



# JUNE, 2019 NEWSLETTER

## EASTS BRIDGE CLUB

*We encourage the game of bridge in an environment where players compete and develop with enjoyment and mutual respect*

### Bridge in June

Saturday 1st is at the RSL  
 Monday 3rd is at Easts GNOT - **GOLD POINTS**  
 Tuesday 4th is at Easts Supervised  
 Wednesday 5th is at Easts  
 Saturday 8th is at the RSL  
 Monday 10th at Easts - GNOT - **GOLD POINTS**  
 Tuesday 11th at the RSL Supervised  
 Wednesday 12th is at the RSL  
 Saturday 15th is at the RSL  
 Monday 17th is at Easts  
 Tuesday 18th is at Easts Supervised  
 Wednesday 19th is at Easts  
 Saturday 22nd is at the RSL  
 Monday 24th is at Easts  
 Tuesday 25th - is at Easts  
 Wednesday 26th is at Easts  
 Saturday 29th is at the RSL

- There may be last minute changes to some week-day events due the Venue being booked for external functions
- Also, should there be insufficient number of teams entered in the GNOT competition, it may need to be abandoned.

### And what about July?

We have all Saturdays, being the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th – they are all booked in at the RSL  
 We expect all weekdays to be played at Easts

**THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS** were hotly contested over three successive Wednesdays in May. The Winners, Kitty and Walter Gottlieb aggregated 63.5% over their two best sessions, coming ahead of Theo Mangos & Paul Larby (62.1%) and Allen Rosenberg with Lester Abrams (61.3%)

**CLUB CHAMPIONS for 2019**  
*Kitty and Walter Gottlieb*



*Pam Fisher is presented with her Flower Arrangement (1st Prize) in the raffle which was conducted in conjunction with the Bridge for Brains Tournament*



On Wednesday 1st May, Easts Bridge Club participated in the "BRIDGE FOR BRAINS" Challenge. Our members contribution totalled \$1,121.00 to which the Bridge Club added a further \$200, making a total of \$1,321. **Well done!**

### The MOST IMPROVED in sessions for the month of May

	Ave. of best 3 scores	Impact
Mondays: Beverley Luland & Donald Baldry	55.83	+ 0.68
Tuesdays: Georgia Douglass & Andrew Bell	42.19	+ 0.79
Wednesdays: Insufficient sessions (most were Championship events)		
Saturdays: Geoffrey & Kerry Hill	58.63	+0.43

A "Special Thanks" to **Tamara Pollack** who donated the Flower Arrangement, to be used for fund raising for research and for future medical breakthroughs by NeuRa

### Improved Ratings in May

	Prior	New	Gain
1. Leila Selby	33.99	36.51	2.52
2. Shirley Rowan	52.24	54.75	2.51
3. Agnes Stanley	55.21	57.46	2.25



**Party, Party ...**  
 The "bridged-out" competitors let their hair down after the Championships and enjoyed a relaxing glass (or two?)

*"South's bid implied: I have four spades, four hearts, six clubs and the rest are diamonds"*

Edgar Kaplan



A Deadly Game of Bridge



The famous Bennett bridge murder occurred

September 29, 1929 and enlivened Kansas City, Missouri, for years. John S. Bennett, age 36, a personable and prosperous perfume salesman, and his wife, Myrtle, were playing rubber bridge with Charles and Mayme Hofman at a tenth of a cent a point, family against family.



Myrtle Bennett

Just before midnight the fatal hand (see left), was dealt by John himself.

SOUTH WEST NORTH SOUTH  
1S. 2D. 4S. All pass

Mr Bennett opened the bidding with less than traditional values, and his wife took a shot (sorry about that) at game with a jump to 4 spades

West led the Ace of diamonds and shifted to the Jack of clubs. South won the K the only correct play he made. He led the trump Jack. When Hofman failed to cover he rose with the Ace. He led the spade 10 and when East showed out he won with the king.

Next, Bennett trumped a diamond in dummy, cashed the club Ace and led the club 9. Mrs. Hofman played the queen, Bennett trumped with the spade 5, Hofman over-trumped with the queen and cashed the heart Ace. The Hofmans had their book.

Bennett won the next Heart and was stymied. Dummy had two good clubs but he couldn't get over there. Myrtle goaded John about poor play and John accused her of overbidding.

One taunt led to another until Myrtle jumped up, dashed into the bedroom and grabbed the family pistol, came back and shot John dead. During the trial some of the jurors became so intrigued with bridge they lost sight of the tragedy. Some learned to play between court sessions and asked an expert to interpret the "4 spade" hand.

The famous Ely Culbertson was summoned. "Mr Bennett overbid his hand" Culbertson announced. "Of that there can be no doubt, but even with this, so kind were the gods of distribution that he might have saved his life had he played his cards a little better. He failed to make a plan." Culbertson admired Mrs. Bennett's boost to 4 spades and said he would have made the same bid himself.

The jury was swayed and brought in a verdict of "accidental death". Some months later a dazed insurance company had to pay double indemnity. Mrs. Bennett continued to play bridge but encountered some difficulty finding a partner.

**North.**  
(Myrtle Bennett)

♠ A 10 6 3  
♥ 10 8 4  
♦ 4  
♣ A 9 8 4 2

**West.**  
(Charles Hofman)

♠ Q 7 2  
♥ A J 3  
♦ A Q 10 9 2  
♣ J 6

**East**  
(Mayme Hofman)

♠ 4  
♥ Q 9 4  
♦ K J 7 6 3  
♣ Q 7 5 3

**South**  
(John Bennett)

♠ K J 9 8 5  
♥ K 7 6 2  
♦ 8 5  
♣ K 10



**Identical Twins?**  
Morris Rosenberg and his partner, Joe Ben Mayor, scored 67% to win a Tuesday supervised session during May. The next day his twin brother Allen, scored 67% with his partner Lester Abrams, in the first session of the Club Championships

Congratulations to Halina Drwecka and Jerzy Szyszkowski, who made the final of the State Mixed Pairs competition after winning the club event. They came 7<sup>th</sup> in the state qualifying event and achieved 13<sup>th</sup> final placing. The competition was extremely fierce with some of the top players in the country making up the field.

*"His lead was the middle from the top of nothing"*  
Edgar Kaplan

YOUR COMMITTEE... OFFICERS AND KEY CONTACTS

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Have your Say!

The Survey, mentioned in the last Newsletter, is currently being conducted at the various sessions.

The trend, to this point, appears that our members do not wish to make any changes at all and that they are not interested in any new initiatives.

A compromise position has been proposed, that play start at 12:30, and this will be canvassed in more detail presently.

It is disappointing that very few members have shown interest in offering opinions or suggestions at the place provided at the end of the survey.