

Bridge at Easts restarts

Monday 28th February
Tuesday 1st March

Mondays 1 – 4 pm

Tuesdays 1 – 3.30

(Supervised. Talk at 12.45)

Tuesdays 7pm – 10 (New!)

Plus Wednesday **BBO** at 1pm

President's message

"After months of not knowing from week to week when we would resume playing at Easts, we finally have some good news. March promises to be an exciting month for the club.

Finally we will be back playing at Easts on Monday and Tuesday afternoon. We will be commencing on **Monday February 28th and Tuesday March 1st**, both at 1 pm.

The really exciting news is that we will be commencing **Tuesday evening sessions on March 1st**. The session will start 7pm . We encourage you to come along and have a meal in the bistro (an opportunity to use your \$25 Dine Voucher) beforehand. Remember parking is free at Westfield after 6pm.

We will be continuing our BBO sessions on Wednesdays at 1 pm.

Also we will be conducting a new series of **Beginner Classes** on Tuesday afternoons commencing **15th March**. If you know of anyone who wishes to learn how to play bridge, please let them know and get them to ring Nicoleta on 0414 876 175.

Remember also the AGM on Monday March 14th after the completion of the bridge session. Please consider nominating for the Committee.

So March will be a busy and interesting month for us all.

Finally thank you all for your patience over the last couple of months, As much as we wanted to resume our face to face sessions, the committee was mindful of the need to look after the health and safety of our members."

terry.maunsell@gmail.com

Covid-safe

To enter Easts Leagues Club, members simply need to **swipe their Easts member cards**. No need to scan a QR code, nor to show vaccination status.

If you are feeling mildly unwell, please isolate and get tested immediately.

At the moment, masks are still required throughout the club, except when eating or drinking.

However, the state government has floated the intention to **remove the indoor mask requirement on 1st March**.

Annual membership (\$40) is (past) due. To remain ABF-active, fees need to be paid before 31st March, preferably before the AGM.

What's happening with **Wednesday bridge**? As yet, we do not have permission from Easts to run a Wednesday afternoon but this may change. In the meantime, please join our **BBO session** for a fun afternoon on BBO at 1pm every Wednesday. You don't need a partner, as you can join the partnership desk or perhaps play with a robot.



HILDA HARRIS passed away recently aged 99. She was a much loved member of our bridge club and will be sadly missed by everyone, especially by one of her regular partners, Ted Popper.

Your Committee

President: Terry Maunsell 0419 266 641
Vice Pres: Ted Popper 0410 162 503
Secretary: Theo Mangos 0411 337 539
Treasurer: Allen Rosenberg 0408 628 233
Director: Nicoleta Giura 0414 876 175
Newsletter: Gaby Paroz 0416 437 999

Gaby is standing down as newsletter editor. We thank her for stepping in to do it for the last couple of years.

Committee Members

Gary Jenner 0412 227 464
 Tamara Pollack 0419 360 666
 Paul Larby 0402 780 994
 Helen Van Dam 0438 747 452
 Shirley Rowan 0412 112 274

Email: eastsbridge@gmail.com

Opening 1NT with a 5-card major

This is an old controversy. It's always good to open 1♥ or 1♠ to show a 5-card suit. However, when you have 15-17 balanced, it is better to start with 1NT. This hand shows why:

	WEST	EAST
♠ K 2	1♥	1♠ or 1NT
♥ K J 7 4 3	?	
♦ A Q 4		
♣ K 10 5		

What do you do now? If the response is 1NT, you should raise to 2NT because partner might have 10 points.

This won't be great if partner has a minimum and passes. She will be playing 2NT from the East seat on a combined 22-count. Not good.

You would have done better to **open 1NT**. Partner will pass that with 6 or 7 points and a flat hand. You will be one level lower. There is another benefit – your stronger hand will be declarer.

And if partner had responded 1♠ to 1♥?

That's bad too. You feel like rebidding 1NT but that shows a weaker hand, about 12-14 points. Partner will pass that 1NT rebid on a flat 10-point hand, in which case you will miss a good 3NT.

Nor is it good to rebid 2NT. That will take you too high when responder is weak. Remember that a jump rebid to 2NT shows 18-19 points, so partner might raise you to a poor 3NT.

It's true that opening 1NT can miss a major fit but partner can use Stayman. While Stayman won't uncover a 5-3 major fit (unless you play Puppet Stayman) such hands often play just as well in notrumps and score better.

Be keen to open 1NT whenever you can, even when your hand is only "semi-balanced":

♠ K 3	♥ Q 7	♦ K J 9 5 4	♣ A K 10 2
♠ A 3	♥ K Q 6 4 3	♦ Q 7	♣ A J 7 3

I would open 1NT on both those hands, to "get the hand off my chest". 5422 shape is okay for 1NT if the hand feels "notrumpy".