



# TOWNSVILLE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



There were two competitions held in March. The Wednesday night Restricted Convention Pairs event was won by Peter Elliott and Bill Redhead. The Clive Bunnett Memorial Pairs event was won by Leigh Owens and Jan Smith in the open section and Terry Hughes and Frances Summerhayes in the novice section.

The second qualifying GNOT event was held at the Ingham Bridge Club and was won by the Owens team. To date five teams have qualified, with a further three places to be filled at the third event to be held at the Cleveland Bay Bridge Club in

May. The eight qualified teams will progress to the zonal final which will be held at our club in August. The winning team will represent our zone in the national finals to be held in Brisbane in December.

This month is the fifty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Townsville Bridge Club in 1967. This year's Anniversary Pairs event produced two winners. North South side won by Leigh Owens and John Tredrea and East West won by Helen Tapiolas and Dusk Care. Thank you Rosemary for arranging a celebratory birthday cake for morning tea.

While researching some club history on our website, I noted that table fees in 1972 were \$1. Out of curiosity I used the inflation calculator on the Reserve Bank website to discover that that would be equivalent to table fees of \$11.57 today.

As we have all been advised by email, our Secretary Rosemary Glastonbury has decided to resign her position after five years of sterling service. I take this opportunity to thank Rosemary, particularly for her support and advice to me as President. Rosemary has set a high standard for future secretaries to follow.

The next Barrier Reef Congress in Cairns is fast approaching, and I wish all members going to the congress the best of luck.

**Wilfred Tapiolas**



## Recent Grand Slams

PATRICIA LARSEN / BETH WHEBELL

GLORIA MACDONALD / PETER  
HOUSDEN

FAY BLOWER / DELMA JOHNSON

JOAN ELLIOTT / ROBYN NOLAN

BILL BISHOP / ROBYN NOLAN



## RECENT PROMOTIONS

Robert Mischlewski **BRONZE STATE**

Luthile Arlett **CLUB**

Stephen Lee **CLUB**

Jan Toy **GRADUATE**



## DID YOU KNOW?

Unsurprisingly Winston Churchill played Bridge, but surprisingly, given his reputation as a great strategist, he was not a very good player. Apparently, he was not keen to follow conventions or rules and could be unpredictable with his play and discards. Defending his play to his partner, he was quick with a witty response:

*"But, First Lord, you discarded the knave ..." "The cards I throw away are not worthy of observation or I should not discard them. It is the cards I play on which you should concentrate your attention."*

*When his partner believed he wasted a king – Churchill responded "Nothing is here for tears. The king cannot fall unworthily if it falls to the sword of the ace."*





**Wilfred and Helen Tapiolas**

## **55th anniversary of the founding of the Townsville Bridge Club**

### **THE FORMATIVE YEARS 1967**

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 14th 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, Dorthea 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 liaised 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.

# Dwight Eisenhower - interesting history and bridge play

## *D-Day Memories of the Bridge Player in Chief*

The main architect of Operation Overlord, Eisenhower was under incredible stress in the weeks leading up to D-Day. He was drinking 24 cups of coffee and smoking six packs of cigarettes a day and rarely had more than two hours of uninterrupted sleep each night. He was also squeezing in bridge games at every opportunity. His lifelong devotion to the game has given him unofficial status as the "patron President" of bridge players.

During his years as President, Eisenhower held regular Saturday-night games at the White House. The games were serious competitions, as Ike considered it a "sacrilege" to play bridge with anything less than total concentration. He was calm and thoughtful during the auction, but could become quite animated during the play of the hand. An old bridge friend described Ike's gusto when taking the setting trick: "The card rises vertically in the President's hand, then describes a 90-degree arc. It hits the table with a thump, upsetting ash trays and opponents."

Mamie Eisenhower loved the game, too. She and Ike rarely played together because he yelled at her when she made mistakes, but bridge was always the featured entertainment at her parties. When someone suggested that she invite Vice-President Nixon and his wife Pat to one of the weekend parties at the Eisenhowers' Gettysburg farm, Mamie rejected the idea. "What on earth would we talk about?" said Mamie. "She doesn't play bridge!"

### **How good a player was Ike?**

Eisenhower wasn't an expert by today's standards, but bridge great Ely Culbertson described his game as classic and sound with "flashes of brilliance." Said Culbertson: "You can always judge a man's character by the way he plays cards. Eisenhower is a calm and collected player and never whines at his losses. He is brilliant in victory but never commits the bridge player's worst crime of gloating when he wins."

One of Ike's favorite hands was an 8-5 freak dealt in 1946 at an Alpine retreat with U.S. generals. As reported in Sports Illustrated, he opened 6D holding **♦ KQ1098732** and **♠ AKQ63**.

Gruenther, his LHO, doubled and Ike's partner, General Mark Clark, raised to 7D with the **♦ A6** and a small doubleton spade. Gruenther's partner, General Raymond Moses, doubled 7D and when this was passed back to Clark, he redoubled, convinced that his **♦ A** had to be the 13th trick. Spades broke 4-2 and diamonds 3-0 (Gruenther held **♠ 82** and **♦ J54** in front of dummy), so the only way to make was to ruff a spade in dummy before drawing trumps. Ike found it and scored up 1610 points plus the value of the game.

