



**TWENTY-FIVE
YEARS
OF
FINESSE**

A history of the Warwick Bridge Club 1985-2010

By

NEIL BONNELL



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Cover Design: Joyce McKeen

Photograph left: Club members present on 15th November, 2010
 Back row: R. Mobbs, B. Warren, J. Marley, M. Warren, S. Brown, D. Moran, R. Valentine, G. Dayus, J. Rose, T. Mason, T. Sheeran, J. McKeen, D. Wood, C. Duggan, N. Collins, J. Ruhle, B. Reid.
 2nd row: R. Hart, Jill Smith, A. Gibson, M. Simpson, F. Wells, P. Porter, L. Hards, N. McGinness, S. Valentine, J. Mobbs, Jenny Smith, M. Johnston, S. Mason, D. Cooper. Front row: M. Mangan, M. Gifford, E. Gray, B. Bonnell, J. McLellan, F. Slattery, E. Booth, M. Lamb J. Murray.

FOREWORD

The History of the Warwick Bridge Club from its inception in 1985 is quite a compelling read for what to some would appear to be a rather dry topic.

It is difficult to add to the introduction by Neil Bonnell. Neil has explained his aims and methods. I record my admiration of Neil's editorial technique. He has brought the men and women involved into full light.

What an interesting history it has been! As time goes on and facts recede into history the words of this work will become even more important. If we understand what those responsible for the club's success did, know them as more than names in a book - and we ought to - their own words are indispensable. They could hardly be better presented than they are here.

I regard it as a sign of maturity that any club can document its history and so record for those following the initial thinking. This work should be in every bridge library in Australia.

Neil has been modest in placing his and his wife's contribution to the Warwick Bridge Club in perspective. They drove to Toowoomba until they, with the help of Paul and Mary Johnston and significant others, established a 'real' club.

Neil and Beverly - you are to be congratulated on a wonderful achievement.

I commend this history to you all.

Keith McDonald
President, ABF
President, QBA

PREFACE and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of the history of a club such as Warwick Bridge Club needs to do a balancing act. The club history is first a record of the efforts made by many members in a variety of areas without which the club would not have prospered. Recalling some of the interesting hands played over the years must also be a part of the chronicle. Moreover, it is only in a history that one might expect to find a full record of the general membership, the office-bearers and the winners of club championships. Nor can the financial affairs of the club be neglected. If, after including all these, the author can make the story of the club readable, then he will rest satisfied.

That such a wealth of material is available from the early years is due to the conscientious way in which the first Secretary, Beverly Bonnell, compiled scrapbooks of the club's early records. These included results of all games, correspondence, masterpoint lists, financial statements and copies of all bridge articles published in the Warwick Daily News and, occasionally, Warwick items in the QBA Bulletin. Beverly also acted as Treasurer, Masterpoint Secretary, teacher and director in the early days. That successive secretaries and treasurers kept meticulous records has made the author's task much easier.

During the preparation of this history my wife, Beverly, while offering welcome support, encouragement and wise advice, has again been merciless in identifying my errors in writing. Mr Tim Hudson of Custom Printing in Brisbane and club member Peter Campbell have been of great help during the production stage of this history.

The text contains a number of hands, most of which were played at the Warwick Bridge Club and were reported in the weekly bridge column of the Daily News. As the Daily News is a family newspaper there is no place for terms such as "wielding the axe," "blood on the floor," "squeezing East unmercifully," or "victim of a strip and throw in." There are no complex end plays, just a selection of interesting hands played either at the club or by club members.

Successive Presidents have been allowed their say by printing at least one of their annual reports. I am grateful to Mr Keith McDonald, President of both the Australian Bridge Federation and the Queensland Bridge Association for agreeing to write the foreword to this history.

Neil Bonnell
26th October, 2010

Chapter 1

“Is there a bridge club in Warwick?”

1985-89

When Neil Bonnell was being interviewed for the position of Principal of Scots PGC he had an important question for the selection panel. He indicated, more than half seriously, that he may not be able to move to Warwick if there was not a bridge club in the city. So he asked, “Is there a bridge club in Warwick?” No one on the panel was entirely sure, so they agreed to find out. In due course, Bonnell was informed that indeed there was a bridge club in Warwick. He was given the additional information that there was the strong possibility of a university campus being established in the city.

Well, the bridge club turned out to be a Thursday game for ladies, who attended by invitation. As well, there was an evening teams game at the (male-only) Warwick Club for members of the club. There was no club which played regular duplicate bridge and was affiliated with the state and national bridge bodies, no chance of earning masterpoints and no information about bridge events outside Warwick. Oh, and the proposed university campus turned out to be a TAFE college.

Beverly was duly invited to play with the women’s group, but quickly became bored with rubber bridge for token stakes. Not that she ever played for money, but rubber bridge played without appropriate punishment for reckless bidding can be a frustrating pastime. Neil didn’t join the Men’s Club and so didn’t get to join the men’s teams. So, on Friday nights Neil and Beverly drove to Toowoomba for the game there. On the first night, they arrived ten minutes before starting time to find the club house in darkness. Just a few minutes before 7.30 two cars pulled in and the players for the session had arrived. Friday night teams could only attract two tables. Before long, the Toowoomba Club understandably decided to discontinue the Friday night fixture.

While this was happening, Mary and Paul Johnston encouraged Neil and Beverly to consider starting a contract bridge club in Warwick. Both Mary and Paul had extensive local contacts and Paul’s workmates played bridge enthusiastically during their lunch breaks. It seemed that a pool of players already existed. During the planning that followed, care was taken not to schedule bridge on days that would clash with the existing rubber bridge games.

With the support of Paul and Mary, Neil and Beverly began to make lists of the equipment that would be needed. A set of folders sufficient for at least 32 packs of cards, bidding pads, travelling score sheets, pencils, erasers and tables would do for a start. It was decided to hold a public meeting at which the formation of a contract bridge club would be proposed. The first news item which appeared in the Daily News and the agenda of the first meeting are reproduced overleaf. Also reproduced is the printed proposal which was presented at the meeting. The following people attended this meeting, which was held at the Senior Citizens’ Centre: Beverly Bonnell, Neil Bonnell, Paul Johnston, Mary Johnston, Esme Miller, Jackie Hales, Mary Walsh, Edith Clark, Irene Griffiths, Marie Mangan, Eileen

Doherty, Jean Mapes, Ann Wedgwood, Els Broese van Groenou, Peter Campbell, Mervyn Rettke and John Rose.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from Mrs Olive Evans, Mr and Mrs D. Bryce, Ms Pixie Clyde-Smith, Mrs Thyra Graham and Mr and Mrs A. Greene.

The following office-bearers were elected:

President:	N. Bonnell
Vice-President:	P. Johnston
Secretary/Treasurer:	B. Bonnell
Committee members:	J. Rose
	M. Johnston
	J. Hales

The meeting unanimously endorsed the proposal that the Warwick Bridge Club be formed, accepted the standard Queensland Bridge Association constitution for the new club and gave the Committee the authority to arrange for play to commence no later than Wednesday, 1st July. It was agreed that there should be just the Wednesday night game initially, but that a day game should also be started, subject to there being sufficient demand and that there was no clash with the established game at the Men's Club on Thursdays. When adopting these proposals, members were aware that the new club would be an open one and that membership would not be by invitation only.

Already, there was discussion about holding an annual congress, but a more pressing matter was the choice of venue for the club. Obviously it would have to be in rented premises. Possibilities considered were the Morrow Hall (PGC campus), Slade Park pavilion, CWA Hall, the Warwick Club, Warwick High School and the City Band Centre. The only venue which satisfied all criteria was the Band Centre. An approach had also been made to the Senior Citizens' Centre about the possibility of combining bridge with the existing euchre games on Tuesdays. As euchre was held only once a month, this proposal was abandoned and the Bridge Club set itself up next door.

The club began with a joining fee of \$4.00 and an annual subscription of \$4.00. Table money was \$1.50 for members and \$2.00 for guests. A separate nominal charge was made for tea and biscuits. Rent for the Rehearsal room in the Band Centre was \$15.00 for an evening session of four hours. The club also had to pay \$4.00 per member per year to the QBA in affiliation fees. The Australian Bridge Federation also held its hand out for \$1.00 per member per year. Within a year, the QBA had increased its affiliation by 50% to \$6.00.

The first game took place on 5th June, 1985, well within the deadline of 1st July. Enough members arrived to make up a six-table Mitchell, testing the director who needed to set up a share and relay. The winners were Bob Henzell and Mervyn Rettke (N/S) and John Rose and Jeff Rule (E/W), which made it a clean sweep for the Hermitage contingent. The results were published in the Warwick Daily News three days later. This began a routine which has been followed to the present day.



The first record of any Warwick players earning masterpoints at an external congress is a letter from Toowoomba Bridge Club. It expressed pleasure that Warwick members had entered the Mini-congress held at Toowoomba at the end of October, 1985 and asked for the ABF numbers of Fiona Wells and Pat Jenkin, who had earned master points in the event.

The club also entered the Queensland-Wide Pairsevent, in which the same pre-set hands are played at each participating club. In due course, the Secretary received a letter of commendation for the club's participation and congratulations for the fifth placing achieved by Beverly and Neil Bonnell. There was also a gentle reproof because we had used the wrong system of recording our scores.

Average attendance for the Wednesday evening games was about five tables. This was made possible by the strong support of a group from the Hermitage Research Station. Paul Johnston, John Rose, Bob Henzell, John Churchett, L. Jenner, John Marley, Terry Usher, Rob Hohenhaus, Mervyn Rettke, Jeff Rule and later John Laufer were regular in their attendance. Dot Aspinall, a visitor from Prosperpine, was so impressed that a bridge club had been started in Warwick that she donated our Visitors' Book.

1985 ended with a Christmas Party at the residence of Neil and Beverly Bonnell. In accordance with long-established social custom, ladies were asked to bring a plate and gentlemen a bottle.

INAUGURAL MEETING

A meeting of those interested in forming the Warwick Bridge Club will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday ~~27th~~ ^{27th} March, 1985, in the Senior Citizens' Centre, Albert St., Warwick. *27th May*

AGENDA :

1. Consideration of the following motions:

(a) "That this meeting endorses the proposal that 'The Warwick Bridge Club' be founded. "

(b) " That the draft constitution be adopted for a period of 12 months or until the next annual general meeting, which ever is sooner, with the proviso that on this occasion office bearers may be nominated from the floor."

(Copies of standard constitutions of clubs affiliated with the Queensland Bridge Association available from B. Bonnell, 20 Gilbert Crescent)

(c) "That, following the election of office-bearers, the committee is directed to arrange for a director, venue, equipment, affiliation with the Queensland Bridge Association and any other necessary steps so that play may commence no later than Wednesday, 1st ^{JD/Y} ~~Mar~~, 1985. "

2. Election of Office Bearers.

3. Discussion of 1985 programme and scale of fees and prize money.

4. General Business.

This notice of meeting has been authorized by :

Mary Johnston
Paul Johnston
Beverly Bonnell
Neil Bonnell

PROPOSED WARWICK BRIDGE CLUB

It is proposed that a bridge club should be established in Warwick, with the aim of supplementing the present range of bridge played in Warwick.

