

TOWNSVILLE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2021



Wilfred Tapiolas

President's Report

In October the club held two significant competitions, the Teams Championship, our last honour board event, and the Keith Ramsbotham Memorial Pairs. Both events were closely contested and attracted more entries than last year. Congratulations to the winners who are featured in this newsletter. I am pleased that Keith's sons Brett and Graham were able to present the shield again this year.

Our auditors have suggested that, as the club has run at a loss for the last two years, we look at ways to improve our financial position. The committee has considered a number of options which are set out in the following pages. Please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the committee about your preferences.

I am pleased to report that the club's application for a grant from the Gambling Community Fund has been successful in full, and I thank Less Walker, our local member for Mundingburra, for assistance.

Trevor Hunt has asked me to let you know that, in addition to saving the club a considerable amount in electricity costs, our solar generation has reduced the CO2 emissions in the atmosphere by 40,000kg (40 tonnes) for the two years that the panels have been installed.

I also thank Trevor for again contacting our local councillor Murray Soares to remove the fallen mangoes and trim the trees. Hopefully we will see an improvement shortly. Thanks also to Reg Burton for his constant raking of the fallen mangoes from the front path.



Courtesy Adrian Raeside

News

We have just received confirmation of our successful application to the Gambling Community Benefit fund for a sum of \$20,102.35 for new equipment in the dealing room.

Thank you to Wilfred Tapiolas and Bill Bishop for helping to organise our application which was lodged with the assistance of David McMahan.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2021

6th TBC Novice Teams (Red)

9th Play Techniques - Lesson 3

12th MKY CQ Teams (Red) (3 days)

20th NWP (Green Pts in club, Red Pts online)

DECEMBER 2021

2nd TBC Festive Teams 1 (Red)

3rd NWP (Green Pts in club, Red Pts online)

4th Airlie B. Pairs Challenge (Red) (2 days)

9th TBC Festive Teams 2 (Red)

12th TBC Teams of 3 (Green)

13th NWP (Green Pts in club, Red Pts online)

Recent Grand Slams

BILL REDHEAD / GAYLEEN BROWN

DI GARSIDE / ROBYN NOLAN

PATRICIA LARSEN / KEN MANDERS

JOHN JOHNSON / BETTY HOBDELL

ROBYN NOLAN / PAT LEIGHTON

RECENT RANKINGS

Stabler, Marie Stabler, Marie – **Silver National**

Jeanette McKenzie – **State**

Reg Burton – **Regional**

Peter Elliott – **Silver Local**

Byron Mackenzie-Ross – **Local**

Donna Clarkson – **Local**

Terry Fittler -**Local**

Gabrielle Loughnane – **Silver Life**

Wilfred Tapiolas - **State**

Chris Tweddell - **Bronze Local**

Wendy Collard - **Club**

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE and PROTOCOL

- ✓ Do not criticize partner. (Keep it to yourself until after the game. You will have cooled down by then.)
- ✓ And you may also have figured out that you share some of the blame.
- ✓ Do compliment your opponents for fine bidding or play. (Especially beginners)
- ✓ Do not gloat! (It is ugly) Be modest.

NOVEMBER 2021 MELBOURNE CUP SESSION

Our annual Melbourne Cup celebration started at 9.30am Tuesday with an enjoyable session of 26 boards shared between 52 attendees (13 tables). We wound up the bridge play at 12.40pm and proceed with food and drinks leading up to the Cup broadcast.



Most of the participants arrived smartly dressed for the occasion, and each brought a plate of wonderful food to contribute towards the traditional luncheon. Champagne and soft drinks were provided by the Club.

As the time of the big race approached, there was enthusiastic discussion on the merits of each horse, trainer and jockey. We listened to the mounting yard commentary eagerly in the last few minutes preceding the start of the great race.

And then the race itself, brilliantly won by the capable Weight-For-Age performer "Verry Elleegant", steered home by gun jockey James McDonald and trained by the inimitable Chris Waller.

During the wait for the declaration of correct weight, prizes were awarded to:

- Best-dressed "Novelty" - Stephen Lee who wore Rastafarian attire
- Best-dressed female – Margaret Dousset, magnificently co-ordinated outfit and hat
- Best-dressed male – Geoff Allen, an everyday punter with fully co-ordinated brand new outfit
- Best hat – Donna Clarkson, classy outfit matched by an even classier hat
- Best colours match with the Cup Winner – Donna Fitch

Once there was correct weight, money from 7 sweeps was presented to 1st 2nd and 3rd.

Thanks to all who contributed towards making this event a fun and memorable one. In particular, thanks to Devan Mitchell, the sweeps and overall Event Organiser, well done Devan. And to all who helped in food and drinks distribution, and to clean up afterwards.

