

West Coast Bridge Club a history



Editor's Note

With the go ahead from the West Coast Bridge Club committee I am compiling a history of the Club from its inception in 1967 to the present. From its beginnings, records and photos of the Club have been preserved. My role therefore is to correlate, record and document.

The Club has grown from a handful in 1967 to the current membership of 299. The average age is, at a guess, in the late 70's

Judith Grace March 2021

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Judith Grace

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Duplicate Bridge

To the uninitiated Bridge may be 'just another card game'. To those who play occasionally with friends in their own homes it passes the time pleasantly, with success depending mainly on the luck attending the shuffling of the cards.

However, the modern game as played in Bridge Clubs is in a different category. It not only provides pleasant social contact – it is an exercise in intellectual skills. In this respect it can compare with the test of physical skills in clubs playing tennis, cricket, bowls etc. There is room too for variety in tactics and judgement; there is variety in the organisation of contests involving individuals, pairs, and teams.

It can be claimed that intellectually the game is superior to chess.

Its acceptance as a skill is demonstrated by the great number of world, national, and district championships held throughout each year; by the huge number of books published by international experts; by the number of professional and semi-professional teachers.

It is not a game only for old people. The intellectual skills also attract many youthful players.

It is not confined to a season – it is a year-round sport.

C. 1995

Phil Appleyard 1910-2000

WCBC - Its beginnings

In 1949 Dr. Anatol Brazowski, a Lithuanian, arrived in Western Australia with his wife and 2 small sons. On his arrival he found that sadly, he was not allowed to practice as a Medico and could not afford to go to Melbourne to retrain. As a result, Anatol was first a labourer, then a carpenter.

In 1952 the Brazowski family moved into their new home in Osborne Park which Anatol had built himself.

In April, 1966 the family moved to Wembley Downs and Anatol was surprised to find that there was neither a Chess nor a Bridge Club in the area. In about July he put an advertisement in the Wembley Downs shopping centre asking people interested in forming a Chess Club to contact him

The first response came from John Hansen who visited Anatol and they discussed Chess. About two months later they had John Ditmanas, Mike Nolan, Deloconvolato and Shokan Czek. Anatol then approached Wembley Downs Tennis Club and reserved Tuesday night. They started with Anatol's chess boards then later bought them for the Club ending with 36 boards.

The first recorded meeting was on the 14 July 1967 at the home of Ron Powell, 37 Bushey Road, Wembley Downs. Anatol Brazowski was elected President, John Hansen Secretary. Present at that meeting were:-

Imre Simon

Jeffery Morcombe

Anatol Brazowski

Michael Nolan

Delo Covolato

John Hansen

Ron Powell

Kevin Fitzpatrick

Denham Martin

The name agreed upon was 'Chess Club of Wembley Downs' and a constitution was adopted. The idea of a Bridge Club developed to give the wives of the chess players something to do. Shelia Rickard was approached for her ideas on club bridge. The number of bridge players increased, Joyce and Norman Moody, Bonnie Mattiske, Malcolm and Anne Howes, Ruth Brazowski, Gwen Allen, Phyl Purl, Ruth Hansen. The trend continued with the chess numbers declining.

By September 1967, the Club was running smoothly with three tables of Bridge on the stage and long trestle tables arranged down the length of the hall for Chess. The membership started to grow but the new members were mainly interested in playing Bridge, and the Chess players had to make room for more Bridge tables. At the meeting of 15 December 1967 the secretary was asked to write to the secretary of the Bridge Assoc of WA regarding affiliation. At the AGM on 9th July 1968 the name was changed to 'The Chess and Bridge Club of Wembley Downs'.

Early in 1969 the first 'Bridge Tournament' was held and voted a great success.

Eventually Bridge took over and in 1972 a meeting was held at Mike Nolan's and the Club became the 'Wembley Downs Bridge Club'. With Anatol Brazowski President and John Hansen Secretary. In 1975 the Committee decided that as many members came from suburbs other than Wembley Downs the name was inappropriate and the Club became the 'West Coast Bridge Club'.

Although the W.A. and Perth Bridge Clubs together with the Acol Club were all established, WCBC was the first club to be formed in the suburbs. Cannington, Kalamunda and Mundaring followed. For several years, 1974 being one, WCBC ran a joint Congress with Kalamunda.

These made small profits which were shared with Kalamunda. In 1977 the Committee felt that too much hard work was required from a few members for a small profit and decided that no future Congress be held. This was a pity because ultimately most Clubs in the Metropolitan area held a Congress each year.

