

## TOWNSVILLE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER – MAY 2021



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MAY 2021

The club celebrated its fifty fourth birthday on April 14 and if you are interested there is an excellent article on the founding of the Townsville Bridge Club on our website under documents.

In April the second round of the GNOT was held at the Ingham Bridge Club and was won by the Allen team (Geoff, Pat, Robert and Fred).

Cleveland Bay Bridge Club held their Annual Diggers Congress at our clubhouse with Pat Leighton and Charlie taking out the pairs event and the Bishop team (Bill, Pat Larsen, Geoff and John Johnson) winning the teams event.

Charlie Georgees has written an excellent article on club membership for this newsletter. It shows that while the ABF says that membership of many Australian Bridge Clubs is in decline, our membership is stable. I believe that this is due in no small part to the teaching and supervised play structures that the club has in place. We are fortunate to have Charlie, Fay and Di and their assistants conducting these sessions.

At the suggestion of some members involved in supervised play the committee is looking at providing opportunities for beginners to play during a number of bridge sessions.

The Novice Pairs and Club Pairs, which is an Honour Board event, will be held in May. As Charlie's article on membership shows that we have over eighty members with fewer than 100 points, I urge these members to enter the Novice Pairs event. Bridge for Brains is normally held in May but has been postponed till later this year. Details will appear on the home page of the club website.

On behalf of you all, in closing I would like to wish one of our long time members Louise Connell a Happy Ninetieth Birthday for May 11. Please sign the birthday card for Louise that is at the club.

**Wilfred Tapiolas**



Louise Connell



**Happy birthday  
Louise!!**

We hope your  
day is filled with  
lots of love and  
laughter!

**RECENT RANKING PROMOTIONS**

Gloria Macdonald – Gold Life  
Di Garside – Bronze National  
Coleen Evanson – State  
Nina Doyle - Regional  
Ian Leach – Regional  
Peter Elliott – Bronze Local  
Myles Clarkson – Local

**RECENT GRAND SLAMS**

Carol Blackman and Angela  
Hall

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MAY 2021**

**6<sup>th</sup>** TBC Bridge for Brains (Red)

**8<sup>th</sup>** TBC Novice Pairs (Red)

**15<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>** CBBC GNOT Qual 3 (Gold, TBC  
Venue) (2 days)

**29<sup>th</sup>** TBC Club Pairs (Red) (2  
days)

**31<sup>st</sup>** TBC Aust-wide Novice Pairs  
(Red)

**JUNE 2021**

**5<sup>th</sup>** TBC Zonal Pairs (Red) (2 days)

**11<sup>th</sup>** TBC Handicap Pairs (Green) (2  
days)

**12<sup>th</sup>** TBC One-Day Teams (Red)

**Professional Opinion** (Richard Pavlicek)

**Bill:** My cardiologist says I can't play bridge.

**Tom:** Why not? Do you have some kind of heart problem?

**Bill:** No. He's just played with me enough to know I'm hopeless.



**Warm wishes to all our  
Mothers at the bridge club**



## COMPETING AT BRIDGE (PART 2) - Bidding over artificial Calls

by Ian Patterson

How do you play the Double of an Artificial Bid? This is 1 of the many things you need to clarify with your partner(s).

Last month, playing with an occasional partner the bidding had proceeded:

N	E	S	W	
1Nt	/	3C	X	1Nt = 15-17, 3C = transfer to Ds
3D	/	/	/	

3D duly made 10 tricks but reviewing the results it appeared that E/W should have been in (and making) 4H. My partner said "you did see my double?" to which I said "of course - I lead a Club, didn't I?". We apparently had a different interpretation of what the X of the (artificial) 3C bid meant. I have "always" played the X of an artificial bid as either LEAD DIRECT or just showing the suit bid (in case my partner wanted to bid something?). My partner played the X as **Takeout**. The problem I have with this approach is I don't know if she is short in Clubs (the "bid" suit) or short in Diamonds (the suit "shown"). Also, we don't know how good the fit (in Ds) is, or how strong responder is. If responder was going to follow up with a bid of 3Nt, then my bidding a Major could be disastrous.

