



## West Coast Bridge Club Newsletter - June 2025

### Club Championship Pairs (*Anton Brazowski Trophy*)

The 2025 Club Championship Pairs held during March was won by Ray Wood and Marleen Medhat. Wence Vahala and Anton Pol were second with Graeme Hillier and Shirley Drage in third place.



*2025 Club Championship Pairs winners Marleen Medhat and Ray Wood.*

### Wednesday Swiss Pairs (*Morris and Shirley Bloch Trophy*)

The 2025 Autumn Swiss Pairs held in April was won by Wence Vahala and Anton Pol, who were undefeated over six rounds. Ray Wood and Marleen Medhat were second with Maureen Phillips and Shirley Bloch in third place.



*2025 Autumn Swiss Pairs winners Anton Pol and Wence Vahala.*

### GNO Teams (BAWA event)

The West Coast heat of the 2025 BAWA GNO Teams competition was won by Terry Collins, Louise Collins, Gill Gavshon and Marita Ware. Undefeated Stella Steer, Gwyneira Brahma, James Steer and Dave Munro were second with Anton Pol, Wence Vahala, Ray Wood and Marleen Medhat in third place.

### BAWA Restricted Pairs Championship

The BAWA Restricted Pairs Championship was hosted by West Coast on Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>. Thirty pairs participated – the best placed West Coast performers were Yulia Koh and Jamie Luxton, in second place, and Sue Vincent and Robyn Kirke.

### 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations

Two well-known Club stalwarts celebrated their ninetieth birthdays recently. Shirley Drage and Shirley Bloch have been Club members for many years. Shirley Drage is an ABF Grand Master. Shirley Bloch is an ABF Gold Life Master and was a well-respected teacher at the Club. If you take a look at the Club's honour boards you'll find many mentions of their bridge achievements. Separate parties were held for the two Shirleys just a couple of weeks apart. Congratulations ladies!



*Two Shirleys – two 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays!*

## New members

The following new members have recently joined the Club – Virgil Calcan, Louise Collins, Terry Collins, Tina Creese, Helen Hay, Robyn Hayward, Lesley Koenig, Harry Nesbitt, Jeremy Owens, Jan Plant, Stella Steer and Betty Lou Williams. Please make them welcome.

## New rankings

Congratulations to the following members who received rank promotions during the last three months:

Local: Barry Clarke, Ann Milne

Silver Local: Shirley Toohey

Bronze Regional: Shirin Mofakhami

## Coming competitions

The following competitions are scheduled for the next three months at West Coast Bridge Club.

- Monday Swiss Pairs (Joyce and Norman Moody Trophy) – Mondays June 9 & 16.
- Restricted Swiss Pairs (Margaret Rowston Trophy) – Fridays July 11 & 18.
- Club Championship Teams (Mondays August 4, 11 & 18)

## Plan the play in the following hands!

### Hand 1:

**Dlr: West** ♠ 2  
**Vul: All** ♥ A62  
♦ KJ54  
♣ A7432

♠ QJ9876  
♥ Q  
♦ AQ863  
♣ J

♠ 53  
♥ KJ87  
♦ T92  
♣ KT95

You (west) open 1S (W); 2C (N); your partner bids 4D – splinter (E); cheeky south bids – 5C (S); you contemplate doubling but eventually bid 5S (W). North leads the AC – plan the play of the hand.

Your thinking is – we have all the top trumps and this hand screams cross ruff. You potentially have 10 tricks by ruffing plus the AD = 11 tricks. But if they pull your trumps

you're in trouble. After the AC, north plays another club and you breathe a sigh of relief. You ruff the club, play the AD and keep cross-ruffing – ruff clubs in your hand and diamonds in dummy. You have to give your opponents a heart at some stage and they belatedly play a trump. But it's too late – you keep cross ruffing hearts and diamonds and after all the cross ruffs your QD eventually becomes your 11<sup>th</sup> trick! You're a hero.

### Hand 2:

**Dlr: South** ♠ 76  
**Vul: All** ♥ K643  
♦ AQ  
♣ AKJ76

♠ AJ942  
♥ T7  
♦ T73  
♣ 543

♠ T53  
♥ A952  
♦ K985  
♣ Q2

♠ KQ8  
♥ QJ8  
♦ J642  
♣ T98

South wins the contract in 3NT. West leads the 4S, 6S (N), TS (E) - which card should south play?

QS – wrong!

South must suspect that west has five spades (4<sup>th</sup> highest is a common lead against 3NT and the 2S is not visible, which confirms the five card holding). South should duck this lead – she is only ever going to make one spade trick and must try and break communication between the east and west hands.

If south plays the QS east will get in with the KD and lead back another spade – and the contract will not be made.

However, if south plays the 8S and east returns a spade it is likely that west will play the AS. On the return of another spade south plays the KS and makes one spade trick, three diamond tricks and five club tricks to bring the contract home.

There is, of course, no guarantee that holding up in spades will definitely make the contract secure – west could duck the QS on the second spade lead, but holding up the spades gives south their best chance of making the contract.