

Trumps Plus

No 12 November 2022

From our President, Kate North....

'It is fitting this edition of Trumps Plus is presented as a tribute to our Sheenagh. Sheenagh has been Executive Officer of the club for some 20 years and has been instrumental in developing our club to the strong standard it is today. Her input and organisational skills have contributed to the ongoing smooth running of the club. Sheenagh has been a great support and resource person to me during my term as President. I wish her great happiness in her retirement.'

Thanks Kate, and we all join you in thanking Sheenagh. This edition features Sheenagh's story, told in her own words. Please have a read and join in upcoming celebrations. Don't forget the Sheenagh Young Farewell Pairs on 19 November - enter online. Can we also welcome Martin Doran as the new Executive Officer. Welcome Martin. Please read the profile of Martin in this edition. We are very confident Martin will do a fantastic job.

NEWS & EVENTS

- **Jackpot finals, Club Teams - Open & Restricted & SuperVets** - check website and please support
- **Annual General Meeting** - Tuesday 18 October - red points - meeting at 4.30pm; launch of new club website
- **Flood appeal charity day** - Saturday 29 October - red points
- **Melbourne Cup** - Tuesday 1 November - red points
- **Sheenagh Young Farewell Pairs** - Saturday 19 November - must book - no walk-ins
- **Christmas Congress** - Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th December
- **Christmas Party** - Tuesday 13 December
- **New members** - Marg Van Heurek; Hugh Pinniger; Tuya Cooke; Pim Birss; David Martino; Lisa McCusker
- **Vale Annabel Booth** - esteemed member; national player; Director; and great bridge teacher

Sheenagh Young ...in her own words

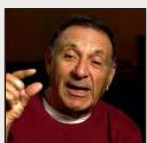
I am a Sydney girl originally with a background in Agricultural Science. Being in places such as Trangie, Tottenham and Cobar, there wasn't much to do at night except play cards - euchre and canasta, read or listen to the radio. There was no TV and the fridge always ran out of kerosene. Our phone was on a party line and calling home was always a trunk call. Town was always a 4 - 6 hour round trip so only undertaken once a fortnight for supplies and the main entertainment was the RSL Club. Being a flaneur by nature, I soon grew tired of the isolation so as soon as I had saved enough dosh I was traveling. Most of my time was spent in the UK or traveling around France and the Channel Islands by motorbike (lots of stories there) plus the occasional jaunt in a borrowed MG. After stints working for Ansett in Adelaide and management roles in Sydney, I landed in WA in the early 80's to help set up the Karratha International Hotel, moved to Perth and met a fabulous bloke called Ray who convinced me to stay put.

My bridge journey started in 1992. I was persuaded by a friend to accompany her to lessons at Nigel Rosendorff's club in Swanbourne, where I first met Peter Holloway who was working with Nigel at the time. When my first son was born later that year, my bridge stopped until 1994. After winning the Rosendorff novelty pairs we decided to brave a session at WABC in Dalkeith. I still remember sitting there, hands shaking, praying I wasn't going to make a fool of myself. We started playing on Wednesdays, mainly because Peter Smith ran the session and a lovely lady called Gurdip was in the club kitchen cooking wonderful curries which you could buy for lunch.

My original partner stopped playing, and I found a new partner in Gill Gavshon. Apart from the Novice Pairs Championship which we won in 1997, there were no restricted events as there is now. I met Robin Paterson at Dalkeith and we decided to play together at an event at the Italian Club. On the last board of the night we were asked by our opponents what system we were playing- in unison I said Acol and she said Standard. Now I knew why she was putting me in so many 3NT contracts when we had 22 points between us. After experiencing a modicum of success at various congresses we decided to enter the ANC Women's Butler at Observation City. We were delighted to make round 2 but not round 3 - but we did meet Richard and Sue Grenside for the first time, along with the wonderful Ivy Dahler who is sadly no longer with us.

