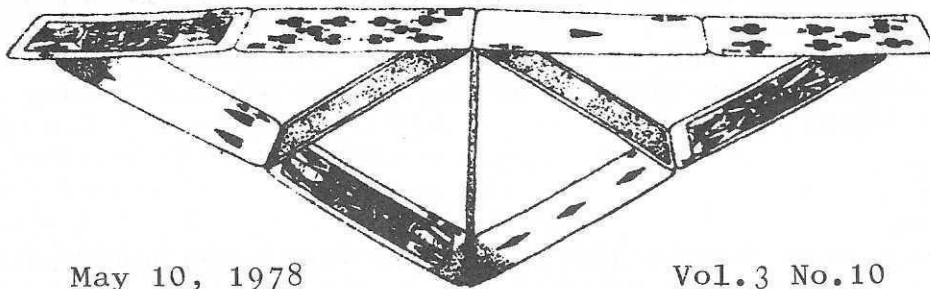


Bridging the gap



May 10, 1978

Vol.3 No.10

KALAMUNDA DISTRICTS BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

EDITORIAL

Well, the Kalamunda Club Congress is over for another year. I have heard said that it wasn't nearly as successful as the one held last year, but apart from the obvious politics involved, I, for one, thoroughly enjoyed myself. People, generally speaking, like to have a little something to grumble about, and I believe that no matter how hard a committee may work to produce an enjoyable and successful congress, there will always be those who manage to find something to complain about. Three cheers for our committee - I think they did a fine job.

A hearty welcome to the newcomers and a "jolly well done" to Mr. & Mrs. Townsend who are attending the classes on Tues evenings. Roy Goddard managed to persuade them to come along last Wed. when they achieved second place in the B Div.

I don't know how I would cope with this magazine if Peter Hart didn't religiously fill in all the "big holes" for me each issue. Some people complain that he is somewhat "caustic". I should like to say that this magazine was never intended to pamper our members' egos, rather to promote debate and discussion. I suggest that those of you who have anything to say about Peter's comments put it on paper, sign your name, and let me have it. That way I'd get more contributions from you the members and Peter wouldn't have to write so much anyway. I have something to say about what he has said in the "Aggregate Pairs Commentary" in this issue. He has frequently pointed out that the winning pairs invariably "quit while they are ahead" as it were. I am not qualified to comment on previous years, but I should like to point out to those of you

that don't know that Mike Hopper arranges to play with a partner for no longer than six months at a time. That Hopper/Kirby are winning the championship after their six month stint together is purely coincidental. It wasn't planned that way.

Will the captains of the teams in the League Teams competition kindly give me some results so that I may publish them?

SHE

LETTERS

Dear She,

Having read Joan's letter as you suggested and having found it very much worthwhile, I agree with her contention that the "range of scores on any particular hand" has not "become less incredible", but there were other reasons for the introduction of the second movement.

In accordance with the wishes of a number of members, a more relaxed game, played at a slower tempo, was made possible, and that type of game is proving most enjoyable to those members, as well as attracting new players to the club.

Another pleasing result is the emergence of a potential Tournament Director, Jan Burgess, who is proving herself capable of quietly and efficiently "keeping us in Division B moving" and ensuring that we sit at the right table with the right cards.

I feel that it is scarcely fair to expect the very good players, who - as Joan puts it - like "fiercely competitive bridge" to have to go to other clubs or congresses to enjoy that type of game.

Strangely enough, one finds a more sociable atmosphere at congresses, where the necessary two hours or so interval between events enables competitors to meet one another for conversation, a drink and a meal in pleasant surroundings and to conclude the congress with supper before the prize-giving.

Many clubs do not even have a coffee break, as they find that most of their members playing at night prefer to play a minimum of 24 boards and still be home at a reasonable time.

Division B players may play in Division A and thus improve by playing against the "thems".

