



# NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015

## From the President

About 50 members arrived at the club on the morning of Tuesday, December 8th for a musical morning tea. We were fortunate indeed that Rod McGrath, Principal Cello of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra had agreed to play for us. Rod talked about how he came to learn to play the cello when he started his secondary schooling, despite the fact that none of his family had a musical background. He then told us about his lovely old cello (c.1750) which had spent 50 years on the top of someone's wardrobe. Rod had it restored and the owners have lent it to him until he retires. He has now been playing it for about twenty years.



Rod then went onto explain his interpretation of Benjamin Britten's First Cello Suite. His explanation of the piece before playing it was invaluable for those members of the audience with less experience of classical music. It was a privilege to listen to an outstanding musician of international calibre play for us and was very much appreciated by all those who attended.

On December 12 we held our Christmas Party and Prize-giving. What a wonderful club we have, with so many members willing to volunteer for the myriad tasks required to keep a club like ours running smoothly. As well as awarding prizes to the best players in our club who won the red point events during the year, this is the occasion when we publicly recognise the main volunteers who contribute so much to our club.

I hope all members enjoyed a happy Christmas with family and friends and I wish all members a happy, healthy and successful bridge year in 2016.

Ann Shalders.

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2016

<b>JANUARY</b>	From Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Jackpot Week
	Sat 30 Jan	Mandurah Summer Congress Swiss Pairs
	Sun 31 Jan	Mandurah Summer Congress Swiss Teams
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	From Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Jackpot Week
	Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>th</sup>	Best Three out of Four Event
	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Special Teams Event
<b>MARCH</b>	From Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Jackpot Week
	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Daytime Open Pairs Red Points Members only. Min 10 tables.
	Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	GNOP Rest Qualifying <300 Mps at 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec
	Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	Best Three out of Four Event.

## Competition Winners



Phil and Kathy Power won the annual Open Pairs Championship in November by a resounding margin, pictured here with Director Di Brooks (left).



Runners-up were Rose and Colin Hunter.

## The annual Jackpot final winners were as follows:



Monday & Tuesday events: Rose & Colin Hunter (above)

Wednesday: Doug & Vera Hardman (Left)

Thursday: Barbara Cutting & Joan Perkins (Bottom Left)

Friday: Bill Maley & Doug Hardman (Sorry Bill!)

Saturday: Robina McConnell & Eugene Wichems (Below)



## Christmas Party

There were 13 tables for bridge on the day of the Christmas Party. Wonderful food was provided for by the catering team, lead by Rose Hunter and Val Bell. Dinner was followed by thanks and prize-giving by President, Ann Shalders.

The club now has over 270 members. Our events are popular and professionally run, and it is worth remembering that it is members' dedication, enthusiasm and contribution that makes things happen. Thanks to everyone for their support and contribution during the year.



## Directors' Corner

Bridge laws require that player bid and play their cards "in tempo". That means without undue haste or delay.

Players are not allowed to vary the tempo of their bids and play in an effort to mislead the opponents, nor to communicate (unauthorised) information to their partners. Players should try to make their bids and play in an even tempo. Of course, there are times when you have to stop and think about what your next action will be. However, to pause purposely when you have no problem is wrong.

It is also considered unethical in many situations to make a very fast bid or play, indicating that you have no problem at all. For instance, your partner opens 1NT, the next player overcalls 3D (weak), and you take less than a second to pass. Obviously your partner now knows that your hand is very weak, and he may be able to use that (unauthorised) information to your side's benefit. A break in tempo is unauthorised information for your partner, so partner must avoid using that information for advantage.

