



CLUB PRESIDENT

Towards the end of June the club lost two of its longest serving members with the passing of Del Ward and John Johnson. This newsletter contains tributes to them both and they will be greatly missed. They both put a lot back into the club, particularly in teaching and encouraging newer players.

A number of competitions were held in June starting with the Zonal Pairs, which was won by Geoff Allen and Bill Bishop. This was followed by the One Day Teams won by the Housden team (Peter Housden, Gloria Macdonald, Bill Redhead and Gayleen Brown). Finally, the Handicap Pairs was won by Barbara Hospers and Charlie Georgees. Congratulations to the winners.

The Townsville Congress was held at the beginning of July and entries were similar to last year's event with twenty-four pairs and twelve teams. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making the congress a success, particularly to our congress director Geoff Allen and to Margaret and Devan for ensuring that our farewell lunch ran smoothly. Congratulations to the winners and placegetters of the various categories. Results are listed in this newsletter.

From Monday 8 August the club will host a tour group of bridge players from Ballina. There will be events every day with some sessions being hosted by the Cleveland Bay Bridge Club. Charlie has put in a great deal of time organising the programme for the week. Full details of the bridge sessions will be published on our website once it has been finalised. Please make our visitors feel at home.

Covid restrictions have been further relaxed in most bridge clubs Australia wide. The committee at its July meeting will consider following suit. Any changes will be published on our website and announced at the club.

Finally I would like to welcome our new members who have moved to Townsville from other clubs and our returning seasonal visitors.

Wilfred Tapiolas





The Townsville Bridge club would like to express our sincere condolences to *the Johnson and Ward Families*

Johnno started playing bridge at the Mount Isa Bridge club in 1974 and became an illustrious player. He had a huge presence at the club. Not only due to his physical stature but also being a man of great bridge stature. He had remarkable ability to remember the cards played and apply one of his many bag of tricks, from the Vienna coup, upper cut, and the squeeze. He was a master at end play. He was one of the few players that had a real in-depth understanding of the nuances of the game which he was always willing to share with others. He helped intermediate players by partnering them. Johnno was our only current member to reach over 3000 masterpoints. He would often fondly recall hands he had played over 40 years ago. He had a very retentive memory, almost eidetic.



Johnno loved telling a joke and had a strong love and passion for history, particularly the American Civil War. However, most of all John was a gentleman who was humble at the bridge table and was a great friend of many.

Best advice for your bridge partner? [Keep away from critical comment be constructive](#)

DEL WARD - 13 June 2022, aged 85

Del first learnt to play bridge in August 1978 and was an active member in for more than 40 years until Covid arrived. She rallied some close friends and convinced them to join the bridge club and take lessons, amongst them Vilma Laws, Elsie Stubbs and Judy Hunt. Their teacher was Ettie Fell and possibly also Margaret Ward.



As the group developed their bridge prowess, Del formed a highly successful partnership with Doris Mann. They often played in all the local and regional tournaments as a pair, and with Pat Crowd and Vilma Laws in teams events. They travelled regularly to congresses in Mackay and Cairns and were known for making a time of it all.

Del was something of a bridge club “recruitment officer” in the earlier days.

She was instrumental in getting Leigh Owens and Jan Smith to join the congress circuit from 1982. Jan has expressed many fond memories of those times. Del also enjoyed success in several other regular partnerships, especially with Joan Bussey until her passing in 2004, and with Beth Whebell and several others.

Del took on several key roles in “behind the scenes” management of the club. She served as a TBC committee member for several years, and ensured library facilities were maintained. But her signature role was undoubtedly the 12 years she oversaw the Tuesday morning supervised play. She really enjoyed welcoming and teaching new players in an informal environment, and fostering a spirit of enjoyment and love of the game. And she ensured everyone knew that they all had to contribute in some small way to the functionality of our volunteer club.





