



TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB

55 Stuart Street, Toowoomba Ph : (07) 46 384808 Email : secretary@toowoombabridgeclub.com.au



Ed : Glenys Clift July Newsletter 2026

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Management Committee 2025-2026

President	Greg Munck
Vice President	Trevor Henderson
Secretary	Kathy Duke
Treasurer	Marie Steger
Committee	Chris Snook
	Ken Orange
	Ann Williams
	Rosemary Goodsell
	Stephan Nugent

Office Holders

Grounds Maint.	Margaret Tucker
Purchasing Officer	Graeme Ryan
Teaching Co-ord	David Roberts
MP Secretary	Chris Snook
Tenancy	Bruce Hinchliffe
Librarian	Gretchen Graf
Recorder	Ian Jesser
Chief Tournament	
Director	Chris Snook
Welfare Officer	Kerry Brown
Building Maint.	Terry Sheedy
Office Manager	Stephan Nugent
Congress Convenor	Chris Snook
Housekeeper	Ann Williams
Membership Sec	Ngaire Wills
Newsletter Editor	Glenys Clift



July sees a fairly heavy schedule for the competitive players in the Club. The major event is the prestigious Club Pairs Championship is on three Wednesday afternoons 15/22/29 July. An honour board event so if you want your name etched on

the walls for all to see then enter and play up!

With the onset of the depths of winter this is a good time to come along to the relative warmth of the Clubhouse and enjoy some sheltered socialising. Glenys has prepared another great read for this newsletter with varied contributions from a number of Club members – thanks Glenys and the other contributors.

Happy Bridging *President Greg*

TOOWOOMBA NOVICE & UNDER 500 TEAMS CONGRESS



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDED 31 MAY 2026



Cash flow for May recorded a **net increase of \$2,200.**

Current Assets

- **Heritage Bank General Account** — \$9,526.22
- **Heritage Bank Online Saver S26** — \$17,012.74
- **Heritage Bank Term Deposit** — \$70,000 (matures 27 Oct 2026 at 5%)
- **MyABF** — \$11,287.60

Key Movements

- **Sinking Fund Transfer** to Online Saver — \$1,240
- **Table Fees** collected — \$8,181
- **Tree Test Australia Assessment** - \$781 - Assessment of the 23-metre Silky Oak located in the car park.

Honorarium payments totalling \$5,315 have been approved for Directors, Dealers, Teachers, and Teaching Assistants for the six-month period ending 31 May 2026.

In his report to the Management Committee, Chris reported that the Hiley-McCutcheon Shield recording the teams' champions for our major King's Birthday congress had run out of room. This shield has been in continuous use since first donated back in the early 60's and covers one of our most prestigious events. The Hiley name recognises the president of the QBA back in the day. The McCutcheon name recognises a man influential not only in the early days of our own club, but also within the ABF itself.

To continue awarding the Hiley-McCutcheon Shield, Wicks Joinery has been engaged to produce a new solid-timber shield costing \$843.70. *Bonne chance,*

Marie

WISHING YOU ALL HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR JUNE & JULY



JUNE	JULY	JULY
Paul Barrett	Peter Bryce	Dave Mulherin
Dale Burey	Bruce Coward	Kim Nicoll
Jill Cory	Barbara Davage	Ken Orange
David Edwards	Estelle Dehnert	Roy Reynolds
Mary Gilchrist	Trudy Dunne	Ritamay Roberts
Gretchen Graf	Peter Field	Margaret Savage
Eileen Josey	Susie Fraser	Val Shield
Frances Leeson	Cherry Gardiner	Marie Steger
Kim Nalder	Judy Giesemann	Lyn Vary
Stephan Nugent	Bruce Hinchliffe	Sally Young
Cynthia Palmer	Robyn Jackson	<i>The best thing about aging is - Any suggestions???</i>
Ruth Sargent	Anne Kirkpatrick	
Stephen Savage	Rachel Klupfel	
Gillian Warren	Dennis Lincoln	
Judith Watts	Adrienne Montague	



Partnership Arrangements at Club Sessions.

The Committee has recently reviewed how we assist members who arrive at a session without a partner. For many years the Club has tried a variety of approaches to help members find partners when needed. These have included:

- Using non-playing directors who could step in when necessary.
- Maintaining volunteer lists of substitute players.
- Contacting members on the day to see whether they were available to play.
- Encouraging use of the Pianola Partner Finder and member contact lists.

These arrangements have worked well in many situations, particularly when a member's regular partner becomes unavailable unexpectedly or when visitors are looking for a game.

However, as our Monday and Wednesday afternoon sessions have grown, it has become increasingly difficult for directors and volunteers to manage partnership requests immediately before play commences. Directors are often busy setting up movements and dealing with operational matters, so cannot reasonably be expected to find spare players 20 minutes before the start of a session.

The Committee also recognises that bridge is a partnership game and that, wherever possible, members should make arrangements with a partner before arriving at the Club. Most members already do this successfully using the tools and contacts available to them.

Accordingly, from 1 July, the Club's published wording regarding partnership arrangements will be updated to clarify member and Club responsibilities.