AIM - To foster bridge, especially in duplicate play.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS - 1. Normally one night per week, on a night to be determined by members.

2. If demand were sufficient, a day game could be added, but only if it did not interfere with established arrangements.

3. Whether or not an annual congress is held would depend on the wishes of the members.

MEMBERSHIP FEES - 1. Proposed joining fee : \$4.00

2. Proposed annual fee : \$4.00

3. Proposed members' table money : \$1.50)

4. Proposed guests' table money : \$2.00) per person per session

VENUE - Suitable premises would be available at various places in Warwick, the Morrow Hall at P.G.C. in Locke St., being convenient and reasonably priced.

PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT - In the early stages, sufficient tables, chairs, cards and boards could be borrowed, but it would be wise for the club to build up its own stocks of these items.

PARTNERS - Arrangements would need to be made for players without regular partners to contact a club official in order to arrange a partner. If the director is not committed to a partner, then he or she could play when there is an odd number of players. Anyone who attends would therefore be guaranteed a game.

RESULTS - The results of games would be the responsibility of the director who would make results available at the next week's game. Results could also be published in the press.

ADVANTAGES OF A REGISTERED CLUB

1. Members are eligible for the award of master points.
2. Play available without obligations on a weekly basis.
3. Access to news of congresses
4. Bridge available to Warwick visitors.

One of the first letters written by the Secretary in 1986 was a letter of congratulations to the compiler of the hands for the 1985 Queensland-wide Pairs. That may never have happened again.

1986 began with a credit balance, achieved after several purchases of cards and equipment. A loan which made possible the purchase of equipment had been repaid. One difficulty which arose was a shortage of suitable chairs after a church cancelled their booking at the Band Centre and took their chairs with them. This problem was solved amicably when the City Band agreed to purchase new chairs.

Important steps forward in 1986 were the establishment of a game on Monday afternoon, which began in mid-year, and the holding of the first Club Pairs Championship. This was won by Peter Campbell and Ross McCasker. The first club programme was issued, showing that a series of lessons for beginners was scheduled for Wednesday evenings before the game at 7.15 pm. In addition, a handicap event was to be held on the last Wednesday of each month. A break of three weeks was taken over the Christmas/New year period.

The first Annual General Meeting, which was attended by 29 members, was held on Wednesday, 3rd September, 1986. The outgoing President's Report is reproduced overleaf, followed by a letter from Pat Jenkin. Of the six suggested projects for 1987 only one was not acted on, at least not until 2009, that is the holding of an inter-town teams match. The arrival of Cliff and Fay Redgen in Warwick gave us a helpful, but exacting, auditor in Cliff and a very competent club player in Fay. Cliff's agreement to act as our Auditor was to set in train a friendly tussle between the auditor and the Treasurer, who kept the books accurately but not always according to the procedures favoured by Cliff. The club's credit balance was now \$734.21. The membership roll now contained 56 names.

All major office-bearers were re-elected. The committee members elected were: F. Redgen, J. Hales, J. Rose, M. Johnston, I. Griffiths and P. Campbell. Suggestions made from the floor were the establishment of a tea roster and the holding of a mini-congress. By default, Beverly and Neil Bonnell acted as tournament directors, learning as they went. John Rose was to join the panel a little later on.

When the "Hand of the Week" feature first appeared in May, the hands were set out as shown in the extract below. It took considerable persuasion to convince the Editor that the correct format did matter.

The question of whether to finesse or not arose on Board 15 when the only pair to bid slam found the Queen of trumps missing.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
S. J97	S. 1083	S. AKQ54	S. 62
H. 85	H. Q106	H. AKJ743	H. 92
D. J106	D. Q84	D. --	D. AK97532
C. AJ10972	C. 8643	C. 95	C. KQ

Appearing below is the the first President's Report to be presented to the Bridge Club and overleaf is a letter from Pat Jenkin, a foundation member, now deceased.

WARWICK BRIDGE CLUB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1985-86

It is with pleasure that I present the first President's Report of the Warwick Bridge Club. The period covered by the report is slightly longer than a year, as our Annual General Meeting was scheduled for September to conform with the recommendation of the Queensland Bridge Association, with whom our club affiliated last year. Being affiliated entitles us to participate in the Master Point scheme and in the various congresses and competitions sponsored by the Q.B.A. Since the first meeting held to consider the formation of a club, which was attended by 24 people, membership has risen to a point where 61 people have paid a joining fee.

Attendance at the Wednesday night game has been most encouraging, there needing to be a Royal wedding or a very cold night to bring attendance below six tables. This has contributed to our very sound financial position. The Monday game, a more recent innovation, has attracted attendances of five to six tables on most occasions. This game has been very well supported by the graduates of the beginners' course held in April and May. It was gratifying to see so many of that class join the club.

During the year sufficient equipment has been purchased to see the club through most normal situations for quite some time. We now own one full set of plastic boards, two sets of cardboard wallets, a good stock of cards, 12 tables with covers and a collection of coffee mugs. A start has been made on re-furbishing our Howell movement cards.

The playing strength of the club has been good. Members of the club have performed with credit at various congresses and in the State-Wide Pairs. Current rankings include three State, two Local and three Junior Masters, a healthy situation for a new club. Congratulations to Peter Campbell and Ross McCasker, the 1985 Club Pairs Champions.

- Some issues which could be addressed in the next year are:
- the acquisition of trophies and/or honour boards
 - the playing of teams events
 - the organization of a mini-congress
 - the holding of an invitational inter-town team event
 - the establishment of a library
 - a further course of lessons.

Warwick Bridge Club has been in the past year one of the country's few growth industries and I feel confident that the new committee will be able to consolidate gains made this year. My thanks go to all members of the present committee for their help and co-operation during the year.

41 West 47 St.
 Newark.
 3rd Sept 1986.

The President,
 Newark Bridge Club.

Dear Neil,
 Please accept my apology for
 not attending the Annual General Meeting
 of the Newark Bridge Club.

I would like to compliment the
 Committee on such a successful year,
 and special thanks to Beverly & Neil
 Bennett for launching such a
 popular new Club in Newark.

Congratulations to Beverly &
 Neil on attaining their State
 Treasures.

Best wishes,

Patricia Jenkins

Early in 1987, planning began for the visit of Paul Lavings, who had offered to hold a two-day clinic at a reasonable cost. Paul had then represented Australia 13 times and had set a record in 1980 for the number of master points earned in a year. Paul's visit eventually took place in early November. The format was simple: bidding on Saturday and play on Sunday.

It might be thought that a player of Paul's eminence would have no trouble passing on his ideas to the members of a club less than two years old. Unfortunately, Paul had come prepared to teach four-card majors and the old hands from rubber bridge were wedded to five-card majors. Neil and Beverly had encountered the same problem. They taught four-card majors to beginners, only to find that their graduates were swiftly converted to five-card majors when they began to play at the club. The Bonnells gave in after twenty years and began to teach both four- and five-card systems. Paul's second day, focussing on strategies in play, was much more successful and was much appreciated. The advantage of having the Principal of Scots PGC as Club President was that the seminar was held at the school without the cost of hiring a room. One other benefit of the weekend was the birth of an idea to hold a vu-gaph match in 1988.

Other projects to be undertaken were the acquisition of an honour board for the Club Pairs, the establishment of a library and the holding of a mini-congress. The handsome board was made by Jim Deane-Butcher, for whom working in wood was a cherished hobby. A form of payment acceptable to both parties was agreed upon. Our first champions, Peter Campbell and Ross McCasker had offered to pay for the board, but their assistance was not needed.

A fourteen-table green-point one-day congress was held at the Highland Motel (now the Jackie Howe) on 3rd October. The cost of the event was \$477.00 for catering and room hire. Interestingly, a quotation of \$153 by the Senior Citizens' Centre was rejected because it was too high. The director of the event, Neil Bonnell, learned a valuable early lesson. Instead of splitting the field into two sections in the morning, he played a single 14-table Mitchell movement. The movement was simpler, but it took the whole of the lunch break to score the boards. Scoring one 14-board movement takes four times as long as two 7-table sections if done manually, and there was no computer available. There is still doubt that the first prize went to the right pair.

In winning the E/W section of the Queensland-Wide Pairs, John Rose and Rob Hohenhaus became the club's first pair to achieve success at this level. At the local level, on 25th May Beverly Bonnell and Marie Mangan became the first pair to score 80% in a club game.

Before year's end, a bridge scoring programme had been offered by David Anderson of South Australia and arrangements were made for a full congress in the new year. The credit balance in the club's passbook was \$2023.85. It was decided to retain the 20c charge for tea/coffee and biscuits. Where treasurers are concerned, there is no such thing as a free biscuit.

The major event of 1988 was the Vu-graph presentation of a practice match between the Queensland Women's and Queensland Open Teams. Forty members attended this event and although invitations had been extended to members of neighbouring clubs, none attended. The match was held in the Library of the ScotsPGC College. The match was played over 30 boards, with expert and entertaining commentary provided by Therese Tully. Beverly Bonnell operated the phone in the closed room and John Rose manned the Library phone and the overhead projector which showed the progress of play. Before the match took place, the Women's Team made a tentative suggestion that their team should be strengthened by adding one or two of the Open Team to the Women's. Paul Lavings correctly concluded that this would destroy the value of the match as training for both teams. In the end, the Women's Team won by nine IMPs. The match could have swung either way on a hand where slam was available, but which one and how high?

The hands were selected from games at the Warwick Bridge Club from the previous few weeks. From the printed commentary supplied, members of the audience could therefore compare the results they achieved with those of the experts. Perhaps the main benefit of the event is that the Open Team came first in the Australian Championships. The event also gave the Warwick Bridge Club its first coverage in a national newspaper. George Havas's column in the Weekend Australian of July 16-17th July, 1988 is reproduced below.

15 — THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN July 16-17 1988 — 15

BRIDGE

By George Havas

THE Australian National Championships are due to be held in Melbourne from August 5 to August 20.

In addition to the interstate championships where entry is via State nomination there are associated Congress events and also the Australian Butler Pairs Championships open to all. Entries for these close on July 29 and should go to Ailsa Tandy, ANC Sec, Victorian Bridge Association, 12 Macquarie Street, Prahran, Victoria 3181.

These events are to be followed by the Australian Bi-centennial and World Expo International Bridge Congress from September 3 to 10 in Brisbane. Top ranking international visitors include the Truscotts, Martels and Stansbys, and Phillip Alder, from the US and Zia Mahmood from Pakistan.

Prior to going to Brisbane the Americans will also go to Melbourne for the ANC. In addition to some events they will take part in the expert commentary team for the Vu-Graph final.

In a warmup for the interstate teams championship the Queensland Open and women's teams played a demonstration match in Warwick last weekend.

