

Member Profile - Richard Basham

Richard Basham was awarded **Life Membership** by the WABC Committee in October 2023 for his staunch and long support of our club but don't be fooled by 86 year old Richard Basham's quiet presence in a group. Behind the ready smile and laconic attitude, you can bet your life he's been hard at work in the background "getting things done".

Brought up by his mother and grandparents, Richard was first co-opted into playing bridge around age 10. After his retirement in 1996, Richard has played Club bridge, both Acol and Standard and is currently a State Master.

Richard has spent almost all of his life in the Western Suburbs of Perth, with the exception of a two and a half year sojourn in London and a relocation to start up a new firm in Bunbury, which ended up with him becoming a managing partner. He continued to play hockey after leaving Scotch College and, although the hockey days may be over, Richard still loves to hear the distant echoes of the school



band bagpipes from his home in Claremont.

Straight from school in 1955, he joined prominent accountancy firm, Hendry, Rae & Court. He says his values and outlook owe a lot to the culture there - always having a go, learning from failure, and giving

back; alongside proficiency in accounting.

He married life partner and long-term bridge player, Glenis in 1964. There's a glint of triumph in his eyes as he tells of carrying off the pick of the three lovely Flanagan girls! He and Glenis have three children - Jodie "a tidy player" at WABC; Peter who lives in London and professes not to be a bridge player, and Candice who hasn't caught the bridge bug!

Jodie says growing up with a Chartered Accountant as a father made it very difficult to get pocket money every month. However, he was always extremely generous when it came to family holidays. From cruising down the Turkish coast to saving rain forest in Sarawak, Richard has instilled in his children a sense of the value of money and a love of travel.

"As for playing bridge with Dad, it started as a family holiday activity when the adults needed an extra person and as the oldest child, I was often "invited" to join. I loved the card play but hated the bidding! As for now, while we don't always agree on the little intricacies of bridge, it is always a great pleasure to play with him. The beauty of it is that it also comes with the added bonus of a free drink at the end of the game and hours of spirited dinner conversation".

A bit of a larrikin in his younger days, Richard recalls sailing over to Rottneest with some mates in 14ft dinghies. Pulling up outside the Quokka Arms the boats were laid over with sails acting as tents. After a few beers watching the Hopman Cup with Australia winning, the group staggered down to the beach to sleep it off in their makeshift accommodation before sailing home.

Later a 38ft launch handed over by his father in law meant the family often went over in luxury to Rottneest to a little known bay where the sea was calm and crayfish plentiful.

Sailing has always played a big part in Richard's other life. He particularly loves the thrill of ocean racing up and down the coast.

Member Profile - continued

"I love the element of danger within strict rules. I enjoy the company of the crew, and making sure everything is functional. I prefer to be one of the jib hands – never going forward of the mast if I can help it. I like to stay within the cockpit", says Richard.

Perhaps it is not such a surprise footnote that this man of many parts was also on the Inaugural Board of the Perth Theatre Trust – his name on a plaque by the entrance at His Majesty's Theatre.

Editor's comment: thank you Penni Fletcher-Hughes for this interview. I've played with and against Richard – forever the gentleman.

NEWS AND EVENTS

- **Charles Pearce Cup:** Wednesday evenings in January, play any number of nights, one two..... Or all five.
- **Chrissy Bray:** Friday 12th January after bridge. See club advertising for more details on the start of Chrissy's Australian Tour.
- **Andy Term 1:** Lessons and Workshops from 29th January
- **WABC Birthday Congress & Anniversary Pairs:** Saturday 3rd February. Pre-entry required.
- **WABC Mixed Pairs Congress:** Sunday 25th February. A new two session Swiss Pairs event and another chance to coerce your favorite person of the opposite sex to play.
- **New members:** Sara Amir-Ansari; Susan Beresford; Ian Christie; Pauline Evans; Samantha & Ian Ferguson; Nora-Ann Foley; Trish Heggie; Marjorie & Michael Kinney; Rory Morrison; Heather Murphy; Diana Toll; Diane West; Lyndon While; and Graham Wise, welcome to WABC.
- **We remember:** Andrea McGeorge.

Find the Queen

West leads the ♠2. You try the queen but it loses and the opponents cash four diamonds. You discard two clubs from dummy and one club from your hand. Good news, diamonds are 4-4. West exits a heart.

You play your hearts and clubs. All follow to the hearts but West discards a heart on the third spade. How do play clubs?

