

wa bridge *focus*

WA does it again at the GCC!

(Photos courtesy of Andy Hung)



Winners of the
Intermediate Teams
John Aquino,
Mark Doust,
Belinda Taranto
and
John McMullan
with ABF President
Allison Stralow



Winners of the Ivy Dahler Swiss Pairs
Ron Cooper (and **Jonathan Free**)



Pauline Collett and medals!



Winning the Women's
Team Playoff
Sue Lusk,
Viv Wood,
Rochelle Pelkman and
Stephanie Jacob



2nd Women's Team Play off
Cynthia Belonogoff,
Val Bilstoft,
Pauline Collett and
Catherine Hood
(the team also won the
qualifying)

(Photos courtesy of Jan Blight)



President's Report

There is not much for me to report this month other than Stay Home and Stay Safe. I 'm sure we are all missing our beloved game and the social interaction that goes with it, however, playing cards are the perfect medium by which any virus can spread. This, along with our age demographic, made the temporary closure of our clubs an absolute necessity.

At this time our calendar is empty until the end of April but, at the risk of being a doomsayer, I do think we may be under these current social restrictions for some months. I have concerns for the Western Seniors and the ANC as both would fall foul of the indoor restrictions now requiring 2m separation. We would need to be throwing bidding cards and cards onto a table from at least a metre away. Eye protection would be needed but it could be fun.

Please keep a close eye on your club's website and the BAWA website which will be updated whenever it is necessary.

Nigel Dutton

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BAWA

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Message from the ABF President Allison Stralow



On Sunday March 15, the management committee put out the following statement

"The ABF recommends that Bridge Clubs be temporarily closed for four weeks as from Wednesday 18th March 2020 (or a date this week set by the club) with the situation to be reviewed at the end of that period. A further extension may be imposed if necessary.

Whilst it may be a difficult decision, health experts around the world are all in agreement that the best way to slow the transmission of the virus is for people to practise social distancing. Many other organisations are cancelling events that involve gatherings of people and we feel it is a duty of care to our extremely high-risk clientele and to afford the highest level of health and safety to the members, their families and the wider community"

APBF

The ABF and the Tasmanian Bridge Association cancelled the Tasmanian Festival Of Bridge and the ABF and the Autumn Nationals to be held in Adelaide were also cancelled by the South Australian Bridge Federation. The Qld Bridge Association also recommending cancelling the Barrier Reef Congress .

An extremely difficult decision was for the ABF to postpone the Asia Pacific Bridge Congress in Perth in April where we were hoping to get teams from all over Asia, leading Australian teams and at least one team from the USA/Europe. The ABF web site will keep you informed of any other major congresses that have to be cancelled. You should also visit your State web sites to see which congresses have been cancelled in your area.



Around the Clubs

By Linda Bedford-Brown

Bridgetown Bridge Club

From Jan Burgess

We held our Annual General Meeting on 25th February. As usual our President, Patricia Rodgers, kept us all focused on the business at hand, so much so that we were able to finish the meeting in half an hour and commence bridge at 7 pm, as usual ... so not missing a minute of the most important business of all!

Our Vice President, Peter Taylor, has had a busy year conducting his bird-watching tours, so he has stood down and the position was taken up by Mona Stockwell who was welcomed to the Committee. The rest of the Committee was re-elected unopposed - a tribute to their excellent efforts in guiding the Club over the past year. They are -

President	Patricia Rodgers
Vice President	Mona Stockwell
Treasurer	Jana Mayhew
Secretary	Ursula Wade
Social Secretary	Gillian Wheatley
Tournament Sub Committee	Jan Burgess and Eric Wheatley

Club Trophies for 2019 were awarded as follows:

Club Championship Winners	Patricia Rodgers and Ursula Wade
	
Mary Wheatley Trophy	Jacquie Edwards and Mandy Ryding



Club Champion Jan Burgess

We play on a Tuesday evening in St Paul's Church hall in Bridgetown and enjoy having visitors to the area come and join us for a game so if you are passing through, do drop in!

Albany Bridge Club

From Pam Goodman

Albany's annual Congress on the Labour Day long weekend was very successful and enjoyable from many aspects. Neville Walker kept things running smoothly and the food was delicious and plentiful.



Our caddies had a particularly hectic time! ("Doug Broberg at work").

