

# Trumps Plus

No 1 January 2021

**Welcome** to 2021 and the new edition of 'Trumps Plus'. A new format will be used with a shorter newsletter type approach produced six times over the year. This is very different to the former 'Trumps Plus' which was far more expansive and aimed for four editions per year; this was a very onerous task for past editors. The focus will be very much on members and snippets of club matters and interest. The aim is to cover a range of similar topics in each edition to provide some continuity over the year. We are always looking for suggestions so please contact the editor, John Nelson, or a member of the Management Committee.

## NEWS AND EVENTS

- Anniversary Pairs - 30 January - must book
- How to fill in a systems card - 4 February and 20 March
- Novice/Super Novice Congress - 14 February
- Women's Pairs - 9 March
- Restricted Swiss Pairs - 21 March
- Handicap Pairs - 8 April
- Andy Hung Lessons - Commence 1 February - see flier on website
- Need to follow all COVID protocols - registering; sanitation; not playing if ill

## Member Profile - the Georges



Mike and Helen George are club 'royalty', both being life members, and Helen our current Patron since 1996. Life membership doesn't come easily and Mike and Helen provided long service to WABC – committee work; secretary; editor of Trumps Plus; bar work and in the early days, Mike's unending dedication to establishing the native gardens around our clubhouse. Helen and Mike were involved in the transition of the West Australian Bridge Association to the West Australian Bridge Club in 1974 at its Dalkeith premises and the subsequent move to our Swanbourne premises.

Helen and Mike were originally school teachers at a number of locations including Denmark, Aboriginal missions at Cundeelee (near Zanthus) and Mogumber, then at Harvey, before returning to Perth. Mike was also a farmer from Arrino near Three Springs.

## Calling all duty partners

One of the great features of Saturday bridge is the availability of a duty partner. It's a great service, organised by David Burn. If you are available for one Saturday over the year, please contact David.

## Famous celebrity bridge players

Omar Sharif; Warren Buffett; Bill Gates; Snoopy

## World's best bridge player

Widely regarded as Bob Hamman, a relatively unremarkable and quietly intense septuagenarian from Dallas.

## Calling volunteers

Cheese and biscuits have made a welcome return to Saturdays but we need some volunteers to assist a few times over the year. Please contact Jacqui Ecclestone or Prue Hart if you can help. Remember, our club is only made strong by the people who help.

## Christmas Congress

Yet another successful Christmas Congress was completed from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th December. Congratulations to all the successful players.

Over the three days, 144 tables and 576 players were involved. Well over 100 red points were awarded. Thanks go to Director David Burn who was supported by Peter Hicks and Gwen Kramer. Appreciation also to the Tournament Organiser, Sheenagh, for her hard work and all other volunteers, convenors, recorders etc.

It was pleasing to see a number of intermediate players 'having a go' in the range of events that were available.

You may be interested to know that over 70% of members have fewer than 100MP. This should encourage members to enter congresses, especially restricted and swiss pair events. Some of these events are listed on page 1, News and Events.

## Good Scores December 20

Good scores in club sessions:

Mike George & Helen George	71.53
Deana Wilson & Dave Munro	70.18
Rhona Martin & Kim Crossing	69.30
Garry Diver & Janice Rooney	69.17
Atsuko Takeuchi & Anne Durack	68.52
Kath Negus & John Nelson	68.29
Ravi Soin & Geoff Yeo	67.92
Anne Gidney & Anne Howard	67.59
Jo Boserio & Lynn Bayliss	67.28
Ross Harper & Peter Holloway	67.02
Michelle Mitchell & Jacqui Graham	66.67
Gwynera Brahma & Stella Steer	66.67
Anne Lowe & Faye Wilner	66.12

## LIBRARY BOOK FOCUS

### *Barbara Seagram and David Bird '25 Ways to be a Better Defender'*

An excellent book by two acclaimed bridge writers for beginners to intermediate players. Defence is the hardest part of playing bridge and we need to remember that we defend about 50% of the time.... but that doesn't mean that it's impossible to learn. The authors explain how to make a plan as a defender: how to work out from the auction and play what declarer probably has, and what partner is probably holding - and which of the strategies available to defenders is likely to be successful in defeating the contract. Remember - we defend for about half the time!

### Bridge tips; playing the numbers

Card splits are critical in both making and defeating contracts. While every hand is different, there are some basic probabilities which should be considered;

- With 2 cards out, a 1-1 split is slightly more likely (52%) than a 2-0 split (48%)
- With 3 cards out, a 2-1 split is a safer bet (78%) than a 3-0 split (22%)
- With 4 cards out, the probabilities are a little surprising; 3-1 is 50%; 2-2 is 41% and 4-0 is 9%
- With 5 cards out, a 3-2 split is fairly likely (68%); a 4-1 split about one quarter of the time (28%) and the dreaded 5-0 only 4%
- With 6 cards out, a 4-2 split occurs about half the time (49%); 3-3 about 36% and 5-1 about 14%

As declarer, there will commonly be 4 or 5 trump cards out. Interestingly, when 4 cards are out, a 3-1 split is slightly more likely than an even split. For 5 cards out, the 3-2 split is likely about two thirds of the time with about a one in four chance of a 4-1 split. Playing with a Moysian fit in trumps (4-3) could be relatively safe, where in about 85% of the time, the split is no worse than 4-2.

### At the Table....

As you would be aware, the club supports players in their transition from supervised bridge to normal sessions. We are hearing that many make the move with some trepidation and sometimes experience disquieting behaviour. You can play a supporting role by;

1. Welcoming them to the table
2. Exercising patience and tolerance for minor irregularities
3. If calling the director, doing so in a supporting way
4. Not focussing on the score nor offering advice, unless asked
5. Thanking them for the games

These are basic manners for all players but will be a great help to beginners as they seek to build their confidence.