TOWNSVILLE CONGRESS RESULTS

WALKIN PAIRS – 1st

NORTH SOUTH JANELLE CONROY - TERRENCE SHEEDY

EAST WEST BETTY HOBDELL - IAN PATTERSON

Swiss Butler Pairs – 1st

Category A PAT LEIGHTON – ROBYN NOLAN

Category B CHARLIE GEORGEES – RUSSELL WOOLLEY

Category C ANTO WILSON – REG BURTON



Swiss Teams -1st

Category A LEIGH OWENS – JAN SMITH – CHED TWYMAN – ALBERT BERIC - JOHN LARKIN

Category B DUSK CARE – KAY GOODWIN – JOAN ELLIOTT – ROBYN NOLAN

Category C DI GARSIDE – FELICITY HORNE – ANDREE GALEANO – SAM BISHOP

Swiss Teams -2nd

Category A TERRENCE SHEEDY – JANELLE CONROY – MAX HOLEWA – DIANE HOLEWA

Category B RUSSELL WOOLLEY – CHARLIE GEORGEES – JOHN TREDREA – HELEN LOVEGROVE

Category C SHARON MORLEY – ANN BARRON – WENDY COE – REG BURTON

Swiss Teams – 3rd

Category A BILL BISHOP – PAT LARSEN – MARIA CHIPPENDALE – KEN MANDERS

Category B TRUDY LOW – ANGELA HALL – BERNICE MORTON - VIVIENNE OTTO - JO GILLIS





Albert Beric, Jan Smith, Leigh Owens and Ched Tywman



Geoff Allen – Teams Director



**Max Holewa, Diane Holewa,
Terry Sheedy and Janelle
Conroy**



**Betty Hobdell and
Ian Patterson**



Pat Leighton and Robyn Nolan



Russell Woolley and Charlie Georgees



Bill Bishop, Maria Chippendale and Pat Larkin



Dusk Care, Joan Elliott, Kay Goodwin, and Robyn Nolan



Felicity Horne, Di Garside, Sam Bishop an Andree Galeano





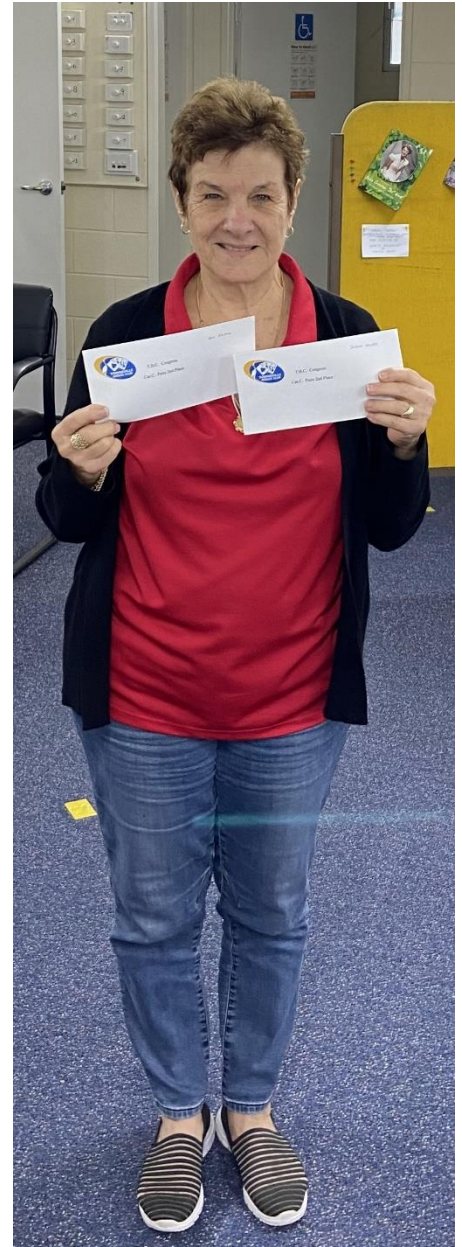
Russell Woolley, John Tredrea, Helen Lovegrove and Charlie Georgess



Andree Galeano and Sam Bishop



Terry Sheedy and Janelle Conroy



Ann Barron



Albert Beric and Ched Twyman



UPCOMING EVENTS.....

