


# wa bridge *focus*



# President's Report

I was told informally that the ABF would be making decisions about events, such as the GNOT Final in Tweed Heads, roughly a month before their due date. I thought that time frame seemed reasonable and will be suggesting to the BAWA MC that we do the same. So, look for a decision re the Swan River Swiss in late July.

I am sad to say that I don't think we will see the one person per four square metres indoor social distancing requirement being lifted anytime soon. Given it was one of the first restrictions to be imposed it will be one of the last to be lifted. Unfortunately for bridge we require around 6.25 m<sup>2</sup> per table which is around 1.6 m<sup>2</sup> per person. Furthermore, I can't think of a better medium of transmission than cards going from table to table. I hope I am wrong but given both of those issues along with our demographic, I think that we will be playing on-line for much of this year. I'm not sure outdoor bridge would be a viable alternative.

The ABF has organised for clubs to host games on BBO – details are on our web site. Step Bridge is another avenue that players are exploring. Step Bridge does involve some minor costs.

Not a perfect time but welcome to our latest affiliate club: The Bullcreek Bridge Club. More information later.

Stay well.

*Nigel Dutton*

## REGULAR FEATURES:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Around the Clubs by Linda Bedford-Brown .....</i> | <i>5</i>  |
| <i>The Entry Sentry by Ron Klinger.....</i>          | <i>14</i> |
| <i>Test Your Slam Play by Bill Jacobs.....</i>       | <i>14</i> |
| <i>In Iso by Di Brooks .....</i>                     | <i>18</i> |

## SPECIAL FEATURES:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Bridge Bushfire Support from David Burn .....</i> | <i>3</i>  |
| <i>Letter to the Club Managers.....</i>              | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Slam Bidding from Gerry Daly.....</i>             | <i>16</i> |

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Stay well  
Stay your distance  
Stay online!



## The Bridge Shop

In case you had not heard, here is a new venture with Nick Fahrner from the Bridge Shop in Sydney.

The website tells you all, so visit here at

<https://masterbridgeonline.com/>

So, from May we have games on Monday / Wednesday / Friday & Sunday all at 1:00pm.

If you wish to "express an interest" may I suggest completing the form -

<https://masterbridgeonline.com/express-your-interest/> so that I can follow up with any further information/

With best wishes and hope to see you at the bridge tables soon

John McIlrath

0437 274 343

## 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!



# COVID-19 Update

Allison Stralow - ABF President



I hope you are keeping well and continuing to stay safe during this Covid-19 period of uncertainty. It has been five weeks since the ABF recommended clubs close to protect our extremely high-risk clientele and to afford the highest level of health and safety to the members, their families and the wider community. Although it was a difficult decision for clubs, the response was phenomenal and I thank clubs for accepting the recommendation, which subsequently became a government mandate.

This period of closure of clubs is particularly difficult for a number of our more senior players who are isolated in their homes and remain separated from their families. I have been heartened to hear from some of these players that their club keeps in touch regularly simply by making a phone call to see how they are going or delivering shopping to the door. The knowledge that they are important to their bridge community has helped many players to feel connected, not isolated.

While a number of players have found on-line bridge, the bulk of club membership is focused on companionship and fellowship and players are keen to return to the bridge table. At this stage, the ABF, State and Territory organisations and clubs cannot predict when clubs can open again.

Although Australia is “flattening the curve” the Federal Government has imposed strict measures and restrictions that remain in place. States and Territories are also making decisions based on local circumstances. There are three elements that will influence how quickly restrictions will be lifted: testing, contact tracing and social distancing. The latter will undoubtedly be the largest obstacle for clubs.

State and Territory governments will make decisions to lift current restrictions on gatherings

at different times. We have already seen schools opening in some states and remaining closed in others. It will be up to State and Territory organisations and clubs to heed the advice of the government and consider the welfare of all staff and members before resuming sessions.

Stay safe and I look forward to hearing that you are back at the bridge table in the near future.



