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GEELONG BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1

March 2025

From the President

Some thoughts from my googling as I tried to think of things to impart.

From W. Somerset Maugham: Bridge is the most diverting and intelligent card game that the wit of man has so far devised. He would have all children taught bridge.

From bridgemaster.com: You cannot pursue other things '..when you are bald and pot-bellied, nor for that matter, can you with satisfaction to yourself and your partner, continue to play tennis or golf when you are well past middle age. When all else fails - sport, love, ambition - bridge remains a solace and an entertainment.'

From Robb Gordon, Grand Life Master - what makes a top bridge player: they make fewer mistakes, they have good table 'sense' - they know what is going on with opponents and they are unflappable - when they 'stuff it up', they go on to the next hand.

Most great players have great partners. They are positive, encouraging and don't complain when their partner makes a mistake. Have you noticed that one of our top pairs do not discuss play after each hand?

From Richard Zeckhauser - Harvard professor: players must continually make peace with good decisions that lead to bad outcomes, both one's own decisions and those of a partner.

From Kieran Dyke - professional bridge player: how do I become a decent bridge player? Learn the rules and terminology. Practice with friends and online. Study - read books and watch tutorials.

We have an exceptional librarian and library. Members will be sent some sites to go to for tutorials. Play with an experienced partner - (I have been doing this and our Vice President is still on my list.) Participate in tournaments - (plenty of opportunities to do this.)

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So how can the club help you to be a better player?

- I have already mentioned the library and online resources.
- On the first Tuesday of the month there is a lesson before play.
- On the second Thursday of the month there is a half hour mini lesson at intermediate level before play. The first of these for this year will be on 13 March on splinter bids by Douglas Newlands.
- We are looking at running some lessons for post beginners on a Wednesday, starting 19 March at 1pm. Register online. Possibly this will be a lesson on a particular convention and then playing hands using this convention followed by discussion of the hands.
- Play with an experienced player. Again nothing definite yet but another Buddy Day will happen this year. Be brave - if there is someone you would particularly like to have a game with, ask them!

I am looking to be a better player. My aim is to read more this year. Number one is to borrow a book on splinters.

Marion Scambler



Individual Champion for 2024



Well, well, well! We had a tie for the Individual Champion event in December 2024. Congratulations to both Sue Duff and Mark Doyle.





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Club Results

Individual Championship Mondays 9, 16 December

1st (equ)	M Doyle
1st (equ)	S Duff
3rd	R Gillard

Mixed Pairs Thursdays 30 January & 3 February

1st	K Bailey, G Bailey
2nd	M Stokie, R Hawker, J Ramage, D Melzer
3rd	P Jones, B Jones

Western Region Pairs Saturday 15 February

1st	D Newland, S Lester
2nd	D Newlands, J Stark
3rd	N Grech, T Seed

Western Region Teams Sunday 16 February

1st	M Stokie, R Gillard, G Chettle, P Jain
2nd	D Newlands, J Stark, D Newland, S Lester, G Ridgway
3rd	R Lawrie, T Johnston B Fitzpatrick, V Sercombe

Open Teams A (Qual) Mondays 24 February & 3 March

1st	S Duff, G Temple, P Jones, B Jones
2nd	A Robbins, G Ridgway, D Newland, S Lester, J Stark, D Newlands
3rd	R Gillard, M Stokie, K Bailey, G Bailey, P Jain

Open Teams B (Qual) Fridays 28 February & 7 March

1st	R Gillard, P Jain, M Stokie, G Bailey, K Bailey
2nd	P Dunlop-Moore, G Foard, J Prowse, D Casey
3rd	P Jones, B Jones, J Williams, K Graham, T Passlow

Rank Promotions

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

Graduate	Kath Adams Brigitte Hazledine Suzanne Swift
Club	David Melzer Heather Ryan Rachel Hawker
Bronze Local	Jennifer Lehmann Glenn Foard
Silver Local	Mary Ilic
Regional	Ali Neunhoffer
Bronze State	Brigid Fitzpatrick

Joan Wilson Trophy Winners

Dec	K Bailey
Jan	G Bailey
Feb	J Williams

HIGH SCORES

Dec	G Bailey, K Bailey	79.2%
Jan	A Robbins, D Newlands	78.0%
Feb	K Bailey G Bailey	73%

NEW MEMBERS

The Geelong Bridge Club welcomes the following new members.

