



Peninsula News and Views

Newsletter of the Peninsula Bridge Club

Volume 6, Number 4

December 2010

Upcoming Events

- Padman Trophy
- Summer Pairs
- Club Pairs

Check your 2011 Diary for dates!

New Members

Douglas Dawson
Christine Rynell
Monica Eklof
Elizabeth Watts
Michael Draper

2011 Committee

President

Colin Chase

Vice-President

Sue Riley

Treasurer

Nora Bird

Secretary

Mike Pengelly

Comm. Members

Martin Beech

Alan Davies

Vivien Eldridge

Michael Hanvey

Tina Hewes

Rosemary Murray

Cath Whiddon

The President's Hand

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Tony Pratten. Tony had been an excellent player and a prominent member of the Club for many years. He served on the Committee with distinction and became President in 2004. Tony's lively and sometimes wicked sense of humour could be relied on to brighten the day. He will be greatly missed by all his friends at Peninsula and elsewhere.

Thank you to all our members who attended the Annual General Meeting on 23 October. A special resolution was passed unanimously to alter the constitution for the Club to comply with the *Associations Incorporated Act 2009*. A copy of the new constitution is available for any member to peruse. A new Committee was also appointed at the AGM for the forthcoming year.

The Melbourne Cup Day Pairs was again great fun with many beautiful hats on parade. Pamela Wilson and her team (photo) prepared a delicious lunch and as usual, Honest John Tobin was there to take our sweepstakes bets, as was Martin Beech. Tina Hewes conducted the trivia event with her usual *élan* and along with Alan Hadfield, prepared the questions. Alan and Vona Hadfield also organised the pre-sale of Quinella tickets for the big race. Many thanks to all whose hard work made the day such a success.

Several new players from our most recent beginners course will be joining our regular duplicate sessions in the near future (see *article, Page 3*). I remember how nervous I was when I first started to play duplicate, so please give them



Cup Day luncheon coordinators: Annabel Wilson, Pamela Wilson, Jean Quinn

encouragement and make allowance for minor breaches of the rules. We are hoping some experienced players will volunteer to partner these new players on occasion to help them settle in.

Happy Bridging

Colin Chase
President

2011 Workshops Program

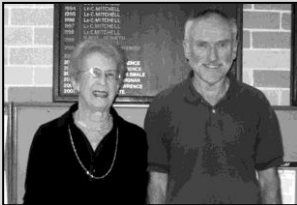
The Club's Teaching and Training Sub-Committee is now planning next year's program of bridge workshops to be held at Peninsula. The recent John Roberts workshop held on 10 November received rave reviews. We plan to offer further workshops with John and other talented bridge teachers in coming months. Ron Klinger is already booked in for a workshop on the Losing Trick Count to be held in March. Further details on this and other workshops will be available early in the New Year. The aim is to provide a choice of seminars for participants, from beginners to more advanced players. The Club plans to subsidise workshops for members but attendance will be limited to roughly 40 people per seminar. We urge people to try to attend these workshops with a regular bridge partner. Not only will your game benefit but it's a lot of fun!



Beverley Schultz, Grace Eisdan



*John Rogers, Margaret Partridge,
Lynn Baker, David Grout*



Joan Rutherford and Alan Davies

Recent Winners

Spring Pairs

Beverley Schultz and
Grace Eisdan

Club Teams

Margaret Smale & Vivien
Eldridge & Jan Riley &
Helen Crott

Members Only Teams

John Rogers & Margaret
Partridge & Lynn Baker &
David Grout

Jean Stebbins Trophy

Chris Dixon

Sloman Cup

Joan Rutherford and
Alan Davies

Recent Promotions

To Graduate Master:

Lorraine Doherty, Libby Mahoney

To Club Master:

Esther Lee, Ann-Maree McDivitt,
Megan Willcox, Rosemary Este,
David Grout, Valerie Pengelly

To Local Master:

Alan Foulis, Winifred Nielsen

To **Local Master:

Agnes Cootes, Barbara Delangre,
Mirit Douglas, Faye Seeney

Check It Out

The Club's library includes a wide range of bridge books and other material covering the many diverse aspects of this fascinating and complex game, from bidding to declarer play and defence. Librarian Denise Quail is always happy to help with any enquiries. The following book review comes from Martin Beech:

Common Bidding Mistakes to Avoid, by Australian Ross Dick, is a guide for improvers rather than beginners or experts. This is his second book after **Better Bidding for Improving Players** (2003). Both are recommended. I love reading but generally find most bridge books hard to digest. I have found that I cannot read a bridge book but rather have to study it and that takes time. Consider how much information is presented in a bridge lesson such as the recent workshop by John Roberts covering the Drury Convention. Yet that information is usually only part of a chapter in a bridge book.