PRIZE WINNERS



Donna Clarkson



Geoff Allen and Margaret Doussett



Donna Fitch

Steve Lee



FASHIONS ON THE FIELD



Margaret Dousset and Devan Mitchell



Carolyn Allis, Jeanette McKenzie, Mary Overell, Delma Johnson and Trudy Low



Carol Blackman Heather Colbert, Sharon Morley and Sandra Bunnett
Di Garside and Steve Lee >



Jackie Seganfredo and John Larkin



Trudy Low, Delma Johnson and Bernice Morton



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

As you may know, we are required to have our financial accounts audited every year prior to the AGM. Over the last two years we have incurred operating losses and the Auditor recommended that its timely to review our expenditure and revenue streams.

The committee has identified four obvious ways to improve our bottom line and are considering whether to adopt one or more of these options. The four options are:

1. Increase the annual subscription – say for \$50.00 per year to \$60.00 per year.
2. Increase table fees.
3. Cease prize money for non QBA event, for example, Friday pairs Monday team events. These events are funded by the club and cost approx \$2500 per year.
4. Cease issuing free game tickets – currently we give free ticket 8 free tickets per bridge session.

The Committee would welcome any comment or feedback on the four options that are up for consideration. Please send us your views by the end of November as the committee as a decision will be made at the December Committee Meeting.

You can provide your feedback direct to any committee member or by email/letter to the club.

Bridge Tips — Eddie Kantar

- If partner makes a nice play, a kind word or two at the end of the hand goes a long way.
- Keep partner's skill level in mind. Lead a weaker player by the hand.
- Don't compound a crime. If you, or more likely partner, has made an error, do not lose your cool. Many contracts can still be beaten after one defensive error, seldom after TWO.

Audrey's Favourite Bridge Quotes: No. 27



'Dont get too fancy,
just try to bid your longest suit...'

Robert.S.Todd

Courtesy Audrey Q

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 - aberic@tpg.com.au



Quick Tips for Improving Your Bridge Game

When you're declarer:

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. 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.

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.

Source *Karen Walker*



Bridge Topic of the Week

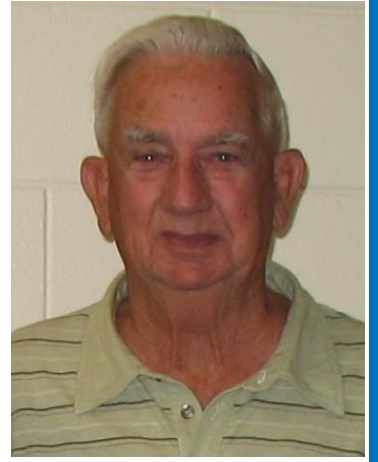
MORE ON DUMMY

- Dummy should not play a card until Declarer has called for it. This applies even when the card to play is obvious, for example, when Dummy has a singleton in the suit led.
- Dummy should only touch the cards when playing a card nominated by Declarer, or to reorganise them. Dummy should not move the cards to fill a space created by a suit void, as this is disruptive to Declarer and Defenders.

RECENT CLUB RESULTS

Congratulations!

**Keith Ramsbotham
Memorial Pairs**



Keith's sons Brett and Graham Ramsbotham, Wilfred Tapiolas, Phil Rains, Robyn Nolan (Winners)

CLUB TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

A Division Winners

**LESLEIGH ROONEY, PHIL RAINS, BETH
WHEBELL, JOHN TREDREA**





A Division Runners Up

HELEN LOVEGROVE, VIVIENNE OTTO, BILL REDHEAD, GAYLEEN BROWN



B Division Winners

SAM BISHOP, DI GARSIDE, DONNA FITCH. ANDREE GALEANO



C Division Winners

JOHN TOOGOOD, MARGIE TOOGOOD, JO GILLIS, SUE REILLY

PUZZLE HAND



Occasionally, my English friend Gareth Hyett sends me an interesting hand. This one was typically entitled "Hand".

Short and to the point, the email said: 6♥ on the lead of ♦A.

♠ A K 3 2		
♥ 10 4 3		
♦ 4 3		
♣ A K J 10		
♠ Q 9 7 6		♠ J 10 4
♥ 9 8 7 2		♥ void
♦ A 10 9 8 7		♦ K Q J 6 5 2
♣ void		♣ Q 4 3 2
	♠ 8 5	
	♥ A K Q J 6 5	
	♦ void	
	♣ 9 8 7 6 5	

Trumps are 4-0 on your left and clubs are 0-4 on your right. How would you play?

Don't read on until you've thought about the hand...

Obviously you have to trump the first trick.

The main issue on the hand is how to manage the hand if both hearts and clubs break 4-0. If you draw four rounds of hearts, you will only have one trump remaining, then the club suit will be blocked and you will run out of trumps, which are the entry to the long club winner.