Winners in the **Welcome Pairs** were

EW	
1st	Jana Mayhew and Jan Burgess
2nd	John Elliott and Claire James

NS	
1st	Dave Munro and Mei Huang
2nd	Bob Fergie and Heather Fergie

Swiss Pairs



Swiss Pairs winners were Vivian Zotti and Therese Garbutt

2nd Tad Bieganski and Andrew Swider



Top Albany pair winners were Rita Leeming and Kay Thompson

Swiss Teams

1st Vivian Zotti, Therese Garbutt, Jonathan Pynt and Chris Mulley



2nd Tad Bieganski, Lilia Male, Beata Bieganski and Andrew Swider.

Our member Tina Powell died shortly after the last congress. In her memory, Tina's husband Philip

offered an encouragement award for **novice** players. This was presented by President Pam Minchin to the four Novice players entered. We all quietly reflected on our memories of Tina at this time.



Sharon Schneider, Oriole Riggall, Judy Cullam, President Pam Minchin, (absent John Sampson)

Broome Bridge Club

From Pam Wadsworth

The Broome Bridge Club, established about thirty years ago as a social club for any bridge playing folks who might be passing through or staying in Broome for the dry season, continues to flourish with up to ten tables at any one session.

As of 2019 the club established a new home at the Seventh Day Adventist Church Hall, which is located near Port Drive on Palmer Road, and continues to meet weekly every Tuesday afternoon with doors open at 12.30pm. Play commences at 1.00pm. These sessions run for ten weeks, commencing on **Tuesday 16th June** and have proven to be very popular with those bridge players who winter over in Broome

Fortunately, the church allows us to store our bridge tables plus two boxes of cards, boards, travelers etc in one of their storage rooms for twelve months of the year, a service which is greatly appreciated.

While many of the players return year after year to play with our club, any new players are made to feel more than welcome to join us and often folks who are just en route from point A to point B will also come along for just a session.

If you happen to be in Broome during the dry season and feel like enjoying a fun afternoon with a great bunch of people, playing some bridge as well, please feel free to join the Broome Bridge

Club. Table fees are kept to a minimum and are sufficient to cover our hall hire and afternoon tea.

Obviously, there are no master points awarded – we just play for the love of the game and to keep our hands in.

If there is any further information that you might like to have about our little club please do not hesitate to call me, Pam Wadsworth on 0412 019 775. Ros Warnock, who does our Directors job can also be contacted on 0413 319 841.

Kalamunda Bridge Club

From Betty Roberts

Held annually, this is the biggest event of the year for the Club and once again the Congress was a resounding success with Club members and visitors playing first-rate bridge throughout the weekend. Congratulations to the Convenor and the many people involved in the preparations. As usual the food provided by Club members was amazing.

SWISS PAIRS



1st Deana Wilson and Dave Munro



2nd Alan Cransberg and Kimberley Zhao

3rd Arianna Yusof and Mavis Koay

4th Nigel Dutton and Marie-France Merven



Best Kalamunda Pair
Joanne Payne and Stephen Thyer

SWISS TEAMS



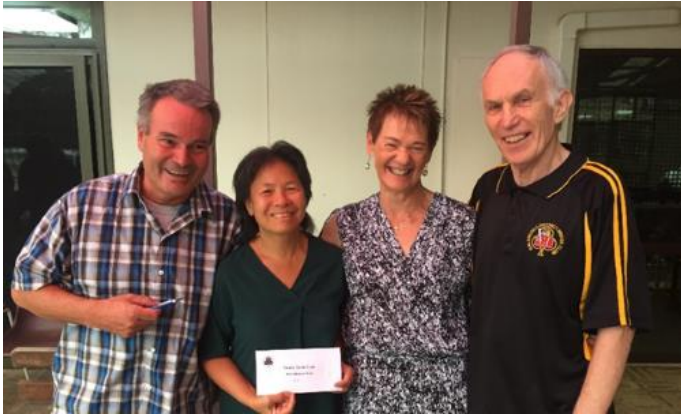
1st Kaiping Chen, Alan Cransberg,
Susanne Gammon, Kimberley Zhao



2nd Cynthia Belonogoff, Dave Munro,
Deana Wilson, David Schokman

3rd Alan Harrop, Mimi Packer, Jonathan Free,
Linda Coli

4th Kathy Power, Robert Prince, Val Biltoft,
Phil Power



Best Kalamunda Team - Tom Lemann, Kit Lemann, Sheila Pryce, Gordon Brown

Mandurah Bridge Club

From Ian Jones

The Restricted 0-300 Masterpoints championship held in February was won by Alan Cransberg and Nicky O'Connell. Runners up were Anne Wheel and Rosie Elphick, followed by Corrie Davis and Denise Sampson.



