



NOVEMBER, 2020 NEWSLETTER

EASTS BRIDGE CLUB

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



MORE ABOUT THE WAY FORWARD –

We shall start with a maximum of **six tables** (24 players) at each session with 24 boards played at each table. **Play will commence** at 1:00 pm and finish at 3:30- 4:00 pm.

The table money has been fixed at \$10 (single notes... no coins). With the limited number of tables, all those playing will pay this fee, there will be no “free games” for winners or for the hard working executive.

Players must pre-register (as a partnership) on the Easts Website at least the day before the session. If unable to use the website, then booking can be effected by members texting or phoning Nicoleta who will enter their registration. Texting is MUCH better than phoning. Of course, online is best.

Use of the link
<https://www.bridge-club.org/bcorg/gensite/upcomingEvents.faces?club=au2065#>

If, for any reason, a partnership registers but is not able to attend, then they must immediately cancel their registration.

Bridge online will continue on BBO with sessions on Wednesday (Easts), Thursday (Kiama), Friday (Wollstonecraft) and Saturday (Randwick).

BRIDGE IS BACK AT EASTS.

Staged re-opening of face-to-face bridge on Mondays and Tuesdays will commence on and from the 9th and 10th November, respectively.

The safety of our members is always foremost in our mind. Some of the measures to safeguard members' wellbeing are set out below.

Social distancing will be enforced by using three tables joined together to meet the **1.5 m. rule**. At a future time, when permitted and when it is safe, we may revert to single tables again (perhaps with a larger table-top cover).

Boards will be passed from one table to another (which is the usual practice) but players must either **sanitise their hands** between each round or **wear gloves**. Players will use **bidding boxes** to make their bids and these will be available for purchase for \$10 from the Club. They can be labelled and stored at Easts. There will be spare bidding boxes for casual players which **will be sanitised** at the end of each session. Training material on using bidding boxes will be on our website and the director and experienced players will provide guidance.

One player (South) at each table is **to operate the BridgeMate** scoring device. There will be **Hand Sanitisers** at each table.

Face Masks, Face Shields and gloves will be available for use, though not mandatory.

No refreshments will be provided or breaks during the bridge sessions (Players may wish to buy coffee and refreshments from the Bistro or Legends Bar).

Mingling of players before and after the bridge session **will be discouraged**.

The bridge director and a Committee Member will be responsible for the sanitising of tables, chairs, bridgemates and boards after each session and for the enforcing of social distancing.

Tables and chairs will be sprayed and wipes will be used to sanitise bridgemates, boards, spare bidding boxes as necessary

Players must not attend if they are unwell or have been in casual contact with a person infected with Covid-19.

Players must also comply with Easts Leagues Club Covid-19 safety plan which includes temperature checking and registration on entry and exit from the club.



On the left, behold, “**The Bidding Boxes**”. These are used in many clubs and in serious competitions. The big advantage in using Bidding Boxes is that unauthorised information cannot be given by pre-arranged (subtle) signals when writing on bidding pads. Furthermore, and especially relevant in the Covid context, each player only touches their own box. A link to a small tutorial by Paul Lavings:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlwvbqC9Hm0&ab_channel=BrainyBridge

THE AGM

Due to Covid, the AGM will not be held this month (November). An up-date will be provided in the next issue (Dec).

VALE

Margaret Sharland

Margaret passed on 21st of September 2020, after a short illness. Margaret had a son, two daughters and eight grandchildren. She had worked as a social worker for many years. She had been a keen tennis and bridge player. Margaret had loved to travel and being around her grandchildren





**"BRIDGE IS ONE OF THE LAST GAMES
IN WHICH THE COMPUTER IS NOT
BETTER."**

*"[Bridge is] deliciously simple in the rules but
deliciously complex in doing well."*

*"Bridge helps you think. It's a game you can
play your entire life and keep getting better
and better."*

Bill Gates



As a child, **Bill Gates** learned bridge from his parents. However, he got addicted to bridge through [Warren Buffett](#) in the late 1990s; the two now play regularly on [OKbridge](#) and in ACBL tournaments. Gates has a reputation as an enthusiastic learner, studying and playing with professionals like [Fred Gitelman](#) to refine his game. He has also been tutored by Sharon Osberg, who is a 2-time world champion and Warren Buffett's regular bridge partner.

In 2005, Buffett, Gates and Osberg launched a bridge program for public schools. Buffett and Gates donated \$1 million in funding. Unfortunately, the program has ended since then.

Says Gitelman, "Bill does have an unusual thirst for knowledge, even for a bridge player. He genuinely wants to learn as much as he can."

"I like both team and matchpoint [play]. I like matchpoints because there are just two of you playing, so there are slightly fewer variables. You usually get hand records afterwards, and a lot of tables play the same hand, and so you can look at all those different scores and see what happened. And because it's so excruciatingly important to take every trick you can, match point highlights any sloppiness in defensive or declarative play. So it forces you to think, okay, I've got to learn about squeezes, I've got to keep track of the shape of the hands I don't know as the hand goes on, and take full advantage of that."

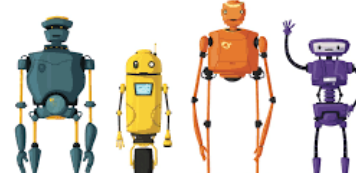
Halina Drwecka, a hardworking member of your Committee, has reluctantly tendered her resignation for personal reasons, unrelated to the Bridge Club. We acknowledge Halina's contribution in the various roles she had been asked to perform and our good wishes extend to her at this time



Who's cheating?

It happens in regular and online bridge. **Nicoleta**, our "bridge detective", will report in the next Newsletter.

MEET YOUR NEW BRIDGE PARTNERS



Everybody loves a winner! Our **Nick** and **Nicoleta** were part of the winning team in the Jacaranda Teams at the NSWBA on Sunday 25th October. Alan Cooper and John Scudder's team finished a creditable sixth.

YOUR COMMITTEE... OFFICERS AND KEY CONTACTS

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Audrey's Favourite Bridge Quotes: No. 13



Simple tip:-
Count your winners and
count your losers. If the total
doesn't add up to 13, count
your cards.