

President Neil's Monthly Message – October 2006 (No 1)

President's Message

As I stated at the AGM, I intend to keep bridge club members informed on the activities of the club, as I believe that communication is paramount to the success of any organization.

As I write my first contribution it is hard to believe that my first month in office as President is over – with so much activity having taken place within the club.

At the outset I would like to thank all members who have made such encouraging remarks not only to me, but to the other board members with regard to the future of the club. I am very fortunate to have such a talented board supporting me for my year as President and I can assure all members that we will be all working together for the best interest of the club and the members..

As the President, one of my goals has been the adoption of the motto, *Enjoy your Bridge* and I would ask members to invite bridge players who have not sampled the happy and friendly atmosphere of our Club in recent times to come and join us for a game of bridge.

I have provided a *Comment Box* for those members who would like to provide input into our Club, please utilize this medium or speak to me or any other Board member about any issue that that you consider could enhance member enjoyment within the Club.

Board Matters

The Gold Coast Bridge Club Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and the most important issue arising from our first board meeting was the offer from the Surfers Paradise Commerce Club to relocate to their premises, an issue that was debated at length at the AGM. After much discussion by the Board it was resolved that in the best interests of the majority of members of the club that the offer to relocate would not be accepted.

I would like to thank Eva Berger on volunteering to become the Secretary of the club for 2007/08. Upon Eva's return to the Gold Coast after touring Australia with Tony she phoned me saying that she was aware that the Club did not have a Secretary and that she would take on the position.

Player Behaviour

Law 75 provides:

A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.

This law applies equally to your opponent and your partner and there is nothing more embarrassing for players when another player shows a flagrant disregard of this law.

I have received several reports lately in relation to players who are showing a disregard of this law. If we are to maintain a friendly and enjoyable environment within our club this type of behaviour must cease, otherwise, it may be necessary for action to be taken against persistent offending players.

Where have our Players Gone?

In the past 12 months I can account for at least 15 members who no longer play bridge at our Club, this is besides those members who have either moved interstate or have sadly passed away. Reasons for their non attendance, include ill health, unable to find a suitable partner or the inability to drive to bridge. I would ask members who are aware of any member who may fall within this category to contact either Eva Berger or myself, as the Board would like to put together a program to assist these members to return to bridge.

Car Park

Whilst realizing the limitations of our car park I am of the opinion that if members use common sense when parking their vehicles there is sufficient car parking available for all players, even on our two busiest days, namely Tuesday and Saturday.

I will be assisting with car parking at every available opportunity and Phillip Heppleston has also offered to help. Ideally I would like to establish a car park roster of members who are willing to assist for approximately 20 minutes a day with car parking. Please contact me if you would like to help.

September Celebrations

September is an important month for members who have their birthdays and on 14 September over 30 members enjoyed birthday celebrations at the Lakes Café and Bar at Varsity Lakes, including your Virgo President. September birthdays included Kay Newman (90 years), Mary Bullivant (85 years), Neil Raward (65 years), Doug Filling, Max Archer and several other members. A great day of celebration was had by all and I would like to thank Nancy Bellini for another great job in organising this function.

Tournament Committee

It was resolved at the last meeting that Tuesday bridge sessions will now have pre dealt boards.

Melbourne Cup Party

Another year, another Melbourne Cup Party and plans are well in hand to ensure that this years' party will be the best ever. Committee member Norma Cameron will be responsible for the celebration together with a band of volunteers to assist her. Carolyn Tobin will again be looking after sweeps. Tickets must be pre purchased and they are available for \$20 per person which includes luncheon, champagne, a game of bridge and prizes for the best hat, outfit etc.

This represents great value with the Gold Coast Bridge Club being the only place to be on Melbourne Cup Day which is on Tuesday 6 November. Please refer to the notice board for further details.

Betty Desmond's 60th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Betty and Frank Desmond for celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary during September. Betty now has a new circle of friends as congratulations were received from Mayor Ron Clark, Premier Peter Beattie, the Queensland Governor, Federal member Steven Ciobo, Prime Minister John Howard, the Governor General of Australia and the Queen. Well done Betty and Frank.

Bridge Lessons

Bridge lessons have now commenced with 10 people attending lessons being conducted by Kathy Johnson and Bastian Bolt.

Future Events

Gold Coast Butler Pairs Congress - Saturday 6 October

Gold Coast Swiss Teams – Sunday 7 October

Novice Teams – Thursday 4 & 11 October

Presidents Cup – Thursday night 11, 18 & 26 October

Australia Wide Pairs – Monday night 22 October

Competition Results

The following members have enjoyed competition success during the month:-

- Club Teams Championship – Roger & Barbara Weathered/Robert & Helen Milward
- June Turnbull Pairs – Kathy Johnson/Lois Steinwedel
- GNOT Zone Qualifiers:- Roger & Barbara Weathered/Tom Strong/Kevin Steffensen/Kathy Johnson/Lois Steinwedel, Lazar Mikata/David Lee/Adam Grodomski/Kuldip Bedi -
- Surfers Paradise Congress Teams – Eva & Tony Berger, Jenny Han & Hari Baumanis

Birthdays for October

1st - Eva Kalman, 3rd – Jean McIlloy, 6th – James Byne, Joy Shirley, Peter Haigh, 9th – Brenda Palmer, 10th - David Browne, 11th – Margaret Fetting, Norma Smith, 12th – Phillip Heppleston, 15th Bill Dyson, 16th – Hildegard Clancy, 17th – Sandra Middleton, 18th – Mary Jojkity, Izak Lurje, 19th – George Powis, Margaret Taylor, Shirley Wanz, 22nd – Ann Hartigan, Sylvia Clifton, 25th – Andrew James, Birgitt Bingham, 26th – Gillian Jones, 28th – Susanne Lee, 30th – Norman Sprintall, Isabel Brunmary, 31st – Jessica Brake, Dorothy Kemeny

Promotions

Congratulations go to Michael Hall (Club Master), Margaret Pisko (*Local Master), Valerie Fairlie (Regional Master), Geoffrey Roberts (*National Master), Carole Statigos (Life Master), Norman Swan (Silver Life Master)

New Members

Welcome to Allison Williams, Jennifer Hunt, Cecily Fury, Les Hanrahan & Gaye Fletcher.

Vale

It is sad to note the passing of a dear member of our Club, Edith Downey, who passed away on the 19 September aged 89 years.

Enjoy Your Bridge

**Neil Raward
President**

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

For those players who require a partner, Betty Desmond can be contacted on 55 388 776.