



APRIL, 2020 NEWSLETTER

EASTS BRIDGE CLUB

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

Retain connection and community by playing "Bridge Base Online"

A comprehensive guide, which is regularly updated, can be found on the Easts Bridge Club Homepage.

Some salient points:-

1. Access the bbo (bridgebase.com/index.php) and click on red top left button to log in (using your User Name and Password) or register. If you don't have an account, click "Become a Member" button, choose a name and a password.
2. You can play or just watch (kibitz). If new to this or inexperienced, suggest you choose Casual rather than Competitive.
3. Options are for "Help me find a game" or "Find your own game". (At "Relaxed Bridge Club" the players are nicer and there are no experts or harsh critics). You can find a table with 2 or 3 players and click to sit or, under "Kibitzers" you can just watch.
4. You can "Start a Table" (bottom left button) reserve seats for friends and choose privacy options. You can choose to play against robots (click right) - there is a small fee for this.
5. When you are more comfortable with bbo, try "Main Bridge Club" - choose to join a table or you can open one.
6. You can navigate through the club by going back, using the "Back button" which is blue and next to "Homer"
7. You can add people to your Friends list or chat to players or need help.

During these difficult times our players might wish to avail themselves of some of the following online bridge opportunities.

Improve your bridge: Follow the ABF daily bridge column courtesy of Ron Klinger at <http://www.abfevents.com.au/abfdbc/>

For our Supervised and Beginners players, Joan Butts (who is the ABF teaching co-ordinator), is offering one month free use of her online school of bridge at <https://www.joanbuttsbridge.com/join> - Sign up as a Gold Member and use the code BRIDGE

Bridge books and other useful material are being offered by the Bridge Shop for download or reading online, <https://bridgewinners.co/article/view/social-distancing-heres-a-digital-care-package/>

Day 2 Without Sports – Found a young lady sitting on my couch yesterday. Apparently, she's my wife. She seems nice.

In this issue, the Newsletter goes "Viral"

ADVERSITY or OPPORTUNITY?

In these times of physical isolation it is more important than ever before that we stay socially connected.

How does a bridge player do this?

Playing bridge, of course!

In this issue, and also on the **Easts Bridge Club website**, there is a wealth of information as to how we can all continue our connectivity by playing bridge with each other online.

Also, the "Little Grey Book" (aka the Easts Bridge Club Fixtures Booklet), provides contact details (phone numbers and email addresses) which our members can use to stay in touch.

Stay healthy, happy and mentally alert.

Your Editor

Thomas

Working from Home – "Me and my dad are sharing the dining room table, working from home today. He's an aerospace engineer on a conference call ordering fuselage prototypes and I'm drawing a duck" Lydia

Stop Press!

Peter Holland is introducing **daily bridge tournaments (online)** with entry fees of \$5 per player. It is hoped that the program will be expanded to include a supervised session on Friday at midday and a gentle KISS session on Thursday at 4:00 pm. (The KISS session is going to be restricted to very basic systems and targeted towards improvers or a good place to start for anyone particularly nervous about jumping into online play tournaments). **Watch for this initiative on the Easts Bridge website**

On the **Home Page of our website** you will find the "Log-in" names of our members. These will be regularly updated and added to. The expectation is that our members will be on BBO on Mondays and Wednesdays.





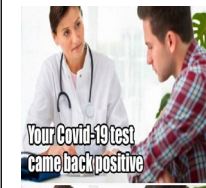
Badges will be struck

They will be available when the doctors say it is safe.

I have the following listed as requiring Name Badges (in no particular order):-

- Jan Capes
- Bruce Williams
- Mick Bell
- Riva Taitz
- Sandy Watson
- Louise Noreika
- Helen Van Dam

If your name is not there, please email me advising how you wish your name to appear on your badge.



People with small minds talk about other people

People with ordinary minds talk about events

People with great minds talk about ideas

People with warped minds talk about bridge hands

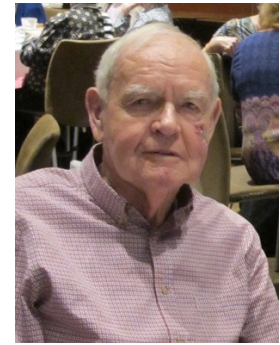
With all this current obsession with toilet rolls, it seems appropriate to quote a few vignettes from Alan Sontag's book, which has since become a classic and is entitled **"The Bridge Bum"**.

"A woman asked Al Roth how to become a good player. Roth pointed to another woman. "Do what she's doing", he said. What she was doing was sleeping with an expert. It may not be pretty, but such things happen. Ask most bridge players: the title of Life Master carries enormous prestige."

"Paul Soloway, a one-time member of the Dallas Aces and holder of the world's highest total of Master Points (more than 56,000) has said that his clients were not interested in Master Points, but in enjoying themselves by playing with a champion. "Instead of buying a race boat or horses", said Soloway, "they pay to play with a top player."

Incidentally, most people don't know that Paul Soloway has a shady past. His family was well connected in California where he grew up, and at the tender age of three, he accidentally fell into George Raft's swimming pool. There he would have drowned except for the quick thinking of his Uncle Ben, who dived in and fished him out. What's shady about that?

Well, Paul's Uncle Ben is better known outside the family as the notorious gangster, Bugsy Siegel!"



Vale

Donald Baldry

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Donald. For many years Donald was a regular feature at our duplicate sessions during the week and also on Saturdays. Partnering many of our players, he was popular and well liked by all. Donald will be missed and our condolences extend to his son Anthony and his family.

Why count the cards facedown before play?

LAW 13 governs when one or more hands are found to contain more than 13 cards. In some circumstances the offending contestant is liable to a procedural penalty and /or the Director may award an adjusted score

Why play the opening lead face down? To avoid the lead being "Out of Turn"!

LAW 54 provides the declarer with a choice of 5 options, all of which are offered by the Director. Much better to wait for your partner to acknowledge that you are, indeed, the correct player to make the lead

The Bridge Bum tells of his experiences in the London Sunday Times Invitational tournament in January 1973, which was described as the most important and difficult pairs event in the world. Sontag (playing with Steve Altman) were leading at the time and were to play against the partnership of Giorgio Belladonna and Renato Mondolfo in the second last round. Sontag's description is redolent of the racy characters in "Guys and Dolls" rather than a pair of bridge players. **"Belladonna, who more resembled a heavyweight Greco-Roman wrestler than a bridge champion, seemed to me to have descended from the heavens, rather than the more prosaic explanation, which was that he had walked over from another table in the same room. Renato Mondolfo was a wealthy philatelist, a collector and dealer in rare stamps. He was short and stocky and wore expensive jewellery. His wife was extremely attractive. Mondolfo himself was an excellent player, but I had a hunch he was paying Belladonna for the privilege of being his partner. If so, he possessed the same good taste in bridge that he had with stamps and women. Belladonna and Mondolfo beat us 6-3"**

YOUR COMMITTEE... OFFICERS AND KEY CONTACTS

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