



# BRIDGING THE GAP

A graphic illustration of a bridge made of playing cards. The bridge is composed of several cards laid out in a way that they form a structure spanning a gap. The cards are shown in perspective, with some showing their faces and others showing their backs.

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## EDITORIAL

Hello Everyone,

It is once again a real pleasure to be sitting down to compile the magazine. This particular task gives me a great deal enjoyment, because I cannot speak of members, recent functions and some of the amusing incidents which happen at the club each and every day, without a smile.

It is January again! Christmas has been and gone and we are into a bright and beautiful New Year. In this edition I will bring you photographs and news of the Bridge Club Birthday Party, the Melbourne Cup Function last November, which was a great event, and enjoyed by all, followed a month later by the Club Christmas Party and Prize Giving for trophies won throughout the year. This occasion must have been the most successful yet. We had nineteen tables of players, fantastic food, a lot of laughter, good bridge and to cap it all the President singing along with the music. But more details of these later in the magazine.

Margaret McRobbie our trusted and ever present photographer continues to bring us photographs to remind us of special occasions and special incidents. All of these photographs are available to everyone and if your 'Bridge Album' is like mine it is full of smiles and laughter. A thank you to Margaret from me, for without her the magazine would be lifeless.

From my book of Inspiration: and could this not apply to our bridge?

*"Take calculated risks,*

*That is quite different from being rash"*

George S. Patton 1885-1945

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "George S. Patton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our hopes and plans for the last half of 2013 were slightly hampered by the unexpected arrival of Carmen's car in the clubroom in November. It was an incident which made the Club famous in Perth for a while and I much admired the *sang froid* with which Carmen allowed herself to be interviewed on the television news channels. I do often reflect on how different the outcome might have been in a room and area where at least 16 people were sitting or standing, and thank the Club's lucky stars.

The fact that the hampering was only slight was due to the efforts of a number of people, both on the day and subsequently, and also the local fire volunteers and our insurance company. Our VP, Gordon, bore the brunt of the recovery effort and oversaw the acquisition of tables, chairs, bidding boxes etc as well as dealing with the builders. I'm very grateful to him. We took the opportunity to fit underlay under our new carpet as a move towards reducing sound echoing in the clubroom.

After taking out the weak and diseased trees, it had been my hope that the replacement/s would have been planted by now. The delay is due to the hot weather and the rebuild, although we have succeeded in increasing the size of the car park. Before our Congress in March we will have arranged a Busy Bee and we hope to finish off most of the external work at that time, including the provision of a sail for extra shade. On a different front, I am very pleased to be able to tell you that the increase in the numbers of tables being played in most sessions is being maintained and the standard of bridge amongst our members is also increasing as a result.

Lastly I want to mention the little underworld of bridge that continues to flourish on a Monday night. Some of you are regularly involved and others would have no idea of what is being achieved. I'm referring of course to the Supervised Sessions, led by Anita and, alongside, the Beginner's Sessions led by Julie. In addition to those two there are at least 14 of our members who attend every, or most sessions, to help steer our newer players through the minefield that is bridge.

A lot of care is being taken to tailor training syllabuses for both groups, thanks to the work of the new Recruitment and Training Sub Committee. It is already bearing fruit in terms of new members and also the frequency with which some of our earlier learners are joining in normal club play. I don't need to tell you how important this is for the future of our Club. If you haven't been involved in mentoring in the past but would like to and can find the time, please let Anita or Julie know.

Continue to play well



Rosemary and John Offer in the Bridge Club Garden, in which, they take so much care and interest.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN GUILTY OF LOOKING AT OTHERS YOUR OWN AGE AND THINKING, SURELY I CAN'T LOOK THAT OLD?

**WELL.....YOU WILL LOVE THIS ONE .....**

MY NAME IS ALICE SMITH AND I WAS SITTING IN THE WAITING ROOM FOR MY FIRST APPOINTMENT WITH A NEW DENTIST. I NOTICED HIS DENTAL DIPLOMAWHICH BORE HIS FULL NAME.

SUDDENLY, I REMEMBERED A TALL, HANDSOME, DARK HAired BOY WITH THE SAME NAME HAD BEEN IN MY SECONDARY SCHOOL CLASS SOME 30-ODD YEARS AGO.

COULD HE BE THE SAME GUY THAT I HAD A SECRET CRUSH ON, WAY BACK THEN?

UPON SEEING HIM, HOWEVER, I QUICKLY DISCARDED ANY SUCH THOUGHT. THIS BALD-ING, GREY HAired MAN WITH THE DEEPLY LINED FACE WAS FAR TOO OLD TO HAVE BEEN MY CLASSMATE.

