

The Club History, by Sue Phillips

I retired from paid employment in 2004 and was looking for something to do. Angela Ryan suggested I teach Bridge at her local community centre (I had been tutoring on Tuesday nights at SABA with David Lusk) and so that is how it all began, in the Black Forest Room in the Clarence Park Community Centre.

In 2005 we steadily grew from three tables on Tuesdays to ten so had to move to the community hall. I changed days to Fridays and we shared wine casks and plastic glasses after Bridge! (Our priority for new premises is that there must be a bar). I had monthly competitions, the first winners were Sandy Barnes and Margaret Lucas from 4 tables! The first Golden Bunnies Team Event was six teams held on Easter Friday in April 2005, very much frowned upon by some church going members. There were six tables and the chocolate bunnies were won by the Finesse Team, Mary Adlington, Leonie Rasch, John Blundell and Jinny Fuss.

This tradition continued through the years and in 2014 the chocolate easter bunnies were won by David Anderson, Sharmini Hoole, Bronny Colmer and Peter Colmer and in 2023 myself, Sharmini Anderson and the Colmers were victorious, David directed.

In September 2005 John Blundell, Jinny Fuss, John Smith and I organised our first Bridge Birthday Bash. By this time I had been sacked from my tutoring at SABA (for having a conflict of interest!) and I was delighted that the Bridge community showed their support with ninety people attending, a very successful first birthday party. I registered Bridge in the City as a Business Name and Di Marler helped me register with the Australian Bridge Federation so I could allocate masterpoints. What a year 2005 was!

We had by this time, outgrown the hall and so in 2006 moved to Clarence Gardens Bowling Club. We were only allowed the lounge area so John Blundell and I had to move the green lounge chairs out before each Friday session and put out the card tables. During this year I was asked by Max Gabel and Jessica Tindle take over the games at the Burnside Community Centre Bridge Club and the Fullarton Park Community Centre. This meant I had triplicates of everything and was running Monday sessions at Fullarton, Tuesdays at Burnside, and Fridays at Clarence Gardens.

Terry Jones saw how chaotic I was with Membership money and took over this task -thank goodness, and Jackie Ward undertook the treasurer role after Terry. My husband, John

Phillips set up a web site for our results to be uploaded and always helped me deal the cards. I was immensely grateful for this support from home.

Annual traditions of Golden Bunnies, Christmas in June, a Birthday Bash, BBQ's twice a year (Marlene Ryan organised the lotto tickets to pay for them), Lamingtons for Australia Day and a Christmas party, created an atmosphere of fun and friendship for all the members.

Over the years Club Championships have been an important feature on our Bridge Calendar, and have been run as Monday and Friday Pairs Championships as well as a Restricted Pairs Championship. The masterpoints allowed in the Restricted Pairs had to increase from Under 10 MPS to Under 50 MPS to Under 100 MPS to accommodate B grade members. John Blundell planned accommodation for our trips away while I organised the Bridge. We went to Barmera Country Club 2008, Clare Country Club 2009, McCracken 2010, the Barossa 2011 and 2012, Loxton 2015 and 2016. Jackie Ward took over the accommodation organisation and we went back to the Barossa 2017 and 2018.

In 2014 I moved the Monday Fullarton session to Edwardstown, creating the Monday and Friday sessions as we have today. In December 2018 I offered Sue Lusk Burnside Bridge Club. She continues to run this club to this day.

We had outgrown the lounge area and were not permitted to use the hall at Clarence Gardens (where we are now) so had to move. Edwardstown Bowling Club had a large hall and our card tables were to be put up by bowling club members (always Gumboots), a definite bonus, so we moved there in June 2009. I wrote in the monthly Clarrie-on that we have finally found a permanent home at Edwardstown Bowling Club, our third move and hopefully our last. How wrong I was - Marion Council decided to redevelop EBC so that we were on the move again.

In 2017 we moved to Marion RSL then Mitchell Park then back to the redeveloped but too small EBC then back to Mitchell Park! In 2019 when the council decided to redevelop Mitchell Park we completed the circle and moved back to Clarence Gardens Bowling Club. We are in the hall and hopefully here to stay!

Covid arrived in Adelaide in February 2020 and by March we could no longer sit at the bridge table. With David's help I set up competitions on BBO, an introduction for many members to playing online. We kept in touch by writing Snippets which I forwarded by

email (who could forget the arrival of Dennis Miles baby rabbits!) It was a great relief for all to return to normal life and the Bridge table.

By the end of 2022 I had decided it was time to hand over the club and I am so grateful that David agreed to take it on. Over the years he has been a constant support and has proved that my choice was correct. We both love the game of Bridge and we both want this club to thrive well into the future.