The deals were selected from recent events in the Warwick area and were picked because of their interest.

This led to a high-scoring match in which the women (Margie Drake, Jenny Ling, Lindy Vincent, Lyn Carter, Pam Francis and Enid Busch) outscored the Open (Bill Hunt, Jim Wallis, Kevin Hume, Paul Lavings, Brian Blyth and Richard Ward) by nine IMPs over 30 boards.

Slam level hands are of critical importance in teams events. Being on the right side of these hands is often the key to victory. Try and bid the East-West cards of the following deal. East deals, no opposition bidding.

Three small slams (six clubs, six diamonds and six no trumps) are cold on all but the wildest distributions and succeed easily here. The three corresponding grand slams have play but only one, the best, makes on the actual layout.

Seven diamonds about a 50 per cent chance, makes easily while both seven clubs and seven no trumps (each about 30 per cent chances) fail.

How would you have fared?

The deal was a problem for both the women's and the open teams. The women bid to seven clubs without really considering any other brand. The open were in seven diamonds for a while, before removing to seven no trumps. No swing.

Some people say that you should never bid a grand slam unless you can count all 13 tricks. That approach here would have gained other team more than the match winning margin.

	NORTH		
	♠ J543		
	♥ QJ32		
	♦ 1083		
	♣ 98		
WEST		EAST	
♠ K109		♠ AQ	
♥ K986		♥ A	
♦ K954		♦ AQ62	
♣ J5		♣ AK10743	
	SOUTH		
	♠ 8762		
	♥ 10754		
	♦ J7		
	♣ Q62		

Sadly, there did not seem to be sufficient interest at club level to repeat the event in the following year. Then Paul Lavings, the main supporter of the concept at QBA level, eventually returned to NSW and the idea simply lapsed. One would have thought that when such a good result had been achieved following this event, that the QBA would have made it a regular feature. Somewhere in the greater Brisbane area would be more likely to attract spectators. If the State teams have subsequently played practice matches on Vu-graph this writer has not heard about them.

Incidentally, after the slam hand which both teams got wrong, a member of one of the teams rushed into the kitchen of the Principal's residence, begging for a stiff shot of whisky. As it was a Uniting Church school, that person was fortunate to find even a glass of red wine available.

In his Annual Report, the President thanked Fay Redgen for her continued work with the library and for starting "Help with Play" sessions at 10.30 on Monday mornings. John Rose was also thanked for joining the panel of directors and for calculating members' handicaps. The work of Irene Griffiths in organizing our catering was commended. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$2218.06 in the passbook, as well as \$2000 on fixed deposit.

Other developments were the moving of committee meetings to Wednesdays before the 7.15 pm game, our participation for the first time in the Epson World-Wide Pairs Tournament and the commencement of a club Individual Championship, which was won by John Churchett. In an extraordinary effort, the club managed to raise 13 tables for the Queensland-Wide Pairs.

Using the Bonnell's powerful 64K Amstrad computer, the first computer-scored boards were processed on 9th May of this year. The club's scorers were deeply grateful to David for his gift of this programme. Other similar programmes were on sale for \$500. The Secretary wrote to David:

I am finding the computer scoring a great joy. It is marvellous to be able to sit down and produce a printout showing names, places, ABF points and percentages in about 15 minutes after a normal club Mitchell movement. It is a great improvement on doing the scoring manually, taking an hour over it and then finding you are half a point short in the final addition.

It is a matter of regret to this writer that when David moved to Queensland we were willing to use his services as a congress director on only one occasion. Like Paul Lavings, David has returned to his own state.

Also this year, the Secretary had cause to report to the Band committee that the Bridge Club's cupboard had suffered from petty pilfering. About 25 mugs and small amounts of sugar, tea and biscuits had been taken. As a result, locks were fitted to the cupboards. Part of the ritual involved in the tea roster was now the handing over of the keys at the end of each month.

John Rose and son Tim secured first place in the Men's section of the Australia-Wide Multi-Pairs.

At the Annual General Meeting, it was resolved that the annual subscription be increased to \$12.00 to keep pace with increases with affiliation fees. The Treasurer, being a treasurer, had asked for \$15.00. The meeting adopted the policy that table money should be kept a level which would allow the club to subsidize members when special events took place.

The committee members (including office-bearers) who were elected by the AGM were: B. Bonnell, N. Bonnell, J. Churchett, R. Cooney, Irene Griffiths, Dorrie Jenkins, John Kemp, Fay Redgen, John Rose and Mary Walsh.

It was reported that the second mini-congress, also held at the Highlander Motel, made a small profit.

This was followed on 23rd and 24th September by our first official two-day congress, which attracted 22 tables. We charged \$35 per pair and paid the Highlander \$9.00 per head for catering (for two days) and \$35 room hire. We were very fortunate that the late Ivy Dahler, one of the finest directors in Australia, offered her services free of charge for this inaugural congress. When one compares these figures with current costs, one wonders who calculates the cost of living index for Australia. Plans were made to secure sponsorship for subsequent congresses, as the Congress had made a profit of only \$45.00 without having to pay a director's fee. The complimentary report on the congress which appeared in the October QBA Bulletin is shown below.

WARWICK CONGRESS
by Val Greenhalgh

As one of the many visiting players to attend Warwick's inaugural Bridge Congress, I consider congratulations must go to the Club members who organised and ran the event.

As was to be expected, they made all visitors feel very welcome and the entire congress ran as a very happy event for the players. The floral arrangements were outstanding - flowers such as I had not seen in years.

I certainly hope I shall be able to attend next year, to repeat a very happy and pleasant weekend.

RESULTS:

Championship

1. K Dawson - P Porter
2. J Walker - M Collins

Plate

1. D Kingston - G Mahony

Consolation

1. Mr & Mrs J Capel

The proposed two-day congress for 1989 brought us into dispute with the Dalby Bridge Club, whose congress was scheduled for a fortnight after ours. The fourth weekend in September had been chosen by Warwick, because it was only in school holidays that the President and Secretary could devote the necessary time to organizing the event. A proposal to choose a date earlier in the month would have caused a clash with Glen Innes. In the end the matter was referred to the QBA, who ruled in our favour.

Then came the bombshell. The club was informed, without prior consultation, that because Australia had been chosen to host the Bermuda Bowl every affiliated club would be required to pay a levy of \$10.00 per member. As club membership now stood at 70, we would have a bill of \$700. A special meeting resolved that table money be increased to \$2.00 per person to generate this amount and that no other fund raising activities be undertaken. The club paid slightly over the required amount, compared with the state average of 83% of the target. Later on, we also bought a set of boards and cards which were left over from the event. Their design turned out to be quite unpopular.

Despite this shock, the club's credit balance stood at \$2331.74, in addition to the \$2000 on fixed deposit. In view of the healthy cash position, the club decided to support a good cause every year. At the end of 1988, \$500 was donated to the City Band.





(L-R) Irene Griffiths, Edith Clark, Joy Kemp and John Kemp outside the Toowoomba Bridge Club during the heat of the 1988 GNOT.

A curious footnote to the year was an instruction that the President purchase for consumption at the Christmas Party two dozen bottles of champagne, orange juice (amount unspecified), two cartons of beer and two casks of wine. Our records show that this was achieved within a budget of \$146.72, which also included an allowance for prize money. The cost of food for the party was \$256

Other documents of interest from 1988 are:

- i. A balance sheet in Dorrie Jenkin's copperplatewriting
- ii. Warwick Daily News bridge columns:
 - with news of eleven masterpoint promotions
 - on playing against Aunt Agatha
 - an unusual hand played at the Christmas Party, where the dealing can never be entirely trusted.

If you read nothing else from here on, do read about the encounter with Aunt Agatha, although the report on the 20-point grand slam has its moments, too.

Balance Sheet at 31.9.88. Wck. Bridge Club.

By Bank Balance B/F	\$ 2218 : 06.
" Congress.	\$ 1610 : 00
" Annual Subscriptions	\$ 548 : 00
" Table Money.	\$ 574 : 50
" Bank Interest. \$36.12. TAD. Gen. Ac. 19.97	\$ 56 : 09
	<u>\$ 5006 : 65.</u>

To Withdrawals.

31/9/88. C.B. Bank.	\$ 10 : 50	
8/9/88. Withdrawal	\$ 48 : 67	
25/9/88. Congress Money Prizes	\$ 890 : 00	
Old Bridge Assoc.	\$ 51 : 00	
Pencils + Rubbers.	\$ 34 : 00	
26/9/88. Highlander Hotel Ac.	\$ 1618 : 00	
Congress Wine Prizes	\$ 157 : 49	
Sweets etc.	\$ 44 : 09	
31/7/88 A.B.F.	\$ 114 : 18	
O.B.A.	\$ 50 : 40	
Warwick City Band. Paid.	\$ 180 : 00	\$ 3198 : 33
	\$ 3198 : 33.	
Credit Balance B. Book ^{4/10/88}		Cv. Balance \$ 1808 : 32.
		<u>\$ 1812 : 39.</u>

Could not reconcile money handed to me - 12/9/88.

\$ 4. 07 extra in Bank Book.

Master point
Promotions

Community

Warwick Bridge Club

Eleven members of Warwick Bridge Club have achieved new ranking in the Australian Bridge Federation Masterpoint scheme. They are: Local Master: John Churchett; Club Master: Peter Campbell, Pat Jenkin, Mary Johnston, Joy Kemp and Marie Mangan; Junior Master: Lorna Broughton, Sheila Crichton, Jackie Hales, Dorrie Jenkins and Tim Rose.

Slams and doubles abounded in last Wednesday's tournament as players relaxed after the strain of the Club Pairs Championship. Board 22, however, saw only one pair find a diamond slam with a 4-4 fit in trumps.

Dealer: E

Vul: E/W:

	North	
	S J1075	
	H H943	
	D Q92	
	C Q875	
West		East
S AQ4		S K983
H AQ9852		H 6
D A653		D KJ107
C 4		C AKQ3
	South	
	S 62	
	H KJ107	
	D 84	
	C J10962	

Most E/W pairs settle for the game in no-trumps, some being allowed to make 12 tricks or making the right guesses with the red-suit finesses.

Undoubtedly the par contract is 6D, with the extra ruffing power enhancing the value of the hands. East, as declarer, was put to the test early with the lead of a small heart, although the Jack would have been more aggressive. Declarer rose with the Ace, much safer but foregoing the chance of an overtrick. The successful finesse was then taken against the diamond Queen. Once trumps have been drawn, declarer has a loser in each of the black suits, one of which can be ruffed in dummy. +1370 was a just reward for accurate bidding and play.

Full results:

Monday, 13-6-88 (7-table Mitchell): N/S: I. Griffiths, J. Churchett (66.4%) 1; B. Bonnell, N. Bonnell (65.2%) 2; M. Mangan, M. Lamb (48.2%) 3.

E/W: R. Hilsdon, K. Hilsdon (62.2%) 1; D. Bryant, E. Doherty (54.2%) 2; S. Fletcher, B. McDowall (53.9%) 3.

