

Alert!



BENDIGO BRIDGE CLUB Inc.

A0005397Z

January 2019

Bumper issue!!

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Grow Your CV!! ... Be the *Newsletter Editor*

This newsletter **Alert!** is emailed to members from time-to-time to:

- report Committee proceedings,
- seek assistance with the tasks ahead of us,
- alert members to future events.

The committee STILL wishes to hear from a member who would like to edit the newsletter.

Imagine your *LinkedIn* CV boasting that you have experience in

- receiving material from various contributors for inclusion in the newsletter,
- preparing the document in the approved style and format (*currently Microsoft Word – as a docx file*),
- sending a final draft to the President for approval.

The Secretary will do the emailing and copies will be made available on the website and at playing sessions.

If you have Microsoft Word skills and are keen to “strut your stuff”, please call or text Rod Smyth on 0419 378 709

President's Corner: *Session formats*

We'd been asked to clarify the various session formats:

Monday and Friday afternoons and Wednesday evening are normal duplicate competition, usually in pairs, but occasionally in teams (see the Club Handbook). Successful players can earn green, red or gold Masterpoints, depending on the event. Players should have their system cards with them. Depending on the number of boards played at a table, 6-7.5 minutes are generally allowed per board. 24-28 boards are played.

Tuesday evenings are for Supervised Play. This is intended as an educational session, to help people transition from beginners' lessons to the regular sessions. Lessons may be included (or may precede play). Players may ask the Director for advice on what to bid or how to play, and/or may consult crib sheets. Some people play with mentors (more experienced players who may give them advice), but no pair with over 50 masterpoints each may play at these sessions.

Results may be skewed by the availability of advice; however, green points are awarded at half-rate as an incentive. A longer time is allowed per board than in the regular sessions. Generally, 15-20 boards are played.

Wednesday afternoons are for Practice Play. This is similar to Tuesday evenings, but no Masterpoints are awarded, and generally an even longer time per board is allowed.

While Tuesdays and Wednesday afternoons are intended for relatively new players, there is no barrier to attendance at the other three regular sessions. If you can handle the pace on Tuesday, try one of the other sessions! Transition may seem daunting, but we're all here because we enjoy playing bridge – most of us are human – and the Director is your Friend!

A WEDDING!!!!

Jenny Ranson (our Webmaster) and Madolyn Cheney will be getting married early in March. The Club will hold a bring-a-plate supper for them during bridge on 20th February (yes, this means that that night of the Wednesday evening time change trial WILL have an organised coffee break ... at about 8.30pm).



EXTERNAL AWARDS FOR 2018

The AWA and VBA have announced their 2018 awards. Congratulations to our Club's winners - and thanks to Graham Forbes for notifying us!

ABF Most Improved:

Four of our members made it into the ABF's list of Victoria's most improved players for 2018:

- Ron Wescott 18th
- Charles Young 27th
- Graham Forbes 34th
- Merlyn Pritchard 39th

ABF formula = (Points This Year * 10000)/(Total Points + 100)

ABF Most masterpoints within rank

The "McCutcheon Awards" are grouped according to a player's Master Rank as at the end of the preceding year, and for each state recognise the top 10 masterpoint earners within each rank. Our winners are:

Person	2017 Rank	Position in 2018 Award for Victoria	Mpoints Earned
Frank Vearing	Grand Master	3rd	191.98
Faye Symons	Silver Life Master	8th	73.66
Denis Upsall	Bronze Life Master	3rd	70.38
Dan Delcourt	Life Master	3rd	68.37
Kerry Delcourt	Life Master	8th	51.71
Peter Burt	National Master	10th	31.52
Ron Wescott	Club Master	1st	29.03
Graham Forbes	Club Master	2nd	23.52
Charles Young	Graduate Master	2nd	23.41

ABF Most masterpoints

And extra congratulations to Frank Vearing, the only one of our members who made it into the State's top 50 Masterpoint earners – he ranked 10th. For more details, see

<http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/reportsbystate.asp>

VBA Victorian Simultaneous Pairs 2018

Overall Results:

- 1st place- Thilak Ranasinghe & Gus Ghali from Moonee Valley Bridge Club
- 2nd Place – Arthur Robbins & Gary Ridgway from Geelong Bridget Club
- 3rd Place – Dan & Kerry Delcourt from Bendigo Bridge Club Inc

Congratulations Dan and Kerry – that's pretty elite company!

