



February 2021 Newsletter

From the President

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2021. After a very difficult and disrupted 2020 we are now almost back to normal operation. Thanks to the hard work of our diligent Management Committee members and the cooperation of club members we have progressed back to almost normal operation without any Covid19 mishap. The number of members returning to play has gradually increased with over 100 players on our biggest day to date.

The club intends to hold all of our usual championships, congresses and special events in 2021 provided Covid does not rear its ugly head again. The first event is the Noosa heats of the GNOT on 11, 12 and 14 March.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 12 March. Several of the committee members will be standing down and need to be replaced. I urge all members to think about what they could contribute to the club and consider standing for election. It is not necessary to be an experienced bridge player to be a Management Committee member. Newer members with fresh ideas are particularly welcome.

I hope that as many members as possible will attend the AGM. This is your opportunity to have a say in the election of members of the Management Committee and participate in the discussion on motions that are presented and matters affecting the club's operation.

I will be standing down as president at the AGM as my three year term is completed. It has been a satisfying and certainly interesting time, especially the last year. I give my thanks to all of the Management Committee members who have given me great support over the three years. I also wish to express my appreciation to all the club members who have encouraged me during this period.



Ross Gyde

Welcome New Members 🙌

Robyn and David Dunworth

• **Vale**

• **Judy Althaus**



Kitchen Range hood & hotplate
Make an offer!



Coming Events

Our New Coffee Machine

"Rossini" is now a year old! It continues to be very popular and on our busiest day (Monday) we often sell 30 or more cups. Total cups sold to date – 2,560.



- 11, 12 & 14 March – Noosa GNOT
- 6, 13 & 20 May – Noosa Pairs Championship
- 17 & 24 May – Novice Pairs Championship
- 17 June – Pairs Congress

Eftpos

It's a pleasure to report that our Eftpos facility has been gratefully embraced by members. Its connected to the 'cloud' and some days the reception is not good enough to make it work. But when connected it works very well!

QBA BULLETIN

The latest edition is now available on the QBA website at this link:

<https://www.qldbridge.com.au/bulletin/qba/QBAJan21.pdf>

Did you Know?

The original meaning of a deck of playing cards:
52 cards for 52 weeks in the year.
2 colours for day and night
4 suits for the 4 seasons and 13 weeks per season.
Twelve court cards representing the 12 months.
If we add each of the cards (ace + ace + ace + ace + two + two + three + seven + eight ... and etc) of the game we will get 364.
The card game is an agricultural calendar that told us about the weeks and the seasons.
With each new season, it was King's week, followed by Queen's week, Jack's and so on until AS week changed seasons and we started over with a new colour.
Jokers were used in leap years.

Member Achievements

6 December 2020 – Sunshine Coast Zone Pairs

A 1st – Tim Ridley/Philippa Barnett

B 3rd – Sandy Long/Moira Gibbens

7 February 2021 - Interclub Pairs SCCBC Coolum

B 3rd – Julie Scott/Liz Van Vugt





SPRING/SUMMER CLEAN



A sight to behold, our Beautiful Cleaning Queen! We had a fun day on Tuesday, with quite a few members coming along to assist. We found paper wasp nests, an old Visitors Book, an old lamp, lots of unused paint, unusual crockery and lots of stuff that just needed cleaning. A big thank you to everyone who came along!

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A Big Thank You to our Exiting Committee Members

Firstly I would like to recognize Pam Hawkins who has been a conscientious contributor on and off, for the last 22 years

in various capacities including Member, Secretary and Vice President.

Ian Callcott, who has been of great assistance to Gerald, Gilly Hogarth, who I don't know what we will do without and Katherine Collins who has not only kept us in stationery supplies, but donned the "Nurse" uniform whenever required.

We will miss you all!

