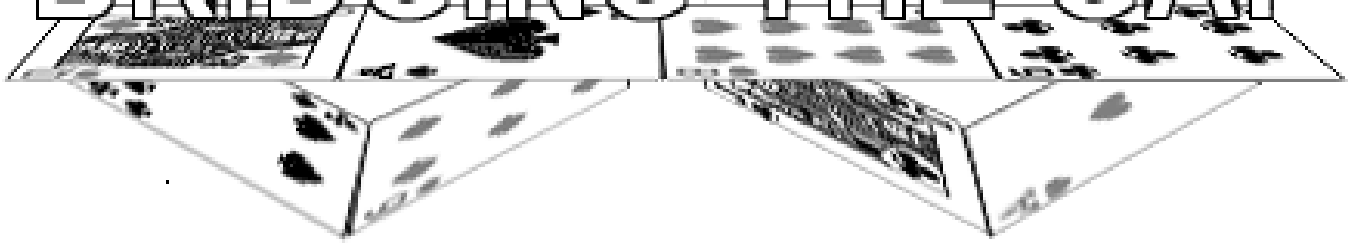


BRIDGING THE GAP



Volume 36

Issue 1

May 2012

CRABB'S KALAMUNDA



Future BTGs will be every three months. The news section on the website will be regularly updated with current news but BTG will be available for those unable to check the website.

Grants

The Lottery bid has been despatched and receipt confirmed but it will take several months before we hear if it has been accepted. The bid to the Bendigo bank has now been despatched but the decision will not be made until September!

Monthly Prize Winners

The most improved pair in March was Sita and Jean and the best player award was shared between Alan Harper and Carmen who could not be separated even on count-back.

Congress

Thanks to the efforts of Denise and other club members the congress was a success. As a thank you to everyone who contributed in the running of the congress or the provision of food the committee has made Christmas in July a free event (no table money) and we will be providing the cold meat so members will only be required to bring salads and sweets.

New Learners classes

The new classes that started in February are nearly finished and we hope that we will soon have another eight members of whom half are still working. To cater for these and for those who have recently finished a learners course we are now running regular sessions on a Wednesday evening. There was a problem integrating new learners into the club and the committee, after a lengthy debate, decided on running Wednesday evenings on a three week trial

(your president said it wouldn't work!) and they proved a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of Anita, Gordon, Bert and the club members who agreed to play with the beginners/less experienced players. Wednesdays are ordinary club sessions with masterpoints but they start at 7.00 and finish at 10.00. Ordinary club pairs are welcome to join us. We anticipate that Wednesday evenings will become sessions for those who wish to play on an evening but find Thursday evenings too stressful. The committee has agreed that the experienced players who play with beginners will not pay table money. A lot of members have agreed to act as mentors on the Wednesday evenings so thanks to all of them.

Peter Cameron and Elizabeth have joined the teaching team and Peter has started teaching. Elizabeth has attended some classes but will start teaching with the next group as she is currently finishing a masters degree.

Intermediate lessons are now running. There is a booklet available and so far there have been a lesson on Balancing and on Leads (including trump leads).

We have also had our first enquiries from the ad on Curtin radio.

Grounds

Liz Edmunds (one of our new members) has agreed to work with Rosemary Offer to improve the outside of the club. Liz is currently in Europe but they will commence work on her return so the patch outside the cabin should soon look better.

Marketing

The leaflet has been revised with the new times.

Leaflets and posters are now in place in libraries in Kalamunda, Forrestfield, High Wycombe and Midland and the shopping centres in those areas. Quarter page adverts now appear every two months in the Kalamunda Reporter.

The merchant coffee is continuing to sponsor us and we are currently negotiating with them about a flyer to be delivered to all households in the shire advertising the lessons that will commence in September.

A new poster campaign will commence in June prior to the new lessons in September and the handbook is being revised with the layout being reviewed by a graphic artist.

Rodger

Rodger Paterson has agreed to look at our website. He is purchasing the necessary software so he can design some pages for the committee to consider. He has also agreed to be responsible for updating the news section so if you have any news you want on please contact him.

Finance

At the time of writing we have approximately nine thousand dollars more in our accounts than at the same time last year. There may be some expenditure before the end of the year (a dealing machine?) but we should be able to add to our surplus this year.

Directors

Garth has now been approved as a director for red point events and has agreed to lend his expertise to the competitions committee so congratulations and thanks to Garth. The committee has been tasked by your Management Committee to re-examine our competitions schedule. They have been asked to start from scratch and produce a schedule that reflects the needs of the current membership and not one based on history and the honour boards! Expect some changes.

Bridge is easy for the experts

A few Thursdays ago I was north and held the following hand

S 7
H A J 10 5 4 3
D 8 6 4 3
C 9 7

West opened 1NT and east raised to 3NT.

