



# “Trumping In”

## Waverley Bridge Club Newsletter



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### WAVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB – **Your Committee at Work!**

As mentioned in our last Newsletter, 2009 has been a challenging year for the Committee, and I started to think of all the activities that are either in progress or have happened recently. Don't believe for a minute that such a large club can run smoothly without the hard work of the committee and those who assist the committee.

As you are probably aware the Bridge Club is run by a Management Committee which is elected each year at our Annual General Meeting. Currently I am at the head of the Committee as President; Peter Buchanan is the Vice President, Mary Elson Secretary/Manager, Doug Lavers Treasurer, Martin Willcox Tournament Organiser and Trish Kersey Assistant Tournament Organiser. We have 4 general committee members, Diana Jacobs, Joan Quirk, Sue Battley and Nicholas Beaumont.

Our club has membership of more than 700 (the biggest in Victoria), and running the club takes far in excess of the 3 day week that we currently employ Mary Elson as Secretary/Manager. We hold 12 sessions per week and regularly run lessons, workshops etc. We are always looking at keeping up with technology. As you know, over the last couple of years we have purchased a dealing machine which enables us to provide printouts of hands at the end of play. We have also trialled electronic scorers and are looking at bidding boxes. Both of these will be seriously revisited when we move into our new clubrooms. Currently lack of space to carefully store both of these could result in costly damage or need for replacements etc.

Recently we have applied for a liquor permit (sorry **but no BYO**) – whilst we only intend to have liquor on special occasions like Xmas parties, Melbourne Cup etc. like so many things today one needs a permit. In order to apply for the licence it was necessary have some members attend a special course on the 'Responsible Serving of Alcohol', so far Doug Lavers has completed the course and we shall be sending a couple more people during the coming year.

We have also registered formally to enable us to *legally* hold raffles for our fundraising. I know it is done by most clubs without the registration, but again the rules for holding such events are clear and a permit is necessary. Mary Elson spent many hours on the phone and completing forms when setting this up, and did a similar amount of work when a member suggested running a 'jackpot' night, only to find that this would be in contravention of lottery legislation.

Now for something on the activities of your Committee. Doug Lavers, our Treasurer, has overall responsibility for the accounts, organising spot checks with our Auditor, Brian Lydon. Brian works quietly in the background ensuring all money matters are fully accountable. Doug is responsible for the final production of the annual accounts ready for audit by Brian. Doug is also working on a financial plan for future capital of our club.

Doug is very involved in the new club rooms. At the time of negotiation with the Council before the go ahead to build the premises, he attended numerous meetings with lengthy discussions over the contract being offered by the Council, negotiation with our Solicitor as to the contents of the contract, and finally after protracted negotiations with the Bendigo Bank for financial backing finance of around \$150,000 (which was refused), he managed to find 2 members who kindly undertook what is effectively a bank guarantee to secure the deal. The Council were not going to proceed with the new club rooms without an absolute financial guarantee that the club could pay the full \$500,000. We could not go ahead with debentures until a contract was signed, and this personal guarantee ensured that the new building could go ahead. The sale of the debentures proceeded remarkably smoothly especially in view of the developing financial crisis occurring worldwide at that time. We owe a great deal to our membership for the level of support they provided.

Doug heads a sub committee (Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment) which is responsible for purchasing equipment to be used in our clubrooms, together with placement of electrical equipment. To this end Martin Willcox and Ray Anderson have been widely consulted and we shall have a central Director's office with large screens placed throughout the rooms and provision for an overhead projector and dropdown screen. We shall not necessarily take up all the provisions we have made initially, but certainly results will be shown on a number of screens in future, together with notification of up coming events in the club. Trish Henderson has also assisted with the purchase of tables, chairs etc. thanks Trish. (Trish, as you might know, is the very able convenor of our Congresses.)

Peter Buchanan (with his civil engineering background) is also a member of the sub-committee that negotiated with the Council as regards to the requirements of the clubrooms, and like so many has attended numerous meetings negotiating to get the best possible end result for WBC. Nick Beaumont is also on this sub-committee.

