



GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3

September 2023

From the President

Dear members

I hope you are all well and enjoying your bridge at GBC. I note the numbers playing on each of our days continues to slowly improve and hopefully solidify. Wednesday evening appears to have a reasonable but solid group who turn up most weeks. We make a special request for members who are interested in playing on a Saturday to turn up and support this day.

On behalf of the Committee I wish to thank Ali Neunhoffer for her many years as leader of our House Sub-Committee as she has recently resigned from this role. All members are able to join this committee. As Confucius says – many hands make light work!

I wish to draw members' attention to the recently published documents, the Code of Conduct and Policy- Etiquette and Conduct. Most well established clubs around Australia have a Code of Conduct. Upon reading the Code of Conduct, members may well feel the points are obvious and self evident while reflecting forms of politeness and a greater awareness of your opponents and even your partner. Some people may have developed some mannerisms over a period of time that run counter to the Code. Hopefully these people can adjust and meet the requirements of the Code in the near future. The Etiquette Policy outlines the procedures to be followed if members feel that infringements have occurred. The handling of minor problems will now be held in a more informal approach which will be non-threatening to all parties. Serious complaints will be handled according to already established procedures. The code formally comes into operation from Monday 4th September 2023.

John Walsh



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Club Results

**Intermediate Pairs
Mondays 29 May, 5 June**

1st	B Kroger, M Doyle
2nd	M Barrett, V Temple
3rd	G Temple, J Williams

**Geelong Congress
Restricted Pairs
Saturday 24 June**

1st	M Doyle, L Bennetto
2nd	R Gude, L Johnston
3rd	R Thornton, J McGonigal

**Geelong Congress
Open Pairs
Saturday 24 June**

1st	L Saoud, M Ghatwari
2nd	G Ridgway, A Robbins
3rd	L Yoffer, K Frazer

**Geelong Congress
Teams
Sunday 25 June**

1st	G Ghali, V Zhang, T Ranasinghe, D Samuels
2nd	B Geyer, G Lovrecz, K Frazer, L Yoffa
3rd	D Newland, S Lester, D Newlands, A Robbins

**Western Victoria GNOT
Pairs
Sunday 16 July**

1st	T Frost, M Glover
2nd	L Newton-Tabrett, J Attrill
3rd	T Ni, P Li

**Swiss Teams (Pairs Entry)
Monday 17 July**

1st	R Gillard, S Robinson, S Bennett, J Ramage
2nd	M Barrett, S Duff, R Gude, L Johnston
3rd	M Doyle, B Kroger, P Scambler, J Prowse

Men's Pairs**Fridays 28 July, 4 August**

1st	R Gillard, M Stokie
2nd	A Robbins, D Newlands
3rd	J Prowse, P Jain

Women's Pairs**Fridays 28 July, 4 August**

1st	M Glover, W Dennis
2nd	A Feiner, A Gunst
3rd	S Robinson, S Duff

Restricted Teams**Thursdays 10, 17 August**

1st	A Neunhoffer, J Blyton, W Dennis, C Bowman, J Prowse
2nd	S Bennett, J Ramage, R Gude, L Johnston
3rd (equ)	P Donohue, D McCormack, M Crosby, D McDonald
3rd (equ)	J Walsh, M Peck, J Lehmann, J Munro

**Western Region Friendly
Pairs, Ballarat
Sunday 13 August**

1st	T Ni, P Li
2nd	A Feiner, A Gunst
3rd	L Picone, J Sarena

**Australia Wide Open Pairs
Monday 28 August**

1st	J Johnstone, D Peacock
2nd	L Johnston, R Gude
3rd	P Jones, B Jones

**Swiss Teams
(Pairs Entry)
Friday 25 August**

1st	B Kroger, W Dennis, R Gillard, M Stokie
2nd	C Dodgshun, M Glover, L Johnston, L Lee
3rd	A Robbins, D Newlands, L Bennetto, M Doyle

**Bridge Victoria
Country Teams
Saturday 26 August**

1st	A Robbins, D Newlands, D Newland, S Lester (WRBA1)
2nd	M Stokie, R Gillard, G Chettle, G Myers (WRBA2)
3rd	A Johnston, C Hope, J Currier, D Anglim (ERBA1)

2023 Geelong Congress Saturday and Sunday 24-25 June



*Open Teams Winners: D Samuels,
T Ranasinghe, V Zhang, G Ghali*



*Restricted Teams Winners: M Doyle,
D Casey, J Prowse, L Bennetto*



Thanks to Barwon Health Carer Gateway for their support. Their pens were very popular as souvenirs of the event.