♠ K x x
♥ A x x
♦ Q x
♣ A 10 x x

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q x
♥ K Q x
♦ 10 x x
♣ K J 9 x

Cryptic Cottesloe Location

With your panier full, you go to the shore
Ready for the picnic, food and drinks galore
You might have used me, to get just here
Some lateral thinking, the solution is clear

First **two** correct answers win a bottle of champagne or wine.
One guess/entry per person
john.nelson@cewa.edu.au or text 0419 948 640
Last solution: **Cottesloe Cable Station**

Eddie Kantar humour



The difference between genius and stupidity at the bridge table is that genius has its limits.

The key difference between a bridge partner and a terrorist is that you can reason with a terrorist.

Bridge is a game that separates the men from the boys and the wives from their husbands.

Supervised Players

You might have noticed increased attendances at our supervised sessions over the past few months. This is very encouraging and is largely due to the efforts of Jodie Basham, Carla Sullivan and other helpers. We appreciate their attendance at our most recent Marvellous Monday and Super Saturday events, noting they were highly competitive in the quizzes.

Please encourage any new players to join the club and if you are playing against them in a duplicate session as they transition, **be kind**. If you need to call the Director then make it a positive experience.

We also have Peter Hicks running Supervised Saturday sessions.

Book Reviews

Don't forget our amazing library. The booking system is very simple and you can search by author and topic. If you need help with picking a suitable book then drop into the library or the office.

Remember, these books, written by experts, are an effective way to improve your bridge. It has been said that a wise person learns from their mistakes but a wiser person learns from the mistakes of others.

Regular contributor, **Maurice Ford**, has suggested the following: **Trick One** by **David Bird**. A prolific writer of bridge books, David Bird sets out the strategies for playing the first trick as Declarer or as the Defender in third seat. The book contains 150 illustrative examples. There are sixteen sections for declarer including **Entry Planning**, **Ruffing at Trick One**, and setting up **Endplays**. There are seven sections for the third seat defender including **Unblocking**; managing **defensive entries**, and **disrupting declarer's plan**. It is not a book for Beginners but highly recommended for improving your card play.

Martin Doran reminds us of **Card Play Technique** by **Victor Mollo & Nico Gardener**. Widely regarded as the best intermediate level book on card play ever written and first published in 1955 it is subtitled **The Art of Being Lucky**. The introduction notes that "Fortune only smiles on the brave. She positively beams on the skilful, versed in the technique of wooing her." Learn to make the most of your cards and avoid losing tricks through careless or unnecessary errors. Start being lucky.



From the President - Sylvia Bray

I think I'm stating the obvious when I say we are nearing the end of a very busy year and it's going to get busier.

The Tournament and Marketing Committees, with the assistance of Aspire-2-Wealth, have done their best to keep everyone involved and interested and I hope it's been fun.

Some of the events of 2023 have been confronting and difficult, both internationally, and for some of our members, personally. I think it's timely to reflect on some of the significant benefits the club offers – for a few hours each week we can put all of that aside and concentrate on cards and friendship and hopefully some laughter – the laughter is the important bit.

It follows that our building is more than a place to play bridge, it is a club, but in reality, YOU are the club. You make it work. Thank you all for supporting our social and competitive events over the year, and special thanks to those members who do so much to make sure it all happens as smoothly as possible, and I'm also sure our hard working Martin appreciates any input as well.

On that note, we recently held the **Melbourne Cup Sweep**. That day Martin happened to be away and do you think we could get the screen in the hallway to work to show the race? No! As a last resort, we phoned Sheenagh, who immediately left what she was doing and high tailed it to the Club to once again be a hero and sort the problem – not without some difficulty – thank you Sheenagh.

Enjoy the camaraderie over the next few weeks. I look forward to seeing you at the **Christmas Party** and hopefully a peaceful 2024



Find the Queen - Answer

West started with 2 spades, 4 hearts & 4 diamonds. That leaves 3 clubs.
East started with 5 spades, 3 hearts and 4 diamonds. That leaves 1 club.
Cash the club king and finesse.

Please support our generous Sponsors

We are fortunate to have two generous sponsors and an honorary auditor:

Aspire2Wealth Advisors have continued with us in 2023 by sponsoring six **Super Saturdays** or equivalent - prizes, food etc. This is a great outcome and we sincerely thank Malcolm Davis and his crew. Please consider contacting the company for any of financial or investment advice you may need. Remember, in times of uncertainty, best to seek certainty.

TBIB are our sponsor for congresses and similar events. We thank them for sponsorship of our highly successful **Winter & Christmas Congresses**. TBIB support the ABF and a number of bridge clubs around Australia. They offer highly competitive insurance products, especially travel insurance. One of their products includes travel insurance for people up to 90 years of age.

Ledger Financial Group's Managing Director, Steve Ledger, is our Honorary Auditor and the company supplies Business and Corporate Services.