



April

2025

*Keeping
you
informed*



Welcome to another edition of 7NT.

Firstly, I'd like to thank all of you who came to the AGM and showed an interest in the way the Club is run, it is heartening to know that the Committee has your support.

For the last 3 years we've had Diane Brooks as our President and I am sure you all join me in thanking her for her efforts in this capacity. Of course, Di still contributes significantly in her role as teacher and mentor to our students.

Last week we farewelled our Irish member, Marie O'Sullivan. In her time here, Marie partnered many people and was a joy to have around, always willing to pitch in and often seen collecting table money. We look forward to her return, possibly later this year.

Pam Hughes' sister, Wendy, was another overseas visitor to our club recently and she too has returned home.

Visitors bring a breath of change to a club and so do new members. On that note...we have some students who are ready to start playing regularly in sessions and the best way for this to be successful is to partner with a more experienced player. Please consider mentoring a learner- Saturday and Tuesday evenings are good times as they aren't as busy but all sessions provide the opportunity to develop confidence. You never know where your next great partnership will come from!!

Thank you to Pat Ditchfield for continuing to edit and produce our newsletter, even though she has stepped down from the Committee.

On behalf of all RBC members, I extend our heartfelt condolences to Hilary Tunnard on the passing of her husband, Keith. We send our very best wishes to all the family.

Nia Parker
President



**Monday 21st Easter Monday Public Holiday
(Normal Session)**

Friday 25th ANZAC DAY public holiday

Monday 28th School term commences

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held 8th March 2025 at 10.30 am. There were around 32 attendees with around 29 apologies.

It was a well conducted meeting with our Patron and President Di Brooks in the chair for the last time. Di, as usual, gave a good run down of the history of the club and the past year in the chair. Her report was well received.

Matters discussed will be in the minutes as per usual. Suffice to say that there is not a lot of change to the Committee, which is comprised of:

Nia Parker	President
Jenny Churchill	Vice President
Felicity O'Neil	Secretary
Helen Hansell	Treasurer
Roz Davey	Tournament Director
Dave Clark	Masterpoints Officer
Gillian Simmonds	Membership Officer
Barry Shackles	Ordinary Committee Member

At this point, there is no catering officer, but Janice Hawker has offered to do the purchasing.



A very surprised Betty Philpot received her life membership to the Rockingham Bridge Club. As you all know Betty has been involved in the Club for many years as assistant teacher, secretary, welfare officer and a willing helper. Always cheerful and helpful and willing to step in when needed. Congratulations Betty.

Di Brooks, as retiring President, was presented with an apricot coloured water-lily plant. I understand she is going to start watching fish in a new fish tank for relaxation. Thank you Di for all your help and support over the years.

It was a huge surprise

It was a huge surprise to be awarded a Life Membership of the Rockingham Bridge Club. Thank you to those involved. It certainly is an honour.

I have been a member since the Club began in 1979, except for a while in the mid 1980s. Then I started playing Bridge again with my Mother. I enjoyed those days, although Mum and I never did very well.

I was on the committee at various times, then in 1988 and 1989 I became Secretary when Ron Philpot was the President. 1990 I was Secretary when Dianne Brooks was President 1994, 95 and 96 I was Secretary when Maurice Richards was President.

That was the days before computers. I typed the Minutes and Correspondence on a typewriter, with carbon paper for duplicates! My name was Payne then. I was widowed in 1978.

Ron was widowed in 1996. About 1998 we became Bridge partners. Fast forward to 2001 and we were married. We have had some great times going to Bridge Congresses. A group of Rockingham Bridge Club members would organise trips to country congresses. Kalgoorlie and Esperance, just to mention two, are great memories.

I have enjoyed being an assistant Bridge teacher at the Club, hopefully instilling a love of the game in the students, as I have.

The Rockingham Bridge Club has given me so much pleasure, many new friendships and hopefully kept my brain ticking over. I hope all the new members coming along are enjoying the challenge of the game and making new friendships.

Always looking for items of interest. Please don't hesitate to let me know of any occurrences which may be of interest to our members.