*Open Pairs Winners: L Saoud, M Ghatwari
(President J Walsh Centre)*



*Restricted Pairs Winners: L Bennetto, M Doyle
(President J Walsh centre)*

What a weekend! It was pleasing to see a wide field with players coming from all over Victoria. As usual the Highton Bowls Club venue proved to be very satisfactory.

On the Saturday we had 44 Open Pairs and 16 Restricted Pairs. On the Sunday we had 15 Open Teams and 3 Restricted Teams. As the Restricted Teams field was so small it was amalgamated with the Open competition. The total number of participants over the two days was 192.

Thanks to everyone who contributed toward making the 2023 Geelong Congress the success it was. Each year members quietly pitch in to help and they should be acknowledged and thanked. My Congress Committee team worked extremely well together. Unfortunately for them, they may be tapped on the shoulder to do it all again in 2024!

Jennifer Blyton Congress Convenor

2023 Geelong Congress cont.



Some serious bridge and some light-hearted moments as well.



Right: The Director, Martin Wilcox did a fantastic job without compromising his own inimitable style.



Western Region Friendly Pairs, Ballarat

The Friendly Pairs were held at Ballarat on Sunday 13th August. Twenty-six pairs attended, coming from Warrnambool, Ocean Grove, Geelong and of course Ballarat.

It was an enjoyable day, very relaxed, friendly and as always Ballarat put on an amazing morning and afternoon tea, plus drinks and nibbles at the end of play.

Congratulations to Anne Gunst and Alison Feiner for coming 2nd, Dot Peacock and Jenny Johnstone 4th and Shannon Irwin and Arthur Robbins 5th. Good results for Geelong !!

I would encourage you all to participate in Western Region events. Our next event is the Novice Pairs at Torquay on Saturday 11 November - please put this date in your diaries - we look forward to seeing you there.

*Jenny Johnstone
President WRBA*



Country Teams Championship

The Country Teams Championship was held on Saturday 26 August 2023 at the Victorian Bridge Centre's new premises in Brighton under the expert supervision of VBA's Terry Crawford as director.

This event is contested each year by the two top teams from Western Region Bridge Association, Eastern Region BA and Northern Region BA. In our case the WRBA representatives are the top two place-getters in the Western Region Open Teams event at the WR February congress. The winner of the Country Teams goes on to participate in the Victorian State Teams (Pennant) Finals on 4-5 November.

This year was a very select event with just two teams from WRBA and two from ERBA. The Northern Region declined to play because they had a GNOT event the next day.

The contesting teams were:

WRBA1	Arthur Robbins, Douglas Newlands, Denny Newland, Stephen Lester
WRBA2	Michael Stokie, Roger Gillard, Geoff Chettle, Gordon Myers
ERBA1	Alan Johnston, Clive Hope, John Currier, Deborah Anglim
ERBA2	John Quayle, Matti Shub, Kenneth McKenzie, Marie Sands

We played 3 x 9-board matches against the other teams in the morning and repeated this movement in the afternoon.

The results were:

Rank	Team	W-D-L	VPs
1 st	WRBA1	5-0-1	97.28
2 nd	WRBA2	4-0-2	75.53
3 rd	ERBA1	1-0-5	33.96
4 th	ERBA2	2-0-4	33.23

Congratulations to Arthur, Douglas, Denny and Stephen, and good luck to them for the Pennant Finals in November.



Mike Stokie

Next Intermediate Lessons

Thursday 12 October Douglas Newlands

Thursday 9 November Denny Newland

Thursday 14 December **NO LESSON** as we will all be recovering from the Christmas Party on 15 December!

Rank Promotions

Congratulations to the following members who have received new Masterpoint rankings.

Graduate	M Gdak
	M Munro
	P Bowden
Club	P Smigowski
	G Foard
	D Renshaw
Bronze Local	H Webb
	M Drutchinnen
Silver Local	D Callan
	L Lee
Regional	J McGonigal
	R Gude
	J Blyton

Apropos of Arthur's opinion piece, look at the achievements of so many of our members! This is what we can be proud of!

Editor

And we thought we were getting old!



At Geelong Bridge Club we have at least three members in their 90s that still play regularly. But, as it turns out, they are still spring chickens. Len Dixon is pictured above playing bridge. The 101-year-old bridge columnist has recently been dropped by the Canberra Times, a newspaper he has been filing to weekly since 1968. Not to be silenced, he now has a website 'Bridge Notes with Len Dixon'.