One of our finest moments was qualifying for the WA Women's Team in 2003. To qualify we had to play a 64 board final behind screens. We hadn't played behind screens before, so Richard and Sue set it up so we could have a practice session with them. Peter Smith very kindly gave us some coaching and advice on tactics. The night before the final I had a call from the BAWA President, Nigel Dutton, who rang to instill us with confidence and belief that we could win our way through and I shall always be grateful to him for taking the time to do that for us.

It was a grueling event played at Nedlands. I remember Linda Bedford-Brown arriving with a magnificent platter of food to either congratulate or commiserate with us - we won - and went to Darwin to represent WA. Lots of fun; acquitted ourselves well; attended a cocktail party at Government House; and made many friendscontinued page 2...



Eddie Kantar is a renowned bridge player, teacher and source of great bridge tales. Here is another;

Husband and wife team are travelling home some distance after frightful disagreements at the country congress. On the long drive they pass by a field with donkeys in it. Husband breaks the stark silence.. 'Relatives of yours?' Wife thinks for a while and responds... 'Yes indeed.... Inlaws'

Cottesloe location teaser

*Here you'll find me, very close to the sea
Driving straight, is important on me
Most aspirations, tend towards green
Most involved with me, overly keen.*

If you know the exact location name, email John Nelson at john.nelson@cewa.edu.au to win a bottle of wine. See Sheenagh Young 'Honour Board treasure hunt' on page 3 for another opportunity for a bottle of champagne.

Welcome Martin Doran - our new EO



You would now know that Martin Doran has been appointed as our new Executive Officer. Martin has an impressive background in senior positions in human resource and production management. His specialisation has been in occupational health and safety, quality management and auditing, preventative maintenance systems and problem solving. He also knows his way around the bridge table; representing WA, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania in ANC teams as well as Australia in the 1994 World Mixed Pairs Championship. Martin also helped Joan Butts run her bridge club in Brisbane as well as playing a role in the creation of an online school of bridge - creating appropriate hands, video editing and maintaining web pages.

Martin is a keen bushwalker and photographer and enjoys discovering the wildflowers of WA. Oh, and by the way, for those of you who misbehave at the table, Martin has a black belt in karate!!

Congratulations Dr Prue Hart



The Australian and NZ Society of Immunology holds an annual conference where an eminent member is invited to deliver the Keynote Address - the Burnet Oration - named after Sir F MacFarlane Burnet, Nobel Laureate. In November this year, our very own Prue Hart will present this oration - only the 7th woman since its inception in 1986. Congratulations Prue, and the topic is a specialisation of yours - the health benefits of sun exposure. It is fitting in this edition of Trumps Plus to acknowledge another outstanding contributor to our club, especially as a Management Committee member and in organising and supporting so many activities. Thank you Prue...great work.

Sheenagh story - continued

Not long after, I joined WABC in 1994, Carol Pocock asked me to join the TC, where I learned much about the Laws and running of bridge events. I then went to the MC and BAWA MC, but the death of my husband, Ray, in 2000, left me bringing up two young children. On the invitation of Linda Wild, I ran the website and administrative work during school hours. I took over the Wednesday supervised session from Paul Brayshaw. We regularly got 12-14 tables and I remember running around like a lunatic and relying on Bill Kemp, who ran the main room, to help me out.

These were also the days of using travelling score sheets with the results having to be entered manually which meant you wouldn't know your results until you were next at the club or next day once we had a website. A special effort was made for championships as players needed to know their results on the night, but we all brought food and on the last night we sat around eating, drinking, and yes smoking whilst we waited. Before my time the club was a smoking venue, with ashtrays at every table. Helen George once told me that when the curtains caught on fire, Molly Virtue, wife of Sir John Virtue, was declarer, and she insisted dummy go down before the smouldering curtains were put out. Speaking of championships, at the annual Christmas party and prize giving - which you had to pay for to attend - the deal was if you won a championship you bought your own prize and displayed it on the prize table until you came up to collect it from the President. The club would then reimburse you a pre-determined amount. I remember, quite a few members, Heather Booth being one, who just brought the same old plate year after year so she could get the cash. Thankfully we got rid of that tradition.

