



GOLD COAST BRIDGE CLUB

Issue No 189 - June 2022

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Stuart Reeder
Sales Consultant
0451 304 416
stuart.reeder@coastal.com.au
16 Queensland Avenue Broadbeach QLD 4218
www.coastal.com.au
Harcourts Coastal



President's Message

This month we farewelled a great and most loved member, Neil Raward. Joining in September 2001, Neil held most roles at the club (many simultaneously or when there was no one else to do the job) President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director, Social Events Organiser and very famously Santa Claus and Car Parking Attendant (he loved most to dress the part and have a good time). His wishes were that the Club continue its social activities. Thank you to the members who contributed to make the wake so successful.

A BIG THANK YOU to John Glennie, Mary Ditton, Frank Hymus and others that have given up their Saturday mornings for several months to conduct the Director's training course at no payment. Good luck to those members sitting the exam in June.

I've said this on many occasions that we are so fortunate to have so many hardworking volunteers. They conduct their roles as a contribution to the Club and help make us the friendly, inviting club it is today. Thank you all, your efforts are much appreciated. Thank you to Charlie Dacey for all the help you've given us as IT manager over many years.

Warm regards, Odette

Events/Congress winners in May

GNOT 3, Day 1, 27th May 2022

Jennings team: Bruce Jennings, Barbara Pigdon, Kerry Hiscocks, Joan Dawson.

June Events

Red Point Pairs Tuesday June 7, 14

Red Point Pairs Wednesday June 1, 8, 15

GCBC Graded Imp Pairs Congress, 18th June

GCBC Grade Teams Congress, 19th June

GNOT 3, 3rd & 10th June at SPBC

Zeppelin All Day Red Point Teams, 24th June

Education

Information regarding our Beginners Courses and Improvers and Intermediate Lessons can be found on our webpage at www.goldcoastbridgeclub.com.

A potted history of card playing

Playing cards are known and used the world over, and almost every corner of the globe has laid claim to their invention. The Chinese assert the longest pedigree for card playing (the "game of leaves" was played as early as the ninth century). The French avow their standardization of the *carte à jouer* and its ancestor, the tarot. And the British allege the earliest mention of a card game in any authenticated register. Today, the public might know how to play blackjack or bridge, but few stop to consider that a deck of cards is a marvel of engineering, design, and history. Cards have served as amusing pastimes, high-stakes gambles, tools of occult practice, magic tricks, and mathematical probability model, even, at times, as currency and as a medium for secret messages.

The birthplace of ordinary playing cards is shrouded in obscurity and conjecture, but, like gunpowder or tea or porcelain, they almost certainly have Eastern origins. Scrolls from China's Tang Dynasty mention a game of paper tiles and experts consider this the first written documentation of card playing. In the late 14th century the sudden arrival of a "Saracen's game" suggested that cards came not from China but from Arabia. Others argue that nomads brought fortune-telling cards with them from India, assigning an even longer antiquity to card playing. Either way, commercial opportunities likely enabled card playing's transmission between the Far East and Europe, as printing technology sped their production across borders.

Everybody played cards - kings and dukes, clerics, friars and noblewomen, prostitutes, sailors, prisoners. But the gamblers were responsible for some of the most notable features of modern decks. While pips were highly variable, courtesan cards have remained largely unchanged for centuries. British and French decks, for example, always feature the same four legendary Kings: Charles, David, Caesar, and Alexander the Great. Whereas Queens have not enjoyed similar reverence. Pallas, Judith, Rachel, and Argine variously ruled each of the four suits, with frequent interruption. As the Spanish adopted playing cards, they replaced queens with mounted knights or *caballeros*. And the Germans excluded queens entirely from their decks, dividing face cards into *könig* (king), *obermann* (upper man), and *untermann* (lower man) - today's Jacks. The French reintroduced the queen, while the British were so fond of theirs that they instituted the "British Rule," a variation that swaps the values of the king and queen cards if the reigning monarch of England is a woman.

Welcome New Members

Joan Phillips, Karen Curtis, Sandra Feingold

Promotions

Silver Life - Paul Brake

Bronze National - Philip Roberts, John Glennie

Club - Lexie Yeates

Graduate - Gaynor Kearney

June Birthdays

2nd - David Smith; 3rd - Wendy Browne, John Masters, Carolyn Miller, Karin Nay; 5th - Angela Nicholls;

6th - June Jackson; 9th - Lynne Allan, Robyn Spooner; 10th - Di Brown; 11th - Beverly Jarvis;

12th - Charles McLaren, Bronwyn Scott; 14th - Sue Robinson; 15th - Margaret De Mestre, Neville De Mestre;

17th - Victoria Cairns; 18th - Jennifer Hunt, Jo Wallace; 19th - Penny Grace; 20th - Bijan Assae, Philip Roberts;

23rd - Helen Boxer; 25th - Jenny Lynton, Andrea Sage; 26th - Suzanne Lees; 27th - Elaine Hennig;

28th - Tom Strong; 29th - Krystyna Homik; 30th - Vere Drakeford, Desley Quedstedt, Jenny L Williams.

Happy Bridging,

Julie Wicks

PS. A note from the Editor. Jeff and I are still enjoying our extended road trip and are about to leave Western Australia for Northern Territory. What a magnificent country we all live in.

Please come with a smile and leave with a smile and treat your partner and opponents with respect and dignity.

Use your Pianola account if you are looking for partner (you can also see who is looking for a partner)

Players who require a partner please 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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