What is changing?

Members seeking a partner are encouraged to:

- Use the Pianola Partner Finder.
- Contact other members using the Club directory and contact lists.
- Make arrangements as far in advance as possible.

The Club may still attempt to assist members who arrive without a partner where circumstances permit. However, we cannot guarantee that a partner will be available.

What is not changing?

The Committee remains committed to being a welcoming and supportive club.

We understand that circumstances arise where a partner becomes unavailable at short notice, and we will continue to do our best to assist where practical.

The purpose of this change is simply to ensure that expectations are clear and that the responsibility for arranging partners does not fall on directors and volunteers who are already managing the operation of busy playing sessions.

We thank members for their understanding and cooperation. *Kathy*

Australia-Wide Novice Pairs Results.



N/S Shea Stanley and Jenny Bridge



/W Kathleen Carey and Geni Russ

The Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) Australia-Wide Novice Pairs is a popular event played simultaneously by bridge clubs across Australia. Clubs register in advance, and their qualifying heat is conducted during one of their regular restricted sessions.

Players who finish first in their respective North–South and East–West fields are awarded Heat Winner Certificates. The results from every participating club are then submitted to the ABF, which compiles them into a single nationwide ranking.

This year, close to 3,000 pairs' results were included in the national compilation. While none of our Toowoomba players made the national Top 50, we are pleased to recognise the excellent performances of our local participants.

Our heat was played on Monday 25th June and the winners were:

North–South: **Shea Stanley and Jenny Bridge**

East–West: **Kathleen Carey and Geni Russ**

Kathleen Carey and Geni Russ also achieved an excellent result, finishing **104th overall**.

As part of the event, the ABF has produced a comprehensive booklet containing every hand played, together with expert commentary on the bidding and play. All members are encouraged to have a look through the booklet, as it provides an excellent training resource and an opportunity to compare their own decisions with the expert analysis.

Thank you to **Chris Snook** for making the necessary arrangements through MyABF to enable our club's participation in the event. Finally, thank you to everyone who took part in the Nationwide Pairs, and congratulations again to our heat winners and highest-placed pairs.



Highest-place Toowoomba Pair

Once the Australia-Wide Novice Pairs results were finalised on a national basis, our highest-placed Toowoomba pair was **Pamela Macintosh and Alan Trueman**, who finished **98th overall** with an impressive score of **61%**. Well done!!

Kathy Duke, Director

WELFARE REPORT



"There is not a lot to report this time. I am not sure whether our members are generally going along very well or I am not being informed of any difficulties being experienced by them.

Get Well cards were sent to Julie Pigdon and Ian Costin who have been dealing with some health issues but still enjoying their games at the Club.

A card was also sent to John Clift who is suffering some mobility problems after a nasty fall. We wish him a speedy recovery. A

Condolence card was sent to Eric Rudorfer acknowledging the sad passing of his wife. We hope his fond memories will help sustain him in his great loss.

On a brighter note, it is wonderful to see Tony and Libby Thorne back with us after a long absence while Tony was battling his cancer and undergoing treatment. After checking some results last week, I notice they don't seem to have lost their touch. Well done!! Welcome back to Barbara Davies who is up and about after a long-awaited knee replacement.

I am truly sorry if I have missed anyone. Remember, if you know of anyone who needs a kind word or two, please let me know.

Stay safe and well!

Kerry Brown

Vintage - The Pocket Autobridge - The Worlds Famous Solitaire Bridge Game



Hello avid Bridge book readers - your friendly librarian here.

By the time you are reading this, there will (hopefully) be a little display atop the existing library shelves of what I would call "antiques", for want of a better word.

An anonymous donor inserted "The Pocket Autobridge" in the shelves for me to find. It is very delicate, therefore housed in a little glass box.

You may very carefully open the box, slide the autobridge out of its sleeve, and observe how you can, by inserting a card and twiggging some sliding toggles, "play 4 handed contracts all by yourself, anywhere – anytime"!

Of course you will only observe, and not attempt to actually *use* the Autobridge, because it is far too delicate, and as I said, an antique. Underneath it in its sleeve are an instruction leaflet, and booklets on how to play Bridge. You may also carefully peruse these. It really is a treat.

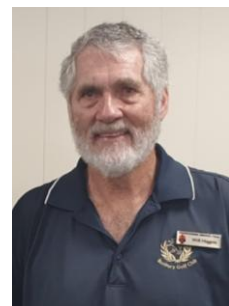
Also in our little antique section are some rather ancient brochures on playing Bridge, and Bridge conventions, sadly housed in just ziplock bags. These also may be carefully perused, but please do not remove.

Many thanks to our anonymous donor, and remember to Handle with Care,

Gretchen Graf



Kathy Duke
Director



Will Higgins
Director



Ian Jesser & Bill Redhead



Roger Green & Gretchen Graf

On 20 May 2026 a Qualifier Session was played from which 12 pairs qualified in each of Novice and Open Sections to advance and play a Howell Movement over two sessions on the 27th May and 3rd June, whereby each qualified pair played every other pair to determine an overall winner.

