



# NOVEMBER, 2023 NEWSLETTER

## EASTS BRIDGE CLUB

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



### **From your President**

Dear Fellow Bridge Players  
Greetings from Beaune in the lovely Burgundy Region of France.

I am travelling with a group of friends watching the Rugby World Cup (unfortunately not seeing Australia). None of my friends are bridge players so I have been playing a little BBO!

I have been keeping an eye on the results and am pleased to see the number of players slowly increasing to pre Covid numbers. Don't forget to put the date of our AGM (November 27<sup>th</sup>) in your diaries. There will be refreshments and time to socialise afterwards.

### **Feel like a pleasant social game of bridge on Thursday afternoon?**

COA have a relaxing game starting at 1pm on Thursdays, at the COA Centre in Bondi Junction, (\$5.00 for COA members). You don't need a partner, just turn up and it's likely that there will be a volunteer or other player to partner you. Please see Morris Rosenberg or his brother, Allen, for further information. COA is sometimes used for Easts regular sessions when the Bondi Room is unavailable.

**Pietro Forquet** was a fifty-year old Naples banker with boyish good looks and a movie star's charm. Forquet was unflappable, almost eerily serene. His mother taught him how to play bridge when he was 18, and he has been on twelve World Championship teams. Whereas many players resort to daring tactics and psychological strategy, Forquet relied on basic, precise, computer-like logic. No one could be more dedicated to a sport than Pietro Forquet, but even his iron discipline was taxed by the demands of championship bridge. He was married on the eve of the 1964 Olympiad and his coach, Carlo Alberto Perroux, ordered separate bedrooms for the bride and the groom until the tournament was over!

### **Bridge Sessions at Easts**

**Mondays** 1- 4 pm  
**Tuesdays** 1- 3:40  
(talk at 12:45 pm)  
**Wednesdays** 1- 4 pm

### **The AGM of Easts Bridge Club**

**will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, at 4:00 pm, following the conclusion of the bridge game.**

**Do attend and have your say in the running of our Club.**

**Nominate for a position on the Committee!**

### **Some Interesting Numbers**

#### **Top Scoring Players** as at 1/11/23

Eclectic Event (11 is max with 1 partner; min is 2)

**Total of best 4 sessions**      **Rounded average**

1. Paul Larby	250.1	63
2. Dorothy Cser	239.5	60
3. Hilary White	227.0	57
4. Helen Van Dam	221.9	55
5. Roman Naiman	218.5	55
6. Ruy De Menezes	217.6	54
7. Bliss Ryan	211.6	53
8. Margit Short	211.3	53
9. David Nathan	209.2	52
10. Ann Bernfield	205.6	51
11. Adelia Tchelnokova	192.8	48
12. Geoff Eggleton	191.5	48
13. Beverley Luland	190.5	48
14. Heather Cameron	172.3	43
15. Robyn Mander-Ross	165.1	41
16. Ann Bowyer	154.4	39

#### **Wednesday winners in October**

**Average of the best scores after session 3**

1 Brian Bedkober & Theo Mangos	66.93 %
2. Geoffrey Hill & Kerry Hill	63.17%
3. Agi Stanley & Paul Larby	58.97%

### **BE SUGGESTIVE**

- Any suggestions to improve our bridge club? In a few weeks you will see a 'Suggestion Box' on the director's table at our bridge club. Please feel free to put any ideas into the suggestion box, but include your name so the committee can provide feedback on your idea.

**On the subject of "Membership" ...** those players not yet renewed are overdue. Please make the effort and remain a current member. Renewal fee is \$50 and can be paid to Helen van Dam (or to the Director)

### **At the Recent Spring Nationals**

A number of our members played in the Spring Nationals Congress at Canterbury Racecourse, one of the major events in the bridge calendar in Australia. Our directors, Nick and Nicoleta, won the Rainbow Pairs. Our members including Theo, Leigh, Lis, Thomas, Chris, and Wally performed credibly in other events. There are events at bridge congresses for all players, including those classed as Restricted or Novice players. The next major Congress is the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra in January.



