

Nova News

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New Email address
and Website coming
soon.....



Bridge Happenings

June 2011

Julian Cup

Sponsored by

Westende Jewellers

Sunday 26th April 9.30am start
2 sessions. Light lunch provided
Club members only!

SATURDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

Every 2nd and 3rd
Saturday 7.30pm.
Just come along,
no partner
required,
a very relaxed
night.

Next Beginner Lessons
Wed 4th August 7.30pm



Tell your
friends!!

ENTRY DETAILS FOR
ALL EVENTS
at Bowls Papanui

Bridge Buffs Bus Tour

Planned for the end of
September to Oamaru.
For further details contact
Robin Denley
Phone: 326-5401

Email: robindenley@xtra.co.nz



FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

Welcome to Nova News and the start of winter. I think we have all had enough of the Christchurch situation and the inconvenience of it all. Many people are showing signs of being worn out and thoroughly sick of it all. This I hope is as bad as it gets, with so little news about progress. Now more than ever we need your tolerance and support of each other and loads of patience to see us through.

Just last week we have the news that local engineers have been appointed to carry out the detailed building survey and geotechnical report for our building in Nova Place. We understand this work will occur in July. The insurance company will then make a final determination about the fate of our building and we can move forward. Issues about the land itself in that area of town and whether the Government will allow us to rebuild in that part of town will also be known sooner rather than later now.

Some members have suggested we patch up our building and return. There are some problems with that. If our building is to be repaired, we would have to move out again. Even if we patched the building it may not be safe in another earthquake. There is a risk the insurance company may take our moving back in as a sign we didn't need more major work done and close our file. For all these reasons it is not viable. The time, effort and resources offered by members to do repair work is very much appreciated and we hope to be able to make use of your help in due course, once we have a more certain end in mind.

We have a new website developed. This will be available as a link through the old website in the next few days and will replace the old website and web address in the near future. The clubs email address will change also in the next few days, though the old address will work for some time yet.

We have been working hard to get the computers and computing systems, including the bridge pads up and running. This has not been easy, given we are working in a different place, with new gear and systems. There has been some inconvenience in setting up the room on some nights, problems have occurred during sessions on occasions and scores have been delayed. I would like to apologise for any inconvenience and assure you that we are working on training of the directors and improvements to reduce errors and failures.

We had some experts in recently to look at the noise within the playing room and options to reduce this. It may be possible to do a little bit. The main thing though is that people learn to be quieter. It has been better over the last couple of weeks.

Competitions are progressing and playing numbers are reasonable overall. The club is still in a sound financial position, though this is a time of uncertainty. Good luck with your bridge. I hope to have more news on progress sooner rather than later.

John Skipper



AROUND THE CLUB ♣

MAKING OVER 70% RECENTLY

John Hamilton & Maureen Bond	77.73%
Grant Goulter & Leo Guy	73.93%
Jan Armstrong & Denise Bryce	73.75%
Ruth Dooley & Patricia Joyce	73.30%
Marcia Admore & Pamela Lloyd	71.69%
Kim Prescott & Mark Janor	71.35%
Brian Breeze & Ruth Dooley	70.31%
John Hamilton & Maureen Bond	70.31%
Paul Hobbs & Paddy McAdam	70.24%
Lyndsay Baxter & Keith Mabin	70.13%
Tom and Barbara Forrester	



TOURNAMENT WINNERS

EASTER CONGRESS WAS HELD AT CROCKFORDS

OPEN PAIRS: Max Morrison & Brian Usher

JUNIOR PAIRS: Margaret Fraser & Sam Gurney

OPEN TEAMS: Shirley Newton, Jenny Wilkinson, Roy Kerr, Kris Wooles.