## Bridge Bushfire Support

From David Burn  
WA State Masterpoints Secretary

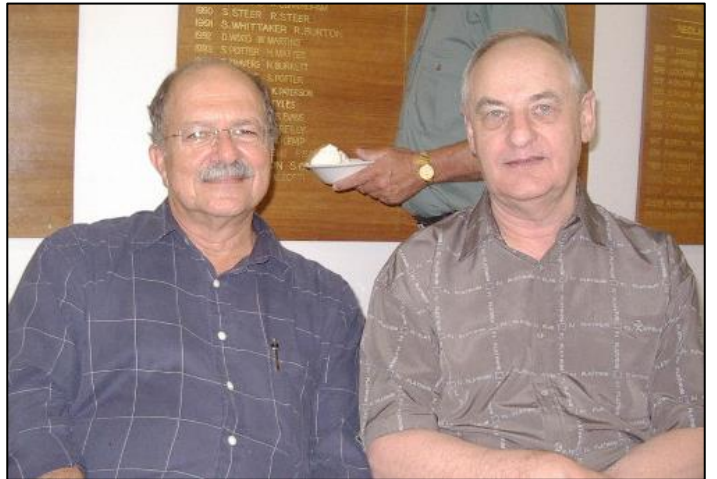
A total of 21 bridge clubs in Western Australia participated in the Bridge Bushfires Support initiative set up by the ABF. A total of \$21,128 was raised, and a total of 121.82 Red Points issued via the special ABF Charity Event Code. Charities receiving the donations included Blaze Aid, Wildlife Fund, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Kangaroo Island, Fire Disaster Relief and the NSW Regional Fire Service.

The bridge clubs that participated were: Albany, Bridgetown, Bunbury, Community, Denmark, Fremantle, Geraldton, Gosnells, Kalamunda, Kalgoorlie, Maccabi, Mandurah, Maylands, Melville, Nedlands, Rockingham, South Perth, Swan Districts, Village, Willetton, WABC. The Undercroft Bridge Club also intended to contribute, but unfortunately scheduled their proposed charity session for last week – the club was obliged to close their doors due to the Coronavirus restrictions, and were unable to hold their session before the programme’s expiry date on 31 March.

Anyway, I commend these clubs for their efforts, and we all hope that the contributions did assist the targeted charities in their efforts to support the victims of the disastrous bushfires.

*(Ed note: David Burn is the only state Masterpoint secretary to have sent a comprehensive report to ABF Marketing)*









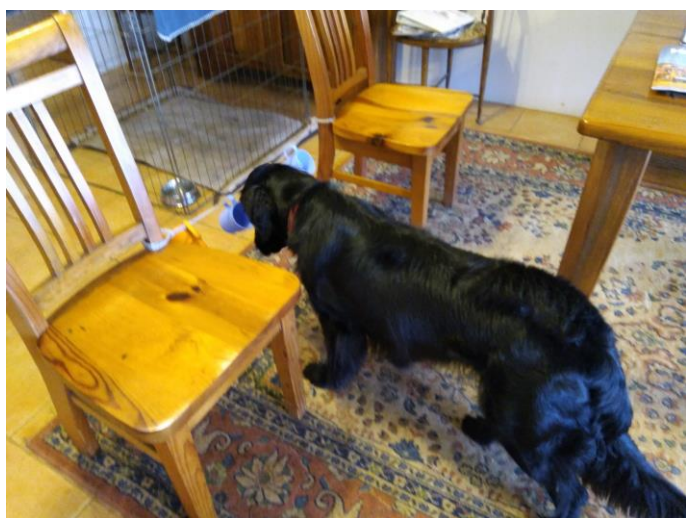
# Around the Clubs

By Linda Bedford-Brown

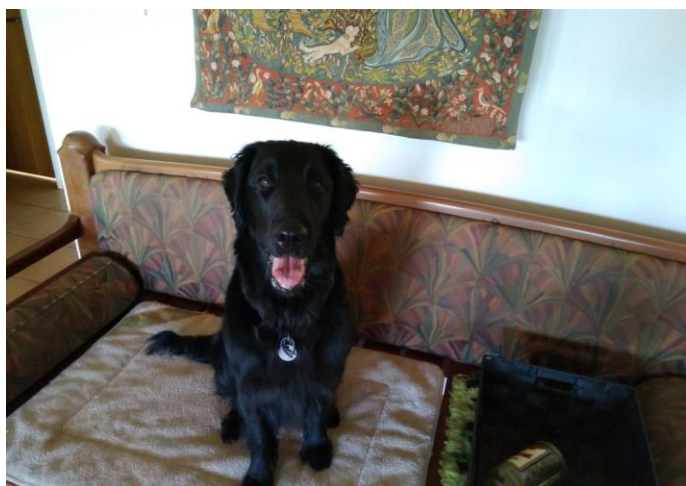
## Bridgetown Bridge Club

From Jan Burgess

Life has certainly changed and we are all doing our best to adjust to it! We were half way through our annual Club Championship event when we had to stop playing; so as soon as we can all get together again, we shall be able to play the final two rounds ... great suspense!



