

## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2015

### From the President

I have been sitting in front of the computer for some time trying to think about what I could write for the newsletter. My mind has remained stubbornly blank!! What would members find interesting? Perhaps just a few snippets of miscellaneous information? Thank heavens I am not a journalist with daily deadlines, when I have trouble meeting a deadline for a newsletter which is published every three months.

I would like to congratulate those newer members with less bridge experience who are entering congresses and our major competitions. I can remember the first congress I entered and what a daunting experience it was. In the first match of the first teams event I entered I seem to remember we got beaten with a -35 IMPS score and were promptly moved to nearly the last table for the second match, while our opponents sat at Table 1. Despite knocks to the ego like this you just have to keep doing your best and try not to make too many silly mistakes. Bridge is such a constant challenge we keep coming back for more. There is still time for you to enter the Club Teams Championship on Saturday, April 11. The \$15 entry fee includes pizza at the end of the day so get a team together and have a go!



Through the City of Mandurah, we have submitted an application to Lotterywest for funding for our building project to move the office to the southern end of the verandah and enclose the northern end as a social area. After a meeting with a Lotterywest grants advisor and liaison with the City, it was determined that the application would need to come from the City since they own the building. We have done all the

paperwork, filled in the forms, obtained referees and lodged all required documents with the City of Mandurah who will now submit the application on our behalf, providing it is approved by the elected members of council.

I would also like to mention the quiet work behind the scenes of our Welfare Officer, Wendy Blakely. Wendy has visited many of our members who have

been unwell, in their homes, in hospital and in palliative care. She has provided support to family members and always tries to keep me informed about members who are ill. Please let Wendy know if you hear about a member's illness.

This ends my collection of snippets of information. If members want me to write about other matters in the next newsletter, please let me know, then perhaps I won't spend so much time staring at a blank screen.

Ann Shalders.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>APRIL</b>	Jackpot Week	Beginning Monday 6th
	Restricted Red Point Pairs	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>
	Club Teams Championship (Full day)	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>MAY</b>	Bridge for Brains	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>
	Best 3 out of 4 (Monday)	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> .
	GNOT Qualifying Rounds	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>
	AGM	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> at 12:00
	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> at 10:30am
	Australia-Wide Novice Pairs	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>JUNE</b>	Handicap Pairs Championship	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>
	Best 3 out of 4 (Friday)	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>

# CLUB NEWS

## AGM – Wednesday 20 May – 12 noon

The Annual General Meeting will be held this year on Wednesday, 20 May at 12 noon. All Management Committee positions will be declared vacant. Nomination forms for these positions will be available from the Secretary, Bev Ford, after the April 9 committee meeting. Nominations close two weeks before the AGM so need to be returned to the Secretary by Wednesday 6 May.

Members who have listed their email addresses will be provided with the following by email on 20 April: Notice of meeting, Nomination form, Minutes of 2014 AGM, President's report for the current year and a financial report for the current year. Members not on email will receive by post a notice of meeting and a nomination form, posted on 20 April.

Bev Ford, Secretary. Email: [bevford@westnet.com.au](mailto:bevford@westnet.com.au)

## Membership

This month the club welcomed five new members all of whom have just completed a course of lessons run by the club. We wish them many happy and successful years of Bridge play.

The Duty Partner scheme is running very well. The Club currently has 27 members volunteering their time to come along as a standby partner. By their attendance they have certainly encouraged more members to come along for an impromptu game.

The membership Database is currently being updated, as annual subscriptions are still being finalised.

Seventeen members have resigned this year. Most of the resignations received were because of health related problems.

Total club membership for the start of the financial year will be 265. This includes our new members recently graduating from lessons.

Happy bridging everyone.

Liz Vince, Membership Secretary

## Director's Corner

### Pianola

Most members would be aware that the Club now subscribes to the Pianola Bridge Management system. Whilst the system provides exceptional member management and communication tools for the Committee and particularly the Masterpoints & Membership Secretary, it has specific benefits for members as well.

A lot of our members are taking advantage of these benefits (at the time writing 110 were logged on to their accounts) but if you are not one of these why not create an account and take advantage of the many benefits including a new insight into your performance at the table and new ways to find a partner.

Major enhancements have just been made to the software that provide additional benefits for players - whilst the basic benefits remain free to all members there are additional options that are now available by way of a monthly or yearly subscription.

### Fouled Boards

Recently we have had a spate of boards being fouled at the table that have distorted the results of our sessions. When a board arrives at the next and subsequent table in a fouled condition (one or more cards in the wrong pocket) the remaining players are denied the opportunity of playing the hand the same way as those who played the board before it was fouled.

In such cases the Director has to either award an adjusted score of 60% to both sides or if sufficient tables played the board in the fouled condition score those tables separately. With either of these methods it is obvious that the session scores are unlikely to be what they would have been had the fouling not have occurred.

The surest way to avoid this happening is to make sure that the board is always maintained in the correct North South orientation before, during and after play and not to remove the cards from the board once they have been returned to their correct pockets.

Neville Walker, Convener

Sadly, during the first quarter of 2015 we have farewelled three very popular, loyal members: Christian Mahl, Margaret McGrellis and Ron Keen. Over the years the Club has appreciated their contributions and our thoughts are with their families and friends.

## Calling the Director

The game of bridge is fiercely competitive and players will use all their knowledge and experience to their advantage. Their objective is to get the best possible score on the boards played.

The role of the Director is one of a referee who is there to ensure that the rules of etiquette, bidding and play are adhered to by both sides, in other words to ensure a level playing field.

Players should be cautious about accepting comments and rulings from anyone other than the Director, and should not hesitate to call the Director over any issue at the table.