JULY 2022

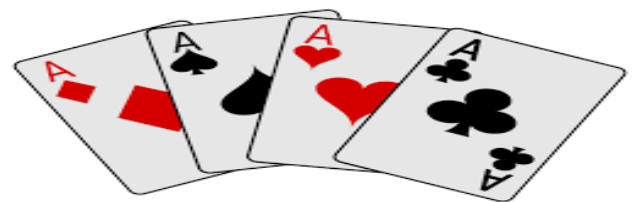
- 30th MISSION BEACH - Cassowary Matchpoint Pairs (Red) (2 days)



Player promotions

Congratulations to:

- Bernice Morton **GOLD LIFE**
- Philip Allnut **LOCAL**
- Luthile Arlett **GRADUATE**



Online Bridge

Recent Grand Slams

Ched Twyman and Charlie Georgees

70 Percenters - Last 6 Months

- ✓ Helen Lovegrove and Charlie Georgees
- ✓ Stephen Lee and Terry Hughes
- ✓ Jane Lake and Laura Maguire
- ✓ Liz Johnson and Sharon Morley
- ✓ Robert Mischlewski and Fred Cole
- ✓ Reg Burton and Vivienne Otto
- ✓ Rosemary Glastonbury and Robyn Nolan
- ✓ Peter Elliott and Bill Redhead
- ✓ Geoff Allen and Maria Chippendale
- ✓ Nikki Riszko and Andrew Struik



“Margaret, Tony’s looking at your cards.”





Lets extend a warm welcome to Ballina Bridge Club members

Earlier this year, a group from Ballina contacted Townsville Bridge Club. They advised that their party, which included roughly 30 bridge players, were planning a one-week holiday tour in Townsville, and that they were hoping we might be able to offer them a daily bridge session. After considerable planning and discussion with this group, and also with both TBC and CBBC committees, we have arrived at the proposed timetable

below.

BRIDGE PLAY EVENTS

Mon 8 Aug (TBC venue) – play our normal 1pm pairs session. Scoring across the field. Meet and greet drinks and nibbles after.

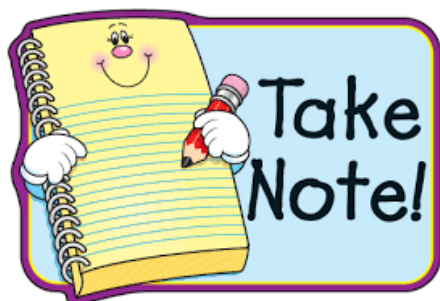
Tues 9 Aug (CBBC venue) – Ballina play at CBBC night session starts 7.00 pm.

Wed 10 Aug (CBBC) – SPECIAL SESSION 1.00 pm

Thurs 11 Aug (TBC venue) – Ballina & Townsville play our normal club pairs session.

Will have to move our 3 Thursday Pairs series forward to starting one week later (from Thurs 19 Aug and spilling over to 1 Sept).

Fri 12 Aug – SPECIAL ALL DAY SESSION. “Townsville-Ballina Teams”. Will need prior registration and juggling. LUNCH / LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED (Please advise of any special dietary requirements).



Sat 13 Aug - Ballina & Townsville play our normal 1pm pair

Everyone is welcome to attend any of the events mentioned above

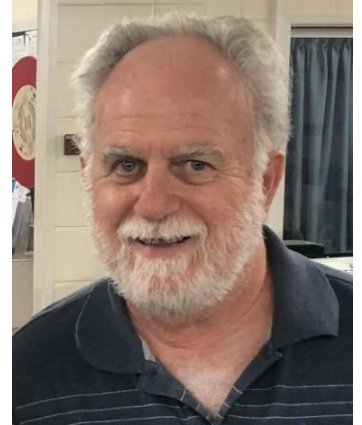




LIGHT OPENINGS AND THE "RULE OF 20" - IAN PATTERSON

(NOT A BOOK REVIEW)

