to ensure the day was the success it was.



Nikolas Moore & Larry Moses



Margaret Plunkett & Greg Gosney



Paul Han & Dianne Brinkworth



Helen Clayton & Kathy Males

Drought Appeal

The Queensland Bridge Association Farmer's Appeal was well supported by TBC members who contributed \$1,515.85 to the appeal.

Much of western Queensland remains in serious drought conditions. TBC's contribution, together with the \$20,000 plus from the Queensland Bridge Association, will help to alleviate some of the hardship that our farmers, their families, and their stock, are suffering.

Melbourne Cup

The annual cup luncheon and bridge day was held on Tuesday 6 November. Bridge play got underway at 9.15 am but before that there was a ready band of volunteers, led by Caroline Nelson, who got everything set up to make it an enjoyable day for those who attended. Some were hard at work in the kitchen, others had decorated the room in a festive air, and others were organising the sweeps and prizes. The setting could not have been better.



TBC men and women did the fashions of the field with style. There were some real winners. It was great to see more of the men wearing a hat. They have caught on to the idea the Melbourne Cup is a hat wearing occasion.







Then it was on to playing Bridge. Besides winning the Bridge, there were two prizes at stake. One was for the person who won a trick with the 2 of clubs. The other for the pair who bid and made the first slam of the day.

Winning a trick with the 2 of clubs went to Dewi Eastman. When she picked up Board 10, she noticed she had the 2 of clubs and decided to work on winning it. She played the hand in 3NT but all her focus was on making that 2 of clubs a winner. Her play confused her dummy partner Annette Corkhill, and the two opponents, no end.

The lead was the 7 of spades which was won by north's Q. The 10 of diamonds was returned, which was won by south's A and Q. Dewi then won dummy's J of diamonds. She then played A, K and then 10 clubs to the Q, dropping south's J, and establishing the club suit. She was not out of trouble yet however, as the 6 of clubs blocked her own clubs. So she played the two top hearts on the table, ran dummy's 6 of clubs, and then followed this by surrendering the A of spades and playing the J. North was forced to win this with the K, and could only return a heart, letting Dewi into her hand to win that coveted 2 of clubs, and the box of chocolates prize.

In surrendering the spade, she made 10 instead of 11 tricks, but her goal wasn't about the number of tricks, it was always about winning that 2 of clubs.

It was fun working to get it; and a box of chocolates is worth more than .0000 something of a green master point.

Have a look at the hand and see what she was up against.

BOARD 10	
BD: 10	♠KQ9432 Dlr: E
	♥T832 Vul: All
	♦T9
	♣7
♠AJ86	♠T5
♥AK	♥QJ76
♦J65	♦K8
♣AKT6	♣Q5432
	♠7
	♥954
	♦AQ7432
	♣J98
	♣♦♥♠ N
	T
N	- - - - - 5
S	- - - - - 20 8
E	5 1 2 1 5 7
W	4 1 2 1 5



Rumour has it Lee Rogers and Peter Noble were the first to bid and win a slam, but as they were the Director and the head table, they graciously passed on taking the prize.

Then it was champagne and lunch before watching the running of the race.



And no, it didn't win –



But there was a strong line up of those who did pick the right horse, and kept the bookies busy paying out prize money.



Meet the Mentors

Two regular attendees at the Thursday evening mentoring program are Nikolas Moore and Larry Moses. They recently claimed the 2018 TBC Pairs Championship title.

In their post match interview after the match, they were asked for some insights regarding their success. They appeared hard pushed to recall exactly what was the winning play. A bit of head scratching was in order.



If you come along to the Mentor nights of a Thursday evening, they will have had time to ponder on the matter, and promise to share their tips on bidding, declarer play, and defence, built on their long experience playing in regular club sessions, as well as competitive Bridge congresses.

Reminder

Some members have a genuine medical reaction to the chemical in perfumes.

This can be an issue for them at a close sitting Bridge table.

In consideration of fellow members, members are asked to refrain from wearing perfume when attending the club playing sessions.

