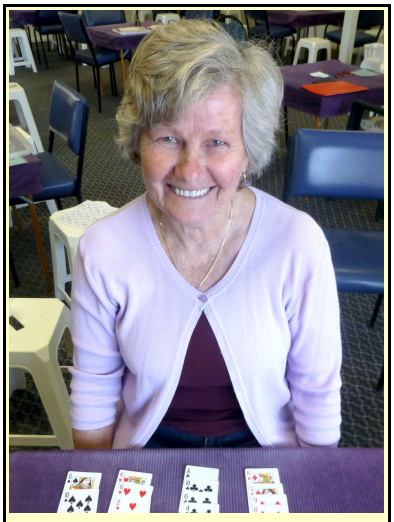
WARWICK BRIDGE CLUB

Dealer: W Vul: Nil

	NORTH S. AK108642 H. – D. A1032 C. 54	
WEST S. QJ9 H. 1087543 D. 6 C. J73		EAST S. 7 H. 962 D. KQJ9874 C. 108
	SOUTH S. 53 H. AKQJ D. 5 C. AKQ962	



Teresa Downing has attained the rank of Club Master

Last Monday many players, especially those sitting East/West found the hands difficult. If it is any consolation, even the top players don't always get it right. Last weekend the cream of Brisbane's club players met in the Brisbane Zone Final of the Grand National Open Teams and almost a third of the field failed to bid a slam on the deal above. Perhaps like Hamlet they thought too much and so:

The native hue of resolution was sicklied o'er by the pale cast of thought.

Aunt Agatha (or Uncle George) would have had no problem with this board. They may not have bid a grand slam, but they would not have missed a small slam. North would open 4S, South would ask for Aces and Kings and find that North had two Aces and a King. They would give no thought about what could go wrong and jump to 6S, where 19 of 48 pairs in the Brisbane Zone final of the GNOT finally landed. Even less thought would go into the play: win the first trick after any lead, play two rounds of trumps and cash winners in hearts, discarding diamonds from hand until finally West makes the Queen of spades. 6C is even easier. Who would have thought that with such uneven distributions, the clubs would split evenly? The third of the field who failed to bid slam obviously saw problems that did not exist. Even a top pair or two stayed in game and were chagrined when they made twelve or thirteen tricks. In clubs, it is impossible not to make thirteen tricks. Once the clubs split evenly, declarer has no losers in clubs and North's Ace-King of spades and Ace of diamonds allow South's losers to be discarded. Well, it's almost impossible to fail in 6C. One pair did just that. Five pairs made 7NT, but nobody bothered to bid 6NT, which would have scored close to 90%, beating all but those who found the grand slam.

Results for the period ending 16/09/19:

Friday, 13th September (6 & 1/2-table Mitchell):

N/S H. Ferrier A. Gibson (54.3%) 1; N. Bonnell B. Bonnell (52.1%) 2; S. Valentine P. Porter (49.3%) 3. E/W Jenny Smith R. Hart (63.3%) 1; P. Campbell D.Moran (60.8%) 2; J. Sipple W. Milne (51.2%) 3. *Handicap*: N/S S. Valentine P. Porter 1; C. Duggan B. Reid 2. E/W J. Sipple W. Milne 2.

Monday 16th September 9-table Mitchell:

N/S G. Embery T. Embery (64.1%) 1; N. Bonnell T. Hinde (63.7%) 2; N. Collins M. Simpson (57.2%) 3. E/W Jenny Smith Jill Smith (53.5%) 1; M. Warren B. Warren (52.5%) 2; H. Richardson R. Hart (52.1%) 3. *Handicap*: N/S No change E/W A. Macdonald F. Wells 1; J. Sipple W. Milne 2.