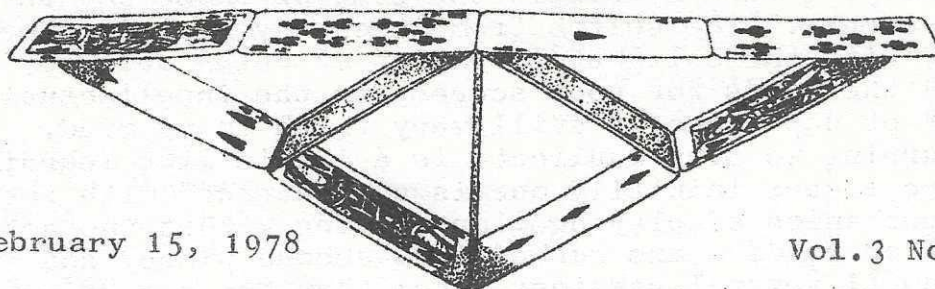


Bridging the gap



February 15, 1978

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KALAMUNDA DISTRICTS BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

EDITORIAL

SOS! Please help! I need someone to help me out with the typing of this newsletter. You see, although the Shire very kindly allows me to use their duplicating machine, said machine came out of the ark and is somewhat temperamental to say the least. Every time it decides to wreck a stencil for me, I am obliged to rush into town and disturb Louise at work, which is not only highly inconvenient for me, but may prove an embarrassment for Louise. I feel it is unfair to expect her to type the issue twice in one week and so all I am asking is for an understanding member to re-type the magazine should an emergency arise. Perhaps one day the club might grant sufficient funds to have it published properly?! Our cash prize put to better use???

Would anyone be interested in having the results of the "Christmas Quiz" published? Nobody submitted any answers - perhaps nobody noticed the quiz in the first place. Does anyone read this magazine anyway? There is still very little response to Peter's article "Grade Your Play or Play Your Grade". Oh, well

Perhaps his new idea in this issue will invoke a little more enthusiasm.

Overheard last week:- Declarer having lost the first 8 tricks in this Three No Trump doubled contract, "You can't make any more - I'm not making any mistakes"!!!

SHE

Dear "She",

Firstly, please accept my apologies for my late contribution to The Great Debate - but in January we were playing our bridge all along the south coast, from Augusta to

Albany, and consequently have come in at the tail end of the discussions on our return home.

Secondly, I find myself in the camp of those who favour two movements. The switch from leisurely social rubber bridge, with the delightful comfort of being able to "blame" the cards for poor scores, to the intellectual "sweat" of duplicate is still very fresh in my mind. To me, learning to play duplicate is a little like learning to drive a car; initially one is so concerned with the sheer mechanics of playing - or driving - that the actual cards - or roads - are pushed into second place, and it isn't until several sessions later that one has gained sufficient confidence in the techniques of playing to be able to concentrate fully on the all-important cards. By then, of course, one has recorded such dismal scores that 'leisurely social rubber bridge' is obviously more one's game, and just what's needed for a damaged ego!

However encouraging the other players are - and KDBS is certainly a very friendly and pleasant club in which to play - one is still very conscious of one's shortcomings when one takes the plunge into duplicate. It only needs the first gentle enquiry of "what does that bid mean, please?" to remind one that even the imagination of a da Vinci isn't sufficient!

To be able to play initially in a group of similar standard would, I think, prove far more encouraging to those new to the game.

Could the groups be organised so that a fairly large number of couples are relegated and promoted each week - for instance, the five top and five bottom couples, so that there is a strong groundswell of movement between the two groups which would tend to maintain contact and prevent polarisation.

JAN BURGESS

Club Results - February 1, 1978

Fine scores for Hubbard/Pratt, McCullough/McLean & Graham/Sales. Hubbard/Pratt find winning form at last .. excellent score for ClarkD/Kirby - is this the start of something big? .. Haggard/Stephens break the 54% barrier at last .. excellent scores for Graham/Sales 54.4% and the 2 'Macs' ...poor scores for something called Hopper/Martin R 46.6% and last weeks winners, Gartner/Hardman 42.1% - back to the drawing board. Clark A/Price win \$10 with net 63.1%.

