

# Trumps Plus

No 14 March 2023

## Stunning start to 2023..and more to come

Well, we promised 2023 would be a great year and what better way to engage our members than the amazing evening with 'pocket rocket' Chrissy Bray. The pictures on our website say it all - members showing hidden talents, competitive spirit and most importantly, enjoying themselves. Thanks go to all who helped organise - and the support of your Management Committee. We have a number of other great events organised including dusting off our barbeques, all thanks to our generous sponsors. Announcements will follow. A special focus we have in this edition is our wonderful library. We will be regularly highlighting great books in the future - if you haven't strolled in there, please do.

A special shoutout to our Executive Officer, Martin Doran. Martin has done an exceptional job in his 8 or so weeks here and has gone out of his way to meet you all. He has also done a great job curating our new website. Thanks Martin.

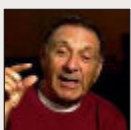
## NEWS AND EVENTS

- Check 'Events' tab on website - Novice/Super Novice; Congress; Restricted Swiss Pairs Congress etc etc
- **ALERT!** Fabulous Friday, 17 February - prizes galore, food, entertainment - and all for same money.
- New/rejoining Members; Karen Chapman; Marie-France Merven; Shizue Futaesaku; Prue Livesay; Michele Wells; Marion Shand; Jeanie Whittaker; Edward Ellice-Flint; Lindsay Shepherd; Dorothea Hasley; Andy Cayley; Anne-Louise Dubrawski; Sue Jensen; Lisa Featherby; Nick Cantatore; Carol von Brockmeier. Many others have re-activated their membership. We welcome you all as valued members.

## President's Service Award...thank you members

Each year, the President honours up to 3 members for outstanding service to the club. Kerry Barns served on the committee and was recognised for years of service in overseeing the catering which makes all of our congresses and other events so successful. Rhona Barton served on the committee as Secretary then provided valuable tutelage and support to new members as a mentor and in the 'buddy' system. Jan McNab also served on the committee and has provided great service as a player partnership coordinator. Thank you Kerry, Rhona and Jan - great members make a great club even greater.

## Eddie Kantar humour....



Young couple team up for bridge for the first time. Everything works - finesses, splits - and they score 71.8% and a resounding win. Dinner and drinks follow and they're getting on well. Female invites him back to her house. Things start getting steamy as they sit on the couch and clothes are being removed and thrown all around the place when the male announces, 'Alert!' Female responds, 'Yes please, what?' Male exclaims, 'Could be short!!!'.

## Member Profile - Jay Medhat



This is a remarkable story of a man who has a fascinating bridge journey including playing and mixing with royalty. Jay commenced playing cards at age 14 in a French game called Belote and soon moved to bridge playing a system called Culberston - similar to Standard. His early lessons came from his university professor with a strong emphasis on logic, mathematics, possibilities/probabilities. His time at the University of California saw him playing

regularly with fellow students - often for money. Back in Tehran he continued to play social bridge.

After a year of social bridge he teamed up with a highly skilled player with great intelligence and a photographic memory. He played bridge for very high stakes which taught him to remember every bid and every card played.

Jay then attended the London School of Economics and soon commenced playing bridge with what he would call the 'high society,' and enjoyed spending weekends at their country mansions and listening to all their gossip.

An exceptional opportunity came when an Iranian friend invited him to play bridge once every fortnight with a former President of Pakistan, an ex British Foreign Minister and a high ranking Home Officer. This lasted for some time but what was most interesting to him were their discussions on world affairs and the elaborate dinners compared with his usual student budget meals.

Jay was called back to Iran to take up an exciting job and teamed up with his old bridge partner. A few years later while holidaying on the Caspian coast, he was visited by the security police to return to Tehran and report to the Defence Minister. He was told that the Shah - His Majesty - had selected him to run a specific project. Jay declined on philosophical grounds - and was promptly told to pack up and leave the country as soon as possible.

This was a new phase of his life as a bridge player, becoming involved in playing with high echelons of other countries. It was very interesting to see how people in power reacted in bridge games. While sailing with his brother in 1967, he spotted an orange point on the shore that was new to them. He went for a walk and noticed three people about an orange tent. A couple he knew came up to greet him followed by a stunning blonde - the next time he was sailing, this lovely woman was to become his wife.

In 1980 they left for Nice and he continued to play with the French which was different to playing with Iranians or Anglo-Saxons. In 1983 they moved to Perth and joined Undercroft Bridge Club and are now proud members of WABC.

*(Editor's note; Jay is a highly respected member of the club and a canny bridge player. Acknowledgment is given to Bernard Yates who assisted in writing the original story of Jay's bridge life - which appeared in a 2016 edition of Trumps Plus. His wife Marlene is a lovely lady - never to be underestimated at the bridge table. BTW try her recipe for apple cake - I have had some ..omg).*

## Cryptic Cottesloe Location

I date back, to nineteen twenty three  
Prime location, for Elsie, Kip and me  
Staying in me, is an absolute must  
My future lies, in the hands of trust

First **two** correct answers win a bottle of champagne or wine.  
john.nelson@cewa.edu.au or text 0419 948 640  
Last solution; Napoleon Street

## Mary McComish OAM - congratulations!!!

Congratulations to Mary on the award of an Order of Australia Medal for tertiary education and service to community organisations. Mary worked at The University of Notre Dame School of Law from 1995 to 2007 including 3 years as Dean. Mary still holds the post as Adjunct Professor.