The aim of this book is not to change your system but to cut down on basic bidding errors. One does not play bridge in isolation and it is important that both you and your partner have a detailed understanding of your system, bidding and play. Most players do not have problems bidding 13-23 point hands, balanced or unbalanced. The book instead focuses on guidelines for hand evaluation and bidding covering other hands where mistakes are commonly made.

Apart from some revision of basics, the author deals with borderline openings, 3rd and 4th seat openings, overcalls and re-openings in an easy-to-understand way. The important area of doubles is also well covered. Much good information is included in a rush at the end when the reader may be brain-tired. For advanced players, a review of Chapter 10 could prove helpful. For others, if you find the book informative, you may wish to purchase it and keep it on the bedside table as a nightly refresher.

The Full Deal



Cath Whiddon's beginner bridge students (photo) recently graduated to become beginner bridge **players** after completing 10 lessons on bidding, leads, play and etiquette at the bridge table.

Here is Cath on one of their play hands:

One of our lessons covered the use of Doubles and Overcalls in a competitive auction.

Take a look at this hand. See what you think the final contract should be, first with East as the dealer. Does vulnerability affect the final contract?

The bidding:

Board 1: East Dir: All Vulnerable

E	S	W	N
Pass	Pass	1S	X
2S	3H	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The lead: Ace of Spades (top of touching honours).

The score: 3 hearts makes for N/S [+140] as long as Declarer draws trumps and trumps a losing club. **Comment:** If E/W bid 3 spades, they should be one down, Declarer losing two heart tricks, two clubs and a diamond for -100 (undoubled). This would be a better board for E/W than letting N/S make their heart contract. But E/W must also assess the risk of being doubled in 3 spades for a score of -200. They may conclude that this would be unlikely but it depends on the experience and aggression of their opponents.

We then played the same hand again, but this time with North the dealer and only N/S vulnerable.

The bidding:

Board 2: North Dir: N/S Vulnerable, E/W Not Vulnerable

N	E	S	W
1D	pass	1H	1S
2H	2S	Pass?	Pass
Pass			

The lead: North leads a small club, promising an honour.

The score: E/W make 2 spades [+110]. **Comment:** Rather than pass the 2S contract by E/W, South should bid to 3 hearts, which we have seen makes for +140 to N/S. (Experienced players will only rarely let their opponents rest in a two-level contract in a major). E/W (not vulnerable) should now bid to 3 spades if they believe that N/S will make 3 hearts. Even if E/W is doubled, they will only be one off for -100, a better score than letting N/S make their heart contract.

North		East	
♠	93	♠	Q752
♥	AQ42	♥	65
♦	A743	♦	QJ10
♣	K42	♣	Q1063
West		South	
♠	AKJ106	♠	84
♥	87	♥	KJ1093
♦	K652	♦	98
♣	J7	♣	A985

PBC People: Difficult Journey Brings Triumph

Peninsula Bridge Club member Wendy Starkie has turned a deadly bout with cancer into a hard-fought personal victory. Wendy has not only emerged with a clean bill of health but has gone on to win the Fitness First New You Achievement Award for 2010, which carries with it a cash prize of \$30,000.

Coping with the impact of a mastectomy together with the effects of chemo and radiation therapy in the wake of her 2004 cancer diagnosis had left Wendy overweight and depressed. "I was used to feeling fit and healthy," she says. "But with the cancer treatment I was big and bloated. I just felt terrible. I hated the way that I looked. I hated that I couldn't do what I could normally do. But most of all, I had totally lost my self-image.

"I didn't know what I was anymore. When you've had a breast removed, it's not just looking at the scar, that's the easy bit. It also affects your balance and how your upper body works. I couldn't stand on one leg. I needed to rebalance my body but I didn't know how to do it."

By 2007, Wendy had gotten through the cancer treatment and had been given the all-clear by her oncologist. She decided to join



the Fitness First gym at Mona Vale in an effort to improve her physical condition and win back her self-confidence. Her initial fitness classes were something of a disaster. "I was so out of balance that I couldn't manage," she says. "I kept falling down and knocking people over. Doesn't look good when half the class is on the floor because Wendy has tripped up again."

Staff at the gym then suggested a program of rehab work and targeted personal training. Wendy's strength and balance began to improve steadily. Today, she is fit and healthy, enjoying a busy life which includes lots of golf, charity work and acting in local theatre productions. And of course, bridge.

"When I was sick, bridge was my lifesaver," she says. "Peninsula is a very special club. It was somewhere I could come where people were warm and supportive. They didn't care that I was bald as a coot. They didn't care that my mind was an absolute muesli. It was a reason to get out of bed, get showered, put my wig on, put proper clothes on, come out and talk to people as well as play bridge. What I have learned is this: your hold on life is very tenuous so make the most of every single day."

Cup Day Photo Gallery



Martin Beech and 'Honest John' Tobin' taking sweepstakes bets



Melbourne Cup Day hats on display



Hat Parade winners: Shirley Stanley and Elsie Nicholson