



# DECEMBER, 2020 NEWSLETTER

## EASTS BRIDGE CLUB

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

### A NEW WORLD OF BRIDGE AT EASTS

We have a lot of happy bridge players who are glad to be back playing at Easts and catching up with their fellow bridge players.

We are now playing face to face bridge at Easts on Mondays (Open) and Tuesdays (Supervised) As we are only allowed eight tables, players must pre-register as a partnership on the bridge club web site. Go to the Calendar and select the session that you want to play in with your partner.

The sessions start at 1pm and follow strict *Covid-19 safety procedures*. Because we start at 1pm, you have a chance to buy a snack or have lunch before the game, as we cannot provide refreshments during the game and there is not any break during the game. Each player must use their own *bidding box* for making their bids, rather than sharing a bidding pad.

While we started with three bridge tables joined together for social distancing, we now have far more practical large table tops that allow us to sit 1.5 metres apart. A special *thank you* to Nicoleta, Theo, and Easts Leagues management for making our return to playing at the bridge table possible



Although we are back at Easts, playing bridge, there will be an interruption to this arrangement for January-February (possibly extending into March). During this time, the Bondi Room will be undergoing extensive renovations. We have secured venues for most of our Monday and Tuesday sessions. Monday session will be at Church in the Marketplace (cnr. Oxford and Newland Streets) and our Tuesday sessions will be at COA Sydney (immediately behind the carpark behind the station). Further details and maps will appear in the January Newsletter.

*The Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Club, as well as the renewal for memberships, have been deferred until we are all back playing at Easts. Watch this space!*

### Sydney Spring Nationals Online Pairs 12-13 December, 2020

Entries are now open for the *Sydney Spring Nationals Online Pairs*, an online event to be played on the [RealBridge](#) platform. Check the NSWBA web-site.

**BRIDGE BASE ONLINE** -Wednesdays continue to be played in the BBO online format by Easts players, as well as those from our "sister" clubs, Online sessions on Saturdays (hosted by Randwick), Fridays (hosted by Wollstonecraft) Thursdays (by Kiama) are being hotly contested by all.

#### VALE

##### Esther Sherwood

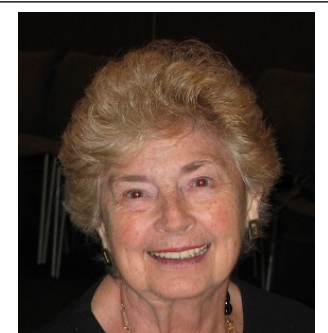
It is with sadness that we mark the passing of Esther who, until recently was a regular participant in our duplicate sessions. Our condolences are extended her family



#### VALE

##### Patricia Blomberg

Patricia was the Foundation Vice President of our Bridge Club and it is with sorrow that we note her passing. Our sincere sympathy and condolences to her family.





## Please, not the "C" word.

Being a director, I always discouraged players from using the C-word. Calling the director to the table for a hesitation doesn't mean you're accusing your opponents of cheating, so I was very wary of allowing players to use the word. These days, however, everyone is talking about the online cheating suspicions, allegations or even confessions!

Michal Nowosadzki of Poland posted an article on Bridge Winners called "Confessions of a Self-Kibitzer" admitting to using a second device to watch his own table on BBO, seeing all four hands while he was playing. Nowosadzki's confession rocked the bridge world. He had been on the Polish Open Team that had won two of the last three Bermuda Bowls. Recently, CAT (Credentials Advisory Team) committee have accused more than 30 top players of on-line cheating, including World Champions.

### Why do people cheat at Bridge?

I think some might be motivated by money ("sponsored" players), masterpoints, desire to "prove themselves" or to impress? maybe just impulsive behaviour due to low level of serotonin in the brain? (similar to kleptomania). Maybe just because in the online games it's so easy?

### How do we diagnose cheating?

- Bidding lucky games/slams on inadequate values, making on a lucky lie of the cards.
- Staying out of games/slams on substantial values, that are doomed by bad breaks.
- "Kibitzer-make" deals where you succeed only if you drop honours off-side.
- Defensive hands that require an unlikely lead to defeat the contract.

D	N	W	N	E	S
5	pilun	1♠	P	2♠	
	♠ KQJ106	P	3NT	P	P
	♥ A7				
	♦ A65				
	♣ QJ4				
W	E				
♠ A5	♠ 874				
♥ J85432	♥ KQ				
♦ 3	♦ KQJ72				
♣ 9762	♣ 853				
S					
shevek					
♠ 932					
♥ 1096					
♦ 10984					
♣ AK10					
		3NT N			NS: 0 EW: 0

It happened against me, an inspired opening lead? East has a normal lead of the DK. The only reason to lead the HK instead was if he could see partner's cards. What do we do about them?

Chase them, expose them and stop them from spoiling the game we love so much. I am so determined to help with the cleaning, I've become an ABF cheating detective and I already have a substantial "cheating database". I'm just gathering a bit more data, before I start reporting. Stay tuned.  
Agatha Christie aka Nicoleta

A recent publication, *"Under the Table"* is sub-titled *"The Case Against the Blue Team"*. (The Blue Team were legendary, winning no less than 10 Bermuda Bowls for Italy). Tim Seres (1925-2007) was for decades an institution at Sydney's Double Bay Bridge Centre where it was reported he made his last card play mistake in 1961, when a passing waiter jolted him and a card fell face-up on the table. Having played against the Blue Team, Seres maintained that they did not cheat. Tim Seres published a letter to Alfred Sheinwold. *"I was dismayed by your article, 'Another Death in Venice', in its unwarranted attack on the Italian Blue Team. I and many others who know the members of the team have no doubts whatsoever about their bona fides"*

A card-playing pair of German **doctors** have attacked a ban for cheating with **cough signals** - saying one of them simply had asthma. ... But suspicions were raised about their frequent **coughing** during matches by American player Eddie Wold, who made a complaint to the World Bridge Federation in 2014. "They were coughing on nearly every hand. 12 out of 16 as it turned out. I also soon realized that these coughs were only coming right after their hand was taken out of the board OR just before their partner was about to lead".

### YOUR COMMITTEE... OFFICERS AND KEY CONTACTS

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