Kathy Power and June Mulholland, (Director Robina McConnell) won the Tuesday Best 3 out of 4 event



2nd Denise Sampson and Corrie Davis

3rd Michael Turner and Jean Field

Another Successful Beginners' Course

By Course Director Sandra Hardie

The Mandurah Bridge Club ran another very successful Beginners' Course in February with 31 students completing the five-week course. The large group was filled with a variety of characters which helped make the course interesting and lots of fun. The course was made more successful by the willingness of about 8 of our members coming to each session to assist the beginners with bidding and card play. This was a huge help with 8 tables of beginners wanting to learn so much and was also a great opportunity for the students to meet some of the membership and experience the friendliness of the Club. I was impressed with the enthusiasm and helpfulness of everyone and would like to thank the following members for giving so much of their time over the 5 weeks: Gerald Merven, Patricia Anderson, Bev Ford, Corrie Davis, Margaret Trouten, Judy Seaforth, Freda Badger, Di Schupp, Sandy Anderson, Mei Zhao, Roger Nichols, Colleen Webb, Penny Thomas, Russell Thomas, Margaret Munyard and Carole Hazelden.



Very attentive students, carefully listening



The Graduating Group of 31 -well done everyone

Melville Bridge Club

From Richard Fuller

BUSHFIRE APPEAL

On 21st February we held a special event to raise funds for the bushfire appeal. Twenty-one pairs played and we raised a total of \$2,250. We thank all those who participated and gave so generously. Members who could not attend the event contributed nearly one third of this amount. We

specially thank Pauline Ash who donated a dozen top class wines for the auction and Nigel Dutton who was the successful highest bidder.

OAKWOOD CONGRESS

Our major event for the month was the Oakwood Congress that was held between 6th – 8th March. It was well attended with a total of 254 participants. As usual our members rallied around to provide snacks for the players – not just ordinary snacks but some very tasty offerings. We thank all those who contributed in some way to make the Congress a great success.



Welcome Pairs 1st NS Bhavna and Nilesh Patel, centre President Mark Hughes



2nd NS Bruce Penhey and Robin Shaw



3rd NS Do Dean and Sarita Singh



1st EW Mimi Packer and Jonathan Free



2nd EW Joan Barnett and Salim Songerwala



3rd EW Gary Frampton and Glynne Frampton

SWISS PAIRS



1st Marie-France Merven and Nigel Dutton



2nd Geoff Yeo and Chris Bagley



6th Dave Munro and Fiona Han



3rd Jonathan Free and Mimi Packer



Teams Winners: David Schokman, Dave Munro, Deana Wilson and Renee Cooper with Oakwood representative Arthur Payne



4th David Matthews and Jessica Chew



2nd Marie-France Merven, Viv Wood, Nigel Dutton and Marnie Leybourne



5th Renee Cooper and Deana Wilson



3rd (Geoff Holman, Henry Christie), Ron Cooper (Chris Ingham)



4th David Matthews, Jessica Chew, (Hasan Hazra) and Rez Karim



5th Florence Maltby, Vera Hardman, Douglas Hardman and Di Brooks



Best Melville Team Martin Goodall, Suzanne Goodall, Glynne Frampton and Gary Frampton

Corona Virus Closure

Like everyone else we regret having to close the Club, and we hope (perhaps naively) that the closure will be brief. In the interim, we wish everybody good health and we look forward to resuming normal activities as soon as we can.



Northern District Bridge Club

From Anne Hooper

The Autumn Pairs Red Point was held on Monday 16 March 2020, directed by Peter Wilson.

Winners N/S June and Reg Dawson



Winners E/W Carol Thomas and Jeanette St. Ledger with President Graham Woodard



Ross Blakey the 2019 Club Champion

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers and those who contributed towards the afternoon tea.

With these uncertain times who knows when we will have our next Red Point. Meanwhile we will all keep soldiering on and we wish everyone good health, happiness and peace.

Our website www.ndbc.bridgeaustralia.org has lots of information about our Club.

Swan Districts Bridge Club

Swan Districts Bridge Club organized a bush Fire Appeal day on 5th March raising \$400.00.