Liz Atkin	Irene Cannon
Jane Collie	Janice Fanning
David Lanyon	Loris Phair
Pam Strain	Judy Wilson

PIZZA SUNDAYS

The next Pizza Sundays are on
30 March at 4.00pm
27 April at 4.00pm
25 May 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.

Open Teams Championship

The top two teams from the Monday and Friday heats qualified for the Open Teams finals to be held on 12 & 26 March. The finalists are:

Monday 1st Newland team (D Newland, S Lester, G Ridgway, A Robbins, D Newlands, J Stark)

Monday 2nd Lawrie team (R Lawrie, T Johnston, G Webb, T Seed)

(Duff team chose not to proceed and Bailey team qualified via Fridays. Lawrie team was 4th)

Friday 1st Bailey team (G Bailey, K Bailey, P Jain, R Gillard, M Stokie)

Friday 2nd Prowse team (J Prowse, D Casey, P Dunlop-Moore, G Foard).

Mike Stokie

Most Improved Player 2024

Geelong Bridge Club has a trophy for the Most Improved Player each year. This is determined by the increase in ABF Masterpoints (MPs) over the past twelve months using the formula:

$$\text{Improvement Score} = 100 \times (\text{new MPs this year}) / (\text{Total MPs} + 50).$$

Several members, especially affiliate members, score many of their MPs at other clubs or congresses, so there is a local rule that members must score MPs at GBC events in at least 4 months of the year to be eligible. The score is set to zero for new members with an incomplete year.

The top-ranked members for 2024 are:

Rank	Name	Score
1 st	Phil Dunlop-Moore	27.48
2 nd	Lynn Frankenburg	24.82
3 rd	Glenn Foard	24.08
4 th	Jennifer Lehmann	21.35
5 th	Genevieve Burke	20.81



Congratulations to the place-getters on their impressive achievement. Detailed results for all members are posted on the GBC Noticeboard.

Mike Stokie

Chairman, Match Committee

Spotlight on the Boys

Pictured here are two of our regular players who also do a lot of maintenance around the club. When we come to play bridge, we don't often give a thought to who clears the drains and gutters, who fixes the toilets, who organises a coat of paint or fixes a leak. Well here they are.

Gary Barfoot and Peter Carland have also had some recent successes at the table. On 6 February they came 1st with 60%, on 10 February 2nd with 57% and on 13 February 1st with 60%.

Gary has never had a bridge lesson but has read a book! They do a lot around the club which people don't realise. You can often see them on their knees fixing a drain, a screwdriver in their hand, looking for bees hiding in the building or painting walls. Thanks to **Judy Williams** for the heads-up!



Western Region Championship at Geelong Bridge Club

This was a very friendly and enjoyable weekend. Thirty-two pairs on the Saturday and fourteen teams on the Sunday attended. Results were:

Saturday - Pairs

1st Denny Newland and Stephen Lester, they qualify to play in the Victorian Seniors Team Selection Final on 26-27 April.

2nd Justin Stark and Douglas Newlands

3rd Trish Frost and Robin Macaulay, they qualify to play in the Victorian Women's Team Selection Final also on 26-27 April.

Sunday - Teams

1st Piyush Jain, Geoff Chettle, Mike Stokie and Roger Gillard.

2nd Douglas Newlands, Justin Stark, Denny Newland, Stephen Lester, G Ridgway. These two teams qualify to play in the Country Teams Championship on 7 September.

