



AUGUST, 2020 NEWSLETTER

EASTS BRIDGE CLUB

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

Alas, not this August, Josephine!

Reopening of Face to Face bridge has been delayed due to the relapse in Covid-19 recovery, principally in Victoria but also, and increasingly, in this state. The restrictions upon Easts Leagues Club have not been lifted or ameliorated and we are awaiting developments. Rest assured; our membership will be advised of any changes which may lead to our playing once again at Easts.

Saturday Bridge is suspended indefinitely as the RSL is no longer available. It is suggested that those of our members who enjoyed these sessions in the past now engage with the online format, both Saturdays (hosted by Randwick Bridge Club) and on other days available and hosted by our Club (Tuesdays, Supervised and not) and Wednesdays.



Be my Mentor

Tuesday bridge at Easts is "where it's at". This is the best place for novice and intermediate players to play online with friendly competition at their own level. Experienced Mentors are available to help those new to this mode of playing. Contact Nicoleta or Allen for your very own Mentor.

For those wishing to learn the game before we have face to face beginners' lessons, there is a link to a "Beginners' Course" by Joan Butts

<https://www.abf.com.au/education/getting-started/> and also there are videos available to help in become familiar with Bridge Base Online (Check with Nicoleta)



ABF National Teaching
Coordinator Joan Butts

In this issue, the Newsletter loves the "Double"

*I once bid a Lightner double
And my partner went into a huddle.
He found the wrong lead
so the slam did succeed
and a bottom I got for my trouble.*

For our enthusiastic competitors, there are **Sunday Nationwide Events** available online at all levels, open, restricted and novice.



Double,
Double,
Toil and
Trouble

The witches in Shakespeare's Macbeth were very good at the double

Nobody knows the doubles I've seen.

What is in it for me, to be a member of Easts bridge Club?

- Remain a member of an ABF affiliated Club with your individual membership of the ABF ongoing, your ranking recognised
- Following on from the above, ability to compete in ABF recognised competitive tournaments and to earn masterpoints
- Receive informative emails and the Club Newsletter, ABF magazine and other promotional material as to courses etc.
- Receive on-going training and the benefit of experienced Directors and Teachers
- Receive the benefit of experienced player "mentoring" should this be required
- Continue and maintain the friendships formed at the Club with the aid of the Members' Booklet
- Contribute to the future of the Club by participating in the current online duplicate sessions
- Receive the benefit of a dedicated President and Committee, ever focussed on the wellbeing and welfare of the members
- Be on the receiving end of complimentary social functions, as and when Covid-19 prohibitions are relaxed
- Receive the Fixtures Booklet and your individual name-badges when Easts Bridge is once more playing at the Club.
- Members, but not visitors, can be awarded "free game vouchers", handsome "Easts Bridge Club" engraved pens, Championship Prizes and other benefits

In the meanwhile, at a recent Committee Meeting, (conducted by means of Zoom), it was resolved that both the AGM and Membership Renewals be postponed until after we have resumed Face to Face Bridge at the Leagues Club. At that time, we shall have a Covid-19 Safety Plan in hand which will include cashless table money payments.



Theodore Lightner

Theodore Lightner, one of the leading figures in the history of contract bridge in the United States was the favourite partner of Ely Culbertson and played a major role in almost all the victories that established Mr. Culbertson as the dominant contract bridge authority of the 1930's. After Mr. Culbertson's retirement, Mr. Lightner played with many other notable figures, including Michael Gottlieb, Sam Fry and B. Jay Becker. His tournament victories, including all the major national championships: the Vanderbilt teams in 1930; the Springgold teams in 1937, 1939 and 1945; the Chicago board-a-match teams in 1947; the open pairs in 1928, and the life master pairs in 1932 and 1935. After retiring from tournament play, Mr. Lightner returned in 1953 to play in the world team championship in New York. His team - with Mr. Becker, John Crawford, Sam Stayman, Howard Schenken and George Rapee - became world champion in the Bermuda Bowl contest, beating Sweden by 8,260 total points. Mr. Lightner made many contributions to the Culbertson bidding system, for which he received little credit. He is chiefly remembered as the inventor of **the Lightner slam double**, which calls for an unexpected lead. It is now a standard part of the theory of the game, used by all experienced players.

East Dealer: S AQJ4
E/W Vulnerable H AQJ86
D A4
C A10

S 9	S 876
H K10543	H
D Q9	D KJ108732
C KJ643	C Q97
S K10532	
H 972	
D 65	
C 852	

Lightner Double - After East opened 3 Diamonds the opponents bid strongly, with confidence, to a spade slam. From East's point of view the slam was likely to make and the best chance to beat it would be for East to get a Heart ruff at trick one. Left to his own devices, partner would probably lead East's suit, Diamonds, and there would not be another chance for the Heart ruff. Accordingly, East doubled, asking for an unusual lead. Partner duly led a Heart. Declarer finessed and East ruffed. The slam went down a couple of tricks and a good score was made by the defence. (As it turns out, it wasn't a good slam and would have gone down anyway, but the benefits outweigh the risks for this action). Setting a slam which would otherwise make generates a huge payoff, versus a small loss if doubled contract makes.

Lead Directional Doubles - A lead-directing double is a double of an artificial bid by opponents. Because the bid is artificial, it is typically safe to double. The bid asks partner to lead the doubled suit.

For example:-

South	West	North	East
1 NT	-	2C	DBL
2 H	-	4H	-
-	-	-	-

N's 2C was Stayman and therefore artificial. So E, anticipating his partner will be on lead, doubled to suggest a club lead.

Another example	South	West	North	East
	1S	-	4D	-
	4NT	-	5H	DBL
	6S	-	-	-

N's 4D was a fit showing Splinter raise, at which point S bid 4NT, RKCB. When N responds with 5H showing 2 Keycards (no Queen), E doubles to ask for a Heart lead.

DOUBLE TROUBLE. - At a regional championship in Ottawa, a local player opened with 1 Diamond and the partner of the visiting expert made a jump overcall of 2 Spades. The third player doubled. The expert waited for some clarification of the double, but none was forthcoming. After stewing for some time, he turned to the opener and complained testily, "At the clubs where I play, we alert our negative doubles". The opener turned to the expert and replied demurely, "At the clubs where I play, we don't play negative doubles". Expert and partner went down minus 800 in 2 Spades doubled.



YOUR COMMITTEE... OFFICERS AND KEY CONTACTS

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- Overcall with a good suit
- Double with a good hand

