

# COMMERCIAL ALBURY BRIDGE CLUB

DECEMBER, 2018 NEWSLETTER

Well that old saying "The older you get, the faster it goes" is just so true. I really can't believe how quickly this year has flown and here we are again thinking of last minute presents and planning our Christmas Day menu. I for one will be holidaying down on the Bellarine Peninsula celebrating with family. It will be the first time I can remember not having to slave over the oven so I plan to make the most of the day.



For those Members not going away please take note that there will be no Bridge played on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December, but there will be Bridge as usual on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December.

As in the past our Committee has decided that there will be no Table Fees payable for the month of December.

Our Christmas Lunch and prize presentation is this coming Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December. Please remember that if you have put your name down to attend and do not, you will be expected to pay for your meal. Please let Lois Nicholson or Richard Harman know if you are unable to attend.

## 70% CLUB

Gerry Voll and Geoff Lowe were our clever Pair this Month with a very creditable score of over 71%. Well done.

## NATIONWIDE PAIRS

The date for this month's Nationwide Pairs is Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## MG MEMORIAL DAY RESULTS

I am sure that everyone enjoyed this day of Bridge in memory of our friend, MG, and I am also sure that I would have made all the West players feel really happy after seeing the results!

The overall winner was Gwyn McCall with Alec Kortt and Mark Stacey coming equal second.

North winner was Jenny Stevens

South winner was Gwyn McCall

East winner was Mark Stacey

West winner was Sue Spiers.

Congratulations Gwyn on your win and well done to all placegetters.



## BRIDGEMATE SCORING

There have been several requests for the Opening Lead to be recorded on the Bridgemates to assist with player education when reviewing hands that have been played so the Committee has decided to trial this during the month of January and see how it goes. Good luck!

## MASTERPOINT OVERVIEW

Some people ask about Masterpoints (MPs) and say that they don't know how many they have, and that they don't really care. Many others do care and want to know what it all means – this is a synopsis.

**Cost** – There is an Annual Fee for each Club Member (\$15 per head) & each full Masterpoint cost \$1.20-\$1.75 each (depending on type). *The total cost, so far this year, for Albury is \$3,345!*

Masterpoints are awarded to any affiliated ABF player finishing in the top half of the field in an ABF sanctioned event (or winning/drawing any match in a Swiss or Team event) from Club level, up to National level. The points awarded are based on the type of event and the number of pairs playing. The number of MPs awarded at the Club Level are generally a numerical fraction, eg. 0.14 MPs, etc. For the first 50 MPs that players attain (often the hardest!), it doesn't really matter what type of MPs, as there isn't a Red or Gold requirement element (more info later in the article).

All players have a Ranking based on the number of MPs and the rankings are, in order: **Nil; Graduate; Club; Local; Regional**. Some of these Rankings might also have an additional level with an asterisk. For those first 5 levels, all MPs count the same and you simply need a requisite number of MPs to reach the next attainment. For any Ranking above Regional, you require a certain number of Red or Gold MPs, these levels are: **State; National; Life; Grand**. Some of these Rankings also have additional levels, but these are the basic Rankings.

The full Rankings follow as well as the number of players at each Master level in Albury/Wodonga: **Nil=28; Graduate=7; Club=22; Local =22; \*Local=7; \*\*Local=9; Regional=5; \*Regional=0; State=11; \*State=11; National=5; \*National=6; \*\*National=5; Life=1; Bronze Life=1; Silver Life=4; Gold Life=1; Grand=2; Silver Grand; Gold Grand; Emerald Grand (only 6 in Australia!); Diamond Grand (none in Australia!).**

Below are the distinct types of Masterpoints available to any affiliated ABF member.

<b>Blue</b>	These are for club players before they become fully affiliated with the ABF
<b>Green</b>	For regular Club Events. This includes Supervised Play (at a lower rate)
<b>Red</b>	Club Championship events, Regional events & Congresses
<b>Gold</b>	National events and high-level Congresses

## BIRTHDAYS

Members celebrating their birthdays this Month include Mark Rosenow, Carmen Brown, Beryl McLean, Gwen Hart, Sue McConnell, Malcolm Blair, Nicola Burr, Mary Prowse, Sue Spiers and Coralie Earl. Congratulations and best wishes go to all on their special day.

Our President Richard and the Committee would like to wish all Members a fantastic festive season. Hope you have a great Christmas and New Year with your family and loved ones. Stay safe and looking forward to seeing you at the Bridge Table in 2019!