The photograph shows what members were welcomed with on the day - a hand wash spray and then the Fire Bucket for table money and donations to be placed in.



Winners of the Bush fire Relief day: left, Peter and Jeanne Walczak.

2nd Wendy Brindle and Kathleen Pepall

VALE John Anderson



Members attended the funeral of John Anderson. A 93 year old who loved life and his bridge.

Maylands Bridge Club

From Linley Le Page

Thanks to everyone's generosity Maylands Bridge Club will send a cheque to the Red Cross of \$900 toward bushfire relief. The money came from

table money from the special red point bushfire event all of which was earmarked for bushfire relief. Additional donations made by members who played on the day and members who were not able to play also donated generously.

Congratulations to those who placed in the MBC Shield held in February.



1st Anne de Souza and Paul Rideout



2nd Norma Pears and Vince Menezes



3rd Ann Semaan and Fran Carter

VALE Marjorie Reid Godfrey (1916-2019)

Nedlands Bridge Club

From Linda Bedford-Brown



Winners of the Club Daytime Pairs 1st Jonathan Free and Rose Moore, 2nd Bruce Fraser and David Burn and 3rd Kathy Power and Phil Power. Congratulations

The club had undertaken to refurbish the bar area – and now that all is quiet it has been full steam ahead.



We look forward to reopening!

Stay safe and well – there are many bridge online resources so avail yourself of all that is on offer.

As well as the challenge of the game, we all miss the social exchanges that are such a pleasurable part of belonging to the club. While physically distanced, make sure you keep in touch with your 'bridge mates' either by phone or email.



West Coast Bridge Club

From Hilary Heptinstall

The results of our Summer Teams Competition were:-



1st Brian Kaye, Graeme Hillier, Shirley Drage. and Max Havercroft

2nd Sally Brittliffe, Patrick Garnett, Elizabeth Bennett and Peach Partis

3rd Shirley Bloch, Wence Vahala, Marleen Medhat and Ray Wood

CHARITY WEEK

We held our Charity week earlier than usual this year in order to raise money for the Bush Fire appeal. \$3000.00 has been donated to the Country Women's Association of NSW to be used to help bush fire victims.

A great effort everyone!

Fremantle Bridge Club

From Jenny Langridge



Monday March 2nd saw Director John Penman (R) direct his last game at Fremantle Bridge Club.

John has been an invaluable active member of the club – not only Directing for many years but also as Barman, running the supervised sessions; he

has been Club President, club secretary and media liaison with the BAWA monthly *Focus* magazine.

Over 40 members joined him on Monday for a slice of cake and to show their appreciation of his valued contributions.

Joondalup Bridge Club

From Jeanette St Ledger

One significant event over the last month was the Joondalup Bridge Club Congress held on the 22nd February 2020 - attended by many bridge members from far and wide, to full capacity. Directed by Neville Walker. Lunch was provided and continued refreshments throughout the day by our wonderful committee headed by Cathy, Noreen and Caroline. Our Vice President Dirk and wife Claudine worked tirelessly throughout the day to make sure that the Congress was the amazing success that it was. Prizes were awarded at the end of the day and celebrated by everyone with plenty of wine and cheese.

The following Prizes were awarded:



1st Mimi Packer and Chris Mulley



2nd David Schokman and David Matthews



3rd Marie-France Merven and Nigel Dutton
Super Novice Category



1st Jeanette St Ledger and Julia Hustad



2nd Jane Adams and Christine Bacon
Novice Category



1st David Wheaton and Rick Morris



2nd Arianna Yusof (and Mavis Koay)



Category Less than 50 Masterpoints Cathy Simmons and Di Johnson

All the above participants received generous prizes for their wins on the day. Everyone who attended seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves regardless of final results and we can only look forward now to a year ahead with uplifted spirits to more happy bridge days!!

West Australian Bridge Club

From Jan McNab

(Photos courtesy of Sheenagh Young)



Congratulations to WABC members John McMullan, John Aquino, Belinda Taranto and Mark Doust for their wonderful achievement in winning

the Intermediate Teams competition at the Gold Coast Congress.

SWISS PAIRS

In February our regular Wednesday evening session was changed to Swiss Pairs for 3 weeks.

Deanna Wilson and Sue Gammon won the event admirably with a total of 8 wins and only 1 loss.

Trevor Fuller and Gerry Daly were a close second with 7 wins and 2 losses and in third place, Dave Munro and Doreen Jones.

