



MAY, 2020 NEWSLETTER

EASTS BRIDGE CLUB

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

To say we are presently living in troubled times would be an understatement. With fires, floods and now Coronavirus, one could be forgiven for thinking that 2020 marks the coming of the apocalypse. It is difficult to conceive of anyone who hasn't been adversely affected by these events. Whether it be financial, physical, emotional or spiritual, we've all experienced great hardship and, in many cases, heartbreak.

But, against all this adversity is a sense of camaraderie, determination and a will to push through that gives me great hope that we will come through this, hopefully better for it. The spirit of our Bridge Club community has an essential role to play over the coming months. I regularly hear experts who have experienced pandemics in other countries saying that it's communities that beat pandemics not politicians – and I sense that this is not just about washing hands but reaching out (electronically) to those that need one.

It can be as small as picking up the phone to ring another of our club members or sending out a thank you to those brave souls fighting on the modern-day front – our hospitals, research labs and clinics. It could be helping someone who is out of work to find another job or just organizing a zoom meeting with some fellow bridge players.

It is our connectivity and sense of community that will get us through these times of trouble and I encourage you to reach out to your fellow club members and to draw strength from the special community that is Easts Bridge.

Be safe and stay healthy
Your Editor,
Thomas

Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks! The other half will come out with a drinking problem

I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

About 20 years ago, a Catholic Priest was playing in a grand slam at a US National. The play was proceeding at a snail-like pace, keeping everyone waiting. The director duly arrived and announced: "Our father who art in seven, hurried be thy game."

Earn Masterpoints at Home

You can play in regular duplicate bridge sessions on BBO against your fellow bridge players and earn masterpoints for finishing in the top half of the field. We need six tables to run these ABF sponsored sessions, and plan to play on Wednesday and Saturday afternoon in conjunction with Randwick bridge club. Register to play (see covering email) and we will let you know when the first session will be run. Further information will be updated on Easts web site.

Better than Netflix

Nick and Nicoleta play in a team of experts on Monday nights at 7.30 on BBO. You can kibitz (watch) them by logging onto BBO and joining the table of Shevek. There was a close match against South Africa in April.

VALE

Keith Reichman

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of Keith who, until recently was a regular participant in our duplicate sessions. Our condolences are extended to his son Anthony.



VALE

Bob Knaggs

We mourn the loss of Donald Robert Knaggs who passed a few days ago in Hospital at the age of 89. Bob was a high ranked member of our club, having attained the lofty heights of "Grand Master". Apart from his prowess at the bridge table, Bob was popular with his partners and was also generous in stepping up with his contributions to worthy causes. Our condolences to his long-time partner, Pat



Learn every day

Go to the ABF web site and read Ron Klinger's daily bridge column.



The Celebrity featured in this issue is Zia Mahmood

Born in Karachi and educated in London, Zia Mahmood remains one of the colourful characters in world bridge, despite moving out of the senior section since 2013 after being part of the formidable USA team for two decades.

The achievements of this 69 year old are what legends are made of but the most singular accomplishment of this Grand Life Master, with both the World Bridge Federation and the North American Bridge League is the stellar display he came up with to take Pakistan to the final of the Bermuda Bowl at Port Chester USA in 1981.



Having been an avid lover of card play, Zia was a late starter in bridge. *“I took to the game rather late, maybe when I was only 22 or 23 years old and that too since I thought it would help me get into the company of beautiful women. But what has been a bonus is that here I am still playing the game at the highest possible level as bridge is the only sport which allows a player to retain his quality and exhibit his sharp skills even as one grows older”.*

Work in progress

Listed as requiring
Name Badges (in no particular order)

Jan Capes

Bruce Williams

Mick Bell

Riva Taitz

Sandy Watson

Louise Noreika

Helen Van Dam

Gary Jacobs

Maree Maloney

Gina Crowe

Ross Smith

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



Nicoleta meets Zia Mahmood at the bicentennial in Brisbane, 1988

“Zia was then Number ONE in the world. We played against him and he was impressed with our system.

At the end of the match he made a sexist comment, which I took as a compliment, something like “the best female player I encountered in this tour”. I said “I hope your tour hasn’t started yesterday”. He gave me a hug!

I showed him this photo 20 years later in Hawaii and he commented: “You haven’t changed much, I had more hair then.”

You, too, can play against Zia Mahmood! Funbridge is running monthly on-line tournaments where you can pit your skill against the legend. Zia, with characteristic humour, posts, “If you wish to lose, join the tournament! If you beat me, however, I shall refund your entry fee.”



I’m so excited – it’s time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?

YOUR COMMITTEE... OFFICERS AND KEY CONTACTS

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Mary had a little slam