Wednesday 15-6-88 (7-table Mitchell):

N/S: B. Bonnell, N. Bonnell (69.3%) 1; J. Kemp, J. Kemp (54.5%) 2; D. Maxwell, H. Maxwell (51.2%) 3.

E/W: J. Rose, T. Rose (72.0%) 1; R. Cooney, T. Graham (51.8%) 2; J. Churchett, R. Henzell (50.6%) 3.

WARWICK BRIDGE CLUB

The Warwick Bridge Club's next major event will be the Australia-Wide Pairs to be played at the Club on Wednesday, October 26. Pre-dealt hands will be used and the results sent to Sydney for processing.

You meet the nicest people at bridge congresses and the recent Dalby Congress was no exception. Nevertheless, playing against the equivalent of one's kindly Aunt Agatha can be disconcerting. After the writer had failed to bid to game on one hand, this followed. Dealer:

Playing bridge
with Aunt Agatha

	North	
	S 93	
	H Q1082	
	D Q8763	
	C J7	
West		East
S QJ2		S A1086
H AK73		H J9
D K954		D A10
C 43		C 109852
	South	
	S K754	
	H 654	
	D J2	
	C AKQ6	

West opened 1D, East responded 1S while N/S remained in genteel silence and West's discouraging 1NT was passed out. North, discouraged from the diamond lead, decided on a small heart: the unbid major. Dummy's Jack won, giving declarer eight certain tricks even if the spade finesse failed. On a diamond lead, declarer could easily go wrong and allow the defence's diamonds to be established too soon. Given a tempo by the lead, declarer decided to rely on the defenders' generosity and therefore led the club ten. How many Souths would have played small and allowed partner's Jack to win and therefore to create four tricks in the suit? This South was not one of that select band and flew with the Queen. In the twinkling of an eyelid South tabled the King and not even the crash of partner's Jack could stop the onrush of the Ace, leaving dummy's modest 9-8 as winners on table. The heart switch was then too late. Declarer won with the Ace in hand, took the losing spade finesse and claimed the balance with a flourish. Aunt Agatha's admiring glance showed her obvious appreciation of the play, but then she leaned forward and murmured, "You do underbid a lot, don't you?"

Full results: Monday, 10/10/88 (8-table Mitchell): N/S E. Clark & H. Maxwell (61.2%), 1 O. Evans & T. Graham (56.5%), 2 J. Mapes & M. Walsh (55.0%), 3 E/W N. McGinness & J. Kemp (64.9%), 1 R. Hilsdon & K. Hilsdon (63.0%), 2 R. Cooney & B. Freemantle (53.8%), 3.

Wednesday, 12/10/88 (6-table Mitchell): N/S J. Mapes & M. Walsh (70.42%), 1 I. Griffiths & E. Clark (60.0%), 2 F. Redgen & S. Crichton (55.0%), 3 E/W J. Churchett & R. Henzell (67.1%), 1 B. Bonnell & N. Bonnell (62.5%), 2 P. Campbell & R. McCasker (52.1%), 3.

Copy of the Daily News bridge notes c. 17th December, 1988:

After Wednesday's very successful Christmas Party, which was attended by over sixty people, only two sessions remain for the year. A 20-point grand slam last Monday provided spice for the end of the year.

Dealer: S	Vul: All	NORTH	
		S. A J73	
		H. -	
		DJA	
		C. J987543	
	WEST		EAST
	S. --		S. 95
	H. AKQJ108654		H.92
	D. 2		D. KQ108542
	C. K106		C. Q2
		SOUTH	
		S. KQ108642	
		H. 73	
		D. 976	
		C. A	

The bidding proceeded very briskly, South's pre-empt of 3S was overcalled with 4H by West, who had nine running tricks in hearts. North's cue-bid of 5H showed spade support and the heart Ace or a void. East passed, as there were already too many points in the pack. South obediently cue-bid the Ace of clubs and West competed with 6H. North had an obvious bid of 6S, but decided to go all the way with 7S. West's lead of a heart was ruffed in dummy and a trump played to declarer's King. The Ace of clubs and a heart ruffed high followed. A club was then ruffed in hand, a small trump to the Ace cleared trumps and when the third round of clubs was ruffed in hand, dummy's clubs were good with the diamond Ace (or the seven of spades) as an entry to allow declarer to enjoy the four club winners on the table and to discard the diamond losers in hand. 2210 points was a generous reward for a somewhat risky bid. Next best for N/S was 200 when 6H by West failed. In match-point scoring, however, the grand slam bidder obtained only one more point than the pair defending against 6H. No doubt 7S

Results:

Wednesday, 14/12/88 (15 & 1/2-table Mitchell):

N/S John Kemp Joy Kemp 1, J. Rose V. Rose 2, T. Graham P. Clyde-Smith 3.

E/W J. Churchett R. Henzell 1, K. Hilsdon R. Hilsdon 2, J. Mackie D. Mathison 3.

1989 was the year when the Bridge Club entered the computer age, the intake of '87 began to make its mark and the club became rather too ambitious in some areas.

After John Laufer bought a new computer, he sold his former machine to the Bonnells, who now had an Amstrad with the unheard of capacity of 128 K. The Bridge club bought their old machine, together with a new matrix printer costing about \$300. Now, of course, a multi-function printer with a colour and a black cartridge can be bought for less than \$60. This is not much more than a pair of cartridges. Do you remember those printer ribbons costing less than \$10?

Scoring was now done in the club's room at the Band Centre immediately after the completion of play. Those players who thought that they had done well often stayed to watch the scoring, which was usually completed in less than twenty minutes. Correspondence with David Anderson, the compiler of our scoring programme, was frequent. David was always generous with his help and with updates to the programme. Until the appointment of Reg Busch and Joan McPeat as our Congress Directors, congress scoring was done on either the club's computer or on the Bonnell's machine.

When it came to organizing our two-day congress, the club took on too large a task in trying to organize accommodation and in attracting sponsorship. A team, led by John Kemp, visited local businesses asking for sponsorship. No business offered more than \$50. An amount of \$165 in sponsorship appears in the accounts for the year, but this is probably only a partial figure. Even so, the amount of work involved in collecting a relatively small amount of money discouraged any further efforts in this direction. During this exercise, the would-be collectors also developed a good deal of sympathy for local business people, who had to deal with constant requests for help from local clubs and sporting bodies. The consensus was that because the Bridge Club was in a good financial position, it did not need to take the begging bowl up and down Palmerin St. Pursuing larger firms for a single large amount was not ruled out. Metway was offered naming rights to the congress for \$500, but they lost our first letter and no large donation was ever forthcoming.

Because the two-day congress in September for 1990 co-incided with the Festival of Flowers in Toowoomba, it was decided to pre-book motel rooms to help prospective entrants to the congress. Twenty-five rooms were booked at the Alexander Motel, a new motel operating as Best Western motel. After some months went by without our \$100 cheque (sent on 22/11/89 as deposit) being cashed, concern was expressed about the security of our booking. The President, with unjustified optimism, said that he saw no problem. Surely if our booking was not to be honoured, we would have been told. The alarm bells rang when some congress entrants were unable to book rooms at the motel. In answer to our protests, the manager wrote to say that he had received a five-day booking for a conference and felt that he had to take the longer booking. We could see his point, but were annoyed that he had not been more open with us. The Committee instructed the Secretary to write to Best Western and complain about our treatment. This was done, but so far as we know, nothing of any consequence resulted. The management of the Alexander has changed hands a couple of times since and is

now a Budget Motel.

The opposite problem occurred with the Gonyah Motel. The Manager there complained that we had not taken up our tentative booking. Our response was that sufficient notice had been given of the rooms not being needed. The club had also offered billeting in local members' homes and accommodation at one of the town's boarding schools as a cheaper alternative to motels. Neither of these offers was taken up. Ever since, the club has left congress entrants to find their own accommodation.

Our participation in the Zonal heats of the Grand National Open Teams was mired in confusion for several years. It had been Warwick's turn to host the 1989 heats, but the Secretary received no information about it. The QBA had left it to the Darling Downs Zone Committee to organize the event, but no committee existed. There were also two views on how the event should be run. The Australian Bridge Federation encouraged the participation of as many players as possible, but the opposing view was that the award of Gold Points should be restricted to zone finalists only. It took some years to resolve this impasse.

More positive developments were the emergence of the intake of '87 as valuable members of the club. Mair Gifford, Cath Poole, Nea McGinness and Joan McLellan remain loyal members twenty-three years later. Nea was to follow Fay Redgen as Librarian, a position which is now held by Joan. Together they formed a formidable partnership at the table, as did Cath Poole and Molly Redgwell. John Laufer, who has now left the district, enjoyed success both in club games and at congresses.

From 1989 on our congresses were held at the Senior Citizens' Centre with the Millers as caterers. There are players from outside Warwick who come to our congresses "just for the food."

A weekly column continued to be written, usually by Neil Bonnell and on occasions by John Rose and Neville Francis, for the Daily News. One of these columns, written by Neil Bonnell, was brought to the attention of the Editor of the QBA Bulletin, who reprinted it in full. This particular column, which is reproduced overleaf, was based on the comic strip Footrot Flats. The main characters were the farmer Wal, his dog, his long-suffering girlfriend Cheeky Hobson and Spit Murphy. The article was printed in the Bulletin of January, 1989 (Vol. 5 Issue 1). A second article, featuring some of the political leaders of the time was submitted directly to the QBA Bulletin. It was judged to be injudicious to publish it in Warwick at the same time as the visit of the Prime Minister, R.J.L. Hawke. This is followed by Daily News articles on two of the major club championships: Individual and Pairs. (Non-Warwick readers may like to know that the wise men who rode in from the East for the Individual Championship were staff members at the Hermitage Research Station, of whom mention has already been made.)

ANKLEBITING AT THE FLATS

Board 12 from last Wednesday caused most players more than average difficulty.

Dir: W	Q2	
Vul: N/S	AK10732	
	53	
963	Q92	J53
Q		864
KQ104		J98762
AKJ103	AK1074	8
	J95	
	A	
	7654	

When previously played in a Footrot Flats teams match in their knock-out zone competition, this board gave Wal and his team a lucky break. Wal opened 1C as West, overcalled 1H by North and raised to 1S by South. Cheeky Hobson, sitting East, failed to bid mainly because she was still sorting her cards. Wal then showed his diamond suit and North again bid hearts. Cheeky wasn't quite sure what Wal had meant when he had told her that she wasn't vulnerable, but saw that bidding diamonds gave her the chance of reminding Wal what she wanted to wear on her left hand.

As North and South argued about their suits, Cheeky persisted with her diamonds, pensively rubbing the ring finger of her left hand as she did so. When Wal became declarer in 5D doubled, he shuddered at the sight of dummy with three spade losers. Spit Murphy in the North seat played his Ace of hearts in the modern manner. When Wal dropped his Queen, Spit was not taken in. He had never trusted Wal and wasn't going to start now. Wal ruffed the heart continuation, muttering that he never false-carded anyway.