There is one suit layout the players should be very careful with, and that is when they hold a queen in front of an AJ or KJ ten ace in dummy. For example:

Dummy	Declarer leads the six toward dummy. Some players will take some time to think about playing the queen in this situation, and you are allowed to stop and think about the play if you are genuinely unsure of what to do. Of course that does give authorised information to your opponents. A more devious player, on the other hand, might play the two as fast as they can, to pretend they don't have a problem. This player is being unethical because they are purposely varying their tempo in an attempt to deceive declarer.
KJ543	
You	
Q82	

Another suit layout the players should be careful with:

Dummy	Here the nine and the queen are swapped. Again declarer leads the six. An unethical player will purposely pause before playing the two, in an attempt to pretend he has the queen. Be careful when this situation arises. If it does, you are expected to follow suit smoothly. Even a slight break in tempo may cause declarer to call the director. Whether or not declarer will be overreacting is not the issue. The point is that you should avoid any chance of a misinterpretation of your intentions. Think ahead and anticipate situations like this arising, so you can play smoothly without changing your tempo.
KJ543	
You	
982	

Some other examples when players may break tempo when they shouldn't:

- hesitating before playing a singleton
- fumbling between different cards when only holding low cards in the suit
- pulling out a card - as if to play it before the opponent plays (as if it doesn't matter what is played) and then changing the card.

Sometimes you may want to think about the whole hand even though you have nothing to think about on the current trick. The correct way to proceed is to play the card you are playing face down on the table, and then perhaps say "I'd just like to think about the hand for a moment." Then when you turn the card over and play it, there is no suggestion that you had alternatives which you might have been considering.

Lastly, there is the topic of tempo when making a bid or a discard. Occasionally a player will slowly and deliberately place a bidding card on the table, usually to make sure partner notices it's a conventional bid. Or defender might slowly and deliberately play a card to make sure partner notices a signal. This is not allowed. While bids and plays sometimes require thought, they should not be laid on the table in a way (e.g. throwing cards down on the table) that emphasises their meaning to partner.

The director is present as a referee, to ensure fair play. If a player is changing tempo in bidding or play, or making gestures, they are exploiting the situation to their advantage and the director should be called. It does not have to be shown that a player deliberately set out to deceive the opposition; all the director needs to establish is that the player COULD have known at the time that the action might work to their advantage.

Sadly, this quarter we have said farewell  
to Graham Perkins and John Bester.

We extend our deepest sympathies to  
Joan, Nell and their families.

## Mandurah vs Rockingham Competition

The annual Mandurah vs Rockingham bridge competition was held on Sunday 22 November. Thanks to the catering team for an enjoyable lunch, after which 6 teams from each club competed for the annual trophy which has been won by Mandurah for the last 4 years. Mandurah emerged the clear winners, with our teams winning the top 3 spots and 4 out of the top 5 positions. This is an annual, friendly event and both clubs look forward to their next competition in November 2016.



## Golden West November 2015

This year's event hosted 48 tables with 96 pairs from all over the state.

The best Mandurah pair were Bill & Jenny Maley, who came 27<sup>th</sup>.

Bill Kemp and Neville Walker directed the event and the catering team lead by Colleen Webb did a superb job of providing sustenance for the players.

This is the club's most important event for the year and is a showcase for both the club and Mandurah. We thank Neville and Colleen for the brilliant job they did in organising and running the event, but it could not have happened without members' support – so thanks also to everyone who helped to make this event so successful.

## Happy Birthday Bill

In November long-standing member Bill Finkelde celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the club, with a scrumptious afternoon tea. He and bridge partner Laurie Hayes won the East-West movement to add to the celebrations.



## Melbourne Cup Day

Members enjoyed a feast thanks to the efforts of the catering team under the leadership of Denise Boetiger, and entered the spirit of horse racing on Melbourne Cup day. Bridge followed the race with 16 tables playing.



Russel's pony races were very popular.

## Caption Competition



These two gents were captured on camera at the Christmas party. What are they talking about?  
Email answers to:

Ian [ian.jones6@yahoo.com.au](mailto:ian.jones6@yahoo.com.au)

or Di [jandschupp@bigpond.com](mailto:jandschupp@bigpond.com)

Harry & Lyn Waters enjoy lunch with Doug Hardman.

