

What's Happening at the TBA - June 2019

Club Survey

127 members completed the 2019 survey with the major findings summarised as follows :

General Overview

73% of members report playing 1 - 2 times a week with 27% playing three or more times a week. The club performs a very or somewhat important social function for 90% of our members, with quite a few seeking more social functions to be held throughout the year. Suggestions included a Grand Final Footy afternoon, Cancer Council Morning Tea and separate Christmas parties for the different sessions in addition to the Melbourne Cup Lunch and AGM Lunch.

The Committee is not averse to the idea of holding more of these functions, but we seek interested members to agree to co-ordinate one or more of these events. Please discuss your interest in arranging a social event with Julie Rhodes.

The committee and Directors have already implemented measures to curb slow play and these seem to be working well.

As a result of feedback from this group, the Thursday morning session will now play a minimum of 24 boards with a shorter coffee break to accommodate the extra boards.

Training

Many experienced players would like to improve their bridge and attend training conducted at either intermediate or advanced level.

Those seeking advanced training are welcome to join the State Teams training sessions on Sat/Sun June 22nd and 23rd from 10.00am and 9.00am respectively. This training will be conducted by SA bridge professional Philip Gue. If you plan to attend, please bring a plate of food to share.

Sue Falkingham will conduct Intermediate training on Wednesday afternoons from 1.45 until 3.45 in July and August. Cost will be \$10 per session with \$5 going to the Club. Topics will include Overcalls & Responses, Two Suited Overcalls, Overcalls of Opponents' 1NT, Takeout Doubles, Responding to Takeout Doubles and Defence & Signals. You can attend as few or as many of these sessions as you like. Keep an eye out for more information closer to the date.

Walk In Sessions

Several Members commented that they would like to play more bridge but sometimes don't have a partner. The TBA will encourage more walk in and "buddy" sessions and welcomes volunteers who would be prepared to roster themselves on as a "walk in" partner. Please contact Barbara Giizel if you would like to help in this manner.

Expanding Club Rooms

Members supported expanding the Club rooms in a ratio of two to one, with the most popular uses being to provide a separate teaching or "supervised" area as well as the potential to host larger events. Better kitchen facilities were also highly desired and out ranked the wish for a members' Lounge.

The Committee will now engage an architect to develop a "concept plan" for presentation to the Council and as a basis for investigation of overall feasibility of the idea.

Cashless Table Money

Half the membership would like to be able to pay their table money in a cashless fashion, or in bulk. Using a model adopted by some Clubs in NSW, John Grosvenor is working on a system whereby members could pay money into a personal "account" by cash or card and when a member plays a session, the table money for that session would be automatically deducted from their account. This would occur by the recognition of the Member's name being input into the Bridgemate. The Member would be alerted when their balance is running low so that they can top it up.

Other Committee Meeting Outcomes

The Management Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday June 4th at 7.30pm. Attending were Julie Rhodes (chair), Jana Vernon, Graeme Poulton, Ann Paton, Edward Gee, Katherine Marsden, Malcolm Sherlock, and Simon Edler. Apologies were received from Lynne Cooke, Margaret Gibbs, Susan Falkingham, and Judith Bills.

New Members welcomed to the TBA in June are Diane Gain, Russell Morse, Sally Morse, Richard Jackett and Elaine Jackett. Please extend a friendly hand to these and any beginners or newcomers to our club and help them to fit in by "showing them the ropes".

The Committee extends its best wishes to Susanne and David Sarten. Susanne is recovering from a serious illness contracted overseas and it is a difficult time for her, David and their family.

Discussion ensued on the format of restricted events as a result of correspondence from a Club member seeking alteration of the Masterpoint levels for entry to these events. It was the view of the Committee that present

levels (based on ABF standards) should continue to apply. Simon Edler noted that the TBA has already significantly lowered the barrier to entry to restricted events with the TBA cut off level of 150 masterpoints significantly lower than the 300 point cut off which applies to the TFoB and other ABF restricted events.

The committee sometimes receives requests from Members to support a particular charity. It is the TBA's charter to "foster the development of bridge in Tasmania" and as such, this should be the primary focus of the Club. The TBA supports the "Bridge for Brains" charity and Colony 47 at Christmas time. It is the view of the committee that this is sufficient for the TBA to support, but that if a member wishes to conduct an appropriate charitable event (such as Cancer Council morning tea) approval from the committee would not be unreasonably withheld.

Happy Bridging

Julie Rhodes

TBA President