I've been teaching my energetic 2-year-old Flat Coated Retriever, Isabel, some tricks, as well as hiking along bush tracks with her every day. She actually won 1st prize in a fun competition run by a Flat Coat web site for her prowess in walking backwards ... whether to Christmas or not, I'm unsure!! We've also been doing "canine enrichment"



**Jenny Dewing**, one of our club members, who was awarded Active Citizen of the Year in 2015 at the Australia Day celebrations of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire.

We, at Bridgetown Bridge Club, are very proud of one of our members, Jenny Dewing. At the Shire Breakfast on Australia Day, the Shire President presented the Award for the Active Citizen of 2015 to Jenny in recognition of her outstanding contribution over many years to the community. The variety and extent of Jenny's involvement includes -

- Captain of the Kangaroo Gully Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
- Member and Treasurer of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Friends of the Forest
- Treasurer of the Blackwood Environment Society
- Bridgetown-Greenbushes Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Chair of the Bridgetown Railway Station Management Group
- Foundation Member, Bridgetown-Greenbushes Small Landholders Group

As part of her work with the Bushfire Brigade, Jenny has organised seminars to assist the community in making their homes as fire safe as

possible, so important in rural areas like ours; in addition, she has been instrumental in growing the brigade into an effective and responsive unit, ready to attend all bush fire emergencies. Her role in the protection of the environment for future generations to enjoy has also been a critical and active one over a long period of time.

In her acceptance speech, Jenny acknowledged her pleasure that a conservationist had been chosen for the Award. She said her passion is looking after natural areas – the Blackwood River, Shire reserves, the forest greenbelt around Bridgetown and the bush remnants on private property - and just about all her community work relates to looking after these natural areas; whether it's educating landholders about land management issues, rehabilitating bushland, controlling weeds and ferals, fighting bush fires. "The landscape of the Blackwood Valley is my sense of place." She encouraged others to contribute their skills and talents to the community and work for the common good. "Let's focus on our best qualities – and put care, kindness and generosity into all aspects of community life. Let us focus on putting community first, not self."

At our club session the following evening, we celebrated Jenny's achievements and congratulated her on her Award ..... and at coffee time we all enjoyed a delicious cheese cake specially made for the occasion by our President, Patricia Rodgers! And finally, despite her energy and commitment being focused on so many different areas, Jenny and her husband, Mick, are still up to the challenge and concentration of regularly winning at bridge!

## Maccabi Bridge Club

From Luba Klein

*(Archive article - Maccabi Bridge Club by Rachel Krasenstein)*

The grass root of the Maccabi Bridge Club was probably sewn the back yard shed belonging to Yossi and Deidre Greenfeld. Here they started bridge lessons with Charlie Frugte and had to invite a neighbour to make up the foursome. Then a group of friends would get together to play in each other's homes for social evenings. From these evenings the idea of a bridge club was born.

In May 1971 Yossi called a meeting at his home to discuss the possibility of starting a duplicate

bridge club. Those at the first meeting were Shuli and Brian Jones, Shira Shilbury, Deb and Wally Rosman, Esther and David Finkelstein, Shirley and Robert Masel, Bella and Leon Zeitlin, Eric Samuel and Betty and David Feldman. They invited Jack Lever for advice. Jack, a State Representative at the time was instrumental in the forming of the club. It was decided to form a club with the AGM to take place in June 1971. Yossi was elected President and Eric Samuel Secretary. The nomination fee was set at \$2.00, the annual fee \$5.00 and students were to pay half price.

Jack approached Maccabi WA (the Jewish Sporting Body) regarding affiliation and asked for their support. They allowed us to use the Maccabi Hall on Wednesday evenings, but gave no other financial assistance. Twelve tables were purchased and Jack managed to borrow three sets of boards and cards from WABC. After the inaugural meeting there was a short play session of nine tables ..... and so was born the Maccabi Bridge Club with Jack Lever as Director.

In 1975 Mike Hopper directed our first congress and the following year, Lii Soots took over and gave us the benefit of her vast experience and excellent services, which she continued for many years.

The first Monday afternoon session began in 1982. Alan Routman ran a six table Mitchell in the Sportsman's Lounge at the Jewish Centre. The caretaker supplied toasted sandwiches for a treat. Alan was master-point's secretary for fourteen years and always did his best to help the club.