*Thanks to **Jennifer Lehmann** for drawing my attention to this achievement. Editor*

HIGH SCORES

Jun	S Lester, D Newland	79%
Jul	A Robbins D Newlands	75%
Aug	D Newlands, A Robbins	74%

NEW MEMBERS

The Geelong Bridge Club welcomes the following new and re-joining members:

Hamish Anderson	Wayne Lightfoot
Jane Cox	Barbara Spiller
Brendan Crotty	Michelle Stokie
Allan De Boos	
Philip Dunlop-Moore	
Sarah Foley	
Rosanne Kava	
Rob Landale	

Joan Wilson Trophy Winners

Jun	D Read
Jul	J Prowse
Aug	A Robbins

2023
Geelong Bridge Club
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 18 October 2023
1.30pm (note the new time)

All members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting. Free Bridge will be played afterwards and there will be a standby.

Most people come to the Geelong Bridge Club and play Bridge without worrying about or even noticing the way the club is run. They trust that competent people, elected by the members at the AGM, will look out for the club's interests and run it in a way that will be of benefit to all. Two of our most senior members are so disturbed by what they currently see as potential steps in the wrong direction, that they have put pen to paper and requested that their views be shared with all members. Editor

An Opinion Piece

As an experienced, senior member of the club, I am concerned about the direction that our club may be going. Yes, numbers are disappointing on certain days, but I do not like the movement towards a social/elderly citizens club version that some members are advocating.

Soon we will have our Annual General Meeting, and two different visions of the club will emerge. I would like to remind all members of the contribution that our strongest members have made to our club and the example that they provide to upcoming members of the club who aspire to play good bridge, not just 'kitchen' Bridge.

Yes, there is a need for social/novice Bridge, and the club accommodates that, but is that the endpoint? Many of you learnt from the lessons of experienced players, and yes it takes several years to advance, but experienced players offer lessons and support. Look at how quickly some of our beginner players have progressed by playing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Let us look at the proud history of the club. Some of our members have played for Australia, others for Victoria, and the current Victorian Teams champions are from Geelong! There are players who will soon become very competitive and there are those who won't. There's room for us all!

Continued next page

An Opinion Piece *continued from previous page*

Is this history and ability not worth preserving? Yes, you might be a novice, but our stronger players were once novices as well and they are always happy to give advice if wanted. The stronger players are currently offering lessons to help you make your way towards expertise. Surely this is a good thing? Without these lessons, it becomes another elderly citizens club!!

Whether you are a new player at bowls, golf, croquet, chess or whatever, there are always players who are better than you. That doesn't mean you get rid of the better players. You learn from them. This is a Bridge club and our primary purpose is to play Bridge. Do not allow your trepidation as you navigate your way to better play to interfere with your thoughts about the club. There is room for players of all abilities and players of all abilities should be encouraged, not made to feel as if they have no future at Geelong Bridge Club.

If members believe that our Honour Boards events have no future value, we lose our history and we lose the pride we can all feel in the achievements of our fellow members! Think about what the club has given to you and what you can aspire to achieve!

I was on the committee when we purchased our site and built our clubrooms. We offered the only Bridge club in Geelong. Now there are four or more. Bridge is a wonderful game that can be played by people of all ages and abilities. At Geelong, we have the most experienced players in the region, able to offer advice on many situations and we also have beginners just starting on their Bridge journey. All are welcome!

In conclusion I would just like to reiterate that I am concerned that a substantial number of members are being influenced and encouraged by the current President to change the direction in the club. Surely there is room for us all. We should take pride in our club and not seek to remove the competitiveness inherent in the game by excluding many, even all, competitions.

Arthur Robbins

The Value of an Annual General Meeting

At an AGM, the whole membership can take part in discussions about the future of the bridge club. Most matters are simply approved by the meeting but a few items may be contentious and an outcome will be decided by a vote **after a discussion of the pros and cons**. Members who are deeply interested in the future of the Bridge club will attend the meeting and hear the discussion before making up their mind. There is the added bonus of a free session of Bridge after the meeting!

Some will not be able to attend the AGM and some will choose not to attend. It is still possible to vote on a matter through a proxy vote which you can assign to someone who intends to be at the AGM. Proxy votes can be for a specific matter or can allow the bearer of your proxy to cast your vote on any and all matters.

If you feel strongly about any matter and intend giving someone your proxy vote, I suggest you give them a proxy to cast your vote, in a **specified way**, but **only for a specific matter** on the AGM agenda.

