



JANUARY, 2024 NEWSLETTER

EASTS BRIDGE CLUB

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

Greetings from your President

Another year has flown by. Huge thanks to Terry Maunsell for leading us through hard Covid times and then growing our numbers back towards pre-2020 levels. Our directors, Nicoleta and Nick have played a very significant role, much also behind the scenes, working tirelessly and at some personal sacrifice, to see us through Covid. Major thanks to them.

We have an exciting year ahead:

- More social events and some special celebrations
- Lots of bridge events
- Some new ideas
- Listening to members' wishes
- Lots of enjoyment together!

The espresso machine has been well received and will continue before each afternoon session on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 12.15 to 12.45pm. It also provides tea. Come relax and schmooze before a tough game at the bridge table. Thanks for the great idea, Nicoleta.

2023 will also end with the retirement of our longtime and hardworking Newsletter editor, Thomas Karsai. His dedicated work over many years, including compiling our member's booklet (which he has resurrected recently) is very much appreciated. Many thanks, Thomas.

Our first celebration next year will be our Welcome to 2024 Party! on Wednesday 24 January at 4.00pm. Hope to see many of you there, including Monday and Tuesday players and Monday night players. All members very welcome!

Wishing you and your families the compliments of the season and a healthy and gentle 2024.

See you at the bridge table!

Ted Popper

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

Top Scoring Players in December

	Total of best 4	Rounded average	No of Partners
1. Chris HAMAM	255.7	64	3
2. Paul LARBY	235.1	59	2
3. Roman NAIMAN	230.2	58	3
4. Pat WALKER	224.7	56	4
5. Allen ROSENBERG	221.2	55	2

Monday Winners in December

from average best 2 scores after session 3

1 Brian BEDKOBER & Theo MANGOS	63.15 %
2. Judith RYCHTER & Dawne COX	60.20%
2 Agi STANLEY & Paul LARBY	58.70%

Wednesday Winners in December

from average best 3 scores after session 4

1 Brian BEDKOBER & Theo MANGOS	67.23 %
2. Geoffrey HILL & Kerry HILL	63.27%
2 Agi STANLEY & Paul LARBY	55.53%

UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS - The "SUMMER

FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE" is being held in January at Canberra, and in February the "Gold Coast Congress" is being held at Broadbeach.

While some of our more experienced players will be playing at these events, there are also challenging and enjoyable events for novice and restricted players. You can combine a holiday away with your bridge competition. Details are on the ABF website: ABF.com.au



THE INTERMEDIATE CLASS will be conducted by **Nick Hughes** at 1:00 pm on **Tuesday 13th February** – Be there or be square

Bridge Sessions at Easts

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

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!"

THE BEGINNER'S COURSE,

conducted by Nick Hughes, will begin on the 5th March. The course comprises four sessions of tuition followed by two supervised practice sessions, all under the watchful eye of Nick. A "First Bridge" book is included at no extra charge. Be sure to tell friends and family.

"WELCOME TO 2024" PARTY. –

Fun, Food and Frolic after the game on **Wednesday 24th January**



Omar Sharif recounts one of his first experiences at the bridge table. “I was a defender. The declarer led the ace of clubs and I ruffed.” “No clubs?” my partner enquired, with a note of surprise in his voice. “Oh yes”, I answered cheerfully, “but I’m ruffing to take the trick”. Omar has come a long way since!

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

The hand on the left showcases the brilliance of **Giorgio Belladonna** who, sitting South was playing in 4 Hearts. On the surface, there are five losers – one in Spades, two in Hearts, one in Diamonds and one in Clubs. West led the King of Clubs and declarer won with the Ace and led the King of Hearts, discovering the 5-0 break. He exited from dummy with a low club, won by Easts Jack. East exited with a Spade. Belladonna went up with the Ace, crossed to the Queen of Hearts, then ran the 8 of Clubs, discarding his second Spade. West led a Spade; South ruffed, cashed two diamonds, then discarded a diamond on the 9 of Clubs. Down to A 9 8 of Hearts, Giorgio had no trouble in making two of the last three tricks. And there was nothing the defence could have done about it!

