

Letter to all members of the bridge club:

This letter, in more or less complete form, has been sitting ready to go for a few weeks, but there wasn't much news to include and I held onto it. Apologies for the delay but you may appreciate that all of a sudden there is much to consider.

Let's start with the end of year business: Our club is in continuing sound financial circumstances and the auditing of results is being completed for the next AGM.

The AGM itself, as outlined in your booklet, will be held on Thursday 18 December, following bridge. Consult your booklet – your handbook and guide in preparation of which much slaving is done each year.

If you want to raise an issue or move a motion at the AGM, please let the secretary know in advance so it can be included in the agenda. The minutes drafted from last year's AGM are attached and the plan is that they will be formally accepted this year. Please peruse them and let me know of any inconsistencies that need amending.

In preparation for the AGM, you can get a nomination form from the secretary, Jim Brock. Duly completed nomination forms must be in the secretary's hands by 27 November.

Over the course of the year, we have been delighted to have Gwenda Gills become a member of the committee. There is still a need for new thinking and momentum.

We have a dedicated group of committee members, several of whom have been there since the inception as an incorporated body some 4 years ago. They are a very good committee and their contribution to our club has been excellent.

While this stability is laudable, please give consideration to nominating some new faces. If I stay on as president for another year, that will make 4 years out of 5 and under the articles of association, I cannot stand again in 2010.

Jim Brock, who has done a great job as secretary, is standing down because of conflicting demands on his time. While it is encouraging that I have another (secret but excellent) volunteer for the secretarial task, it does not remove the need for "new blood". Please give thought to nominating a new person or two to the committee to freshen things up.

Our association with the Maleny District Sports and Recreation Club Inc is getting closer to paying dividends. But closer is not necessarily close. There is much to be done and the position of council on the issue is now secure – we hope – but the whole project of developing the precinct is still very much a work in progress. Early in the year, one of the members told me that, through an accident of timing, the future for our premises will

likely be determined during my term as president, but the timing seems to be slipping into the future.

In the meantime, your committee will continue to pursue other avenues for new premises, as and when they become available. The precinct looks like our best bet.

(Please do not forget, the RSL has been our landlord and supporter since the club began. We hope that, in co-operation with them, we will be able to improve our existing premises and make our bridge more comfortable and enjoyable. Those mysterious leaks apparently arose from condensation around the cool room above our place, and were a devil of a problem to track down. It seems the leaks are fixed and in conjunction with the RSL, we might do some sprucing up to make the place better.)

To further the cause, MDSRC, as the club is affectionately known, is planning 3 events. Please note these as opportunities in your diary and let's help if we can:

- The **Christmas party** is planned for members and families only at 1500 (3.00 pm for us elderly types) on Sunday 21 December, at the bowls club. There will be lots of people, lots of fun and a chance to chat with the people who will push the project ahead. There will even be Christmas carols. Those of you who have joined, and there are not many who have not, please mark this in your diary and let me know you plan to attend.
- On Saturday, the 31st of January there is planned a full scale sit down "**Sportsman's Dinner**", not organised by the notorious chaps who got into so much trouble, at the Showground Pavilion. The club patron, Kevin Barlett, will speak as will some other interesting sports personalities. For this, I hope the bridge club will organise at least 2 tables of 10 (looks like maximum cost will be \$50 per person). In addition, we need volunteers to help. With our hard earned reputation for great bartenders and cooks, plus the ability to organise table service, I hope we can muster up some assistance. Sherry Wright will organise the cooking and a great time should be had by all. Let me know without delay if you are able to be involved. We need to support this fund raiser to get the funds to plan the precinct.
- In March, the plan calls for a Mini-Olympics at Witta sportsground. The push to have the events include at least 2 card games seems to be heading no where, but the strength of our short course golf team, nearest the pin and all that, and our bull wrestling (just kidding) teams will make us contenders. Even if we do not win, a good time will be had by all and happiness will prevail everywhere.