So, with my partner's actual hand: S: Q987 H: K1074 D: - C: AQ1095 and in the "passout seat", I would have followed up with a 2nd X (for takeout). We would then find our 5/4 Heart fit. Some of the "better" players "down south" play the following: 1st X shows "values", 2nd X is for T'out, 3rd X is for Penalties. I think that reads as: "I've got something", followed by "bid something partner - I can support whatever you bid" and finally "don't bid partner, this is Business". I'm not sure what you would need to have to use that rule - a balanced 19+ HCP?

On the same theme (bidding over artificial calls) what do you bid holding: S: J983 H: - D: QJ10942 C: AQ7 after the bidding has gone:

N	E	S	W	
1Nt	/	2D	?	Nil VUL, 1Nt = 12-15, 2D is Transfer to H's

The void in Hearts is very powerful!

Do you want (a) partner to lead the suit, (b) to tell partner you have a D suit, or (c) show partner you have a very good hand if you have a D fit? At my table, W bid 3D and the bidding proceeded:

N	E	S	W
1Nt	/	2D	3D
3H	4D	4H	5D
/	/	/	

5D was only 1 off. Even if Doubled and taken 2 off (on a small Club lead away from 10 6 4 3) it's a good result against the making 4H at the other table. No wonder we lost that match so comprehensively.

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP, PART 1

An article by Peter Cox “2020 A Bridge Odyssey” in the February 2021 ABF Newsletter shows that many of the traditional major clubs in Australia were badly affected by COVID and over a third were already in decline by 2019 before COVID.

Prompted by this, I wondered how the Townsville Bridge Club was travelling with memberships over recent years. A crude method of estimation on a year-by-year basis is to look at the number of members listed in the annual pocket calendars, and this has been possible thanks to Peter Hall who kindly provided that information.

YEAR	MEMBERS
2021	189
2020	167
2019	189
2018	193
2017	196
2016	198
2015	202
2014	190
2013	186
2012	188
2011	189
2010	188
1998	184
1988	179

The “MEMBERS” figures are on the date of publication of the calendar, effectively 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year. They include many players whose home club is Cleveland Bay but who are also members of Townsville. There are 189 members listed in the current calendar, 37 of which are CBBC home club members and 152 are Townsville, as listed on the ABF Masterpoints Centre. A reasonable assumption would be that as an approximation, the dual membership figures are constant from year to year.

So on face value, the figures in the table indicate a stable membership, pretty much for the last 30 or so years (since 1988). There is certainly no significant decline. If there was a decline due to Covid19, this should have been evident in the 2021 calendar. Remembering that the 2020 calendar is pre-Covid, the downward spike to 167 in the 2020 calendar is curious. A statistical glitch perhaps? I don't have an explanation for this, if anyone does, please let me know.

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP, PART 2

On 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (Co-incidentally the club's 54<sup>th</sup> birthday), there were 152 active home club members listed on the ABF Masterpoints Centre. The breakdown of members by rank category is tabulated below.

RANK	POINTS NEEDED	INCLUDING RED/GOLD	INCLUDING GOLD	MEMBERS		CUMULATIVE	
				CATEGORY	PERCENT	MEMBERS	PERCENT
Nil	0			30	19.7	30	19.7
Graduate	2			5	3.3	35	23.0
Club	5			11	7.2	46	30.3
Local	15			9	5.9	55	36.2
*Local	25			2	1.3	57	37.5
**Local	35			4	2.6	61	40.1
Regional	50			7	4.6	68	44.7
*Regional	100			0	0	68	44.7
State	50	25		14	9.2	82	53.9
*State	100	50		5	3.3	87	57.2
National	150	75		7	4.6	94	61.8
*National	200	100		17	11.2	111	73.0
**National	300	150		1	0.7	112	73.7
Life	300	180	30	5	3.3	117	77.0
BronzeLife	400	240	40	2	1.3	119	78.3
SilverLife	500	300	50	9	5.9	128	84.2
GoldLife	750	450	75	12	7.9	140	92.1
Grand	1000	700	200	12	7.9	152	100
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>152</b>	<b>100</b>		