The Club has two Recorders whose role is one of unofficial mediator where members feel that a breach of ethics or propriety has occurred, and perhaps issues unrelated to the laws of bridge. However, the laws of bridge do cover all these issues and members are encouraged to call the Director immediately. The time when any inappropriate behaviour or dispute occurs is the best time for it to be dealt with.

Ian Jones

## Online Bridge

Nearly everybody today has a computer in one form or another, whether it be a desktop, laptop, tablet or ipad. There are a large number of web sites which offer online play as well as lessons, hints and tips. Mandurah Bridge Club is presently using the Joan Butts method for their lessons so her website, [joanbuttsbridge.com](http://joanbuttsbridge.com), is a valuable tool. The site [bridgebase.com](http://bridgebase.com) is well known. Bridgebase provides opportunities to play on line both as an observer and a participator. It also offers two free teaching programs, beginners and intermediate, which give step by step instructions as well as practise hands.

Another interesting site is [vubridge.com](http://vubridge.com). This site provides practise hands at various levels and provides explanation for aspects of card play. One I discovered for ipad is the Shark Bridge ap. This is a free download and provides practise hands as well as the opportunity to play on line. However, whilst online bridge can fill in a spare moment, there is nothing like playing with a real partner against real opponents.

## Bridge Books

The Club has a comprehensive library of excellent books covering all levels of bridge. The book trolley is normally accessible during bridge sessions and you can contact the Director or our librarians, Denise Sampson and Gudrun Kemmer if it is not available.

You will need to fill in a borrowing card and pay a \$1 fee for each book borrowed. Books can be kept for up to three weeks.

## Volunteer Partners

The Club has a policy that anyone can come along on any weekday (Monday to Friday) without a partner, and always get a game of bridge.

Our volunteer partners give up an afternoon to make up a pair to play bridge, and we are very grateful for their support. Undoubtedly they have enabled more people to have a game as our playing numbers have grown. In return all volunteers receive a voucher which offers them a free game on a subsequent date, and if they play on their allocated volunteer day they play for free.

If you would like to volunteer on any weekday, please contact Liz Vince our Membership Secretary.

## Welfare – Keeping in Touch

Wendy Blakely is our Welfare Officer and she does a sterling job in keeping in touch with members who experience health issues.

We are reliant on members keeping us in touch with people who are ill and would ask all members to keep Wendy, Bev Ford our Secretary or any Committee member informed. The Club does like to keep in touch with members and send cards where appropriate.

Wendy Blakely, Welfare Officer, at [wblakely@tpg.com.au](mailto:wblakely@tpg.com.au) Phone: 9581 3681

Bev Ford, Secretary, at [bevford@westnet.com.au](mailto:bevford@westnet.com.au) Phone: 9582 0076

## Birthday Celebrations



*One of our members Noel Munyard turned 90 years of age in February and celebrations at the club included a beautiful birthday cake and champagne. Noel is a regular bridge player and is seen here cutting the cake*



## Competitions

The **Summer Congress** was a great success, with Convenor Neville Walker, assisted by Jean Field, directing 40 tables each day over the weekend of 31<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February. The Swiss Pairs event on the Saturday and the Swiss Teams event on the Sunday each consisted of 7 matches with 8 boards per match. In total 12 pairs and 7 teams shared almost \$4,000.00 in prize money.

The catering team led by Freda Badger did a superb job of providing sustenance for everyone. Well done and thank you to everyone involved.



*Club President Ann Shalders (left) presents the Best Mandurah Pair below State Master award to Di Moorehouse*

Congratulations to the following Mandurah winners-

Best Country Pair: Pat Gaines and Jean McLarty

Best Mandurah Pair: Jan Howell and Sheryl Coates

Best Mandurah Below Life Master:

Denise Sampson and Elsa Rouse

Best Mandurah Pair below SM:

Beryl Ellis and Diana Moorehouse

Best Country Team:

Doug and Vera Hardman, Bill and Jenny Maley

Best Mandurah Team: Jean McLarty and Pat Gaines, Alan

Wardroper and Robina McConnell

Best Mandurah Team below LM: Jo Dundas, Ian Wake, Merle

Proudfoot and Roger Lowe



*Club President Ann Shalders (left) presents the Best Mandurah Pair below State Master award to Di Moorehouse*



*Best Country Team members Vera Hardman, Jenny Maley, Doug Hardman and Bill Maley with Ann Shalders*



*Best Mandurah Team below Life Master winners Roger Lowe, Jo Dundas, Ian Wake and Merle Proudfoot with Ann Shalders*

The **February Teams** event was won by Wayne and Heather Cupitt from Geraldton Bridge Club and Elizabeth Vince and Ian Jones.

The winners of the **Tuesday Best 3 out of 4** event held in February were Doug Hardman and Craig Hardman. Runners up were Elizabeth Vince and Ian Jones, with Denise Sampson and Elsa Rouse in third place.

The winners of the **Daytime Open Pairs** held in March were Carole Hazelden and Jean Field. Runners up were Bill and Jenny Maley, with Elsa Rouse and Denise Sampson third.

The winners of the **Wednesday Best 3 out of 4** event held in March were Jean McLarty and Jenny Maley. Runners up were Pat Gaines and Judith Tuckey followed by third-placed Elsa Rouse and Denise Sampson.

### Some songs to hum as you play!

Bridge over Troubled Waters - *Travel with Goren cruise that stops in Havana, Tripoli and Basra.*

It's Not Unusual - *partner's scream after you misinterpreted his 2NT bid.*

Monday, Monday - *what you wish for after single-handedly blowing the Swiss Teams on Sunday.*

The Second Time Around - *the usual occasion when your aces get trumped.*

Somethin' Stupid - *whichever line of play you decide to take.*

'Til the End of Time - *normal duration before admitting your bridge mistakes.*