Continued next page

The Value of an AGM *continued from previous page*

If you do not want to attend the AGM and do not feel strongly about any matter, I suggest you do not give anyone your proxy vote, particularly not a blank proxy for any and all matters. This seems very reasonable otherwise you would be expressing a strong view about any or all matters when you have not had the benefit of hearing the arguments for and against any particular outcome, or for and against candidates for the committee.

Instead of you attending the meeting, you may find yourself being pressed by someone who is attending, to give them your proxy vote. This is called proxy harvesting and is done by an individual who wants to drive the club in a particular direction, against the will of the AGM attendees. If you don't have a particular view, I suggest you decline all such proxy requests and allow the AGM to make decisions which are supported by the majority of attendees rather than an individual who has many harvested proxy votes.

Remember that the club exists in its current form by listening to the majority of the members and not by being driven by an individual who has been asking for proxies from everyone they can. If you have signed a proxy form because you felt constrained by the situation to do so, simply write to the secretary saying that you withdraw the proxy you assigned to whomsoever. Let us keep the club for the members and not let it be manipulated by individuals with a personal agenda.

Douglas Newlands

(I would draw your attention to the Vale contributions in this issue. They speak eloquently of the joy, stimulation and fellowship that Bridge brought to these members. Let's remember that this is what belonging to a Bridge club is all about. Editor)

Coming Up

Monday 16, 25 September	Open Pairs A Qualifying
Friday 22, 29 September	Open Pairs B Qualifying
Saturday 23 September	NO SATURDAY BRIDGE
Sunday 24 September	Pizza Sunday (4.00pm)
Saturday 30 September this space.	Saturday Bridge maybe. It's Grand Final Day so watch this space.
Wednesday 4, 11 October	Open Pairs Finals
Wednesday 18 October	Annual General Meeting 1.30 start
Tuesday 31 October	Seniors Festival Teams
Saturday 11 November	Western Region Novice Pairs Torquay(<100 MPs)
Monday 20 November	Intermediate Teams Qualifying
Monday 27 November	Intermediate Teams Final
Monday 11, 18 December	Individual Championship
Wednesday 13 December	Christmas Party 6.00pm

Declaring: Cutting Defenders' Communication

When dummy comes down, as declarer it is important to choose your strategy to play the hand. It is good to have at least one strategy and better if there is an alternative option. This often comes to mind when a strange or unexpected card combination is revealed, e.g 5 -1 split in a suit for example.

A couple of hands recently highlighted the need to cut defenders' communication. Playing 3NT as declarer the first several tricks are usually critical. Particularly when the lead is to their partner's suit that they have bid during the auction. A common strategy is to 'duck' at least one round and sometimes two rounds to eliminate a possible reread of the suit.

Take example 1 :

Board 26	♠ 92	
Dir: E	♥ K952	
Vul: All	♦ J974	
	♣ J65	
	♠ 75	♠ QJ64
	♥ AQT84	♥ J3
	♦ 86	♦ AK52
	♣ K742	♣ AQ3
	♠ AKT83	
	♥ 76	
	♦ QT3	
	♣ T98	

East is Declarer in 3NT; South leads 8S – What to do?

The strategy requires you to run the JH which may well put North in, if the finesse fails. If you take the first spade trick with the Q or J, then you are vulnerable to another spade from North to South's AK10xx, seeing he led the 8 as fourth best. The defence will take one Heart trick and 4+ Spade tricks Contract defeated. So ducking the first Spade gives you a sound stopper, should it be required.... and the contract is assured.

Similarly with this hand :

Board 10	♠ 84	
Dir: E	♥ KJ7543	
Vul: All	♦ A62	
	♣ 53	
	♠ K97	♠ Q53
	♥ AQ986	♥ T
	♦ Q4	♦ KJ97
	♣ KQT	♣ A9762
	♠ AJT62	
	♥ 2	
	♦ T853	
	♣ J84	

Taking the Spade lead from North (as a good partner led to South's overcall), creating another dire situation should North get on lead again. Ducking the first round still retains the stop, should the spades be continued..... So the contract is sound.

Notably there are occasions when taking the lead immediately is important and necessary. It comes down to the strategy you need to adopt to make the contract or indeed multiple overtricks.

Gavin Bailey

What does 1S-3D mean to you?

