

## From the President - Sylvia Bray

The four air conditioning units for the WABC playing area have been replaced with four larger capacity "state of the art" units. The room temperature has been quite pleasant since the upgrade though there have been a few cool and some warm periods while Martin and the Directors work out the best way to operate the new units. Thank you to Needhamair for getting the work done so quickly and without much noise as our bridge games continued on regardless.

It has been busy with numerous events taking place. The **Restricted Teams Championship** was followed by the **Masters in Teams of Three** and then **Gala Open Day**. Almost 100 visitors came to the club to either play or learn about the game of bridge followed by champagne, nibbles and a cake by Ronnie afterwards. Well done to Prue Hart, Penni Fletcher-Hughes and her intrepid husband Don, and Carla Sullivan who had almost half of the room learning about bridge. Carla's opening slide on bridge asked "How hard is it? Now, there's a tough question! Intermediate tables with supervision by some master players and a small but competitive 4 table duplicate session rounded out the more serious side of the afternoon.



An amusing by product of Gala Day was a dramatic rescue of two Cottesloe residents who were helping out their absent son with the bins when they accidentally got locked in the garage by the automatic door. With no apparent way out from inside, and no one likely to return until much later that day, it was a relief when Don, delivering fliers, heard their cries and was able to get them out.

Also, thanks to Jan McNab who gave Carla much needed assistance. Also to our talented cooks contributing to the afternoon tea.

Happy bridging! - Sylvia Bray

## EVENTS & NEW MEMBERS

- **Restricted Pairs Championship:** Friday 3 & 10 May, 9am.
- **WABC GNOT HEAT:** Tuesday 7, 14 & 21 May, 1pm. Gold Points.
- **WABC CHARITY DAY:** Friday 10 May. Raffle will be drawn at 12:45. Bridge starts 1:15pm.
- **Alex Smirnov Workshop:** Sunday 19 May, 10am-2:30pm. Competitive Bidding & Doubles.
- **Australia Wide Novice Pairs:** Monday 27 May, 9am.
- **WINTER SUPER CONGRESS:** Friday 31 May to Monday 3 June. A mix of one and two session events. Something for everyone.
- **New members:** Gayna Barnett, Jenny Bay, Gail Brazier, Helen Chomley, Nic Coupland, Lindy Cullen, Helen Gibbs, Anita Haygarth, Cherie Honey, Kate House, Phillip Hutt, Lisa Jarvis, Dorinda Jones, Sandie Jubber, Andrea Lee-Steere, Lisa McGuire, Reece Pitt, Karen Poole, Karen Reynolds, Lindy Roberts, Heleen Westbrook, Meredith Wilkinson, Bev Wilson. Welcome to WABC.
- **We remember:** Bettine Chapman, Sydney Deykin & Margaret Softley

## Audrey Stokes by Penni Fletcher-Hughes

Multi-talented and competitive, **Audrey Stokes** can look back on a lifetime of achievement – as a part-time photographic model; mother of three; artist; singer; and latterly a lawn bowler. Audrey was born and brought up in country NSW, and Sydney. At 24, Audrey took over her parents hotel with a staff of 24 as they went on a world tour for twelve months - an early introduction to responsibility. In 1982, she moved to Western Australia when she married consultant physician, John Stokes whom she met while teaching golf in the Kooralbyn Valley. Not knowing anybody, Audrey took up bridge with Hans Rosendorff. Making many friends along the way, Audrey, now a Silver Life Member is to be found at the bridge tables at least once or twice a week.

It was however another game of strategy that has most profoundly influenced Audrey's life. Golf! Her natural talent for the game was spotted early but she casually refused an offer of professional coaching at 15, as it was an "old person's game". A scratch player, with an impressive overall handicap of 2, Audrey has met; played with or caddied for famous players such as Kel Nagle; Gary Player; Von Nida; Roberto De Vincenzo; Jack Newcombe; Jack Nicklaus; an exhibition match with American JoAnne Carner, and on one memorable occasion with the Prince of Brunei in Perth. She has played golf and on occasion provided advice on new course ratings around the world. She has been invited to play in Singapore; Hong Kong; Thailand and Malaysia at the inaugural Women's Open with Tunka Ampun, staying as her guest in the palace. Setting the newly designed The Lakes golf course in Sydney at one under par in a Ladies Silver event she remembers as a highlight. And Audrey has experienced the golfer's holy grail - a hole in one, not once but three times!

"You have to think your way around a golf course, working out the best strategy", says Audrey. "Starting from where to hit off your tee shot; steering away from trouble; knowing your capabilities – especially in matches when deciding whether to go for the big shot to the green or to get there through a layup. A job for a 7 or a 6 iron? Reading the greens; assessing wind conditions". Very similar to a winning approach at bridge!

Bringing up three children, Audrey also found time to become a keen choir singer and with an aunt who is an opera singer, loves the opera. An accomplished artist, she taught art at Wearne. She remembers with fondness mother-daughter exhibitions with daughter, Michele. Wryly says Audrey, Michele soon overtook her mother in talent and went on to solo exhibitions and became artist-in-residence at Perth Zoo. Sadly, Michele succumbed to an auto immune disease, three years ago.

Arthritis forced Audrey to hang up her golf clubs, but she now plays bowls as well as bridge, employing her knowledge of strategy and enjoyment of social interaction as a pennant player at Mosman Park, and representing WA in three test matches.

## Cryptic Cottesloe Location

On a corner is where you'll find me  
A reasonable distance from the sea  
A song about 'me', written 1892  
Think of a chain, that's a clue

First **two** correct answers win a bottle of champagne or wine.  
One guess per person: john.nelson@cewa.edu.au or text 0419 948 640  
Last solution: **John Street Café**