Having trumped the first trick, you need to draw trumps. The trick is that, on the fourth heart, you must discard the remaining diamond from dummy (you'll see why later). Now you continue with the ♣A, ♣K and ♣J. If East ducks, it is easy; continue with the ♣10 and then you can trump the diamond and cash your long club. You have 6 hearts, 2 spades and 4 clubs. If East wins the ♣J, then exits with another heart, your last trump has been removed. However, the solution is to discard the ♣10 on the diamond (which is why you had to discard the diamond on the fourth trump). Now you can cash the top two clubs in your hand and get your 12 tricks again.

If you kept that second diamond in dummy, you will go down when East wins the third club. Then the ♣10 will still be in dummy, blocking the suit and giving you no access to your twelfth trick.

Try it and see.

Barbara Travis

Source: SABF September 2021 Newsletter.



MEMBER PROFILE – PHIL RAINS



When and where did you first play Bridge?

In 1998 while working at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Ida Clancy (a resident at the time) started teaching me how to play. Clancy and I created my first partnership on a Tuesday Night at the Townsville Bridge Club.

Who taught you to play bridge?

Clancy taught me the Strong Diamond Convention which is similar to the current Precision system. What a lot of fun I had. On my Night shifts at the Good Shepherd, I would practice my Bridge Playing with Clancy until the wee hours of the mornings.

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

I Grew up on a farm in Clare Just up the Burdekin River from Ayr. I went to boarding school in Charters Towers. I have a younger bother and sister, neither play bridge.

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

I've had several nicknames in my life, not all of them flattering.....

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

The worst one for me is making the bed, my wife and I have a rule – 'Last out makes the bed' but she always seems to do it no matter who is last out.

Do you have any other interests, other than bridge?

I used to play a good game of Golf but the weather in TSV is far too hot all year round to make it pleasurable so I don't play much now.

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

My first job was an electrical apprenticeship in Mt Isa, which I hated. Then I was called up for National Service and served for 18 months, just missing out on Vietnam deployment. I then worked with my Dad as a Massage Therapist branching in to Nursing at the Charters Towers Hospital. This has led me to my current position as a Support Worker for the disabled.

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

I would be a Dog, living in my house and getting as spoilt as the one we currently have and the one who we had for 12 Years and has since passed away.

What is your favourite song?

Music, What's that. I only listen to the radio in the car. If I had to choose one it would be "House of the Rising Sun" by The Animals.

Do you have any “hidden talents” or achievements that might surprise us? NO Surprises Here.....

What personality trait has got you in most trouble? Speaking my Mind.

Who is the most famous person you have met? I met Queen Elizabeth in Mt Isa, April 1970 at the Rodeo.

What the best advice you ever had given to you or your Motto is? Brenda Hedgeland once told me “Don’t become a Director until you know how to play properly”, and like all good advice I did the opposite.

Keith Ramsbotham, asked me to run for president of the club, I declined telling him I had to pass the Directors Exam first. It only took 4 attempts.

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

Don Bradman

Wally Lewis

“Pink”

Best advice for your bridge partner Watch what you partner discards and remember.

Do you have a joke? Yes. But I’m not allowed to tell them because my wife says they are not funny.....



FROM THE VAULT

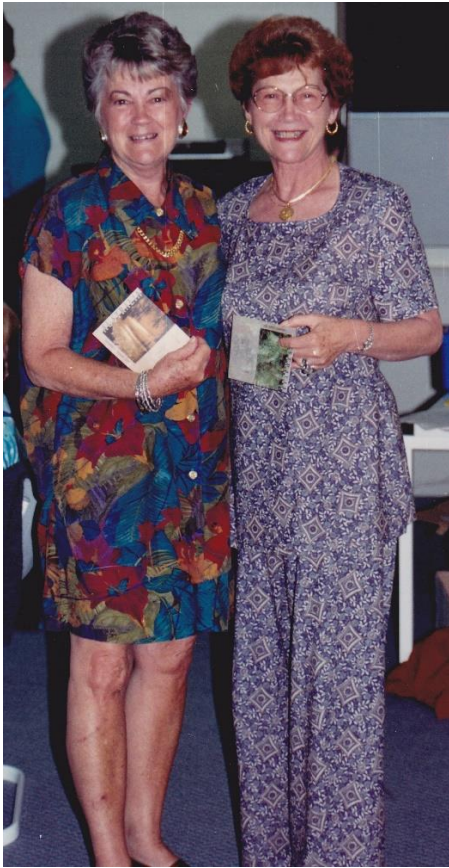
Laurie Kelso, Yardi Howie, Matt Mullamphy, Pam Andrews and Keith Suthers



Dot Shannon and Dawn Kelly



Shirley Stone and Julie Gregory



Steve Brookes, John Brown, Verna Brookes, Beth Whebell



?, David Thomas, Dorothea Stewart, Robert Carliss, Sylvia Thomas, Mary Bloxham