Around this time, I became tournament organiser of the Hans Rosendorff Memorial Congress. This was for women's teams only and started on a Friday night, finishing on Sunday. We used to get 2 or 3 teams from interstate as it was a PQP event. As a TO you have to be prepared for anything, and one year, a rather religious NSW player who still plays today, wanted to attend the nearest Catholic service, so I had to pick her up, find the right mass service and take her there and bring her to the club for the last day. I am still waiting for her thank you. (*Editor's note; maybe coming from a higher being!!!*)

The plan to move the club started many years before we landed in Swanbourne. We were getting squeezed out of Dalkeith due to parking restrictions which became ever more Draconian as the years moved on. Luckily for us, many years before, members had purchased debentures which allowed the club to buy the premises from the church which meant we now had something to sell to finance a new club. With the extraordinary work of presidents Linda Wild, Helen Kemp, Des Cain and their hardworking committees and subcommittees this was achieved in 2008. Kim Paterson had also organised sub division approval for the site to become 3 blocks so it was a desirable purchase for any developer. We moved into our new premises, designed by architect and member, Tom Lemann with a great deal of input from Tony Brand, at the end of January but the first 2 weeks were a bit of a nightmare as the sewer line had not been connected so we were using porta-loos in the driveway - not pleasant in summer. Much had been said by various players about the distance the club was from other areas - notwithstanding, the membership flourished.

I take great pride in being the TO of the most successful and profitable ANC in history which was held in Fremantle July 2015 and achieved with the help and determination of Kitty George, Hilary Yovich and Robina McConnell. I might also add that I gave what is arguably the funniest Victory Dinner speech of any ANC.

I was working at the club on Boxing day 2014 when I needed help. Luckily Alastair Tulloch was playing that day and when I spoke with him he immediately put me in contact with a former colleague which resulted in major surgery a week later - and me out of commission for 3 weeks. I mention this to thank Alastair for saving my life - and checking up on me in hospital - and to the Management Committee and members for offering me all the help and support I needed. We really do have an amazing bunch of people here.

I have been fortunate to have worked with amazing Presidents and committees over the years and it truly takes a special type of person to take on the role of President. These are members who give freely of their time to help run what is considered to be the best bridge club in the country and endeavouring to keep 1000 members happy is an arduous task.continued page 3

About Sheenagh...from others

Nigel Dutton, President BAWA - *I have known Sheenagh in an official capacity for more than 20 years. We first met, when as a member of the BAWA MC, she was a staunch advocate for WABC. Naturally she made a significant and valued contribution to bridge in general. She often gave, particularly to me, wise counsel which was much appreciated. Sheenagh, on more than one occasion, provided valuable information, which helped diffuse and solve issues which were adversely affecting the Association. We continued our association when Sheenagh took over her role at WABC. Over the years I have found her to be totally professional and very efficient - quietly advocating for WABC but always cognisant of the fact that the club was part of a wider bridge community. Congratulations on your retirement, and best wishes from me and the Association.*

Sylvia Bray, President Elect - *Sheenagh has undoubtedly been the backbone of our club...the unbroken link over the past 20 or so years. This has meant that through Sheenagh, with her determination and management skills, a wealth of knowledge and expertise has been accumulated, giving the club a sound foundation to build on. Add to that a fashion flair bordering on what I would call 'polished Goth', you have been the perfect Executive Extraordinaire. Her influence on the club will not be forgotten.*

Sheenagh story..continued

I would like to suggest to each and every one of you that the next time you find yourself at the table with one of these extraordinary people, present or past, you thank them for all the work they do, or have done, seen and unseen, for our benefit - guiding us through the implementation of GST, building the club, COVID and power thefts to name a few.

We wouldn't have the club we do without Peter Smith and I thank him from the bottom of my heart for all his help and putting up with me over the years. He has been our North Star, our one true constant, guiding us every step of the way. We were all in a state of trepidation when he said he wanted to retire. I had arranged with Andy Hung to come to WA to hold a series of workshops and chanced my arm by asking if he would be interested in taking over Peter's role. Thankfully he said yes and now we have another top flight international player who, over the last couple of years, has developed his own way of conducting lessons and instigating new and evolving methods to retain new players, all whilst still representing Australia at the very top of international competition.