In the beginning Bridge was only played on Tuesday evenings however after a few years members asked for a second evening session and Friday was chosen. Then for a short while there was a session on Thursday afternoons, but this ceased because there was no one to organise it.

The club continued with just the two evening sessions until 1978 when members asked for an afternoon session to be re-introduced and promised support.

The Monday afternoon session commenced with four and a half tables under the able direction of Willy Snowdon. This became the largest attended session. It was at this time that Shelia Rickard gave her first series of lessons, which proved highly successful and brought many new members to the Club.

When the Bridge Club was headquartered at the Wembley Downs Tennis Club, club meetings were held at various Committee Members houses. This continued until March of 1986 when the Club moved to Templetonia Crescent in City Beach.

At the same time as the Club moving, the Bridge days were increased.

Monday 1pm

Tuesday 10.30am* and 7.30pm

Wednesday 1pm*

Thursday 1pm and 7.30pm

Friday 7.30pm*
Saturday 1pm
Sunday 1.30pm*

Information from Club minutes Anatol Brazowski 1988 Joyce Moody 1985

^{*} Non-smoking sessions

Bridge Club Photographs

Wembley Downs Tennis Club



Dr Anatol Brazowski



July 1988 Lyall Page President & Joyce Moody cutting the 21st Birthday cake



L-r Willy Snowdon, E Henderson, E Love, G Allen



Standing Shelia Rickard, Garnet Rock Seated Susie Cummings, Elsie Rock, 21st b'day



Eve Dethlefsen, Liz Constable, Ernie Nicholl



West Coast Bridge Club, 'a history'

The City Beach Civic Centre

In 1984 Committee Members noticed an advertisement by the City of Perth calling for an expression of interest in a number of halls which apparently were proving uneconomic. Included was the City Beach Civic Centre, seemingly somewhat of a white elephant, but which was considered might solve the problems i.e., the inadequacy of the shared accommodation at the Wembley Downs Tennis club.

The Club's next contact with the City of Perth was the advertisement and its this to acknowledged by the Town Clerk's letter of the 25th September 1984. Discussions continued and the Club's letter of the 16th August 1985 confirmed the result – that the Club be given a lease at a rental of \$1000 per annum. The West Coast Bridge Club's responsibilities included the costs of cleaning, electricity, telephone, rates and insurances, day to day maintenance and public liability insurance of \$500,000.00. Another expense taken over by the club was the cost of the caretaker who lived in a Council owned house nearby. it was evident that their economic problem with the facility had been solved.

However there remained the 'political' problem of acceptance by the community as evidenced by their letter of 1st November 1985 to the effect that the lease be for one year 'as a trial period'. A condition of the lease was that the club was to take responsibility for letting the hall to other users.

A New Era for the West Coast Bridge Club

Occupation of the Civic Centre commenced on 17 March 1986. The main hall was carpeted along with other areas and the enthusiasm of volunteer members considerably improved appearances. Over the next few years the Club installed two evaporative air conditioners (At this time reverse cycle systems were too expensive) and replaced fragile plastic chairs with ergonomically designed chairs.

In 1987 the Council expressed satisfaction with the trial period and renewed the lease for three years at a rental of \$1,200.00 rising to \$1,600.00 per annum. A happy relationship with the Council and neighbours was established. the Club file shows an interesting example of this when a cheque for \$69.00 received from the Council for hire of the hall as a polling centre was returned with a note that the Club regarded such accommodation as free of charge for that purpose.

In the 1990's the Bridge Club flourished with membership increasing, more sessions per week and regular social functions. The annual events were Melbourne Cup lunch, Christmas function and Congress.

Year	Number of Members		
1994	497		
1996	503		
2002	413		

Information from Club minutes Phil Appleyard Ken Perry

West Coast Bridge Club premises debacle of 1994

In October 1994 Club members were astonished to learn that their long-term rental of the City Beach Civic Centre was in jeopardy. This had come about through the carve up of the City of Perth into 4 municipalities City of Perth, Cambridge, Vincent and Shepparton. Suddenly the Town of Cambridge required temporary premises and the Civic Centre was their target. The first indication of this was the return of recently paid lease money with no explanation, closely followed by someone coming to the Hall to measure up for alterations. So concerned was the WCBC Committee and members that many were galvanized into action. Petitions were prepared to both houses of the West Australian Parliament. These were presented by our local member Dr Liz Constable along with other parliamentary members Graham Edwards, Honourable Ross Lightfoot and the Honourable George Cash. Club members were organised to attend both Houses as the petitions were presented. The matter was resolved and the West Coast Bridge Club was able to retain and use the premises.