Meanwhile non qualifiers were able to play in separate Plate Events in conjunction with the Joyce Benson Cup playoff. The results for the Joyce Benson Cup for 2026 are:

Joyce Benson Cup Open Final

- 1st: Ian Jesser and Bill Redhead
- 2nd: Will Higgins and Adrian Mayers
- 3rd: Jenny Buckley and Jim Wood

Joyce Benson Cup Novice Final

- 1st: Roger Green and Gretchen Graf
- 2nd: Shea Stanley and Jenny Bridge
- 3rd: Tim Porter and Peter Taylor

Congratulations to the winners of the Joyce Benson Cup for 2026, - Ian Jesser and Bill Redhead and thanks to all those who participated. Special thanks to Kathy Duke for ably directing the open sessions and Chris Snook for doing the scoring.

Will Higgins-.Director



1ST Jenny McGowan - Vanessa Brewis - Sue Sharp - Andrew Sharp



**2ND Ross McCasker, Beverley McCasker
Susie Fraser Sandy Fraser**



**3RD Shanaal De Zoysa - Hema De Zoysa -
missing
Michael Doherty - Trevor Henderson**





-1ST Eric Von Nida, Suzi Leahy, Kevin Grace, Dale Burey



2ND Don Adsett, Judy King, Murray Pietsch, Genevieve Reeves



Director Report of U500/Novice Teams

Two events on the one day! We ran a team's congress for players with fewer than 500 masterpoints and parallel to this a novice congress for players with fewer than 100 masterpoints. There were 14 teams (56 players) in the U500 and 10 teams (40 players) in the novice event. It was nearly a full house, although there was the usual scramble when a team entry fell apart at the last minute, so heaps of thanks to those who made up the house team.

Both events were comprised of six 9-board matches in a Swiss movement. Did you know that the very first "Swiss movement" was in a chess tournament in Zurich in 1895? The movement is useful when there are too many contestants for an all-play all event, and quickly grew into other contests beyond chess.

I was Director and Convenor and Julie Pigdon was assisting with convening by herding the people to play and organising those who very kindly donated the lovely food. Helen Holmes provided great assistance as caddy in the morning and Pauline Lutton in the afternoon.

The blue ribbon for the Under 500 went to the McGowan team, from the big smoke, with our own sterling McCasker team (Beverley McCasker, Ross McCasker. Sandy Fraser, Susie Fraser) just being pipped at the post.

On the novice side, again it was another squeaker, with the Leahy team (Kevin Grace, Eric Von Nida, Dale Burey, Suzi Leahy) elbowing out the Pietsch team (Judy King, Genevieve Reeves, Murray Pietsch, Don Adsett) for the guernsey. Well done all.

Thanks to all for making it such a great day and particular thanks to those who generously bought such yummy food to share.

Cheers Chris (with comments from Julie)

Congress Twilight



I'm usually pretty tired after running a congress and have to go hunting and gathering for dinner at the local takeaway. Not this time, though. I ventured to the City Golf Club and surprise surprise, I had a chicken schnitzel (boring I know, but I am a creature of habit). The photo is a bit of a who's who from the bridge club. Bruce, Annette and Debra had already left by the time the photo was taken. Thanks to the chief organiser and bottle washer 😊 Cheers *Chris*

Look After the Fledglings

We have a number of new members who have recently graduated from Kathy and Trudy's Beginner Classes or are continuing on with the Improvers Classes on Monday Mornings. Some play on Wednesday Morning and some on Thursday night, and a few might venture to other sessions.

It is important that we let them play at their own level and not be telling them "extra bits" of information. Their basic system is very simple and somewhat conservative for a reason ... they are beginners.

- They over-lead touching honours to promote winners in their hand or partner's hand. It is way to early to hit them with attitude and count.
- Some have not yet covered Stayman nor Transfers. They don't need these conventions to play bridge amongst their peers.
- My pet peeve is that we should not be telling them to transfer to minors after their partner has opened 1NT. They might struggle to make 7 tricks but are guaranteed to fall well short of 9 tricks in a minor.
- Don't tell them to open a "short club" – they play better minor. Don't tell them to do the diamond bust (or anything similar).
- Let them play in their low-level contracts where there is a good chance of making. As they develop, they will realise themselves that it would be good to bid a bit higher sometimes.
- Be the best partner and/or the best table host that you can be.

Cheers *Chris*

Date Claimers

We have a lot of events coming up over the next couple of months. Now is the time to arrange those partnerships and check your diary so all the fun dentist (and other) visits are at different times so you can play 😊.

