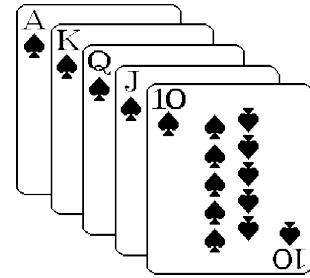


# BALLARAT BRIDGE CLUB



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

## ***ABF Promotions***

*Maria Koopmans Local*

*Jenny Hoskin Local*

*David Stewart State*

*Pat Fiskén State*

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## President's Corner

Dear Members,

April will be a busy period for most of us with Easter, followed by our Festival of Bridge 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> and the Western Region Friendly Teams at Colac. We have one team for Colac presently and I am hopeful of another two teams representing our Club.

Entries for the Festival of Bridge are looking good at this point and there is still room for more on each of the four days.

It was very pleasing to see we had five pairs participate in the Western Region Novice Pairs at Warrnambool with Ballarat Pair Dee Nicholson and Ray Beacham winning the <100 section. Well done Dee and Ray.

Great to see Noemi McKinnon and Gayle O'Loughlan play their first regional event and thoroughly enjoy their day. Thank you to the other members that represented our club.

Also another reminder PLEASE put your name on the Walk in Roster if you will be available. The Walk in is working well and many have enjoyed the benefit of a game when their partner has not been available at short notice. SO please help out where possible and keep this arrangement working.

Enjoy your Bridge.

Regards Richard

## Trivia

The term Dutch Courage originated during the bubonic plague of London, in 1665. The city was sealed off to avoid contamination and hence starvation became prevalent. The Dutch were the only ones brave enough to enter the city. The locals would leave money on the end of the jetties and Dutch sailors replaced the money with food.

The Dutch still have freedom of the river Thames to this day.

Whilst we are on a river, it is sometimes thought that the word wharf is an acronym for Whare House Along River Front, probably not correct.

English drive on the left side of the road because mounted soldiers and other horsemen wore their sword on the left side. When another horseman approached, they could shake hands with friends or draw their sword to defend themselves against foes.

Americans drive on the right side because of the large teamster wagons. There was no seat for the teamster on the wagon, so he would sit on the rear left animal, so he could whip with his right hand. These wagons would pass on the right side so no wheel contact was made.

In the February newsletter, we asked what was the difference between white and black rhinos. White rhinos have a wide square mouth, graze like cattle. (the word white might be a mistranslation of the Dutch word "wijd" for "wide") Black rhinos have a pointed upper lip, they are browsers, eating shrubs, low foliage.

The word trivia comes from the Latin. Romans would erect a signpost and post news where three roads met.

What does the term Southeast Asia mean? Southeast of where or what? Its south of China, east of India, west of New Guinea, and north of Australia. Population around 650 Million, made up of 11 countries. Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Brunei, Timor-Leste.

No convictions were recorded at the 2017 Irish greyhound trials.

Most Christian graves are dug East West, the deceased head is at the west end.

This is a pagan custom, it is believed that when the second coming of Christ occurs, he will rise up in the East with the sun, and the deceased will see this and be resurrected.



## *Reply to Sarah*

Members, below is my reply to my friend Sarah Bidding, who is considering visiting Victoria later this year.

I will post it here before forwarding it to her, I like you to look it over and make any suggestions and or improvements you see fit .

R Gilmour

01/04/2018

Dear Sarah,

Thanks for your email ! We would be excited to host your team here ! What I would like to do is tell you a little bit about our Club, Ballarat, our culture and what you might expect during your stay.

You have indicated to me that you will be here about June, that is our winter season, so bring plenty of warm clothes .

Firstly our Club. We have recently commenced some workshops and the members who have learnt to use No Trumps in their bidding are now tackling advanced conventions such as Stayman !

We do have an issue at our club with the use of cell phones. Some of it is fairly harmless, eg; Ruby, 77, our resident cougar, texting and chatting with guys she met on eHarmony , that's just hormones playing up. And young Harry, an agent for Bet More Often. Harry is in a new relationship and needs the money for the operations and the name change to Tiffinee.