Pat Ditchfield

Happy birthday Sally



It was Sally Fielding's birthday on Friday afternoon, and we all helped her celebrate with a delicious chocolate mud cake.

Best wishes Sally.

Something new

Dealer East, N/S vulnerable

North
 ♠ 8
 ♥ AKQ 6 4
 ♦ AK J 5
 ♣ K 6 3

West **East**
 ♠ K J 10 6 3 2 ♠ A 7 5 4
 ♥ 9 2 ♥ J 8 7 3
 ♦ 7 2 ♦ 10
 ♣ J 9 5 ♣ A Q 10 7

South
 ♠ Q 9
 ♥ 10 5
 ♦ Q 9 8 6 4 3
 ♣ 8 4 2

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dble	3♣	Pass
4♣	Dble	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Last week's problem:
 (see diagram next column)
 What should West lead?
 This situation occurs quite often. When you have a weak hand it can often work well to lead an unsupported top card in your suit rather than a lower one. Here, if West leads a low spade, East will have to win his ace, and he cannot attack clubs, so declarer will set up his hearts for club discards. However, if West leads the king of spades, when he sees dummy he can switch to a club, ensuring defeat of the contract.

THE TIMES

Nia Parker, our newly elected President, suggested we start putting these bridge questions in the 7NT.

I had seen this in the Australian newspaper and thought it was interesting. Let me know if you would like to see this segment continue. Pat Ditchfield

Grand Slammers

Kaye Day and Jane Ophorst 7NT 1st March

70% ers

Nicky O'Connell and Mike Fulwood 73.5% 10th March

Helen and Steve Rogoysky 74% 5th March

Winners are Grinners

On Tuesday 4th March the Raewyn Lower Pairs was held in the evening. Seven tables competed under the playing director, Steve Rogoysky. It was a most enjoyable evening and all participants had a great night.



Mike Fulwood and Jenni Creedon were the winners on the night with 63.39%. Jenni was particularly delighted because it was a back to back win for her. She won it last year with Lyn Bolton who as you know is cruising around New Zealand. Here they are seen with Ro Davey, Tournament Director.



Understate Master winners were Anne-Marie Pritchard and Gillian Simmonds with a tidy 52.68%. Congratulations to the pair who will be a pair to watch. They have done extremely well since they commenced playing. Here with Roz Davey, Tournament Director.



Ron Goodwin very kindly brought in a photo of Raewyn and himself when they used to play together.

Raewyn was a much loved teacher and member of the Rockingham Bridge Club.

I am told she was a great cook and some members still use her recipes.

Autumn Pairs

There were nine tables on Monday for the Autumn Pairs red point event. Eugene Wichems was director on the day and Eugene surely earned his stripes that afternoon. He was on-call on numerous occasions but always cheerfully. As he stated "He was our friend!" Thank you Eugene for conducting an enjoyable competition.

It was a very closely fought event with the top three places ranging from 60.19%, third place, Rita Hood, Kaye Day and David Clark and Marie O'Sullivan, 60.42% second place, Nicky O'Connell and Mike Fulwood and Di and Christine first with 60.50%, i.e. .08% between second and first place getters.



Winners on the day, Di Brooks and Christine Bacon with 62.50%. Here seen with Nia Parker, President and Eugene Wichems, director on the day.



Hazel Bennett and Trevor Pollock were the winning novice pair with 49.77%/ Here seen with Nia Parker, President and Eugene Wichems, Director on the day.

Smiles from Richard

Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal, and asks the first man he meets, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'

The man said, 'I do, Father.' The priest said, 'Then stand over there against the wall.'

Then the priest asked the second man, 'Do you want to go to heaven?' 'Certainly, Father,' the man replied.

'Then stand over there against the wall,' said the priest. Then Father Murphy walked up to O'Toole and asked, 'Do you want to go to heaven?' O'Toole said, 'No, I don't Father.'

The priest said, 'I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?'

O'Toole said, 'Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now.'

Paddy was in New York...

