



VOLUME 42

ISSUE 2

APRIL 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Betty Roberts



Who would have thought that Monday 16 March would be the last bridge session at the club for some time due to the Corona-virus (COVID-19) outbreak. Initially the ABF recommended that clubs be closed for a month, however, it would soon become

evident that it would go for longer than that. The management committee accepted the recommendation as being the best option in keeping our members safe.

The last few months have been very trying. I hope everyone came through fit and healthy and ready to get back into normal routines.

I for one was disappointed to go through all the preliminaries for my knee operation only to have it cancelled at the last minute due to the need for hospital beds and insufficient personal protection equipment. It has now been rescheduled for Thursday 30 April.

In the interim the committee along with other members are planning to revamp the gardens around the club now the weather is cooler.

Our long-term plans for the club are on hold at the moment but be assured when feasible new projects will be undertaken to improve amenities at the club.

Being in lockdown has some merit, most pantries and cupboards have been completely cleaned out and all gardens have benefited from us all being at home. We have had time to smell the roses and reflect on what is important.

I hope all our members and their families have stayed safe and well and continue to do so.

I am sending a long distant hug to everyone, stay safe.

Carole

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carole Littlechild



As we near the end of April we are in unusual times. The virus has turned our lives upside down and I fear this will go on for a lot longer. Unfortunately, I feel that bridge sessions at clubs will be one of the last pastimes to re-open. But do not despair we will be back in force I am sure if not before but in the new year and what a belated 50th birthday party we will have.

**MOST USELESS PURCHASE OF
2019?**

A 2020 PLANNER

EFFECT OF CORONAVIRIS COVID-19

As we all know Kalamunda is a very friendly bridge club that provides a supportive and challenging environment for its members. Having said that you don't know what a good club we have until it is not there! I have missed playing bridge, the friendships made and the general conviviality of the club. I think we need to throw a party when we return.

With many members suffering withdrawal symptoms, I thought it would be interesting to see what members of the club have been doing whilst we have been confined to home. Thank you to those who responded and the following are examples of the activities being undertaken.

- Missing bridge and everyone at the club and hoping they are coping with the current situation;
- Playing bridge on the computer;
- Daily puzzles including crosswords, cryptic crosswords, sudoku, jigsaws;
- Sorting through old photos and putting them into some sort of order in albums;
- Reading;
- Watching movies;
- Exercise bike and general physical exercise;
- Housekeeping including rearranging kitchen cupboards;
- Gardening.

Peter Daniel has a collection of hundreds of pot plants that require constant maintenance. He makes plant containers out of timber and cement and paints them prior to planting. No two are the same. One thing he hasn't been doing and that is watching the news.

Robin is driving her husband round the bend but hopes to see people at the bridge table soon.

Someone who wishes to remain anonymous has a busy routine in between washing hands. The routine is as follows:

- Take the dog for her morning walk;
- Feed the dog;
- Pick up dog poo;
- Do push-ups, sit-ups and then some relaxation;
- Go shopping—he now knows exactly where things are in the aisles;
- Wash and polish the car;
- Cook dinner;

- Now it is time to attack the giant crossword. I am still trying to work out what the eleventh Greek letter is!
- Misses bridge and wonders how his friends are coping.

Wendy has an interesting list:

- Ironing all up to date.
- Emails all answered promptly.
- Walking every morning (so far avoiding cyclists who have no idea on courteous behavior on shared footpaths).
- Enjoying my take-away coffee at local deli, I don't have to order now - they know what I want when I arrive (am I so predictable).
- Have been able to do hydro-therapy (3 times week) and arm-shoulder improving (I think).
- Discovering new things to do with google.
- Managed to work out ABC Iviv and SBS on Demand on my little laptop, watched episodes of 'Capture' - couldn't wait for weekly viewing, had to know what happened at end.
- Shredder working overtime - getting rid of no longer needed documents.
- Doing lots of Sudoku puzzles and attempting to complete a Jigsaw puzzle.
- Lastly and not right now, but going to sort out photos (**selecting ones that I want to be shown at my funeral**) which I hope will be well after this isolation finishes, otherwise no-one could go anyway.
- Does miss my bridge games and drinks with friends afterwards though.
- Looks forward to catching up with everyone in few weeks? or months?

Gordon has been making a 30cm horse box for his granddaughter's toy horses. She is horse mad but due to the virus cannot go on her weekly horse riding trips. He will have to leave the horse box at her front doorstep and wave to her through the window.

Elizabeth Bazen has had a challenging time in between working and looking after her two young children.

Usually in a week I work 3 days in Cannington, have 2 week days at home with Jasper (age 3) while Dominic (age 7) is at school, and I get 2 days of weekend.

Now, the government has asked that children be kept home from school if possible, and my office has asked everyone who can work from home to do so. (They've relaxed their usual working from home rules due to the emergency, so I am allowed to work at home with the kids at home all day.) I usually manage to work for an hour in the morning before they wake up at 5am, and I work during Jasper's naptime for a couple of hours too. I can make up extra hours on the weekend, when my husband is home, if I need to. Fortunately I only work 22.5 hours a week, but right now I have to work 7 days a week to make up my weekly hours around the kids.