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**Zia Mahmood, arguably the world's most flamboyant bridge player, rose in a few short years from an unknown rubber bridge player to the world's most charismatic bridge star!**



Having decided to try the world of tournament bridge, Zia's initial sortie was at Juan-les-Pins on the Cote d'Azur in the South of France. Zia resolved to avoid the mixed pairs as he preferred to be seduced by what he termed the best food on earth. (Bouillabaisse, the fish soup, which is a specialty of the Cote d'Azur, is wonderful beyond description.) Zia's idea of action during the two days of the Mixed was to browse lazily through a good book on the beach, with the occasional exercise of reaching out for a nearby cocktail. However.. not to be! A partner was found for Zia for the Mixed. There are very few things which could have dragged Zia away from his idyllic resting place and make him change his original plan. Monique just happened to be one of them. With sparkling green eyes and a soft, throaty voice, Monique was almost unreal. The closest in describing her was the feeling one gets from picking up a 10-card suit for the first time – a mixture of fantasy fulfilled and of wild expectation. All in all, she was impossible to resist. Doubtless she couldn't play, but who would be watching her cards?

Things didn't go well. In fact, the first day's game was a disaster. They were lying 180<sup>th</sup> out of a possible 190. It was caused by nervousness (Monique), bad luck and lust, (me, said Zia).

Monique was close to tears at the end of play and rushed off. My dinner plans were ruined. I couldn't help thinking that this was no way to impress her.

Born out of a threat of frustrated romance, great ideas can sometimes emerge. So was born "Le Pique Pakistani" (the Paki Spade): a system designed to bring the smile back to Monique's charming face and – hopefully – the love back to my life. The theory was simple enough. Whenever we were nonvulnerable and it was our turn to open the bidding, we would call one spade – regardless of strength and distribution. Partner could be scientific and respond one notrump with a good hand of 13-plus points as a kind of "what have you got?" bid; or otherwise just play it by ear, trying to cause as much havoc as possible. After all, we couldn't do any worse!

We declared our system to our opponents, of course, and then **Jackpot!** The element of surprise, luck, fate, whatever – I don't really know – but good results poured in as the opponents succumbed to the devilishness of the system

Here is an example: -

West	North	East	South
---	1♠ (1)	Pass (2)	2♠ (3)
Pass (4)	3♥	(All pass)	

- (1) The Paki Spade
- (2) Stuck
- (3) Take that!
- (4) S(t)ucker.

The opponents could have made four or five spades with a bit of luck. But it was difficult for them to get to four spades when not only one but **both** opponents had bid spades.

We moved up 140 places, finishing a respectable 40<sup>th</sup>.

Monique was delighted. I was delighted that Monique was delighted!

And the love affair?

I suppose you could say that we celebrated our success in the usual manner.

<b>Vul: EW</b>	<b>North (Zia)</b>
<b>Dealer: N</b>	♠ 64
	♥ AQJ93
	♦ Q94
	♣ 763
<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
♠ KQT5	♠ AJ97
♥ 82	♥ K76
♦ J3	♦ KT6
♣ AQ854	♣ J92
	<b>South (Monique)</b>
	♠ 832
	♥ T54
	♦ A8752
	♣ KT

## YOUR COMMITTEE... OFFICERS AND KEY CONTACTS

**President:** Terry Maunsell 0419 266 641  
**Vice President:** Ted Popper 0410 162 503  
**Honorary Secretary:** Tamara Pollack 0419 360 666  
**Honorary Treasurer:** Allen Rosenberg 0408 628 233

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-

Adelia Tchelnokova 0403 951 017 (Events Officer)  
 Gaby Paroz 0416 437 999 (Welfare Officer)  
 Chris Hamam 0481 816 748 (Webmaster)  
 Ted Popper 0410 162 503 (Education & Marketing)

**Matchmaker:** Theo Mangos 0411 337 539

**Chief Director:** Nicoleta Giura 0414 876 175

**Newsletter Editor:** Thomas Karsai 0417 213 893

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**WE CARE ...** Easts Bridge Club Committee understands that many of our members are distressed by the situation in the Middle East, where they may have family and friends. We wish you comfort at this difficult time, and suggest you seek free counselling available from Jewish House or Jewish Care if you are very worried or having difficulty sleeping. It's important to keep busy, so don't give up that game of bridge.

A (true) story recently heard at a bridge session. A popular bridge player in the USA also owned two nightclubs. His bridge-playing colleagues adopted the habit of referring to him as "Stayman"