At this stage Dog, who had seen Cooch make 4H at the other table, returned. He had watched enough bridge to know that if Wal immediately played a trump, Pop Murphy at South would win his Ace of diamonds and then cash his spade winners. As Wal's fingers closed around the King of diamonds, Dog nipped him sharply on the ankle. A further moment's thought showed Wal a way to limit the damage. Wal then played three rounds of clubs, throwing a spade on the second and ruffing North's Queen in dummy. A heart ruff brought Wal back to hand and a fourth club was played. Spit Murphy, who hated being over-ruffed, discarded and a second spade disappeared. By the time South was able to ruff the fifth club, dummy's losers had melted away and the defence made only two tricks. Spit explained that he had intended to ruff Wal's clubs, but just as he about to do so, he felt a nip on his ankle and changed his mind.

At the Warwick Club, 5D made once, and failed once; 4H was common and one glorious sacrifice by West in 6C doubled cost 1700 points - and there wasn't a dog in sight.

(As the photocopy of the original was difficult to read, the article has been re-typed.)



BRIDGE AT THE TOP

From our WARWICK correspondent

The visit of the Prime Minister to Warwick is a reminder that it is not unknown for politicians to while away the time playing Bridge. Dick Klugman, MP for Prospect, and Hugh Hudson, former SA Education Minister, are keen Tournament players, and in the UK a teams match is annually played between the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

Imagine what might happen if Bridge matches became the in-thing in the Australian Parliament. (Surely there must be a card-room in the new House?)

When the Hawke-Keating partnership sat down against Howard-Peacock, some initial problems emerged. It was well established that Keating always kept score for his team, but Peacock had only just taken over that task for his side, and was still known to make mistakes. Peacock has been waiting for Gucci to produce a bidding system, but was making do with the Italian Blue Club (though Howard found even this a little flamboyant). Keating favoured a weak notrump, not wanting to give away too much unless he had to. Finally Hawke agreed but insisted that Keating stick to straightforward bidding and leave the spectacular stuff to him.

Keating dealt, and when the other players complained that they had been given only eleven cards, promised another one later and the last one in a month or two. When the rest of the cards had been squeezed out of him, this was the deal:

Dir: E	72 (Howard)	
	76	
	AJ843	
KQ63	K653	AJ1098
10		AJ954
KQ1097652		-
-	54	982
(Hawke)	KQ832	(Keating)
	-	
	AQJ1074 (Peacock)	

Paul opened a grudging 1S. Andrew overcalled 2C (being too strong for a preempt). And Bob decided on 4D, doubled by John who was relieved at finding a bid. Paul then decided on 4H, converted to 4S by Bob. By the process of elimination Andrew found the lead of a small trump. Clearly the hand depends on making all four trumps in

dummy and one had already disappeared. Paul won with dummy's king and tried the king of diamonds. When John ducked, Paul threw a club. Andrew ruffed and continued a club, ruffed in dummy. Another high diamond followed, covered by North and ruffed by East. In the end the contract was one off.

Andrew was proud to have found the right lead. John wondered why he hadn't been given more credit, even if he had doubled too soon; while Paul was able to explain why they were still winning, even though their deficit was increasing. Bob insisted that he was still enjoying the game, and intended to continue for some time. He denied the rumour that he was looking for a new partner.

The Wise Men from the East (re-typed from an article in the Warwick Daily News)

Once again, the wise men rode in from the east along the Yangan Rd., and carried off the honours in the Individual Championship. Defending champion John Churchett's score of just over 60% proved to be insufficient to prevent Jeff Rule slipping away to an unbeatable lead. Congratulations to Jeff on a very solid performance. Flat boards are rare in individual events, but Board 14 was wilder than most.

Dealer: N	NORTH	
Vul: All	S. Q106	
	H. AK9832	
	D. AK8	
	C. 10	
	WEST	EAST
	S. 9832	S. AKJ4
	H. Q7654	H. 10
	D. J	D. 73
	C. K92	C. AQJ853
	SOUTH	
	S. 75	
	H. J	
	D. Q1096542	
	C. 764	

Results for N/S varied from +620 when 4H made to -1100 when 4H failed by four tricks, which must have come as a surprise to the player who was left in 1H doubled, which made with an overtrick for +360. While one E/W pair did well to find their spade fit, they went one down in 4S.

Defending against 4H, East will usually show a top spade, but must then switch to a club to force North to trump in the long hand. Best defence will hold this contract to six tricks, but in practice seven or eight tricks were easy to come by. If North leads a small heart to dummy's Jack, how many Wests will refuse the trick?

Full results:

Monday, 6/2/89 (10-table Mitchell):

N/S B. Bonnell M. Walsh (63.9%) 1; P. Jenkin F. Wells (59.7%) 2; I. Griffiths F. Redgen (59.0%) 3.

E/W E. Gray D. Mathison (59.5%) 1; T. Graham M. Kelly (58.6%) 2; R. Cooney B. Freemantle (56.0%) 3.

Wednesday, 8/2/89 8-table Individual:

J. Rule (67.3%) 1; J. Churchett (60.7%) 2; E. Clark (59.8%) 3; Joycelyn Kemp (58.6%) 4; F. Redgen (58.0%) 5; John Kemp (55.9%) 6.

1989 Pairs Championship (reprinted from WDN 17/6/89)

The final round of the Pairs Championship saw an extremely tight finish. Leaders with one round to play were Churchett/Henzell 250, Bonnell/Bonnell 246 and Rose/Redgen 245. With a top worth 8 points, any of these pairs could have won. John

Rose and Fay Redgen were looking at three straight tops when they played their last board, but had to be content with an average for a total of 249. Neil and Beverly scored five to advance to 251. Bob Henzell and John Churchett simply had to avoid a bottom to hold their lead. This they did, to win by one point, on 252, but only after facing the most testing hand of the night on the very last board.

Dealer: S	NORTH	
Vul: Nil	S. 76	
	H. AKQ106	
	D. 9	
	C. A10853	
	WEST	EAST
	S. A	S. 8532
	H. 853	H. J
	D. AKQ1032	D. J8765
	C. KQ7	C. J94
	SOUTH	
	S. KQJ1095	
	H. 9742	
	D. 4	
	C. 62	

Five times the contract was played in 4H, three times doubled and making with an overtrick on all but one occasion. Four times E/W won the auction in 5D, always making and once doubled. Churchett and Henzell went quietly, allowing their opponents to play in the diamond game and so collected the two points they needed for the championship. The diamond game is cold against any defence. The only losers are a heart and a club. The contract can be claimed very early.

The heart contract is more interesting. N/S must bid on to 5H if they are pushed and can then go one off if the defence is accurate. The defenders need to drive out the Ace of clubs to expose a loser before declarer has a chance to establish South's spades. A club and two hostile Aces will defeat 5H.

When the second and third place-getters were doubled in 4H they could have re-doubled to improve their score, but that would have given E/W the incentive to push on to their diamond game. Anyone for tennis?

Full results:

Friday, 9/6/89 (Epson heat):

N/S E. Clark I. Griffiths (63.1%) 1; J. Mapes M Walsh (63.0%) 2; B. Bonnell N. Bonnell (61.8%) 3. E/W F. Redgen K. Hilsdon (52.0%) 1; R. Cooney T. Graham (56.0%) 2; J. Marley F. Marley (47.0%) 3.

Monday, 12/6/89 (8-table Mitchell):

N/S J. Laufer M. Radke (59.2%) 1; E. Clark H. Maxwell (55.0%) 2; I Griffiths F. Redgen (53.8%) 3. E/W B. Bonnell R. Cooney (61.0%) 1; K. Hilsdon R. Hilsdon (54.5%) 2; C. Poole M. Redgwell (53.0%) 3.

Wednesday, Club Pairs Championship: J. Churchett R Henzell (252) 1; B. Bonnell N. Bonnell (251) 2; F. Redgen J. Rose (249) 3.

Chapter 2

The Changing of the Guard

1990-94

The 1990 Annual Meeting saw the term of Neil Bornell as President come to an end. Both Beverly and Neil felt that it was time for other members to gain experience in running the club. Beverly was less successful in surrendering her position and remained as Secretary for a while longer. This prompted Fiona Wells to suggest that the terms of office-bearers be limited so that potential candidates would not be discouraged from standing for positions because they felt that they would be trapped into serving for long periods. Nothing much resulted from this very sensible suggestion until the club applied for incorporation. A condition of approval was that the terms of office-bearers be limited to three years.

John Rose was elected President, John Kemp Vice-President and Cath Poole Treasurer. The first two were fittingly new to their positions. The club was fortunate to have the services of Jack White as Honorary Auditor.

Warwick did this year take its turn to host the Zonal Final of the GNOT. Following the ABF policy of wide participation, Warwick entered four local teams and expected four visiting teams. When one of these withdrew, an extra Warwick team was added. Ivy Dahler, from Toowoomba, was a considerate, helpful and calm director. As stated earlier, she had been generous in directing our first congress free of charge. On the other hand, she was also a fierce competitor and objected strongly to this format. Her point was that the top local pairs knew more about the idiosyncrasies of the weaker local teams than the visitors did. In the end, Toowoomba won narrowly from the top Warwick team. Ivy made it quite clear that any other result would have resulted in a protest to the QBA. It was a somewhat nerve-wracking experience for Neil Bonnell to direct this event, especially when he had to give a ruling at Ivy's table. Ivy was one of the top directors in Australia and would have no hesitation in appealing against an incorrect ruling. Any rulings given at her table ended with a rising intonation, as if to ask, "Is that right, Ivy?"

Nevertheless, when Ivy died suddenly a few years ago, the club lost a genuine friend - away from the table. Those of us who played in large congresses where there were several directors on duty would rather see Ivy come to the table than almost any other director.

Club members were pleased to learn that, as a result of the success of the ABF's sponsorship campaign to cover the expenses of the Bermuda Bowl, clubs were to receive a refund of 30% of their contributions, to be distributed by State bodies. They were not so happy when a cheque arrived from the QBA for \$19.80. This represented 30% of the cost of raffle tickets sold and ignored the amount of over \$700 also contributed. This amount was omitted from the QBA's list of club contributions. It is probably not widely known that Warwick's contributions was the fifth highest overall and might well have been the highest per capita. Naturally, members were aggrieved and wanted the cheque returned. Instead, the Secretary contacted the QBA and was successful in obtaining a cheque for over \$200. The

cancelled cheque for \$19.80 remains in the club's records, a page or two ahead of the returned cheque from the Alexander Motel.

The club continued its contribution to local charities. The following donations were made.

Senior Citizens' Centre	\$100
Warwick District Welfare Co-ordinating Group	\$150
Blue Nurses	\$150
Accommodation Support Group	\$150
Juvenile Eisteddfod Committee	\$ 50

The club continued to offer lessons, this time on Sunday afternoon. One couple arrived at first session of a new series and announced that they ran a motel and had managed to organize a few hours away from their duties. Could the instructor please assure them that they could learn to play bridge in three hours? When they were told that to play bridge well may take ten to twenty years and that to get started at all would require the full course of lessons advertised, they retreated quickly to their motel.

