

Trumps Plus

No 6 November 2021

Great club; great members



Members again attended in strong numbers, our second Super Saturday and first Fabulous Friday, where 40.5 tables played - a record for a non-congress event. There is no doubt this was the highest attendance in Australia, with other large clubs experiencing a lockdown. A highlight of Friday was Sheenagh's brilliant movie quiz - well done. Malcolm Davis from our sponsor Aspire2Wealth Advisors was able to attend. You may never have planned to engage with a financial planner - the article on page 2 is worth a read. Don't forget the **next Super Saturday - 23 October** - come along and bring a friend or visitor.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Andy's lessons - Andy is back - see website for lesson program

Melbourne Cup - lunch (bring your own), sweepstake and bridge - 2 November

ABF Swan River Swiss - Saturday 6 November - no bridge at WABC

Jackpot Finals - early November - check calendar for various days

WABC Christmas Congress - commencing Friday 4 December - numerous sessions for all abilities

Christmas Party and prize giving - Tuesday 14 December preceded by bridge

Member Profile - Rhona Barton



Rhona was born in a small private hospital in Subiaco and although an only child, remembers well her time growing up with her cousins. As a teenager when WWII commenced, Rhona recalls her father enlisting in the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve and bringing home the Semaphore and Morse Code signalling materials - skills Rhona taught herself (unclear how well this works at bridge!) Rhona attended Scarborough Primary School and remembers with fondness, the principal - a war veteran - whose wooden leg caused some mirth as he tapped along the floor boards. St Mary's Girls' School in Colin Street, West Perth was Rhona's secondary education - an arduous bus trip and connecting tram each day.

Following her Leaving Certificate, Rhona commenced nurse training at Royal Perth Hospital at age 17. This was a tough initiation in the old hospital, with all the new nurses longing for a well in the new hospital premises; and its mod cons. She remembers well some difficult assignments including Ward 2, at age 18, containing 40 men - with half on the verandah, one in a straight jacket, and the only assistance from a junior nurse aged 17.

Rhona completed her training and set off to Sydney to begin a career in midwifery. Along the way she met her husband and now boasts four children, 11 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Rhona's bridge life commenced at Waratah Ave in 1998 where she took lessons with Peter Smith. Rhona remembers with affection, those early bridge days, renewing her friendship with Joan Dadour with whom she did her nurse training, and this friendship and regular bridge playing, lasted 70+ years until Joan's death two years ago.

Rhona has been a servant of our club, as a committee person for 8 years, secretary, club photographer and laying claim to Perth's oldest barmaid. Rhona could be regularly seen exiting Woolworths with trolleys full of liquor for the club - or so she says. This was also matched by endless trolleys full of biscuits for the club which she transported and stored.

In 2016, Rhona became a respected new-member mentor and is currently supporting her 17th player. A servant of the club, highly respected mentor, canny player, impeccable table etiquette and true lady. Thank you Rhona on behalf of the WABC.



Last edition we reported on Robin Paterson and her great work in assisting with catering. Well here is one of our other stalwarts - Kerry Barns - who has been catering for our afternoon teas at our major congresses for many years. Thank you so much for your outstanding work Kerry. Kerry is always looking for more assistance, especially with the upcoming Christmas Congress - even one day is a help.

Directors' new outfit



You may have noticed that our Directors now have a new shirt uniform, on the suggestion of Peter Hicks. This enables them to be easily identified especially for visitors, as well as the status they deserve. Remember, the Director is your friend - don't try to solve problems at your table by yourselves as this potentially disadvantages one pair at your table and all others in the field.

More about bridge....

The difference between genius and stupidity in bridge is that genius has its limits.

South; "Alert!"

East; "Yes?"

South; "I'm requested to further mis-describe my hand"

WABC Interclub Teams success...pending

Stay tuned over the next few weeks. Our interclub Open and Novice teams have unofficially won the championship even with some matches remaining. The Intermediate team is also well in the hunt.

New members;

Welcome to Jennifer Mullin, Angie Somic, Margaret Pass, Angela Carroll, Gwendolyn Wood, Ian Campbell, Joan Milne and Graham Wood.

In Memoriam

Diana Deykin and Ted Sakashita

Partnerships #*+#!



I'm sure this would not be any of our members. Maybe these two need to read about the Keller Convention on page 3.

Melbourne Cup



The mighty race occurs on Tuesday 2 November. You might remember I had a good win on

Vow and Declare in 2019. If you have a few spare dollars you could do a lot worse than backing Realm of Flowers at \$18; best outsider is Young Werther.

New definition of 'work'

There's a story going around that on census evening in August, one of our well known member's husband was diligently completing the form for each member of the household. Confronting the question of how many hours a week his wife 'worked' he ticked 40+ hours a week, with tongue in cheek. Yes, that would be pretty close Carla - but apparently you haven't got a traditional job!

Making retirement easier...a familiar story?



"Having looked forward to retirement for years, it was difficult to accept that two people who had happily spent decades living together could spend so much of their time arguing over money.

"Enough", I cried in frustration. "We need someone who can tell us just how much you can spend on a new car to tow the caravan and how much I can spend on updating a 21 year old kitchen, I said.