Over the years we have had several moves within the same complex before establishing ourselves in the Function Centre and finally about 4 years ago, we moved to the Gordon Bloomfield Hall.

Our club at its peak usually had 20 to 24 tables – this is now 12 to 15 tables. We have had many Life Members over the years who continued to play reaching over 100 and at the present time we have a few that are 90 and some reaching the age of 95.

## EDITING OF MATERIAL

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





2001 Joan Touyz and Shira Shilbury

For a small club we are extremely proud of the high proportion of our members who have represented the State over many years. The first Maccabi member to win a National Championship was Debbie Frankel partnered by Ruth Hansen in 1978.



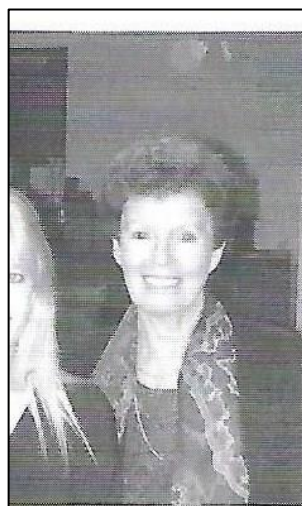
Catherine Wright, Joan Touyz, Linda King, Val Cummings, Candice Feitelson and Shira Shilbury – 2002 Australian Bridge Magazine

## BAWA AFFILIATED BRIDGE CLUBS

*Focus* will print details of your congress or red point events. All you have to do is email the full details before the **20th** of each month to be included in the following month's issue.

**Send to Linda Bedford-Brown**

[bedfords@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bedfords@bigpond.net.au)



(rhymes with house!),  
son, Shira Shilbury

Joan Touyz and Shirra Shilbury (both from Perth) who won the Women's playoffs have been playing together for almost 5 years. They have tasted some success at the State level representing WA twice at ANCs in Perth and Canberra. They use

Standard bidding methods. Joan enjoyed bridge success in South Africa (3 wins in the Currie Cup) prior to moving to WA. Before forming her partnership with Joan, Shirra played with success for almost 20 years with Deirdre Greenfeld. Linda King and Catherine Wright are from Sydney and helped NSW to win the women's teams at the 2000 ANC in Brisbane. They use Acol bidding methods. Linda's husband Nick Fahrner is the proprietor of *The Bridge Shop* in Willoughby, Sydney.



(Photo courtesy of Deb Frankel – taken 2001)

Deidre Greenfeld and Shira Shilbury have been particularly prominent and were part of the team that won W A its first Women's ANC Team Championship in 1988. And in 1995 with Debbie



Frankel and Doreen Jones in the team, W A won again. Shira Shilbury and Joan Touyz won the National Women's Pairs in 2001 and were selected to play in the 2002 Australian Pacific Women's Teams in Bangkok. There are many other events up to the present time where our members played for W A and for Australia.

Maccabi Bridge Club is a foundation member of the Bridge Association of WA, WHICH WAS FORMED IN 1975. Yossi Greenfeld who was a part of Maccabi Bridge Club since its inception, served as President and Treasurer of that association from 1980 – 1994 and was Treasurer of the Australian Bridge Federation going on to become President from 1994 – 1998.

*Rachel Krasenstein who wrote this article probably 17 years ago - now in her 95<sup>th</sup> year - worked tirelessly for the club.*

To honour Yossi, the recent worldwide Asia Pacific Bridge Federation – Open Event -The Joseph Greenfeld Congress to be held in Perth, was cancelled because of Corona.

We have had excellent Tournament Directors and when John Beddow resigned some 5 ago, Louis Klein has been doing Tournament Directing and Masterpoints. The club has had hard working Presidents, and since Deidre Greenfeld resigned some 2 years, Luba Klein took on the position of President, and has worked tirelessly for the Club in many roles from committee member, Secretary and Vice President and President.

Before Corona appeared on our doorsteps, the Club was working hard to attract new members and Fiske Warren did a course called "Improve Your Bridge" and we were planning to have Fiske do a course for Beginners.

So now we wait to see what and when Bridge Clubs will reopen.

We play on Mondays 11.30am to 2.30pm. and welcome visitors and new members

## Geraldton Bridge Club

From Heather Cupitt

On the last day we played at the Club we celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays of Rae Reynolds and Olga Criddle and the 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday of Richard Bailey.



