



## ISSUE 209 FEBRUARY 2024

### *President's Report*

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to 2024 at the Bridge Club. It is great to be back after my holiday.

The bridge sessions continue as usual despite the difficult weather conditions and associated storms. These led to the malfunctioning of our doors, a leaking roof and perhaps contributed to the breakdown of our hot water system. Many thanks to Greg Tosh, our maintenance manager, who is working hard in very difficult circumstances to get things repaired.

The Congress on January 7<sup>th</sup> was a great success due to the hard work of many and the fabulous level of participation by Club members and visitors. Thanks to all involved and Club members who provided delicious food. Many thanks also to Carol Kelly who supplied the whole room with delicious scones, jam and cream one Tuesday session recently and cakes on Thursday.

It was great to see many Gold Coast Bridge Club members at the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra. At home, Angela van Laas and Alan Harding managed a very creditable third in the Open section with 2.5 Masterpoints between them.

Our community can look forward to some additional educational sessions this year as well as Lynley's lessons and Dot's beginners' classes. These sessions will take place on Saturday mornings before bridge. Watch this space!

*Carolyn Waters*

### *January Events Winners - Congratulations.*

- A big congratulations to **Shayne and Sonya Palfreyman.**



This pair celebrated great success at the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra in January coming first in the Under 750/300 Swiss Teams and first in the Under 500/750 Swiss Pairs.

Joan Butts is quoted as saying "I was so thrilled to see that Shayne and Sonya Palfreyman from the Gold Coast won the 500/750 Swiss Pairs on Saturday. They are very photogenic!"

Shayne was one of my first students at my first bridge club, the Grand Slam in Brisbane back in the 1990s. He and Sonya met later, married, and now have a family at the Gold Coast.

They have been working with me and are putting so much effort into their bridge (which is now paying off). They are a dedicated pair and I know will do very well. I'm so proud of them!"

They have also come in first and second of the top 50 most improved players at GCBC for 2023.

- **January 2024 Congress, sponsored by TBIB**

As Carolyn said above, the first Congress of the year was very well patronised and a great success. These events require a lot of co-ordination involving numerous volunteers. This ensures everyone has a great day of bridge, good food, excellent organisation and, hopefully some fun. The winners (photographed below) also come away with a cash prize very generously donated by the sponsor TBIB.

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**1<sup>st</sup> Place A Grade - Moore Team**  
Nikolas Moore, Rachel Langdon  
James Evans, Pamela Evans



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place A Grade - Hall Team**  
Odette Hall, Cheryl Hensel,  
Krystyna Homik, Frank Hymus



**1<sup>st</sup> Place B Grade - Zhang Team**  
Lily Jia, Paul Han  
Ping Xie, Davis Zhang



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place B Grade - Robinson Team**  
George Powis, John Sear  
Sue Robinson, Patricia Powis



**1<sup>st</sup> Place C Grade - Martin Team**  
Jo-Anne Martin, Janie Smith  
Maggie Fisher, Karen Curtis



**Encouragement Award - Christie Team**  
Wendy Christie, Lindy Williams  
Eddie Heinmeyer, Peter Zaremba

● **President's Cup**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Lou Garnett and Lol Garnett
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Roger Weathered and Lou Tillotson

● **Under 50mps Pairs**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Deb Roots and Jo-anne Martin
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - John Bunker and Leonie Harris

***GCBC Top Ten Most Improved Players for 2023***

1. Shayne Palfreyman,
2. Sonya Palfreyman,
3. Peter Lyons
4. Daria Williams
5. Fiona Evans
6. Robyn Kronenberg
7. Wayne Mitchell
8. Jenny L Williams
9. Carolyn Waters
10. Kerrie Goldston

### *Orange Sky (in their own words)*

“The devastating impacts of the recent weather events have been felt far and wide right across Queensland communities. Over the Christmas and New Year period, Orange Sky staff and volunteers worked hard to positively connect communities, supporting people in the Gold Coast affected by the storms and flooding with access to free mobile laundry, warm showers and genuine conversations when their lives were suddenly turned upside down. On top of our regular weekly shifts, we were proud to provide a total of 132 loads of washing, 12 showers and endless hours of conversation during the whole response. All of this was made possible due to the ongoing and generous support from our wonderful Orange Sky community of donors.”