Whilst talking about the new Clubrooms, I am the representative for our Club on a House Committee set up by the Council for the smooth running of the general areas. These areas will be shared by Ceres Calisthenic Club and the Croquet Club and occasionally other organisations with our prior approval. Each group has one representative and the Council a fourth, and this House Committee meets most months. It is very important that we all get along together; while WBC will be the heaviest user of the new building, let us not forget that the Council only went ahead with the building because it would serve a multi-purpose group of communities.

Our Secretary/Manager, whilst only employed for a 3 day week, is at the club most days and finds herself working most weekends. Co-ordination of all the different events our club enjoys is a bit like walking a tight rope, one foot out of place and events collapse. Mary does an excellent job and is fortunate to have lots of volunteer backup to assist. At Mary's suggestion we have put into place the buying of vouchers to lessen the banking of lots of coin, and make it easier for members to buy multiple sessions at a discounted rate. This proved so popular that it created a large amount of work checking each individual voucher off (an audit requirement). This past 3 months Joan Quirk has taken over that responsibility, thanks Joan it certainly has freed up lots of Mary's time. We now have in place a bar coded voucher system which will take over completely once all the old vouchers have been used. Checking is now a simple process of scanning the barcode on each ticket and a recording is made to software which notes each ticket or shows if a duplicate number occurs.

Mary of course is responsible for record keeping, and the preparation of the monthly accounts. A new system (Quick Books) was installed a few years ago, taking over the previous spreadsheet system. This is seen as streamlining the accounts and Trish Kersey has spent many hours teaching Mary the new system and assisting with GST returns etc. Trish also backs up for Mary in the recording of accounts when she is away on leave. Peter Buchanan has also been of great assistance setting up spreadsheets recording attendance etc. I am not going to go into the obvious as regards Mary's duties, but I wonder if you have any idea of how many hours she spends on the phone 'chatting' to members? A very necessary requirement. She also edits the Newsletter and does work on the website – instructed and assisted by George Skarbek – thanks George).

Mary has also organised for the club to appear a number of times in local newspapers and on local radio, promoting both bridge and of course WBC. Attracting new people to learn bridge is very

important, they then go on to play supervised and eventually join in with regular events. It all sounds so simple but the time involved on the phone after such advertising is enormous, people ring often and are not sure and want to 'talk it through'. We need to be good 'listeners'. I did this for many years when I was Secretary/Manager and still get to do it when Mary has been away whilst recruitment for Beginner Lessons is on. I have a very tolerant husband!

The need to move out of Ashwood Hall early in 2009 put an enormous load on Mary, indeed all the members of the committee. We had countless extra meetings and visited numerous halls (if the hall was right the car parking wasn't) - finally deciding on the Scout Hall. The two halls, whilst less than salubrious, did have availability, sufficient scale and car parking. The Council had to send in several teams of cleaners and repairers! The entire committee assisted with the move and Joan Quirk, Sue Battley Diana Jacobs, Trish Kersey, Mary and myself walked between the two buildings endlessly ensuring adequate supply of food and our many other needs.

Despite the very heavy load this move put upon us, we still managed to organise a raffle in aid of the CFA after the dreadful bushfires, and when approached by the Scouts, sold raffle tickets for them to assist in sending their boys off to camp in 2010. Our departure from Jamboree Lane lived up to the rest of the occasion by way of being memorable, the van hired to move us broke down, leaving us lined up waiting, and what should have taken an hour or so ended up by taking all morning! Thanks to everyone who helped, clearing the scout halls, transporting urgent equipment by car and setting up Ashwood Hall. The 6 week move, which could have ended up being a financial disaster for the Club, in fact did remarkably little financial damage. Our estimate is that it cost us about \$2,000.

Whilst talking of raffles and fund raising, do you realise so far we have raised over \$16,000?