The last person I wish to mention is our "President", Ross Gyde. He tells me he joined the Club in 2002 and within a couple of weeks after being coerced by Christina Bringau, (the then Treasurer) he found himself to be the new Secretary! That same week he also became the Secretary of the RSPCA. Another long term member, he again became Secretary in 2016 and then President in 2018. Now after his long stint on the Committee, he, Annette and Lucky are going to hit the road for a few months. First stop will be a few days at Birdsville, where Ross plans to have more than a Schooner at the infamous Pub. From there, they plan to make their way into the Territory. However they won't be gone for too long as he plans on being back in time for the Teams Championship being held here in July. For the last two years, his team has been the Runners Up! I better let you all know, Ross has great ambitions for this year!

On a personal note, I wish to thank Ross for the assistance he provided to me and I know I can speak on behalf of the Committee in thanking him for his dedication to the job!

Sue Smith



Member Profile:

...Laurie Cowled

The piglets were named Marge, Harold, Ruth, Ron and Laurie. The Timorese villagers were delighted with their litter, one of Laurie Cowled's first forays into the world of philanthropy. Unfortunately that scheme folded due to a scarcity of porcine participants, but Laurie was undeterred.

The daughter of brave Bethungra (between Cootamundra and Junee) farmers Marge and Harold Cowled, Laurie and her sister Ruth were educated at the tiny local school and then at Cootamundra High until its Intermediate Year limit. Times were tough on the land. The hardships of World War I had been followed by the Depression years and then World War II. Bright young girls like the Cowled pair had little opportunity to realise their potential, which is why Laurie now concentrates much of her philanthropy on scholarships and bursaries for young rural women, annually financing around twenty of them.



Laurie longed to be a ballerina, an actor or an artist. Geographical and financial restraints led her to a correspondence course in commercial art, which fizzled out after a matter of months. Then she took up banking, starting at the Cootamundra Commonwealth Bank as a 'temporary female assistant'. Obviously a 'temporary male assistant' was an entirely different kettle of fish. Ignoring the inglorious title,

the indomitable Ms Cowled took every available course to climb the banking ladder, ending up by creating a huge crack for her female workmates in the glass ceiling at the Commonwealth.

Throughout her long career, mainly at the Sydney head office, Laurie outstripped her male counterparts — even when it came to 'shoot the bank robber' training. However she was not 100% devoted to the bean-counters. As the Australian television industry started to develop, Laurie worked nights and weekends for either Channel 9 or the ABC, and she also devoted some time to volunteering backstage in local theatre. Ultimately she left banking to join the real estate industry, making some very astute investments along the way.

Travel, however, has always been a very strong drawcard. Over the years the style became somewhat more up market. In 1954 she and talented artist/stage designer Ruth shared a six-berth cabin to Europe aboard the Orontes. Following Ruth's tragic death at a very young age, Laurie sometimes travelled with her parents. Much later on, she and her husband Ron MacNamara would fly wherever they wished in his own aircraft. Nowadays she travels all over the world, either with friends, her goddaughter, or the Australian Ballet, of which she is a patron. (And Laurie is very proud that today one of the only two indigenous dancers at the Australian Ballet is a Cowled bursary recipient.)

Last year of course, the keen globe-trotter was baulked by some odd sort of anti-travel virus. Attending a wedding in Guernsey, with visits to Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia was cancelled. A god daughterly birthday celebration at Italy's Lake Garda (with time en route at Doha's brilliant Museum of Islamic Art) was cancelled. And then a trip to Manchester and London with the Australian Ballet was .. that's right, cancelled.



Undefeated, Laurie kept the travel bug well fed by taking it to Carnarvon Gorge, Heron Island and Hervey Bay. And at the spritely age of 91, she has very fond memories of birthdaying the previous year at the Galapagos Islands.

Laurie and Ron were married too late to envisage the delights of parenthood. Laurie shudders at the thought and admits her maternal instincts are not sufficiently developed for her ever to have been termed 'clucky'. They both agreed that whichever one of them lived the longest, would distribute their assets to charity. Laurie was 75 when Ron died. She decided she wanted to observe how their money was spent and what it could achieve.