INTERMEDIATE TEAMS:

Jen McGowan, Ian Beattie, Tony Biddington, Stu Edwards

ANNIVERSARY PAIRS: Scratch—John Hay & Max Morrison
Handicap- Laura Stephen & David Skipper

AKAROA OPEN: Jane Skipper & Karen Harris

CROCKFORDS INTERMEDIATE PAIRS

Lyn Mould & Anne Deaker

WAIRAU RIVER TEAMS Jane & John Skipper

Michael Sykes & Barbara Fechny





MANAGERS REPORT

Car park update: Bowls Papanui have installed a new sensor light at the gate entrance to the club. We are still monitoring whether further action is still required for security.

Remember not to park in the front three double car parks unless you have spoken to me, this also includes the Treasurers car park.

Friday & Monday daytime sessions, the side gate will be unlocked for those who wish to park in Jennifer street starting Friday 10th June.

Bridgepad hint: When using bridgepads, make sure the bidding slips are kept with the board number, result and lead card written on them. This makes the directors life easier if a bridgepad fails and some results have to be re-entered or you can make use of personal score cards, available up by the director.

New Email address: the club will have a new email address , hopefully up and running in the next week, I will let you know via club notices & on the website.

"BP / CBC update 'Our relationship with our hosts Bowls Papanui is now some 3 months old. A smooth transition has and is being enjoyed. Christchurch Bridge Club members may or not be aware that Bowls Papanui has cancelled their winter indoor programme to facilitate this transition and meet OUR needs - you will be thankful we don't have to move tables and chairs some sessions; a reminder of the obliging nature of our hosts.' "

The **Armagh Bridge Club** have resumed their playing sessions, after getting rudely evicted from our Nova Place club rooms on February 22nd. They are now at **NORTHWOOD RETIREMENT VILLAGE** O'Neill Ave, every Tuesday starting at 11am. They are keen for more members. Ring **Aline Erickson** 323-5566.

TODAYS THOUGHTS

- We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
- Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of a pool and throw them fish.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

FUN CLUB DAY THE JULIAN CUP

Have you put your name down to play in the Julian Cup event on June 26th? It's a fun day of two sessions of bridge – and a good lunch.

It is a club event, where a Senior or Senior Reserve partners a Junior or Intermediate player. And in response to player request this year the partnerships will be randomly drawn on the day. It is your chance to meet and play with a new friend.

You will have time to discuss what you play – strong or weak 2s, before the session begins.

Systems are junior systems – no fancy stuff allowed – no multi 2D or reverse transfer openings that leave you scratching your head. If you are the junior partner, your Senior won't chew your ear off if you make a mistake. If you are the Senior partner, you will smile sweetly when your junior leaves you in 4C – and you were Ace asking. And you won't ask 'what do you understand by your partners' bid'- as happened to me when I was a junior and had absolutely no idea what my partners bid meant.

Laurie Julian presented the Julian Cup in 1968 when the club had only two grades. Back then just the Senior and Junior grades, and not as many members. His aim was to foster a good club spirit among members.

It is for this reason that we hold this annual tournament – to meet new friends, have fun and foster a happy club playing environment. Many of us don't know many out of our grade, so put your name down to meet someone new – or as luck may have it – you may end up partnering a familiar face.

Go on – give it a go this year.

Our sponsors for this event for several years has been **Westende Jewellers**. As most people know their shop in Manchester street was destroyed by the September quake, so they started out again in Gloucester street only to be now in the red zone with no access. So they are shop searching all over Christchurch, but in the meantime if you need repairs or valuations, they are working from home so just ring **Roger Kelso on 366-5475**. And let him know if there is an empty shop near you.

Contributed by Naomi Hannah-Brown

QUEENS BIRTHDAY CONGRESS

From John Kruiniger

This year the Queen's Birthday Congress was held in Timaru. They did a proficient job of running all the events and made all of us displaced Christchurch visitors feel very welcome indeed.

There were quite a few lively deals, which was to my liking as the bidding has always been the most interesting aspect of the game for me. I like to have clear system agreements with my partner so that we can develop auctions confidently and resort to guessing as little as possible. This hand is board 26 from the Swiss pairs on Monday, East dealt with all vul, I sat south and Fiona was my partner.