Congratulations to all these winners!!! Thank you to everyone who attended. We had people from Ballarat, Warrnambool, Ocean Grove, Torquay and Geelong. It was also particularly nice to see some of the newer players attend. Well done, it's a great way to improve your bridge and have fun at the same time. We look forward to seeing you again at our next Western Region event, which is the Ocean Grove Friendly Teams on Sunday 13 April. This year it is being held at the Geelong Bridge Club due to the Marcus Hill hall being unavailable.

Thank you all for attending and supporting The Western Region Bridge Association.

Jenny Johnstone (President)



This is a fascinating part of Bridge, as it often means the difference between a contract making or not making. Obviously, if you or your partner have not bid, and the opponents have controlled the bidding, you have little to guide you, and there is no solution to that, except to lead what is accepted as normal. Lots of problems here, but don't freeze! Just don't do anything crazy.

Here are two 'crazy leads' against a suit contract: (except, possibly, if partner has bid that suit, but even then??)

1 Leading away from an Ace! Too often Declarer has a singleton King!!

2 Leading 4th highest against a suit contract, when holding top honours. This is a beginners mistake, eg leading the 4, while holding KQT4. Even against NT, the lead is the K! (I have to say here my PET hate is leading the K, and Dummy goes down with Jxx. Bummer! I have given away a trick again!!

Ok, now to the case where you have bid, and partner has supported.

Eg (1H)-1S (you)-(2H)-2S-(3H) all pass. You hold Spades: AQxxx. Do you lead AS? My experience is that partner often doesn't hold KS, but rather that Declarer often holds it, and that the lead then allows the contract to make. Think about your experiences. So this will affect your opening lead (based on the bidding). Only if nothing else seems suitable would I lead AS (and this certainly depends on what you hear).

Now look at it from the point of view of the opening bidder if partner doesn't lead your suit.

1H-(1S)-P-(2H): P-(4S). (opponent's bidding in brackets). Partner doesn't lead a Heart. What can you infer? If partner's lead is a top honour (eg A or K), probably partner is trying to set up a trick or two, but if it is a lower card and not a Heart, this surely says that partner doesn't have a card in your suit (no bidding support, no doubleton/singleton lead, etc).

A pair of books on opening leads by Bird and Anthias that analyse opening leads are well worth a read (I think they are in our library). A surprising result was that top of doubleton leads has a high rate of success! Some players refuse to lead doubletons, but analysis shows this often works well.

When partner leads a top honour in defence, you need to have methods to show whether partner should proceed. This can be a discourage/encourage card, a count card, or a suit preference card. New partnerships need to discuss this. Of course, if Dummy has a singleton, the normal carding is a suit preference signal (low=lower suit, high=higher suit, middle= continue suit), though sometimes you do not hold an appropriate card.

The way to improve your bridge is to improve your partnership defence. After all, on average, you defend 50% of the time.

Arthur Robbins

Keeping Jacoby

Most partnerships play Jacoby 2NT as invitational or better, or as a game forcing raise. It is a good convention and you really should play it as invitational or better to increase the frequency with which you use this good method. Also, you should keep the method in play even when the opponents interrupt your auction. Don't lose good methods unless the opponents make them impossible.

You should have exactly the same meaning for 2NT in all these auctions so the inferences are the same in all the auctions. (Opponents' bids are in brackets).

- 1S-(P)-2NT
- 1S-(X)-2NT
- 1S-(2C)-2NT
- 1S-(2D)-2NT
- 1S-(2H)-2NT

So, you ask "what do I bid if I have a real desire to play in 2NT with 2 stoppers in their suit"? The answer is simple! You make a negative double! This denies any support for partner's suit. Partner will make some bid and then you can bid 2NT or 3NT on the next round when it is completely natural.

What if partner passes? This means partner has converted your take-out double to penalties because they have good trumps. But so do I!!! Yes, and the overcaller has length but few high cards and dummy has 1 trump typically. The penalty is going to be juicy!

