

Queensland Contract Bridge Club Newsletter
Bridging the Gap
November 2023

Ray has retired as Chairman and from the Board so it is pleasing to announce that Ross Murtagh will replace Ray on the Board and Annette Hogan has stepped up to be the new Chairman.

Ray's final annual message is attached at the rear of this bulletin. It is a testament to Ray and the board that the club despite several challenges remains strong and vibrant with playing number back to per COVID levels and our various teaching and help with play excelling themselves. The job of the board is to be functionally responsible for the Club, it involves regular meetings, making sure the club is operationally compliant with all levels of government legislation. Items reviewed include rates notices, building insurances, officeholders' insurance, and lodging GST returns. It involves an understanding of these issues as there is no leeway in accidental oversights. Mistakes can be expensive but be assured the Board does carry extensive indemnity policies. The new Board is Joyanne Gissing Charles Page, Michael Martin Patrick Bugler, Rachel Langdon, Ross Murtagh, Annette Hogan with Toni Bardon as Manager

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

From January 1st, 2024, table fees for all open sessions will increase by \$1 per head. The Board considered there had been no table fee increase for NINE Years, the club has some significant expenses such as Rates and Insurances which have continued to increase annually. The recent capital works program of the new toilets, maintenance, & repairs to the building cost more than \$100,000 and the needed air conditioning upgrade for the main room and annex will cost around \$100,000. In addition, the club has been flooded twice, all of which has cost money. The Board are confident that the club is financially healthy and has just signed a long-term lease for the Advertising Board at the front of the building. Without this lease the club would struggle as a going concern just from Bridge activities

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The Club has been without a Tournament Committee for a while and the board are striving to establish this operationally important committee.

The Tournament Committee establishes the playing schedule for the Club addressing the allocation of Red Point Sessions, Swiss Pairs and Teams nights, GNOT events and Club Congresses. It is their responsibility that these events happen by ensuring entries are paid boards are dealt and players have an ABF number. So, if want to participate or get tapped on the shoulder please accept the role as it is very important to the smooth running of the club to have an effective Tournament Committee

Club events

Soon it will be December so that means a Christmas party which will be on **December 9th** Please bring a plate of goodies to share and remember to buy raffle tickets.

The QBA will be holding a Christmas Pairs event at the club on **December 16** and the Club will be the hosting venue for the GNOT Grand Final in November, a tremendous honour for the Club to show off to all of Australian Bridge.

Keep watching the notice boards for other Club events such as the Moore Teams on a Tuesday night, and the Presidents Cup on a Thursday morning.

How can one forget the First Tuesday in November and the Melbourne Cup where a great lunch is planned along with sweep stakes and other prizes.

Note from the Office:

For the 2024 Members book, please email the office with your new phone number if it has changed this year.

qcbc1@optusnet.com.au

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Ask Neville Francis what his favourite hand is and he will tell you about Canadian 3NT...it cost his team 17 imps

It happened at the 2014 Gold Coast Congress where he was playing with Magnus Moren and two Canadians who played an opening bid of 3nt to be a solid major. The Canadians were Golfing buddies of Neville and Magnus from Thailand

At our table Neville tells it as "At our table the opponents played in 7Hxx. This was off one on the marked lead of a club. At this stage if they don't look for a Grand, we will be positive IMPS...BUT another table saw West bid his 3NT and East chose 4♠...Now West assumed that had East wanted to know about his major he would bid 4♣ and 4♥ is pass or correct so 4♠ must be natural. Presumably East thought 4♠ was pass or correct and thought the double should stand.

The score up in the bar saw 3NT binned and plenty medicinal consumption.

	N	
	♠AK972	
	♥54	
	♦J87	
	♣A95	
W		E
♠654		♠-
♥AKQJ109		♥8763
♦-		♦AKO1095
♣KQJ10		♣843

	S
	♠QJ1083
	♥-
	♦6432
	♣762

Bidding

S	W	N	E
P	2C	3S	4D
P	7H	P	P
P	P	x	xx

or.

S	W	N	E
P	3NT	P	4S
X	P	P	P

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Gossiping

Let's chat with Jenny McGowan and Vanessa Brewis who recently won the Restricted Teams at Coffs with Ming and Oliver. As a team they were unbeaten in their eight matches. I caught up with Jenny and Vanessa and this is their story so far....

We have been neighbours and family friends for over 20 years. We both come from card playing families so it was a natural progression to look at bridge once we could envisage having some free time.... (Vanessa is mother of 5 and Jenny a mother to 2). Two of Vanessa's best friends' mothers were bridge players, so I spent many an hour swimming in their pool hearing bridge stories float down from the balcony...A foreboding of what was to follow?