- **Graded Birthday Pairs:** Monday Afternoon 6th July – Just a regular club session but with a fancy name I made up to remember where we came from. The first "Birthday Pairs" session was on a regular Saturday session in 2009.
- **Club Pairs Championship:** Three Wednesday Afternoons 15th, 22nd & 29th July. Open and Novice section.
- **Zone Teams Qualifier:** Sunday 19th July – open to all club members and hosted by the Toowoomba Bridge Club.
- **"Have a Go Individual Event"**. Saturday 1st August. Enter as an individual. You'll have a new partner on each round and will play 2 or 3 boards with each of them. This is a great event to get newer players to meets the "old guard" in the club.
- **Warwick XIMP Pairs congress:** Sunday 9th August.
- **Zone GNOT Area Final:** Hosted by the Toowoomba Bridge Club.
- **Australia-Wide Open pairs:** Wednesday Afternoon 26th August.
- **Tuesday Night Teams competition:** 1st & 8th September.

All these events are listed on our website in the "Calendar" area, are usually listed on the website front page, often have a flyer on display in the clubrooms, and are announced by the Directors (should be at the start of each session). They are also mentioned on the TV announcements when these TV's are switched on. Despite this, word of mouth remains the best way to get people involved, so always make sure you gee-up your friends to play 😊

Thanks *Chris*

BOOK LOVERS CORNER

Stranger in the Shogun's City by Amy Stanley



Winner of the Ballie Gifford Prize for Non-fiction 2020. This is the story of Tsuneno, an obscure woman in a distant place a long time ago, yet it is absolutely captivating. I enjoyed the book for the story of a strong-willed woman who struggled against her designated place in society as well as for the insight into Japan during a fascinating era of its history.

Pauline Robinson



Good People by Patmeena Sabit

Afghan refugee makes good in USA. The family moves to the best neighbourhood in town. Then the teenage daughter dies in a car accident...or was it an honour killing....

The whole story is told through a series of comments from: Members of the Afghan community, relatives, friends, neighbours, onlookers, schoolteachers, journalists, police reports. At no time do we hear directly from family members. The author shows no bias, and censors nothing, though the evidence – on all sides – is compelling. The reader is left to make up their own mind. This is a most unusual and highly effective way of telling a story, thrilling and addictive. *Michael Rose-Miller*



The Authorised Biography of Quentin Bryce by Juliet Rieden

This is a book I've read recently and thoroughly enjoyed. It takes you on a journey starting in her early years at Ilfracombe, Qld to starting school at Carina SS when the family moved to Brisbane. Each chapter reveals interesting milestones which led to Quentin's appointment as the Governor General of QLD in 2003 and Governor General of Australia in 2008.

A very interesting and candid read of this historic trailblazer. *Judy Burke*



Red Notice by Bill Browder is a globally acclaimed, true-life political thriller. It has been widely praised as an electrifying, page-turning memoir that reads like fiction.

It chronicles the author's journey from a Wall Street hedge fund manager in 1990s Russia to becoming Vladimir Putin's number one enemy.

His next book, '**Freezing Order**', is equally chilling, exposing Vladimir Putin's money laundering and assassinations. Both books are true accounts of how to survive Vladimir Putin's wrath.

Yvonne Blakeney



Russka by Edward Rutherford I love historical novels and this book spans 1800 years of Russian history. It follows the destiny of four

families representing serfs, masters, Cossacks, tsars, priests and Jews. It is very clever the way he is able to reverse the fortunes of two of the families, after the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Other books of his I have enjoyed include London, Paris, Sarum and the books on Ireland.

John Clift

Winter Woollies Pairs - Warms Hearts and Bellies!

What a fabulous day we had at this year's Winter Woollies Pairs held on Tuesday 16th June.

With 11 tables filled by players ranging from enthusiastic beginners right through to some of our Grand Masters, the atmosphere was friendly, welcoming, and full of laughter from start to finish. Before play commenced, everyone was reminded of the two most important priorities for the day: have fun and enjoy the soup! Judging by the smiles around the room, I think both goals were achieved in abundance.

And what a soup selection it was! Members were treated to a mouth-watering array of homemade delights, including a rich smoky bacon bone and barley soup, two delicious chicken and mushroom soups (one gluten-free), a hearty minestrone flavoured with bacon, a warming curry dahl, and a roasted pumpkin soup. A huge thank you goes to Gretchen Graf, Laurie Marie McRoberts, Lindy Mahony and her husband Paul for contributing to this magnificent spread. There may also have been a curry dahl and pumpkin soup quietly sneaking onto the table from the organiser's kitchen, but we'll leave that there.

The sweet teeth among us certainly weren't forgotten. Dessert featured scrumptious apple crumbles from Helen Rutledge, Ann Downs and Rosanne Munns, a delicious sour cream and apple slice from Desley Hanrahan, and some irresistible chocolate and caramel slices courtesy of Susan Whalan, along with gluten-free brownies for those requiring them. The club rounded out the feast by providing bread rolls, ice cream, custard, and all the necessary condiments.

Of course, there was also some bridge played! We completed six rounds of three boards before lunch, followed by a relaxed social hour where members enjoyed good food and even better company while chatting with different table mates. Refuelled and refreshed, everyone returned for the final three rounds, wrapping up the day's play by 2pm.

Events like this don't happen without a dedicated team of volunteers. A very special thank you must go to our fabulous kitchen manager, Yvonne Mallory, who generously gave up her day to ensure everything in the kitchen ran like clockwork. From setup and preparation through to serving desserts and the final tidy-up, Yvonne kept everything beautifully organised while coordinating the many volunteers who pitched in throughout the day.

