

No 16 July 2023

What makes a club great?.



There's an old saying that a club is made great by new members. Well, here we have the Stephenson team winning the quiz at our supervised gala night organised by Jodie Basham and her team on 31 May. See the item below for more details outlining this event. We also had an outstanding turnout on our Club Open Day, sponsored by Aspire2Wealth. This and other events were reported for three weeks running in The Post newspaper thanks to our new 'reporter', Peni Fletcher-Hughes. We can also report on an amazing turn out on our first Magnificent Monday where the supervised players cleaned up in the quiz. Added to this, we exceeded 200 tables in our Winter Congress - many thanks to all concerned. And check below - 12 new members. We must be doing something right.

Member Profile - Maura & Rick Rhodes



I often tell people I was "made in Ireland" because both my parents were Irish and got married in Dublin, then later when my mother was pregnant with me, they emigrated to England. I grew up in Manchester, but when I was 18, I went to London University to study Psychology. It was in London, one year later, where I met Rick.

We were married after graduating and a few years later, we had two daughters. After an English summer when we barely saw the sun and it rained most days, we decided to emigrate to Australia. It was a huge step, but we were young and fearless. We did a fair bit of research and chose Perth because it was a small city, renowned for its friendliness and good weather. Once our girls started school, I went back to teaching and Rick was working at the time in Finance. One day when our youngest daughter was five, I said to Rick, "I want another baby". He thought about it for a while then responded, "Fine, but if we are doing that, we have to have two because the third baby would be so much younger than its siblings." I was delighted because I love children and we had our first Australian little girl, then two years later, we had our fourth and final daughter.

In 2000, some Irish friends told us they planned to go to Bridge lessons and asked if we would be interested in learning the game. We decided that we would be and so the four of us enrolled for Peter Smith's beginners' class on Wednesday evenings at the old WABC in Dalkeith. The following year, we heard that Oliver Mailles was starting a Supervised session on Saturday afternoons, so we decided to attend. Perfect! We went along and I developed an absolute passion for the game. Soon Oliver persuaded us to graduate from the Supervised to the main section and I remember being terrified when someone called the director.

When my long service leave came up, I started playing during the day and my addiction to the game grew. Rick and I started playing in Congresses, which we really enjoy and we play in as many as we are able to. We have also roamed further afield, playing in Canberra and the Gold Coast. We discovered Ron Klinger's Bridge holidays, which combine a lot of fun with some wonderful Bridge lessons and games. Ron is a gifted teacher, who can teach a class of many different levels. (Cont. Page 2).

NEWS AND EVENTS

- Friday 16 June - Novice Championship
- Sunday 18 June - Masters Teams of Three - a great event
- Week beginning Monday 24 July - every session Red Points
- Check out Andy's sessions - very popular
- New members - Rosalie Clark; Nola Criddle; Hugh Forbes; Fiona Jostons; Susan Lind; Nerilyn Mack; Anne Rae; Robin Salter; Ivan Thompson; Malcolm Weatherhead; Nora Wilkinson; Tyra Williams. Welcome to WABC and we trust you enjoy the experience.
- Bereavements - Margaret Brinsden; Shirley Rose

Supervised gala evening..... what an event!



On Wednesday 31 May, our supervised players enjoyed a great evening starting with food, wine and a quiz, followed by bridge. Karen Simmer / Andrew Mason N/S and Helen and Dick Austin E/W winners. It was great to see participants getting to know each other and socialising, despite the inclement weather. Winners received a prize. Many thanks to Jodie Basham, Karen Moller, Richard Basham, Brian Embleton (bar) and Sylvia Bray on the evening. Our supervised players are the future of our club. Please make them very welcome at your table.

Eddie Kantar humour.... about lessons



Just given a lesson to my beginners' class about getting rid of losers early. I'm playing with the student and they're in 4 Spades - a cold lay down contract, maybe 11. They lose their first 4 tricks. Later in our assessment I gently ask why they played it that way. The response was that they dutifully played out and got rid of their four losers as soon as possible in the first five tricks. Hmm...need to revise my lessons.

Cryptic Cottesloe Location..

After a Cardinal I'm named, that is to be
And you'll find me fairly, near to the sea
You might not agree, with my orientation
But many visit me, with some expectation

First **two** correct answers win a bottle of champagne or wine.
john.nelson@cewa.edu.au or text 0419 948 640.
Last solution; William Vlamingh memorial; winners Jodie Basham and Terry Heptinstall. More entries needed. It's logical.

But deep finesse says we can make 11 tricks.....

'How many times have we heard this as partners forensically discuss their hands over a glass of wine - examining the summary sheets. Well let's clear a couple of things up before you get frustrated, or worse still, break up your partnership.