## HOW TO READ THE TABLE

The top line of the table shows 30 members (19.7% of 152) as being in the “Nil” ranking category, i.e. they have less than 2 Masterpoints. The second line shows 5 members (3.3% of 152) as being in the “Graduate” ranking category, i.e. they have 2 to 5 Masterpoints. The 2 columns on the far right are cumulative, i.e. 35 members (23% of 152) are below the “Club” category and have less than 5 Masterpoints.

You can use the table to estimate whatever you want to consider about the makeup of the club. Highlighted are 2 features that stand out to me. They are that

- 53.9% of the club’s members (in yellow highlight) are in the “Novice” category (<100 Masterpoints)
- 19.8% of the club’s members (in green highlight) are in the “Restricted” category (<300 Masterpoints)

## How can we better engage our Novice and Restricted players?

The Novice and Restricted players together constitute 73.7% of the club (112 of 152). The obvious question is “Can we do more in terms of putting on more events or sessions to accommodate this significant group?” Undoubtedly the answer is “Yes”.

## PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU THINK?

Please submit your ideas to a committee member on how you think this might be achieved.

Charlie Georgees



## CLEVELAND BAY BRIDGE CLUB EVENT - Diggers Congress 22 - 25 April 2021

Recently we hosted at our club the Cleveland Bay Bridge Club Diggers Congress. I am sure everyone who played in the event enjoyed it and it was certainly nice to see some different faces in our club. Below is a message from Jan Smith, President of the CBBC, regarding the event.

*We sincerely thank TBC for the support shown to CBBC in allowing the event to be held in the comfort of their premises. Also many thanks to all those members who helped in the smooth running of the event, with special thanks to Robert Mischlewski for dealing boards, to Ann Smith for her superb organisation abilities in the kitchen, to Carol Blackman for the artful decoration of the clubhouse, to Reg Burton for taking photographs and to Geoff Allen, Bill Bishop and Charlie Georgees for their help in all computing and scoring matters.*