Perhaps if the line of demarcation were much higher up the scale, thus debarring very few members from competing in Division B, or if everyone was allowed to play in either division, it might make for a more even distribution between

the two movements.

I certainly share the feeling that prompted Joan's
final paragraph.

CONSTANCE McCULLOUGH

Club Results - April 26, 1978 (14½ Tables)

A Division: Best ever score for Clark/Kirby, on a difficult set of boards ... look at who couldn't cope - de Blank/Loveland 48.2%; Eldred/Shieff 46.9%; Charters/Charters 41.4% - there is worse to come - Chisholm/L'Herpiniere 39.6% and, finally, Addison/Wilson 39.1%!
Clark/Kirby 67.5%; Hubbard/Pratt 61.7%; Gartner/Hardman 55.5%; Clark/Goddard 55.2%; Goddard/Hart 54.7%; Teague/Teague 54.4%.

B Division: McCullough/Weston make a spectacular return to competition, 12% ahead of field ... Bechelli/Duncan play 10% above form more new faces.
McCullough/Weston 68.8%; Barnett/Knott 56.3%; Renton/Renton 53.1%.

AGGREGATE PAIRS COMMENTARY - April 1978

We have now completed the first 2-monthly cycle of two sections. The experiment is having a marked effect on the competition as it moves into the final stages. Nine of the top 11 pairs (which includes one B status pair, Berry/Mizen) have come back towards the pack, the exceptions being Turley/Turley, up 0.1% and Teague/Teague up 0.2% - not exactly setting the competition alight, is it? The 7 bottom pairs have all increased their form considerably. Mentionable improvers are Bechelli/Duncan, up 1.5%; Graham/Valentine, up 6 points; Moore/Moore, up 2.7%; Hafkamp/Mizen, up 19 points and, last but by no means least, Renton/Renton up another 1.6% which makes them, for the second consecutive month, the Most Improved Pair. In the two months they have gone from 39.5% to 44.8% - ask them what they think of the two sections!!

So the gap between top and bottom has been reduced by more than 2%. As the top and bottom pairs are no longer meeting each other, it is proving to be to their mutual advantage. Those at the bottom are no longer suffering those nerve-shattering, morale-sapping instances of 5 off doubled and vulnerable for 1400 or else subsiding in a part score in the face of speculative and, arguably, non-ethical opposition bidding when a game is easy. On the other hand, those at the top are not able to stand over opponents to the same extent (consciously or not); they are having to play

for their scores now. And results so far seem to indicate that some of the 'top' pairs are not having an easy ride.

I regret that the competition for the best club pair has died already. Once again one pair (Hopper/Kirby 59.1%) has outscored the rest of us to such an extent that it can afford to not compete over the second half of the year. This will be the third consecutive year that a pair has achieved a likely winning standard well before the end of the competition and stopped competing. Whatever their reasons, this seems to me to be a highly unsatisfactory situation. The champion club pair must surely be that pair which has outscored all other pairs over the whole year, that pair which has been willing to put its form and reputation at risk as often as is possible, not just as often as the regulations require. Perhaps the regulations should be altered to prevent such machinations. We could revert to Bob Prince's suggestion of a higher number of scores to qualify - this would require pairs to compete at the club more often, or we could insert a clause requiring a minimum attendance every month or quarter which would not necessarily demand more attendances but would require continued attendances spread over the whole year. After all, the competition is for the best club pair and that title implies, or is meant to imply, not just superior performance but active continuing superior performance. How can the club acknowledge as champions in June, the pair who voluntarily split up and haven't played together since January? How can you?

KIBITZER

Club Results - May 3, 1978 (11 Tables)

A Division: D'Rozario/Godden 63.2%; Helliwell/Martin 59.6%;
Turley/Turley 55.5%; de Blank/Loveland 54.6%.

B Division: McLean/Tee 63.5%; Townsend/Townsend 52.4%;
Berry/Berry 51.6%.