I had to lead. Beginners are taught to lead the fourth highest unless..... This is one of the exceptions. From a holding of A J 10 x x you lead the J. If the opponents win then when partner gains the lead they return a heart and if west only has three hearts they are gone. The actual hand was as follows

N
♠ 7
♥ A J 10 5 4 3
♦ 8 6 4 3
♣ 9 7

W
♠ K J 6 3 2
♥ K 9 2
♦ K Q 2
♣ K 6

E
♠ 9 5
♥ Q 6
♦ A J 10 5
♣ A Q 8 5 3

S
♠ A Q 10 8 4
♥ 8 7
♦ 9 7
♣ J 10 4 2

You can see what happens if you lead the fourth highest. Declarer makes the contract easily. West played the Q on the J and the rest is history. Could it have been played differently? - see next issue for the answer. Well this is the next issue and so here it is.

The answer is yes. Had Gerry Daly been playing it (and yes I sought his advice) he would have ducked the first round. Unless the clubs break 3:3 (and you should expect a 4:2 break) you must lose the lead and the only hope of making the contract is for a 6:2 break in hearts with South gaining the lead but then unable to lead a heart back to partner. Holding up is therefore the best way to play the hand. If the clubs break all is well but if not you still have a chance. Take the first round of hearts and it is all or nothing.

Jokes

THE STELLA AWARDS UNBELIEVABLE!

It's time again for the annual 'Stella Awards'!

For those unfamiliar with these awards, they are named after 81-year-old Stella Liebeck who spilled hot coffee on herself and successfully sued the McDonald's in New Mexico, where she purchased coffee. You remember, she took the lid off the coffee and put it between her knees while she was driving. Who would ever think one could get burned doing that, right? That's right; these are awards for the most outlandish lawsuits and verdicts in the U.S. You know the kind of cases that make you scratch your head. So keep your head scratcher handy.

Here are the Stellas for this past year - 2011

* SEVENTH PLACE *

Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas was awarded \$80,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The store owners were understandably surprised by the verdict, considering the running toddler was her own son.

Start scratching!

* SIXTH PLACE *

Carl Truman, 19, of Los Angeles, California won \$74,000 plus medical expenses when his neighbour ran over his hand with a

Honda Accord. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbour's hubcaps.

Scratch some more...

* FIFTH PLACE *

Terrence Dickson, of Bristol, Pennsylvania, who was leaving a house he had just burglarized by way of the garage. Unfortunately for Dickson, the automatic garage door opener malfunctioned and he could not get the garage door to open. Worse, he couldn't re-enter the house because the door connecting the garage to the house locked when Dickson pulled it shut. Forced to sit for eight, count 'em, EIGHT days and survive on a case of Pepsi and a large bag of dry dog food, he sued the homeowner's insurance company claiming undue mental Anguish. Amazingly, the jury said the insurance company must pay Dickson \$500,000 for his anguish. We should all have this kind of anguish. Keep scratching. There are more...

Double hand scratching after this one..

* FOURTH PLACE *

Jerry Williams, of Little Rock, Arkansas, garnered 4th Place in the Stella's when he was awarded \$14,500 plus medical expenses after being bitten on the butt by his next door neighbour's beagle - even though the beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard. Williams did not get as much as he asked for because the jury believed the beagle might have been provoked at the time of the butt bite because

Williams had climbed over the fence into the yard and repeatedly shot the dog with a pellet gun.

Pick a new spot to scratch, you're getting a bald spot.

*** THIRD PLACE ***

Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania because a jury ordered a Philadelphia restaurant to pay her \$113,500 after she slipped on a spilled soft drink and broke her tailbone. The reason the soft drink was on the floor: Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument. Whatever happened to people being responsible for their own actions?

Only two more so ease up on the scratching...

SECOND PLACE

Kara Walton, of Claymont, Delaware sued the owner of a night club in a nearby city because she fell from the bathroom window to the floor, knocking out her two front teeth. Even though Ms. Walton was trying to sneak through the ladies room window to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge, the jury said the night club had to pay her \$12,000....oh, yeah, plus dental expenses. Go figure.

Ok. Here we go!! Drum roll...

*** FIRST PLACE ***

This year's runaway First Place Stella Award winner was: Mrs. Merv Grazinski of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who purchased a new 32-foot Winnebago motor home. On her first trip home, from an OU football game, having driven on to the freeway, she set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go to the back of the Winnebago to make herself a sandwich. Not surprisingly, the motor home left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Also not surprisingly, Mrs. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not putting in the owner's manual that she couldn't actually leave the driver's seat while the cruise control was set. The Oklahoma jury awarded her, are you sitting down? \$1,750,000 PLUS a new motor home. Winnebago actually changed their manuals as a result of this suit, just in case Mrs. Grazinski has any relatives who might also buy a motor home.