SUPERVISED & PRACTICE PLAY (Tuesday night – Wednesday afternoon) – Kerry and Dan

SUPERVISED PLAY – TUESDAY NIGHTS

We were delighted to be back this week and see how far everyone has progressed. As always, we are so thankful to have Wendy Bodey & Glenda Burt who set things up for us each Tuesday night. Thank you to Jennifer & Peter Goddard for filling in for us for the first two weeks of the year.

Transitioning to full competition

Even more exciting this week was to have a number of players indicate confidence and readiness to try full competition play. They are mostly looking at Wednesday nights.

On the Wednesday nights that Kerry is not normally playing, she has offered to play with a different new player transitioning to full competition play, as a one off. If you are a transitioning player interested in trying things out, put your name down on the notice board and Kerry will contact you to organise a date. We thank everyone in advance for making these new players feel welcome and comfortable.

PRACTICE PLAY – WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

The players currently attending are by and large no longer novices, although we will be expecting an influx of novices after the first beginners' lessons in March. For that reason, we are using this time for some slightly higher end topics in our mini lessons on Weds, with a few sets of hands on that topic incorporated into the day's play. After that we envisage going back to mini lessons that simply reinforce Peter Marley's lessons.

We began with an impromptu lesson this week on Myth Busters and decided as a group about the topics for the next 10 weeks. These will be at around Improver level and each week's topic will be advertised on the notice board.

Again, we are delighted to be back on Weds afternoons and, as always, we are immensely thankful to have Elisabeth Burgess, who gives up her Weds afternoon every week to help out with the group. Thank you again to Peter and Jennifer for taking our place with the Weds group for the past two weeks. It is very much appreciated.

TUESDAY EVENING AND WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON MINI-LESSONS

Our mini lessons for the next 10 weeks (before we expect new people from Beginner lessons) are on slightly higher level topics, although they will still be pitched at around an Improver level.

In consultation with the group, we have come up with the following topics for the next 10 weeks. After that, the topics will revert back to very basic reinforcement of Peter Marley's Beginner lessons as we will be expecting an intake of novice players again.

You are welcome to join us if you want. Some of the harder topics will be presented at Supervised Play on the preceding Tuesday night (**highlighted in red below**).

MINI LESSONS START AT 1PM FOLLOWED BY PRACTICE PLAY WITH SOME HANDS ESPECIALLY SET

WEEK 1 Wed JAN 30

HATS AND CONTEXT INCLUDING REBIDS

WEEK 2 Wed FEB 06 PLAYING NO TRUMPS

WEEK 3 Wed FEB 13 OVERCALLS

WEEK 4 Wed FEB 20 LIMIT BIDS

WEEK 5 Wed FEB 27 HAND EVALUATION FOR OPENING
(also on TUES night)

WEEK 6 Wed MAR 06 OPENING LIGHT IN 3RD SEAT

WEEK 7 Wed MAR 13 OPENING IN 4th SEAT

WEEK 8 Wed MAR 20

WEEK 9 Wed MAR 27 OPENING LEADS

WEEK 9 Wed APR 03 TAKE OUT DOUBLE 1
(also on TUES night)

WEEK 10 Wed APR 10 TAKE OUT DOUBLE 2

Content taught is always referenced and taken from reputable published authors.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Dan and Kerry

TUESDAY NIGHT VENUE CHANGE COMING UP

Sadly, we're outgrowing the Croquet Club space, so will be trying a new venue in the near future. If you don't use email, please get an "email buddy" to **Alert!** you to notices of change.

COMING EVENTS

Come & Try Sessions

We'll be holding "Come and Try" sessions at the Activity Room, Bendigo Library on Tuesdays 12 and 19 February from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Flyers will be available from Rod, Bernadette and Kaye Parker from Tues 5 Feb if you know a good place to put one!

Beginners Lessons

These will start on Tuesday 12 March, at 7:30pm, in the Quarry Hill Croquet Club rooms.

Pizza night

Our inaugural Pizza Night is coming up on 24 February. It will be at the Lake Weeroona Pavilion (at the far end of the lake from the Boardwalk Restaurant).