NOVICE AND ROOKIE A

The Novice and Rookie A was a one session event for Members. Rookies (players with less than 15 Masterpoints) were matched with more experienced Novice partners (players with less than 100 points). This proved to be a popular competition which was brilliantly organized by Carla Sullivan.



Organiser Carla Sullivan Congratulating Susan Salvair and Jane Glass the North/South winners with 58.8%.



In second place - Lee Hazell and Isabel Eggins
Third Place – Barry Cassidy and Pierre Rousset



The East/West winners were Jude Casey and John Oliver with an impressive 60.70%.

In second place – Joscelyn Charters and Alison Stewart

Third place – Karen Moller and Denise Baker

OPEN PIVOT TEAMS

The Open Pivot Teams was a new event which added another interesting competition for Wednesday evening players. It proved popular, with 10 teams entering. The four players in the team played a 9 board match, partnering each of the other members in turn. The evening ended with a glass of wine and a selection of cheeses. All agreed the night was enormous fun and an event we should repeat.

The successful team with a win in all three matches was the Goodlet team, consisting of Audrey Stokes, Marcey Spilsbury, Jennifer Andrews and Meredith Goodlet.

The Sullivan team – Kate Pinniger, Bernard Yates, Carla Sullivan and Kate North were in second place, with the Rowlands team – Peter Hicks, Ian Rowlands, Dave Parham and Frans Fikke third.

WOMEN'S PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

This Championship event was set to take place over 3 sessions. Unfortunately, following the first session, due to concerns by some players over Coronavirus, the event was postponed until further notice.

NEW BROADWAY TRAVEL ROOKIES SESSION ON WEDNESDAYS

STOP PRESS. This was due to commence on March 25th but will now be postponed until we are back in session.

The regular Wednesday game has been brought forward half an hour, now commencing at 11am.

Running parallel with this Weekly Duplicate game is an exciting new session for Rookies (players with less than 15 Masterpoints). The new starting time allows both sessions to finish about 2.30pm, which is ideal for parents and grandparents with school pick-up responsibilities and other commitments.

The new Rookies session is free for members until 30 June, 2020.

Of course, visiting Rookie level players are welcome to play for \$9.00.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT WABC

ANZAC Day, Saturday 25 April, bridge will start at 1.30 pm and on Monday 27th, there will be a morning session at 9.15am and an afternoon game at 1.15pm. All sessions are Red Point events.

CHARITY DAY is also a Red Point event and will be held on Friday 1 May starting at 1.15pm. The selected charity for 2020 is Zephyr Education, a Not for Profit Organisation, catering for children whose lives have been disrupted by domestic violence. Money collected from the Raffle, Table money (less the Director's fee) and donations will be passed on to this worthy charity.

HOW TO FILL IN A SYSTEM CARD WORKSHOP has been a very popular and well attended session at WABC and the second workshop for the year will take place at 11.30 am on Thursday, 21 May. You do not have to be a member to attend. Our thanks to the experienced team of volunteers who give their time and knowledge so generously.

WABC 2020 WINTER SUPER CONGRESS

Our Winter Super Congress will be played over the long weekend, from Friday May 29th – Monday June 1st.

This promises to be an event worth entering with an estimated prize pool of \$10,000

A wide range of events will cater for all players from Novice and Restricted to Open, including Swiss Pairs over two days on the weekend and Restricted and Open Swiss Teams competitions on the final day.

EDITING OF MATERIAL

Contributors should note that the right to modify submitted material is retained by the Editors

Further details and Entries via BAWA website.

Information about all Upcoming Events is available on the WABC website.

South Perth Bridge Club

From Jan Howell

This year it was the turn of the SPBC to host the combined SPBC and Melville BC Masters in Teams of the event. As usual eligible players were either a member of SPBC or MBC with less than 150MPs.

We held it earlier in the year (on 23 February) in the hope that some players may enjoy teams so much that they would look to playing in other restricted teams events such as BAWA Inter-club Teams and the various restricted congresses held by other clubs. Time will tell if we have encouraged players into teams but on the day most players enjoyed their experience. There were sixteen teams with Masters from either club and we are again very grateful for them giving up their time for such a good cause.



Winners were 1st Eugene McClorey, Mavis Koay, **Jan Howell**, Sue Shadbolt with TD Jeannie Ravn



2nd Lyn Swersky, Pam Hawkins, **Jan Hey**, Bob Hawkins



3rd Gail Kerbel, Sharon Rothstein, Wendy Schragger and **Doreen Jones**

We had disappointing numbers playing in our usually popular Club Summer Teams held over two Wednesday afternoons early in March but nevertheless it was enjoyed by all.