In the hand below, West has doubled (showing where all the missing high cards are!) and Jacoby 2NT remains in play showing an invitational raise or better. Opener denies a shortage but shows extras (14-17, say) and North proceeds to the normal game contract.

Teams: EW Vul
Dealer: South

<p>♠ 863</p> <p>♥ Q842</p> <p>♦ A102</p> <p>♣ A108</p> <p>♠ AQ42</p> <p>♥ 9</p> <p>♦ QJ98</p> <p>♣ QJ62</p> <p>♠ K7</p> <p>♥ AKJ763</p> <p>♦ 64</p> <p>♣ K93</p>	<p>♠ J1095</p> <p>♥ 105</p> <p>♦ K753</p> <p>♣ 754</p>
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West	North	East	South
			1H
X	2NT	P	3H
P	4H		

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West led the queen of diamonds and declarer may have momentarily regretted not being in the 3NT contract which is cold from his side. One shouldn't be too worried about this. When an eight card, or better, fit in a major has been found, it is always reasonable to play in it. Only when the opponents have bid and raised a suit, so that you know what the opening lead will be, should you consider 3NT.

Anyway, the double suggests the ace of spades is offside so how will you play?

Declarer's first move was to play low from dummy to prevent East gaining the lead profitably. East saw that if he took the first trick with the king of diamonds, declarer would take an extra trick in the suit by finessing the ten. So, East withheld the king and instead played an encouraging card in diamonds. West led the eight of diamonds next and declarer took the trick with dummy's ace then ruffed the ten of diamonds, eliminating that suit.

After drawing trumps with the ace and king, declarer took the only chance for his contract by playing the ace, king and another club. All this needed for success was for West to have either five clubs or both the queen and jack of clubs. Declarer's luck was in when the latter proved to be the case and West found himself on lead, forced to either lead a spade or concede a ruff-and-discard by playing a minor suit. Declarer then claimed, for no matter what choice West made, he would have his tenth trick.

Douglas Newlands

Recycling medication blister packs

There must be a better way of disposing of medication blister packs, other than throwing them in the rubbish, right? Well, there is. Speak to ***Rhonda Gude*** who is collecting them for recycling.

In an interview with Warren Buffett about playing Bridge, ***Thomas Heath*** explores the billionaire's love of the game. You can read the whole article at the link below.

Thanks to ***Jennifer Lehmann*** for the heads-up.

"It really is a game that you are never going to see the same hand twice," Buffett said. "You can play a hand every six or seven minutes every day for the rest of your life, and you will never see the same hand. It's a game you can enjoy when you are in your 90s, and you are seeing a different intellectual challenge every seven minutes. It's the best exercise there is for the brain."

<https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/blog/3278/My-Conversation-with-Warren-Buffett-about-Bridge,-Bill-Gates-and-a-bus-ride.->

Responses to a Multi Two Bid

I find a number of players who use the 2D multi opening (showing one major or strong balanced), could do a lot better with their responses. After a 2D opening, and a pass from the opponents, with these six hands, what would you bid as the opener's partner?

1	2	3	4	5	6
♠ Axxx	♠ xxx	♠ x	♠ AQx	♠ Kxxx	♠ AKQ
♥ AKx	♥ xxxx	♥ Kxxxx	♥ xx	♥ Qxxx	♥ KQJx
♦ Jx	♦ KQJx	♦ Axx	♦ KQxx	♦ A	♦ AK
♣ KQxx	♣ xx	♣ Qxxx	♣ xxxx	♣ KQJx	♣ Axxx