In terms of community service, Mary spent many years putting her law background into practice through her voluntary work in advocating as Director of the locally-based Daydawn Advocacy Service - this involved providing assistance to local Aboriginal people to fight unjust evictions.

Mary also served on the Claremont Council for 4 years, a role she enjoyed. Mary is a Director of Australian Catholic Safeguarding, an organisation which assists all Catholic entities across Australia to provide safe and nurturing environments for all people involved.

A life of service to those in need, especially the most vulnerable. Thank you Mary and congratulations again on your OAM - we hope you continue to enjoy your bridge at WABC.

## Please support our generous Sponsors

Thanks to the hard work of committee we are fortunate to have two generous sponsors.

**Aspire2 Wealth Advisors** will continue with us in 2023, committing to sponsor Six Super Saturdays or equivalent - prizes, food etc. This is a great outcome and we sincerely thank Malcolm Davis and his crew. Please consider contacting the company for any of financial or investment advice you may need. We have announced the dates for these popular events. Remember, in times of uncertainty, always seek certainty.

**TBIB** are our sponsor for congresses and similar events. Already some prize money was distributed at the Christmas Congress, focusing on players with a restricted number of MPs. This is a great initiative. TBIB support the ABF and a number of bridge clubs around Australia. They offer highly competitive insurance products, especially travel insurance. One of their products includes travel insurance for people up to 90 years of age.

## Mr Arrow Switch, you are accused of unfairness!! Your plea??

*This article is based on a past Trumps Plus item written by Peter Smith with assistance from Jonathan Free.*

Many people often question the 'fairness' of an arrow switch to a Mitchell movement in order to determine one winner across the field. Basically, mathematicians have researched the topic and there is consensus that it **IS** fair under certain guidelines. The balance of a movement is fairest when there is strong overlap between 3 elements; the pairs you actually play against; the pairs who played your cards on each board; and the pairs who played your opposition cards on each board.

Ian McKinnon from ASEComputing developed a measure of 'balance' by using a 'calibre' score out of 100 to reflect integrity. Howell movements scored between 91 - 100. Arrow switched Mitchells provided a well balanced one-winner movement with reliability scores of 90 - 98. Simply using non-switched Mitchells rated in the range of 42 - 52.

The real issue comes down to how many rounds should be switched and when. Statistically, it is only necessary to arrow switch approximately one eighth of the boards. Any more than this has actually been found to cause imbalances and the 'calibre' measure decreases, making the movement less fair to all when trying to declare a single winning pair.

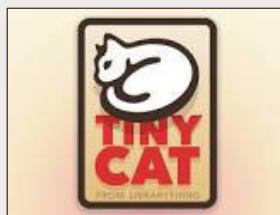
Many of us might find this difficult to accept; however very clever statisticians have supported the arrow switch. Therefore, when playing a three-board movement and typically 27 boards, it is appropriate to arrow switch one round - or three boards. For a two board movement - two rounds or four boards.

The timing of the arrow switch doesn't really affect the result. It really comes down to the Director's logistics in terms of perhaps fitting the arrow switch in with a coffee break, announcements or perhaps the last round/s. Switching two rounds is more technical, but the software does allow for this to occur.

The conclusion then, is that arrow switching is not only fair, but statistically reliable. If you play in an event and blame the arrow switch movement for supposedly 'missing out on good cards and a game or slam contract' we need to remember - it's not the cards you get - it's whether you play them better than as many other pairs in the field as possible.

**Thank you, Your Honour. The case against Mr Arrow Switch is dismissed.**

## My bridge is not improving! .. easy...try TinyCat



You can now access the club's wonderful library catalogue at home through the new website. Just go to the website and tap on the *Learn + Develop* tab at the top of your screen then scroll down to *Library + Resources*. On this page you will see a tab called *Access the Library Catalogue* and this will take you straight to the catalogue. Once there you can search

through the resources by either Title, Author or Subject,

TinyCat contains all our books - just over 1,000. Only WABC members can use the library. To borrow a book simply come into the library - the books are organised by author. After finding your book, fill in the card inside the cover and place this card in the box on the table. You may borrow the book for up to one month. When returning your book simply place it in the wooden box inside the door.

**STOP PRESS;** Tessa Mayall has just provided a short review of two new books; **'Winning No Trump Leads'** by David Bird and Taf Anthias. This shows the best lead from a given west hand. Results are based on 5,000 deals, computer software generated. The authors have analysed these and passed on the secrets of finding the optimum lead. This book is an essential read for all levels.

**'Test Your Bridge Brain Against the Experts'** by Danny Roth. A collection of hands that were played at the top level but where mistakes and mis-analyses occurred. The author analyses and discusses how the 66 hands should have been played. A must for all levels. Please provide feedback on either/both books. Thanks Tessa for your input.