OBSERVATIONS ON OTHER CLUBS

One of the first big headlines I saw in the Auckland Herald on a recent visit to New Zealand was "Australia Score Decisive Bridge Test Win" and I quote from the long article.

"The Australians were model opponents who have proved excellent ambassadors on their trip. They well deserved the win and with it automatic right to play for the world women's championship in New Orleans in May". As Western Australia's Mrs. Lester was a member of that team, it was very pleasant to bask in reflected glory.

New Zealand is really a bridge country. I played at the Auckland Bridge Club which has the largest membership in the world - over 1200 members. Visitors have to be "signed in" by two members and are expected to have reached a reasonable standard. The club has a resident woman secretary, a resident woman director, as well as other directors of both sexes. The rooms are extremely comfortable. Fees are \$15 nomination fee, \$30 annual subscription plus \$1 application fee and table money is \$1.

We played from 12.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. - 24 boards - short tea break and changed every board.

One notice on the main notice board read "A six weeks' course in directing and scoring will begin on Tuesday March 14th at 7.30 p.m. for any members interested".

As to systems, about 50% of players used Goren, 30% Acol, and 20% Precision or other systems. There were many smaller clubs in Auckland, most having an annual subscription of \$9 and \$1 table money.

In Sydney at the NSW Bridge Association a similar pattern of systems was apparent, and nearly every pair brought a systems card to the table. There, 24 boards were played between 7.30 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. Annual subscription is \$15, \$1.50 table money and \$2.50 for visitors. There is no coffee break but tea and coffee are available throughout the evening at 35 cents per cup - without biscuits!!

Richard Grenside directed an enormous number of tables the evening I played there, and we played 3 boards at each table.

CONSTANCE McCULLOUGH
(to be continued ...)

SEPARATE TABLES

The following tables show the standings of all pairs who have competed in at least half of the total sessions, March/April.

<u>A Status</u>	P	%	<u>B Status</u>	P	%
de Blank/Loveland	7	55.1	Berry/Mizen	6	54.3
Hopper/Martin	5	54.4	Renton/Renton	7	53.9
Price/Prince	6	53.0	Burgess/Burgess	5	50.2
Clark/Kirby	6	51.7	Doepel/Doepel	4	48.7
Addison/Wilson	8	51.2	Gartner/Hardman	8	47.7
Hubbard/Pratt	6	50.5	Graham/Valentine	5	47.2
Chisholm/L'Herpinriere	6	50.2	Ramsay/Teague	5	46.7
Clark/Goddard	6	49.7	Bechelli/Duncan	7	43.1
Charters/Charters	4	49.1			
Haggard/Stephens	6	47.0			
Eldred/Shieff	4	42.2			

In accordance with the provisional regulations, Eldred/Shieff, playing as a pair, become B status and Berry/Mizen, playing as a pair, take A status.

P. HART

ROVING AROUND

Our own Congress takes pride of place in this month's report. While numbers were considerably down on last year's inaugural Kalamunda Congress, those that attended appeared to enjoy themselves. The winners were practically all members of our club.

They were:-

- Flitch - Ruby and Max Turley
- Odds and Ends - Roy Helliwell and Ray Martin
- Open Pairs - Aleda Clark and John Price
- Open Teams - Aleda Clark, Joan Goddard,
John Price and Bob Prince
- Walk In Pair I - Charlotte Bruce and Marney McKay equal
with Clive Godden and Geoff Johnson
- Walk In Pair II - Val Biltoft and Michael Hopper

On the State scene, the Interclub Mixed Teams for the Mabel McCulloch Shield, our members showed no interest and only 5 clubs were represented. Our nearest neighbour, Canning Districts, had a tremendous first round and, although they slipped badly on the final round, their first round was sufficient to hold the lead.

Our representation in the State Open Pairs is at its lowest since our club started with only $1\frac{1}{2}$ pairs out of 60 pairs. Are we on the competitive decline?

A.N. OTHER