Bridge can be a simple game or a complicated one. Many years ago, I agreed to play in Canberra with the late John Pettitt, a very good Melbourne player. He gave me his system card to learn, and I found there were 18 different meanings for 3H, as it occurred in auctions! If this occurs, 3H means this, if that happens, it means this, etc. Complicated, surely. I survived...

So back to the above: Here are some things that people use: (Simple or Complicated?)

1S-3D The original strong jump shift: about 17HCP with a very good 6+suit, looking for slam. Out of fashion these days, because such hands are very infrequent.

1S-3D Used by the weak jumpers (any jump is a weak 6 card suit). About 4-7 with a weak 6 card suit. It has the advantage of putting pressure on the opponents, but watch the vulnerability!!! Don't overuse, as you may miss 3N when partner has Hx. It should be alerted, if it occurs before competition! (Opponents need time to consider the problem - in some parts of the world, there is a compulsory pause after this. Note the STOP card in the bidding boxes! Unfortunately, not in Australia?! Don't go calling the Director, after a quick 1S-(P)-3D, and 4th seat takes a little time to think!! This is understandable. Make sure 3D is alerted, so that reduces the need to ask. This is handled far better in Europe).

1S-3D In the original Bergen Raise structure, this showed 4 card support, and 10-12 HCP (3C showed 6-9, 4 card support).

1S-3D Reverse Bergen, ie 6-9 with 4 card support (then 3C= 10-12 with 4 card support. This is better, as it allows a trial bid of 3D by opener).

Now to some more esoteric uses.

1S-3D With my longtime partner (Gary), this is a Mini-splinter! It shows 4 card support and a singleton D. Strength is either 7/8 losers, game or less (can be as low as 8HCP!), or <5 losers (looking for slam).

1S-3D With my other partner, this is a jump-fit! It shows a good suit (usually 2/3 Honours), with 3 card support for Spades, and is invitational +. In other words, you can stop in 3S if necessary.

This helps with the defence, as you know where partners HCP are located. It is a good method, but is infrequent.

If you are not playing Bergen (see Stephen Lester's article in an earlier newsletter), Mini/Maxi splinters have worked well for Gary and I over many years. Splinters are the secret to slam bidding! So, what is your preferred method?

Arthur Robbins

Look what we found!



Pictured at the Hermitage Old Girls reunion held at the Geelong Grammar School are Rowena Neunhoffer, 3, modelling a Hermitage uniform (1940-50), Mrs Jill Buchanan, acting president, Mrs Beverley Kroger, secretary and Anthea Neunhoffer, 6, modelling the winter Hermitage uniform (1940-50).

Imagine her delight when Ali Neunhoffer found this old newspaper clipping of her two daughters with one Mrs Beverley Kroger. And yes, it is our own Bev Kroger who still plays regularly at the Club aged, well, a bit older than most of us. The middle photo is of Rowena and Anthea, all grown up and the photo on the right is of Bev Kroger and the girls' mother, Ali Neunhoffer. Both Bev and Ali are long time regular players at GBC.

Bev's son Ross gave me a lovely biography of Bev's life which I will feature in another issue. Ross says that Bev has approached Bridge with the same work ethic and competitiveness as she has done all her life, using her ability as a teacher and businesswoman to become a very capable Bridge player. He said "Today the Geelong Bridge Club is her 'best friend' and the members look after her 3 to 4 days per week as great company and friendly competitors".

Jennifer Blyton

PIZZA SUNDAYS

The next Pizza Sunday is
24 September at 4.00pm

Please come along and join in the fun, but be sure to put your name on the list if you wish to attend.

Another Wild Hand!

Previously I have written about a rare ten card suit and this time I am writing about an equally rare 7-5 distribution. It's not too difficult to bid if you keep your eye on the basics and play two common tools.

North opened 1C, which is often short, and, even after the 1S rebid, it is still unclear for many pairs whether the clubs are short or long. However that is irrelevant here.

South is unclear as to where to go and next bids 2D. This is fourth suit forcing and is played as forcing to game nowadays. Now, when North rebids 2S, it is time to get the calculator out. North has bid spades twice and so has five of them. North bids clubs before spades so they must be longer and, thus, North has shown six clubs. I know some bid this way with 5-5 but that is idiosyncratic!