We did the 8-week beginners' course at BBC in 2019 with Chris Larter who was so patient and encouraging. We were off to a great start. The bridge Community has been very generous with their time and encouragement. Larry Moses took us under his wing, and we attended his mentor programme. He has taught us to always think about the clues from the bidding and the card play, back yourself, remembering to learn from your mistakes and has been a great mentor encouraging us when things weren't going well and introducing us to other great players who have been generous in sharing their wisdom, The most recent introduction was International player Paul Gosney who gave an insight into what we need to start looking at to progress to the next level.....A Work in progress Girls !

Peter Evans has always helped us with advice on what conventions we should adopt next and sensible bidding/playing tactics. He generously plays every Thursday with Vanessa whilst Toddy partners Jenny. We get wisdom and savvy from both. We very much appreciate the Tuesday night debrief over a glass of wine to hear the pearls of wisdom from Ralph Parker whose humorous comments on some of our bidding accidents are to behold.

We play for enjoyment but are both very competitive people so enjoy it more when we are progressing and playing the best bridge we can. My husband is quite happy about my bridge playing as it reduces my shopping time and spending money! Whilst allowing him more time to practice his Golf! For same reason Jenny's husband thinks her bridge allows him more time to play his Chess.

Thanks Jenny and Vanessa and good luck with your progression to Grand Master!

Ming Shu Yang, Vanessa Brewis, Jenny McGowan, Oliver Goodman



Winners of Coff's Harbour Intermediate Teams 2023

Mentoring

Jenny and Vanessa are a great example for those who wonder whether coaching and mentors can improve one's game.

Janeen Solomon who has played for Queensland on the open team and won an ANC Butler is now offering a mentoring service to groups of 2 or 4 pairs a series of two-hour lessons on significant aspects of the game. This will include bidding to compete, or when to double for penalties, and when is it right to use Jacoby 2NT amongst many subjects. The cost is \$22 but please talk with Janeen for the precise details. A great way to make steps in developing your bridge.

Richard Fox is running Improvers Lessons in November:

11th November

2 Over 1 Part 1 - The Forcing 1NT

18th November

2 Over 1 Part 2 - Sequences After a 2 Over 1 Response

25th November

Signalling on Defence

10am to 12 noon \$10 per player per lesson

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Welcome to New Members

Philip Chang	Alan Moore	
Kym James	Maria Wright	Honey Hensley
Beth Petersen	Dale Martin	Chris Hill
Stafford Shephard	Gerry & Julie Collins	Iranthi Cabraal
Garry Newcombe	Donna Shepherd	Gerri Birchall
Marie Newcombe	Sue Brown	Russell Walkinshaw

Promotions July to September

Brian Weigel	Graduate
Rebecca Birdsall	Local
Gemunu Nanayakkara	Local
Sue Green	Bronze local
Ryan Stevens	Silver Local
Lois Munro	Silver Local
Peter Fredericks	Silver Local
Alex Wu	Silver Local
Mike Martin	Regional
Oliver Goodman	State
Eve Sirigos	State
Zac Ross	State
Lauren Morgan	State
Fenna Cooper	State
Paddy Taylor	Bronze State
Greg Kerswell	Bronze State
Jamshid Vaziirzadeh	National
Kate MacDonald	National
Kathy Males	Bronze Life
Chris Hill	Bronze Life
Sarah Strickland	Bronze Life

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Lech Kaszubski

Grand

Coming Events:

- Melbourne Cup 7 November light lunch, bridge, sweeps
\$15 each & prior entry,

- Presidents Cup Thursdays 9 & 16 November 10am

QCBC SESSIONS Friday 1 December, Saturday 2 December are **CANCELLED** due to GNOT

- Moore Aust Teams Tuesday 7.15pm 5 & 12 December Prior entry essential
- Christmas Pairs redmp Friday 8 December 10am
- Christmas Party Saturday 1pm 9 December
please bring a plate
- Summer Swiss Pairs redmp Thursday 14 December prior entry



QBA
Christmas Special Pairs
Saturday 16th December

Venue: Queensland Contract Bridge Club
67 Ipswich Rd, Woolloongabba 4102
9.30 am
\$70 per pair
Director: Julie Jeffries

Please Enter and Pay on **MYABF**
Please contact the Tournament Organiser if any problems with entering.
Players are responsible for making sure their entry is listed.

Entries close 5 pm Thursday 14th December
Late entries accepted at the Director's discretion.

BYO Lunch and BYO Pen - All Day Tea & Coffee
Morning & Afternoon Tea, Light Refreshments After Play

Cash Prizes
Should the field be divided for secondary prizemoney purposes, it shall be divided on the Director's seeding.

Green, Blue and Red Systems plus Brown Sticker

QBA Regulations Apply
A B4 Red Masterpoint Congress

Tournament Organiser: Jan Peach
3352 6929 - 0487 466 109 - janpeach8@bigpond.com

Players and officials are asked not to attend this event if they are infectious,
or if they are supposed to be isolating or quarantining.
Those who come to play and, feeling unwell, self-diagnose that they may be
infectious, should inform the director and leave the venue.