Finally, I would like to end by saying thank you to every member of this club. Your continued support of WABC by choosing to play at the premises rather than online is what keeps the club going. To the many members who constantly give of their time to help out during congresses, running the bar, gardening, mentoring, being duty partner, house pairs and last minute substitutes or serving on subcommittees, I would say you are the backbone of this club and what makes it truly great. I know you will all support Martin when he takes over this role and makes it his.

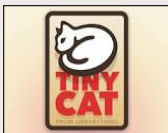
Many of you have asked me what I have planned. I do have a plan to gain further qualifications in a particular field of interest but I also look forward to being back at the tables and hopefully playing at the Gold Coast Congresses in the next year or two - we'll see how the 19th November goes as Robin might decide to dump me.

I have many more stories accumulated over the past 20 years of being your Executive Officer but this article is long enough. Just know that I am truly grateful to you all. Sheenagh.
(Editor's note; wonderful narrative Sheenagh. Thank you on behalf of all members)



Sheenagh sent me this photo of her with team member Debbie Frankel, receiving the 2003 WA Women's Team Trophy. It's worth a look at our honour boards around the club to see how many times Sheenagh's name appears on the event honour boards - not committee etc. **In fact, the club will donate a bottle of champagne to the first correct number** - email me at john.nelson@cewa.edu.au. You will be surprised - and we already have Robin and Sheenagh favorites at 5/1 to win the across the room pairs on November 19.

A Cat is in the Library!



You can now access the Club's library catalogue through the new WABC website. TinyCat is the new professional online catalogue which will make our library more accessible for members. This system has allowed us to import catalogue data from other libraries around the world. It is web-based and allows WABC members to browse the library catalogue from home via a link on the new club website; books can be searched by either Title, Author, or subject. TinyCat contains over 1,000 titles, with no software to maintain - it is an inexpensive and powerful database. The Library Committee has spent months entering all the resources - it is an effort well worth it for our members - thanks to Jacqui Ecclestone and all the library helpers for this brilliant initiative. Best bridge library anywhere.

Melbourne Cup at WABC



Don't forget Tuesday 1 November - bring your own lunch; bar open from 11am for a quick champagne. Mike and Helen George will run a sweep stake and we thank them...again. This is a red point event. If you feel like a small investment, try Young Werther - 33/1 at time of printing. Guaranteed a start and a top trainer. Good luck.

Sheenagh and the Queen



You may not know, but Sheenagh has a connection with Queen Elizabeth II. On 23 April 1988, she was fortunate to meet and have lunch with the Queen and Prince Phillip, with the refurbishment of Forrest Place on her Bi-Centennial tour. Ray and Tony Brand had been heavily involved with this project from the beginning. Peter Dowding was the Premier and Mick Michaels was the Lord Mayor. I remember the RAAF got the timing wrong for their low level fly past - and drowned out most of Peter Dowding's speech. That brought smiles to many people's faces.

John Aquino's Book

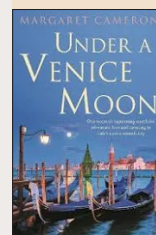
Don't forget to buy a copy of this handbook. It is a wide scoping manual bringing together so many topics across all systems and covers some of the basics we forget. One of the features I found useful is to understand as many conventions as possible - even though you may not play them - to defeat the opposition's contract. All profits go to the club. Well done and thanks John.

Speaking of books.....



Many members have inquired about my daughter, Alice Nelson's, new book - 'Faithless'. It was released a few weeks ago and has had significant acclaim, including Pulitzer Prize winner, Michael

Cunningham's testimonial on the cover. Sales have outstripped her recent book 'The Children's House'. WA launch is Sunday 30 October at the Cottesloe Civic Centre - all invited - details coming.



Speaking of authors, we have our very own member, Margaret Cameron, who released her first novel 'Under a Venice Moon'. Respected member and bibliophile, Hillary Heptinstal, informs me it's an excellent read. Congratulations Margaret, and members, please support her book and have a chat to Margaret.