1st Dave Munro, Doreen Jones, Cynthia Belonogoff (David Schokman)



2nd Gordon Dunlop, Sarita Singh, Mark O'Connor (Do Dean)

As I write this, we are two days into the ABF recommended closure of our club due to COVID-19. We had hoped that adopting the Health Dept recommended containment strategies would be sufficient to enable us to keep open. Many of our members rely on the social contact provided at the club, not to mention the mental stimulation. Closing was not our plan. So it was with a heavy

heart that the SP committee accepted the ABF recommendation. It is in the best interests of our health. Naturally this means that our Easter Congress is cancelled as well. Not sure when we will re-open but I imagine Day One will be very busy!



The ABF would like to bring all our players up to date on what steps we are taking to fight the coronavirus and what we are doing to try and assist all bridge players to be able to continue to enjoy some bridge in these difficult times. We are here for you 24/7 and we want to see it through together and it is important that we keep you informed on developments and that you stay in touch with us.

The management committee has been working very hard in difficult circumstances to try and provide guidance to clubs that will protect our members and the community.

There were many teleconferences between the President, Allison Stralow, who was in Seattle, Washington and the other members of the Management Committee scattered around Australia; Kim Frazer the Secretary in Melbourne, Roy Nixon the Treasurer in Canberra, Richard Wallis in Brisbane and Dallas Cooper in Tasmania. Guidance was also sought from our legal advisors and from our insurance brokers, TBIB insurance.

They were very conscious of their responsibility for the business and welfare of the clubs, state bodies, the congress organisers, the thousands who volunteer or work in Bridge around Australia and the health of all our 37,000 players and their families.

APBF

An extremely difficult decision was for the ABF to postpone the Asia Pacific Bridge Congress in Perth in April where we were hoping to get teams from

all over Asia, leading Australian teams and at least one team from the USA/Europe.

The ABF web site will keep you informed of any other major congresses that have to be cancelled. You should also visit your State web sites to see which congresses have been cancelled in your area.

Almost immediately after the recommended advice most ABF affiliated clubs seem to have followed the recommendation of the ABF and cancelled club games for the immediate future. This presents problems for many bridge clubs who have lost their revenue from members playing and yet still often have the ongoing cost of rent and overheads.

Finally, it leaves the 37,000 ABF registered players and thousands of others who also play in our bridge clubs without a club game which is an debilitating experience for most of us.

Though we initially had hoped that after a month we would be able to consider reopening again it now looks extremely unlikely as the number of people with the virus doubles every three days. The Prime Minister is talking at least six months and Dr Norman Swan on the ABC is suggesting up to 18 months. A glimmer of hope is that the Chinese may be on the road to recovery whilst the rest of the world goes into shut down and self-isolation.

Bridge Game Suggestions

As a result, the ABF is looking for ways to assist in giving you a bridge fix and here are some suggestions and contributions that we have been offered and others we are working on.

Ron Klinger



Ron Klinger, an Australian icon of the bridge world, has offered to provide a daily bridge column for **free** whilst the pandemic is on. This is an extraordinarily generous offer by Ron and the ABF will host the column on the ABF web site which will have a link on the front page for you to read it.

<http://www.abfevents.com.au/abfdbbc/>

Paul Marston



Paul Marston has won more than 50 national open titles, including 6 international pairs events and the Cavendish Teams twice. His books have sold more than 500,000 copies. He has been writing a weekly bridge column for the past 45 years and still writes for the Weekend Australian.

Paul is reproducing old columns of historical interest for his friends. They will be able to play the hands on Bridge Solver as well. If you would like to receive the columns just contact Paul at

<https://bridgelounge.online/free-subscription/>

Barbara Travis



Barbara Travis, one of Australia's leading players for many years and a bridge journalist, has also contributed a guide on how to set up 'pre-set' matches on BBO where you can compare yourself with the world's best. She has also started a paid weekly bridge column which can be found at

<http://www.bridgewithbarbara.com> which is excellent for club players as well as experts.

Joan Butts



Joan Butts, the ABF National Teaching Coordinator, has offered a one month's free access to her Online School of Bridge. To take advantage of this offer, go to

<https://www.joanbuttsbridge.com/join> and sign up as a Gold Member and use the code BRIDGE or for US players the code is BRIGEUS.