Joan Quirk and Sue Battley are regularly assisting with the sale of vouchers, fund raising events and at this time of the year collection of membership fees. Sue has worked hard on getting the library in shape. Did you know that you can see a full list of books/videos etc available on the website, and by following the prompts can request for a book to be reserved? Both Joan and Trish help in organising the kitchen roster – a task that requires persistence! All our Committee members spend hours assisting during special events, volunteering their time and their culinary skills. We could not run these events without them, or the other members who also help.

Martin Willcox and Trish Kersey have the responsibility of running match and tournament events, I don't know if you have ever looked but we always seems to have one or more of these running!

You might well ask what I do, (apart from chair and attend numerous meetings both relating to current affairs of WBC and the new clubrooms.) Well I spend many hours on the phone talking to members and committee members and assist where I can around the clubrooms when present. Follow up on competitions for prizing giving and ensure that the cups etc. are engraved. Sell raffle tickets, books, cakes etc. and manage day-time partnership co-ordination. As I was Secretary/Manager for a number of years prior to Mary I have a full understanding of what backup she needs and when she is being stretched. When we hold such events as the Melbourne Cup and Mid Winter Celebration (which are very popular) it requires much organisation, both in food preparation, smooth running of the event and cleaning up! My background is also very helpful covering for Mary when she is on leave.

So by now, I hope you will see that the smooth running of WBC is not by accident, but by a lot of hard work performed by all members of the Committee.

This newsletter would not be complete without thanking all those members in our club who so generously volunteer, whether it's helping set up, clearing away at the end of sessions or general assistance on a regular basis or on special occasions, your help is greatly appreciated, our club is so much richer for the work of all who make WBC such a good club.

Iris Carling  
President

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Larry Atwood, Kevin Sertori, Chandradeep Chakravorty, Helen Wilkinson, Jenny Riches, Joy Featherby, Helena Higginbottom, Joan Muller, Elizabeth Gillies, Ann Bennett, Helen Jowett, Betty Robertson and Genie Harband have recently joined.

We wish you many years of happy bridging with Waverley Bridge Club.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The time has come to dig, not too deep, into your pockets and subscribe for another year. Home Club members pay \$30 and Associate members pay \$15, due by June 30 – not like your average Golf Club, is it?

In case you are wondering what the price difference is for between Home Club and Associate – WBC does not keep any of the extra \$15, but sends it to the ABF and VBA for annual capitation fees.

Your manager has just sent a cheque to the ABF including well over \$6000 in these capitation fees. We are very lucky to have a large membership, but there are always expenses to be paid.

## BEGINNER'S LESSONS

Planning for the next lesson course has begun. Please speak to your friends about joining in.

Though attendance at classes is usually very good – the February course had around 40 participants – there is always a high drop-out rate. People who think they would like to learn often change their minds during the lessons. Some, very intelligent, folk become a bit bewildered and worried that they can't learn Bridge in the first week or so!! A proportion of students just come along to the Club for the lessons, then vanish, either to play at home, or at another Club.

We are fortunate to have, so far, retained over half of the forty students from February. The 'stayers' sometimes enroll for the following course so that they can get a better grip on the game.

You can promise your friends an entertaining and challenging experience – more and more is being said about the importance of retaining our brain cells and this is one of the best ways around to do that.

Application forms are available in the Club Rooms. If you can't find any, speak to the Director or Mary.



MID-WINTER CELEBRATION

Now that we are having our third annual mid-winter party, we can begin to call it 'traditional'.

Check your calendar and make sure to keep Tuesday June 23 free. Our most successful and traditional mid-winter bash is coming up! There will be a red-point Swiss Pairs, wonderful snacks, a large and satisfying lunch, raffles, prizes and opportunities for players of all skill levels to enjoy the thrill of winning matches! So all you newer members get in touch with the partner you most like to play with and arrange to come along!

Play will begin at 10.00 a.m. and finish around 4.00 p.m. The cost of the day will be \$25 per player and you will need to pre-book. There is a book-in sheet on the board in Hall 1, or you can ring Mary. You will need a partner for this event.

**Because of the size of the event, it has been decided not to hold the usual duplicate on this one day only.**

## NAME TAGS

As you read in the President's letter, membership is now over 700 and it would be very easy for newer players to get lost in the rush. While I think that we do a very good job of running a welcoming and friendly club, we can always do better.

