

APRIL 2016



NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

There have been lots of exciting developments for the Club in the last month. Tony did a great job with the **Teams** system we used on Thursday night. (With “high praise” from Graham Hill!). It seemed to be a very happy night, and special thanks must go to the people who so generously gave up their night, so we could have an even number of 8 teams.

Thanks **Brauer College** and Duncan Stalker who have fixed all the things we asked them to and opening from upstairs is really easy and efficient. I think we should donate a light to them for the front, what do you think?

Christine has put our name up in lights on the **Council’s website** and we're taking part in active autumn on the civic green on Monday and Wednesday mornings, all welcome from 10-12am.

Peter Webb and I attended the meeting seminar run very professionally by Michael Neoh from **S.W. Sports**, and we learnt some useful management techniques.

Directors Course and Social Sunday: 16/17 April: What a great weekend it was, thanks to Graham and Jan and a special thanks to all members who attended, 13 for the course and 34 members for lunch and play. Appreciation also to Helen Lovegrove for hosting the visitors. It was a delightful 2 days and pleasing that everyone made new, visiting players, Shelley and Belinda, so welcome on Sunday.

Janet, Helen L, Linda and I will be representing the Club at the **Casterton Red Cross Day** on 21/4. We hope this will encourage them to visit our club.

Our thanks to Paula Bailey who has commenced **teaching** intermediate classes (2 hours) Tuesday nights at the Club from 7pm. (Details about up-coming lessons later in Newsletter).

My best wishes to all our sick members: Aileen, Robin AND Vic. and lovely to see Betty Rendell and Lyn Tierney. back playing bridge.

I'm having a break from 23/4 so Janet will be your glorious leader. Have fun!

Lucienne. (President).

Your President lays down the Law!



Saturday 16th April Graham Hill conducted a **Directors Course** with 13 of our members participating. The program was extensive – we started at 9.00 and finished late afternoon – Graham is an excellent teacher and posed some interesting and difficult problems for us.

Allen Shiels:

I was very pleased with the way the course went and even though it was full on and stretched the grey matter I would still like to continue to attempt directing eventually. Before the course I had the impression that decisions were made mainly by logical reasoning and I did not know that there were so many rules and laws involved. It was an eye opener and I felt I learned a lot from it. It was well presented and done in a friendly manner.

Linda Picone: A very informative weekend organised by President Lucienne and now I will know my options when there is a lead, play or bid out of turn. Our table seemed to spend a lot of time locating the relevant law, rule or paragraph and then trying to understand the jargon so maybe a book easier to understand may also have been an advantage. Graham is a terrific teacher and his enthusiasm, humour and patience for all things bridge was always tangible and appreciated.

Sunday morning we did Claims and Concessions and System Violations/Misunderstandings:

Claims: This is where a player thinks he/she has all the remaining tricks. (Some people say you should not claim but all hands should be played out – wrong. Graham says that you should claim if you can and the ones who don't are usually the ones who cause slow play). Once someone claims a game that in the end of play. You DO NOT PLAY ON. The claimant MUST NOW state his/her "line-of-play". If this is not done the opposition may call the Director stating, "Player has made a claim which I dispute". If anything is doubtful the Director will favour the non-claimer. A book in the library – Director's Quick Reference Companion – states:

1. Face all remaining cards.
2. Non-claimants (who may confer with one another) state their objection and propose a line-of-play that would be favourable to them. Graham showed the following example: Spades are trumps.

Claimer: S: 9 H: AK8 D: --- C: K (All winners)

Non-claimer: S: 4 H: 72 D: 64 C: ---

The non-claimer can now ask claimer to play their 3 hearts – he will trump!

A beautiful lunch followed with 34 players attending the afternoon game. Most enjoyable.

(Unfortunately the 'photos I took of lunch etc. were in video mode and I can't use them).



JOAN BUTTS VISIT, March.