#### *Carol Stephens*

*Fundraising Support*



### *Bridge with Pete*

Pete Hollands is a professional Australian bridge player who makes play videos of Bridge where he discusses his thoughts as he plays a hand to help give other players an insight into his thought process. Videos are uploaded to YouTube at least three times a week at:

[www.youtube.com/@BridgeWithPete](http://www.youtube.com/@BridgeWithPete)

He also posts lessons and much more content on another website, [www.bridgevid.com](http://www.bridgevid.com) where you can find all the YouTube content and more.

### *February Events*

- **Thursday Evenings 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> February - Joan Leckie Evening Pairs**  
Sponsored by Williamson, Swanson, Sear, Dean and Homik
- **Saturdays 3<sup>rd</sup> February - Peter Leden Handicap Pairs**  
Sponsored by Peter Leden Family.

### *Promotions*

Bronze Local - Angela Nicholls

Local - Debbie Usmar

Club - Deb Roots

### *New Members - Welcome*

Darren Avery, Vanessa Wadds

### *February Birthdays.*



1<sup>st</sup> - Lol Garnett; 2<sup>nd</sup> - James Moodie; 5<sup>th</sup> - Claire Wilson; 7<sup>th</sup> - Inez Pinto; 8<sup>th</sup> - Terry Bernstone;  
9<sup>th</sup> - Margaret Watson, Dale Wells; 10<sup>th</sup> - Connie Cassar; 11<sup>th</sup> - Beverley Aird; 12<sup>th</sup> - Vernia Bullivant;  
14<sup>th</sup> - Valerie Reuter-Buck, Kevin Steffensen; 15<sup>th</sup> - Margaret Blackford, Janice Palm;  
16<sup>th</sup> - Miryana Djilas, Grace Xue; 17<sup>th</sup> - Angela van Daal; 18<sup>th</sup> - Sandra Fueloep, Carole McDonald;  
George Topfner, Shihan Zhou; 19<sup>th</sup> - Eduardo Besprosvan, Ian Sandeman; 20<sup>th</sup> - Viv Gillard, Diana McAuliffe;  
22<sup>nd</sup> - Angela Johansson, Cheryl Millar; 25<sup>th</sup> - Lindell Day, Di Hodges, Janet Wallis.



Australia Day 2024





### *In the Beginning ...Bijan Assaee*

For 15 consecutive years, during the second week of August, I visited Queenstown with the same group of friends for skiing. They were all bridge players. After a full day of skiing, sauna, dinner at a nice restaurant, and a different place for dessert, they returned to one of the rooms, opened their wine bottles, and played bridge. As a chess player and semi-professional blackjack player with the ability to count cards, I initially refused to bow to pressure from this group to learn and play bridge. Instead, I opted to play blackjack at one of the two casinos there. Eventually, I gave in, and after just 5 minutes of instruction, I was hooked. Upon our return to Sydney, I purchased several elementary bridge books, read internet articles, and enrolled in a six-week bridge course at the North Shore bridge club. After three lessons, and typically not paying attention to details, I showed up for my lesson on Melbourne Cup Day, only to discover there was no lesson, only an open duplicate session. A lady whose bridge partner didn't show up asked if I could play, and I agreed. We came in second place, marking the end of my lessons as I graduated to the open section. A few months later, I participated in my first Congress and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I am highly enthusiastic about bridge conventions, having studied almost every major convention and introduced three of my own with the help of a math guru. During my extensive travels, I actively seek out bridge clubs as a great way to meet people and join social circles. I have played bridge in many countries, the highlights include three months in Antigua, Guatemala and six weeks in Cuenca, Ecuador. Since May of last year, the Gold Coast has been my home. I relish being a member of the Gold Coast Bridge Club, where I received a warm welcome, appreciating its friendliness and spirit of cooperation. I eagerly look forward to contributing in any way I can.

### *Happy Bridging*

*Julie Wicks*

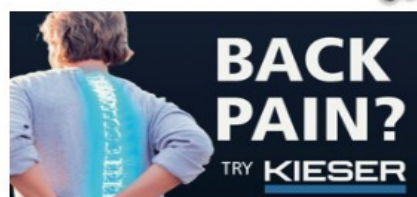
**Need a Partner:** Use your Pianola account to request or find a partner or contact:

**Mon - Sat** Judy Fitzgerald.....0412 739 984

**Thursday Night.** Tom Strong.....0421 106 986

**Welfare Officer:** Cheryl Millar ..... 0409 879 081

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