During the saga the Club was offered alternative accommodation at the Leederville Town Hall which was totally unacceptable, and also a proposed new purpose built building on the previous City Beach Bowling Club site which was untenable due to the large cost.

Following this debacle Phil Appleyard, Vice President of the Club at the time, and committee members M Rowston, J Fisher, F Jacob attended a meeting with a sub-committee of the Cambridge Council to work out a longer-term lease of the Civic centre. A three-year lease agreement was drawn up with a proviso that WCBC would investigate the building of the Club's own premises.

From 1996-1998, two Cambridge Council members and two WCBC members were to investigate the building of WCBC premises. To this end Phil Appleyard spent many hours researching and drawing up a submission to the Cambridge Council for such a building. In the end the Cambridge Council was faced with the Civic Centre, once again, becoming a white elephant and a drain on Council finances so the Council persuaded WCBC to remain at the Civic Centre with a longer lease agreement. At last all parties were satisfied.

Phil Appleyard Ken Perry

Club successes

In 1969 the first 'Bridge Tournament' was held and considered a great success. The Club Champion was Mr M Loveland, second was Mrs J E Moody, third Mrs Brogan.

The Bridge Club continued to prosper and in 1970 Master Points were adopted.

In 1972 WCBC was the second largest Club in W.A. Due to the growth of the club discussions were held regarding purchasing premises, however this matter was put aside at that time.

In 1973 a library was commenced for the use of members. Under Gwen Allen's management the library was extended to include not just bridge books, but general literature donated by members. This has grown into quite a large library and has been widely used ever since. Currently it is in the capable hands of Barbara Martin.

In April 1972 Mr Fred Blake and Mrs Willie Snowdon won the Australia Wide Mixed Pairs Competition. It is extraordinary to think that a Bridge Club which had such humble beginnings in 1967 grew to be, in 1994, when the membership topped 500, the third largest bridge club in Australia.

An amusing incident occurred in 1996 when the Bridge newsletter 'Alert' reported the following: -

The fame of Shirley Drage

Imagine Derek Pocock's surprise when visiting China and reading the bridge column in the 'China Daily' of 7 June last to come across an article in praise of Shirley's clever play in a difficult contract.'

Shirley's memory of this incident is that she was the only player in a State Competition to bid 6 clubs and make the contract. She certainly did not expect it to be reported in a China newspaper.

Interclub Bridge

The already mentioned Derek Pocock, a great Stalwart of bridge in WA for many years, began interclub Bridge in about 1974 as a 'home and away' competition which was very popular for over thirty years. WCBC had several teams involved in playing other club teams as far away as Kalamunda and Rockingham, usually in the home of one of the team members.

Directors

All duplicate sessions at West Coast Bridge Club have a Director. Eve Dethlefsen has been Directing at the club since 1993 and is the longest currently operating Director

