



Bridgemates

Issue No. 26



UPDATE ON OUR MOVE

After the club's decision to select the USC Cricket Clubhouse as our new home, the sub-committee which was appointed to carry out the wishes of the members has been at work. There are a few adjustments that are needed in order to meet our requirements in these premises and we are very fortunate that the Cricket Club continues to be positive and helpful about all of these plans.

One of the challenges is that the building industry seems to be booming at the Coast and it can be difficult to get interest and quotes for work from tradespeople. A good piece of news with all of this is that LendLease has advised that it will extend our contract past the November date if we need a little more time.

The sub-committee recommends the following upgrades –

1. Toilets
2. Insect screens
3. Carpark and access lighting
4. Shelving

The proposal is that two toilets are installed in one of the storerooms of the clubhouse. One of these would be ambulatory and the other would have wheelchair access. The cost for these is estimated at \$16,500 (May 2021 quotation). Of course, we would also have access to the existing outside toilets.

We believe that insect screens would be necessary, especially for the Monday night session. A quotation was received in July 2021 for \$2,106.

The cricket club has installed a sensor light which illuminates the ramp up to the building, but it is felt that good lighting on the carpark is necessary and a quotation for this was received in May 2021 for \$11,548.

We have a lot of gear which we currently store in the locked cupboards in our current site. Although we intend to have a good clean out when we move, we will still need some shelving to store cards, boards, bridgemates, computers and all of other bits and pieces which are needed for our bridge sessions. It is expected that this will cost \$1 000

Finally, with current building costs escalating it is proposed that a 15% contingency be applied to the quotations already received and for any modifications that Sunshine Coast Regional Council may require prior to implementation of the project. We are allowing \$7 000.

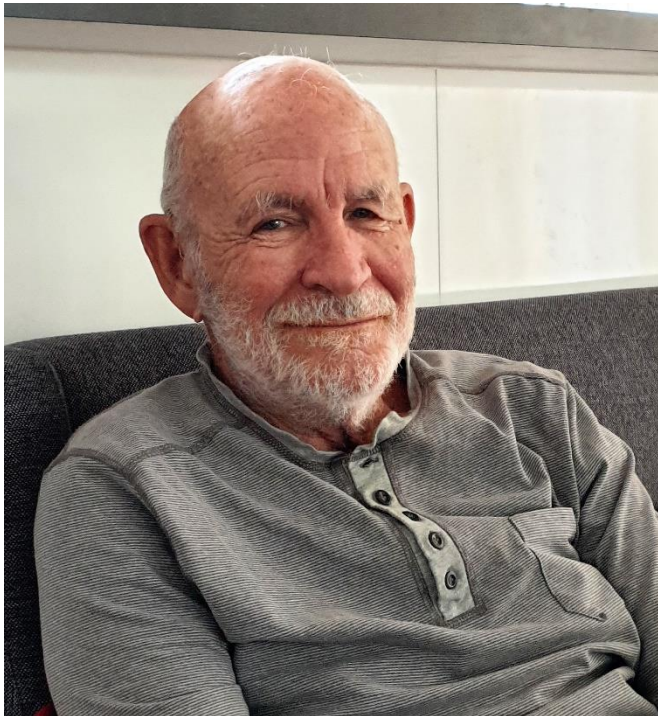
So, the estimated total expenses would be approximately \$38 400 which would come from our current holding of \$ 122 000. To confirm your approval for this, it is proposed to hold a **special general meeting at the same time as our Annual General Meeting on August 27th** where all members will have an opportunity to ask questions and then vote on the following motion which give approval of this expenditure. We are aware that there could be costs for transportation of equipment and so are rounding up the figure to \$40 000 to cover any unexpected costs.

THE MOTION: That the club members approve of the expenditure of up to \$40000 from club reserves to pay for the move to the Cricket Club.

Moved by Sandi Owen
Seconded by Linda Boyle

MEET YOUR MEMBERS

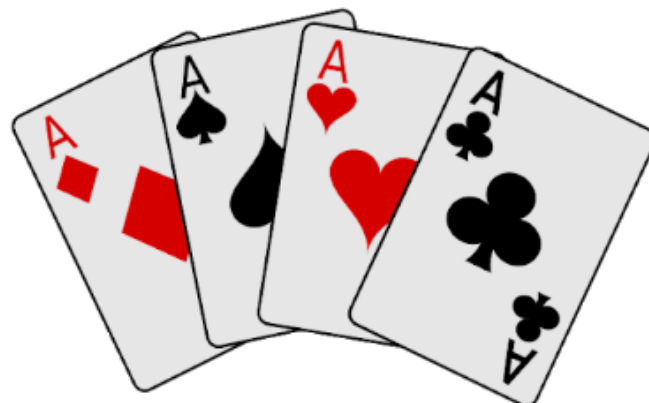
Continuing our series of conversations with Bridge Club members



Meet John Boyle. Born in Brisbane, John began his card playing 'career' at University, (perhaps when he should have been going to lectures). He says that playing bridge against some of the Maths students for money is a good way to sharpen your skills! John had a variety of occupations – teaching, selling real estate, taxi driving and staffing officer before he began his favourite occupation – retirement.