It was probably in that year that one of our local farmers paid his annual subscription by cheque. He wrote the word "bridge" on the butt, thought for a moment and added the word "repairs".

On a less amusing note, the QBA announced its intention to introduce an accreditation scheme for directors. As an interim measure, clubs would be allowed to nominate several members as directors to tide clubs over the period while the accreditation scheme was being implemented. Warwick's nominated directors were Beverly Bonnell, Neil Bonnell, Peter Campbell, John Rose and Joan McLellan.

Neil Bonnell's last Annual Report congratulated John Rose and John Churchett on being the first Warwick pair to win a congress when they defeated a strong field at the Dalby Congress. They also finished in the top 50 in the 1990 Epson Pairs with a percentage of 71.79. John Laufer and Michelle Radke came 7th in the Australia-Wide Novice Pairs. The four members who reached the status of State Master were Edith Clark, Irene Griffiths, John Churchett and John Rose.

The win by Phil Dobney and Adrian Mayers in the 1989 Spring Pairs was a particularly fitting result, as Adrian had donated the trophy in the previous year.

The report also thanked John Kemp for his work on sponsorship as well as Mair Gifford and Rita Cooney for their help with the congress.

The outgoing President also noted that, due to the departure of Fay Redgen, lessons had been discontinued.

In a paragraph devoted to the recognition of the efforts of various members, the following members were thanked: Beverly Bonnell for helping the club to run smoothly; all members of the Committee; Mair Gifford and Irene Griffiths for the help with accommodation arrangements for the 1989 Congress; Rita Cooney who

assisted with finding partners; John Rose as Handicapper; John Churchett for his work as Masterpoint Secretary and Nea McGinness who had taken over the job of Librarian. It was also noted that Irene Griffiths looked after catering for normal club games until a roster system was introduced.

The following report on the 1990 Individual Championship appeared in the Daily News c. 17th February:

The 1999 Individual Championship was won convincingly by John Rose, who finished 15 points clear of runner-up Irene Griffiths. One of John's tops was scored on Board 9, on which he found a line of play which apparently eluded other declarers.

Dealer: N Vul: E/W

	NORTH	
	S. AK1063	
	H. K106	
	D. Q85	
	C. Q2	
WEST		EAST
S. 5		S. 874
H. QJ72		H. 54
D. AK7		D. J10432
C. AKJ95		C. 762
	SOUTH	
	S. QJ92	
	H. A983	
	D. 96	
	C. 1084	

N/S generally played in spades, making eight tricks. Twice when the contract was 4S doubled, declarer conceded 300. One down in 3S for a penalty of 50 was the most common result. Playing 3S from the North seat, John lost the first two tricks to the A-K of clubs but ruffed the third round. He then drew trumps, finishing in dummy.

The crucial play of a diamond towards the Queen was then made. West rose with the Ace but was left with no good continuation, having discarded the diamond seven on a trump. A club gives a ruff and discard, while a heart allows a free finesse. Perhaps West's best exit would have been the Jack of hearts, which would have forced declarer to guess the location of the Queen. When on lead, East may have done better to lead a heart instead of a club, even though a club was partner's first suit. When West was not endplayed, declarer usually had to lose a heart to go with two clubs and two diamonds.

Full results:

Monday, February 12 (9-table Mitchell):

N/S B. Bonnell I. Griffiths (62.0%) 1; N. Francis P. Francis (60.9%) 2; R. Cooney J. Mapes (55.6%) 3.

Wednesday, 14 February (8-table Individual):

J. Rose (117.5) 1; I. Griffiths (102.5) 2; R. Henzell (102) 3; J. Churchett (100.5) 4; B. Bonnell (100) 5.

The first significant event of 1991 was the receipt of a letter from the Australian Taxation Office dated 8th January 1991 granting the club tax exempt status. As it had never occurred to members that formal approval was needed for this status, it was a relief to have approval granted.

The club had its share of sadness during 1991. No fewer than five members died during the year. They were Doug Maxwell, Sheila Fletcher, Peg Blundell, Thyra Graham and Rita Cooney. Thyra and Rita had become firm friends through the Bridge Club. Coming from different religious and social backgrounds, they had not previously met socially and were grateful to the club for the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds. Their passing was deeply felt, especially as they both died suddenly.

This was the year of the first Epsom Dinner. It was arranged that the club venue for the Epsom World-Wide Pair be the Staff Common Room at the Scots PGC College and that dinner be served before play started. At that time, the College possessed a wonderful chef in the person of Robert Zemp. By dint of a subsidy from club funds, members enjoyed their game of bridge and as good a meal as any at a restaurant in Warwick for a mere \$7.00. It is hardly surprising that members voted to continue this custom for as long as the College venue and chef were available.

Still Secretary, Beverly Bonnell announced with great delight that the QBA had granted the club no fewer than FIVE red-point vouchers, even though membership had not reached the magic figure of 75.

Other matters also occupied the minds of members in 1991. The rising cost of providing cakes and other expensive items for afternoon teas and suppers led to a decision that biscuits only be provided with tea and coffee. There was even discussion of the fact that coffee was more expensive than tea. This question is still a vexed one, as compulsive cooks find the notion of bought biscuits abhorrent. The main objection to cakes currently is that stickiness is transferred to the cards.

Another largely unresolved question was first raised in this year. Various formats had been tried for the Club Pairs Championship, including a qualifying round, followed by separate sections for Championship and Plate. Some members objected to the use of a Howell movement at this stage of the championship. After receiving advice, the club directors settled on two rounds, with some switching of pairs in the second round. The issue is, however, not entirely dead.

One failed suggestion was the introduction of bidding boxes. Expense was used as one argument against this, but members in general had little experience of these boxes and did not feel confident in moving away from written bidding. There is, of course, no way with bidding boxes that the whole of the bidding sequence can be reconstructed once the bidding cards have been replaced in the box.

From 1991 until they retired from regular directing, Reg Busch and Joan McPheat directed Warwick's congresses. Their format for two-congresses was a familiar one: two qualifying rounds on the first day, then Championship, Plate and Consolation sections on day two. Once they vacated the field, the Swiss format

with scoring across the board for all sessions has become much more popular. It is debatable whether the Swiss format is fairer than the earlier model.

John Rose's first Annual Report follows.

**WARWICK BRIDGE CLUB.
PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT 1990-1991.**

1990-1991 has been a very successful year for the club. The finances are in a very sound condition. The membership remains high with 73 members. the standard of play in the club is steadily improving and club members continue to do well in outside tournaments..

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The winners of the Club Championships were:-

Individual - John Rose

Pairs - Bob Henzell and John Rose

Handicap Pairs - Cleve Murdoch and Ev Booth

Teams John Marley, John Laufer, John Rose, Bob Henzell and Peter Campbell.

OUTSIDE TOURNAMENTS

Club members continued to perform well in outside tournaments. Neville Francis and John Rose scored third place in the Toowoomba Congress and also managed to win the Toowoomba One-Day Congress. Neil and Beverly Bonnell took out second place in the Dalby One-Day Congress.

In the GNOT (knockout teams) the Warwick No. 1 team finished a very close third to two Toowoomba teams. Former Warwick player John Churchett was a member of the winning team.

Other meritorious performances were:-

Australia Wide Pairs - Michele Radke and John Rose 39th Open Section
Peter Campbell and Ross McCasker 46th Restricted

Queensland Wide Pairs - John Churchett and Bob Henzell 1st
Neil and Beverly Bonnell 6th

Australia Wide Multi Pairs - Bob Henzell and John Rose 83rd

Epson World Wide Pairs - Beverly and Neil Bonnell 66.6%

MASTERPOINT RANKINGS

Congratulations to Beverly and Neil Bonnell who achieved the status of National Masters during the year. They are the first club members to gain this honour.

1990 CONGRESS

The 1990 Warwick Spring Pairs were won by Keith and Lyn Bishop of Brisbane. The plate was won by Mr and Mrs Littler, also from Brisbane. Warwick pairs Fiona Wells and Pat Jenkin and Ross McCasker and Peter Campbell shared the consolation. The success of the Congress was due to hard working members John Kemp, Beverly Bonnell and Rita Cooney.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The membership showed a gain of one over the previous year. We farewelled Michelle Radke who transferred to Brisbane and Irene Griffith and John Churchett who both moved to Toowoomba. Sadly we record the passing of foundation member Thyra Graham and also Shiela Fletcher and Peg Blundell.

THANKS

The club has had a very successful year because of the many willing members who have cheerfully carried out all the duties needed to make the club run smoothly. First I must thank our secretary Beverly Bonnell who does a tremendous job looking after the many small things that make all the difference in a well run club. Beverly also directs the Monday sessions and took over the job of Master Point secretary mid-term. Secondly, I would like to thank treasurer, Cath Poole who completes her first year in the job. Cath has done a great job looking after the clubs finances. Thirdly, thanks to Past President and Chief Director, Neil Bonnell who has been a great help in my first year as president. Neil has been happy to sit back and let me take over as president of the club he had the enthusiasm to get started. He has always been willing to give advice whenever we asked. Thanks are also due to John Churchett as Masterpoint Secretary and Nea McGinness for looking after the library and organizing the catering. Finally thank you to all committee members for your support and your enthusiasm throughout the year.

CONCLUSION

I have enjoyed my year as President and I thank all the members for their support. My bridge seems to have improved during the year as well, so I am happy to offer myself as president for a second term. For the next few months, we will be without our main directors. I believe this will be a good chance for some of our other directors to gain more experience. Neville Francis has agreed to look after the Monday sessions and I hope we can share the task on Wednesday nights.

John Rose



President

The hands which follow are from the Epsom and the Warwick Spring Pairs.

Warwick Bridge Club members John Rose and John Churchett were among the top 50 place-getters in the world in the Epson Simultaneous Pairs championship according to unofficial results released recently.

Rose and Churchett scored 71%, the top Australian pair 77% and the world winners from Denmark 80%. Chinese players came 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

In the Warwick Club Pairs Championship Neil and Beverly Bonnell (121.93) came from behind to beat John Rose and Michelle Radke (121.62) by a mere 0.3%. John Churchett and Rob Henzell (119.57) were close behind in third place.

The winners did well on Board 13.

Dealer: N. Vul: All.

	North	
	S QJ102	
	H QJ6	
	D Q	
	C K9763	
West		East
S AK763		S K4
H QJ6		H 1072
D K9		D J10852
C AJ9		C Q1052
	South	
	S 985	
	H A854	
	D A7643	
	C 4	

After North opened a Precision 2C, the bidding went round to West who overcalled 2S which was passed out. Most other E/W pairs also played in spades. North led the fourth highest club, won in dummy by the Queen. Declarer now tried to set up the diamond suit and did not see the lead again until the contract had been lost.