Contact Barb Evans, evansb3@bigpond.com or 0408 590 713

Northern Region Pairs and Teams

- The NRBA pairs and teams championship will be held on Saturday/Sunday 2/3 March at Shepparton. Entries are now open at <http://www.bridgeunlimited.com/>
- This competition is also a qualifier for subsequent state events. Players must participate in the NRBA championship to be eligible.
- The venue is the same as last year - U3A hall, Esson Street, Shepparton.
- Directions, and regulations for the event, are posted on the the NRBA web site, <http://northernregionbrid.wixsite.com/nrba2018>
- ***This is a very enjoyable day - this event and the Ashes against Ballarat (the following Sunday!) are both the same size or smaller than a normal Club event, and a really good way to ease yourself into the whole world of bridge congresses. And Shepparton do excellent food, too!***

The Ashes

At Ballarat this year – on Saturday March 9th – yes, that's the Labor Day weekend, so we may need to make an extra effort to get numbers! It's a good day, welcoming to newish players – and we'll put a notice up on the LGCC notice board exploring interest in a bus.

FAULTY AWARDS

Some of the glasses presented at the Christmas function as trophies were badly engraved. If you have one of these, please see a Committee member: we have some spares and can exchange.

CLUBROOMS OF OUR OWN

At a meeting on 14 January, our Committee resolved *“to pursue the acquisition of premises for which the Club has full discretion over use.”*

... you'll note that word “pursue”: members will be consulted if we have a definite prospect! But we have approached the LGCC to investigate the possibility of extending the building we now use.

Also, the Premises Working Party is to be re-constituted and given new terms of reference. If you have ideas or concerns regarding suitable accommodation, please discuss them with Committee members or drop a note to the Secretary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - summary

Tuesdays 12 Feb and 19 Feb, 6:30pm – Come & Try

Sunday 24 Feb, 4pm – Inaugural Pizza Night at the Lake Weeroona Pavilion

Sat-Sun 2-3 March – Northern Region Pairs/Teams at Shepparton

Saturday 9 March – Ashes at Ballarat

Tuesday 12 March – Beginners' lessons start (6 weeks)

Sunday 31 March – second Pizza Night, as above

Sunday 28 April – third Pizza Night, as above

Fri-Sat-Sun 24-26 May – Bendigo Congress

CHRISTMAS VENUE FEEDBACK AND IDEAS

Yes, already!! Our breakup this year is scheduled for Friday 20 December, bound to be a busy date. So we need to know soon – are you happy with the Pottery as the venue (we have made a tentative booking there), or do you have any better ideas? Please email Secretarybendigobridge@gmail.com, or give a note to a committee member.

WEDNESDAY EVENING TIME CHANGE TRIAL

From 16 January to 20 February inclusive (i.e. for 6 weeks) we're starting play at 7pm on Wednesdays, and not taking a formal coffee break (just serving ourselves when it suits us). This is a trial period. At the end of that we'd welcome feedback from anyone who plays on Wednesday.

At the end of the trial period your committee will want to know whether you, as a playing group, want the new arrangements to continue on a permanent basis. To this end we would like you complete the questionnaire on the last page of this newsletter. It contains two simple questions:

1. Do you want the start time for Wednesday Evening Club Pairs to be permanently changed to 7pm? Yes or No.
2. Should play at Wednesday Evening Club Pairs be continuous, with no formal refreshment break? Yes or No.

The questionnaire also has a comments section where you may enter any (constructive, please) suggestions you may have for further improving your Wednesday evening playing experience.

If you have access to a PC printer, please print off the attached questionnaire, fill it in and give it to the director when you attend a Wednesday evening session. If you do not have access to a printer, please ask the director for a copy.

You can 'vote' more than once! So, if you change your mind, either way, during the course of the trial, you can submit another questionnaire form. However (and obviously) only your final vote will be counted.

Voting will close on the final day of the trial, Wednesday 27 February. Only Wednesday evening players are eligible to vote and you will need to attend a Wednesday evening session during the trial period to cast your vote. However, subject to the deadline of 27 Feb, special consideration will be given to any regular Wednesday evening players that are unable to play during the trial period: please contact Paul O'Hare at directorbendigobridge@gmail.com if this applies to you.

Paul O'Hare

Alert!

January 2019

**Bendigo Bridge Club: Wednesday Evening Sessions
playing arrangements poll**

PLAYER NAME:

CLUB PLAYER NUMBER:

DATE: / /

Please circle **Yes** or **No** in response to the following two questions...

1. Do you want the start time for Wednesday Evening Club Pairs to be permanently changed to 7pm? **Yes** **No**.

2. Should play at Wednesday Evening Club Pairs be continuous, with no formal refreshment break? **Yes** **No**.

Comments (optional) -

Please write below any suggestions you may have as to how your Wednesday evening playing experience might be improved.

Signed:

PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE and hand to SESSION DIRECTOR no later than 27 February 2019