We also competed in the Nationwide Pairs and Wayne and Heather Cupitt had one of those rare and wonderful days when everything went right, and their score at the Club was 75%. This was good enough to top the small field of only 114 pairs, as this was also the last event held before lockdown.

Our Congress has been cancelled for this year, but we hope when you are able to drive north again you will come to the Club.

## Nedlands Bridge Club

From Linda Bedford-Brown

The Corona virus may have dampened our attending the bridge club but the committee has not been idle and taken advantage of the closure to undertake updates.



The bar area has seen some major refurbishment – new ceiling, painting and carpeting.

As I write the main playing and anti-rooms have had the carpets pulled up, painting begins early May plus installation of acoustic treatment. Upgrading of the office area is also underway.

Ready for the fresh start! See you then.



## West Australian Bridge Club

From Jan McNab

West Australian Bridge Club was not alone when the decision was made at the March Management Committee meeting to close the Club until further notice due to distressing information being advanced about the Covid 19 outbreak. Within days of this decision, directions were issued by the government preventing large groups of people to gather in one place and as we know, each day following resulted in further restrictions.

Regretfully, the WABC Winter Super Congress 2020 has been cancelled due to uncertainty over the coming months, with other events in jeopardy unless Government restrictions are eased. Our annual Charity Day, due to be played on 1st May, has been postponed but it is hoped that a suitable day can be arranged later in the year.

WABC Restricted Swiss Pairs Open event, the Handicap Pairs Championship and the GNOT heats have been cancelled.

It will be disappointing for many players to hear the news that the ABF have already cancelled the Australian National Championships due to be played in Adelaide in July. Let us hope that bridge clubs in general will be able to operate before that time.

Other upcoming events on the calendar such as the Novice Pairs Championship for players with less than 50 points, programmed for June 12 and 19 and WABC Masters in Teams of 3 open competition planned for Sunday, 28 June, will depend on possible lifting of restrictions by the government.

Meanwhile, our efficient and innovative Executive Officer, Sheenagh Young, has been continuously updating our members and sharing ideas, including excellent websites to help our members maintain skills, improve their knowledge, and at the same time enjoy a game of bridge online. She also advises that there are a variety of lessons and quizzes on You Tube, including a link to Bernard McGee's videos, while Pianola also provide some interesting features including Online bridge accounts for those involved with BBO and Bridge Club Live.

In the meantime, thanks to Sheenagh and the cleaning team, a lonely but pristine clubhouse is awaiting the return of our dedicated members and visitors.

Wishing all our Members and fellow bridge players' good health as we await the opening of our Clubs later in the year.

## West Coast Bridge Club

From Hilary Heptinstall

We have all missed our regular bridge at West Coast Bridge Club but the committee have taken the opportunity to do some maintenance work and have replaced the ceiling in the directors' room.



*Lottie Oswald proudly displaying her promotion certificate in 2012*

Our much - loved member of many years, Lottie Oswald, died on April 10 this year at the age of 101. She played bridge at the Club until her late nineties and maintained contact with our members, many of whom attended her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party in 2018.



*Members of West Coast Bridge Club at Lottie's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

We were also very sorry to hear of the death of our very popular member, Peter Danzi, this month and send our deepest sympathy to his family.







Play Bridge with Bridge Base Online at [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)



Have fun and play with Bridge friends • earn masterpoints • it's easy to learn BBO

## Dear Club Managers

We know that the shutdown of bridge clubs has been very tough on your members and the financial viability of your club. The ABF has been working hard with BBO to create an online game for your bridge club that will:

- Enable your members to play with their friends in your virtual club, socialise and have fun
- Create a way for your club to receive income whilst the club is closed to contribute towards your overhead costs
- Allow your members to continue to earn masterpoints and grow their Masterpoint Ranking
- Encourage your members to support their club by paying a small entry fee
- Winning your members loyalty to return when the clubs open again

The ABF Club Games is your private club allowing you to host games for members and guests. For instance, you may like to invite players from nearby clubs who are unable or are not yet running online games. You can organise as many games a week as determined by player demand, what time they are played and the format.

Your members and guests will pay from about \$2.50 for 12 board games up to \$5 for 24 board games to BBO online. The players will earn Green Masterpoints for being in the top half of the field as they would when playing physically in the club.

The clubs will receive a share of revenue which will be distributed from BBO via the ABF. The financial arrangements will be provided in a separate document to the clubs that are interested in hosting ABF Club games.

The club will either need a Director who is an experienced BBO player or share a game with another club that has a suitable director.