The Jack of diamonds from dummy was covered by South's Ace, dropping North's Queen. A small diamond from South saw declarer's King ruffed by North, who returned a club for the inevitable ruff.

Another diamond from South gave declarer the choice of ruffing low and conceding an overruff, ruffing high and promoting one of North's trumps or discarding a heart or club. In the event, ruffing low gave North the opportunity to lead back yet another club. When South plays the next diamond, declarer faces the same dilemma again.

At the table, N/S scrambled six tricks for a penalty of 200. Declarer's best bet is to clear trumps as quickly as possible after winning the first trick. On the layout, A-K and a small trump would limit N/S to two trump tricks instead of the four they took.

Full results: Friday, 8/6/90 Epson Simultaneous Pairs (Warwick heat): J. Rose & J. Churchett (71.8%), 1 N. Bonnell & B. Bonnell (67.3%), 2.

Monday, 11/6/90 (8-table Mitchell): N/S S. Crichton & J. Mapes (61.31%), 1 B. Bonnell & I. Griffiths (58.63%), 2 E. Clark & H. Maxwell (57.7%), 3.

E/W: N. Doherty & D. Mathison (58.3%), 1= C. Poole & M. Redgwell (58.3), 1= R. Cooney & M. Gifford (53.9%), 3.

Wednesday, 13/6/90 (9 & 1/2-table Mitchell): N. Bonnell & B. Bonnell (65.6%), 1 J. Churchett & R. Henzell (59.4), 2 M. Radke & J. Rose (56.25%), 3.

E/W: F. Robson & T. Robson (65.9%), 1 N. McGinness & J. McLellan (59.0%), 2 O. Evans & J. Kemp (53.9%), 3.

Last year's winners of the Warwick Spring Pairs, Phil Dobney and Adrian Mayers return to defend their title against a very strong field which includes Grand Masters Khokan Bagchi and Denise Dodd, together with Australian Youth representative Jim Wallis.

Several other pairs hold Life Master ranking and three others are National masters. We also welcome Q.B.A. President Keith Mc Donald.

Perhaps some of the action will be as lively as that on Board 22 last Monday.

Dealer: E NORTH Vul: E/W.

	North	
	S 972	
	H 54	
	D 832	
	C K10982	
West		East
S K8654		S 103
H J9		H Q10762
D AK9		D Q765
C A76		C 53
	South	
	S AQJ	
	H AK83	
	D J104	
	C QJ4	

Groucho Marx and his brother Chico were very competent, if unorthodox bridge players. Groucho used to say, "When I lead, don't bother signalling with a high card if you like my lead. Just smile and nod your head." Chico, on the other hand, announced at the start of a televised tournament, "I always bid."

Chico would have appreciated the following auction. South very properly opened 1NT. West, having missed Paul Lavings lessons on action over no-trump bids, doubled with only 1s high card points. North retreated to 2C, spurring East to overcall 2H and South to 3C. West again doubled, North had had enough, but East pulled the double by bidding 3D.

South followed North's example and withdrew from the field. Envisaging partner with a 6-s, West decided that if partner could bid like that, then game should be bid and proceeded to 4H, which was one down for an average score. Chico's standard excuse for an overbid was, "In California that is a good hand."

The action at other tables varied from failed spade contracts by West to unsuccessful attempts at 3NT and 3H by South. As it happens, 1NT will always go one off against standard defence. West has only to avoid leading spades into the tenace twice, or playing the Ace of clubs before the third round and the contract is doomed.

Full results: Monday (8-table Mitchell): N/S M. Bryce & J. Kemp (60.7%), 1 N. Francis & P. Francis (59.5%), 2 J. Mapes & C. Poole (56.3%), 3.

E/W B. Bonnell & N. Bonnell (61.3%), 1 D. Bryant & E. Doherty (59.8%), 2 R. Cooney & J. McLellan (58.3%), 3.

Wednesday, (8 & 1/2-table Mitchell): N/S C. Poole & L. Poole (62.0%), 1= N. Francis & P. Francis (62.0%), 1= P. Campbell & R. McCasker (57.9%), 3.

E/W J. Rose & J. Marley (56.0%), 1 R. Cooney & T. Graham (55.8%), 2 E. Robson & T. Robson (51.6%), 3= E. Booth & D. Worthy (51.6%), 3=.

The scanner at WDN had problems.

1s = 15

6-s = 6-5

90 = go

In 1992 the club continued its policy of making donations to local charities and in this year \$1000 was given to the Blue Nurses. With \$4000 on fixed deposit and \$3872 in cash at the bank, the club could afford to be generous. A telephone was installed in the club's computer room at the Band Centre and plans were made for a one-day congress in February. The format of the GNOT continued to cause confusion and was the subject of vigorous correspondence. In a curious move, it was agreed that a Toowoomba team should play Dalby, the winner to meet Warwick to decide who should proceed to the next stage of the competition.

John Rose's second annual report reported that membership remained above 70 and that the club's finances were sound.

Successes achieved by club members included a second place by Neville Francis and John Rose in the Pairs Championship at the Toowoomba Congress, followed up by another second in the Teams by Nevile Francis, John Churchett, Beverly Bonnell and Neil Bonnell. These results were achieved in a field which included several Queensland representatives. A report which appeared in the QBA Bulletin is printed overleaf.

John Rose and Rob Henzell won the E/W section of the Queensland-Wide Pairs. This gave Rob a win for two years in a row.

John also thanked club members who had assisted him in the various tasks which keep a club running smoothly. They were John Kemp (Vice-President), Beverly Bonnell (Secretary), Cath Poole (Treasurer) and Nea McGinness (Librarian and catering).

Directing duties were shared by John Rose and Neil Bonnell on Wednesdays and Beverly Bonnell on Monday. At this time it was Beverly's policy on Monday to be available for any member who needed a partner. This resulted in her playing several times with an Elderly Female Member, whose powers of concentration were beginning to fail. The EFM's re-bids were often suspect and she did on occasion fail to reply to forcing bids. Her opening bids were, however, totally reliable. To counter this, over partner's opening bid Beverly bid straight to game when holding any hand with more than 12 points. This resulted in the common sequence: EFM !C; Beverly 3NT. The EFM made no comment about this and seemed to enjoy watching her partner play more hands than she did. Then, on one occasion, when Beverly was not available John Churchett was drafted to play with the EFM. Beverly instructed John in the tactics most likely to succeed. Play had been in progress for about an hour and John had made 3NT three or four times, when the EFM looked up and said, "You play just like Beverly."

The only area of some concern was that numbers at the two-day Congress were still below expectations. Some members argued that with many members did not feel sufficiently confident to play against visiting players of high calibre. It was suggested that for some of the older members, two days of concentrated bridge was too much of a strain. It was partly because of this argument that a one-day congress was proposed for February. A report on the 1992 Toowoomba Congress follows.



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEENSLAND BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

 Editor: Frank White
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THE TOOWOOMBA PAIRS

John Rose & Neville Francis

The 1992 Toowoomba Congress was held at the Burke and Wills Hotel, the Pairs under the very capable direction of Ivy Dahler. Ivy kindly allowed extra smoking breaks so the smokers could adjourn to the lobby. There was no slow play by the smokers as they tried to fit in a quick fix between rounds.

Congratulations to the winners, Therese Tully and Ian Halford. We were close to them with one round to go but they gave us no chance on the final round.

We were very proud of our slam bidding at the Gold Coast Congress but it was a different story in Toowoomba where slams were few and far between, and difficult to bid accurately.

F1 Board 24		J10984	
W	Nil	6532	
		2	
	K53	954	Q62
	KQ1084		A7
	Q		AKJ1085
	AQ62	A7	J10
		J9	
		97643	
		K873	

The bidding:	W	N	E	S
	1H	Pass	2D	Pass
	3C	3S	Dbl	//

We obviously had a game, but Henry Eastment's wild interpose diverted us from a cold slam in hearts, diamonds, or notrumps. Neither of us was thinking about a slam and it seemed better to take the +800.

Q2 Board 6		AQ108	
E	EW	Q7542	
		852	
	9764	7	2
	KJ		A3
	AKQ4		J7
	1064	KJ53	AKQJ8532
		10986	
		1096	
		9	

The bidding was brief: 5C - All pass. We were on the right side of this unbid slam. East is clearly too strong for the pre-empt as a large number of West hands make a slam possible. We have a 2D bid to show a 9-playing-trick hand. After East shows the club suit on his next round, West should look for slam with his four winners.

On the hand shown top of next column, 7DX is a great save, costing only 800.

Q2 Board 16		64	
W	EW	10965	
		AQ	
	9732	QJ1053	AKQ1085
	AJ742		KQ3
	7		2
	A74	J	K98
		8	
		KJ10986543	
		62	

Why didn't we find the save? Maybe John should bid 4D, as the AQ of diamonds suggests no diamond losers. Maybe Neville should bid 5D instead of 3D, at the favourable vulnerability opposite a passed hand - the opponents surely have at least a game in one of the majors.

After running third in 1991 and second this year, we will be back next year to try for the title.

RESULTS

Championship:	1. T Tully-I Halford
	2. J Rose-N Francis
	3. J Tobiano-H Slobom
Plate:	1. B Byrnes-D McGhee
	2. E Schultz-C Dixon
	3. B Travers-M Millar (G C)
Consolation:	1. P Hainsworth-S Easton
	2. K Jeffrey-N Bliss
	3. G Chft-N Mirtschin

THE TEAMS: no Toowoomba teams results have been received as yet by the QBA, but I know that Therese Tully and Ian Halford did the double, playing with Joan Butts and Richard Wallis. And I have a strong feeling that John Rose and Neville Francis repeated the quinella, partnering the Bonnells.

With Katie Parker working as a reporter for the Daily News, 1992 was a good year for publicity for the Bridge Club, as the next page illustrates.

Daily News, Saturday, June 20, 1992—19

Warwick players take on world's best

Forty Warwick Bridge players competed last night against more than 87,000 players from 94 countries in the 7th Worldwide Espom Bridge Contest.

The contest, which has gained a place in the Guinness World Book of Records as the largest tournament in the world, was played simultaneously with 30 hands set specially by Omar Sharif.

Warwick Bridge Club secretary Mrs Beverly Bonnell said the contest, played locally at The Scots PGC College this year, coincided with Warwick Bridge Club's 7th birthday.

"The Epsom, so named because it is sponsored by the Epsom Computer Company, is an incredible contest to be

associated with," she said.

"This year Toowoomba bridge player Ivy Dahler co-ordinated the Australian section.

"Each club receives a sealed box which contains the Epsom bridge books, rules and score cards. The box is opened with contestants as witnesses.

"Once open the hands are played and scoring done instantly. The scores are then recorded and should anyone make a score of more than 1600 their names are given to the international organisers who tally up the winners.

"The world winner will receive an Epsom Computer."

Daily News, Friday, August 21, 1992—

Warwick bridge player has success at congress

National Bridge Master Neville Francis, of Warwick, bid and played his way to a prestigious win at the inaugural Surfers Paradise Bridge Congress this week.

