

TWEED HEADS BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

February 2020

For our first newsletter of the year I would like to wish all our members good health, contentment and many happy bridging days throughout the coming year. I hope you all had an enjoyable festive season, are ready to tackle the coming year with zest and are happy to settle back into the normal routine of life. I would like to introduce our new members: Joan Leckie, Margaret Williamson, Victor Zeilinski, Shirley Fitzgerald, Marjorie Stubbs, Yvonne Reeds, Jenny Sanders, Edna Lowe, Keith Sanders and Rhonda Gleeson. We hope we can offer a friendly, well organised and welcoming bridge experience.

Maintenance

Most regular players would have seen our new carpet by now. The old carpet had been down for 34 years so it was about time for a replacement. We hope you are pleased with the results as I can say I was more pleased than expected. I was concerned the colour would be too dark but now see it was a good practicable colour choice that will not show stains. It is lovely and spongy to walk on and the carpet layers Solomons were very pleasant, efficient and communicative in their work. The final cost was \$19,248. The carpet layers had to grind the underlying concrete to make a level surface to lay the new carpet on. This created a big clean up job as concrete dust permeates all surfaces. We hope all surfaces have been wiped by now but you may find some grit in unexpected places. Following the laying we had the windows and fans cleaned to help remove some of this grit. Also some chair feet needed to be replaced to stop drag on the carpet. Chairs need to be more carefully moved to reduce drag and a certain amount of pilling will occur for a while.

After much research into replacing the paper and towels with blow dryers in the toilets it was decided to keep the paper towels. The idea of replacing the hand towels was considered due to the large cost of providing paper towels (approximately \$1300 each year). The research showed although the air dryers are less expensive overall, they are less hygienic and we thought health considerations are more important than cost for our members. In time we may consider automated paper towel dispensers.

You may have noticed an improvement in the cleanliness of the ladies' toilets. We have recently changed cleaners. We have asked our new cleaner (Pete) to allocate more time to upgrading the cleanliness of the ladies' toilets. Once this is achieved, he will then move onto the mens' toilets and then the kitchen spending a little extra time each week to make sure all areas gain a more satisfactory level of cleanliness.

Welfare

To all our members who have suffered health problems over the last few months we wish you a speedy recovery. Joan Lewis has been in hospital with lung and breathing problems. The poor air quality affected by recent bushfires is slowing her progress but we hope you will be back at bridge soon. Jean Redman survived her fall in November and is now residing at Opal. Jill Kirchner and Joy Moorcraft have visited Jean on level 2 room 1 and said Jean would welcome a visit or outing from anyone. Nan Wilson had intended to return to bridge this year but

another serious fall has unfortunately left her bedridden and in John Flynn hospital. It was good to see Sue Dorrington back at bridge however she still has not regained full health. And it was pleasing to see Ruth Hordern's gait returning to a more spritely hop.

Coming Events

14 teams will be playing in our first major event, the Australian Day teams and will be held on a Sunday this year. Dressing up in team outfits would make this day fun. The typically Australian food for the day could be matched by typically Australian outfits. The next major event is the Championship Pairs which will be held on Tuesday 4th and 11th February. This is a Red point and Trudy Gaha trophy day for members only.

Etiquette

Following several complaints regarding etiquette the committee decided to create an etiquette noticeboard. This board is to provide information to all members; for experienced players to refresh their memories about appropriate behaviour and to newer players to learn these etiquette rules to become familiar with the way to behave at bridge. Presently there are only 5 of the most obvious rules on the noticeboard but in time these rules will be regularly added to clarify most aspects of etiquette.

VAM Club

It was sad news the passing of Betty Wicks, a lovely lady who was a member for many years. A special afternoon tea is to be organised one Wednesday to absorb her winnings from Melbourne Cup Day that Betty did not collect. We are disappointed to hear Ruth Hair will not be returning to bridge and Nancy Sharp is leaving us. Ruth held bridge classes for many years and lots of members can attribute their sound bridge knowledge to Ruth. Ruth is now residing at the Galleon Gardens Aged Care Facility, room 402 at Currumbin. We will miss Ruth/Nancy partnership and their duelling opinions on the right way to play. However, the VAM club has gained a new member. Doreen Sullivan turned 90 in January.

The Library

The library was severely weeded during the carpet replacement. Some of the stock was dirty, had too small print, was not being read or was redundant. If you have good, clean, readable and appropriate books that others would enjoy you could add to our library. Please feel free to do so. The library seems to be well used and needs to be frequently refreshed. The small cost of 50 cents for borrowing a book is returned to members in the form of occasional special afternoon teas. Although the cost works on an honorary system we urge you to oblige.

Lessons, Supervised Bridge and Social Bridge

Paul Rose will be starting beginner lessons in March for 6 weeks. On request Supervised Bridge will start up earlier on Saturday, 25 January instead of the first Saturday in February. Social bridge will start up on the first Wednesday morning in March to coincide with lessons (unless there is demand earlier). We do plan to have intermediate lessons later in the year.

Ambulance concerns

It was recently brought to our attention the disparity in cost of ambulance services. After investigating this area the following situation is: Ambulance service in Queensland is free. However, in New South Wales it is only free for pensions and low income people. There is a cost to non pensioners if you do not have medical insurance to cover this. The cost includes a call out fee plus the distance travelled by the ambulance from base to return to base. This NSW service is government subsidised by 51%. When an ambulance is required by a member at the club the individual who requires the service name is submitted on request and not the club's name. Since the club is in NSW a cost will apply if you do not have medical insurance and are not a pensioner. Sometimes it could be less costly to be privately driven to the hospital (being such a short distance) if these chargers would apply to you. Please be aware of where you stand in relation to costs. If a NSW person sustains an incident in Qld, and a Qld ambulance is used the NSW person will be charged. Only Queenslanders gets the free service.



Happy Bridging in 2020 from Marilyn (Publicity Officer) and all the committee!