AFTER HE EXAMINED MY TEETH, I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD ATTENDED KINGSBURY COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL

'YES, YES I DID. I'M A '**Kingsburyite** 'HE BEAMED WITH PRIDE.

'WHEN DID YOU LEAVE TO GO TO COLLEGE?' I ASKED

HE ANSWERED, IN 1965. WHY DO YOU ASK?

'YOU WERE IN MY CLASS!' I EXCLAIMED..... HE LOOKED AT ME CLOSELY.....

THEN THE UGLY,  
OLD,  
BALD,  
WRINKLED,  
FAT BODIED,  
GREY HAired,  
DECREPIT,  
SO AND SO ASKED..

**'WHAT SUBJECT DID YOU TEACH '?**

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AND THESE.....

A Bicycle can't stand alone it is too tired.....

A will is a dead giveaway.....

A boiled egg is hard to beat.....

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.....

The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.....

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**OUR MYSTERY MAN** - Would you have any idea who this may be? He is always busy, he is always on the run, he is very competitive, he was a great sportsman, is highly intelligent, he was born outside of Australia but has been in this country for many years.



Search within the magazine for his identity.....

**THE KALAMUNDA BRIDGE CLUB BIRTHDAY PARTY**

This event was celebrated in style on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Bridge commenced at 10:30am and a delicious roast lunch was served by caterers at noon followed by more bridge. The food was delicious and the deserts supplied by members superb. There is no doubt that our club loves a party and more and more members attend each and every occasion. The winners of the bridge were Gerry Daly and Steven Thyer.



This year marks the 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the club and a beautiful cake was made for members to enjoy.

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And just a month later was the **Melbourne Cup**. With the Bridge Room well decorated, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November saw many of the ladies donning the hats they know they will need for this special occasion. As, always, the hats were paraded and Julie Bechelli won the prize for the most original hat – a deck of cards adorning the brim. Well done Julie!



Julie receiving her prize from Gordon



Les 'Girls'



Happy Punters

Most of the members placed their bets, some were lucky some were not. Some did not even know the horse they were allocated was the favourite and I am ashamed to admit that that was 'moi'!!! But I was delighted to win! As always the lunch brought by the members was superb and a great day was had by all.

The Winners of the Bridge were:

North /South Pair..... Cherry Zamudio and Marie-France Van Hall

East /West Pair..... Peter Clarke and Rory O'Toole

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

### Who is McCutcheon?

There are lists all along the top of the scoreboard in the "dining" area which reflect how well you are doing in competitive play, both at club and national level. Most of you know that most of the daily sessions at the Club are Green Point events and most of the competitions qualify for Red Points and sometimes even Gold. These reflect the fact that you are playing, usually, against a tougher field and that you deserve greater credit for succeeding in these circumstances.

So far, so good. The ABF Master points Ranking Report shows how many master points you have in each category and in total, and also your ranking group (Life Master, State Master, Club Master etc)

But do you know what your McCutcheon rank is all about? Just in case you don't, here goes.

The McCutcheon Trophy is awarded annually by the ABF to the player in Australia, irrespective of ranking, winning the most master points during the calendar year.

That's not likely to bother many of us too much. Of more interest is the McCutcheon ranking which appears at the end of the line next to your name. This system looks at each ranking group independently and ranks you according to how well you are doing in the current calendar year. At the end of the year, there will be a McCutcheon award for that group.

If you look carefully, and compare yourself with other club members in your grouping, there is an exact correlation between your master points up to the end of each quarter and your relative position in your McCutcheon ranking. In the latter, you are being compared with every registered player in Australia in your group, so if you are a \*Local Master and have a ranking of 2016, it means that there are only 2015 \*Local Masters in the whole of Australia that are doing better than you this year. Encouraging isn't it!

### **Calling the Director and "Calling out" the Director**

Instances have been spotted in club play where less experienced players have been persuaded by others at the table not to call the Director when they think they need to, on the basis that it is known what the remedy is and can be put right without "bothering" someone who may be in the middle of a game. It's often done for the best of motives but it's a dangerous practice because the applicable laws and remedies vary according to the circumstances .....so "Less Experienced Players", stick to your ground. Directors are there to be "bothered" and are there to be helpful. You are not calling the Director "against" a really nice pair that you don't want to upset. You just want things clarified or put right. That is your right.

The other thing members need to remember is that sessions can't run without a Director and we have all too few of them at the Club. One of the reasons people don't apply to train is because they don't want to be on the receiving end of an intense argument over their rulings.

It's OK to disagree with a Director's ruling but there are ways and means of so doing in a friendly club like ours. In any adjudication, the Director should give a ruling after looking at the facts and those on the receiving end can then explain why they don't think the decision is right, if that be the case. Directors may reconsider and may change their mind or remain firm. Please remember that under these circumstances, you have the right of appeal and just register that rather than raise voices in the clubroom or in the car park. Some of us are sensitive little souls and we do need more Directors!

