

NEWSLETTER



CLUB PRESIDENT

After the congress last month, the club held the Mondays Pairs event for both open and under national players. The open pairs were won by Betty Hobdell and Lesleigh Rooney and the under nationals, which is an honour board event, was won by Peter Elliott and Robert Mischlewski. Congratulations to both pairs.

The visit from 8- 13 August of the Ballina Club group, which also included visitors from other clubs around Australia, boosted the number of players in the club on the first day, with twenty one tables in use, with a welcoming function following. Led by Howard Jeffrey from Ballina the group usually travels to overseas venues but chose to come to Townsville this year. On Friday 12 August there was an all day "teams challenge" event with twenty two teams competing, with lunch provided by the club. I am pleased to say that the event was won by a Townsville team comprising Pat Leighton, Ray Muld, Charlie Georgees and Barbara Hospers. A close second was a team from the Ballina group made up of players from Tomaree (near Newcastle) and Narrabeen (north of Sydney) bridge clubs. The visit was a great success and bridge was played in a spirit of friendly rivalry and allowed the club to make a modest profit for the week. I would like to thank everyone who helped during the visit.

At our last committee meeting it was decided that east-west players would continue to take their bidding boxes with them to the next table. Anyone who would like to purchase their own bidding box would be welcome to do so.

At the suggestion of one of our members it was also agreed that the club would purchase a defibrillator and would pay for a CPR course for any members who would like to do one. Please see the email from Rosemary.

The club now has a new email address which should overcome our previous problems with sending out bulk emails. Please let the secretary know if you are still not receiving emails from the club. Will you please change the club email address to – secretary@townsvillebridgeclub.org.au - in your mail system as the old email address will expire at the end of September.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone who has not already paid that subscriptions are due by the end of September, and our AGM will be held on Monday 26 September at 10.30am at the clubhouse. All positions will become vacant and there four general members of the committee who are not seeking re-election. Please see the notice board for the notice of the AGM and details for nominating for the committee.

Wilfred Tapiolas



Courtesy Adrian Raeside



Recent Results

Peter Elliott **REGIONAL**

Lily Morrish **CLUB**

Jeff Stephens **GRADUATE**



Delma Johnson **GRAND MASTER**



Cassowary Coast Pairs Congress

1st place **PAT LEIGHTON** and **RAY MULD**

2nd Place **GEOFF Allen** and **BILL BISHOP**



Condolences

The club expresses its sincere condolences to the family of **Marie STABLER** who was a much-loved member of the Townsville Bridge Club.

Recent Grand Slams

Patricia Larsen and Charlie Georgees

Audrey Ledbrook and Ian Patterson

AGM

Monday 26 September at 10.30am at the clubhouse





"Johnno" Johnson: a personal reminiscence

Mr Tapiolas's obituary certainly captures the essence of the late John Johnson, one of the last surviving members of the Townsville Bridge Club's first few decades (If I recall correctly, Johnno joined the TBC sometime in the late 1980s). Before leaving Townsville in 1992, I played regularly with Johnno and it was to my regret that distance prevented us from continuing the partnership. But we kept in touch, albeit intermittently.

My first long-term partner in Townsville (from 1978) was Bill Golding, an incorrigible risk-taker (and smoker). Bill and John forged a very successful partnership in the 1990s. When we met at congresses, John would often entertain me with anecdotes about Bill's wild and unpredictable bidding (as if I needed convincing that the former deserved some sympathy!). In mid 1993 my namesake in Rockhampton (Malcolm Allan) and I travelled up to Townsville to play in the TBC Congress.

The Johnsons put us up, and with Johnno and Bill we won the Teams. In July 1995 - my scrapbook tells me - he came down to Rockhampton for a one-day Teams event which, with the aid of 'The Dooners', we won. For several years in the early 2000s Johnno and Bill Golding* teamed up with us Malcolms and won a string of the Central Queensland Teams events held in Mackay in mid-November.

My connection with Johnno wasn't based solely on Bridge. He'd been a social worker in Rockhampton, and there were several people here we'd both encountered. More important, as Mr Tapiolas has observed, he had a keen interest in the American Civil War - one of the subjects I most enjoyed teaching at university.