	AT85	
	AQJ62	
	K8	
	J9	
J72		63
9853		T7
Q642		JT953
Q6		K832
	KQ94	
	K4	
	A7	
	AT754	

Without any interference our auction was:

JK	Fiona
1C	1H
1S	2D
3NT	4NT
5D	5S
6S	

2D was the "fourth suit forcing" convention – it doesn't promise or deny diamonds, it just asks me to describe my hand further. Fiona was sniffing the possibility of a slam in Spades, and chose this tool to find out some more information. She realized that she would still have to check for keycards, but realized that if I rebid in no-trumps then with our agreements Spades would still be defined as the trump suit later. My 3NT bid showed a diamond hold, but also showed extra values. I play that when you *hold* more then you have to *bid* more (call me old-fashioned) so since up until this point I could have bid exactly the same with say a 12 count, this jump showed about 15-17.

4NT was Roman Key Card Blackwood with *the last naturally bid suit* defined as trumps. Remember the 2D bid was conventional, so the last naturally bid suit was still my 1S bid. 5D showed 0 or 3 keycards (1430 responses – ask me if you want to know why) and we play that 5S is a sign off if in case I only have 0; holding 3 then I am obliged to bid on.

There was nothing to the play, with only one club trick to lose.

John Kruiniger earned enough masterpoints at the South Canterbury Congress to reach the status of “Grandmaster”



Also “good luck” to Jan Alabaster (NZ Womens Team), Pieter Vanderpoel & David Skipper (NZ Youth Team) competing at the PABF in Malaysia.

"The Sacrifice"

With both sides non vulnerable Partner opened 1 Club, 2nd seat responded 2 Hearts, myself with 1 point passed, 4th seat jumped to 3 Hearts, Partner bid 5C, opposition responded 5 hearts.

Partner thought for a moment then bid 6 Clubs (perhaps he has a shortage I thought).

Double from the opposition.

After putting down dummy I thought it was time for a mid evening drink.

When I returned I was greeted by partner "Not too bad, down 4 doubled for minus 400 better than giving the opposition 420 or 450.

My partner was somewhat bemused when I advised him - confirmed by the opposition checking that it was actually minus 800.

Somehow accountants always seem to be good at creative accounting but this one resulted in another round of drinks

(**Contributed anon**)

60TH DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

During the week of Monday 23 - Saturday 28 April 2012 the club celebrates its Diamond anniversary - 60 years!!

A full and exciting week is planned for all sessions - calendar the week NOW Wouldn't it be great to have 60 tables at the anniversary pairs; one for each year - that goal is up to you Like the posters from WWII say - one for the Girls "We Can Do It." and one for the boys "We need YOU."



The chair of the sub-committee for our diamond anniversary seeks the assistance of a small team of fellow club members to organise, promote and manage this event during the week of Monday 23 April 2012. The bones of the event have already been laid-out and some initial work done in relation to format and hi-lights.

Rosemary Smart is on the team and will bring her expertise to do a photo collage, assist with the diamond jubilee book, and data show. Two enthusiastic volunteers are sought to keep a balanced perspective on planning and prevent a blow-out of budget.

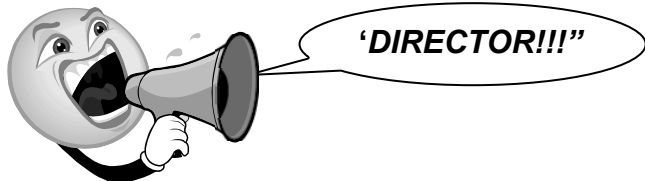
A member with an interest in writing the up history / events of the past 10 years to supplement our 40th and 50th anniversary publications written by **Maurice Neiman** and **John Nimmo** respectively.

If you would like to make a positive contribution to the success of this event please get in touch with -

Craig Shannahan VP
Phone 3545251

Chair 60th anniversary
shannahan@slingshot.co.nz





From Keith Wignall

What's with these new-fangled movements?