### **However, please note the following points you need to consider when deciding to host ABF Club Games:**

- If you are not confident that you will be able to get 6 tables for each of the games then perhaps wait until more of your members have become accustomed to playing on BBO and want to play
- Creating and running these online games requires some computer knowledge and skills
- Your director needs to be comfortable and preferably experienced as a BBO player to navigate BBO. If you would like some additional help tutorials may be found here
- The provision of training and assistance for inexperienced BBO Directors may, for some clubs, be a necessary pre-requisite.
- The ABF will review your application and schedule clubs to be brought online as soon as BBO can accommodate them
- The larger clubs are expected to be the first to set up ABF Club games as they are more likely to have the technical and directing capabilities
- **Even though you may decide not to host tournaments, there will still be games available for your members who wish to play online.**
- We are aiming to provide an option for smaller clubs to jointly run games perhaps in regional sessions.

**If you are interested in running ABF Club Games then please follow these steps:**

1. The club needs to fill out this form to express an interest (EOI) in hosting BBO club sessions.
  2. **The next MOST IMPORTANT step is the players new to BBO must register with BBO to obtain a BBO Username and Password**
  3. In order to be awarded Masterpoints, and to play in ABF Regional, State or National BBO tournaments, players need to record their BBO name on the ABF database. How this is to be done will depend on whether they have already registered to receive ABF emails (eg. SMS results service, ABF Newsletter, upcoming announcements).
- a) If they are not yet registered:  
<http://www.abfevents.com.au/forms/signup/>  
 This is the link "Get email updates" on the ABF Home Page. They need to enter their ABF number, name, email address and BBO username. They can also sign up for other ABF services at the same time if they wish.
- b) If they have already registered: Everyone on the ABF mailing list will shortly receive or will have received an email inviting them to register their BBO username. They will then receive another email giving them the option of entering their BBO name. (This apparent "doubling up" is for security purposes.)

#### **Suggestions for clubs getting ready to host BBO sessions**

- Get your directors familiar with BBO and to read this document  
[https://doc.bridgebase.com/Help/Guide\\_for\\_BBO\\_TDs.pdf](https://doc.bridgebase.com/Help/Guide_for_BBO_TDs.pdf)
- Get your players signed up on BBO, send their BBO username to the ABF and start developing your database
- <https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/>
- Introduction to Playing Bridge Online by Jessica Brake
- Get them familiar with How to register for a Bridge Base Tournament
- Read BBO protocols for Alerting, Chatting and Calling The director
- Ask for volunteers from your members who are experienced players on BBO to assist other club members to learn how to play on BBO

Remember the more members you teach and play in your virtual online game the more income you will create for your club

Here are some great YouTube videos for those new to BBO

**<https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9lOXJf9R9em-kAdxhUGxQniqZJm1PpCl>**

If you have any questions please contact Peter Cox on 0413 676 326 or at [petercox@ozemail.com.au](mailto:petercox@ozemail.com.au)



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By Bill Jacobs  
[bill.jacobs55@gmail.com](mailto:bill.jacobs55@gmail.com)

SOUTH Dealer | BOTH Vulnerable

♠ A1062

♥ KQ4

♦ 9

♣ 97654

♠

♥

♦

♣

9

16

♠ N

♥ W

♦ E

♣ S

♠ 85

♥ AJ8

♦ AQ754

♣ KQ8

Dlr S

Vul All

♠ KQ

♥ A9

♦ K8643

♣ AQ92

♠

♥

♦

♣

18

16

♠ N

♥ W

♦ E

♣ S

♠ A82

♥ KQ7

♦ AQ2

♣ J653

| WEST | NORTH | EAST     | SOUTH   |
|------|-------|----------|---------|
|      |       |          | 1♦ (1)  |
| Pass | 1♠    | Pass     | 1NT (2) |
| Pass | 3NT   | All Pass |         |

- (1) Playing a weak 1NT opening
- (2) 15-17 points, balanced

West leads the H5. You win with the HK in dummy and continue with the C4: ten – king – three. How do you continue?

**SOLUTION on page 19**

| WEST | NORTH | EAST     | SOUTH |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
|      |       |          | 1NT   |
| Pass | 6NT   | All Pass |       |

West leads ♠J. You win and cash the ace and queen of diamonds, but East discards a spade on the second round.

If the clubs are good for 3 tricks, you still have your contract: 3 tricks in each suit. But with your luck, the clubs are foul as well.

So, what do you do?

