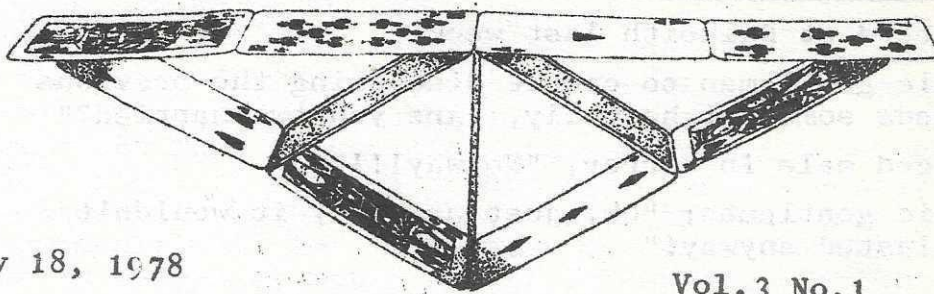


Bridging the gap



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KALAMUNDA DISTRICTS BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

EDITORIAL

I have heard that one of the "Heavies" left us last Friday. Although I had not met Mike Cox personally, I am sure that you all join me in wishing him a fond, if somewhat belated, farewell. It would appear to me that Bob Prince, who is now playing with the other "Heavy" (John Price), has a lot of filling to do - and not only in area!

As a newcomer to bridge I should like to comment on this issue's article "Grade Your Play or Play Your Grade". I know only too well what it feels like to go down 800 or more on a board owing to ignorance. But when it starts to happen every third board or so, I begin to wish I had stayed home and gone to bed instead! Please consider Peter's idea carefully and let me have your views as soon as possible.

As regards articles or letters for the magazine: please don't be annoyed if your contribution is edited or printed in an issue later than you expected. As you can see, we have reverted to producing folder-type editions and I am limited to a quota of 1500 words. I am sure that you will understand that occasionally it might be difficult to squeeze everything in. The right is also reserved to publish or not to publish, as the case may be, any unsigned article.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to Louise Tully who has taken on the task of typing the newsletter, though I do wish she would grace us with her presence more often.

This is my last opportunity to remind you that the closing date for the league teams is on January 29th. Entries to Mike Hopper please.

She

SOCIAL OBSERVATIONS - Itinerant Bridge Player

Overheard at Dalkeith last week:

Laconic gentleman to couple discussing the previous 15 hands somewhat heatedly, "Are you two married?"

Outraged male in horror, "No way!!!"

Laconic gentleman: "Oh, just as well, it wouldn't have lasted anyway!"

Club Results - 4 Jan 78 (13½ Tables)

Particularly Happy New Year for Turley/Turley and 'Watch-This-Space' Price/Prince R ... most paris play to form - except Addison/Wilson who failed badly (47.2%) and Teague/Teague who failed completely, returning their worst ever score at the club, 38.5% ... the cards favour E/W in a balanced field; 55.1% gains 3rd position N/S but is only good enough for 7th position E/W. Turley/Turley win \$10 with net 60.3%.

N/S		E/W	
Turley/Turley	66.2	Price/Prince	64.4
Hubbard/Pratt	57.1	Chisholm/L'Herpinier	62.4
Clark D/Goddard R	55.1	Hopper/Lirby	61.6
Haggard/Stephens	51.8	Hart/Prince E	58.0
Doepel/Doepel	51.3	Clark A/Goddard J	57.1

PS. Can we be sympathetic to Hopper/Kirby who play 61% bridge and only manage 3rd place?

GRADE YOUR PLAY OR PLAY YOUR GRADE

You may have read in the previous issue of the unusual scores occurring last month (Dec), due to the wide differences in the standard of pairs currently playing in the club. You should have read in the previous issue A.N.Other's letter, at last understandable to this Us and therefore, I hope, understandable to most Usses, about what I will term the 'knack' of succeeding at Duplicate. I think there is a link between the two comments and I am prompted to write this essay.

Part of the knack of winning at Duplicate is taking calculated risks in higher scoring, but more hazardous contracts, in order to 'beat the room' if successful: another part of the knack is in consciously assessing the competency of your opponents and making bids and plays against them in accordance with that assessment. Less scrupulous players are quite capable of punting a thin game against a pair of known bunnies anticipating that declarer is unlikely to receive good defence, let alone best defence. In this way they rake in dozens of match points in contrast to the pairs who play ethically and judge each hand on the merit of the cards. The former are taking a slight gamble but I suggest they are taking large and unfair advantage over the latter.

One solution to this situation is to take up the idea so near to the heart of A.N.Other - Butler scoring; perhaps he would consider devising a method of using Butler in our competitive programme. Another possible way of countering this situation may be less popular - graded competition! Basically, this would mean grading pairs according to established Aggregate form and playing only in the Grade A movement; Grade B pairs would have the choice of playing in either Grade A or Grade B movement. In theory, this would give those pairs currently locked on to 49% or less the opportunity of playing in a field of equals or near-equals, thereby acquiring a more meaningful measure of their abilities because the card sharks would be limited to playing amongst better pairs who would not be so vulnerable to their ploys. Even the 0 percenters would be able to return the occasional morale boosting high position in a flatter field. I repeat, that is the theory of it. Of course, the idea would need some active co-operation from declared Grade B players who would have to be prepared to face up to the limitations of their game and to wear the Grade B label willingly. And of course, the Grade A pairs might discover that, without the benefit of the gifts from the lesser players, they would not be getting their usual high fifties as easily. There are attractive possible refinements of the basic scheme: promotion and relegation between Grades; limitations on the number of games played in the wrong grade; cash prizes in both grades; separate championships; more equitable movements and more

realistic scores; and more enjoyable bridge FOR ALL. It may be argued that the scheme would split the club and implicitly discourage Grade B players from playing in Grade A movements against theoretically stronger opposition and, hence, improving their game. I would counter these points by saying that I believe all our members are big enough and friendly enough to take such a constructive change in the spirit in which it was intended and that the competition could be arranged so that Grade B pairs could compete quite frequently in the Grade A movements and still retain their Grade B status for graded events. So there it is. Continuing extremes of scoring, unreal percentages and inflated reputations or better, more effective competition amongst equals. Talk it over with your partner, write to our editor, talk with a committee member or scratch it on the lloo door, but somehow air your views in the club. If you have an alternative idea or can suggest improvements to this idea, please, for the sake of the club, let your opinion be public.

Peter Hart

Club Results, Wednesday January 11.

Another 70+% for Celestine and Garry, still averaging 63%. Are they going to make a challenge for the aggregate pairs? Brian and Mike keep the pressure on them with 63.8% & Ruby and Max not far behind with 63.3%. Dan and Roy complete a quartet of over sixties. Karen and David, 53.4%, improving weekly while Aleda and Joan crash to 44.3%.

1. Eldred/Shieff	71.9%
2. Hopper/Kirby	63.8%
3. Turley/Turley	63.3%
4. Clark D/Goddard R	60.2%
5. Price/Prince	57.0%

What's On and Where

C.T.A. Australia Day Congress - Esplanade, Perth. Saturday Jan. 28, 2/1 session pairs events; Sun. Jan. 29, a 2 session pairs event; Mon. Jan. 30, a 2 session teams event. Champions of Champions - WABC Dalkeith; 4 Thursdays of Feb. STATE MIXED TEAMS - C.T.A., Esplanade; 8 Mondays commencing Feb. 6 excluding Labour Day and Easter Monday.