Online Bridge

Online Bridge – There are a number of online bridge clubs that already exist in Australia and Internationally where you can play with and against other players or robots. Here are a few suggestions but there are also others:

Stepbridge.com.au is an Australian NFP online bridge site that is affiliated with the South Australian Bridge Federation. It usually has one competition session a day at 8.00pm AEST or 4.00pm on Weekends with ABF Masterpoints just like any other bridge club in Australia. The current playing fees are basically \$3 a tournament game and once a month they hold a red masterpoint game. You can also play social bridge with no fees. Now they have added a second session each day at 1.00pm AEST.

Bridgebase.com or BBO is the biggest online bridge site in the world where you can play bridge, practice with partners or robots, test your play, challenge your friends and watch (kibitz) the best players in the world playing in tournaments. One can organise a game with friends or play anonymously for free with strangers or robots which you may find to be more friendly.

Funbridge.com has 400,000 members from 190 countries who play more than 800,000 deals a day. You can play at Funbridge.com even on your phone 24/7 at your own pace and pause a deal and resume it later. I am trying to organise a Funbridge Australia club that may be more suitable for many club players.

ABF Masterpoints - we are currently negotiating with BBO and Funbridge to establish Australian clubs that would hopefully offer ABF Masterpoints. I will keep you informed on the progress.

English Bridge Union (EBU) has regular daily games on Funbridge and BBO and Bridge Club Live has over 500 people playing a day now.

Online dating for bridge players – Several people have suggested an App that would match up people wanting to play in homes. So, if you are an

App builder and could come up with a simple but effective way of matching people in local communities please get in contact with me.

Social Distancing? Here's a Digital Care Package

Nick Fahrer has put together the following:
<https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/social-distancing-heres-a-digital-care-package/>

Contribute

Please contribute any suggestions you have on how we can improve the Bridge experience whilst clubs are closed.

Stay safe and healthy.

Peter Cox

petercox@ozemail.com.au or 0413676326

SATURDAY BRIDGE

West Australian Newspaper

Ed Note: The Bridge Column is back in the West Australian Saturday Weekend 2

BAWA President Nigel Dutton is writing a weekly column – it doesn't matter what level your game is this will be informative, educational and instructive - and at times tongue in cheek!



Led by Ron Klinger, 7 renowned bridge players will each contribute a column one day a week for a year. The column will be delivered by the ABF to your phone, tablet or computer.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Annual subscription plan \$52
Columns start March 1st 2019

www.ABF.com.au/Daily-Column

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Double Dilemma



By Ron Klinger

<http://www.RonKlingerBridge.com>

Improve Your Bridge Online

WEST Dealer | NS Vulnerable

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♣	1♠	X
3♠ (1)			

(1) Pre-emptive

Playing pairs, what would you do as North with:

- ♠ 54
- ♥ AJ
- ♦ A5
- ♣ AQJ6542

SOLUTION on page 23

West leads a trump to your 6♠ contract and East discards a club.

What now?

SOLUTION on page 23

Test Your Slam Play



By Bill Jacobs

bill.jacobs55@gmail.com

Dlr S
Vul All

♠ 98
♥ K63
♦ AJ765
♣ 743

♠ AKQJ103
♥ AQ72
♦ 4
♣ A6

♠
♥
♦
♣

N
W E
S

♠
♥
♦
♣

8
20

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

70% Results (Random search)

Albany

75.6 Ken Beatty and Ruhi Ferdowsian

Armada

72.7 Anne Conway and Trish Davis

Kalamunda

73.7 Wendy Brindle and Peter Jackson

71.9 Kit Lemann and Tom Lemann

Rockingham

70.5 Jane Ophorst and Joan Rickers

Willetton

75.0 Pauline Connor and Vijay Ahooja

Bunbury

71.4 Colleen Long and Murray Webber

Busselton

72.2 Diane Bishop and John Whiting

Melville

71.5 Valma Stewart and Maree Miliauskas

70.1 John Clarke and Wes Rudnicki

70.5 Laura Breen and Rob Breen

Undercroft

73.0 Peter Stephenson and Matthew Bampton

71.3 Jairo Giraldo and Satish Bedekar

Mandurah

74.0 Robina McConnell and Eugene Wichems

West Coast

71.3 Robin Rose and Geoff Friebe

WABC

71.9 Jonathan Free and Mimi Packer

70.6 Anne Siopis and Margie Tulloch

71.4 Jennifer Andrews and Susan Clements

Joondalup

70.8 David Wheaton and Rick Morris

70.1 Jacques Bellevret and Cathy Simmonds

From David Schokman



Ask, Analyse, Assess

By Di Brooks

Join the A.A.A Club!

