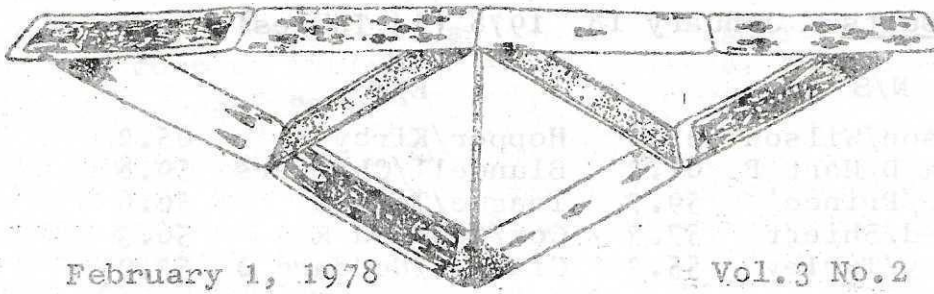


Bridging the gap



February 1, 1978

Vol.3 No.2

KALAMUNDA DISTRICTS BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

EDITORIAL

"Apathy is the principal factor in Australian life today" was the title for an essay I saw on the blackboard last week. I am not qualified to talk on the Australian way of life, but if we are talking about apathy, the members of Kalamunda Bridge Club must take the cake. One would have thought that Peter's article would have raised a turmoil of interest; I expected to be bombarded with both outrage and enthusiasm. Instead, I have received only two letters, which I have published herein, though I doubt that they will have much impact. No, maybe that is an unfair comment. Perhaps the crux of the matter lies in the fact that the majority of the members would rather not take part in a debate concerning the future of play at our Wednesday evening sessions. If that is indeed the case, it might not be a bad idea for the interested few to take matters into their own hands, as it appears that whatever their decision is, the rest of us will amiably follow.

I have heard that Charters and Charters are taking bridge lessons from "Der Alter" and I was just wondering whether they were attending the beginners' or the advanced classes?

Speaking of the Charters, my congratulations to our youngest pair - Blundell and Charters - for their splendid effort the week before last. Perhaps someone ought to talk them into believing that bridge is a rotten pastime and that they ought to stay home and watch telly!

SHE

Club Results - January 18, 1978 (14 Tables)

N/S

E/W

Addison/Wilson	62.6	Hopper/Kirby	65.2
Clark D/Hart P	61.3	Blundell/Charters	59.8
Price/Prince	59.7	Teague/Teague	56.6
Eldred/Shieff	57.3	Cox/Goddard R	56.3
Turley/Turley	55.3	Clark A/Goddard J	53.0

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Having been requested by your editorial and exhorted by the most venerable (in length of service - not age) members of the club, to put pen to paper I am accepting the invitation to muse on how the club may be run.

Question: What is the basic objective of a Bridge Club?

Answer: Simply to increase the number of people playing regularly.

To achieve this, those who do play must enjoy themselves. Now, I realise that one man's food may be another's poison, but overall I guess that the great majority would place getting to know fellow members and appreciating both their play and comments above the strictly competitive aspects of winning or playing at an increasingly high standard, pleasant as both these may be. If this is so, then in my opinion two grades are out because it would make it virtually impossible to meet some fellow members - let alone get to know them. Even with the proposed promotions and relegations, the club would, for practical purposes be split in two.

Whether match point or Butler scoring? Well, why not try both in parallel for a month, if our hard working scorer could face such a task and then have a vote on the issue. I suspect that, like the writer, some of my fellow members don't really appreciate the finer aspects of the Butler method.

Just one last word on the subject of new members, especially those who are obviously learners. One can never tell just how people will develop. Generally I try to avoid exemplifying personalities but in this case, I hope Aleda and Dan Clark will forgive me. I well remember when they and I were

struggling with duplicate and what fine players they have become in comparatively few years. Aleda, as aggressive a bidder and player as one could wish to meet (and occasionally towards the end of a rare "good" night, to avoid) and Dan, always thoughtful and with table manners which are a delight whether he is defeating you, doubled and vulnerable, or is himself, suffering the slings and arrows of outrageous distribution.

So let us welcome newcomers and, without overdoing it, try to encourage and assist them in those first vital six or eight weeks. It is gratifying to have "name" players in our club but this position will only continue if other members, new or old, enjoy playing against them and each other.

DON CHISHOLM

To quote Anna Renton: "I think it (graded bridge) is a good idea and so does John, or else he won't get any breakfast."

SHE

Editor's Comment: After my first evening at the club, I felt so out of my depth and intimidated that I very nearly didn't come back. I for one would have liked to have been able to play in a second movement at a slower pace, to enable me to learn the workings of duplicate bridge, without having to make a fool of myself. Peter's idea allows the newcomer, once his confidence is established, to play in the "A Division", not only to improve his performance but to enable him to meet the other members.

SHE

In answer to the Editor's request for views on the ideas expressed in Peter's article "Grade Your Play or Play Your Grade" in the issue of Jan. 18, I should like to make a few comments.

In paragraph I he writes of "less scrupulous players" and "pairs who play ethically". All players are required to play Contract Bridge according to the Rules and therefore to observe the proprieties. If they do not, no method of scoring will be an effective counter.

I am not competent to comment on Butler scoring, but, with

regard to the second suggestion of "graded competition", this subject was discussed at the last committee meeting and the idea of forcing members to play according to handicap - in Division A or B - was rejected. I would refer Peter to a paragraph on page 31 of the Kalamunda News of Dec. 3, 1977.

What is new in Peter's letter is the idea of perhaps restricting the better players to Division A. I feel this would be a move acceptable to everyone, as Division B players would have the choice of playing in either Division. However, I favour neither cash prizes nor separate championships. I am sure we are all grateful to Peter for his articles which make us think and are happy to know that he feels our members are big and friendly enough to accept a constructive change.

CONSTANCE McCULLOUGH

To clarify the above letter, here are the two paragraphs from the Kalamunda News:- There are players who find that they are under pressure when playing in a bridge movement against players whose standard of play is much higher than their own. After all, the club has state and national players among its members.

The committee hopes that there will soon be enough people wanting to play bridge at the club in a more relaxed atmosphere and at a slower tempo to warrant having a second movement on Wednesday evenings.

Club Results - January 25, 1978

N/S

E/W

Gartner/Hardman	61.6	Price/Prince R	71.8
Eldred/Shieff	58.0	Clark D/D'Rogario	63.7
Addison/Wilson	56.3	Hopper/Kirby	59.3
Ramsay/Teague	53.8	Chisholm/L'Herpinier	56.4
Turley/Turley	51.9	Hart/Helliwell	56.1

Aggregate Commentary - January

The reconstituted heavies, Price/Prince crashed into the competition with 60.1% from 6 sessions. Meanwhile Hopper/Kirby consolidated their situation by edging up 4 more invaluable points to average 59.1% from 24 scores. Eldred/Shieff, up 13 pts to 55.5%, have now improved 3.9% in 4 mths - where will it all end, dwahlings? The Kalabirds, down 10 pts to 51.8%, are stumbling about like 15 year olds while the