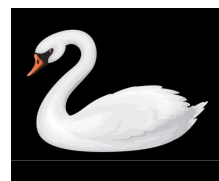
**Giorgio ...
Class Act!**

Many Bridge players are also golfers, so I provide you with this anecdote for your reading pleasure and delectation: -

Several men are in the locker room of a golf club. A mobile phone on a bench rings and a man engages the hands-free function and begins to talk. Everyone else in the room stops to listen.
MAN: “Hello”
WOMAN: “Hello Darling, it’s me. Are you at the club?”
MAN: “Yes”
WOMAN: “I’m at the shops now and found this beautiful leather coat. It’s only \$3,000. Is it OK if I buy it?”
MAN: “Sure, go ahead if you like it that much.”
WOMAN: I also stopped by at the Lexus dealership and saw the new models. I saw one that I really liked.”
MAN: “How much?”
WOMAN: “\$180,000”
MAN: “OK, but for that price I want it with all the options.”
WOMAN: “Great! Oh, and one more thing. I was just talking to Janie and found out that the house I wanted last year is back on the market. They are asking \$5.4 m. for it.”
MAN: “Well, then go ahead and make an offer of \$5.2. They will probably take it. If not, we can go the extra two hundred thousand if it’s what you really want.”
WOMAN: “OK. I’ll see you later! I love you so much!”
MAN: “Bye! I love you too.”
The man hangs up.
The other men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths wide open.
He turns and asks, “Anyone know whose phone this is?”

This is a story that Phil Martin wrote about the late John Lowenthal.

John was playing in a tournament with one of his wives (he had several during his life), who apparently was a weak player and was having a very rough night. His wife opened **2 Diamonds** and John passed. Left hand opponent balanced with **2 Spades**. This came back around to John, who bid **3 Diamonds**. Lefty now bid **3 Spades**, which again passed around to John. This time **John bid 6NT**, which became the final contract. John proceeded to make it on some kind of exotic squeeze play. Lefty was very upset and demanded an explanation as to why John had bid the way he did.
“My wife has had a tough night and hasn’t been able to make a contract yet. When she opened 2 Diamonds I passed because I thought she could make. When you competed to 2 Spades, I bid 3 Diamonds which I also thought she could make. When you bid 3 Spades, I didn’t think she could make 4 Diamonds, so I bid what I thought I could make.”
‘I don’t know if this story is true or not’ (said Phil). “For me, it exemplifies what I remember about John. He was a very kind person who wanted his partner to have a good time at the table. He was also a master card player who was quite capable of visualizing during the auction, and executing during the play, the most exotic of squeezes”.



This is the last issue of the Newsletter produced by Thomas. You might say that it is my “Swan Song”.

My first Newsletter was created in July 2014 at the request of then President David Leihy. From then on, Newsletters

continued (as Vice President to Allen’s Presidency) until I was elected President for 2017 through 2018 and 2019. Newsletters continued unabated until 2021. (Resuming Vice Presidency under Allen Rosenberg in 2020).

After a short hiatus, Newsletters were once again produced from June 2023. During those earlier years I produced Fixtures Booklets on two occasions and also for this current year.

However, I have experienced irreconcilable differences with the President and Committee of Easts Bridge Club and, for that reason, feel obliged to cease being further involved.

YOUR COMMITTEE... OFFICERS AND KEY CONTACTS

President: Ted Popper 0410 162 503
Vice President: Theo Mangos 0411 337 539
Honorary Secretary: Tamara Pollak 0419 360 666
Honorary Treasurer: Terry Maunsell 0419 266 641

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-

Allen Rosenberg 0408 628 233
Gaby Paroz 0416 437 999 (Welfare Officer)
Paul Larby 0402 780 994
Katherine Clarkson 0429 389 570
Matthew Lynch 0449 261 314
Matchmaker: Theo Mangos 0411 337 539
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