



GOLD COAST BRIDGE CLUB

Issue No 196 - January 2023

President's Report

Our Christmas party was an enormous success. We were booked to capacity, and it was terrific to hold it at the club once again.

Our concurrent fund-raising events this year exceeded expectations, raising \$10,000 for Orange Sky and \$4,180 for Rosie's. Thank you one and all for all the hard work and members' generosity to reach these unprecedented amounts for these two very worthwhile charities.

Thank you to our Board, Directors, volunteers and members for your wonderful support throughout the year.

We kick off 2023 with our first Honour Board event, the President's Cup, on 6th January followed by the GCBC Teams Congress on the 8th January. The first GNOT Heats will be held at SPBC and don't forget Australia Day on 26th January.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year.

Warmest regards, Odette

January Events

- **Friday 6th, 13th and 20th January - President's Cup**
- **Sunday 8th January - GCBC Teams Congress. Sponsor TBIB Insurance**
- **Monday 23rd January - GNOT Heat 1 Day 1 at SPBC**
- **Thursday 26th January - Australia Day celebration at 11am (bridge at 12.30pm)**
- **Saturday 28th January- Rookie Challenge <35mps Day 1. Sponsor Julian Egerton-Vernon**
- **Monday 30th January - GNOT Heat 1 Day 2 at SPBC**

Education

A new six-week course of Beginner's lessons will commence on 1st February with Dot Piddington as teacher. Lynley's lessons will resume in mid-January, dates to be advised.

Bridge and Mental Health

In acknowledging the outstanding result of the club's fundraising for charity Orange Sky, Carolyn Waters commented that we have always aimed to be a friendly club that has a strong social component as well as a high standard of competitive bridge. The following is an abridged version of an article in the ABF Newsletter on this topic.

93-year-old bridge enthusiast, author and blogger, Maggy Simony, wrote: "I'm a nonagenarian who not only plays bridge but also writes a blog." Simony pointed out that bridge is every bit as strategic and intellectually demanding as a game like chess but is also an inherently social game. This distinction is important because it's well known that staying socially connected is key to healthy ageing. Her letter opined that while chess is played silently against a solitary opponent, bridge involves multiple players and requires communication skills. Bridge players say it's the synergistic combination of the strategic and social aspects of the game that make it so alluring. Another nonagenarian, Georgia Scott, agreed saying "It's where our closest friends are".

Neurologist Dr. Claudia Kawas referred to long-lived bridge players like Scott and Simony as “the most successful agers on earth.” She went on to note, “We think, for example, that it’s very important to use your brain, to keep challenging your mind, but all mental activities may not be equal. We’re seeing some evidence that a social component may be crucial.”

Here are some replies from a survey asking people “Why do you play Bridge”.

- *For the stimulation and interaction as well as a form of meeting people. Having recently returned from abroad after many, many years it got me back into the community.*
- *To aid my concentration and improve my memory. To meet new friends and enlarge my social group.*
- *It is sociable, gets me out of the house and keeps my brain active.*
- *Because I enjoy the competition, the mental exercise and the social interaction.*

New Members - Welcome

Wendy Drysdale, Murray Simpson, Andree Job, Chris Lane, Michael Murtagh, Margaret Kelly, Kim Morrison, Kay Sylvester, Julie Hill.

Promotions

National - Darren Brake

Bronze Regional - Penny Grace

Local - Leonie Harris, Ann McCallum

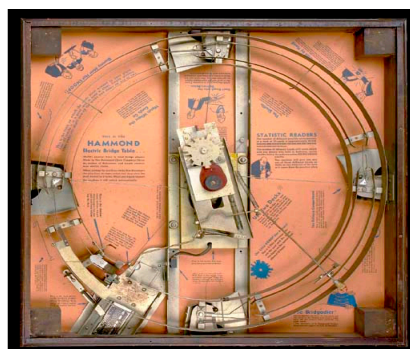
Club - Shane Whiting, Janie Smith

Graduate - Diana O’Ferrall, Michael Rootes

January Birthdays

1st - Raynor Loewenthal, Kerry Wood; 3rd - Lynette Arnold, Thomas Kenny, Andrew Richman, Sandra Richman; 4th - Pat Beattie, Lois Mee, Judith Woodward; 5th - Kerrie Goldston, Lesley Parry; 6th - SallyAnn Bennett, Wilma Crisford; 7th - Anne Zuscak; 10th - Irene Hayward; 11th - David Martin; 13th - Coral Aiken, Trisha Bonnet, John Brown; 14th - Camille Galvin, Dianne Hillman; 15th - Ashok Chotai; 17th - Trevor Fletcher, Lois Steinwedel; 18th - Graham Male; 19th - Sui Ying Lindsay; 20th - Judith Bohlschied; 21st - Dianne Rayward; 22nd - Janie Smith; 23rd - Louise Garnett, Ean Quested; 24th - Michele Stewart; 25th - Veena Chotai; 26th - Paul Brake; 27th - Sandra Hendry, Andree Job; 29th - Ian Becker; 30th - Jo-anne Martin; 30th - Ann McCallum; 31st - Tony Pearlman, Peter Stone.

Bridge History: The Hammond Electric Bridge Table



Laurens Hammond was an entrepreneur and inventor. It’s likely that you’ve already been close to one of his inventions already. He takes credit for the invention of the Hammond Organ and the Novachord, a precursor to what would later give us keyboards, synthesizers and heavy metal.

Registering 110 different patents during his lifetime, his inventions also included the Hammond clock, and work on a guidance system that later led to modern guided missiles while he acted as a civilian consultant during WW2.

The Hammond Electric Bridge Table was released somewhere before Christmas in 1932. Its purpose was to provide an improved automatic card dealing mechanism incorporated in the top of a bridge table, in which the deck of playing cards may be placed, and which will automatically perform the function of shuffling and dealing the hands to the players in a manner such that no cards will be exposed and such that the distribution of the cards cannot be predicted.

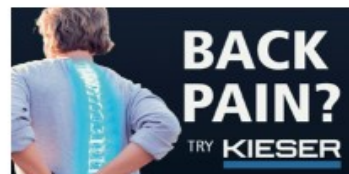
At first glance, it looks more like a spiritualist gadget that you might have used to fake a séance - but not quite. What it does is automatic card shuffling. Players insert a deck of cards, which is fed through to the internal mechanism of the table. There, the cards are distributed to the players at random (instead of shuffling the entire deck). World's greatest boon to tired Bridge players! Apparently, it didn't sell too well at the time, and was largely considered an over-the-top gadget that most people didn't need or want.

Happy Bridging and Happy New Year
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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