Sarah, the danger zone is the sweet old dears, showing photos of their new born grandkids. Aghast, you see this hideous version of E T, like he just crawled out of a drain and is up to no good, and you think ,OMG, Freddie Kruger ! But hush your mouth, do you really want to be kneed in the groin ?, to be brutalised by a 6" Samsung android ? ! No No No ! Take a deep breath, control your emotions, pretend you are interested ! You say " oh oh , isn't he lovely ! Is it a boy or a girl ? What's his name ? Actually, I can see a resemblance to you around the eyes "

Please, do not bring any weapons with you, we don't need them here. We are quite capable of getting rid of people by prescription medication, drunk drivers, age care facilities etc, we don't need guns !

Same goes for drugs ! Ballarat is rife with drugs. Plenty of ice, if you need it, I am sure some of our members can help you .

What can you eat ?, many of our members are elderly and some of the women actually do home cooking. The rest of the population eat at McDonalds so you will not have any problems about food !

I know many of you like to exercise. We have 3 very good areas for you, a 6 km walking and running track around our small lake. Do not stand on this track unless you want to be run down by some weedy old spinster walking her 3 great Danes !

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Also we have a park with a 5 km track and you can run through the bush in the Canadian forest. Beware of kangaroos. If you are repeatedly knocked down by the same kangaroo, we can arrange for you to be mentally assessed.

Sarah, Australians are very fashion conscious , men and women who tend to be a bit over weight, 20 + kg, often improve their appearance by numerous tattoos , dying their hair green or blue and inserting metal into their face.

Australian people are generally independent , when our parents get old, we set them up in an age care facility or unit, get them a pet from the RSPCA , keep them warm by buying them a kerosene heater and visit them once a year to make sure we are still in the will.

We are a caring community Sarah. For people who are struggling or mentally deficient , we have arrangements with sporting clubs to host weekly outings for them. These people are taken by bus or train to areas where they can congregate together. They often wear the same clothing, they yell and scream at each other, dribble and froth at the mouth, many drink beer. After about 4 hours, they are taken back to their place of abode. This normally occurs during the winter months.

It gets cold here in winter, last year 6 artic terns were found frozen near the lake, and there is often black ice on the road, very difficult driving conditions ( this is not the ice we were discussing before )

Sarah, I will make this letter available to our members so they will decide if I should provide you with more information. There is so much more to be told !

Ok, Sarah, I don't know what else I can tell you at this time. If you have any queries , you know to contact me. I am sure you will have a great time here !

Sincerely

Rob

Ps, Sarah, in the last 12 months, we are hearing lots of no Trump calls all around the world, even in North Korea. This does have something to do with Bridge ?

Sarah Bidding exists so we can laugh at ourselves this April Fools day ! If she was real, she would not be fooled at all !

South Lake Tahoe City is the gateway to the fabulous Yosemite National Park and to Lake Tahoe , a haven for aquatic sports .

## Bridge Topics

As part of the Ballarat community , we are saddened by the recent passing of the fine crime fiction writer, Peter Temple. Many of you will have seen the Jack Irish and the Broken Shore movies on ABC TV.

He just got into the Australian male psyche so well, and the colloquialisms, without ever feeling forced or laboured.. What a loss to family and literature !

We recently had a Martin Wilcox lesson, full of humour and demonstrating his vast knowledge of bridge. One thing that was noticeable was his constant references to Eric, his skills and bridge knowledge. If Martin is impressed, how good is Eric ?

I was in Wodonga recently, and played bridge at the Albury Club on the Thursday, NWP day. They play at the Commercial Club, have a room on the first floor, share the room with Mah-jong players . Table fees are \$2 , \$5 for visitors.

There were six tables the day I played, they found me a partner with no master-points. With our combined skills, we managed to finish last !

As a new committee member whose role is to look and listen, I feel confident to say that your experienced committee members are doing a fine job using your table money to improve conditions in the club house for present and future members.

Also, you should congratulate yourselves on the friendly way you greet visitors to our club ! So many of you have great social skills !

Lorna reports that Anne Nestor has had open heart surgery , is home and doing well.