Teams, EW vul, Dealer West

♠ AQ972 ♥ - ♦ 2 ♣ KQJ10986 ♠ K3 ♥ 532 ♦ 10874 ♣ 5432 ♠ 1054 ♥ AKQJ4 ♦ AJ9 ♣ A7		♠ J86 ♥ 109876 ♦ KQ653 ♣ -		W N E S P 1♣ P 1♥ P 1♠ P 2♦ P 2♠ P 2NT P 3♣ P 4♣ P 4NT P 7NT all pass
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Now South must not rush the auction. 2NT is descriptive and safe since the 2D bid made the auction game forcing. When North bids 3C, his club length tends to increase and he is likely 5-7. South's 4C bid is Minorwood and asks for keycards with clubs as trumps. When North shows two keycards and the queen of clubs, it is easy to count 13 tricks and bid 7NT.

Not everyone managed the auction this well. Some ended in the precarious 6S but the spades were kindly placed. Those who sought security in the solid club suit superficially look safe, but the obvious diamond lead removes the late (i.e. after drawing trumps) entry to the hearts. All will be well if trumps are 2-2 but that only happens 40% of the time so, on the diamond lead, declarer must cash three hearts discarding spades. If the third one gets ruffed there are still good chances if trumps were 2-2 or 3-1 and the long holding ruffed or if the spade finesse works.

Douglas Newlands

Vale



David Steel 05/05/1945 - 03/08/2023

David was born in Sydney's Manly Hospital and lived on the Northern Beaches at Mona Vale until he married Gayle. They bought land at Tumbi Umbi on the Central Coast in NSW and lived there until moving to Victoria in 2017. David and Gayle have three children, Jacqui, Michael and Adam and five grandchildren.

David was a blue-collar worker, operating backhoes, graders, bulldozers and trucks. After injuring his back in 1986 and no longer able to operate big machinery, he learnt to play Bridge in 1988 at the Long Jetty Bridge Club. He played regularly a few times a week. In 2000 he was a volunteer driver at the Sydney Olympics.

David liked all sorts of card playing games and when they moved to Victoria in 2017, both he and Gayle were regular Tuesday players at the Geelong Bridge Club. David will be remembered for his astute play and his cheeky sense of humour.

Thanks to Gayle Steel for talking to me about David. Editor

Marjorie Poulston 15/09/1931 - 29/06/2023



Adored wife of Milton (dec.). Loved and loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Bridge was a big part of Marjorie's life. The staff at Arcare used to laugh because she was constantly ducking out to the Bridge Club. She loved it because it was engaging for her, social, but where she didn't have to talk too much. It became a real sanctuary for her. She also loved pizzas, which her husband didn't, so Pizza Sunday was a real hit with her.

To the day she died she continued to do cryptic crossword puzzles and sudoku to try to keep her brain active. She played Bridge with a number of people, including Dieta Plate (dec.) and Chris Dodgshun. Her husband and daughter used to roll their eyes when they couldn't use the phone for two hours after Bridge because Marj and Dieta were assessing and reassessing every aspect of their game.

Marjorie's family thanks the Geelong Bridge Club for the years of enjoyment it gave her.

Thanks to Chris Dodgshun for reaching out to Marj's family. Editor

Thanks Michelle!

Sometimes members see something that needs to be done and they just do it. We now have a new set of card table covers and long tablecloths to replace the old tatty ones, thanks to **Michelle Stokie**. Your contributions over the years are greatly appreciated.

Editor



Judy Williams has been fossicking again

Judy has found some wonderful trivia? Treasure? Over the next few issues of the newsletter you will find more of her gems.

William Somerset Maugham

Born in 1874 and died in 1965, English writer, but was born in Paris, France. He was noted as an expert storyteller and a master of fiction technique. An introverted child afflicted with a stammer, William Somerset Maugham was orphaned at 10 and sent to live with his uncle, a vicar. Although he later studied medicine and completed his internship, he never practiced, having decided at an early age to devote himself to literature.

He lived in grand style, spending much of his life on the French Riviera and travelling widely, particularly to East Asia and the South Pacific. Maugham wrote with wit and irony, frequently expressing an aloofly cynical attitude toward life. Famous as a dramatist before he became known for his novels and short stories, he achieved his first success with the sardonically humorous play *Lady Frederick* (1907).

He had the following to say about bridge, which he played avidly:

Bridge is the most diverting and intelligent card game that the wit of man has so far devised. I would have children taught it as a matter of course, just as they are taught dancing; in the end it will be more useful to them, for you cannot with seemliness continue to dance when you are bald and potbellied; nor, for that matter, can you with satisfaction to yourself or pleasure to your partner continue to play tennis or golf when you are well past middle age. But you can play bridge so long as you can sit up at a table and tell one card from another. In fact, when all else fails - sport, love, ambition - bridge remains a solace and an entertainment.