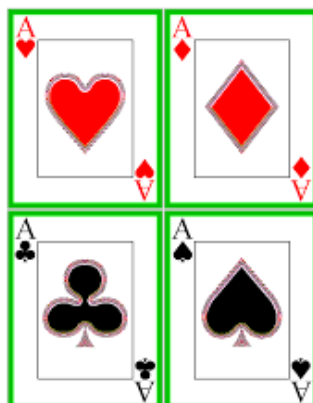
John was a highly sophisticated Bridge player and knew 'the book' far better than most. While easygoing in other roles, he was precise in bridge and expected exactitude from both himself and his partners. Yet, while often critical of his partner's bidding and play, he expressed his dissatisfaction in a very tactful way, one unusual in a bridge player (While not known as a bridge teacher, he could have given lessons on how to relate to whoever was sitting opposite him at the table).

Johnno was the classic gentle giant, and many if not most of us will remember him as such.

Malcolm Saunders

Rockhampton

* Sometimes it was with Helen Thompson or Geoff Allen





SUIT COMBINATION



A recent hand from the State Teams championship reminded me just how difficult suit combinations prove to 'learn'.

♥ A J 4 2

♥ K 9 7 5

This event was Teams, where the safety of the contract is paramount (rather than overtricks). The field played in 6 ♥.

The only issue on the hand was to ensure that you did not lose two heart tricks; the other suits were all good.

The textbook play with this heart holding is to lead the Ace first, then low towards the K-9. If North shows out, you win the King then lead back towards your J-4, in effect finessing South's Q-10. If North follows to the second heart, you play the ♥9, allowing for North to hold Q-10-x-x.

If you lead the King first, you will lose two tricks when North holds Q-10-x-x.

If you lead the Jack first, you will lose whenever South holds Q-10-8-x!

Try it and see.

Courtesy – B. Travis SABF March 2022

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE and PROTOCOL

Play of the hand

- ✓ Do say 'Thank you' to your partner when he/she puts the Dummy on the table. (Even though you are thinking to yourself 'where the heck is the hand my partner was bidding?')
- ✓ Do, when you are on opening lead, lead first and then write the contract on your score sheet.
- ✓ When you are on opening lead, detach a card from your hand and lay it face down on the table. This prevents irregularities...such as leading when it is not your turn to do so and allows questions about the auction and any alerts to be answered.
- ✓ All players, except dummy, may now request a review of the auction and an explanation of any alerted calls.
- ✓ You, as the opening leader, may ask for any review of the bidding before you make your first lead. Other players may also ask for a review of the auction at their first opportunity to play.



Bridge for Beginners and Beyond

Opening Leads – source ABF



Don't play to the first trick too quickly. Force yourself to stop and think when dummy comes down. Look ahead and plan your play to at least the next few tricks.

Concentrate on the opening lead for a few seconds so you'll remember it later. Decide



A big advantage for the defenders is that they get to play the first card by making the opening lead. The only negative about this is that they can't see dummy first!

It's often difficult to find the right lead to beat a contract, but here are some guidelines if you're wondering what to lead.

Decide first, which **suit** to lead, and then which **card** of that suit seems right. Nobody makes the lead right all the time but thinking about the bidding and imagining what dummy might look like will help.

Which suit?

- If partner has bid, lead their suit unless you have a good reason not to
- Can you lead the top of a sequence ♠QJ1052, lead ♠Q
- Lead low from an honour in your longest suit ♥Q108, lead ♥8
- Lead trumps if the bidding suggests declarer will cross ruff. You're forcing declarer to play two trumps at once instead of one
- Lead your long suit if you hold four or more trumps. It will often force declarer, and you might take control
- With three small trumps, consider leading a short suit: a singleton or a doubleton, hoping for a ruff
- Lead suits that have not been bid by the declaring side

Which card? If it's your own suit, lead the

- Top card of a sequence or a near sequence of three or more cards. From ♠KQJ52 or ♠KQ1054 lead ♠K in both no trumps and suits. However, with ♠KQ432 lead ♠K if defending a suit contract, or lead ♠4 if defending no trumps. Phew!
- Top card of interior sequence, with ♠KJ1085 lead ♠J
- Fourth best if no sequence, with ♠K8753 lead ♠5. Use the **Rule of 11** if the lead is fourth highest, for example if the ♠5 is led, subtract 5 from 11 = 6, to tell you there are 6 cards higher than the ♠5 in the other hands. This can guide the defence to knowing whether to continue or switch and helps the defender in third seat know how high to play to the first trick.
- Low from three cards to an honour, with ♠Q72 lead the ♠2
- Top card of a doubleton, with ♠106 lead the ♠10
- Don't lead away from an Ace when defending a suit contract ♠A864. It's better to lead another suit. In NT, lead 4th highest, with ♠A864 lead ♠4
- With three small cards such as ♠973 lead low unless you have raised partner's suit in the bidding, when the 9 would be more helpful.