A special mention also goes to our President, Greg Munck, who dropped by to see whether any assistance was needed and promptly found himself promoted to Yvonne's right-hand man for the day. Thanks, Greg, for rolling up your sleeves and helping where required.

All in all, it was a wonderful day of bridge, friendship, food, and fun. Thank you to everyone who attended, cooked, volunteered, helped, and contributed in any way. I certainly enjoyed organising the event, and I hope everyone enjoyed participating as much as I enjoyed seeing it all come together.

Here's to another successful Winter Woollies Pairs and many more fun gatherings to come!

Kathy Duke

Winter Woollies Pairs - Warms Hearts and Bellies!



Yvonne Mallory running the kitchen
with Greg Munck helping

Soup servers: Jeanette Dalton and Judy Barkla



(L-R) Ann Downs, Helen Rutledge, Susan Whalan,
Lindy Mahoney, Kathy Duke, Gretchen Graf
Rosanne Munns, Laurie-Marie McRoberts



Rosanne Munns, Barbara Rydon &
Desley Hanrahan

Winter Woollies Pairs - Warms Hearts and Bellies!



Chefs Soups

made by **Gretchen Graf, Laurie-Marie McRoberts, Lindy Mahoney (& hubby Paul) and Kathy Duke**

Desserts

made by, **Susan Whalan, Rosanne Munns, Desley Hanrahan, Ann Downs and Helen Rutledge**

Kitchen hands:

Kitchen Manager: Yvonne Mallory

Assistant: Greg Munck

Soup Servers: Jeanette Dalton and Judy Barkla

Dessert servers: Barbara Rydon and Lyn Vary

Luminosity



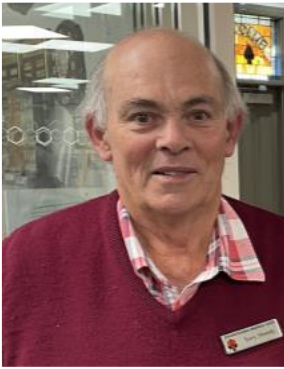
One of the reasons many of us play and enjoy bridge is that it is good for the brain. While this is not the only reason, it is certainly beneficial and rewarding in the fact that after a session you have given the old “grey” matter a bit of a workout.

I have recently come across this app called Lumosity. It is referred to as a popular brain- training program. It targets your cognitive skills including memory, attention and problem solving. They describe it as a programme that is science based yet feels like games.

I can thoroughly recommend this app as it is not only very user friendly it is also very challenging. I personally try and make sure that I “play” each day.

Cheers, Ken Orange

Maintenance Happenings – 2026



Wall Urn

We now have a bright shiny new hot water urn for the Eastern Room, installed and by all accounts, working well.

Air Con

Air Con units were serviced, with the filters cleaned.

The sight of some of those filters when they are removed for cleaning is almost unbelievable. Absolutely choked solid with dust and lint. I just can't imagine where all of that comes from in just 3 months.

Gutters

We have some shrubbery growing in the higher-level North facing guttering. Our man Gavin has been engaged to deal with that and check on all of the guttering while doing so. I expect that will happen about the end of June.

Pest Control

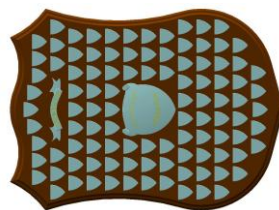
I have noted that it is about time for our pest control check to be conducted. I will organise that for July.

Honour Boards

Chris has noted that perhaps the club's oldest, and still being kept up to date, shield has reached its "use by" date. By that, I mean that there is no more room for additional shields to keep it up to date.

I am talking about the Hiley-McCutcheon Shield, where we honour the winners of the club's major teams event, held over the now King's Birthday weekend. It has been maintained continuously since 1961 or 1962. There are in all, 63 small plaques on it.

To that end, we have ordered a new shield, of the same overall width, but somewhat deeper to allow for slightly more than 100 years of records. All of the present jewellery and plaques will be transferred across to the new one. It will look something like this:



Terry Sheedy

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT. JUNE 2026

During the past month, membership application forms and payments have been received from Sam Turner (proposed N Wills, sec A Mollison) and Leigh Lucht (proposed D Roberts, sec C Snook). Their applications have been processed as per the procedures adopted at the May meeting of the Management Committee.

Ngairé Wills Membership Secretary

WORKSHOPS with ANDY HUNG



Andy is a professional bridge player who is a frequent member of the Australian Open Team. Andy had a dominant year in 2025 bridge competitions, winning multiple prestigious titles, including the WBF World Bridge Tour Pairs Final and the Soloway Knockout Teams.

