

Trumps Plus

No 10 July 2022



David Burn kindly sent me this photo of players socialising after a normal Saturday session and it prompted me to reflect on what a club really is. Sometimes we immediately think of a larger corpora-

te well resourced organisation like an AFL or golf club. A true club is about members, and nothing else. The aim is to maximise engagement and enjoyment, creating friendships, chipping in, volunteering and having a good time. Yes we have a manager and volunteer Management Committee but volunteers are essential, not only to save money, but to create the sense of service. As a club we support others such as our charity day. But if you ever needed a reminder of what a club does - and stands for - have a look at the article on Shirley Potter below.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Super Saturday - this Saturday 18 June - be there - prizes, quizzes and our typical good time; normal table money; duty partner available

Events and lessons - from Andy - check website especially for events

We remember: Maggie Sacks (103 good years); Kim Crossing; Sue Madsen; Peg Hogan

New members - Liz Bushell; Jim Willetts; Elsie Chua; Anne Lemonis; Angeline Christie; Janice Baker; James Hamilton

Vivaldi winners - Summer - Geoff Yeo and John McMullen; Autumn - Marilyn and Ted Van Heemst

Parking on Saturdays - please try to arrive early or ride share when rugby games are on

Library - best in WA - check it out

Member focus - Shirley Lavarack

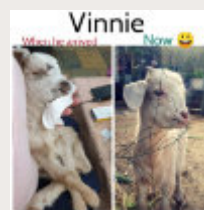


Well, this is a profile with a difference - South Africa's first female bookmaker - in what has typically been a male dominated profession. Shirley was brought up in a middle-class family with no connection to bookmaking. At age 16, she obtained

work in a totalisator agency. Shirley got the bug and determined this was her go. She worked for a number of bookmakers including a time where she was on a percentage. Having saved enough money, she purchased an outlet in 1990. Her husband, an engineer, soon joined the business and in 1994 Shirley was granted a licence to field at the track. The business grew over the next 26 years to 13 outlets and over 400 staff. Shirley's daughter, Kerryn, also became a bookmaker - the youngest ever in South Africa and only the second female licensed on the track.

In 2016 Shirley sold her business and emigrated to Australia - a decision she has never regretted. This followed 25 armed robberies of her betting shops and one fatality, over a period of 12 months.

Looking for something to stimulate her mind, Shirley joined WABC in 2017 and took lessons from Peter Smith. Shirley's philosophy of bookmaking was 'it's not the money that keeps me here - it's the thrill and uncertainty'. Well, bridge is much the same, and like every card game, there is an element of risk, uncertainty and ultimately, gambling. If you've played against Shirley, you will see the mind ticking over balancing risk and reward. And by the way, she's a very canny player. Say hello to Shirley - her life story is fascinating. *(Editor's note; on the theme of odds and probabilities, check out the article on page two regarding bridge odds).*



Jacqui Ecclestone has notified us of the absolute joy from Andrea Marzi, who runs Express Wildlife Rescue, at receiving almost \$4,000 thanks to the generosity of our members. Andrea currently has over 140 animals in care, including Vinnie, who fell from a stock truck when only a few days old. Special thanks to all members who donated money and prizes and purchased tickets. Thanks also to Anne-Marie Marias and Prue Hart - and of course, Jacqui.



No 'ziggy-zagging' here

Ziggy Morawiec has racked up an impressive record in his last 13 games in May; 8 first places, 4 second, 1 third - with a variety of partners. If I owned a racehorse who did this well I'd be pretty happy. Well done Ziggy....and a good bloke to boot.

Club members at their very best

Hats off to Virginia Seward, who drives Shirley Potter to and from bridge on Saturdays and plays with her. Say hello to dear Shirley - glad to have you back...and Virginia....thank you for being a great member. I notice you finished a close 2nd recently. Well done both of you.



