



GOLD COAST BRIDGE CLUB

Issue No 202 - July 2023

President's Report

Please note our upcoming AGM date has been changed to **SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER** at 11am (one week earlier than in the 2023 Bridge Diary).

Everybody loves the larger size tables, but we have received numerous complaints about the cards sliding, and difficult to pick up without a tablecloth. A big thank you to **Sue Herse, Lorraine Twyford** and many helpers that found a way to utilize two sets of existing tablecloths to fix this problem. Thank you to all of you.

As you know our club runs with the help of many volunteers. A big thank you to all of you. Rarely do we have visitors from interstate immerse themselves and contribute as much as **George Topfner** and his wife **Stella**. Both have generously assisted on a multitude of levels with the running of our Club during their stay. Thank you very much, we will miss you when you return home.

On the subject of volunteers, most of you will know by now that **Eva Berger** has stepped down from her various roles. Her contribution to, and involvement in, this club has been extraordinary, and we thank her for undertaking practically every role as a volunteer including President, Director, Congress Convenor, Chief of Tournament Committee, Masterpoint Secretary, Chief Scorer and more. Our club has benefited for years from Eva's knowledge of all aspects of the running of the club, and she has been called on many times to come to our rescue. This is very much appreciated, and we wish her well in her "retirement".

Warmest regards, Odette

Covid, Flu etc.

It is easy to think that the Covid-19 pandemic of the past three years is now in the past, finished, forgotten. In May, the World Health Organisation declared Covid-19 was no longer a global emergency. However, they confirmed that Covid-19 was here to stay. There are still many cases of Covid-19 being reported and who knows how many not being reported. We are still seeing members at our club contracting Covid. We are now also officially into 'flu season'. A reminder to all members to please stay at home if you have any symptoms that could develop into a cold, flu, respiratory syncytial virus (rsv) or Covid-19. A mild cough or an annoying snuffle may not be of much discomfort to you, but you could still be harbouring one of these viruses currently circulating in the community.

Beginner's Lessons

There are two more Beginners' courses before the end of this year. The next six-week course starts on Wednesday 12th July until 16th August. The final course for the year starts on 27th September until 1st November.

Cost is \$85 including a textbook. If you have any friends or family wishing to learn please ask them to contact our teacher, Dot Piddington, at dot.piddington@bigpond.com or call her on 0418 887 806.

Australia Wide Novice Pairs

Congratulations to the winners of this event held on 30th May at GCBC

- **Club Results**

- 1st - Robyn Kronenberg and Deb Carroll
- 2nd - Diana O'Ferrall and Karen Curtis
- 3rd - Peter Uldrich and Di Court

- **Gold Coast Pairs in Top 100 Nationwide (total 1303 pairs)**

- 11th - Peter Uldrich and Di Court
- 63rd - David Ward and Liz Ward

Grand Masters

Congratulations to our newest Grand Master, Jane Swanson. Jane achieved this goal as of 31st May with a total of 1001.03 masterpoints. (See her “In the Beginning” piece at the end of this newsletter).

The ABF Masterpoint system has 21 ranks from Graduate to Grand Master. Each rank from Graduate to Bronze Regional needs only the required number of green points. To earn the ranks of State and above, you will need to have a combination of green and red points and ultimately gold points.

GCBC has an impressive 24 Grand Masters, 10 of whom are Silver Grand and two are Gold Grand. David Smith was our only resident Gold Master but has been joined by Kim Morrison who became a GCBC member in December 2022. Welcome to our club, Kim.

An interesting statistic relating to our club is that there are only five players nationwide who have at least 1000 Gold, 1000 Red and 1000 Green masterpoints. Three of those five players are members at our club –

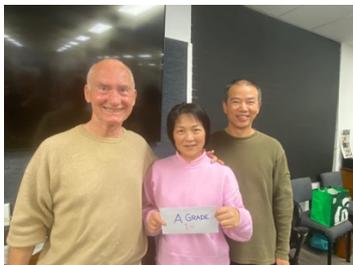
Eva Berger, Tom Strong and Roger Weathered.

Finally, don't despair if you feel you will never reach Grand Master status. You can still qualify as a member of the “1000 Club”. All you need is at least 1000 green masterpoints with no requirement for any red or gold points. What a relief. If I keep going on my current rate of accumulating green points, I should be eligible for this 1000 club in around 65 years!

