



FEBRUARY, 2021 NEWSLETTER

EASTS BRIDGE CLUB

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

**Get me to the Church on Time
(or) We salute all the Fair Ladies**

Bridge in February

Monday 1st is at the Church

Tuesday 2nd – at COA Supervised

Wednesday 3rd - Bridge Base Online

Monday 8th is at the Church

Tuesday 9th – at COA Supervised

Wednesday 10th - Bridge Base Online

Monday 15th is at the Church

Tuesday 16th – at COA Supervised

Wednesday 17th - Bridge Base Online

Monday 22nd is at the Church

Tuesday 23rd – at COA Supervised

Wednesday 24th - Bridge Base Online

East's is undergoing renovations and we are playing at alternative venues.

Monday sessions have commenced at the Church in the Marketplace. (At the beginning of the Mall, Corner of Oxford and Newland Streets, Bondi Junction). As it is a larger venue, it is possible to cater for 12 tables but, as always in this time of Covid, bookings are necessary to ensure that you and your partner will be included in the game. Bottled water is available at the sessions so the players can "keep their cool"

Tuesdays continue being conducted at the COA Sydney, 25 Rowe Street, Woollahra, and will do so until further notice.

I have received positive feed-back as to how pleasant it is to play at the COA, better lighting and general atmosphere.



THE BEGINNERS' COURSE is scheduled for **13th April, 2021** (subject always to not having intervention by Covid). This is your chance to introduce this great game to your friends and family members. Brochures and application forms containing further information can be obtained at the bridge sessions or by contacting Nicoleta or the Bridge Director.

Audrey's Favourite Bridge Quotes: No. 23



It is not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It is the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones.

Alan Sontag

EASTS BEGINNERS' COURSE IS THE BEST VALUE IN TOWN.

The course is conducted by our highly experienced and qualified teacher, Nick Hughes and there are 4 easy lessons. These are followed by two supervised practice sessions. For the \$40 entry fee, membership of the Bridge Club until October is also included.

Membership Renewal are due in February, (before the 1st March). The Renewal forms, with all relevant details and information, accompanies this Newsletter.

Benefits of membership include membership of the Australian Bridge Federation and the NSW Bridge Association, which provides many benefits including insurance, newsletters, earning of masterpoints, participation in events such as Bridge Congresses. East's Bridge Club also provides participation in functions and special bridge sessions at East's where prizes may be awarded, training events and a monthly newsletter. Financial members may vote at the Annual General Meeting, which was delayed by the pandemic and will occur in May 2021

Vale

Anita Wall

Anita suffered a stroke and we shall miss her at our Club

Our condolences to her friends and Family



Watch this space: Because of the pandemic, our **Annual General Meeting** will be held in **May**, instead of November last year

Membership Renewal Forms are available at our bridge sessions



"VALENTINE, SCHMELENTINE" - IT'S ALL BRIDGE TO ME

St Valentine

Until recently little was known of St. Valentine, a Christian martyr who lived in third-century Rome. His persecution and death in 269 A.D. was believed to be a direct result of religious beliefs, but newly discovered tablets near the Tiber River shed further light on this mystery. Evidence now points to his *bridge* exploits, which were way ahead of his time and angered his peers.

Consider the following tablet. As South, Valentine responded 1 ♠ to his partner's opening bid and was duly raised. Rather than settle for the easy game, he next made a tactical 3 ♣ cue-bid to confuse the opponents. When his partner bid game, he leaped to slam



Both Vul

♠ A 7 6	♠ 3 2	♠ K 5 4	♠ 3 2
♥ 3 2	♥ K Q 5 4	♥ J 9 8 7 6	♥ Q 10 4
♦ K Q 5 4	♦ A 5 4 3	♦ 9	♦ J 10 8 7 6
♣ A 5 4 3	♣ 9 8 7 6	♣ 9 8 7 6	♣ K Q 10

Lead: ♦ 9

West	North	East	South Valentine
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
All Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠

West led his stiff diamond and Valentine studied the dummy for a moment then spread his hand. "I claim," he said. "I will finesse in two suits and squeeze East in the other two; simple hand."

The opponents and kibitzers were bewildered. Even with the ♠ K favourably placed, Valentine's statement made no sense. Almost in unison East and West asked, "What's this about finessing in *two* suits?" "My dear opponents," he continued, "as a patron of love, I would love to explain it to you, but it would be wasted on deaf ears. Suffice it to say that my brilliance is beyond your comprehension."

"West studied the layout and said, "The only finesse I see is the *spade* finesse and I would *not* cover with the king so you can't ruff a heart. You have only 11 tricks, and I don't think my partner can be squeezed." "Ruff a heart! You make me laugh. I didn't gain my stature by silly ruffs. I play with *finesse*. You are right that East cannot be squeezed with ordinary technique, but I don't waste my time on ordinary technique. First I will take the *heart* finesse."

West was dumfounded. "What heart finesse?" "Open your eyes! I win the ♦ K and lead the ♥ 2; if East plays the four I finesse the *five*. If East instead plays the 10 or queen, I win it and finesse later." "So what?" West rebutted. "I will win a heart trick either way. Fine, take it! I am in *six* not seven. I fully intend to give you a heart trick, and finessing the five is the only way to make this slam. Trust me; I am a genius." "So, I win the heart and lead a club," West argued. "Too late!"

That's where my shrewd bidding paid off; you were a pigeon to believe that phony cue-bid. I win the ♣ A, cross to my hand with a heart and finesse and draw trumps. The last six cards will be:

♠ —	♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ J 9 8	♥ Q 5 4	♥ —	♥ Q
♦ —	♦ 5 4 3	♦ —	♦ J 10 8
♣ 9 8 7	♣ —	♣ —	♣ K Q

10 9
A
A 3
J

"Next I cross to my hand with the ♦ A and lead my last two spades and the ♥ A. East is squeezed in the minors and I win the rest. If you don't see it, I understand. Perhaps one of the kibitzers will explain it to you very slowly."

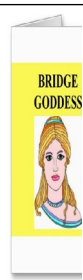
Epilogue

St. Valentine's body was found a few days later in the Tiber River and ruled an accidental death (despite the marble slab bound to his ankles). In lieu of flowers and in memory of his heart finesse on this deal, many Romans sent his family parchment cards with a *heart* symbol in red ink. And so it came to be.



Donna Bird, of Illinois recounts playing with three intense individuals in a Swiss Team event. Comparing scores after the third round, unfortunately, it was a lost cause. Searching for a scapegoat, one of her male teammates growled, "What happened on board six?" Partner, a very petite young woman, responded, "It was passed out". "Passed out! How could that be? How did the bidding go?" Very slowly and methodically, she replied, "Pass ... pass... pass... pass."

On one occasion Helen Sobel signalled Charles Goren for a spade ruff while Charles kept leading other suits, which caused Helen to noticeably fidget in her chair. Finally, Charles stated, "Helen, you have to stop – it makes for a bad partnership. Besides, I have no more spades!"



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