



JULY, 2020 NEWSLETTER

EASTS BRIDGE CLUB

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



There's light at the end of the tunnel.
We are closer to playing "face to face" bridge at Easts

Some bridge clubs that own their own premises have opened during the month of June and some are proposing to open during July. These include Grand Slam, Trumps, Darwin Bridge Club and, also, Kings and Queens. Having their own premises means that the restrictions for clubs using licensed premises do not apply.

Easts management have made it clear to us that they will not consider having members attend to play bridge while there is a restriction on the number of people in the club (currently 150). Executives from Easts Bridge Club have met with Easts' Management and are closely monitoring the situation with further meetings planned for the near future.

Your Committee has worked tirelessly during the past months, (with the input and assistance of our Directors, Nicoleta and Nick), towards the furtherance of bridge for our members. This has included the advent of online bridge games, being competitive duplicate sessions with masterpoints.

At a Zoom meeting on the 24th June, attended by Committee Members, it was resolved that we work towards a staged re-opening of "Face to Face" bridge sessions at the Bondi Room, with the first session planned for Monday the 17th August, 2020. This, of course, will be contingent upon permission from Easts Leagues Club.

Should this not eventuate, commencement of Face to Face bridge will have to be deferred to a later date.

As part of the arrangements for the re-opening of "Face o Face" bridge at Easts, your Committee is drafting a "Covid-19 Safety Plan" which will perhaps include the use of disposable gloves, personal Face Shields, hand sanitisers and sanitising bridge equipment.

Furthermore, we may not be allowed to have a refreshment break and we may start the session a little later. More detail will be provided as we get closer to the time and as the situation evolves.



The Members have spoken

The Re-Opening Survey indicated that 78% of the responders missed playing at Easts. 41% want the club re-opened as soon as allowable and 34% as long as protective measures are in place.

Three measures were considered compulsory for re-opening, being temperature check on entry, complete contact details for all players and for players with cold like symptoms to be turned away. Players would feel safer with fewer tables (for social distancing), hand sanitisers on each table and cashless payments. Also, the Covid Safe app to be installed by all players, some members would like larger card tables and one set of boards for each table.

24% of those responded would like to continue playing online bridge once we re-open. 38% only started playing online bridge after the suspension of face to face bridge (and 34% have never played online bridge)

Online Duplicate sessions are continuing

through July and August with the cooperation of other community bridge clubs. These sessions are at 1pm on Tuesdays (supervised), Wednesdays (Open), Fridays (run by Wollstonecraft Bridge Club), and Saturdays (run by Randwick Bridge Club).

Mentors are available for supervised players on Tuesdays. For further information, send an email to eastsbridge@gmail.com or phone Nicoleta or Allen.

VALE

LOLA SNOW

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of Lola who had, until recent years, been an elegant fixture at our duplicate sessions. Our condolences at this time to her son, Gary and to others of her family.





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Apart from Myrtle Bennett who famously shot her husband for playing badly in a bridge game... (and who the jury found "not guilty!"),

there was the unfortunate case of Harry Meacham from North Carolina who was having a terrible run of luck in a rubber bridge game.

He announced that he would shoot the next person who dealt him poor cards. He dealt himself a bad hand, took out his gun and put it to his head and killed himself.



What is wrong with the bridge I learned thirty years ago?

Nothing is "wrong", as such, but to be on the top of any sport is an ongoing struggle to stay current. The race cars of 1973 would have no chance against today's technology, the wooden tennis racquets of the Laver era could not match the carbon/fibre technology of today. The same applies to bridge. The bidding is much more sophisticated (but thirty years ago you could have made the same statement and it would have been equally true).

In 1965 a match was played between the "Scientists", a group using modern bidding methods, and the "Traditionalists", a team using an earlier style of bidding. The "Scientists" – Al Roth, Tobias Stone, Sam Stayman, Vic Mitchell, Robert Jordan, Arthur Robinson – won easily. Similar matches in 1990 and 1992, again featuring world class players on both teams, saw the same result – the newer methods were superior.



AMANULLAH II, the Emir of Afghanistan, 1919-29 was so obsessed by the game that he had to abdicate his reign. The depiction of the human form was considered a sacrilege by orthodox Mohammedans and Amanullah's subjects were outraged by the drawings of unveiled women on the four queen cards. It was over just that issue that they succeeded in ousting Amanullah II.

masterpoints" section of the 2019

My Partner does not understand me? In Stockholm in 1975, one of the great American partnerships, Jimmy Cayne and Chuck Burger dissolved because of arguments over why they were doing so badly. **Neither partner would take the other's criticism.** The exact opposite took place between Edwin Kantar and Broadway Billy Eisenberg, who were a brand-new partnership in Stockholm. On defense they were inept. There was no communication between them. They spoke different languages, so to speak. It seemed as though they were each defending against different hands. The Kantar-Eisenberg "rap" sessions after each night's play, might have been called Encounter Therapy. Each of them criticized the other and himself. **The criticism was offered constructively and taken that way.** This certainly worked for them and their poor performance in Stockholm was never duplicated. Over the next few years they became one of the most feared partnerships in bridge, winning many national championships and were members of three of the teams that represented the United States in the Bermuda Bowl in the 1970s winning the title in 1977 and 1979

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Benito Garozzo

(a member of the Italian "Blue Team" and one of the all-time greats of the game), was asked what he looked for in a partner. "First," said Garozzo, "that he should always have a smile on his face. Then, that he should know the bidding system perfectly. Finally ... that he should be one of the best players in the world"