If you see a person that you don't recognize, introduce yourself and have a chat. Have a think about starting to wear a name tag – Rosemary Flora has offered to make very attractive name tags for only \$2 – all donated to the Club.

## BOOK SALE

Please keep bringing books, DVDs, videos, jigsaws etc. to the book sale, which will be continuing for another couple of weeks. Have you seen the quantity of very high quality videos on sale at the moment?

## ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

We still have stocks of the Entertainment Book for sale. One member told me a couple of weeks ago that she had saved over \$50 on wine, and after eating out twice was very well into profit. (And it isn't even June yet.) This book is a genuine bargain and will save you money – no gimmicks!

Each copy sold brings \$13 to WBC, a very good boost to our fundraising.



SATURDAY WORKSHOPS



♦74  
♣Q98

Or, if you held a 5 card diamond suit and 3-3 in the majors, you just pass 2D.

For example: ♠KJ6  
♥Q109  
♦QJ876  
♣85

Therefore, if you hold 5-3 in the majors and you have values, you don't transfer, but you bid 2C, just in case partner holds 5 cards in your three-card major.

If partner denies holding a 5 card major, you bid your 5 card major at the appropriate level.

E.g. 1NT – 2C  
2D – 3S

is game forcing and shows 5 spades and 3 hearts. Similarly

1NT – 2C  
2NT – 3S

is game forcing and shows 5 spades and 3 hearts. And

1NT – 2C  
2D – 2S

is non-forcing and shows 5 spades and 3 hearts.

If you hold a 5-card major and **NOT** 3 cards in the other major, you transfer and then bid the appropriate number of no-trumps.

Of course, if your hand is weak (less than 8 hcp) you **would** transfer, then pass.

This leaves us with a spot to invite to slam at the 3-level; viz: 1NT -3H/S, which shows at least a six-card self-supporting - or at most a one-loser - suit and interest in slam.

e.g. AKQ109X or AQJ109X .

## Finesse, finesse, finesse.....

**North**  
♠K  
♥653  
♦J92  
♣876432

**South**  
♠A843  
♥AK9  
♦AQ104  
♣AJ

Contract: 3NT by South

Opening lead: Spade Queen

West leads the queen of spades, and the king wins the first trick.

Which card should you play from dummy at trick two, and why?

You have six quick tricks – two spades, two hearts, one diamond and one club.

However, you need nine tricks to make your contract. Trying to establish the club suit is a lost cause, particularly as you have no entry to dummy; so, the extra three tricks must come from the diamond suit. You will make nine tricks provided the king of diamonds is on side.

Since dummy has no more entries, the time to finesse is **NOW**, and the right card to lead is the nine of diamonds. This allows you to stay in dummy for two subsequent finesses should they prove necessary. Suppose the complete hand is this:

<b>Dummy</b>		
	♠K	
	♥653	
	♦J92	
	♣876432	
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>
♠QJ1095		♠53
♥762		♥K876
♦874		♦Q109
♣QJ102		♣K5
	<b>South</b>	
	♠A8443	
	♥AK9	
	♦AQ104	
	♣AJ	

Notice that it would be a mistake to start with the diamond jack. This would hold the trick, and you'd next lead a diamond to the ten, which would also win.

But now, there would be no way to get back to dummy for a third finesse, and the contract would be one down. It would do you no good to drop the ten under the jack on the first round. In this case, when you continue with the nine, East will cover with the king, promoting his eight.

Look how easy life is if you start with the nine. This wins, and you continue with the jack. When East plays small, you can get under the jack with your ten, leaving yourself in dummy for the vital third finesse.

**'Opening 1NT with a 5-card Major', and 'Finesse' were written by Paula Schroor.**

### A REMINDER

I know I mentioned this last time, but still - - -

Please make certain no to park on the left side of Heather Ave close to Electra Ave. The woman in the corner house has ongoing medical needs and space must be left for medical attendance.

Thank you.