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### **PONDERISMS** - what a lovely word!!!!!!!!!!

Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out easily it is a valuable plant!

How is it that it takes one careless match to start a bush fire when it takes a whole box to light a camp fire?

If quizzes are quizzical, then what are tests?

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

### **KALAMUNDA BRIDGE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY**

And then on December 14<sup>th</sup> came the Club Christmas Party. This was a great occasion with some members bringing along their spouses so that they too may enjoy the celebration. A magnificent lunch was provided by the members and the whole occasion was so well organised by Anita Davis, Carole Littlechild and Carole McMahon. A great vote of thanks to them, and to all the members who gave a helping hand. During the Tea Break in the afternoon the winners of competitions won throughout the year were presented with their trophies.

As Len departs Western Australia in order to live in Sydney, the club wanted to give to Len a memory of all his years as a Member and as President of the Bridge Club. Sue's husband, Ted Collinson, was approached, and as Ted is a keen photographer, he kindly agreed to attempt to take a photograph of all of the Club's members. This Ted did very efficiently and produced a marvellous photograph with just about everybody smiling. The photograph will be framed and sent to Len and we hope that it will remind Len of how much we appreciated having him in the club and how much we will all miss him.



Enjoying the Festivities



and the wonderful lunch!

## 2013 COMPETITION

### WINNERS

Novices cup	Marlene Roberston and Lynne Shinnick
Individual	Peter Clarke
Mixed pairs	Mel Foster and Wendy Harman
Daytime Open Pairs	Peter Clarke and Ruth Ledger
Women's pairs	Carole Sexton and Cherry Zamudio
Men's pairs –Equal First	Bert Littlechild and Rob McMahon Gerry Daly and Stephen Thyer
Open Teams	Peter Clarke, Ian Medlycott, Doug Hegarty and Andy Leal
Knock out pairs	Alf and Sheelagh Dupont
Most improved Pair	Joe Louis and Nick Moniodis

### *Champion pairs*

Monday	Gordon Brown and Sheila Pryce
Wednesday	Ian Medlycott and Jamie Patterson
Thursday	Doug Hegarty and Andy Leal
Friday	Alan Harper and Stephen Thyer

### **FURTHER BAWA RESULTS TO THE END OF 2013**

2013 Open Team Final	1 <sup>st</sup> Gerry Daly's Team
2013 Open Team Handicap	1 <sup>st</sup> Gerry Daly's Team 3 <sup>rd</sup> Alf and Sheelagh Dupont's Team
GNOT Final 2013	1 <sup>st</sup> Gerry Daly's Team 3 <sup>rd</sup> Susan Collinson's Team

Many Congratulations to all the winners both within our club and to those who succeed at a state level. As we start the New Year our club will be taking part in the Inter Club team's events. This involves clubs within the Perth environs and suburbs. Gordon Brown has taken over as Chairman of the Competitions Committee and Carole Sexton as Secretary. In 2012 our club was successful in winning outright the Restricted Competition. It is very competitive and one derives a great deal of satisfaction too. Let us hope that in 2014 we can win that prestigious position once again. It will certainly not be for the want of trying!



Marlene and Lynne, two of our newer members, together with Bryan (I won't say older member, will I?)



**SO** ..... Did you guess our mystery man?

Yes, it is Alf Dupont, and when one looks carefully at the face of the young man earlier in the magazine, it is the Alf Dupont we know today.



Alfred Francois Dupont was born in Mauritius and is the youngest in a family of eight children. Alf's Father, volunteered for the war effort in the Second World War, serving in Egypt and Italy, was wounded on two occasions and very sadly lost his life a few years after the war ended. Alf was ten months old when his mother, with her children migrated alone on a troop ship to Durban, South Africa while her husband served up in North Africa. Alf's mother decided to take the children to live in Johannesburg, and that is where they were brought up and had their schooling, with Alf eventually attending Highlands North High School. As Sheelagh termed it, Alf was 'sport's mad. Tennis, badminton and soccer were his favourites but, at school, rugby and cricket were included. In addition to this, Alf was a member of the school Chess team which covered all age groups and is very proud, to this day, of their achievement in winning the local South African, State School Chess Championships. At this point, I just have to mention that Alf and Sheelagh met when they were both at school and were eleven years old. Sheelagh was quick to say that at that time, she beat Alf at table tennis (Alf doesn't remember it that way)!!

At the end of his school days Alf decided that Chartered Accountancy was for him and with part time University study, in tandem with his Articles with an Accounting Firm, he qualified in 1967. Sheelagh was working at the University Alf attended, and that early meeting when they were children eventually became a wonderful partnership, and as soon as Alf qualified, the two were married in the Church of Marie Vale on an Easter Sunday and by the same priest who had baptised Sheelagh.