**SOLUTION on page 19**







# The Glass is Half Full

From Gerry Daly

At nil vs vul what would you bid with this hand in second seat after a 1H opening by RHO?

♠ T5  
♥ AQ5  
♦ AQJT84  
♣ J9

So much has happened in these crazy times that it seems like forever since I was last at a bridge table. I'm writing this from my solitary confinement in early April so in fact it has only been 5 weeks since many of us were competing in The Gold Coast congress. Back then CV19 was becoming an issue in Italy and the stock market was getting jittery. I was due to head off on long service leave the following week on a three week cruise followed by another 3 weeks in Europe. Among the conversation topics at our team dinner was travel plans and one of my team mates quipped that I was definitely "a glass half full type of guy" in light of my intention to proceed.

When Linda requested an article for Focus I decided to look through some hands from The Ivy Dahler Swiss pairs with that theme in mind.

This event is an imps Swiss pairs with 10 X 8 board rounds and had 109 pairs in each field. You certainly need to grasp all opportunities for imps to scramble into the top placings. I was playing the event with Trevor Fuller. This is a hand where an optimistic outlook supported with sound hand evaluation yielded imps.

|     |    |   |        |   |      |   |        |
|-----|----|---|--------|---|------|---|--------|
| Brd | 21 | ♠ | J84    |   |      | ♠ | T5     |
| Dlr | N  | ♥ | K98642 |   |      | ♥ | AQ5    |
| Vul | NS | ♦ | 2      |   |      | ♦ | AQJT84 |
|     |    | ♣ | AK5    |   |      | ♣ | J9     |
|     |    | ♠ | AK76   |   | N    |   |        |
|     |    | ♥ | J      | W |      | E |        |
|     |    | ♦ | 9753   |   |      |   |        |
|     |    | ♣ | T874   |   | S    |   |        |
|     |    |   |        | ♠ | Q932 |   |        |
|     | 11 |   |        | ♥ | T73  |   |        |
| 8   |    |   |        | ♦ | K6   |   |        |
|     | 7  |   |        | ♣ | Q632 |   |        |

We found our way to a very light 3NT for a 6 imp pickup. 20 pairs out of 109 got there.

Our sequence was

1H, 1NT, P, 2C, P, 2D, P, 2S, P, 3D, P, 3NT

The East hand is one HCP short of a standard 15-18 overcall and lacks black stoppers but has other compensating factors. With the long and semisolid diamond suit and two heart stoppers (=tricks) you can see a relatively easy route to 9 tricks with a little help from partner. It has also some intermediate cards which bring value in NT contracts. 2C was a range and shape enquiry and 2D confessed to low end of the range. 2S was a proposition to play and 3D was a suggested improvement. Despite being on the low end of his range Trevor could see that 3NT was a reasonable proposition with the big diamond fit. Even the ugly singleton JH could be useful in bolstering a slow second stopper in my hand. As it happened the game was an easy make and even the J9 of clubs pulled weight as a stopper in that suit.

Optimistic assessment is well and good but it does need to be based on sound judgement. As for the travel plans ..... if I had less of the former and more of the latter, I might be out enjoying the fresh air now rather than being locked up in hotel quarantine!











# In Iso

By Di Brooks

Today's World, what can one say, one bug or two and the whole World is in lockdown. (Jolly good thing too). We all have plenty of time on our hands, no socialising, entertaining or whizzing across town, country or abroad. Now here comes the vital question... What have I done in my spare time? Well, I've cleared out my larder, upgraded containers, cleaned out cobwebs, (Yes, there were many), and now my pantry looks clean and bright and you can actually find what you seek. Next the fridge - if there was any source of bacteria, it was definitely hiding there even growing, sprouting shoots. So, with hot soapy water and lemon essence, the place is spotless and smells beautiful. The next project is my office. Oh, Lord, where do I start? More to the point, when do I start?

Knitting, crocheting and craft work have been put on the back burner, but the green thumb is itching. I found a tin with umpteen packets of seeds, dates years old, but nonetheless, some are still fertile. Rocket, radishes and cucumber are thriving but the chives are struggling. (If we had to grow only what we could eat I'm afraid Hubby and I would starve)

I researched the internet for recipes and came up with an easy one for bread rolls!!!!!! I emphasise this because the actual result was **SCONES**, fresh and tasty when covered with lashings of strawberry jam. (No cream for me as I'm allergic but natural yoghurt makes up for other toppings). So for those who would like to try the recipe it's thus:-

Makes 6 nice size scones

- 1 Cup of S.R. Flour
- 2 Tablespoons of Mayonnaise (I kid you not)
- 1 teaspoon of baking powder
- Milk for liquid

Add the dry ingredients, then the mayonnaise, stir in, adding milk till the mixture is a nice dough. No need to roll out. Just place individually in a greased dish/tin and bake at 180 degrees for 15 minutes.

