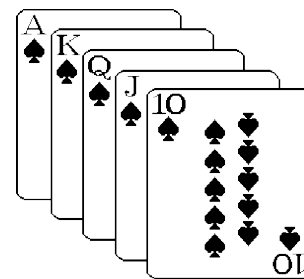


# BALLARAT BRIDGE CLUB



March 2018 Editor R Gilmour email: [gilmour345@hotmail.com](mailto:gilmour345@hotmail.com)

February 10th

Five swiss pairs from Ballarat went to a congress in Geelong. It was a very pleasant day, lots of nibbles and drinks after the event.

Their club have just carried out some renovations and it looked so fresh and clean; but not a large club house for a membership of around 250.

As we were leaving Geelong a fierce storm occurred.

Dee, Tim and Rob were travelling with Ray, and very thankful of his driving skills in such poor conditions.

Four intrepid souls, Carol, Rhondda, Tim and Richard went back on Sunday to do it all again.

February 17th

30 members went by bus to the ashes event in Bendigo

It would be fair to say the event did not run smoothly, be it computer or human error.

Undeterred, Shirley Walters and Richard Giles were in rarefied air, up near table 1 all morning.

Ray and Tim found great form in the afternoon.

The bus was a great success, 30 members!

Thanks to Richard for ringing around, getting prices, lots of effort behind the scenes to ensure members arrived in Bendigo and got back home safely.

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## National Treasure



Marjorie Sargeant

## ***Masterpoint***

## ***Awards***

Tim Woodley achieved national Master

John Williams achieved Local Master

Anne Beck achieved Local

## *Monthly Topic*

### **Motoring Section**

In the 1960s Fiat motor vehicles were introduced into the USA market place, good to drive but mechanically unsound, so owners would look for Italian mechanics to carry out repairs, so Fiat actually means Fix It Again Tony.

Holden owners generally refer to Ford as Found On Rubbish Dump.

Lotus ? Lots Of Trouble, Usually Serious.

Some years ago, there was a small Russian 4wd ,a Lada, for sale in Australia. Poor electrics, mechanically unsound, poorly assembled.

So the Joke was : what is the difference between a Jehovah Witness and a Lada ?

Answer: you can close the door on a Jehovah Witness !

### *Upcoming event*

For some of us, we have made the right decision, Western Bulldogs, Richmond or Hawthorn. For the rest of you, sad to mention, you are adept at failure.

At least you are loyal, if somewhat delusional, because in our club, we have ,can I say, a sinister element, a small group, who choose to live here, drive on our roads, eat our food, yet follow interstate teams ! What ! Show some loyalty please !

Back to the rest of you, 2018 will just be ground hog day all over again. We see your bright eyes, confident smile, the spring in your step. You tell us :” we have recruited well this year “ our coach will take us to the GF” “ Eddie is not a racist “ “ I will be buying final tickets this year “

The seasons rolls on, the losses are mounting now. You shamle along, your speech is slurred, we smell the alcohol on your breath, your lips tremble as you speak and your hands shake as you deal the cards !

As your world crashes down, the pitiful excuses begin ! “ the umpires are killing us !” “ terrible draw “ “ our full forward was provoked into hitting that woman in the tattoo parlour “ “ I said right from the start, get rid of the coach, he is pathetic ! “

” it’s not fair to say our club has a drug culture “ Yeah, right !!

If you are troubled by this report, please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14

## Members Page



Two of our newer members

Kay Thomson

Ian Gunn



The newsletter is talking with Alex Smith. Alex has extensive experience in rock and mountain climbing.

“ I took up rock-climbing and mountaineering as a result of a school climbing trip to the Black Cuillin of Skye. There were four experienced climbers to lead the group. The Cuillin provides exceptional routes along the extensive 12 km summit ridge , with over 30 peaks.

The views were quite spectacular and the gabbro /basalt rock provides confident footing in dry weather. However, when wet, the rock can be greasy and concentration is required at every step.

Back in London, I was able to practice on sandstone outcrops, only 30 feet high but requiring a different technique as the fault lines are horizontal rather to vertical.

One of my last climbs in North Wales was called Cemetery Gates ! - a climbers sense of humour !”

4 lepers are playing poker. When one threw his hand in, the others laughed their heads off !

## Bridge Topics

*If you want to improve your game , you should attempt the following :*

Keep a record of your play and analyse your results with your partner, identify weaknesses.

Bid according to the strength of your hand , not what you think it should be .

Practice watching played cards and develop an understanding of when a low value card becomes a winner.

Bid according to your agreed system. Be consistent.

Develop signals for count and suit preference when discarding.

Develop a systems card with your partner so both of you know what you are doing.

Tim Woodley

I have just received an email from Sarah Bidding, a committee member of South Lake Tahoe Bridge Club.

During my service in Vietnam in 1966, I was a patient in an American Military hospital in Vung Tau; 36 Evacuation Hospital. Sarah was a military nurse who cared for me at that time.

So our contact goes back over 50 years !

South Lake Tahoe City is at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, on the border of California and Nevada. Gold was discovered in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in the 1850s, the same time frame of gold discovery in our goldfields, hence the background to the email.

Their Bridge Club is floating the idea of up to 20 personal to visit Victoria in June or July this year for 10 days, primarily to visit our goldfields and attractions in Ballarat. There will be up to 10 to 12 bridge players in the group and they would also like to play one or two social sessions at our club.

Due to the late arrival of this email, as this newsletter is already set up to be published , our response to Sarah will be in the April newsletter.

This is a developing story. We encourage you to take an interest and welcome suggestions from you, our members; in relation to accommodation and social outings.