Deep finesse - a computer - assumes, that if you are declarer, that not only is dummy on the table, but both defenders' hands are too ...both hands! If all four hands were disclosed to you, then you play the hand. Sometimes, to make what deep finesse indicates, you break 'standard' conventions; leading an Ace trumps to capture a King singleton rather than finessing; leading under a King in a suit contract; finessing with a ridiculously low card...say a seven; not clearing trumps when you have a dreadful split; and so on.

Further, when you lament, from the summary sheets, that you had a dreadful HCP average, remember that is based on 36 dealt boards - not the 26, 27 or 28 that you played.

So what should you do - I'll leave that to the experts. My best suggestion is to use the board summaries online to see what other pairs did. You may wish to defer to another movement - perhaps better players - to see what they did. Pianola is important - check that out. If all these fail, have another glass of wine and relax. It's just a game.

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. Malcolm sponsored our wonderful inaugural open gala day as well as Magnificent Monday which was a resounding success - especially for the group of supervised players who attended. They cleaned up the quiz prizes. The social area was full - food great as always. Thanks to all who helped.

TBIB are our sponsor for congresses, including our Winter Congress, 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.

But partner...that's not what I meant by my bid!!

Most of us have probably experienced the situation where, when your bid has been alerted by partner, or when the opps have queried the bid, your partner has given an incorrect explanation - different to what you meant. One good example is the different use of the unusual 2NT convention. Some use it to designate a competitive bid of two minors; some use it to indicate good holdings in the next two lowest suits following an opposition opening bid.

So if we use the scenario of an opening bid of 1D from the opps, you may have intended your 2NT bid to mean competitive five card holdings in clubs and hearts. Let's assume, when your partner alerts the bid, the explanation given, when requested, is both minors. Justifiably, the opps may selectively use this information to either bid or plan a defence. What should you do when you know partner has mis-described your bid? A past *Trumps Plus* article by Matt McManus, acclaimed Director, sets out some rules;

1. You must not react in any way such as to indicate to partner their error; you must not say anything nor show any physical signs of disquiet
2. You must not call the Director at this stage
3. You must not excuse yourself and talk to the Director
4. You must just sit there and do nothing until the correct time arrives - see later

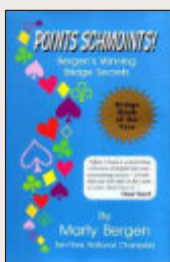
The key principle here, as surprising as it may sound, is that partner's misinterpretation of your bid has provided you with unauthorised information, and you cannot act on this information. In this particular auction, you should pass the 3C bid. You can bid on if you have a strong hand, but not finishing up in clubs, may pose a problem with the Director. You may not be in a good position, as your side created the issue, by using unauthorised information. The issue is complex.

The correct time to correct partner's misinformation is;

1. If you become declarer or dummy, at the end of the auction - this is an equity principle allowing the opps to re-plan their defence...or appeal later
2. If you become a defender, at the end of the play of hand

You can call your friendly Director who will then make a decision whether disadvantage has occurred to either side. Unfortunately, this rule is generally not well understood.

Library books feature - how to improve your bridge



We've had a great book review from Maurice Ford, of Marty Bergen's famed book, 'Points Schmoints'. Marty points out that the only definitive bid in bridge is 1NT. And it is from here that Marty, with insight and clarity, shows us how to bid so as to give partner the best information to be effective in a competitive auction. He elaborates on his love of the take-out double; the power of the pre-empt; law of total tricks; importance of suit strength when entering the auction at the two level; rule of eleven; importance of entering the auction early; bidding after partner doubles or pre-empts; hand evaluation, especially high card points in the opps suit; decreased value of unsupported 'Quacks' - Jacks/Queens; and the importance

of table position in relation to the opps bidding.

This is a must read book from our library. Thanks Maurice. Great review. Please use WA's best bridge library, and through online searches via our website.

The Rhodes' story...cont..

His Bridge holidays were suspended for a few years because of Covid, but he and his lovely wife Suzie plan to resume next year. He is planning another Bridge holiday at sea and we will be on it! We have cruised with him. We went back to England for a holiday where we had our first ever game in London at Andrew Robson's club. We have since played in many cities, including New York, Las Vegas, Biarritz and Nice. A great way to meet the natives!

Bridge is a wonderful game and we are very grateful to our friends for introducing us to it. Please tell all your friends what fun it is and encourage them to learn. We have met a lot of great people through the game. (*Editor's note: two lovely people who have exemplary table etiquette. Maura has made many great contributions to previous 'Trumps Plus' editions. By the way, they're pretty handy bridge players!*).