

Long Beach Bridge Center table talk



From Long Beach club: Amanda Moore, Margit Hillebrand, Nancy Toussaint, Florence Cooper, Lynn Danielson, and Colette (bridge friend) with Auckland in the background

Playing Bridge Down Under

In April five players from Long Beach Bridge Club joined Jeff Grotenhuis and Agile Bridge Club on a cruise Down Under. Beginning in Sydney, we visited Dunedin, Christchurch, Tauranga, Auckland, and Bay of Islands (all in New Zealand). Unfortunately, we missed

sailing the south island's scenic sounds because of rough seas. We had a small meeting room exclusively reserved for our bridge group. In all I played 17 bridge games during the cruise - all silver points. We usually had 6 or 7 tables.

Truly a highlight of our trip

was playing at the Christchurch Bridge Club. Their meeting place was destroyed in a 2011 earthquake. After meeting in a bowling alley for a while, the 800-member club built a beautiful state of the art clubhouse. It has ample parking, a large kitchen, a playing area that could be partitioned, and a full bar. One oddity: they don't use bidding boxes. Instead, a preprinted pad of paper was on each table with one sheet used for each board. After playing the hand, it is tossed in a small green plastic trash bin beside each table. Halfway through the game, we had teatime. Each table had a plate of finger sandwiches and sweets and, of course, tea and coffee. After the 17-table game, they hosted a private lunch for us. What a feast! We had pumpkin soup, a kumara vegetable salad, cheese rolls (grilled cheese bread rolled up), pizza squares, and the iconic pavlova for dessert.

The flights to/from Sydney were very long, but the cruise was interesting, and the bridge games were fun.

-by Nancy Toussaint

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Status Changes

Junior Master Susie Armstrong

Kay Bailey

Sectional Master Eric Kaplan

Amanda J Moores

Libby Tigner

Regional Master Rita van Lierop

New Members

Cathy Crane Deke Thomas



May Birthdays

Left to right: Jim Keese, Fred Willbanks, Rosemary Ford, and Nancy Toussaint



Duncan holds virtual games 7 days a week.

All Regular Games \$5 Special Games \$6 or \$7

This is the direct link to those games: CLICK HERE (after clicking the link, save to your favorites). Part of the proceeds go to LBBC.

TABLE TALK

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Nancy Toussaint

Article Submissions
We welcome articles, ideas and
photos pertaining to our club.
We reserve the right to revise
submissions. Contact A.K. at
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Tuba Notes from the Bored

Do winners ever cheat? That's a question we have asked for many years. We've been told cheaters never win but it's not necessarily true in my experience. There were the garbage can World Series Astros in 2019, Lance Armstrong's Tour De France rides, and even the Italian Blue Team using cigarettes in the 70's to send unauthorized information while bidding in bridge tournaments. They all got

caught but only but only after multiple wins and championships.

If you have read the ACBL Bridge Bulletin anytime in the last couple of years then you have seen they are working hard and spending money to control cheating while playing on-line or at clubs. ACBL has developed a computer program called EDGAR (electronic data gathering and anticheating radar). This system analyzes hands sent to it from BridgeMates, BBO, and other sources looking for patterns of play by individuals, partnerships, and teams that are unusual such as never losing a finesse or always making a killer lead. The system reports these patterns to an ACBL Committee for further review and action.

The Committee has authority to suspend people from playing in ACBL sanctioned games online, such as BBO, in tournaments, such as the

upcoming Long Beach Regional, and in clubs including the Long Beach Bridge Center. We recently began receiving notice for players in Unit 557 that have been investigated, reviewed, and suspended. The people are given time to explain their actions and appeal their sentence. They are not allowed to play once they agree to the judgement.

We all want cheating to stop. Cheating hurts everyone. Skills will be lost due to inactivity. Partnerships and relationships will be injured. Clubs, units, and tournaments will lose revenue. It is too easy to cheat online simply by playing in the same room. Take extra precautions to be sure this does not happen. This is too late for some people and we will miss you and look forward to your quick return. There are upcoming band concerts you can still attend!

C ya' - Leo Dittemore







Another Bridge Apparently Not Too Far

Thanks to Nancy Toussaint for filling us in on history and bridge cruise news. And thanks to Margit Hillebrand, Amanda Moores. and Florence Cooper, for providing us with insights into the Down Under "culture" they sampled during their brief visit.

Although the cruise was primarily to New Zealand, our LB people took a side trip to Australia. At the Sydney Opera House, Margit and Amanda experienced the original Gladiator movie with orchestra and choir supplying Oscar-winning music to the film and receiving a standing ovation at intermission. Amanda described it as the highlight of the Australian



side trip. Margit's highlight was her visit to Featherdale Sydney Wildlife Park where she petted a koala. No one mentioned eating at milk bars in Sydney where the most popular fare is Marmite sandwiches. They dodged



that bullet!

Florence opted for less strenuous activities offered by the cruise and thought it was hilarious that her husband raced her through crowds in a wheelchair she didn't actually need to the ship's buffet and evening entertainment. She described one meal eaten off the cruise and very different from American fare: clam chowder including clams, mussels and perhaps other seafood, Delicious! Her overall impression of New Zealand: clean to a fault. "You could eat off the freeways."

Some New Zealand side tours were cancelled due to severe weather: cyclones and volcanic activity. However, they did offer river walks, a visit to a Māori Village with lamb lunch and Māori fare provided, and the highlight of the trip for most, a visit to the Christchurch Bridge Club (CCBC). "Who knew Kiwis were such avid bridge fans?"

Its current membership is 700 active members with an incredible clubhouse with a full kitchen. Lunch included pumpkin soup and pavlova. And they played



bridge of course! However, CCBC brought in their top players, international stars, and LB didn't stand a chance! However, Kiwis were so friendly, so nice, that LBBC had a great time despite the intimidation.

Fun In and Around the Club

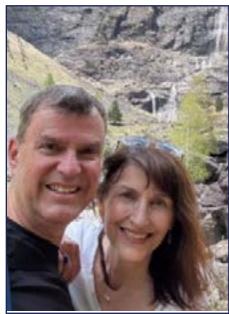




Unit 557 Spring Sectional Winners



Kar-Yee Nelson and Gordon Innocent 1st N-S morning session



Justin Ryan and Rebecca Ortega 1st E-W morning session



Vince Vilker and Jim Werner 1st E-W afternoon session



Our Sympathies to Family and Friends of Joyce Roberts



We all know that bridge has been linked to cognitive benefits for those at risk for dementia, including Alzheimer's, but did you know that card games such as bridge are great models for war games? Check out this article published by the Wall Street lournal to learn more.



C.C. Pulitzer and Kyle
Miller
1st N-S
afternoon session

June 2025



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