## Ike's biggest score

Eisenhower's aggressive nature took center stage in this sensational deal, reported by Dorothy Hayden Truscott in the New York Times Bridge Book. It was played in Palm Springs CA after Ike left the White House. His partner was Gruenther and their opponents were two noted industrialists who had far more money than bidding sense.

Dealer: S	♠ 9	South	West	North	East
Vul: Both	♥ KJ82		Ike		Gruenther
	♦ KQ532	Pass	1♦	DBL	RDBL
	♣ A108				
♠ AJ		1NT	DBL	RDBL	<i>All Pass</i>
♥ 1075	♠ KQ7653				
♦ AJ76	♥ AQ9				
♣ Q965	♦ 104				
	♣ K4				
	♠ 10842				
	♥ 643				
	♦ 98				
	♣ J732				

1♠ is probably the "correct" bid with the East hand, but the style in the 1960s was to redouble with any 10+ points, and it worked spectacularly here. Ike was always looking for opportunities to act as the "ax holder over an injudicious bidder", as one partner described him, and he took full advantage of this penalty situation, despite his bare-minimum opener. South, who had obviously seen his partner's off-shape takeout doubles before, was afraid to bid any suit and did not understand the foolish redouble, which was intended as SOS.

Ike led the ♦6, which should have allowed declarer to escape for down four. However, the desperate South played low from dummy in the hope the lead was from ♦J10xx. Gruenther won his ♦10 and shifted to a low spade. Ike cashed his two spades and exited with a club, ducked in dummy.

Gruenther won his ♣K and cashed four spade tricks, which squeezed dummy down to ♥KJ ♦KQ ♣A. He then led a diamond to Ike's ♦A, and now a heart through dummy's unguarded ♥KJ gave Gruenther three tricks in that suit. Declarer finally scored dummy's A at the end for down six, redoubled and vulnerable.

It was the biggest thrill of Ike's long bridge career, which he pursued until his death a few years later in 1969. Collecting 3400 points on a bridge deal isn't in the same league as launching a successful military invasion, but for a man who loved our game almost as much as he loved our country, that bridge hand was surely a memory that rivaled those of his D-Day victory. –

**(An Extract) – Courtesy Karen Walker Professional player and teacher (originally published in the June 2009 issue of the District 8 Advocate)**



## Bridge for Beginners

**BIDDING** (Extract from the Australian Bridge Federation website)

As you develop a bridge partnership, don't start with a very complicated system. It will be too much. Rather, wait until you have the basics under control before adding new conventions.

Understand what's **forcing** and what's not, if you want to keep your partner that is! Generally, a **new** suit by an unpassed hand is forcing, but once an "old" suit (one that has been heard before in the auction) is mentioned, it's no longer forcing. New suits by responder are always forcing, but occasionally opener's new suit MAY be passed if you've responded on a real minimum. (eg 1 ♣ p 1 ♥ p 1 ♠. It's possible to pass this, although it's rare to). But....

1 ♥ p 2 ♣ p 2 ♦ (forcing – 3 new suits – still looking for a fit), but

1 ♣ p 1 ♥ p 2 ♥ (not forcing, as an "old" suit has been mentioned).

Still, if either player has more than a minimum, they should continue. Most notrump bids define the points within a narrow range.

1 ♣ p 1 ♥ p 2NT (18 – 20, balanced, no heart fit).

Deciding whether to bid to **game** is the bread and butter of bidding. Having information about how hands fit rather than simply assessing high card points will produce more successful contracts. This means noticing **where** values are rather than just **what** they are. Shortages opposite partner's small cards, eg a singleton opposite Axxx, are attractive in a suit contract, because you can trump losers that way.

Courtesy **Eddie Kantar**



- You cannot expect your partner to defend properly if you make faces or show other signs of disapproval.
- The speed of the play, may be a clue to declarer's problem. When playing a 4-3 trump fit, play usually slows to a crawl.
- Don't lead a trump when the opponents are misfitted



## **Member Profile: JUDY HUNT**

### **When and where did you first play Bridge?**

Townsville mid 80's.

### **Who taught you to play bridge?**

Elsie Stubbs. I also had two lessons with Ron Klinger (visiting TBC) then 6 more with Pat Back (TBC President)

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

I lived with my grandmother in Victoria during WW11.

Fond memory – Hanging over the fence waiting for Dad (on leave) to take me on a tram to Melbourne Zoo. I was so excited. I didn't see much of my parents.



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

My relatives called me curly top – I had a mop of frizzy curls.

### **What chore do you absolutely hate doing?**

Watering.

### **Do you have any other interests, other than bridge?**

I love musical theatre, traveling, sewing and reading.

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

My first job was after school and Saturday mornings at the local greengrocer shop. It was not easy as weights were in lbs/ozs & currency was Stirling. As an adult I worked in the fashion industry, learning design and other facets of the industry.

### **What is your favourite song?**

Isn't It Romantic – orchestral or Rod Stewart.

