

## TOWNSVILLE BRIDGE CLUB (TBC) HISTORY 1 THE FORMATIVE YEARS 1967-1970

In **1967**, the idea of forming a Bridge Club was that of *Nell Breinl* and *Mary Tringham* (wife of Cathedral Dean). An exploratory meeting attended by them, *Dr Ken Back*, and *Mr and Mrs Jack Fraser* led to a public meeting attended by about 30 interested parties. The meeting resolved to form a club, and a Steering Committee was elected.

### **4<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1967 - STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Present were *Jack Fraser* (President), *Dr Ken Back* (Vice President?), *Don Thorne* (Secretary?), *Dorothy Savage* (Treasurer?), and *Mary Tringham*. A Notice to announce an inaugural meeting of the TBC was to be placed in the daily paper before 14<sup>th</sup> April 1967.



### **14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1967 - INAUGURAL MEETING**

This was held at the Synod Hall. *Dr Ken Back* welcomed the 26 attendees, and the Club was formally inaugurated as the Townsville Bridge Club. Foundation Office Bearers were elected, and it was resolved that there would be an Annual Subscription Fee of \$4.00 and table fees of 40 cents. *Ms M. Green* donated duplicate boards and books, and play would commence at 8.00pm.

The following names of early members are recorded – *Jean Fraser, Nell Breinl, Alma Wordsworth, Marie Wallace, Joy Dean, Sheila Hoolihan, Ida Clancy, Millie Hansen, Dortehea Stewart, Margaret Ward, Father Hare, Tom Lamond, AnnMarie Lamond, Harry Dick, Bell Birch, Margaret Brabazon.*

### **1967 - OTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

A Membership Application Form was prepared. A Ladies Auxiliary was formed, they arranged afternoon games, one Tuesday per month (*Alma Wordsworth* idea). The Club liased closely with the St James Cathedral Ladies Guild and negotiated a 20 cents per player donation in exchange for a rent-free arrangement. A Christmas Party was held at Buchanan's Hotel for an evening of supper and rubber bridge.

### **1968**

It was resolved to affiliate the Club with the Queensland Bridge Association (QBA), and the President announced he would donate a President's Trophy for a competition to be held in May.

A "Constitution" ("Rules"?) was typed by *Dortehea Stewart*. The first AGM was held at the Synod Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1968 with 22 attendees and 15 apologies.

The early games were on Friday nights and soon after, Tuesday nights were added. There were just 3-5 tables at the start, increasing to some sessions of 6-7 tables and a best playing attendance during the year of 9 tables. Fees remained unchanged for members but visitors were to pay 15 cents more in table fees. Everybody played "Goren" – **must** open with 14, **may** open with 13 and **rarely** with 12! Bidding was 4-card suits. On 20<sup>th</sup> September 1968, a handicap system was proposed for the Friday night session, with a review of the handicaps after every 4 sessions.

*Dorothy Savage* was elected as Librarian.

Early Directors were *Jack Fraser, Don Thorne, Ken Back.*

Simplistic lessons were introduced by *Jack Fraser*. Pupils included *Richard Ward, Pat Duckworth, Arnold Duffield.*

## **1969**

A masterpoints scheme was introduced for a 6 months trial period.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM was held at the Synod Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1969, with 28 attendees and 9 apologies. The "Constitution" ("Rules"?) was changed to allow 3 or more members, Annual Subscription Fees were increased to \$5, and the Club's credit balance was \$579. Ladies Auxiliary afternoon sessions were being held every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday afternoon of the month. *Ettie Fell* was providing lessons to 2 classes.

In August, it was resolved to invest \$500 of the Club's money.

*Joy Dean* and *Ida Clancy* chose to take Directors' examinations.

*Dr D. Priest* was appointed as the Club's QBA delegate.

Table fee on Friday nights was raised to 45 cents to cover the masterpoint levy.

*Mrs A. Smith* offered to donate trophies for a Friday night competition for the best aggregate percentage of 3 out of 4 consecutive nights.

Three new card tables were purchased.

## **1970**

President *Jack Fraser* was transferred to Ipswich and a fond farewell evening was held 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1970. *Dr Back* was appointed as acting President until the AGM.

Friday night table fees were increased to 50 cents but Tuesdays remained at 40 cents.

A Wednesday night Open Bridge Tournament of 14.5 tables was held at the Hotel Allen on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1970. *Dr and Mrs Back* donated 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Club spoons were 2<sup>nd</sup> prize.

Another Special Competition of 14 tables called the "End-of-Year Tournament" was held 17<sup>th</sup> July 1970 at Buchanan's Hotel.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM was at the Synod Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> July with 35 attendees and 10 apologies.

Credit balance was \$761 fixed deposit and \$129 cash.

*Dr D. Priest* continued as the Club's QBA delegate.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September, details were discussed for a Past President's Trophy event to be held end of September.

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### **AUTHOR'S NOTE**

This document has been compiled by *Charlie Georgees* as a digital record of our Club history. The information herein has been taken from a variety of documents on file at the Townsville Bridge Club. Some are typed minutes of meetings and AGM reports - some quite faded - and others are loose leaf pages of handwritten notes. If anyone has any information that can improve the accuracy of the record, please contact the author.

### **OTHER DOCUMENT IN THIS SERIES**

**"TBC History 2 A Clubhouse Is Built 1971-1975"**

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