Gail Denver, of whose fan club I am honorary president, is publishing our bridge results on the MDSRC website and wants me to include the club logo on our correspondence, which I will do when I work out how. Results get there before they hit the local press, so you may wish to check out the site. I also intend to ask Gail to include newsletters and our annual bridge booklet (less personal contact details) on the bridge section of the site, so it should prove very useful for us.

The website address has been sent to all members of the MDSRC, but for those who are just bridge club members, please note the address: www.mdsarcinc.com. Those of you without internet access will probably find this of little use.

Some members have been disappointed because they cannot find **partners** for bridge sessions. To alleviate this problem, Margaret Robinson has undertaken to act as matchmaker. She will do this by telephone, so if you want to play and are short a partner, call her on 5499 9233.

Teams are on again on Saturday, and have become one of the most successful events on our calendar. Fun and sausages! Please do not forget to be there if your name is on the list, and have a great time.

The sausage sizzles on Saturdays after teams are a start and other events will be planned from time to time. Mary Anderson has kindly undertaken to lead the organisation of such activities. Suggestions for events of this kind would be welcome by her.

Paul Kemp is soon to release another class of **new bridge players** on the world, or more specifically, on our club. We know what to expect – well trained players who will be a bit nervous at first and then commence to win an inordinate number of the times.

Please be sure you make these new players welcome and help them to settle into the club. They will play in a supervised group for a few sessions but will be with us all for tea and social times. Paul's classes are the most effective way we have to build up the club and let us not take away from their effectiveness by treating newcomers as strangers.

The annual **charity day** has been postponed until further notice. There are various reasons for this, but we will plan the event for next year.

Much as it is a pain, the issues of **tempo and table talk** need to be addressed. It is so easy to lapse into table talk either through excitement at a good hand or disappointment at a poor one. Sometimes a comment like, "I knew it." is uttered when you have a void and your partner bids the suit. A decisive sigh, baleful glare, or rolling of the eyes to the heavens does the same thing. At very least, save your comments until after play is finished. I heard a player say, "I always seem to get caught out opening light." But this was as his dummy hand was being put down, and was just conversation. Said before the bidding had finished, it would have been improper.

As Lyn points out regularly, we are a bridge club, not a social club. Players who table talk are cheating. The fact we are a friendly club means that complaining to the director is seen as meanness on the part of the complainer. Please do not put your friends in this kind of a bind. Don't table talk, please.

Tempo, that is the pace of bidding, is difficult for many players, and particularly to new players, to sustain. Once bidding begins, it is incumbent upon players to bid without inordinate delay. Long deliberation, **especially before passing**, is giving information to your partner beyond what is allowed. Please work to keep your bidding in tempo. It is vitally important that you do not open yourself to criticism for this infringement.

And finally, while on the high horse, please refrain from triumphalism. You know what I mean; cheering yourself, punching the air, even saying “gotcha”, is the worst kind of bad manners and behaviour at bridge. It is so much better to say bad luck after the hand to your opponents than to cheer or gloat. Check your handbook if you are not sure of the correct etiquette. If we are a friendly club, let’s try to be gracious to our friends. If your aggressive nature doesn’t allow for friends, belt up or risk censure. Beating your partner about the head and neck is also bad manners, but who am I to criticise?

It is also intended to create a series of learning sessions to allow members to improve their playing skills. We should be able to announce that programme within the next month or so. You may be aware that Nambour bridge club is conducting lessons with a similar goal. They have invited us to participate, and, if you can, please attend. A notice posted in the club rooms provides details, or ask Paul Kemp. Remember, the mental stimulation of bridge comes from striving to improve, not relaxing into a rut.

Each year, Lyn and others create a new handbook for the bridge club. Those of you who have participated in doing such publications know how much effort is involved. The best way to thank the authors of the book is to read it and to make notes of the dates for bridge club events.

Best wishes to you all for good health and good bridging.

Brian