Within days we were in the office of a local financial planner who no doubt had heard it all before. The starting point he said, was to determine just how much money we had saved for retirement and then determine if it was in the most tax effective location....superannuation.

From there he explained we needed to be proactive in our investment choices without taking too much risk. For example leaving our retirement funds earning next to no interest might make us feel safe but was probably not a wise investment in the long term.

He then set us some homework. We both had to go away and write down the ten most important things we sought out of our retirement - without consulting each other.

At our second meeting with our financial planner, we were surprised to learn how similar our lists were. Top of both our lists was not to run out of money in retirement, to which our financial planner just laughed. This was easily done he said - just make sure you never spend more than the income your investments bring in. The best way to achieve this? Sit down with me each year and we'll work out how much money your investments have made and we'll set your expenditure accordingly.

It soon became obvious that my husband wanted to leave a substantial legacy to our children whereas I did not. After much discussion we finally agreed we would both be happy if the children inherited the family home. If there were extra funds to be left to them, that was well and good, but not a priority.

Another key area of contention was what to do if we needed additional care and more importantly, what we would do if one or both of us needed to move into an age care facility. Again our financial planner had talked many people through these issues and we felt much more relaxed once we had discussed all the options. It seems like lots of people face these same issues every day.

As our financial planner pointed out to us, the fact that we owned a substantial family home in a capital city, was almost like a financial safety net for us, and we could also use the downsizer rules to boost our superannuation if needed.

Interestingly, the areas that had caused the most arguments were the easiest to solve. Once we worked out how much was in the kitty to support us in retirement, we both agreed to spend a bit less on the new kitchen and car. With our money dispute resolved for now, and with a financial plan for our future, we were both happy we made the decision to seek expert advice from the financial planner".

If you or any of your friends and family need assistance, please give our sponsors a call. They can also help unravel the issues with moving into over-55s and care facilities. While Malcolm might not be a marriage counsellor, car salesman or kitchen renovator, he is good at looking after your wealth and future happiness.

What sort of bridge personality are you?



As we all know, personalities and moods play an important role in successful bridge play. We have managed to secure, at some expense, a reliable psycho-emotional bridge test to determine your critical personality traits and how you are likely to approach your bidding and other difficult playing situations. We'd love to receive your feedback, especially how long your diagnosis took.



2021 Restricted Teams; 1st John Finlay-Jones; Jennifer Andrews; Hamish McCracken; Meredith Goodlet (Top L); 2nd Tomoko Nakamatsu; Sarita Singh; Kate North; Bernard Yates (Mid) **Mixed Pairs 2nd;** Hamish McCracken; Dianne Dwyer

The Keller Convention

This convention was originally outlined in an article in the February 1991 issue of 'The Bridge World Magazine'. Some players have argued that it can add 20 match points to their game and 8imps per match - it is not alertable, does not need to be recorded on a system card, but for most players, difficult to master. The main elements are clear;

- There is NO discussion of hands or agreements during the session
- There is NO reason to show adverse emotion
- There is NO reason to make partner feel anything except the same unified desire to win that you both share



The Laws of Duplicate Bridge state that 'a player should maintain at all times a courteous attitude towards his partner and opponents' ...**ALWAYS....IT IS A LAW OF BRIDGE....NO CHOICE.**

Aside from common decency and manners, it saves time, preserves focus, reduces noise and avoids transmission of unauthorised information to nearby tables. The opponents have no interest in your discussions and most find it annoying. Too often such behaviours occur at our bridge club. If your partner or opposition commence such behaviour, simply say 'Keller'. Many top players are using it so there must be merit. Clearly the Keller Convention is not easy to play but the collective rewards are worth it. Discussions and post-mortems are best left to the social area where a glass of chardonnay or shiraz can soothe frazzled nerves.

As Helen Keller said, 'alone we can do so little; together we can do so much'. Bridge partnerships and table etiquette operate similarly. (Thanks to Bernie Yates for bringing this to our attention. By the way, Bernie plays Keller.....a gentleman at the table).



Fabulous Friday winners - across the field - 1st N/S Robin Paterson; Marie Musitano 1st E/W Jenny Bosich; Louise Dixon

Bridge Profile - HANS ROSENDORFF

Many will have recently played at Melville in the H G Rosendorff congress but may not know the enormous contribution he made to Western Australian and Australian bridge. A master player, he began his bridge career in WA in 1939, and won most open events including the Open Teams in 1961, 1964, 1969, 1971 and 1973. He won the mens' Pairs in 1962, 1974 and 1975 with his son Nigel as well as many other pairs events; he represented the state 11 times. He was the first Western Australian to win a national title, winning the ANC in 1965 and 1966. Hans had success internationally including competing in the World Open Team Olympiad in 1976. He remains the most successful non-playing captain for Australia - mens' and womens' teams. Hans had a certain style about his captaincy and spoke fearlessly - but always with a focus on improving players' bridge. Hans was a passionate advocate for the promotion of bridge nationally.



He wrote the first bridge column in The West in 1964, was a dedicated administrator, fought hard to support womens' events and wrote widely about bridge. Significantly, Hans' wife Joan would always attend on the final day of the H. G. Rosendorff Congress (when it was a Friday night and all day Saturday and Sunday) for the Teams Event to present the trophies to the winning team, until the day she died. Truly two leviathans of the game.

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