June Events Winners – Congratulations

GCBC Congress Imp Pairs

- Grade A: Ann Liu, Usher Zeng
- Grade B: Barry Koster, Barbara Mackay
- Grade C: Juliet Rogers, Carolyn Waters



GCBC Congress Teams

- Grade A: Martin team: Carmel Martin, Pamela Evans, James Evans, Abby Wanigaratne
- Grade B: Koster team: Barbara Mackay, Richard Spelman, Lyn Tracey, Barry Koster
- Grade C: Kronenberg team: Robyn Kronenberg, Deb Carroll, Alan Kestenberg, John Lemarchand



July Events

Friday 7th July. All Day Red Point Teams Championship.

Wednesday 19th and 26th July. GNOT Heat 4 at GCBC

Thursday 20th and 27th July. Raward Trophy Red Point pairs

Thursday 20th and 27th Evening. Geoffrey Roberts Memorial Pairs. Sponsors Jane Swanson, John Sear, Devin Dean, Krystyna Homik

Promotions

Grand Master - Jane Swanson

Silver Life - Daria Williams

Life - Sonya Palreyman

Local - Fiona Evans

Club - Debbie Foot

Graduate - Deb Roots

New Members - Welcome

Alan Harding, Heather Fielding, Lindi Chapman, Claire Wilson, Campbell Johnson

July Birthdays

1st - Bruce Marr, John Pisko; 4th - Sandra Martin, Lyn Thompson; 5th - Edie Tonkin; 6th - Ian Jarvis, Elinor McCloskey; 8th - Jenny Dimond, Carolyn Jordan, Liz Labuc-Spoors, Adam Marks;

10th - Marlise Jones; 11th - Marlene Dwyer; 13th - Edward Hahn; 15th - Dennis O'Brien; 16th - Lesley Riches;

17th - Suzanne Purnell; 20th - Valerie Bennett, Lesley Kenyon; 22nd - Margaret Kelly, Kay Sylvester;

24th - Patricia Powis; 25th - Rachel Langdon, Roger Weathered; 27th - Greg Day, John Wilkinson; 29th - Lydia Bayer, Ange Kerr; 30th - Daria Williams; 31st - Dot Piddington.

In the Beginning...Jane Swanson

I started playing bridge in 2003. I've played with many different partners, some of whom have since died. Joan Leckie (RIP) was one of my earliest. She formed a solid partnership with Margaret Williamson for many years. Krystyna Homik, Marg, Joan and I formed a little group which became known as the "sex and the city" and we travelled away to play in weekend competitions. We always watched the TV show to relax after bridge.

In my early days I also played with Greg Yates. We would travel to Brisbane every 2nd Sunday with Kevin Dean and Geoffrey Roberts (RIP) to play at the various clubs around Brisbane. We took our first trip to Canberra in 2006 to play in the "Summer Festival of Bridge". We all had such a good time we trooped back again in 2007.

In 2007 I was able to partly draw Krystyna Homik away from Peter Leden (RIP). I played with her once a week, and she played with Peter once a week. In those days we all still worked and could only play at night: Monday and Thursday nights at GCBC and Tuesday night at SCBC.

I won the Queensland Individual trophy in December 2007. Did this mean I couldn't play with a partner?? I beat my nearest opponent by 84 points. There were 60 players that day. I can remember the Director, Alan Gibson, being very happy as I was a rank outsider.

In 2007 we travelled to Mackay, Townsville in 2008 and Cairns in 2009 for the Barrier Reef Congress. Our group had grown to include Sue Robinson, Lou Tillotson, Danny Hatcher and Bastian Bolt.

We first ventured overseas in 2014 to play in the Killarney Congress. In Killarney they start drinking Guinness at 11am. Everyone has a drink on the floor as they have no side tables. The most important thing when moving tables is to not knock their drink over. We played at St Andrews Bridge Club,

and we managed to “mess” up their movement. We moved like we do in Australia, but alas that was wrong! In 2016 we played in Pula, Croatia. We couldn’t speak the language, but we managed. Bridge has a language of its own!

I started playing with Roger Weathered and Bob Hunt in 2017 and during this year Bob and I won the Queensland Wide Pairs. All of this has turned me into a Grand Master, having reached 1,000 points. It’s been expensive with all that travel, but I have had a great time and loved the journey. So, keep playing and never give up!

Happy Bridging
Julie Wicks

Need a Partner: Use your Pianola account to request or find a partner or contact:
Mon - Sat Jim & Shelley Moodie...5591 2135 or 0402 634 013
Thursday Night. Tom Strong.....0421 106 986

Welfare Officer: Cheryl Millar 0409 879 081

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