He was patiently waiting and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, 'Okay, pedestrians.' Then he'd allow the traffic to pass.

He'd done this several times, and Paddy still stood on the sidewalk.

After the cop had shouted, 'Pedestrians!' for the tenth time, Paddy went over to him and said, 'Is it not about time ye let the Catholics cross?'

Paddy staggered home very late after another evening with his drinking buddy, Finney. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Kathleen. He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around, and he landed heavily on his rump. A whiskey bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful.

Managing not to yell, Paddy sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his butt cheeks were cut and bleeding. He managed to quietly find a full box of Band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could on each place he saw blood.

He then hid the now almost empty Band-Aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed.

In the morning, Paddy woke up with searing pain in both his head and butt and Kathleen staring at him from across the room. She said, 'You were drunk again last night, weren't you?' Paddy said, 'Why would you say such a mean thing?'

'Well,' Kathleen said, 'it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly, it's all those Band-Aids stuck on the hall mirror.'

Happy Birthday



April

16	Hazel Bennett
20	Joan Rickers
29	Elizabeth Hill
29	Sue Stephen



Those born in April are lucky enough to call this scintillating gem their birthstone, a symbol of **clarity and strength**. Diamond is so strong, in fact, that its name comes from the Greek word "adamas," which means "invincible" or "unbreakable."

Our love for the April birthstone started in India, where diamonds were gathered from the country's rivers and streams. Traded as early as the fourth century BCE, diamonds were coveted by royalty and the wealthy. Later, caravans brought Indian diamonds, along with other exotic merchandise, to medieval markets in Venice. By the 1400s, diamonds were becoming fashionable accessories for Europe's elite. The first diamond engagement ring on record was given by Archduke Maximilian of Austria to his betrothed, Mary of Burgundy, in 1477. Recent evidence supports the origin of the legendary 45.52 carat (ct) blue Hope diamond in India's Golconda mining area and its sale to King Louis XIV of France (then known as the French Blue diamond) in 1668 (pictured).



From the Old English "day's eye," daisies are sacred to Freyja in Norse mythology, the goddess of love and fertility. Some speculate that daisies are the oldest flowers on the planet as they were seen in stone carvings dating back thousands of years.

Are you familiar with **He loves me, he loves me not**? The children's game in which you get to pluck the petals one by one while you repeatedly chant the phrase until every petal gets discarded. The last petal tells how a particular person feels about you. If yes, then you're probably aware of the daisy flower used in this French game.



Leonardo da Vinci (born on 15 April 1452): Leonardo da Vinci is a renowned architect, mathematician, musician, sculptor, engineer, inventor, anatomist and writer. He is widely regarded as a true Renaissance man who excelled in several fields. He is respected even today for his contribution to the world of academia.



Janice's Jokes



Spread the word

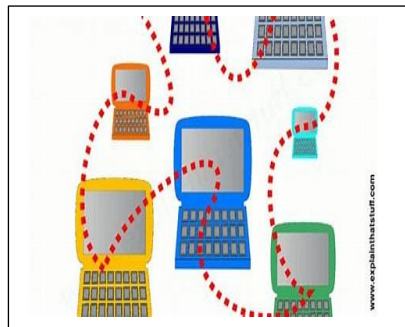
Please **spread the word about the Rockingham Bridge Club**, we would love more members. You can sign up online at:
<https://rockinghambridgeclub.com/>



Useful Links

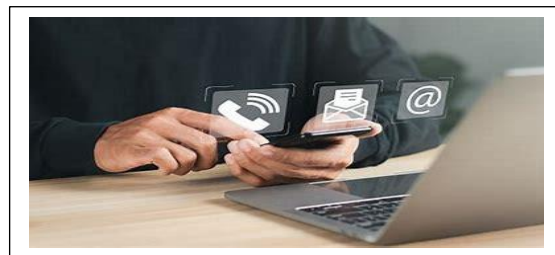
Club Website
Club Calendar
Club Results
WA Bridge Association
ABF Masterpoint Centre
Focus Magazine

<https://rockinghambridgeclub.com/>
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