My Bridge History

By Richard Fox



It all started very haphazardly. I played some card games with family and school friends and I used to try to solve newspaper Bridge columns when they were about to play a hand. At that time I didn't understand anything about Bridge. I had the occasional casual game of Bridge at university and on ski holidays when four random people got together. We'd have bidding like, a strong 2C opening, passed out.

While I was between jobs in London, shortly before I followed up a work opportunity in Australia, I decided to go to the local Wimbledon Bridge Club and learn a bit more about how to play properly. I tried reading a book to cram a few basics. This was enough for me to bypass beginner lessons and I slotted straight into the supervised play. This was just 2-3 tables, usually with a short lesson topic, followed by playing some hands. The teacher would typically look over someone's shoulder and guide their thinking about all aspect of play. The bidding, planning the play, and deducing where the cards were. This teacher had a very school mistressy air and you had to know how to take some thing she said. But some of her tips from those times stay with me now.

Most of the club games I played in Wimbledon were the ones aimed at new players and only simple bidding systems were allowed. Maybe this is a good idea. It saves people from being confused by Multi Twos and Unusual No Trumps before they know the basics.

When I came to Perth I hunted down a Bridge club and played with the standby partner or someone who had come along on their own. Then I started playing with a lady named Joan who became a sort of mentor. She was a nurse in her younger days, touring country towns with the mobile blood bank.

Her husband had been a bank manager. She always denied any numerical abilities whatsoever, saying she left all that to him. However she had an amazing card sense from playing for so many years, and she just knew what to do with many card combinations.

Although her way of thinking was very different from my typical Engineer's mentality of logic and structure, we could reach the same conclusions. One of her big themes was partnership trust and it always helped us. If you have what you say you are bidding, partner is well placed to work as a team with you.

When I came to Queensland, one player who stands out in my memory as being a mine of information was Peter Hainsworth, a familiar personality to all the longer standing players. With his bald head, beard, and bushy eyebrows, he looked the part of an elder statesman. Peter was always up for having a game and going out for dinner/drinks and analysing the boards. His approach was very fair and objective, a rare skill. So if you took a line of play that was logical but didn't work this time, he would never say - "There, see! You should have finessed the other way".

Overall, I could say that in my case, many of the fundamentals were self taught; although I credit my unofficial mentors with a lot of help. There is an important place for good advice and mentoring in every player's development. It brings another view point, and draws attention to wrinkles you never realised.



If you haven't noticed, Christmas is coming.

Club Rooms

The installation of the new chairs earlier in the year spotlighted the fading beauty of the 20 year old tablecloths. This stirred a few of the volunteers on washing duty to look into more suitable replacement cloths.

They explored the option of buying new cloths, and or contracting to have the cloths made up. They balked at the cost of both these options so, led by Jill Lynch, a group of the Tuesday afternoon players volunteered to take on the job of sewing the cloths themselves.

A metre of suitable fabric was purchased from Sckafs fabric store. The owner/manager of the store agreed to hold the bolt of fabric until Jill pre-tested it for dye run, shrinkage or pilling, in both cold and warm water wash.

Jill, and a non-Bridge friend of hers, did all the cutting, using the friend's billiard table as the cutting surface. To maximise usage of the fabric, Jill and friend had to be cognisant of working with the fabric width, and getting around fabric faults. The pre-cut cloths, together with sewing directions and diagrams, were then passed to the volunteer sewers for their part in the team effort.

The result of their efforts is 110 tablecloths, nicely colour co-ordinated with the new chairs. This is two full sets, plus a few spares, for each row in the main room, as well as the small teaching room.



Club House

Also getting a make over is the mural on the outside wall along the car park. It was looking a bit worse for wear with the passing of time, weather, and graffiti.

An organisation known as Hands on Art were contracted to do the art work. It took quite a bit of time on the part of the Artist to do the job.

She was a wonderful Artist, but evidently not into Bridge. She first painted the diamond suit in orange. She was quickly given feed back and restored the suit to its rightful red.



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.