N/S		E/W	
Clark A/Price	62.5	Hubbard/Pratt	65.0
Chisholm/L'Herpinier	60.6	Petrich/Petrich	61.6
McCullough/McLean	57.7	Clark D/Kirby	59.3
Cox R/Goddard R	55.4	Haggard/Stephens	58.9
Burgess J/Preece	54.8	Hart P/Valentine	58.2

The Cash Prizes

The experiment of awarding cash prizes to handicap winners is due to finish tonight (13 weeks); the committee is meeting this weekend. It would seem timely to pass on a few facts on the matter so that people can make informed comments.

Regrettably, I was not at the meeting at which the scheme was conceived, so have never been certain of the purpose of the scheme. Heaven knows why we have to pay people to play. Its design was sketchy; I have had to make arbitrary decisions at times when the conditions and directives are sparse and not clear or comprehensive. Bearing in mind that the idea was to allow anyone to win, the record shows that over the 12 sessions, 8 established pairs won the cash prize in 11 sessions - that's right, 3 pairs won twice - and a casual pair won the other. In only 3 of the sessions did the winners have a base score of less than 50% (ie, have a handicap of +) so the less competent pairs had a 25% chance of winning. But the most discouraging commentary is that in 10 sessions the handicap winners were the outright winners, and in the other 2 sessions they were second. Coming top attracts its own glory and the green points and should be reward enough. Giving the good pairs cash for doing what comes naturally anyway seems unnecessary largesse.

Consider, if you will, an alternative. Given that:
 1) the intention is to encourage the less competent pairs to improve their performance and 2) it is easier for less competent pairs to improve their performance than it is for the front runners to do so, and 3) a sustained performance is more worthy of reward than is a single performance, then award a prize to that pair which makes the most improvement in its progressive average percentage each month. The necessary conditions would read something like this:

1. A minimum of (say) 6 scores to be eligible.
2. A minimum of 3 scores in the current month.

3. Ties to be broken in favour of the pair who had the lower last recorded progressive average.

There may be others. This is a suggestion.

In addition to satisfying the above givens, the scheme is very simple to comprehend and administer and it rewards established club pairs who play most of their bridge at the club. There is no hassle over casual pairs, they do not qualify (in my opinion they do not deserve to qualify).

About the prize. Cash seems totally alien to this kind of domestic competition. I would prefer to see something tangible like the embossed glasses which Canning have or a decorated teaspoon, something which will build into a useful set and remain a permanent memento of a satisfying achievement. For comparison, over the past 3 months the winners of such a competition would have been:

November - McLean/Tee, up 1.9% to 51.8%

December - Addison/Wilson, up 2.1% to 54.3%

January - Valentine/Ward, up 1.3% to 46.9% (in a tie with Eldred/Shieff on 55.5%)

I consider this is an encouraging indication of possible reward at all levels of bridge in the club.

This is, of course, only a private suggestion. I shall propose it at the next committee meeting so please consider it, any refinements or other alternatives to the current scheme and lobby your favourite committee member accordingly. You may have a better idea for prizes - or you may prefer cash: alright, but let the committee know.

PETER HART

PS The scheme might have to be revised if we go over to two divisions.

P.H.

Club Results - February 8, 1978

N/S		E/W	
de Blank/Loveland	65.9	Cox/Goddard R	62.3
Gartner/Hardman	64.8	Chisholm/L'Herpinier	59.8
Frugte/Pratt	61.6	Price/Prince R	58.4
Elliott/Mizen	53.2	McCullough/Weston	54.3

Gartner/Hardman win \$10 with net 64.1%

STOP PRESS: Here is an item of state news which was only revealed last Sun. Kalamunda will again have 2 teams in Div. I in the League Teams competition, Gold & Silver. v. II, Bronze & Div III, Blue & White. No space for news this week - sorry!!