

Trumps Plus

No 15 May 2023

We are the champions...of the world

Apologies to Freddie Mercury but did you know our member in profile - Ross Harper - is a World Champion Teams player - and has an award from Buckingham Palace to prove it. A champion player in a world class club. This edition contains a report from our President, Sylvia Bray - this will become a regular feature to let you know about the important work of our Management Committee on members' behalf...and all voluntary.

This edition also contains an extensive coverage of books in our world class library. Bridge books by experts make a real difference to our play and it's no coincidence that our featured member, Ross Harper, is a regular borrower.

Please be aware of important club events - Charity Day, Marvellous Monday, Open Day and other competitions. In the meantime, we trust you have a happy and Holy Easter, and good bridging thereafter. Remember, clear trumps and be kind to partner!

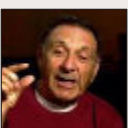
NEWS AND EVENTS

- Check 'Events' tab on website - lots of important events
- **ALERT!** Charity Day 28 April; Marvellous Monday 22 May; Gala Open Day 19 April - bring a new member or friend
- New/rejoining Members; warm welcome to Angela Brailey; Kathleen Caddy; Rhys Cooper; Anne Hinton; Lynette Rea; Ash Donner; Ann and Terry Spiro; Alan Dundas; Carolyn and Clem McCormick; Viv Lloyd; Jacqueline Shillington; Paulien De Boer; Eve Broadley; Dani Bright; Mary B Byrne; and Christine Kelly. We hope you enjoy WABC.
- In memory of John Baron-Hay; Doreen Jones; Judy Law; Fusako Hashimoto - respected members

Club Charity Day - please support this great cause

Our very special charity this year is Ambulance Wish WA. This is a not for profit organisation, formed by co-founders, clinical paramedic, Susie Wilson, and her husband, Gary. The organisation provides transport opportunities to terminally ill patients to experience a special wish. Examples have been a gentleman attending his son's wedding; somebody going to Cottesloe beach; and a visit to the North Street store for their delicious cinnamon scrolls. We still need donations for the raffle. And please make sure you buy raffle tickets and come to the day on Friday 28 April - red points and a great day for all.

Eddie Kantar humour.... about partners



Dummy puts cards down. Declarer asks, 'where is that hand you had during the auction?'

My partner and I had a bad misunderstanding - I assumed he knew what he was doing!

My partner is 20 years behind the times - he thinks you need high cards to bid!

Not returning partner's lead - a void, singleton or stupidity!

Member Profile - Ross Harper CBE

My mother and father - a Church of England Minister - played rubber bridge at home with another elderly couple - at least elderly to me. All four were compulsive smokers and the petrol lighter struck in unison time after time.

When my mother, a widow, played regularly at her bridge club in Glasgow, my wife Ursula, vowed she would never ever play bridge, but, we were on holidays in Europe with my brother and his wife - the evenings were tedious so we started playing cards - snap, rummy, and whist and we agreed that it was a pity trumps were dictated to us - could we not choose trumps? My brother joined the 'prank', bidding in whist. Ursula enjoyed this and we quickly explained that she was actually playing bridge. She was a natural player, and after some few years was playing for Scotland in the international women's teams - and regularly winning.

At our club, I was first adopted by a man called O'Leary - a good card player with no real systems or conventions. I purchased a bridge book on Acol, and together we learned, after he made adjustments to what the book said. Later I was adopted by Willie Loyle - a first class international player partnered by Victor Silverstone - an outstanding international pair. Willie taught me bridge and I taught him salmon fishing on the banks of the river Tay where I have a lease for early September - with 30 years still to go! I go back each September - at 88 years of age - and keen as mustard - along with my son Robin who lives in Sydney.

I came across a bridge professional - we did not have any in Scotland - Paul Hackett - but after a series of trials my bidding and play must have caused him a degree of agony. We qualified to play for England Seniors in Europe and our team came one place short of qualifying to play in the world championships. However, fortune smiled on us - Holland pulled out and we were propelled to Sao Paolo, Brazil, in 2009. We ended up in the final against Portugal. I was allowed to play in the first two sets - presumably to allow the others to repair any 'damage'. In the first set we were hammered by 70 IMPS. In the second match I landed in a most fortunate slam - unbid by 137 opponents. Shoulders to the wheel we continued diligently and ended up world champions. Who would ever have thought that?

Meanwhile back in the ranch, I ended up at Buckingham Palace to receive a CBE and a university recognition - I'm still surprised how all this happened.

My son in law David, was a successful lawyer in London. When he retired, he wanted to return to his city of origin - Perth - with wife Susan and the family. She would not go without her mother who would not go without me - so here we are in Perth and thoroughly enjoying it. I live next door to the family. Grand daughter Nisha has just commenced university and bridge - you may have seen her at the club. She has been acquitting herself well with Ursula. Perhaps one day I'll be allowed to play with her but I suspect I'm not trusted yet. I play bridge at WABC with Peter Holloway, and my favourite partner, Susan Broad.

What is so special about WABC is not only the great facilities and surroundings, but also the great people and special company. We are so lucky to have a club like this; thanks and here's to you all. (Editor's note: great story and adventures Ross. Thank you).