English Bridge player and author Paul Mendelson has written a book titled "The Golden Rules of Bridge" which I carry with me wherever I go and even occasionally read. Paul has greatly influenced my current thinking about bridge. Paul starts with "There are no rules" and describes bridge as "a thinking woman's game". To find out what he means by that you'll have to borrow or buy a copy. He is highly critical of many of the "rules" of bridge and then proceeds to lay down his own guidelines (rules?) for bidding and play. He starts with the Rule of 20: "this mind-numbingly stupid rule" and proceeds to give 2 examples:



IAN PATTERSON

(a)	(b)
S: J6432	S: KQJ85
H: AJ	H: 6
D: Q7432	D: KJ1086
C: Q	C: 93

Both hands contain 10 HCP and 2 x 5-card suits, satisfying the Rule of 20. If you apply the Losing Trick Count you might argue that hand (a) has 7 losers and hand (b) has 6 (possibly 5?). So (b) is definitely a superior hand. But if you try to count the number of tricks each hand will take you may decide (a) will take 2 high card and possibly 2 length tricks while (b) will take 4 high card and possibly 3 length tricks. Paul describes hand (a) as a "dreadful load of old rubbish" while hand (b) is "a perfectly decent opening bid where your values are concentrated in your long suits". See what I mean about guidelines (not rules?)? (I think hand (b) would be a slight overbid for a "multi" but overcomes the difficulty of showing both suits cheaply if you open 1S. If you open 1S and partner bids 2H, are you really going to re-bid 3D?) Paul goes on to say: "The superior principle is to say that an opening bid shows 12 high-card points, unless it contains a 6-card suit or longer." (Another rule?). In the next section, Paul goes on to debunk The Losing Trick Count but that's for a later article.

In the last match of the Zonal Pairs, Gloria and I got cleaned up by the pair that finished 2nd (Ched and Charlie). Apart from their being the only pair in the room to bid the cold 7Nt, we ran foul of 3 light openings (both bid and not bid). The first was Hand 17 where Gloria elected not to open with: S: AQ54 H: A D: 76 C: J98654. Despite the awful suit, this hand actually satisfies Mendelsohn's criteria (less than 12 HCP but a 6-card suit) as well as the despised "Rule of 20" (total suit plus HCP is 21) and the Losing Trick Count (6 or 7, assuming partner has 2 Clubs). With luck, we might have played the contract in 2C making 6 tricks (non-vul.). One North made 10 tricks in 3C and another made 8.

Without the opening bid, Charlie and Ched found their way to 2Nt which we allowed to make. (It could go 1 off). The Club suit looks ghastly, but the actual lead of the 5C set the suit up for 4 tricks. Dummy had the singleton 10. The play went: 10, Q (from S) and K from W. With the 7 in my hand, there is only 1 more loser in the Club suit before it's established. (Watch those spots?) The key play (now that I could see all 4 hands) was to win the 2nd Spade (declarer only had 2), knock out the Club Ace, and wait to get in with the Ace Hearts.

With the 1C opening E/W have no 8-card fit, although they can make 9 tricks in all of the other 3 suits. After: 1C/P/1H, West holding: S: J2 H: J854 D: AKJ C: AK32 - may find it difficult to make a bid.



Member Profile:

John LARKIN



When and where did you first play Bridge?

Started several years ago. My friend Joan Elliot is the other surviving member of that class.

Who introduced you to bridge?

Answered an advertisement in the Bully.

Who taught you to play bridge?

Betty Hobdell introduced us to bridge with the beginner lessons and Beth Whebell taught me how to play.

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

Grew up in Kent the "Garden of England" UK. Favourite childhood memory is working on a fruit farm during the war

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

Nothing really

Do you have any other interests, other than bridge?

Yes. I play "A grade darts at TDA and social darts with RSL., also I am heavily involved in the Spiritual Praise Church where my wife is the Minister.

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

Did you have a favourite job?

I have had many positions. Left school Y10 to play professional football. At 18 called up for National Service in RAF. Aged 20 married and opened my first business (café) sold it and bought two tickets to Auckland New Zealand. Found employment with a transport company eventually promoted to Cartage Manager. Birth of my first daughter. Left NZ and arrived Sydney, six months later sailed for Perth!