A detailed breakdown of his 2025 major victories:

- **WBF World Bridge Tour Pairs Final:** Hung and his partner Sartaj Hans won the inaugural Jan Kamras Trophy in Memphis, Tennessee, after an impressive comeback.
- **Soloway Knockout Teams:** Playing alongside Rajath Shourie, Gavin Wolpert, and his regular partner Sartaj Hans, his team defeated the Rosenthal team in a decisive three-set victory.
- **Summer North American Bridge Championships (NABC):** Hung took 1st place in the three-day Roth Open Swiss Teams in Philadelphia alongside Sartaj Hans, Nabil Edgton, and Michael Whibley.
- **Australian National Open Teams (NOT):** He kicked off the year by winning the 2025 National Open Teams championship.
- **Sydney Spring Nationals:** The team captained by Andy Hung reached the finals of the gruelling four-day Spring National Teams Championship, ultimately finishing as runners-up to the Milne team.

I contacted Andy Hung and have locked in the following workshops. He only had a couple of days available and he provided 5 topics. I discussed the topics with Chris and we agreed on two topics that would be of value to most players. Here are the details of what has been arranged.

When: Tuesday July 28th (10am – 12 noon) Diagnosing 3NT vs 5-minor
Tuesday July 28th (12.45pm-2.45pm) When to Finesse, when not to finesse

Where: Toowoomba Bridge Club (55 Stuart Street, Harlaxton, Qld 4350)

Cost: \$27pp per workshop (\$54 for both)

Contact: Dave Roberts; **Email (preferred):** dr4350@gmail.com

Regards Dave

Ph 0414852303

Email dr4350@gmail.com

MASTERPOINT SECRETARY'S REPORT

Your Masterpoints

In May, I processed results for 39 sections from 30 sessions yielding 125.67 green masterpoints. In June, I processed results for 40 sections from 30 sessions yielding 144.32 green and 107.99 red masterpoints. So far for the ABF Masterpoint year (Oct-June, or 9 months) we have earned 1176.07 green, 310.49 red and 165.12 gold points.

For interest:

- The person with the most masterpoints in Australia so far this year is Peter Gill from Mollymook Bridge Club (NSW southern coast) with 332.11 points.
- The highest Queenslander is Michael Courtney from Joan Butts Bridge Club with 174.86 points.
- The top five Toowoomba folk are:
 - Jim Wood with 60.38 points
 - Ian Jesser with 46.40 points
 - Chris Snook with 38.65 points
 - Kathy Duke with 36.10 points
 - Denise Hartwig with 32.83 points

What are Masterpoints?

Masterpoints are a measure of how well you performed in a bridge session or event.

For a duplicate pairs' session, the winner award is determined by the number of tables (how many people you beat) and the masterpoint weighting (the status of the event). Second place receives 70% of the winner award, 3rd place receives ½ the winner award, 4th place receives 1/3rd of the winner award ... and so it goes for the top half of the field. If the event runs over more than one session, then there are bonus points for those who do well overall.

There are three types of masterpoint:

1. **Green points** are awarded for club events. (weighting of 1.5)
2. **Red points** are awarded for state level events (weighting of 5), congresses and major club sessions (weighting of 2.5)
3. **Gold points** are awarded for national level events (GNOT qualifying events have a weighting of 5, and major national events have a weighting of 10).

The Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) manages the National Masterpoint/Ranking System. Masterpoints are won and accumulated by players over their lifetime. There are 22 ranked levels ranging from Nil Master to Diamond Grand Master. Masterpoint rankings are used for determining the seeding and the type of tournaments in which you can play. The following table shows the number of current club members in each ranking (in the green column).

Master Rank	Number of Members	Number in 2015	Minimum masterpoints required		
			Total	Red/Gold	Gold
Nil Master	36	46			
Graduate Master	19	29	2		
Club Master	25	48	5		
Local Master	21	29	15		
Bronze Local Master	16	32	25		
Silver Local Master	19	39	35		
Regional Master	42	46	50		
Bronze Regional Master	13	4	100		
State Master	30	43	50	25	
Bronze State Master	21	19	100	50	
National Master	14	10	150	75	
National Bronze Master	10	12	200	100	
National Silver Master	3	4	300	150	
Life Master	8	9	300	180	30
Bronze Life Master	6	7	400	240	40
Silver Life Master	10	10	500	300	50
Gold Life Master	8	6	750	450	75
Grand Master	6	4	1000	700	200
Silver Grand	1	1	2500	1900	600
Gold Grand Master			5000	4000	1400
Emerald Grand			10000	8500	3000
Diamond Grand			15000	13000	5000

Club Member Rank Promotions for May are:

NAME	RANK	TOTAL MPs	2026 MPs	2026 RANK
Simpson, Mavis	Silver Life	505.77	16.04	2,024
Anderson, Elizabeth	Silver Local	35.08	4.06	8,351
Bridge, Jenny	Local	18.44	10.15	3,487
Fleming, Lorelei	Graduate	2.48	1.59	14,511

Club Member Rank Promotions for June are:

NAME	RANK	TOTAL MPs	2026 MPs	2026 RANK
McRoberts, Laurie-Marie	Gold Life	750.75	20.83	1,418
Nicoll, Kim	Silver Life	569.72	14.64	2,296
Wright, Rozalyn	Bronze National	334.98	14.99	2,226
Fraser, Susie	National	164.31	10.59	3,329
Fraser, Sandy	National	161.17	10.59	3,326
McCasker, Ross	Bronze State	168.76	18.56	1,659
Rydon, Geoff	Bronze State	134.95	9.80	3,623
Worrall, Angela	State	79.92	4.78	7,320
Montague, Adrienne	Bronze Regional	101.03	11.99	2,883
Blakeney, Kay	Bronze Regional	100.25	2.79	10,793
Walsh, Helen	Silver Local	35.99	5.32	6,705
Dwyer, Dianne	Silver Local	35.31	8.25	4,363
Trueman, Alan	Local	16.49	11.57	3,010
Adsett, Don	Local	16.20	3.75	8,877
Grace, Kevin	Local	15.50	13.71	2,467
Watts, Judith	Local	15.02	1.34	15,573
Robinson, Alan	Graduate	2.24	2.24	12,215
Robinson, Pauline	Graduate	2.24	2.24	12,223

Winners are Grinners

The “Monthly Winners” are recognised as the “individual” winner of **eclectic** multi-session events. These events combine of all the green masterpoint sessions in a month that have not already counted toward a competition.

If there are three available sessions then your best two scores are counted (shows as 2/3), if there are four available sessions then your best three scores are counted (3/4) and if there are five available sessions then your best four scores might be counted (4/5).

If there are two available sessions, then they are treated as an eclectic event (best 2/2). If there are five days in the month, then we usually combine two of these (see the bridge diary) as a “**Two-Weekly**” and additional masterpoints are awarded to the top half of those whose partnerships played both days. The remaining three days are scored as an eclectic with (2/3).

May Monthly Winners

Monday PM Open Gwen Francis & Diana Drummond
Monday PM Novice Michael Walsh & Sharyn Gierke
Tuesday Night Rozalyn Wright & Denise Hartwig
Wednesday AM Restricted Margaret Savage & Steve Savage
Wednesday PM Open Will Higgins
Wednesday PM Novice Peter Taylor & Helen Rutledge
Thursday Night Kevin Grace
Friday Morning Ross McCasker & Bev McCasker
Friday PM John Churchett & Ian Jesser

June Monthly Winners

Monday PM Open Glenys Clift
Monday PM Novice Judy King & Marlie Walker
Wednesday AM Restricted Joan Brownlie
Wednesday PM Open Will Higgins & Adrian Mayers
Wednesday PM Novice Kathleen Munt & Helen Walsh
Thursday Night Andrew Mollison
Friday Morning Andrew Mollison & Robert Beaumont
Friday PM Mohan Trada

And on the congress scene:

Toowoomba U500 Teams

2nd Bev McCasker, Ross McCasker, Sandy Fraser & Susie Fraser
3rd Shanaal De Zoysa, Hema De Zoysa, Michael Doherty & Trevor Henderson

Toowoomba Novice Teams

1st Kevin Grace, Dave Burey (*with Eric Von Nida & Suzi Leahy from Toogoolawah*)
2nd Judy King, Genevieve Reeves, Murray Pietsch & Don Adsett

Noosa IMP Pairs

3rd Denise Hartwig & Chris Snook

Darling Downs Matchpoint Pairs

1st Mohan Trada & John Erlandson
2nd Hema De Zoysa & Jim Wood
3rd Gus Govan & Michael Doherty
B 3rd Tim Porter & Roger Green

Darling Downs Teams

2nd Bill Redhead, Ian Jesser, Mohan Trada & John Erlandson
Well done everyone. Cheers *Chris*

HOW WOULD YOU BID THIS HAND

FRIDAY PM 5 JUNE 2026 SESSION

BOARD 25

BD: 25

♠ AKQ932
♥ AKQ
♦ AKQ
♣ A

Dlr: N
Vul: EW

♠ 876
♥ 9876
♦ T986
♣ K5

♠ 4
♥ JT3
♦ J7432
♣ JT73

♠ JT5
♥ 542
♦ 5
♣ Q98642

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N T			
N	5	3	5	7	7		31	
S	5	3	5	7	7	3		3
E							3	
W								

VALE JERRY HOCKIN



It is with sadness I announce the passing of Jerry Hockin. Jerry was 95 and as he still enjoyed the occasional puff on his pipe, for some reason when last admitted to hospital, sadly they knocked him back when he asked if he could bring his pipe.

From being in the navy when he was young for 6 years to various occupations during his life, Helga told me the one thing he loved, was working on the land. Jerry was very blessed in that he and Helga had 8 children who have since given them eighteen grandchildren.

Prior to joining the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 2003, Jerry and Helga were members of the Lockyer Bridge Club where they learnt bridge. Jerry's funeral will be held at Burstows on the 10/7/26 at 2.30pm.

(photograph of Jerry and Helga taken at the Bridge Club in 2022)



Australia-Wide Open Pairs

Date: Wednesday Afternoon
26th August

The Australia-Wide Open Pairs has a rich history that goes back more than 40 years, bringing together thousands of players from all around the country.