Both Alf and Sheelagh were appalled at the system of Apartheid in South Africa, and decided that under this system they could no longer live in the country. They had intended going to Iran but their contract to work in Iran was delayed and so, instead, they went to the United Kingdom where they lived for sixteen to seventeen years, both in Surrey and Hertfordshire. Alf joined, firstly, Hayden's, a multinational Engineering Group, and later with Cooper Waterhouse. While in Richmond, in Surrey, Alf and Sheelagh decided to learn to play bridge and in 1968 as beginners, joined the Richmond Bridge Club and so began their love of the game.

Alf and Sheelagh's two sons were born in England, Martin in 1972 and Gregory in 1975. During their years in the United Kingdom Alf and Sheelagh motored through Europe extensively on many different occasions and they remembered with affection their time in Kakinada a town in what was Yugoslavia, on the Romanian border. It was there they taught Yugoslavs' western standards of accountancy.

Alf had a sister living in Australia and in 1981 Alf and his family moved to Australia. They stayed for approximately twelve months and it was at this time they joined the Kalamunda Bridge Club. The family returned to the U.K. but finally made a permanent move to Australia in 1985. Asked why it should be Australia Alf replied that they wanted to be close to his sister and Australia played good cricket! Alf started his working career in Perth consulting for a couple of years, followed by eight years with Government, with the Building Management Authority. Alf was very vocal when he claimed it was 'eight years of hell', as he was horrified at the Government ineptitude. During these years, Sheelagh had started the company 'Dupont Realty', was having fun and Alf decided he would join her and have fun too and they have been in the Real

Estate ever since. As Sheelagh says being husband and wife and in addition, being great friends, has made their working life, mostly, a joy.

By now the boys were teenagers and they too loved bridge. Alf and Sheelagh together with Martin and Gregory formed a formidable bridge team and the four of them won at many Congress's, with Esperance being one of the favourites. The Bermuda Gold Championships were held in Perth and again the family played as a team. Alf said it was a great experience and then to eventually visit Bermuda and actually go to the Bridge Club was very special. Martin and Gregory who frequently represented W.A. and Australia, in the wide world of bridge, married Japanese girls and today Gregory and his family live in Perth and Martin has recently settled in the U.K.

Alf went on to speak of the Bridge Club in the early days. Alf was President in 1985 and 1986 and Sheelagh also had two stints as Editor of the BTG. In addition, Alf and Martin also served as Treasurer of the club for a few years and Alf has been the Club's Auditor for the past ten years. Alf, with a huge smile, said that he was responsible for spending the Club's money, as when he became President he instigated carpeting, bidding boxes and new chairs and tables, many of which, we still have today. At this time the Club House was surrounded by rocks and boulders. Alf tells me it was the brain child of Carmen Jackson to create a Patio and so rocks and boulders were removed and the Patio we have today was erected. During their time on the Management Committee, Sheelagh, firmly supported by Alf, decided that the committee should put on a 'Moulin Rouge' show for the members. It was a surprise event with the girls on the committee sitting nonchalantly at tables but at the start of the music they danced the 'Can Can'. On another occasion they had a lone 'bagpiper' supported my many of the Scottish members singing as a choir. It just goes to prove that our club has enjoyed many functions since its inception, and the people were just as lovely and just as full of fun 'way back then'!!! In 1984/85 membership peaked at two hundred members and on a Thursday night there were often eighteen tables spread throughout both rooms. We are very happy to say, that today our Club is slowly and steadily creeping towards that figure and more and more members continue to play very regularly.

Thank you Alf for your contribution to the club over so many years, and it is so good to see both yourself and Sheelagh, so regularly.

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And so I conclude .....but before I do so, I just have an anecdote to tell you. My daughter has recently been visiting, from Queensland, and she related a story of her friend, who in turn has a daughter. In their town are two shops standing side by side one named 'Adult Shop' and the other 'Baby Shop'. The eight year old looked at the names of these two shops and after a while she said to her Mum 'That is a waste of time having two shops, why don't they just have one shop and call it 'The Family Shop'!!!! Thank goodness for the innocence of youth, for what would we do without it, but Mum could hardly keep a straight face!!!!

At this point I would like to say a very big thank you to our Sponsors. We are so very grateful to each and every one of them. Without their help we would not be able to provide so many prizes for raffles and we would just like them to know how grateful we are and how much we appreciate their care and assistance.

Go well until next time. Happy Bridging and a Very Happy New Year to you all

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Penny', written in black ink.

KALAMUNDA DISTRICT BRIDGE CLUB SPONSORS



KALAMUNDA  
HOTEL

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