Member Profile:

Michele Jones

When and where did you first play Bridge?

I started, lessons 2020.

Who introduced you to bridge?

I am the facilitator for Townsville Chronic Pain Support Group and was researching affordable hobbies, to encourage members to take up a hobby outside of the home. Apart from the actual pain, having chronic pain, often limits income because you can't work because of the financial stress and

stepping away from social settings leads to depression, anxiety and isolation.

Who taught you to play bridge?

Clive and Fay

Tell us some of your family background, for example where did you grow up, what is your favourite childhood memory?

I was born and raised in Toowoomba to a working-class family, but my father had a love of history and took us many holidays and if a town had a museum we always stopped and ventured inside. My father is a great storyteller and he always brought history to life.

Did you have a nickname at school? If so, why did the name arise.

Not at school, but my family called me Shelly and I never liked it, so I insisted on being called Michelle at school.

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

cleaning the car. The twisting and bending while vacuuming always causes spasms and pain in my back.

Do you have any other interests, other than bridge?

I love baking but haven't done too much lately as I have been trying to lose weight.

Spending time with my children and grandchild and parents.

As our children grew up, we played a lot of board games and uno and we still enjoy playing games as a family.

What type of Jobs (employment) have you done? What was your first job? Did you have a favourite job?

My first part-time job was at Hungry Jacks, then I worked in a bakery and finally Franklins supermarket while at school. After finishing school, I worked at Myer until I started

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I loved Orthopaedic nursing, but shift work is difficult when raising a family so I switched to working in Pathology performing blood collection.

If you could be an animal what would it be and why?

I would be a Lioness, they keep the family together, she is a huntress and provides food for their family. She is a loving carer towards her cubs and a great teacher of life to her family.



What is your favourite song?

“I Gotta a Feeling” by the Black Eyed Peas

Do you have any “hidden talents” or achievements that might surprise us?

No, what you see is what you get except, I like English history and True Crime.

What personality trait has got you in most trouble?

I talk too much, which is not good when playing Bridge.

Who is the most famous person you have met?

Kylie Minogue.

What the best advice you ever had given to you or your Motto is?

You can’t learn everything from a textbook. Fake it till you make it.

If you could invite three famous people for dinner (dead or alive) who would it be? Mary Queen of Scots, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth 2nd.

Best advice for our bridge partner

Be patient, don’t worry about becoming last, you have to crawl before you can walk.

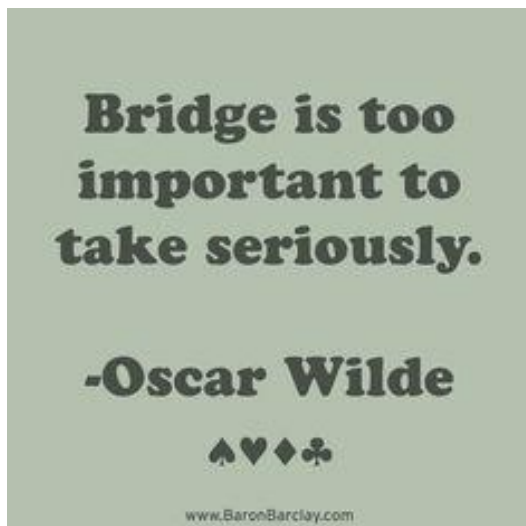
Do you have a joke?

(Q) What did the fish say when he swam into a wall?

(A) Dam!

I would like to say learning to play Bridge has been a lifeline to me. Living with Chronic Pain is very debilitating. When you to give up work at an early age due to pain, you lose your social circle, your independence and confidence. Most pain medication causes side effects. You suffer memory loss or (brain Fog) and develop anxiety which can lead to isolating yourself even more and become very depressed. You find the only people you see outside of family are health professionals.

Every time I come to Bridge, I step out of my comfort zone and challenge myself by just being there. When I first started playing Bridge, I used a card holder as I kept dropping cards, you have all helped me by being welcoming me into your community and encouraging me not to give up when I felt defeated. Thank you.



“I didn’t think she played the hand that badly.”



Memories.....

Norma Heatley, Rae Freer, Brian Blyth ?