I am making savoury scones next, using cayenne pepper and parmesan cheese. I'll report on the outcome later.

Another nice recipe, again gleaned from the Web:  
**COCONUT MACAROONS**, 3 ingredients

- 14oz Sweetened Flaked Coconut
- 14oz tin of condensed milk
- 1 tbsp Vanilla essence for taste

Mix all items together

Place on a tray lined with greaseproof paper. Makes approx 40 small macaroons

Place in oven for 10 minutes, about 175-180 degrees. Cool 5 mins on tray before putting onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Recipe says only 60 calories for each biscuit.

(Enjoy the macaroons plain, or if desired, dip the completely cooled macaroons in any variety of melted chocolate then return them to the baking sheet to allow the chocolate to harden)

Happy whatever(s) to everyone! ☺





## Test Your Slam Play

By Bill Jacobs

## SOLUTION

|     |         |   |         |         |
|-----|---------|---|---------|---------|
| Dlr | S       |   | ♠ KQ    |         |
| Vul | All     |   | ♥ A9    |         |
|     |         |   | ♦ K8643 |         |
|     |         |   | ♣ AQ92  |         |
|     | ♠ J1094 |   | N       | ♠ 7653  |
|     | ♥ J853  |   | W       | ♥ 10642 |
|     | ♦ J1075 |   | E       | ♦ 9     |
|     | ♣ 4     |   | S       | ♣ K1087 |
|     |         |   | ♠ A82   |         |
|     | 18      |   | ♥ KQ7   |         |
| 3   |         | 3 | ♦ AQ2   |         |
|     | 16      |   | ♣ J653  |         |

If clubs are 3-2, there's no problem setting up three tricks there. You can also handle any bad club break with 100% certainty.

Lead to the ♣A and then play a small club from dummy. If East shows out, you can subsequently finesse against West's ♣10.

More likely, West is short in clubs. East will have to play low on the second round of the suit (otherwise he concedes three club tricks), and your jack will win.

Having snaffled a second club trick, return to the diamonds, playing a third and fourth round. West wins but has no clubs to play. Your contract is safe with 3 spades, 3 hearts, 4 diamonds and 2 clubs.

**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*

## The Entry Sentry

By Ron Klinger

## SOLUTION

### From a National Swiss Pairs:

|     |     |        |   |       |   |   |       |
|-----|-----|--------|---|-------|---|---|-------|
| Dlr | S   |        | ♠ | A1062 |   |   |       |
| Vul | All |        | ♥ | KQ4   |   |   |       |
|     |     |        | ♦ | 9     |   |   |       |
|     |     |        | ♣ | 97654 |   |   |       |
|     | ♠   | Q73    |   | N     |   | ♠ | KJ94  |
|     | ♥   | 752    |   |       |   | ♥ | 10963 |
|     | ♦   | J10862 | W |       | E | ♦ | K3    |
|     | ♣   | 32     |   | S     |   | ♣ | AJ10  |
|     |     |        | ♠ | A1062 |   |   |       |
|     |     | 9      | ♥ | KQ4   |   |   |       |
| 3   |     |        | ♦ | 9     |   |   |       |
|     |     | 12     | ♣ | 97654 |   |   |       |
|     |     | 16     |   |       |   |   |       |

At the table, after H5 lead taken by the HK and the C4: ten – king – three, declarer played the HJ to the HQ at trick 3 and led another club. East took the ace and shifted to the SK. With the clubs still blocked, the spade continuation drove out the entry to dummy and the contract failed.

Did you consider a low club from hand at trick 2? That fares even worse as East wins with the CJ and again drives out the SA.

After the heart lead taken by the king and a club to the king, declarer should play a spade to the ace and lead another club. East can duck or win with the ace, but declarer is assured of having an entry in dummy to enjoy the clubs.

While the spade play leaves declarer open in spades, it is unlikely that the defenders will be able to take four spade tricks. If the spades are 4-3, declarer can lose only three spades and if they are 5-2, declarer is also all right if one of the defenders holds honour-doubleton. The tip is to retain the entry to dummy which the opponents cannot easily dislodge.

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