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

A well-loved family cat.



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

I enjoyed playing squash for many years and was lucky enough to represent Townsville in inter-city competitions.

### **What personality trait has got you in most trouble?**

I tend to over organise and try too hard to help.

### **Who is the most famous person you have met?**

Heather Mackay world #1 squash player.

### **If you could invite three famous people for dinner (dead or alive) who would it be?**

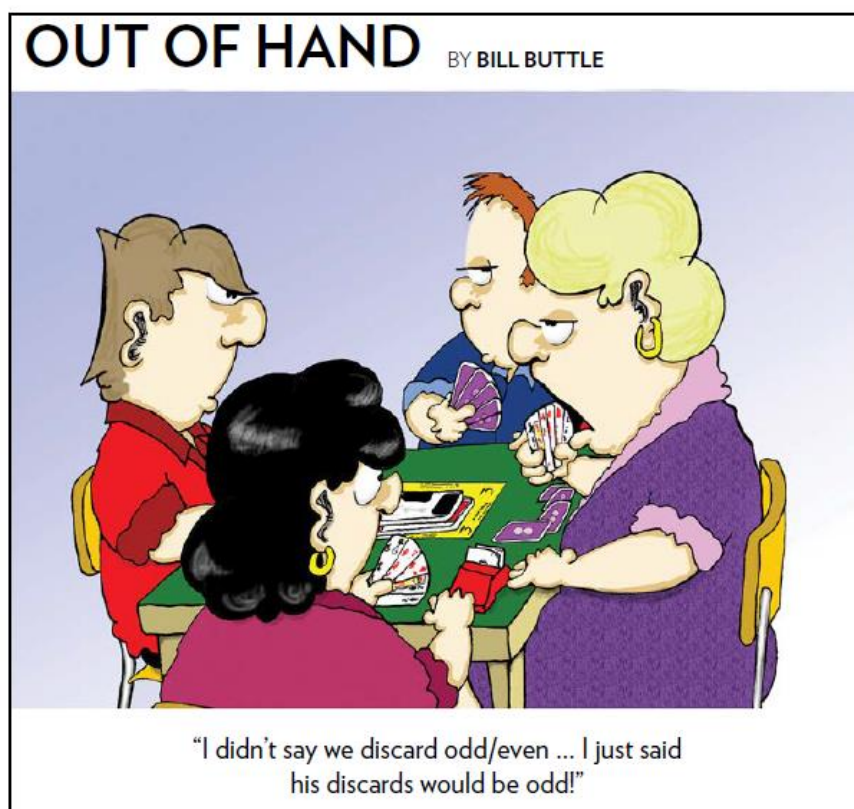
Dame Judi Dench, Hazel Hawke and Queen Elizabeth 11.

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

Don't let the sun set on your disagreements. School motto Potens Sui (self-control)

### **Best advice for your bridge partner**

Respect your partner and opposition. Learn and remember the basics. Enjoy Your self.



*Source – Bill Buttle. We also acknowledge the kind consent given from Linda Buttle to publish.*

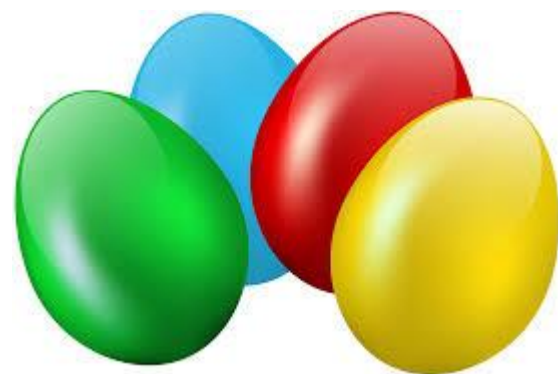




*The late Del Ward shared with me some articles, anecdotes, etc for the newsletter.  
Hope you enjoy them!*

## HOW TO KNOW WHEN YOU ARE GROWING OLD:

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.  
The gleam in your eye is the sun hitting your bifocals.  
You feel like the morning after but you haven't been anywhere.  
You get winded playing cards.  
Your children begin to look middle-aged.  
You join a health club but don't go.  
A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable urge.  
You know all the answers, but no-one asks you the questions.  
You look forward to a dull evening.  
You need glasses to find glasses.  
You turn out the light for economy instead of romance.  
You sit in a rocking chair but you can't make it go.  
Your knees buckle but your belt won't.  
Your back goes out more often than you do.  
You put your bra on back to front and it fits better.  
Your house is too big and your medicine cabinet is too small.  
You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.  
Your birthday cake collapses under the weight of the candles.  
Your narrow waist and broad mind begin to change places.  
You just want to live long enough to be a problem to your kids.  
If you wake up in the morning and nothing hurts, you're dead.





# bridging the past.....

Some? Effie Goldring Brian Blyth



Gwen Cordingly, Mary Tonner Alan Duncan Margot Byrnes



Keith Suthers, Grace Jameson, Barbara Hospers and Sue Laing



Agnes Brown, Stan Bowker, Barry Kempthorne Jean Bowker (back to camera)