Apart from the piglets (now you have worked out who they were named for) most of Laurie's funding has been to support the further education of young rural women. However one generous contribution was made due to Laurie's membership of this Club. After playing in the Bridge for Brains competition, she has financially supported five female brain research PhD graduates.

An accountant, Ron had always wanted to study medicine. In his memory Laurie established a nursing scholarship for women to do a Masters degree in Nursing Practice. The recipient must work above the Tropic of Capricorn. In memory of her beloved sister, Laurie has created Memorial Bursaries to support NIDA students from rural areas. She has also contributed to students at the University of New South Wales and Sydney's University of Technology.

While many may regard Laurie as a bit of a saint, she herself believes that description belongs to Mary Kelly who recently retired from the Queensland University of

Technology. Laurie says Mary was the spirit behind QUT setting up the Learning Potential Fund around 1998 to provide scholarships and bursaries to those who would otherwise be financially unable to continue study. The QUT now matches donations \$ for \$, aiming to build its fund to \$100 million, Laurie being one of its prominent benefactors. On a more local note, Laurie gave a lump sum to the Sunshine Coast University to assist women studying Science, Technology or Mathematics. Interest rates being somewhat self-effacing of late, that lump sum needs a bit of help from Laurie to achieve its aims.

Laurie's Bridge career began in Sydney. On moving to Noosa in 1984 she took lessons from Margia Warren at our Club. Those were the days when the Bridge Club lived at St James's Hall near Gympie Terrace and also the days when the Church decided to sell the hall. Former banker and real estate professional Laurie got together with then President Rosemary Green and other Committee members. Together they agreed to borrow money to buy the property, with Laurie going guarantor. Later they sold it at a profit and gained Council permission for a permanent site at Wallace Park. Laurie arose at 3.30 that morning to follow the low-loader unceremoniously conveying the building, power lines removed all along the way. The Eumundi Road roundabout had yet to be planted with trees, so the low-loader just lumbered across the middle. "Did you drive behind it?" this interviewer enquired. "No, I walked," answered Laurie. "We arrived mid-morning." John Mainwaring designed a new wing and the matching premises took shape.



Practicing philanthropy while you are still



alive to see the results provides enormous interest and joy to the philanthropist, whether you are Bill and Melinda Gates, Warren Buffet, or our wonderful Laurie. Eschewing the visible trappings of wealth, she lives fairly simply in a retirement villa, paintings by local artists and her sister Ruth upon the walls. At 91 she looks about 75 and acts about 60. A formidable force, no wonder the 'temporary males' at the Commonwealth Bank were so in awe of her.

by Susie
Osmaston

Footnote:

Copies of Joyous Addiction, Laurie's biography by Michael Taylor are available direct from her on 0412765819. Proceeds benefit her Regional Scholarship for undergraduates at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

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Playing article

Checkback

(Part of a lesson presented earlier by Simon Andrew)

Checkback is the name given to a method that allows responder to seek more information from partner (opener), in a situation when a higher contract might be possible, if the right cards are held.

For example, you open the hand below with a bid of 1D.

S QT8
H 95
D KT754
C AK x

And partner replies 1S

Lesson point 1 – you reply 2S, not 1NT. You have useful shape for a S contract and three nice trumps.

Partner now bids 2NT – the Checkback bid. This is forcing, and asks you to further describe your hand. Partner must have a hand with potential for game or even higher things.

Your replies to partner's 2NT enquiry should clarify the number of spades you hold and the location of other values.

Your possible replies are:

4S = holding 4-card S, not a minimum

3S = holding 4-card S, but minimum

3C, 3D, 3H = 3-card S support plus useful values in the suit bid.

On the sample hand above, opener's answer to responder's 2NT Checkback bid would be 3C, showing only 3 spades but values in clubs as well as in the diamond suit opened.

Presented by Geoff Hart & Simon Andrew





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