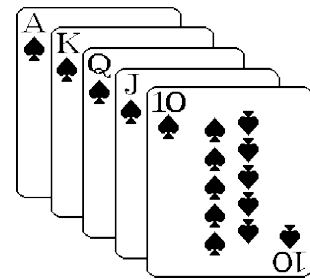


BALLARAT BRIDGE CLUB



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

Recently we have had a lesson from Martin Willcox, on how to find the best contract.

Some members who attended said it was a great session.

Also we had numerous swiss pairs go the Geelong Congress, Orla and Rosemary by far the best of Ballarat

One team went back on the Sunday.

Many of our members will know that Richard Giles, our President, is presently in hospital. Richard, we are thinking of you, and wish you a speedy recovery, and home soon to your loved ones ! A big get well wish from all of us !

See Richards Presidents report on Page 2

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

There was a story about Bridge in the Age, Monday, June 11. if you didn't see it, I will recap it here. National Teams Championships were held in Melbourne Sunday June 10, 400 players, 3rd biggest in Australia. Youngest player ? 9 years old.

They are saying Bridge is becoming more popular in Australia with 35,000 registered players, compared to 32,000 10 years ago.

The association wants bridge to be included as an option in 100 Victorian schools, alongside existing programs such as chess .

The newspaper clipping is on one of the notice boards in the Club House for the full story.

President's Corner

Dear Members,

July is shaping up to be an interesting month with the final round of the Championship pairs and also a Qualifying round of the Western Region GNOT being hosted in our Club on the 15th.

Over the past few months we have trialled the level of information on the Bridgemates from showing all Contract details to showing just the percentage of the hand just played. Following discussion with members and feedback the Committee resolved to show Contract details on all sessions other than the Thursday session. The consensus here is to follow the recommendation of the VBA, which found having the information available slowed the playing of hands which created further issues of playing to time and created more noise. Thursday is our biggest session and as such we need to play to time and manage the noise better.

Below is an article from VBA News Edited by Bill Jacobs.

At the clubs where I played and directed, the other table results were available for display. You would enter your result, the bridgemate would say: "View Results?", and you could then discover how well you scored.

Then I started directing at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, and they have set up their bridgemates not to display this data. I was shocked: wouldn't it vastly detract from the players' enjoyment not to see how good, or bad, each score was? Surprisingly, they didn't seem to mind.

And then I started to notice that the game was a little bit quieter than normal. And quicker. No rising hubbub every 7 minutes as someone read out the other results, and the table discussed them.

And volume and speed are not the only benefits of being unable to view the other tables' results. No longer do the North-South pair have to peer over or ask, whilst the East or West player (the one who verified the score) looks at the results. No longer do players argue over why they got a bottom, and assign blame. No longer does one have to listen to an opponent say, nauseatingly: "it's a top for us, partner".

Such relaxation! And what do you lose? Nothing really. You have the hand record at the end of the game. You can go home and look at the web-site in privacy. That will have all the details you need. Whether your club uses Altosoft, or Bridgemaster, or Bridgewebs, the data is all there, pleasingly arranged for your viewing pleasure.

I decided to try switching off the display of results at my club, Northern Bridge Club in Rosanna. I turned it off for a few sessions, then polled the players on their opinions.

There was over 90% approval for not showing results. And trust me, just about everyone voted: this was no postal plebiscite! People have a real opinion on these matters. END OF STORY.

Information for newer players

Its very encouraging to see so many new members at our club this year, also improvers from previous beginners' lessons. Its quite daunting when we play competition for the first few times, we are scared to make mistakes, so worried that our partner will get grumpy and growl at us ! But remember, even experienced players make mistakes, not only beginners. Its only a game.

Remember, at every opportunity, if you are not sure; ask Tim or Carol. If you are still not sure, ask Tim or Carol again ! Also, be nice to your partner. They are your best friend at the club on that day.

A very common opening bid is 1NT. As responder, learn how to play the Stayman convention, asking opener if he has a 4 card major. You must have at least 1 four card major and at least 8 HCP to make this bid. Learn how to transfer Majors and minors to opener, when you have 5 of a major or 6 of a minor. These bids come up every day in competition, by your side or by the opposition.

I am barely better than a novice myself, but I like to tell you where I search for information to improve my game. You may not be as lucky as me, because when I finished Carol's lessons, I played with David Stewart, a fantastic young guy with a great bridge mind . After my lessons with Carol, I looked at the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) website and downloaded 2 free lessons to my PC. 1(one) is similar to what Carol taught me, 2 (two) is a follow on. I use U-Tube to look at bridge videos, I like to type in NYC bridge lessons, watch the experts play hands, learn conventions that way. The Australian Bridge Federation has a great website (ABF),there are videos there from Joan Butts, you can watch them for free. I play Bridge Baron on my I-Pad, I bought it in the app store for about \$33. Go to google or Safari (whatever your device) and type in bakerbridge. I repeat, bakerbridge ! You will be amazed by this website, summaries explaining conventions, lots of practise hands, you will be busy for the rest of this year .

When I watch the Joan Butts videos, I listen to what she suggests. If she says to play 1NT with a 5 card major, that's what I do, she knows more than me. How to bid 2 club strong openings ? I bid it the way she suggests. I base my bidding system on what Joan recommends.

In our club, we have some fantastic bridge players, Carol, Tim, Alex, Eric, Diane and Donna, just to name a few. Not only terrific players, but terrific people as well. When you have a query on something bridge related, talk to them, they will be pleased to help you. When I hear Carol or Tim explain something to a beginner, I listen, because for sure I am going to learn something valuable too. When I am playing against Lorna Holmes, I am in awe of how well she plays NT contracts .Take it easy on me Lorna !

The more I learn, the more I realise how little I know. What I was sure was the best way to bid something a year ago, I may not be so sure now, because I may have learnt new ways to think about it. I have 3 regular partners, they are kind and forgiving to me, and I am loving my bridge !

Let the Bridge Gods be kind to you too !

The bridge club has received a letter from Pat Fiskén asking if it would be appropriate to write to Bruce Muir to thank him for the work he has done to enhance the Club House surrounds.

We feel this letter is worthy of inclusion in the newsletter.

Bruce was the person many years ago who prepared the large Eyre St. garden beds. Digging them, carting a lot of soil for the three areas and preparing them, so Chris, Lorna and myself could plant them. He planted the 9 ornamental pears and has looked after them since.

Bruce and myself dug and planted the bed in the top left corner and then made a bed over concrete (!) to put a couple of climbers and other tough plants in.

After a suggestion from Rhondda re a bed along the pathway, I asked Bruce for help and again he sprayed the grass and carted truck loads of soil, followed by truck loads of tanbark. Now we have it planted and its looking great !

A nice thing about it being the contributions of plants from many members. Betty Pollard, Lavender, Dee Nicholson, tall blue sage, Peter Weste, red sage, and many others too.

The last thing Bruce has done is remove, at my request, the old large Echium, which filled the corner at the west end. (I have a seedling to replace it.)

Bruce is no longer available, Helen is much better but still needs his help.

I feel you will agree he deserves our thanks

Yours sincerely

Patricia Fiskén 9/6/2018