I am not homeschooling Dominic at all, but I did give him a notebook to write his adventures in, and he has been learning how to make biscuits and do the washing up. (Good luck with the latter!)

Cora loves the slower pace and feels she has been running life too much in the fast lane. Her Air B&B business is booming and keeps her on her toes. Besides her regular lodgers she has FIFO workers who cannot fly home due to limited flights or interstate abodes, thus they stay with her during their break from work in the North West. At present she is booked up until mid-July by FFO's from the Eastern States.

Cora misses bridge and is now playing scrabble on line to keep the brain turning over. She has also discovered on her daily walks, many hidden bush paths and particularly likes Lesmurdie Falls.

Dianne Barker says there is only so much cleaning and gardening one can do so she has put time into making three new quilts for babies in the family as well as joining a group that is making hospital scrubs and distributing them to various hospitals and clinics around the metro area. So far she has been too busy to miss bridge and is finding the isolation a bit wearing with only Mike to talk to!

As for Carmen, she is currently in Spain being well looked after by her sisters until travel restrictions are lifted and she can return home.



JULY

Alan Harper, Philip Snook, Peter Clarke, Lorraine Stivey, Michael Barker, Helen Browne-Cooper, Catherine Gabites, Ronnie Malthouse, Joanne Payne, Jean-Claude Pondevie, Diane Smith, Bernard Szalkowski, Sheilagh Thomas.

AUGUST

Jean-Paul Tedeschi, Sandra Hoffman, Carole Dexter, Audrey Totterdell, Guy Gaudet, Carmen Jackson, Kit Lemann, Ron Middleton, Eugene Murphy, Robert Williamson.

SEPTEMBER

Barbara Guelfi, Mary Simmonds, Jim Steel, Sita Weggelaar, Judy Morland, Brian Dexter, Bernadette McStravick, Mark Pezzali, Bob Steer, Renee Wylie, Cherry Zamudio, Bente Hansen.



KALAMUNDA CONGRESS

It was interesting to note that in his column on the following two Saturdays, Nigel Dutton chose to critique two interesting hands from the Kalamunda Congress.

Hand 1— Swiss Teams—Board 16 - Stephen Thyer/Joanne Payne V Nigel Dutton/Marie-Fran Merven

Bridge

NIGEL DUTTON

One of the best and possibly expensive ways to learn to play bridge is to play Rubber Bridge for stakes slightly more than you can afford to lose. After a couple of hundred dollar hands (losing), you certainly learn some discipline in all aspects of the game.

What you don't do playing for money is to



DEALER: WEST. VUL: EW.

open weak twos. I know I sound like a reformed alcoholic preaching about the demon drink. By the way, I'm not a reformed anything, but I am on a little crusade to encourage the use of the doubling stick versus the proliferation of awful opening two bids.

I thought I had the perfect opportunity at the Congress last weekend when my good friend from Kalamunda, Stephen T, opened the west hand, red vs black, 2H. Is this the worst weak two in modern times? Not sure, but it's very close. Look at the spade suit quality K9 empty; rubbish diamonds, not a 10 insight. Furthermore, only the most optimistic of players would think the Jx of spades improves the hand; it doesn't.

Presumably, you are opening this 2H, so your partner can bid a good tight heart game. Well, if that's the case, partner is going to need a mighty hand, either to make this tight game or to beat the opponents game, which you may have just pushed them to. If partner has this, hoped for, mighty hand then you will hear about it very soon; they might even open a 15-17 NT and you are on your way to your tight, but good percentage game.

Let us hope they don't have an eight-count with two little hearts; oops they do. Do the

maths, if you are doubled and play really well and make six tricks for -500, then you lose to all games NS may bid; it can only get worse from there on in. You may go for 800 and NS may not be able to make game.

Sitting north, I was delighted with the 2H opening and couldn't pass soon enough and when east passed I started to salivate and began sending multiple electromagnetic telepathic waves across the table. Bzzz - the red card partner; inexplicably partner chose the green card; I need to work on my waves. This is wrong, particularly as east had failed to raise hearts. MF knows we don't like defending doubled part scores with a trump void and wasn't happy with the spade suit quality. Nevertheless, some action should have been taken. Anyway, this drifted to three off for +300, which was lucky as NS in the other room played in a club partial making 10 tricks.

It is important in situations like this that south protects partner's hand at least with a protective double. If partner (north) can't double for penalties then, in pass out seat, south must do something; doubling with as few as 9-10 points if nothing else looks sensible. This is also the case should a first seat one level opening, particularly one of a major,

be passed round to pass-out seat. It may be partner has a good hand but no sensible bid over the opening. You need to do something with 9+ points. The only time this is not the case is when a 1C opening is passed round. If partner couldn't do anything over 1C and the responder also passed then they probably have a much better spot to play. So pass 1C very quickly.