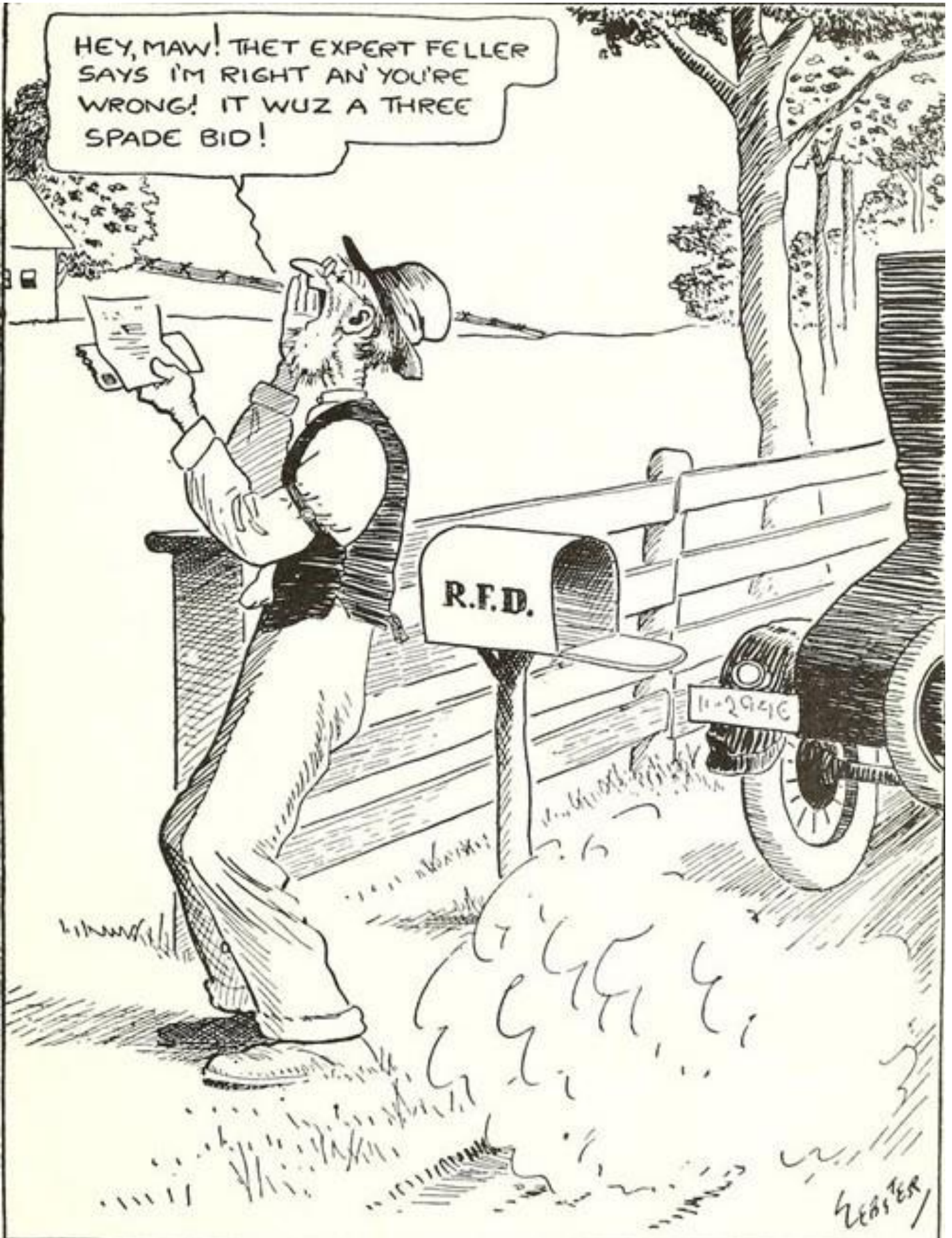
Elsie Stubbs, ?(visitor), Judy Hunt, Carmel Brown,



Back: Leigh Owens, Vilma Laws, John Howie **Middle:** Beth Whebell, Anne Marie Lamond, Iris Ariotti **Front:** Margaret Ward, Daphne Crimston, Sue Laing **Standing:** Matt Mullamphy



Denise Bayliss, Julie Gregory, Shirley Stone



LIKE TO SHARE ANYTHING?

If anyone has any photos, jokes, birthday wishes or ideas for the newsletter, then please contact Albert Beric on 0403 153 211 or email me - aberich@tpg.com.au