Apart from bridge, he enjoys the daily challenge of The Times cryptic crossword, walking and swimming at Mooloolaba and big family gatherings. When asked for his advice to bridge players, John remembered with some amusement the advice which his mother's partners used to give her in their regular social games. LYBT * was what they told her. However, his suggestion to new players is to keep working with your partners on the hands that you have played to see how you can improve.

(*LYBT means Lead Your Bloody Trumps!!)



TAKING BRIDGE VERY SERIOUSLY

It was the Roaring Twenties, and the entire country was so crazy over the new contract bridge that it seemed inevitable that it would one day be the motivation for a crime of passion. It happened in Kansas City in 1929. Myrtle Bennett and her husband John, a prosperous, 36-year-old perfume salesman, were hosting their neighbours for an evening of rubber bridge in their upscale apartment.

Shortly after midnight, this fateful -- and fatal -- hand was dealt:

	Myrtle Bennett	
	♠A1063	
	♥1085	
Charles Hofman	♦4	Mayme Hofman
♠Q72	♣A9842	♠4
♥AJ3		♥Q94
♦AQ1092	John Bennett	♦KJ763
♣J6	♠KJ985	♣Q753
	♥K762	
	♦85	
	♣K10	

John, sitting South, overbid by opening 1S with his aceless, 10-point hand. Charles overcalled 2D and Myrtle, North, jumped to 4S, which ended the auction. John could have made his contract, but he played it as poorly as he had bid it and went down two tricks.

Myrtle was livid that she had put down such a fine dummy, only to see her husband mangle the play. She called him a "bum bridge player" and an altercation ensued. John slapped her and announced that he was leaving town. While John was hurriedly packing a suitcase, Myrtle ran to the bedroom to get his loaded Colt .32 automatic and chased him through the apartment. She fired four shots, fatally wounding him with the last two. John's last words were, "She got me."

Myrtle was charged with first-degree murder and the crime became national news. At the 1931 trial, her defence was that her husband was unfaithful and emotionally abusive, and that she fired the gun in self-defence and/or accidentally during the struggle.

The public, however, was more interested in the bridge hand. Newspapers called on bridge experts to analyse the deal -- or what the survivors remembered of it, since the cards had flown off the table during the incident. The experts concluded that Bennett should not have opened such a poor hand and had made a serious error in the play by failing to set up dummy's club suit for extra winners. They said his "fatal mistake" was not planning his strategy before playing the cards.

The lead was the Ace of Diamonds followed by the Jack of Clubs. He could have saved the contract and his life by correctly guessing where the Queen of Spades was and establishing the clubs. He didn't and lost three heart tricks to doom himself both figuratively and literally.

The legend is that the jury deemed John's play so poor that they acquitted Myrtle on grounds of justifiable homicide. The truth is that Myrtle was indeed acquitted, but the ruling was accidental discharge of a firearm. The jury ignored the evidence that the pistol had been fired four times in

three different rooms, including two shots through the bathroom door. After the trial, Myrtle collected \$30,000 on John's life-insurance policy. She lived another 61 years to age 96 and left her million-dollar estate to John's relatives.

Could anything like that happen at the BCBC???

CHAMPIONSHIPS

In June and July we staged our two championship events – the pairs and then the teams. As these events require three consecutive weeks, the committee usually chooses times where there are five Wednesdays or five Fridays as this seems to suit members who have different playing arrangements for each playing day. The team's event was played in masks and we were fortunate to be able to finish this before the unexpected lockdown on July 31st. As President Sandi said – 'What a relief not to have 'COVID' on Alma's trophy for the teams!'



CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS:



Congratulations to the winners of the Pairs Championship - Murray Schlecht and Joe Czekanski



Congratulations to the winners of Alma's Trophy – Norm and Ellen de Chastel along with Kim and Murray Schlecht. A hard team to beat, they came in first for each of the three weeks of competition.



2021 Teams Championship

16th, 23rd and 30th July
for Alma's Trophy



Team					Final IMPs	Final VPs
7	Norm de Chastel	Ellen de Chastel	Murray Schlecht	Kim Schlecht	324	498
8	John Boyle	Joe Czekanski	John Lankester	Tom Pearson	138	474
4	Tom Wall	Steve James	Linda Boyle	Joan Keeley	71	460
5	Kay Manthei	Phil Woods	Greg Jellis	Ken Kingsley	20	450
10	Daphne Britchford	Phillippa Hawkeswood	Jean Thompson	Sylvia Humphris	-36	445
1	Teresa Phillips	Steve Ormerod	Sue Kirk	Rita Zeichner	-35	444
3	Michele Rafter	Mandy Marginson	Pat Czekanski	Sandi Owen	-38	443
9	Cherith Suddens	Petra Vanneste	Claire Mochrie	Alan Towle	-95	439
6	Diane Gibbons	Betty Pettersen	Mary Williams	Bev Barton	-89	434
11	Estelle Laming	Helen Ashworth	Peter Ashworth	Di Blewett	-123	433
2	Graham Verren	Renata Kondschak	Norma Hale	Jocelyn Harkin	-137	430