Each player will receive a souvenir booklet on the day, describing our recommendations for how the bidding and play should have gone. After the results are in, there will also be a second personalised booklet available on our web page, looking at every board to see how your bidding and play compares against our recommended results.

More prizes than ever

Also included in the \$5 entry fee, every participant will receive a range of exclusive discounts at our book store. In addition there are over \$4,000 worth of CD & magazine prizes for the top 25 pairs (both Open and Restricted).

There will also be book prizes awarded to pairs for specific achievements during the event (for example, bidding and making a tricky game). The conditions for these spot prizes will be announced in the souvenir booklet.

Pairs scoring 54% (scored across the field) will receive **Red Masterpoints**.

Australia's largest event

The event is matchpointed across a field of approximately 3,400 players. This means that when you look at your results on our web page, you will see your score on each board compared with over 800 tables from around Australia. If you get a top board against that many pairs, you'll really deserve it (and you'll probably find yourself with a book prize).

TOOWOOMBA BRIDGE CLUB INC

CLUB PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Director: Chris Snook Tel: 0413 136 435
Email : chris@snook.id.au

Date: Three session event – Wednesday Afternoons
15th, 22nd & 29th July 2026.

Play Starts: 1:00pm – please be seated by 12:45 each day.

Two sections	Open and Novice (<100mp) grades played in separate fields.
Entries	There are no prior entries – this is a walk-in event to the first session. However you should wait in the foyer, and the Director will assign a seat for you.
Format	Each grade will be a three-session matchpoint pairs event. In each grade the first week is a qualifying session and in the second and third week there will be a “final” for the top 12 qualifying pairs. The remainder of the field will play in regular sessions in the second and third week (graded if there are sufficient entries).
Substitutes	A substitute may not be used in the qualifying round. A substitute may be used for one out of the two sessions in the final with prior approval from the Director.
Masterpoints	Red masterpoints at the appropriate B4c level for each session, outright awards for all finalists, and session awards for walk-in pairs.
Entry Fee	\$6 per player per session (normal table fees). Payment will be collected via MyABF Credits on each day that you play.
Titles	Entry into these events is unrestricted and all participants will be entitled to any masterpoints won. Titles shall be awarded only to players who are financial members of the Toowoomba Bridge Club.
Systems	Green and Blue systems. No Brown Stickers treatments. Each player must have an approved current ABF system card.

Toowoomba Bridge Club Inc
hosts
Darling Downs Zone
Teams Championship
and
Queensland Open Teams Qualifying
SUNDAY 19th July 2026

Host club: Toowoomba Bridge Club
Venue: Toowoomba clubrooms
55 Stuart St, Toowoomba
Director: Denise Hartwig

9.15am for 9:30am start. BYO lunch. \$20 per player.

Red masterpoint event. The top two teams will receive a subsidy to represent the Darling Downs Zone in the Queensland Open Teams Championship which is part of the Queensland Festival of Bridge event hosted by the Queensland Contract Bridge Club on 10th – 11th October. If we have sufficient entries an additional team(s) may also be supported.

Each player in a team must be a member of a club in the Darling Downs zone. Darling Downs Zone clubs are Toowoomba, Darling Downs, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Lockyer, Warwick, Stanthorpe and Roma. A team may nominate as "non-contenders" which means they play and are eligible for red masterpoints per win but know they will not be advancing to the state final.

This event is run under QBA Regulations. Green, Blue and Red Systems and Brown Sticker Treatments are permitted. Each player must have an approved ABF system card. Players are responsible for the correctness of their system card. No smoking in the playing area.

Please bring your own lunch. Tea/coffee available all day.

Club Secretary please collect entries on the list below ... and advise or send entries to Denise Hartwig 0432 838 022 (TXT or phone); or
Chris Snook chris@snook.id.au or 04 1313 6435; or
or enter via the events section on Toowoomba Bridge Club website.
Closing time for entries is 1pm on the 17th July but earlier entries will be appreciated.

I'LL SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

I'm giving up bridge- Tonight's my last night
It's Amen to Staymen, I give up the fight.
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles
And I can't sleep at night for thinking of doubles.

My cards are all rotten and I have forgotten
Who's played and what's trumps and what's gone on my
right!
So for now it's all over- I'm off to the back wood
I'm bidding good-bye to Gerber and Blackwood

I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.
So I'm giving up bridge- Tonight's a bad night.
Declarer is horrid and nothing's going right.

My partner's a dope and I'm losing all hope.
And when s/he says "double" I know we're in trouble.
My points are not high and I'm wondering why
S/he kept on bidding right up to the sky.

We're in seven spades and all my hope fade
When surprise, surprise, the high bidding pays!
We're winning all tricks, the defenders feel sick,
And I have to admit my partner's a brick

But I'm giving up bridge- Tonight's my last night.!!
Farewell to conventions- I give up the fight.
So I leave with few words but some that are true,
Bridge is a game- not for me but for you.

So be kind to your partners and don't mind their cheek.
For it's only a game-
OH YES, AND I'LL SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