It seems many west players were infected with the AWT-19 virus (Awful Weak Two -19) but no south found the double - why people? Let's punish this nonsense. Most norths managed at least to protect partner's hand with a 2S overcall. This led to a number of tables reaching 4S mostly successful as they were, with the help of the 2H opening, able to find CQ. When north bid 3NT over 2S south realized, belatedly, that maybe a double was right after all; 3NT was mostly successful. Five pairs managed to find their club fit; four pairs played in 3C making 9, 10 or 11 tricks. Well done to Carol Dickie and Ivan Johnson who managed not only to bid 6C, but also make it. I'm sure the 2H opening also helped them to find the CQ. I was interested to note only two pairs were in 2H; one was NS and the other EW, both making five tricks.

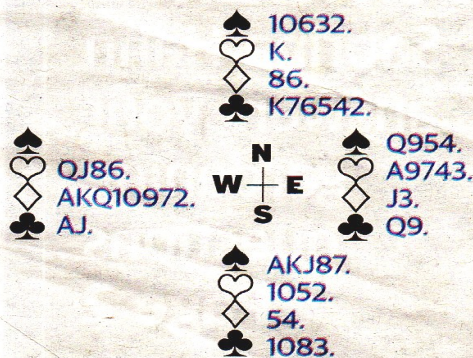
Hand 2—Swiss Pairs— Board 10 Jane Pike/Marie-Fran Hall V Anita Davis/Julie Bechelli

Bridge

NIGEL DUTTON

I hope you are all safe and well and staying home. Hopefully, you are getting your bridge fix via the internet as I fear our clubs could be closed for quite some time.

I did mention last year one of the problems natural systems have is that the biggest hands are opened with 2C - game force and with disappointing regularity partner responds 2D. So you have used seven possible bids to conclude



DEALER: EAST. VUL: ALL.

that opener has a good hand and partner not much. One advantage is the opponents will often stay conveniently quiet.

Today's hand comes from the recent Kalamunda Congress with the spotlight falling first on west after two passes. There was some discussion at the post-session refreshments as to what was the best opening bid, 2C or 1D, or even 5D. I think 2C is wrong for a couple of reasons; firstly given east's annoying propensity to respond 2D will see him playing the hand. Secondly, EW will be at the 3D level before they have much idea as to what is going on and I think it is quite possible, given the spade void that the 2C opening will not necessarily shut the opposition up.

Opening 5D, particularly with a four-card heart suit, is a unilateral decision which may not please your partner who only needs AKx of hearts to make 6D. For lots of reasons 1D is the stand-out opening. You can be certain that with 13 spades and 23 points not in your hand that 1D will not be passed out. If it is, at least you'll make it. Yes it does allow the opponents to interfere but on balance the best bid.

My questioner did indeed open 1D and north, vulnerable, opposite a passed partner made the nauseatingly awful overall of 2C. I really don't

know where players find these bids, I have checked a number of books on bidding and I couldn't find one that advocated a 2-level overcall, vulnerable, at IMPS, with a working 3-count. Yes, you do have a six-card suit but it is missing AQJ1098 which are six of the top seven cards. It does, however, hold five of the lowest six cards just needing the three to really solidify the suit. Did you make the same bid? Of course you didn't.

Now to east, what to do with this collection of not much? I was absolutely clear I would bid but did have a minuscule amount of sympathy for his pass. Actually minuscule overstates the amount but the suggestions from the synonym list on Word had nothing that sounded smaller. I think east has a couple of choices; 2H or double and 2H has the advantage of showing a five-card suit and double showing both majors. I'll leave it to you but my choice would be 2H hoping either partner may introduce spades themselves or I may get the chance to double later showing five hearts and four spades.

Now whatever action south takes, keeping EW out of a red suit slam will not be easy. South may well think about 2S as they have a goodish suit and a three-card club support to go with partner's solid overcall. West will be concerned

two boards have been mixed up as there seem to be at least 50 points in this hand but will soldier on with a 4S cue or would it be Exclusion Keycard; interesting? Nevertheless, we are on the way to six; hold on partner.

Deep Finesse tells us that 7D and 7H are cold but that's Deep; be very pleased with your bidding should you have reached either 6D or 6H. The safest spot is 6D by west as the club position is protected; 6H by east on a club lead takes some considerable care if you are not Deep. However, the five pairs who found 6H all received the SA making 12 tricks a breeze. Not sure how one pair managed only 11. On the lead of SA, correct play should see 13 tricks roll home — nobody made 13; weird. Ruff the spade and plan to play ace and another heart to guarantee your contract and also 13 tricks. If you belong to the popular Twitter group with the hashtag @see-a-finesse-take-a-finesse and you played the HQ from dummy then you might as well finesse the H10 on the way back; also for 13 tricks and well deserved tweet.

Well done to Marie-France Van Hall and Jane Pike along with the eventual winners, Dave Munro and Deana Wilson, who sadly were the only two pairs to reach the best spot of 6D, both making 13 tricks.