### 1<sup>st</sup> – Diggers Swiss Pairs

CHARLIE GEORGEES and PAT LEIGHTON



### 2<sup>nd</sup> – Diggers Swiss Pairs

GLADYS TULLOCH and BARBARA HOSPERS



### Walk-in Pairs Winners

#### North south

Maria Chippendale and  
Clive Bunnett

#### East West

Helen Lovegrove and  
John Tredrea

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – Diggers Swiss Pairs

BETTY HOBDPELL and IAN PATTERSON



### 1<sup>st</sup> – Diggers Swiss Pairs (C Grade)

JO GILLIS and JUDITH THRELFALL



### 1<sup>st</sup> - Diggers Swiss Teams (Category A)

BILL BISHOP, GEOFF ALLEN, PAT LARSEN and JOHN JOHNSON



### 2<sup>nd</sup> - Diggers Swiss Teams (Category A)

PHIL RAINS, LESLEIGH ROONEY, IAN PATTERSON and BETTY HOBDELL



### 3<sup>rd</sup> - Diggers Swiss Teams (Category A)

BILL REDHEAD, PAT LEIGHTON, GAYLEEN BROWN and CHARLIE GEORGEES

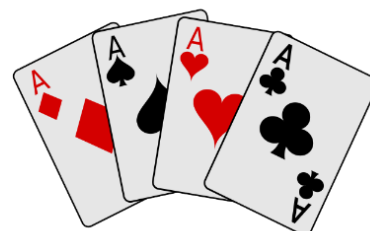


### 1<sup>st</sup> - Diggers Swiss Teams (Category B)

VIVIENNE OTTO, HELEN LOVEGROVE, PETER HOUSDEN and GLORIA MACDONALD

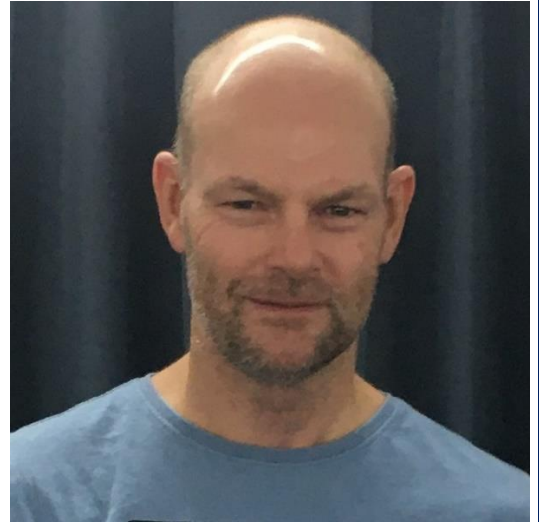


LIZ JOHNSON, DELMA JOHNSON, SHARON MORLEY and DEVAN MITCHELL





## MEMBER PROFILE - Danny Bowden



**When did you first play Bridge?** 2018.

**Who introduced you to bridge?** Richard Harmon was my Beginner's teacher.

**Who taught you to play bridge?** Richard Harmon.

**Where did you grow up?** East Coast of Australia, dad was in 7th Signals Regiment.

**Did you have a nickname at school?** Several but my favourite was "Catcher".

**What chore do you absolutely hate doing?** Cleaning up after the dog.

**If you could be an animal what would it be and why?** Sea Otter, they seem to have a fairly relaxed lifestyle.

**What is your favourite song?** Pied Piper by Crispian St. Peters.

**Do you have any "hidden talents" or achievements that might surprise us?** I used to be a Level 2 Cricket Umpire with Cricket Australia and umpired at State Level Under 17 carnivals.

**What personality trait has got you in most trouble?** Failing to listen properly.

**Who is the most famous person you have met?** Well in my world, Simon Taufel Australian International Cricket Umpire, Steve Waugh during the 2000 Olympics Torch Relay.

**What is the best advice you have been given or your Motto is?** Best advice, "Less is More." and favourite Motto is "All that is required for the triumph of Evil, is that good men should do nothing." Edmund Burke. I also like, "Stupidity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result." Albert Einstein.

**If you could invite three famous people for dinner (dead or alive) who would it be?** Muhammad Ali, the Dali Lama and Clint Eastwood. All great Philosophers.

**Best advice for your bridge partner?** Of course! Ain't hindsight great? Next board.

## **GNOT QUALIFYING ROUND 2, INGHAM HEAT**

As far as bridge weekends away go, this had it all.

Bill Bishop was to be the Director and had put in a lot of leadup work for the 9-Team event which involved the dreaded tripod. To accommodate the large number of boards required for the tripod (somewhere around 230), Ingham and Townsville Bridge Clubs shared the dealing duties.

On the eve of the event, Bill was a late scratching due to a family health emergency, and a substitute player and Director had to be found. Eventually Fred Cole was enlisted as the substitute player and Geoff Allen as the Director. The panic had been thwarted, it seemed.

The first day of the competition arrived, and so did the rain! Thankfully it wasn't a downpour. We assembled in the Bowls Club and the morning session went smoothly. But as the afternoon session started a problem emerged as one player after another declared they had already played their respective boards. After much head scratching as we tried to identify the problem and how the situation could be retrieved, John Tredrea explained what had happened with a great piece of detective work, and we were left with just one solution – abandon the session and deal a new set of boards for an extended session on Sunday.

A spirited dealing production line was soon established with a team of willing helpers from all 3 regional clubs staying behind to help wherever a spare set of hands was required. Some setup the computer and dealing machine, others unpacked the boards and shuffled cards, while others stacked the blank boards ready for dealing. Eventually most of the boards had been dealt, and the remaining balance of 50-odd boards were dealt early on Sunday morning. Whew!

