

Friday Update December 20th

Ken's having a break

Bob Peters here!

Our incredibly good Secretary Ken Bownes is taking a very well earned break. He has just moved house and is off on a well-deserved holiday very soon. In his absence I will be doing the Friday Update.

Education and Membership

You know we need to keep finding, developing and retaining new members. I am pleased to say we now have an Education and Membership Committee overseeing this critical topic; Robin Salter, Claire Weston, Eugene McClorey, Chris Mead, Steph Laurie, Joan Peters – and last but not most importantly Ian Clark. They have a big task ahead of them – but the will is there, and they have made a start. More and better advertising is the major initiative at this stage.

Member Booklet

Quite a few people have approached me asking that we publish a booklet each year showing members' names and phone numbers, plus items such as our calendar and more. The Management Committee is considering the idea. A big hurdle is the requirement now to have the explicit permission of a member to publish their name and phone number for public release. If we did go ahead with the idea we would probably issue a digital copy to everyone, and only print hard copies as requested.

Friday Bridge

I am elated to advise that our Friday afternoons with an open session and a rookie's session are doing well. Today we had seven and a half tables in the open, and four in the rookies. Interestingly our open field was as big as South Perth's – and it was a strong field – just what the guns want. And our rookies played 24 boards – just the right speed for people gaining confidence.

Bill's Lessons

Every Wednesday morning Bill Symons gives lessons at the club. They are great – as attested to by the near 40 people who participate – including me. The lessons focus on best practice bidding and card play. If you want to be a good bridge player, come along – learn a lot and have a laugh.

Perfume

This is just a friendly reminder that we have members with respiratory issues who struggle to not cough or wheeze when exposed to perfume. Please be cognisant of their condition. Most of us are senior citizens with one problem or another, and we need to be considerate. Please do not use strong deodorants and perfumes.

Be Nice

Sadly, today I saw an unfortunate exchange between two members. Both were right in their own way, but it was sad to see a voice raised in what was otherwise a very friendly and jovial gathering.

Christmas Eve and New Years Eve – Bring a Plate

We have decided that these days will be open to all members. We are not expecting big fields – so why not have a fun day with everyone participating. The format worked with Joan’s birthday on the 26th of November (20 tables!). A difference this time is that we would like you to bring a **small plate** to share at an **extended afternoon tea**. If you are lucky, I might even spin the wheel and find a couple of lucky winners of a box of chocolates!

Sessions over Christmas and New Year

The following dates are now locked in for the holiday period.

Tuesday 24 December Afternoon club play. Everyone welcome. Bring a small plate to share at the extended afternoon tea.

Wednesday 25 December **Club closed.**

Thursday 26 December Afternoon club and open sessions. No morning supervised session.

Friday 27 December Regular afternoon open and rookie sessions.

Saturday 28 December Regular morning club session.

Monday 30 December Regular afternoon open session and evening open and supervised sessions.

Tuesday 31 December Afternoon club play. Everyone welcome. Bring a small plate to share at the extended afternoon tea.

Wednesday 1 January **Club closed.**

Thursday 2 January Regular weekly sessions recommence.

Other Important Dates

Sunday 5 January First Sunday of the Month Open Walk-in Pairs

Monday 27 January Australia Day Open Red Point Walk-in and Sausage Sizzle

Sunday 2 February First Sunday of the Month Open Walk-in Pairs

Friday 7 February Beginners lessons begin

Friday 21 February and
Friday 28 February Members only Swiss pairs championship.

More details can be found on the Club website <https://melvillebc.org>

Have a good weekend.

Bob Peters

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President