Appendices: Honour Boards

	WEST CO	AST	BRIDGE CI	L_{U_B}
EXECUTIVE			CLUB CHAMPIONS	
PRESIDENT	SECRETARY		INDIVIDUAL	PAIRS
A.BRAZOWSKI	D.MARTIN	1967	INDIVIDUAL	
A.BRAZOWSKI A.BRAZOWSKI	N.MOODY	1968		
N.MOODY	N.MOODY A HOWES	1969 1970	M.LOVELAND N.MOODY R.MILNE	M.SAFAR - G.SAFAR
N.MOODY	A.HOWES A.HOWES	1971	MLOVELAND	M.LOVELAND - K.DUCAT
G.ROCK	A.HOWES	1972	E.HORAWICZ	A.BROGAN - E.WOODWARD
G.ROCK G.ROCK	D.HANKINS W.SNOWDON	1973 1974	J.MOODY P.ANDERSON	P.ANDERSON - F.EYRE V.VAHALA - T.SHARPE
M.HOWES	W.SNOWDON	1975	T.WILSMORE	R.HANSEN - J.HANSEN
M.HOWES	W.SNOWDON W.SNOWDON	1976	A.BEILBY	R.HANSEN - J.HANSEN
E.H.NICKEL	E.WOODWARD E.WOODWARD	1977	P.CAVE R.COGHLAN	V.VAHALA - L.BORNECRANTZ J.HAYTON - M.HOWES
E.H.NICKEL J.MOODY	E.LANGLANDS	1978 1979	F.EYRE	M.JOHNSON - S.RICKARD
J.MOODY	M.PAYNE	1980	J.FRY	R.KRASENSTEIN - S.RICKARD
J.MOODY	M.PAYNE	1981 1982	S.RICKARD	M.FRANKEL - O.BLOM
W.SNOWDON W.SNOWDON	D.MURPHY D.MURPHY	1982	N.VAN OYEN E.NICKEL	E.NICKEL - E.H.NICKEL V.CIBULSKIS - Z.BUDRIKIS
W.SNOWDON	J.A.FALCONER	1984	P.BAXTER	E.LANGLANDS - J.PININGTON V.CIBULSKIS - Z.BUDRIKIS
P.APPLEYARD	J.FALCONER	1985	N.VAN OYEN	V.CIBULSKIS - Z.BUDRIKIS
J.A.FALCONER W.SNOWDON	J.FALCONER V.PLEYDELL	1986 1987	D.LUCK M.FRANKEL	S.DRAGE - A.MENEZES E.LANGLANDS - J.PININGTON
L.PAGE	V.PLEYDELL V.PLEYDELL	1988	S.DRAGE	M.FRANKEL - R.PIANTA S.DRAGE - A.MENEZES
L.PAGE	ENICKEL E. NICKEL	1989 1990	F.ROBERTS	S.DRAGE - A.MENEZES
L.PAGE	E. NICKEL	1990 1991	F. ROBERTS J. CALDER	S. RICKARD - F. ROBERTS S. DRAGE - A. MENEZES
J. ROGERS	E NICKEL E. NICKEL	1992	W.GALE	L.CZEKAJ - A.SWIDER
K. PERRY K.PERRY J.UTTING	E.NICKEL	1993	A.NEUHAUSER	S.DRAGE - T.MENEZES S.DRAGE - T.MENEZES
JUTTING	J.LIGGINS	1994	L.PAGE J.BEDDOW	S.DRAGE - T.MENEZES
J.UTTING J.UTTING	J.LIGGINS J.MILWARD	1995 1996	J.DE RAAD	E. LANGLANDS-W. NORDSTRA S.DRAGE-A.MENEZES
E. NICKEL	J. LATHAM	1997	R. WOOD	Z. OLSZEWSKI-J. SZYMAKOW
E NICKEL	F. MULLER	1998	K. MEREDITH	B. GRISTWOOD-G. PAGE
M. BUTTFIELD	F. MULLER	1999	S. BLOCH S. BLOCH	H. MOLDRICH - S. PUNDYK J. CRIPPS-M. MEDHAT
M. BUTTFIELD	F. MULLER	2000	J. HIRON	N. PRICE-D. UTTING
M. BUTTFIELD	J. MULHOLLAND	2002	J. HINOIY	M. MEDHAT-H. MOLDRICH B. BHAGAT C. BHAGAT
J. CRIPPS H. BAKER	M. PHILLIPS M. PHILLIPS	2003		
H BAKER	R DAWSON	2004	L HUMPHRY	J CALDER R ROSE
M. PLOWS	P. LETCH	2005		S. DRAGE - R. WOOD
M PLOWS	PLETCH	2006		E BENNETT G PAGE
M PLOWS	L SHERLOCK	2007 2008	J CALDER	U MACKIE V PLEYDELL G PAGE L PAGE
G HILLIER G HILLIER	L SHERLOCK J GRACE	2009	E BENNETT	L PAGE R WOOD
P GARCIA-WEBB	M PHILLIPS	2010	S GRAY A PATRICK	B BHAGAT C BHAGAT
P GARCIA-WEBB	M PHILLIPS	2011		M MEDHAT D WHOOLEY
P GARCIA-WEBB	A PATRICK	2011 2012 2013	W SIMKOVIC	L LORIAN R PIANTA S BLOCH S DRAGE B, BHAGAT C. BHAGAT
P GARNETT P. GARNETT	A PATRICK A. PATRICK	2014	- 8. ANDERSON	B. BHAGAT C. BHAGAT



WEST COAST BRIDGE CLUB GRADED TEAMS 2008 R CAPPELLIN D DAVIES L FERREIRA V FERREIRA 2011 G BEISSEL S LEVY J JONES PSCOTFORD 2012 J DICKSON T DICKSON J MULHOLLAND M MULHOLLAND 2013 P GARCIA-WEBB P GARNETT G HILLIER I PUMMER 2014 G. HILLIER M. ROWAN-ROBINSON B. MARTIN M. SMITH 2015 J DICKSON T DICKSON H HEPTINSTALL T HEPTINSTALL 2016 S BRITTLIFFE R CORDIN R DALTON M TIERNEY SUMMER TEAMS 2017 P GARCIA-WEBB P PARTIS M MEDHAT R WOOD 2018 B BHAGAT C BHAGAT S DRAGE G HILLIER