Might I suggest

1. One option, depending on the partnership agreement is to bid 2NT asking partner what their suit is. Responses are 3C = good Heart suit, 3D good Spade suit, 3H or 3S to show a poor six card suit with minimum points. Classically 3NT shows an excellent major with AKQxxx (this is rarely played). Continuations are then still pass or correct in this latter case.
2. Doesn't sound like any interest in game, but, depending on vulnerability, your bidding may need to be selective. 2S is pass or correct, as you are happy to push up the bidding level, as it is likely that 4th seat has a powerful hand. Indeed, non-vulnerable against vulnerable, I would be tempted to bid 3S or even 4H, still pass or correct, as obviously the opponents have game values.
3. Again game is unlikely unless partner is holding a Heart suit - bid 2S pass or correct. If partner corrects to Hearts you may bid game if feeling adventurous. You are just expecting partner to pass showing the Spade suit.
4. No game values, just a quiet 2H - happy to play at the 2 level in either major. May compete to 3 level (non-vulnerable), if partner shows Spades. Alternatively, you are happy to defend if the opponents bid higher.
5. Good values- bid 4H, this is still pass or correct and you're happy to play game in either major.
6. Nice handlet's bid 6Hstill pass or correct and pretty disappointed if partner opened on total rubbish.

NOTE that all major responses are "pass or correct". If you have your own suit and wish to push on to game, you should bid 2NT asking partner to define his hand. After that "pass or correct" is then cancelled and you may bid your own suit or bid a natural game wherever you like, remembering that a new suit below game is then forcing for at least one round. You need to agree with partner what may be an invitational bid in an ongoing sequence.

Gavin Bailey

A Reverse Bid

Occasionally you pick up a hand such as this:

♠ 7
♥ AJ43
♦ J96
♣ AQJ94

You open 1C, partner bids 1S, then what? Are you one of those players that do not understand Reverses and bid 2H? Does your partner Pass when you do so? I have seen many club players bid like this, and it is obvious that they have no understanding of Reverses. This hand is not of reversing strength, and the rebid should be 1NT (or perhaps 2C, though normally 2C would show 6 clubs!)

The concept of the Reverse is to show a strong hand, normally 16+, with at least a 5/4 shape, and it needs to be strong, as Responder is forced to give preference at the 3 level with weak hands. A hand such as this is a Reverse, and partner cannot pass!

So, 1C-1S-2H

♠ 7
♥ AK83
♦ K74
♣ AKJ73

Note the 5/4 shape. Even though it is 18 HCP, it is better to show the shape, rather than bid 2N. Responder would bid 3C with:

♠ AT743
♥ 52
♦ Q63
♣ 982

So, 1C-1S-2H-3C

A little bit stronger, and Responder could make a try for game!

A method to help sort out strength is called Blackout, thought to have been invented by Tim Bourke*, a former Melbourne player:

Continued on next page

* There is an article by **Tim Bourke** on page 15 in this issue. Editor

Blackout.

After a reverse, responder bids the **CHEAPEST of NT and the 4th suit**, to say a weak hand (a little like Lebensohl), Typically 5-7 HCP, you wouldn't have responded in the first place with less - though sometimes a little license may be used. Any other bid is constructive. After Blackout has been bid, Opener should make the bid that they want to play (normally the first suit). If Responder has support for one of Opener's suits, bid Blackout first, then support. Any other bid than Blackout shows 8+ and is constructive.

For example:

1C-1H:2D-2S	This is cheapest of the 4 th suit and 2NT: Blackout. Opener can bid 2NT, 3NT, 3H/S, or more commonly 3C (3H would show only 3 Hearts, a 4-3 fit may play well, often a 1345 hand).
1C-1H:2D-2H	This is constructive, 8+ HCP with an extra Heart, and is FG.
1C-1H:2D-2NT	This is constructive, 8+ HCP with a Spade stopper, and is FG.
1C-1H:2D-3H	This shows a solid 6 card Heart suit, and extras- suggests a slam interest hand. Make sure the suit is very good, otherwise bid just 2H.
1C-1H:2D-3C/D	This is an 8+ HCP preference bid without a Spade stopper (may have a ½ stopper!) 4C/D would be RKC. THIS IS THE ONE WHICH SOUNDS WEAK, BUT ISN'T. WATCH OUT!
1D -1S:2H-2NT	This is Blackout.
1D-1S:2H-2S	Constructive, etc as in the above.
1D-1S:2H-3C	4 th suit, may have a club stopper, but is 8+ HCP and FG (tell me more!). Opener should bid accordingly.

