

DECEMBER, 2015.



NEWSLETTE

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SYLVIA RICE: 25.11.1919 – 2.12.2015. 96 YEARS.

Christina Buckland.

Sylvia and I started playing bridge together about 2008. Previously she played with Derek, a favourite with the Warrnambool Club ladies, but she would whip him into shape as a bridge player.

Not long after we started playing together her daughter, Sue, lost her life to Cancer. For a long time after Sylvia would wear Sue's favourite, warm, cardigan for comfort and to remind her of Sue. Very endearing. Her husband Eric also played bridge and I am told they had many a spirited (enjoyable) argument during play.

Sylvia and Eric met and married in England during the war and it was only last week that she dragged out her wedding photo for me to show her beautiful, nearly black hair. After the war they lived in South Africa, Hobart and Mt. Waverley before settling in Warrnambool. Sylvia and Eric were founding members of Waverley and instigated the Warrnambool Club to affiliating with ABF. They also assisted with lessons.

I loved playing with Sylvia who was an extremely consistent player and tolerant of my adventurous bidding. One player consistent and cautious, the other, a bit wilder, a good combination which she knew worked so she indulged me and I liked that. Occasionally she hit the ceiling which could be funny. I will never forget the day when she ended up in "7 Clubs X" and made it. She couldn't work out whether to be "annoyed or pleased".

With her eyesight deteriorating and often with her hearing aids off, due to background noise, Sylvia seemed to play almost by touch. I have been amazed and don't know how she did it.

Her memory of cards played was excellent and although she could not always hear conversations she always worked out what was going on around her. Good company, we communicated, perhaps ESP. Sylvia loved bridge and although she

would sometimes come along in a poor mood, after a couple of rounds she would begin to smile, forget her various pains and discomforts and enjoy herself. This transformation was always rewarding for me.

I loved her for her sense of mischief and although she turned 96 last Thursday (25th) she was extraordinary tolerant and acceptance of a changing world. Strangely young for her age. Of course she was always ready to escape from the bridge table and go outside for a smoke. Contrary to what it seemed she didn't actually smoke that much, she liked to get outside for just a few puffs.

One thing I know is that her mind was absolutely clear to the last. She was reading labels and complaining about additives in biscuits right up to the last minute.

She was keeping Tony on his toes by supervising the cooking of the Christmas cake just so, and scolding him for his not so perfect marmalade and his not so traditional shepherd's pie. In a moment of recent weakness she actually admitted that Tony was a good cook.

It is rare and special for mother-in-law and son-in-law to get on so well.

I will miss her for all these reasons.

N.B. Sylvia's Birthday Wednesday 25th, Sylvia and Christina played Thursday (26th)

and came 2nd with 59.1%.

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Thank-you Partner – by Bill Jacobs. VBA Bulletin, June 2014.

I found this interesting and hope you do so as well. (précised)

You pick up this hand:

S: T83 H: 852 D: T42 C: 7654

Playing Standard, partner opens 2 C, you respond with a mournful 2 D and partner bids a natural 3 D. **What's your next call?**

Think & bid now. (Answer later).

SOUTH WEST GAMES - CAMPERDOWN BRIDGE CLUB, November 9th.



This popular event saw 26 players enjoying the day of Bridge and friendship. There were many apologies.

Linda Picone was in charge of catering and, with help from members, the luncheon and afternoon tea were

again excellent. Thanks to Paula H. for dealing special cards for the day.

RESULTS: Congratulations to winners.

NORTH/SOUTH:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| 1. Helen Lovegrove/Paula Bailey. | Warrnambool | Gold |
| 2. Helen Calvert/Robyn Gellie | Camperdown | Silver |
| 3. Sue Dawson/Paula Hillis | Warrnambool. | Bronze |

EAST/WEST:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| 1. Felicia Ross/Linda Picone | Camperdown | Gold |
| 2. Barb. McKean/Anne Serra | Warrnambool | Silver |
| 3. Berneice Hanrahan/Michael Allison | Colac | Bronze |

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP. FINAL PLAYING DAYS:



Monday **December 14**

Wednesday **December 16**

Thursday **December 17**



RESUME: Week commencing January

Camperdown Bridge Club lost a valued member when **Marjorie Jones** passed away on Wednesday, December 2nd, after a short illness, aged 90 years.

Marjorie was to present the medals for the South West Games, but, in the meantime there had been an appointment made for her to see a specialist in Geelong on that day – **she said she couldn't go – had to present the Medals -- change the appointment.** Very put out that this couldn't be done!

For many years she was also a member of the Warrnambool Club and would travel twice a week, Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning, to play with her partner Felicia Ross. We would leave Camperdown at the crack of dawn on Friday for the morning game, summer and winter where we played at the Archie Graham Centre, the church hall and finally at Breuer College rooms. Marjorie and husband, Stretton, who was a retired pharmacist, travelled to North Haven every winter for 30 years where she was a bridge member. (Strett. would go fishing). Eventually, as the travel got too much, they settled permanently in Camperdown which was fortuitous as our Bridge Club was just forming and her knowledge was invaluable. She was an excellent player, ever ready to assist beginners and learn new systems with Felicia. Also young for her age.

We will miss her smiling face, sense of humour, quick wit, sponges, pavlovas, lemon tarts but mostly her friendship.

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A N S W E R : **Thank-you partner continued:**

Like it or not 3 D is a forcing bid...You are not allowed to pass. So I suppose you must "support" partner's diamonds: bid 4D. Partner bids 6D.
The auction has made you declarer. LHO leads and partner proudly displays:

S: AK4 H: AKQ D: AKQ97 C: AK (32 HCP).

Trumps broke normally, and 6D made in comfort, as would have 6NT, of course.

One player, holding the weak hand, decided to *PASS* 3D – she is out of Intensive Care, and taking visitors. "Thank-you partner"

My comment: I always say that when partner opens 2 C I will respond weak ie 2 D and then hang in for game! I wonder, perhaps call 3 NT!



Joan Butts, the ABF's teacher in charge of teacher education, has offered to conduct classes for our club in April, 2016.

She can offer:

- Stage 2 classes for our beginners.
- A more advanced class for our intermediate members.

In order to do this, we need to confirm numbers, costs, etc.

Could you please indicate which class you would be interested in and any specific topics required by 20th December, 2015?

*There was a small article about Joan in the September ABF Newsletter, bottom page 13. She is the **ABF National Teaching Coordinator** . Interesting to read about Peninsula Bridge Club (100 new members),*

Further details next year.



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