Cryptic Cottesloe Location..or near

Here I stand, slender and tall
Out of boundary, yes but small
Located here, on a beach-side crest
Apply a Will, to solve this test

First **two** correct answers win a bottle of champagne or wine.
john.nelson@cewa.edu.au or text 0419 948 640
Last solution; John Curtin's house

Bridge in yesteryear - from 'The West', July 1935



'In honour of Mrs Hurtle Fisher, who returned last week from a visit to her sister, Mrs Geoghegan in England, Mrs L Bayly and Miss Myra Mason entertained a number of friends at a delightful bridge party at The Cave on Thursday afternoon. The rooms were gay with bright autumn flowers and bridge enthusiasts enjoyed a delightful afternoon. In a short interlude of play, afternoon tea was served. At the conclusion of play, Mrs Lucius Manning was presented with the prize for the highest score, an attractive bridge scorer and pencil - the artistic work of Miss Myra Mason.

Mrs Bayly, for the occasion, donned a frock of blue marocain with touches of white and a blue hat to tone, while Miss Mason also chose a charming navy blue frock and black hat. Mrs Fisher was smart in a black and green marocain frock with a black coat and black hat.'

The article 'Women's World', then went on to list all participants with full title. Thanks to Jodie Basham for submitting the article to give us some idea of bridge 88 years ago.

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. The next big sponsored event is our Gala Open Day. Please come along and invite anyone you know who is playing 'kitchen' bridge or online. There will be something to suit everyone, including our special High Tea. All welcome - and a free event.

TBIB are our sponsor for congresses and similar events. 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.

President's Report - What's Happening? - Sylvia Bray

As it's almost six months since I took up the position of President, it's time to report on some of the club's activities and progress.

There has certainly been an abundance of activities since October, with Sheenagh's farewell party, the appointment of her replacement Martin Doran, the Christmas congress, Christmas party, the Chrissy Bray sundowner, Open Swiss Pairs, Anniversary Pairs, Fabulous Friday, Novice Congress, Women's Pairs Championship and the New Members' party. Whew! Our very busy Management, Marketing and Tournament committees are ensuring there's something for everyone.

The limited playing opportunities over the past few years and concern regarding Covid, has resulted in our membership dwindling. Our Marketing Committee is focused on encouraging members to come back to the club, and to provide a comfortable environment for new members. Numbers have noticeably started to increase and it's gratifying to see quite a few members returning who have been absent for three years or more. We warmly welcome back anyone who has not been able to attend for extended periods, it's so pleasing to see you again!

I'm sure most of you have met Martin by now, our very affable Executive Officer. Martin has quickly settled in and is becoming a familiar and welcome part of our bridge community. He is certainly helping to lighten my load and is always happy, and very capable to manage any situation.

I hope you are making use of our fabulous website. Do spend some time exploring all the tabs, and keep up with current news and activities, including upcoming lessons, congresses, social events, photos. Perhaps you have an article which could be featured? As you know, our club is very reliant on volunteers. One of the important aspects of our club's continuity is the supervised sessions for aspiring players. Carla Sullivan (who includes a mini-workshop), Jodie Basham, Virginia Seward and Jane Henderson make a great contribution to this vital service. If you feel you could assist in some way, do make yourself known to any of these ladies

I feel that our on-going calendar of social events and the wonderful support we receive from you demonstrates your appreciation. It's gratifying to see everyone enjoying themselves, it doesn't always have to be around the bridge table. That's what makes a club, and encourages friendships. Enjoy your bridge.

Library books feature - how to improve your bridge

Don't forget our wonderful library. You can search the catalogue online through the website - it's under the 'learn and develop' tab.

Are you new to bridge and dread playing in no trumps? Karen Moller has suggested a few books that may help you; David Bird's book '*No Trump Contracts*' is worth a read. Or maybe try something from the master, Paul Marston, '*All about No Trumps*'. Barbara Seagram's book '*25 Ways to Take More Tricks as Declarer*' has a few good chapters on no trumps. Another from David Bird - '*Planning the Play in No Trump*'. David also collaborated with Marc Smith on an easy to read book, '*Bridge Card Play - an Easy Guide*'. A common theme is that it's all about planning and timing - playing your long suit upfront may not always be the answer.

Speaking of good books, member Maurice Ford is a great advocate for our free library. He notes that following initial lessons, tips from expert players in various books is so important. His tip is a book from 1990 by William S Root - '*How to Play a Bridge Hand*'. This is only about declarer play and is well illustrated with clear examples. The beauty of the book is that it tackles the big issues first - playing suit combinations; blocking the defenders' communication; problems with trump control; communicating with dummy; cross ruffing and ensuring you are in the right hand. It also covers end plays; squeezes; cues from the bidding; and deceiving the defence.

Maurice also recommends two other books - Nico Gardener and Victor Mollo's '*Card Play Technique*' as a seminal work. '*Watson on Card Play*' - 1934 - is still worth a read. Thanks to Karen and Maurice for your reviews. (Editor's note - deceiving defence? I do it to my partner all the time!!)