BLACKOUT is a good convention, but both players have to **REMEMBER** it. It doesn't apply in a competitive auction (when opponents are also bidding), unless we specifically agree to do so (the NT bid may be needed to show a stopper)! Use word association: REVERSE means think about BLACKOUT.

Arthur Robbins

A note from the editor

As the editor, I would like to encourage you all to pass on anything you think will be of interest to the members regarding the Bridge Club. Thanks again to those who contributed information and interesting articles for this edition. Contact the committee or me at jlbyton@gmail.com .

Jennifer Blyton

The Hesitation and the Damage Done

(with apologies to Neil Young)

Many players have difficulty in understanding the problem with hesitations.

Firstly, it is not an offence to hesitate. You may have a difficult decision and need time to think about it. The problem is that partner sees you are thinking and knows that you were considering at least one more call than the one which you eventually made.

The issue is greatest when you think then pass. Partner knows that you have values from the hesitation and then pass because the other thing you were considering was to make a bid or double. The issue is that partner is not allowed that knowledge under the rules of the game (Law 16B1). Partner is only allowed to know things via legal calls and bids (L16A1(a)).

Here is a recent hand where this issue arose.

Dealer S	♠ 32		W	N	E	S
EW Vul	♥ AK85					2H
	♦ J1082		P	4H	P*	P
	♣ K96		X	P	4S	P
♠ A64		♠ KQJ1075	P	P		
♥ 104		♥ 7				
♦ A54		♦ K963				
♣ A8432		♣ 75				
	♠ 98					
	♥ QJ9632					
	♦ Q7					
	♣ QJ10					

The auction as shown would have been perfectly legal if it hadn't been for the hesitation by East over 4H. This clearly shows that East was thinking about something other than passing over 4H so it is clear that East has some values. This fact (East has some values) is Unauthorised Information (UI) for West and West is constrained in their choices. The constraint is expressed in Law 16B1a and Law 16B1b and is summarised here.

- If the player has more than one possible call (called logical alternatives) which are clearly Pass and Double here,
- the player may not choose any alternative which is demonstrably suggested by the UI. The UI suggests values and makes the double safer so the Double is disallowed and West must Pass.
- The director rules that the contract is 4H and awards an Assigned Adjusted Score (Law 12C1(a)) of 4H making 8 tricks.

Note that this process is completely mechanical. There has been a hesitation so there is UI. The person with the UI is constrained in their choices to avoid the choice suggested by the UI. It is irrelevant that the person says "but I was always going to bid this". Their partner's hesitation has constrained their choice as specified in Law 16B.

Continued next page

The other group who have difficulty with hesitations are the “dog walkers”. These are people who make a minimum bid with a goodish hand and then bid one more on the next round, then one more on the next round. They can be completely undone by partner’s hesitation and be forced to pass. Again, they would say “but I was always going to bid one more”, but they got UI from their partner’s hesitation and their choice was disallowed by Law 16. The director will always add that “you didn’t think you were worth it last time” so it is not clear that you are worth it now.

My advice to you is

- Try to never hesitate then Pass. This is the most damaging outcome for your side.
- Try to do your thinking while your Right Hand Opponent (RHO) is making their bid so that you can bid in tempo.
- If you hesitate, then apologise to partner for constraining their next action.

Douglas Newlands

The Elegant Eighties

We seem to have had quite a few members who have turned 80 over the last three months. Since Ari Bakker (our wonderful cake maker) and his wife Ria are no longer able to come to the club, the practice of celebrating this significant birthday with a delicious cream cake has fallen into abeyance, especially since Covid restrictions were in place. Instead, GBC marks the occasion with a birthday card.