The modern way with Bridge is to be aggressive and Joan’s lessons enforced this, particularly in the opening bid. i.e. Opening 1 N.T. with 14 HCP. Pre-emptive effect, hard on opposition and partnership rarely gets to wrong contract.

Opening One of a Suit: More to hand evaluation than high cards. **Two suited hands** and hands with a good, long suit will play better than balanced ones, so the Guideline of 20 works well. Add your HCP to the length of your 2 longest suits – if the total is 20 or more open the bidding, known as “Rule of 20”.

Lucienne and Joan.

I recently read an article by USA player, Mike Lawrence who stated, Rule of 20 - “People praise it – I argue against it. It comes with too many warts. He goes on to give examples of poor hands – do not open – and good hands – to open.

If interested read “Better Bidding for Improving Players” by Ross Dick. Pages 1 & 2. When to Open and when to Pass with Borderline Hands. (In the library).

Ross Dick makes Adjustments:

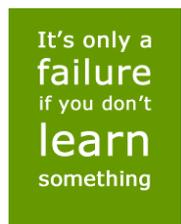
Negative features, Subtract 1 point if the hand has:

- * A singleton K, Q, J.
- * A doubleton KQ, KJ, QJ, Qx or Jx
- * No Aces.
- * An unguarded Q or J (e.g. Qxx or Jxx).
- * Queens/Jacks contributing to 50% or more of HCP

Positive features. Add 1 point if the hand has:

- At least 2 ½ quick tricks.
- Two tens usually combined with one or more higher honours in a 3-card or longer suit. (e.g. AJTx, QJT, QT9)

<u>TABLE OF QUICK TRICKS:</u>	Quick tricks.		Quick Tricks
AK in the same suit	= 2	AQ in the same suit	= 1 ½
A or KQ in the same suit	= 1	K with J or lower value card(s)	= ½



GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WITH PAULA BAILEY:

Club Rooms: Tuesdays - 7.00 – 9.00. (N.B. 2 hour lessons)

Up-coming topics:-

26th April: Leads: Signals: Count:
 3rd May: Blackwood: Reverses: Losing Trick Count.
 10th May: Stayman and Transfers.

TAKING TRICKS AND MAKING CONTRACTS

Thursday 7th April – Marie Bird and I set sail for three days of fun and games in Melbourne with Joan Butts. We certainly had FUN and LOTS of games.

As you will know from her recent visit to Warrnambool Joan is an excellent teacher. The best aspect of her teaching is that theory is followed immediately by practical application. *“Involve me and I learn.” Franklin.*

Topics covered included:

- When to Bid over the Opponent’s 1NT openings and When Not To.
- Declarer Play – how to play safely and make more contracts
- Defense : Suit Preference Signals
- Bidding : More on Doubles : Bidding in the Balancing Seat
- The Real Truth about the Finesse
- Bidding : the two over one game forcing system

Lessons took place in the morning and duplicate pairs were played each afternoon and evening. It was not for the faint hearted, but so worthwhile.

Bridge Players include an interesting mix of people. There are those you would be happy not to meet again (ask Marie about her *bête noir*) And sometimes you strike gold, as we did when we met our new best friends Michelle and Annie from Noosa at the lessons on the second morning. They were supportive, helpful, encouraging and very unassuming. We gained confidence and learnt heaps – managed to lift ourselves from last the first afternoon, to 8th out of 13 on the second day. Imagine my surprise when Michelle leant over to whisper in my ear that Annie was a Grand Master.

Best of all they were great company at the table and the bar.

Pictured (L-R) Marie, Annie, Michelle and Dale



Three suggestions for consideration re intermediate lessons:

- Could we use the special packs of cards, so that the hands we play are appropriate for the convention we are learning?
- Just one convention per lesson.
- Supervised play where someone sits at your elbow and can be referred to for the correct play of the cards.

Thanks Marie for a great weekend.

Dale Vagg



NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!
Congratulations to Helen and Linda who had a win in Casteron’s “Red Cross Day” on Thursday, April 21st. There were 10 tables of Contract Bridge and 10 of Duplicate. Lucienne said it was a well organised, enjoyable day and everyone thrilled with the support.



