

Tweed Heads Bridge Club Newsletter

issue 16th November, 2021

A warm hello to all our members

This includes our over the border members, distant members, members who are unable to attend and those who are still able to attend during these COVID times. Unfortunately this pandemic has divided us greatly between those who are over the border, those who can't wear masks and those who are not vaccinated. I very much look forward to the day when we can all meet and play bridge together without any COVID restrictions. It is disappointing these divisions have occurred and I would like all members to be mindful of our uniting force, that we all share a love of bridge. We need to put aside our differences because united we stand, divided we fall. All members should give a whole hearted welcome back to everyone when they can return. We are however bound to follow government mandated procedures.

Welfare

I have heard of a concern about our defibrillator. The instructor for all our committee members assured us that no harm can be done to anyone by using the defibrillator even those with pacemakers. The defibrillator pads are applied to under arm and shoulder area. Pauline Watson our new secretary reconfirmed this after communing with "Google God".

Subscription notices

By now all those attending bridge have received their annual subscription notice which is due by the end of the year. By giving these notices out and recording who has received them I found that 78 people are presently attending bridge. This is a reduction in attendance of about 50 members. I truly hope all these absent members will return when COVID restrictions are dispensed with. I think some members will have changed their routines, taken up online play, suffered setbacks and balk at returning for a variety

of reasons. I ask all members still attending to encourage these absent members to return as the time draws near when we can all come unimpeded by restrictions. Those members unable to attend will have their subscriptions posted soon.

AGM

The new date for the AGM is Wednesday 19th January, 2022. This meeting will start at 10.30 D.S.T and 9.30 E.ST. An extension of time has been gained after applying to the Dept.of Fair Trading. I hope this meeting will happen on this date with the proviso all members will be able to attend. Some of our present committee will not be renominating for their positions. Fortunately Pauline Watson has volunteered for the secretary position and I am so grateful because the secretaries job is such an important one. Pauline has already showed herself to be diligent, helpful, competent and amiable. Thankfully Gordon Porter has volunteered for the treasurer's position and as a former accountant I'm sure he will fulfil the position admirably when he starts next year. Rhonda Gleeson has also stepped up to nominate and already Rhonda has shown herself keen to help. Thanks Rhonda. There is still more committee positions to fill. Please consider how you can help your club as every member can contribute in some way. As much as I love the position I hold and am willing to continue I feel a 3 year turnover of presidents is best for the club. It would be best for the club to have someone as vice president to be learning and working towards taking over in 2024. Now is the time to come forward and take the vice presidents role to start preparing. If no-one offers Robert Noble has volunteered to become vice president. Robert has many year experience as president running the club and has worked tirelessly over the years and I'm sure Robert would be happy for a new volunteer to take up the role.

If there is any motions to be presented at the AGM we need to receive these soon before we start posting out the relevant AGM documents (notice of AGM, annual financial report, agenda, motions and president's report). We are trying to avoid 2 lots of postings for member who aren't presently

attending (subscriptions before 1st December and AGM documentation) since the AGM is been postponed for 4 months.

Purchases

A new secretaries computer has been purchased and Pauline has found it much better to work from. When Ros Hand was our secretary the committee passed that she buy a new computer as the old one was slow and difficult. This was just as Ros became sick and it was never done.

Directors

Since Robert Noble, Anne Downes, Ean Quested and Ernie Scott have been unable to come to bridge we were in dire straits for directors. A big thank you to David Freilich, Ray Thorley, Ian Dickison and Peter Sloane for stepping up to help. Please be mindful that directors give of their time to help run our club. A polite “Director Please” sounds much less demanding.

Supervised Bridge

Supervised bridge is still running on Saturday mornings. Unfortunately most of our new learners from Paul Rose’s lessons at the start of the year have dwindled away because of COVID. Only 3 remain who can attend. While Graham Carson and myself are happy to keep helping these new players a few more players would be good. If you would like to brush up on bridge play and expand our numbers on Saturday mornings 9-11 I’m sure some of you could benefit from Graham’s extensive knowledge.

Cleaning up after each Day

To help with the packing up each day a new procedure has been introduced. Someone from each table should take the responsibility to return the boards and bridgemates to the table closest to the director’s table. Also tables need to be wiped over with sanitiser and coasters, rubbish, pencils and bidding pads returned to the designed area. Before returning bidding pads to the basket provided all used pages should be removed.

Paying Each Day

Sometimes it becomes difficult to collect the day's money. This occurs when people haven't put their money at the table and are not sitting at their table. Chasing up individuals for their money is distracting from the job and more time consuming. Would you please make sure your money is at your table 10 minutes before play starts.

A system of payment by **pink ticket only** is being considered to reduce money handling, counting and banking. This idea was put forward by our auditor Megan Raaen and will be further discussed by committee. All committee have kept in touch by email and phone.

Recent emails

3 recent emails concerned:

- * Nominations for North Coast Regional councillor with the ABF.
- * Aust Open Pairs Event to be held in January. Please let us know if your keen and we will organised to participate. We need at least 14 pairs to run a section.
- * A community grants program. We have decided to apply for a grant for new bridgemates.

Over the page is a bridge poem written by Julie Wicks. It was published in the Gold Coast Bridge club's newsletter. I phoned Julie to ask her permission to print it in our newsletter and she was most agreeable. I thought you would enjoy it.

Kind regards Marilyn

Our First Grand Slam



Only one entry in the bridge poetry competition. Thanks Julie.

I'm feeling bright
Slept well last night.
Arrived early to get a North/South
seat
Feel we are the pair to beat.
We are all seated waiting to begin
The room is noisy, what a din.
The Director is talking
But no one is listening.
Our boards and Bridgemate arrive
The noise is now more like a beehive.
Finally all is quiet and calm
My smile is meant to disarm.
The first board is played
A loss to us, I'm dismayed.
The next one sees us in game
Another loss to our immense shame.
We play our tenth board, we are a
third of the way
This is not shaping up to be our day.
My partner opens a strong two
I'm now thinking what do I do.
He is waiting for me, sweat on his
brow
If I get this wrong there will be a row.
The bidding goes back and forth
Landing in seven spades, for him
sitting north.

East leads the Ace of Hearts
Right now I wish I was playing
darts.
I must have made a mistake
The first trick they will surely
take.
No worries, partner has a void
Taking the trick, I'm overjoyed.
We make the grand slam, our first
I now have quite a thirst.
Wish we could have a drink to
make a toast
But we have to restrain our boast.
We do not win on the day
And many times I've felt like
giving bridge away.
But we will return for sure
Drawn by this game's magical
lure.
And for several times each week
Partner says we can do better -
what a cheek!

Julie Wicks March 2021