Knowing that Arthur Robbins turned 80 in early February, one of the players that he is mentoring, ***Jennifer Lehmann***, decided that she wanted to do something for him, to show her appreciation. Long story short, the Pizza Sunday players shared this wonderful birthday cake that Jen made from scratch.

But wait! Arthur is not the only member turning 80 in the last six months. Trish Frost, Kathryn Graham, Richard Lawrie, Dot Peacock, Dot Read, Lorraine Smith and Michelle Stokie, have also reached the magic milestone.

Just as an aside, check out how many times Arthur’s name appears on the Honour Boards on the wall behind him.

It appears the Committee has decided that we need more cake, so watch out for the next batch of Elegant Eighties celebrating at the Club.



Two Ways to Skin a Cat

Once you have won the contract and dummy goes down it is a good idea to take a moment to plan your play. Here's a good example of why this is essential. This article is taken from **Tim Bourke's** Bridge column in the International Bridge Press Association bulletin.

921. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠A 9 4	
♥J 7 5	
♦J 9 3 2	
♣J 8 4	
♠T862	♠K53
♥93	♥10842
♦K64	♦75
♣T732	♣AK65
♠QJ7	
♥AKQ6	
♦AQT8	
♣Q9	

West	North	East	South
			2NT
P	3NT	All Pass	

In a team match, after South had opened with a 20-21 point 2NT bid, raised to game, both West players had led a fourth-highest two of spades.

The first declarer played low from dummy without apparent thought. After winning the trick with the king of spades, East paused to consider his options. As he had ten points and dummy seven, then, with the advertised twenty or so on his left, it suggested that West had at most three points. It seemed to East that there was thus little future in spades: the defence might be able to take one more trick in the suit if partner had the queen and either the jack or the ten. However, that would not defeat the contract.

East decided that it must be a better shot to play West for three or four clubs and a red-suit king or the club queen. So, after cashing the king of clubs, he continued with a low club. Declarer won the trick with the queen of clubs, then crossed to dummy in hearts to run the jack of diamonds. West took this with the king and continued with a club. East won that trick with the ace of clubs and a club to West's ten defeated the contract.

At the other table, declarer did not immediately play to trick one. He wanted to plan the play first. Declarer counted eight tricks: the ace of spades, four hearts and three diamonds. While a ninth would come from one of the black suits, declarer saw the danger in playing low at trick one: if East had the king of spades, he could shift to a club at trick two, something declarer would not welcome.

Accordingly, declarer called for the ace of spades at trick one and ran the nine of diamonds at trick two. West won the trick with the king of diamonds and declarer claimed the contract: the defenders could take a spade and two clubs but that was all. South would make the ace of spades, seven tricks in the red suits and a ninth trick in a black suit.

Vale

Marie Clatworthy

24/08/1936-24/12/2024

Marie was a regular member of the Geelong Bridge club for many years. She was a gracious, generous person who made many friends here. During Covid, she and Barbara Bell discovered online bridge. This was a huge blessing for them both, living as they did in their own homes, alone. They played together most days until Marie's sudden death last Christmas.

Marie was the mother of nine children and many grandchildren, who, with hundreds of mourners, attended her funeral at St Mary's Basilica.

As one of her many friends, I truly miss her.

Ros Thornton



Coming Up

Mondays 24 Feb, 3 March

Fridays 28 Feb, 7 March

Wednesday 12 March

Wednesday 19 March

Wednesday 26 March

Sunday 30 March

Sunday 13 April

Thursday 17 April

Sunday 27 April

Fridays 9, 16, 23 May

Sunday 25 May

Thursday 29 May

Saturday 31 May

Open Teams A (Qual)

Open Teams B (Qual)

Open Teams Semi Final

Post Beginners Lesson

Open Teams Final

Pizza Sunday

Western Region Friendly Teams

Buddy Day Duplicate

Pizza Sunday

Helen Drinnan Teams

Pizza Sunday

Australia Wide Novice Pairs

Saturday Social