The bidding has finished and you are now on lead. There is a standard for leads, Top of a Sequence, Top of an Inner Sequence, M.U.D. = Middle, Up, Down, if you don't hold an honour. Second highest from 4 cards of no value, 4th, 3rd and 5ths, whatever is your choice. Not to miss out on the lead of the fourth suit - the unbid suit.

The above are natural leads when defending No Trumps, whereas a Suit contract brings it's own set of choices for leads, a Trump, a Singleton, a Doubleton, or the one I like in particular, "Sheer panic"

Playing against a sequence of bidding that gives no info on the declaring sides suit holding, for example, 1NT, Pass, 3NT all pass, if you have nothing worthwhile to lead, play a spade. (We tend to try and find a trump fit if possible, therefore with Spades being the Master Suit, you may hit pay dirt in partner's hand)

The Ask, Analyse, Assess guide now comes into the formula.

Ask: What's their System. An important feature as Acol bids 4 card suits, but Standard and Precision show 5 card majors.

Analyse: The sequence of bidding. An opening of a Minor, with a 1NT response most likely states the responder doesn't hold a 4-card major. (Don't take this as absolute gospels as there are some players who will bid no trumps holding majors)

Assess: All the facts and make your lead.

Something else to take onboard, Partner's bidding or lack of. If you have made a bid and partner hasn't supported you, then maybe partner has a shortage in your suit.

If the opponents are in an asking bid sequence, take the opportunity to double a "False or Prepared" bid, if you hold that suit well.

And on that Note, I'll close, "Appy" Bridging ☺



WA at the CCG

(Photos courtesy of Jan Blight)



Test Your Slam Play

By Bill Jacobs

SOLUTION

Dlr	S		♠	98		
Vul	All		♥	K63		
			♦	AJ765		
			♣	743		
	♠	76542		N		♠ -
	♥	104				♥ J985
	♦	K32		W		♦ Q1098
	♣	KJ10			E	♣ Q9852
				S		
			♠	AKQJ103		
	8		♥	AQ72		
7		5	♦	4		
	20		♣	A6		

You could play on hearts now. That will work if they divide 3-3 or if West has 4 of them: you can trump your heart loser in dummy.

Given the 5-0 spade break, finding West with 4 hearts is unlikely. A better chance is to play for a squeeze on East: if East has long hearts and long diamonds, he can be brought under pressure.

Win the spade lead in your hand, play a diamond to the ace and another diamond from dummy, *discarding a club*.

Dlr S ♠

Vul All ♥ K63

♦ J7

♣

♠ 7

♥ 104

♦

♣ KJ

8

20

N

W

E

S

♠ 10

♥ AQ72

♦

♣

♠ J985

♥ Q

♦

♣

FOCUS WILL NOT BE PRINTED

Sadly, due to the current situation *Focus* will not be printed and distributed to clubs.

Please view on line – and clubs would you kindly take the time to print off a copy/copies for your members who do not have a computer – I am sure they would be so appreciative.

Linda Bedford-Brown Focus editor

East has no good discard.

The moral: A player very short in one suit is highly likely to be long in other suits!

Double Dilemma

By Ron Klinger

SOLUTION

The popularity of the pre-emptive jump-raise whether it is to an opening bid or to an over call requires counter-measures, particularly when 3NT might be in the picture.

Consider this auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	2♦	3♠ (1)	X

(1) Pre-emptive

What should South's double mean here? Best is for takeout and you could use it to show hearts and a game-going hand. Another option is to use the double to ask for a stopper in spades. That is a sensible usage. North-South had the chance to apply this notion on this deal from the final of a National Pairs event:

[illegible]

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♣	1♠	X
3♠ (1)	5♣	All Pass	

Lead: SA

With diamonds 3-3 and clubs 2-2, declarer made twelve tricks for +620, but that was worth only 9/26 match-points. North-South were not using the double here as a stopper ask. Had that been part of their armoury, North could have doubled 3S to ask for a spade stopper. South would bid 3NT and would make at least ten tricks (eleven after a spade lead) for a much better score.