That night, 18 of us gathered at Lee's Hotel for dinner and drinks. Gladys Tulloch and Pat Leighton entertained everyone with many stories from Congresses, especially the Gold Coast.

The session on the following day went without a glitch and finished well before 2pm in time for everyone to head off to where they had to go, especially to the Cowboys footy game in Townsville.

And in the end, a fitting result – well done to Geoff, Pat, Robert, and Fred who finished on top, to the teams who will go through to the Regional Final, to all participants for their patience and understanding, and last but not least, to the Ingham Bridge Club for their cordial hospitality and for making this a memorable weekend.

Charlie Georgees

## FROM THE VAULT



Dot Shannon, Matt Mullamphy, Gayleen Brown and Pat Allen

Matt Mullamphy, Beth Whebell and Michael Suthers



Ettie Fell - Founding Member and later President of Townsville Bridge Club (circa 1969)



Dot Melazzini, Audrey McCrae, Pam Andrews, Lynn Richardson, Janelle Kipping and Shirley Stone

## IN REPLY TO JUDITH by Marg Foster

It's no fun being wed to a non bridge player,  
In your wheel they're a permanent spoke,  
Complaining of your preoccupation,  
"Til on the deal you revoke or you croak.

The warmth that one once encountered,  
When first taking lessons at bridge,  
Has gone – and opposition has mounted –  
And temperatures now rival the fridge.

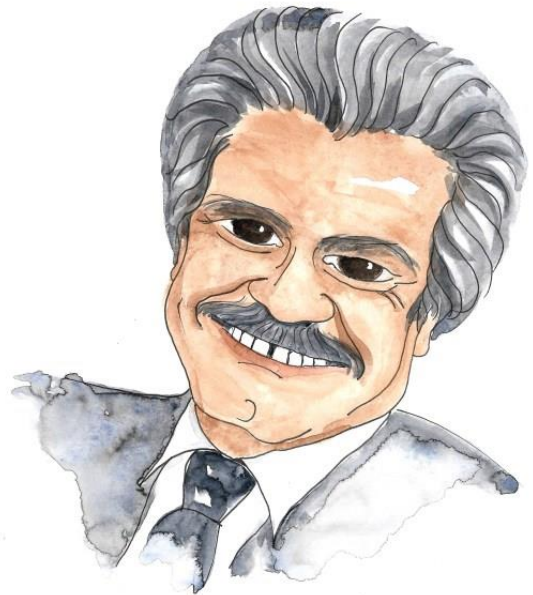
You're quizzed about being a winner,  
And asked most incredulously –  
"After six months you're still a beginner!  
You're not making much progress I see"  
Of course you're intent on improving,  
And suggest a few extra sessions,  
In a tone frosty and reproving,  
You're refused any further concessions.

Disgruntled spouses shout dissent from the rafters,  
And rudely apportion the blame,  
But sadly, we can't serve two masters,  
And alas we ARE wed to the game

Yet a spouse who accepts we're addicted,  
And have to have bridge in large lumps,  
And who knows that we can't be restricted,  
We will always keep coming up Trumps.

Judith – the cards you can't lose or purioin 'em,  
So why not give bridge a whirl?  
They say if you can't beat 'em – join 'em  
And I'm sure you're a sensible girl.  
Later – if hubby and you play as twosome,  
There could be a marriage at stake,  
So to prevent things becoming quite gruesome –  
Beware of contract you DON'T make.

Audrey's Favourite Bridge Quotes: No. 26



**I don't think I could live without a  
deck of cards in my hands.**

Omar Sharif

Artwork by Audrey Q

### LIKE TO SHARE ANYTHING?

If anyone has any photos, ideas or feedback for the newsletter, then please contact Albert Beric ([aberic@tpg.com.au](mailto:aberic@tpg.com.au))