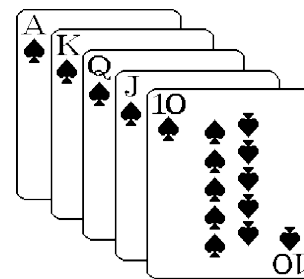


BALLARAT BRIDGE CLUB



January 2018 Editor R Gilmour email: gilmour345@hotmail.com



A decision has been made to run a bus to the Ashes event in Bendigo on February 17

The cost of the bus will be subsidised by the Bridge Club.

This will enable players to arrive fresh and come home safely after a long day of bridge.

How thoughtful of certain committee members to think about the safety of members above a few dollars !

Well done to you !

Contents

Page 2 & 3

Photos

Page 4

Monthly Topic

Page 5

Members Page

Page 6

Bridge Topics

The Bridge club acknowledges with much sadness the passing of a treasured member, Alwyn

What's Coming ?

Geelong Congress - Pairs Sat Feb10 and Teams Sun Feb 11,
Ashes in Bendigo February 17
Joan Butts coming in May. Details on website.

What should we remember ?

We need to moderate our noise levels at the bridge tables.

Nursing Homes

It is the newsletter intention to discuss nursing homes this month.

However, this is a minefield ! There are so many variables to consider.

It may be that the person who is in need of care may need special care that is not readily available in the area where they live. Could be they are a single person or part of a couple .

Single people may have pets to care for, relatives may be far or close , partners may not be able to visit because of ill health.

So, we will go no further, see on the next page for a member's experience

Means-tested fees

The means test looks at your financial assets and your income to determine how much you can contribute to the cost of your care.

Depending on the overall amount you may be asked to pay an additional means-tested amount (fee) for your care.

There is a limit (price cap) on this fee, which at the moment is \$26,566.54.

Your contribution may change as your income and assets go up and down depending on the share market, and property prices and bank deposits change.

Regardless of those fluctuations you can never be asked to pay more than the capped amount.



Maureen Christopher, Kaye McFarlane, Elizabeth Hastie are our card dealing experts!
Sadly, Kath Connors was not able to be in the photo, next time

Members Page



Bruce Morley is a new member to our club, who gets on well with everyone, very popular !

Sick Parade

Lorna reports Mary Phyland is in care at Nazareth House, and has a cold.

Pat Fiskien told us she saw Helen Muir and thought she looked better than she expected.

Helen McKnight is back at bridge and that bridge brain is working beautifully!

It is so easy to play bridge at our club, just pay \$5 for 3 hours of enjoyment.

Then get up and walk away, nothing to do !

Wrong !!

So much work goes on behind the scenes, cleaning, bins put out, consumables bought, etc.

What about the cards we play with ?

Maureen Christopher, Kath Connors, Elizabeth Hastie and Kaye McFarlane spend hours preparing these cards ready for every session ! Hours put in every week !

What a great effort, and we never hear these ladies complain or boast about what they do !

So the newsletter would like to say a big thank you for what you do !

If anyone has some spare time and commitment to assist these ladies, please contact Kaye.

Editor "Rhondda, you had a reason to use a nursing home for your husband Gary. Can you tell us how that came about ?

Rhondda " Gary had a fall and was admitted to hospital {BBH} . He was assessed because of confusion and disorientation. The fall had caused his dementia to spiral"

Editor "Did you have some options?"

Rhondda "Yes, I did have some options, one of which was setting something more suitable in the house; any improvements or changes would have been subsidised by the Government. This proved for me not to be an option because of several issues, plus stairs made it not viable .

So the choice of nursing homes was my next move .it is a matter of what is available at the time . You have the right to refuse one, if you are prepared to wait for availability of the next, which is what I did.

Feeling a Dementia Specific Facility would be a better fit for Gary's needs."

Editor "Was the financial aspect straight forward or complicated?"

Rhondda :I was totally naïve about the financial aspect of putting a loved one into permanent care. It came as a great shock as to what is involved , with Centrelink implications, etc"

Editor "Did you have some expectations about the care ?"

Rhondda "Having worked in nursing homes as a resident hairdresser, I was aware of the general running of them. I had high expectations of the level of care I expected . "

Editor "What can you say now? Were you pleased or unhappy with the care Gary received?"

Rhondda "Gary was in care for almost 4 years. Although an extremely trying time for me, his care was excellent. Nothing was ever too hard for the staff, and I knew he was safe and loved in that home.

In Gary's final days, nothing was too much trouble for these dedicated nursing staff, even the kitchen staff would come to his room, offering me coffee etc.

I will be eternally grateful to each and everyone of them "

Editor: Rhondda, thanks for sharing this story with us. I am sure the nursing staff saw what we see, what a loving wife to Gary, what a special person you are !"



Bridge Topics

How Bidding Systems Work ***Jack Uppal***

Bidding systems are designed to get a partnership to the best contract- in level and suit.

This is done through a sequence of bids that describe at least one of the hands in strength and distribution. The objective is to get to the contract that scores the most points, or gives up the least number of points. Note that ALL major bidding systems have strengths and weaknesses, and preference for a system is often a matter of style. All main systems also have "holes" or "flaws" in the system which require the use of conventions to fix. This means, though, that the usefulness of a convention is dependent on the system played.

To accomplish this, ALL bidding systems need to be able to describe the following types of hands:

1. Balanced hands with point count ranges at least between 12 to 25 HCP, with each sequence having a range of no more than 4, and usually 2 or 3 HCP.
2. Major suit opening hands when one hand has a 4 or 5 card major suit- again with strength ranging from about 11-12 HCP up to at least 25 HCP.
3. Unbalanced minor suit hands- not suitable for NT bids, which contain at least a 5-card minor suit. Strength again from 11 up to at least 25 HCP.
4. All the systems I know require at least 1 strong forcing bid which is forcing on the responder.

First, let's look at balanced hands, and we'll use standard american as our example bidding system: In all these cases opener describes a very limited hand with a narrow point count range and narrowly defined shape. Responder is the captain and responder determines the final contract.

12-14 HCP: open 1 of your better minor, then rebid 1NT if possible.

15-17: open 1NT

18-19: open 1 of your better minor and rebid 2NT, if possible

20-21: open 2NT

22-23: open 2C, and rebid 2NT if possible.

24-26: open 2C, and rebid 3NT if possible.

27+: not part of the main system, but it is possible to invent these- with 27-29, open 2C and rebid 4NT. 30-32 open 2C and rebid 5NT, etc.

Strengths of this: The full range is covered.

Weaknesses: Sometimes you will get passed out in 1 of a minor when you hold a 3-card minor suit with 18 or 19 points- almost always a bad match point result. Also, a 2NT opening with 20-21 HCP might already be too high to make if partner has a bust.

Needed conventions: to uncover a major fit when partner describes a balanced hand, there are several conventions that are part of standard american:

- a) Stayman where responder asks if opener has a 4-card major
- b) Transfer bids where responder shows a 5-card major (or minor)
- c) New minor forcing where responder checks back on whether opener suppressed 3-card major support, or has 4 cards in the other major.

These three are very important in standard American.