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Here is a hand from the World Bridge Championship that features Michael and Debbie Rosenberg, perhaps the best husband and wife partnership, bidding a perfect grand slam that others stopped in 6H which cost 13 imps and ultimately the title "World Champion".

Fox Tips

<p>N</p> <p>♠ A63</p> <p>♥ Q74</p> <p>♦ Q754</p> <p>♣ AJT</p> <p>Bidding</p> <p>N</p> <p>2D</p> <p>2NT what else</p> <p>3H Trumps</p> <p>4S Cue</p> <p>5S 2+Q</p> <p>7H Yes to DQ</p>	<p>S</p> <p>♠ KQ102</p> <p>♥ AK1086</p> <p>♦ AK3</p> <p>♣ 6</p> <p>1H</p> <p>2S Reverse 17+</p> <p>3D Any interest in ♦</p> <p>4C Cue</p> <p>4NT Blackwood</p> <p>7D Asking for QD</p> <p>7NT...We have it all</p>
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Richard Fox runs beginner lessons and has provided mentoring in addition to serving on the Club Board and a Director on Saturdays. He provides some tips for new players playing in their initial club sessions.

Your first club game will be faster paced than supervised play and you have scoring to input or checking, moving to the right table, and alerting saying 3 plus or 15 to 17 as required.

Whilst it does happen and the planets align sometimes you will win your first game. However don't be depressed about

coming last as everyone is more experienced than you.

When you play 3 NT and make only 9 when the field was making 10

Remember you bid the game and the extra trick is just experience.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023 AGM

The year did not get off to a great start when the club rooms were flooded in early February due to a blocked drain which overflowed during a thunderstorm. The forced closure while repairs were carried out delayed the start of the toilet renovations which were due to commence while the Gold Coast Congress was being held. Tradie shortages and supply chain issues then pushed the toilet project out from taking about 3 months to over 6 months with costs continually rising.

The maintenance committee continued to be a driving force in getting planned upgrades/repairs completed. \$141,992 was spent on the building and grounds last financial year compared to \$36,305 the year prior. This resulted in a loss of \$45,756.

Further building expenditure has already been incurred this financial year and the board is also looking to replace the main air conditioning unit which is over 20 years old. A report from the air conditioning maintenance firm advised that the unit is approaching end of life as parts are becoming extremely scarce. Should the unit fail and be unrepairable the lead time for getting a replacement unit is a minimum of 17 weeks and the club would be forced to cap all sessions to a size that would fit in the side room. The main room replacement unit will cost \$72,000 and we have a grant application for \$35,000 in the Gambling Community Benefit Fund round that closed 31st May. It is unknown when we will get the results of our application but regardless, we will have to seek finance from the ABF/QBA to fund the replacement. The side room air conditioning is also at risk of failing irreparably but is currently not used a lot and replacement package units can be sourced and installed with a minimal lead time. To ensure that the club remains financially viable and can service the additional debt the board has decided that table fees will increase by \$1 for all sessions commencing 1 January 2024.

On a personal note this will be my last Chairman's report as I am stepping down from the board after 10 years. I joined the board in 2014 and assumed the Chairman's role in 2015 so in footballing terms I think it is time to hang up the boots.

Much has happened in the last 10 years. My predecessor Monica Pritchard got me to nominate for the board then encouraged me to take over as Chairperson when she decided to take a long holiday. My mentor and mother-in-law Marion Cooke who had served as club manager and chairperson passed away in 2016 after a short illness so there I was on my own. In late 2017 I was diagnosed with a brain tumour that was successfully removed surgically but recovery to near normality took over a year. The board and members were very supportive during this time so I continued as a board member with some limitations due to my health.

It has been a pleasure working on the board and we have had a great team over the years. My aim was always to go out on a high and before Toni Bardon decided to retire. I think I have achieved both as the club premises have been significantly renovated while reducing debt and Toni is still here.

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This club is extremely resilient and I can see that the future is still bright. We overcame the stresses of the Covid pandemic more quickly than most other clubs by introducing larger tables and bidding boxes combined with plenty of space. Sessional attendances are now back to the levels of 2019. Our premises also showcase bridge by hosting large events such as the QBA Festival and the National GNOT Final. The 2023 GNOT Final will be the last in the current format so will not return next year but we will be hosting the 2024 ABF AGM/Council meeting and this will not interfere with any regular sessions.

I can't say how the run up to the Olympics will impact the club other than to say it will no doubt create challenges for the board and members.

I would like to thank all the members for their support and assistance during my term of office.

Finally, I must however thank three people in particular. Firstly Cheryl Stone who assisted me with anything I asked of her until she was forced to retire due to her health issues. Toni Bardon who has been a constant presence is not only a good friend but loves this club deeply and helped me immeasurably both personally and administratively. And of course, my wife Kim who has supported me with absolutely everything to do with the club.

Ray Ellaway, Chairman