Mr Francis, a Warwick Bridge Club member for the past four years, teamed up with Toowoomba player Adrian Mayers. The two-some who had never played together out finessed 72 pairs from the Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Tweed Heads and Dalby over the two-day congress.

Thirty-six tables of four players bid, squeezed, finessed, ducked and psyched each other as they played 56 boards (rounds) in an attempt to score their way to the final. Those fortunate enough to make the final, 18 pairs, then had to play 51 boards before the eventual winning pair was announced.

Mr Francis, 34, said he and his partner were very pleased with their win because of the fact that they had never played together.

By

KATIE PARKER

"Bridge is such a finely tuned game that it can quite often take sometime before players become accustomed to each other's method of playing and bidding," he said.

Mr Francis has played bridge for nine years after being introduced to the game when on night duty as a psychiatric nurse. Since then Mr Francis has played in numerous congresses throughout the State, tutored for five years and chartered a new bridge club in Stanthorpe.

This year he has played in the Toowoomba Pairs and Teams Championship, where he and Dr John Rose, of Warwick placed second, the Australian National Championships in Brisbane and the Gold Coast Congress.

Mr Francis intends to play in the Warwick Congress in September and the Dalby Congress later this year.

Daily News, Wednesday, June 24, 1992

Warwick Bridge players competed against more than 87,000 players from 94 countries in the 7th Worldwide Espom Bridge Contest at The Scots PGC College on Friday night.

Local players were treated to a two course taster tantaliser and a selection of wines, before play started. The Scots PGC College are to be congratulated on catering for the evening.

The contest, which has gained a place in the Guinness World Book of Records as the largest tournament in the world, was played simultaneously with 30 hands set specially by Omar Sharif. The Epsom, so named because it is sponsored by the Epsom Computer Company, coincided with Warwick Bridge Club's 7th birthday.

Players waited in anticipation while the sealed box which contained the Epsom bridge books, rules and score cards, was opened and then it was play in earnest. Once open, the hands were played with great enthusiasm and a lot of merriment.

Some of those who attended the evening include; Neil and Beverly Bonnell, Sheila Creighton, Lorna Broughton, Micki Bryce, Clite Murdock, Daisy Worthy, Florence and Ian McLaren, Evaline Booth, Bill Lauder, Thelma Lucy, John Laufer, John Marley, Hazel Maxwell, Gloria Parker, Ken and Fiona Wells.

□ □ □



Bridge players Beverly and Neil Bonnell open the Worldwide Espom Bridge competition security box.

We are sure that Katie was not responsible for the confusion between "Epson", the computer company and "Epsom", the traditional household remedy. It must have been the compositor's fault.

In August, 1992, the bridge correspondent for the Warwick Daily News allowed himself a literary conceit or two.

After a false start, last Wednesday's draw teams tournament soon created plenty of excitement, recalling William Cowper's description of the suits: *With spots quadrangular of di'mond form, Ensanguined hearts, clubs typical of strife, And spades the emblem of untimely graves.*

Board 16 saw strife for those who insisted on their clubs.

Dealer: W	NORTH	
Vul: E/W	S. AQJ	
	H. K6	
	D. 9853	
	C. AJ104	
		EAST
	WEST	S. K853
	S. 642	H. Q852
	H. 107	D. K1074
	D. A	C.8
	C. KQ97532	
		SOUTH
	S. 1097	
	H. AJ943	
	D. QJ62	
	C. 6	

West routinely pre-empted in clubs, despite the dubious role of clubs in this role. With 15 high card points, North is almost worth a take-out double, except that North's strongest suit is held by the opposition. At the table, club contracts predominated, with N/S only once being left to play in hearts.

It is difficult to see any justification for E/W to bid as high as 4C or 5C, but this did happen. The strife appeared when North doubled, collecting penalties as high as 1400.

At first glance, a modest 3H is the best bet for N/S, but closer analysis shows that 3NT has some chance, even (especially?) on a club lead. This gives declarer the opportunity to attack hearts and to win four tricks in the suit. To these may be added two spades and two tricks in the minors. By contrast, E/W have no good contract, not even clubs. Cowper knew his suits.

Full results:

Monday, 3/8/92 (9 ½-table Mitchell):

N/S O. Evans N. Francis (70.2%) 1; E. Clark H., Maxwell (59.6%) 2; P. Jenkin F. Wells (56.7%) 3.

E/W B. Bonnell C. Poole (61.8%) 1; N. McGinness J. McLellan (54.8%) 2; M. Mangan D. Mathison (54.4%) 3.

Wednesday, 5/8/92: (10-table Teams):

C. Murdoch L. Broughton J. Kemp O. Evans 1; B. Bonnell N. Bonnell E. Robson T. Robson 2; P. Francis N. Francis E. Booth S. Masden 3; J. Rose T. Usher, C. Poole T. Lucy 4.

In 1993, the first moves were made towards acquiring our own clubhouse. This particular saga is best left to later in the history, when it can be told as a continuous narrative.

Another saga, the date of our September Congress again occupied the attention of our office-bearers. It seemed that every date favoured by Warwick caused a problem for some one else. This conflict would not be resolved until the Warwick Congress was forced into November as a one-day congress.

The policy on prize money was clarified at the Annual General Meeting. From the inception of the club, it had been agreed that no prize money would be awarded for normal duplicate games. Instead, winners of dub championships would be awarded cash prizes at the annual Christmas Party. Also, the club would subsidize entries for all players in major events such as the Epson. In this way, benefits would be spread across the club instead of being concentrated on a small group of successful players.

The club did face a rising bill for masterpoints, partly because of the increase in membership but also because the masterpoint scale of awards again became more generous.

The President, John Rose, reported a quietly successful year. He thanked Neville and Pip Francis for their continued support for the club, particularly on Wednesdays nights, even though they had moved to Toowoomba. Neville had started to do well in congresses and it was interesting to see Pip developing into a competent player. Whenever Neville and Pip tried out complex systems or conventions, it was often Pip who suggested the change. In partnership with John Rose, Neville came equal first in the Dalby Congress.

Reg Busch also settled the vexed question of the format of the GNOT. In defence of previous arrangements, Reg said that no "hard and fast rules" had been laid because circumstances in various zones were different. He then laid out a sensible set of regulations which made life much easier for local conveners.

As a footnote to 1993, one of our members had seen that the two club pairs who used the Precision System of bidding seemed to do very well. He reasoned that if he and his partner learned the system, they would improve their game. Accordingly, he obtained information about the system, studied it for a week or two and then gave his notes to his partner. He announced that she should be ready to play Precision the next week. In vain, he was told that it would take several weeks of private practice before the system could be used in a real game. Undeterred, our optimist arrived the following week with two system cards made out for Precision. The experiment was short-lived as his reluctant partner spent most of the session in a state of constant bewilderment.

Donations of \$500 and \$100 were made to the NSW Bushfire Appeal and the City Band. Of the \$500, \$211.25 was donated by members and the club made up the amount to \$500.

The inaugural One-Day Congress in February 1994 gave the year a spectacular start when John Laufer and John Marley won the event, beating off a challenge from David Appleton and Murray Green.

The AGM was moved to the beginning of the year and from then on the bridge club year followed the calendar year closely. At the AGM, concern was raised about noise levels. One suggested cause was slow play, which resulted in most players having finished well before the laggards. Slow play is a perennial problem for directors. The award of an average or two early in the session can work wonders. Most members hated the idea of an average. In recent years, the author asked what he thought was a rhetorical question: "Do you expect the rest of the room to wait while you play this hand?" Without hesitation, the answer was, "Yes." Another member complained when the director awarded an average. This member's partner, who knew that they were having a dreadful evening quickly responded, "I'll take it." It was close to being their highest score of the night.

The club accepted an invitation to play in the Kamilaroi Shield, a teams event organized by the Goondiwindi Club. No record of the results can be found, nor can any record of the event having been played in recent years.

Successes in congresses included a win by Neil and Beverly in Glen Innes, an event also won later by John Rose and Neville Francis. Neville partnered Ivy Dahler to win the Dalby Congress.

The club's finances reached a peak, with a Term Deposit of \$7000 and cash in hand of \$4843.76.

The most interesting exchange of correspondence of the year concerned Warwick's request to appoint Peter Doak of Lismore as director for the September Congress. Because Doak was not accredited in Queensland, Reg Busch would not approve his appointment unless Doak undertook to obtain Queensland accreditation. With some justification, Reg explained that he wished to defend the standard of directing in Queensland. With little time left before the Congress, the Warwick Secretary, John Marley, had to write to Doak, revoking the previous invitation. All the correspondence was polite, but the QBA held firm in its policy. In instances like this, a club could feel aggrieved when the QBA showed its controlling, rather than its mentoring face.

The 2010 schedule of visits by Kim and Ray Ellaway to each club in the State is definitely showing the mentoring face of the QBA, as did the visit of ABF and QBA President Keith McDonald to open the new clubhouse in October 2007.

The most notable achievement of 1994 was probably that of Pip and Neville Francis, who won the Australian section of the World-Wide Pairs Competition. Their win was reported by Paul Lavings in his column in The Bulletin.

BRIDGE by Paul Lavings

West dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 9 4 2

♥ 9 5 2

♦ 8 3

♣ Q 9 6 4

WEST

♠ K J 8 7 6 5 3

♥ A J 6

♦ 10

♣ K 7

EAST

♠ -----

♥ Q 8 7 4 3

♦ K 7 6 5

♣ 8 5 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A 10

♥ K 10

♦ A Q J 9 4 2

♣ A J 10

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	3 ♦
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	4 ♦

Dble

Opening lead: ace of hearts

The ninth Worldwide Bridge Contest, sponsored by the Seiko Epson Corporation, was played around the world on the Friday night and Saturday afternoon, Australian time, of the Queen's Birthday weekend.

Australian winners were Neville and Pip Francis, who played at the Warwick Bridge Club in Queensland, with 72.25%. Second were Carolyn Molloy and John Wagnall, who played at the Hunters Hill Bridge Club, with 70.4%. Saturday winners were John Friesen and Zig Roberts at the Albury Commercial Club with 69.95%, and Jim and Pam Borin at the Melbourne English Speaking Union with 68.66%.

The Francises claimed no great plays or defences. They simply hit a lucky streak and played on their luck, as this deal - board 18 - illustrates. The first piece of good fortune was the HA lead, setting up the king. Neville won the heart continuation and led DA; when the D10 dropped, he was able to use dummy's D8 to help drive out the DK. East continued hearts and Neville ruffed and drew the remaining trumps.

There was still one lucky break required. Declarer played CA and CJ and West was forced to win, allowing declarer access to dummy with the third club to discard S10 on the fourth club. The +710 was worth 95 out of 100 match points on the board.

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This is certainly not a hand that Neville or Pip would like to have seen published in a national magazine. Most days if Neville had been sitting in his usual position at North, he would have doubled 3S, murmuring or just thinking, "Gotcha" as he did so.