Winners recently



WABC Men's Pairs Championship; Don Allen and David Burn, with trophy donor John Rigg (and Ali.. absent)

Must-have bridge handbook for all levels



During recent lockdowns, experienced bridge member, John Aquino, completed the writing of a comprehensive bridge hand-

book. The Handbook provides a broad overview of the game and is not intended to be a 'deep dive' into any specific area. However, John references many books, most of which are in our library. Some of the areas covered are;

- The bidding and auction phase
- A summary of about 40 conventions with details why and how the convention assists
- A section on play of the hand - defender and declarer
- Tips on playing swiss teams and matchpoint tactics
- Sample ABF System cards
- Common reasons for calling the Director and your options
- John's selection of the top 20 bridge books

There has been highly positive feedback from experienced members such as Bernie Yates, Chris Bagley, Kate North and Kitty George.

Copies will soon be available; all proceeds will be donated to our annual charity. The Club recognises and thanks John for his generosity and fantastic work for our members.

The bookmaker in you...card probabilities and odds...and gambling

In past editions of Trumps Plus we have focused on the probabilities of card combinations. Following our theme of risk/reward, here are some of them again;

Splits

- With three cards out a 2-1 split is 78% (7/2on) while a 3-0 split 28% (7/2)
- With four cards out, a 3-1 split is likely at 50% (evens) with a 2-2 split 41% (5/4) and 4-0 is 9% (11/1)
- With five cards out a 3-2 split is likely at 68% (6/4on), a 4-1 split is 28% (7/2) while a 5-0 split 4% (25/1)
- With six cards out a 4-2 split is likely at 49% (evens), a 3-3 split 36% (7/4) and 5-1 is 14% (7/1)

The real surprise here is the 4 card split - a 2-2 split is not at all certain. With a strong Moysian fit in trumps, this is pretty safe with a 4-2 split or better at 85%

Points distribution

- 1 point hand or Yarborough - 1% or 100/1 - about once every four sessions
- 20 plus HCP - 1% or 100/1 - about once every four sessions
- 7 - 14 HCP - 66% or 2/1on - your most likely operating range

Finesse

- About 50% but the opponents' bidding should be considered

Remember, bridge involves gambling - informed by long term probabilities - that's how bookmakers win. Your opponent's bidding informs you somewhat.

Buddy program for supervised players

The club offers a buddy program to support you as you make the transition to unsupervised sessions. Your buddy will play with you for two sessions - they will introduce you to players; reinforce table etiquette; guide you through table procedures; introduce you to the bridgemate; and play your system. Contact Eve Clarkson at evestav@gmail.com

Winter Congress - a great event for all

The 2022 WABC Winter Congress is always a great event and 2022 was no exception. Despite COVID-19 challenges, most sessions were well attended. WABC prides itself on delivering an enjoyable experience for everybody. Our thanks go to all involved - Kitty George our stalwart Convenor; Sheenagh Young; the Management Committee; David and the directing crew; Kerry Barns, Prue Hart and the catering crew; bar people; recorders etc; John our cleaner; our most welcome visitors; and all the members who helped, including bringing food... and played.

Here are some of the major winners.

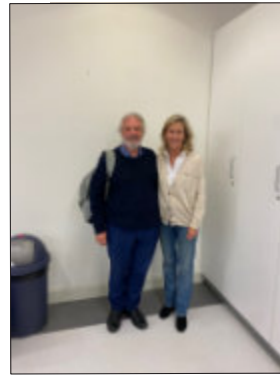


Swiss Pairs; 1st Tom Lemann, Ron Cooper 2nd; Fiske Warren, Kaiping Chen 3rd; Chris Cullen, Gill Gavshon

SOME WINTER CONGRESS RESULTS



Open Teams; 1st Val Billoft, Fiske Warren, Deana Wilson, Gwyneira Brahma; 2nd Richard Grenside, Maura and Rick Rhodes, Sue Grenside; 3rd Don Allen, Chris Ingham, David Matthews, Geoff Holman



Novice Pairs; 1st E/W Joan Milne, Denise Alcock

Friday PM Pairs; 1st E/W Dave Munro, Gwyneira Brahma; 1st N/S Jonathan Free, Linda Coli; 2nd E/W Fay Shelton, David Croft



Restricted Teams; 1st Jodie Basham, Kath Negus, John Nelson, Will Nunn; 2nd Nikki McGrath, Andrea McCallum, Diane Smith, Alfred Leung

Monday Pairs 2nd N/S Lynne Milne, Chris Bagley; 1st E/W Susan Clements, Margie Tulloch