

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE TBA – November 2020

The TBA Committee met at the TBA on Tuesday November 10th from 3.30pm.

PARTICIPATING : J Rhodes (Chair), L Cooke, M Gibbs, M Sherlock, S Edler, E Gee, K Marsden, I Bailey, G Poulton, P Timmins, S Falkingham, J Grosvenor and C Carolan

The following matters were discussed :

Building Extension

The TBA Committee is continuing to pursue government assistance with the building of a “social space” for members. Last month we submitted a grant application to the Tasmanian Dept of Health, and we are liaising with Federal government representatives as well.

Club Sessions/Booking System

Due to a relaxation in COVID-19 restrictions and consequent increase in the number of tables we can have operating at the TBA, from December 1st the Booking System will no longer be required for ordinary TBA sessions. However, it will still be required for special events such as the Xmas party.

Also, from December 1st, the Blue Section will be re-established on Monday nights. Monday night players will be surveyed with regard to the prospect of an earlier commencement time for the Monday night session.

Improver's Bridge Lessons

David Robinson is continuing to conduct a series of lessons for improvers with remaining sessions on Wednesday afternoons of Nov 18th, 25th and Dec 2nd from 2.00pm. The theme is “How to take that extra Trick!” and focuses on all the different ways of taking an extra trick from ruffing losers in Dummy through to avoidance plays and squeezes. Cost is \$5 which David kindly donates to the TBA.

On-line Bridge

After discussions with representatives of the Northern Clubs at Ross on October 30th, the TBA has decided to conduct a weekly on-line session on Wednesday nights (via BBO) commencing at 7.15pm. This will be known as the Tasmania wide pairs, and will attract red master points. A four week trial period will commence on November 18th, so members are encouraged to participate either with their regular partners, or with a partner from another club.

State Team Selection 2021

In the event that the ANC is conducted in Orange in 2021, the TBA has established a one off process for the selection of Tasmanian teams for 2021 due to the cancellation of many of the usual qualifying events. Simon Edler will establish and chair a selection panel for 2021 according to guidelines endorsed at the Ross meeting and ratified by the TBA. These guidelines will be published on the TBA noticeboard and on the TBA website for the information of members

Bridge Etiquette

Concern has been expressed to the Committee about rudeness at the table by some players. All players must remember that courteous behaviour toward one another is a mandated requirement in bridge, and is just as important as following suit, or making a lawful bid.

Law 74 of the Laws of Bridge states :

- 1. A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times**
- 2. A player should carefully avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause embarrassment to another player or might interfere with their enjoyment of the game.**

Directors have been asked to remind players of their obligations in this regard during “Nice” November.

For example, the only artificial bid that does not have to be alerted is 2C. All other bids including the 2D response must be alerted and explained on request. The reason for this is that there are several versions of the Stayman convention, and the 2D response may have different meanings depending on which version is being played.

If any player feels that an uncourteous attitude is being displayed, the Director should be called to the table.

The TBA regards the right of players to enjoy their session of bridge as very important, and players engaging in rude behaviour may be required to show cause as to why they should not be suspended from the club.

Social Bridge

Social bridge has successfully commenced and will continue to be held on the second Sunday of the month at 1.15pm. Sue Falkingham will be directing and players are encouraged to bring a plate of food to share. Members are able to bring a visitor to participate, but all visitors must sign the COVID-19 Safety Plan undertaking, and comply with COVID-19 Safety Plan requirements. Normal table money is payable.

COVID -19 Safety Plan Review - Opening of Windows

Many members have requested that when weather is suitable, the windows be opened. This is a surprisingly contentious issue and the committee devoted considerable time to addressing it.

The Public Health guidelines clearly state that in order to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19, that natural ventilation be increased whenever possible.

Other members have expressed concern that the TBA A/C system will be adversely impacted by windows being opened, and that Director's will forget to close the windows before lowering the shutters, consequently damaging the shutters.

It was observed that the door has been frequently open whilst the A/C system has been operating with no adverse effects having been noted to date.

The Committee, being mindful of the prevailing health concerns, resolved that windows should be open when weather permits, and provided that the A/C is either off, or in Fan only mode. This will be subject to advice from an A/C engineer, that this will not be damaging to the A/C system.

A procedure will be developed for Directors, whereby they place the shutter remote control in a designated box after opening the shutters, so that they are reminded to close the windows before lowering the shutters.

The TBA will evaluate the effect of opening the windows over Summer in April 2021 with a view to establishing a longer term policy.

Colony 47

As usual, the TBA will be supporting Colony 47, a charity supporting the homeless in Hobart at Christmas time. Members are asked to bring appropriate gifts and place them under our tree which will be going up at the end of the month.

Unlike in previous years, members are asked to bring their gifts unwrapped so they can be sanitised (!) and then wrapped by Colony 47.

As a consequence of Colony 47 doing all the wrapping, they will be collecting gifts on Wednesday December 16th. Accordingly, we will be putting our Christmas Tree up early this year.

Gifts which have been requested by Colony 47 are for ADULT Males and Females, TEENS – male and female and 9-12 year old boys and girls as well as Non Perishable FOOD or Hamper items. They especially like practical gifts such as socks, undies, toiletries etc.

TBA Xmas party

The TBA Xmas party will be held at the TBA from 12.00 on Saturday December. As usual, Members are asked to bring a plate of food to share. We will await guidance from the Public health hot line as to whether or not, buffet restrictions will still be in place and if will be required to pre-plate the lunches. Bridge will be free, and champers on offer.

New Chairs

Edward Gee has brought 4 different types of chairs to the TBA for members to evaluate. If you are a member with special needs when it comes to seating, please take your opportunity to try them out and let us know your preference.

Ailing Members

Our thoughts are with all of our members who have health concerns at present. We hope you get well soon and look forward to seeing you back at the TBA.

Youth Bridge 2021

The TBA will be conducting classes for school kids of upper primary and secondary school age on Wednesdays from 4.00pm – 6.00pm from March 3rd next year. If you know of any one who might be interested in participating, let them know via the attached poster.

Senior's Week 2021

At the Ross meeting, Launceston Bridge Club reported that they had conducted an event for Senior's week. It was in the form of an "Open Day" when members played their bridge in the normal way whilst being observed from the sidelines. After a while, some of the observers were invited to play "under instruction" from the experienced players. Morning tea was provided by members to make the experience more pleasurable for the observers. Launceston reported that some of these observers have subsequently expressed an interest in taking up Bridge and enrolling in Beginner's Classes.

The TBA resolved that we should do something for the October 2021 COTA Seniors Week. If there is a volunteer who is prepared to take this on as a project with the support of the TBA, please let myself or Lynne Cook know. It is usually scheduled for October, but pre publicity is well in advance of this so we will also need to be ready with our events/ideas well in advance of this.

Julie Rhodes
President, TBA

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