Employed in the shipping industry. Five years later went to Broome to manage an abattoir for two years. Back to Perth to manage import/export business. Too cold! Time spent in the tropics had softened us and warmer climes called, I accepted management of a cold store operation in Darwin, survived cyclone Tracy. Completed accounting degree. 1980 Joined NT Government to establish its Small Business Advisory Service. Completed my MBA and left NTPS to establish a management consulting business. WE decided to retire and went to Cairns. Six months later accepted position of Administrator for an Aboriginal CDEP operation. My Wife's deteriorating health prompted retirement and returned to the Northern Territory. Later commenced parttime lecturing at NTU. Then accepted a position to establish a CDEP operation in Katherine. Wife's health continued to deteriorate. So retired to care for her. 2002 Returned to house in Cairns. My Wife died 6 months later. I applied for the position of CEO for NQ Regional Indigenous Housing Association and came to Townsville. Two years later Married and retired again. One year later became



Business Development Manager for the Small Business Development Centre in Condon. I retired for a couple of years and then commenced working (part time) for a printing business. I am still with them.

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

An Eagle. Free soul who flies high and goes where he wants to.

What is your favourite song?

“You Raised Me Up. Sung by The Coors.

“Great Balls of Fire”.

“All Shook Up”.

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

None. What you see is what you get.

What personality trait has got you in most trouble?

Assuming people are honest.

Who is the most famous person you have met?

Goff Whitlam – Bob Hawke

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

Be Positive.

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

The creators of the three greatest religions in the world. To sort out this “life after death” proposition.

Best advice for your bridge partner

Talk to me.

Do you have a joke?

A married couple are not speaking to each other after a horrible game and are driving home from a distant bridge tournament. They pass by a field where there are many donkeys. The husband breaks the silence by asking the wife: “Relatives of yours”?

DID YOU KNOW?



Dwight Eisenhower

WWII General and 34th President of the United States. Eisenhower had a reputation as an excellent bridge player.



Bridge for Beginners and Beyond

When you're declarer: by Karen Walker
Professional player and teacher



Helpful Tips

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 what it tells you about the leader's length or strength in that suit.

Mentally review the bidding. If one of your opponents has bid, try to come up with a general picture of his point-count and his length in the suit bid.

For *most* suit contracts, your general plan should be:

- 1 - Count your **losers**. Decide which ones can be disposed of or turned into winners (by trumping, by finessing or by discarding them on a side suit).
- 2 - Double check by counting your **winners**. Look at each suit and estimate how many tricks it offers - top tricks and tricks that will be good after you establish the suit.
- 3 - If your plan calls for trumping one or more of your losers in the short-trump hand (usually dummy), do that **before** you lead trumps -- even if you have to give up tricks to set up the trumping position.
- 4 - Next, lead trumps, counting as the opponents follow to each trick. Pulling trumps will usually be your best plan if you have good honor strength and/or length in one or more of the outside suits.
- 5 - After you've collected all the opponents' trumps, lead your longest side suit. Give up your losers early.
- 6 - Last, cash honors in your short suits.

For *most* notrump contracts, your general plan should be:

- 1 - Count your **winners** and **potential winners**. If you don't have enough top tricks to make your contract, decide which suit offers you the best chance of creating more winners.
- 2 - Lead that suit first (it will usually be your longest side suit). Give up the tricks you have to lose early.
- 3 - Stick with one suit at a time. Keep leading it until you've established your tricks (count the defenders' cards as you go), then cash your winners in the suit. When you move to a different suit, start counting again.



Bridge Topic of the Week

OPENING LEAD

- The player on lead (Declarer's LHO) should select their opening lead, and place it face down on the table in front of them. Their partner should then acknowledge that it can be faced. This minimises the possibility of making an opening lead from the wrong hand.
- Once placed on the table, the card cannot be changed without the Director's consent, even though it may not have been faced.



Memories.....



Doris Mann, Del Ward, Pat Back (President) and Pat Crowd



Del Ward and Doris Mann



Del Ward

Steve Easton and John Johnson





John Johnson, Geoff Allen, Phil Rains and Pat Allen



John Johnson, Emma Hanran, and Daphne Crimston



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 - aberica@tpg.com.au