CARD PLAY PROBLEM: (Taken from Australian Bridge – Novice Edition). **You are South playing in 3 N.T.**

S: AQ5 (Dummy)	S: 6432 (You).
H: AJT	H: 432
D: 5432	D: AKQJ
C: 432	C: AK

West leads Club Q. How to make your contract? (Answer at end of Newsletter).

Of interest to all those who attended the Directors Course, Graham Hill spoke of this.

Up-coming Events:



SOCIAL DAY AT CAMPERDOWN.

Friday, April 29th. 11.00 Start.

\$10.00 incl. Light Lunch (This coming Friday).



BRIDGE FOR BRAINS: Wed. May 11.

(See Catering list on Notice Board). \$15.00.

ALL proceeds go to B 4 B.

The President asks you to please make this a special, well attended and financially successful day.



WESTERN DISTRICT FRIENDLY TEAMS: COLAC

SUNDAY, MAY 15TH. ENTRY: BRIDGE UNLIMITED.

TEAMS RESULTS: Lucienne said that there were many favourable comments on the teams event and she would like to again thank Tony for all the work he put into the program to make it successful.

lace	Imps	VPs	Team Name	Red pts
1	83	128.00	HELEN LOVEGROVE Team (8) STEPHEN PARK - AILEEN PARK - HELEN LOVEGROVE - PAULA BAILEY - BETTY RENDELL - ANNE SERRA	1.74
2	83	125.00	LINDA PICONE Team (1) LINDA PICONE - FELICIA ROSS - JAMES SIMPSON - LUCIENNE NEWTON-TABBRETT - JANET ATTRILL	1.54
3	29	113.00	MARIE JOHNSTONE Team (4) MARIE JOHNSTONE - BARBARA MCKEAN - JANET ATTRILL - ANNE SMITH - MARGARET STALKER	1.35
4	9	107.00	PAULA HILLIS Team (7) 73 - 72 - 68 - 69 - PAULA HILLIS - SUSAN DAWSON - JOHN SHERWOOD - SUSAN SHERWOOD	0.40
5	-1	103.00	ROBERT LOCH Team (6) ROBERT LOCH - JUDITH LOCH - JOAN MALIKOFF - PENNY THOMAS - PAMELA ROCHE	0.56
6	-3	94.00	TONY PLEVIER Team (2) TONY PLEVIER - OWEN MASLEN - SHANE MCMILLAN - FAYE DAVIDSON	0.40
7	-40	93.00	PAT STARKIE Team (3) DINA SELMAN - DALE VAGG - 20 - WENDY EVERARD - MARIE BIRD - PAT STARKIE	0.24
8	-160	65.00	GLENICE MCDONALD Team (5) ELAINE FITZGERALD - PETER BLAKE - SUSAN SHERWOOD - DENIS FITZPATRICK - GLENICE MCDONALD - ANNE WALLIS	0.32

ANSWER TO: Card Play Problem: Choice of finesse: Pat O'Connor (Sydney).

Analysis: You have 8 top tricks. The spade finesse will give you a 9th trick if it succeeds. Is this the best way to proceed? If it fails you are sunk.

The heart suit is the only other source of extra tricks. Your best chance is that the H Queen and H King are split. Plan to finesse twice in hearts.

But first play out your diamonds and watch opponents squirm when they have to make a discard (perhaps a heart!). Now lead a small heart towards dummy. If West plays the K, take with Ace and play the Jack to set up your 9th trick. If West plays low insert your ten, East will win with the Queen and probably return a Club, taking out your last stopper.

Lead another small heart towards dummy, inserting the Jack if West plays low. This will win on this set up. This play will only fail if East has both heart honours – a 25% chance – much better than 50% spade finesse.

Key point: A double finesse is a better option than a single finesse.

Gwen Hindhaugh.

My thanks to all who contributed to this Newsletter. Please