Actually, the Web movement has been around for some time, and we always wanted to use it because it works well when the number of tables is between 16 and 22 - numbers that are awkward to handle using simple Mitchell movements. We weren't able to use it in the past because our old scoring software didn't know about it. As we have switched to a new scoring program that does know about Web (and other) movements, we are now able to use them.

What's wrong with the old movements?

It is always preferable, when there are multiple sections in a competition, to score them all together as if they were one big section. If we score sections separately, then it is probable that pairs who obtain the same result on a board will receive different percentages for that board if they are in different sections.- (see *footnote*)

Two pairs who played equally well, but in different sections, could easily obtain scores that differ by 3% or more. This outcome is manifestly unfair - a fundamental principle of equity is that equals should be treated equally.

In order to score sections together, it is necessary that they have the same number of boards in play - you can't compare your results with another section's if that section didn't play some of the boards that you played. Now, one characteristic of ordinary Mitchell movements is that a section with an even number of tables cannot have the same number of boards in play as a section with an odd number of tables. If the total number of tables is odd, and we divided it into two sections, one will have an even number and the other will have an odd number. Therefore we cannot score the sections together if we use Mitchell movements.

Even if the number of tables is even, Mitchell movements are not ideal. With 22 tables in two sections of 11, each pair will meet two of their opponents twice (except for table 6, who will play each other three times). This outcome may be inequitable if some pairs meet strong opponents twice while others meet weak opponents twice. And if there is a phantom, some pairs will have to sit out twice.

(Web Movements Cont)

Using a Web movement, however, all pairs play two boards each against 13 different opponents. As well as being fairer, it is more sociable to meet different opponents instead of the same ones again.

In summary, Web movements deliver more equitable outcomes for the players. The fact that we bother to keep score when we play bridge indicates that we are interested in knowing how well we did. Therefore it is sensible to make every effort to ensure that the score we obtain is an accurate reflection of performance, rather than an arbitrary number.

Aren't these new movements difficult to understand?

Not really, no. For an even number of tables, players will find that a Web movement is hardly distinguishable from a Mitchell movement - NS pairs remain stationary, EW pairs move up one table, and boards move down one table. Boards will move into and out of a feed-in stack, but we have all encountered feed-ins before.

With an odd number of tables, one EW pair is a roving pair that doesn't follow the normal progression, but instead moves according to a guide card. For everyone else, though, the movement is the same as always. The roving pair may even find it rather exciting to be given their own special instructions instead of following the herd.

For example, suppose that there are two sections of 11 tables, and that on a particular board five pairs bid a making slam - four of them in one section and one in the other. The first four pairs will score 85% on the board, while the fifth will score 100% for doing exactly the same thing.

THE TALE OF THE EIGHT OF HEARTS

From Keith Wignall

Never underestimate the usefulness of those intermediate cards.

The eight of hearts was crucial on this deal:

	AK	
	A964	
	K6	
	AJ982	
97643		Q52
KQ7		T53
T83		QJ952
Q5		63
	JT8	
	J82	
	A74	
	KT74	

(cont)

With neither side vulnerable, North dealt and opened 1C. Her partner responded 1NT, which North raised to 3NT.

West led the S7, won in dummy. A club to the King and a club back to the Ace meant that declarer could now see ten tricks.

However, the scoring was match points, so additional overtricks would be valuable.

Leaving the established clubs for the moment, declarer next led a small heart from the table. His eight forced the Queen from West, who continued with spades. Now declarer cashed the clubs, and both defenders had to find three discards.

West had no problem, pitching her useless spades, but East did not find it so easy. Believing that he had to keep hold of a diamond guard, he let go his small heart. Declarer was now able to cross to his diamond Ace and lead the Jack of hearts, picking up the King and smothering the ten. Twelve tricks were the result.

With clubs as trumps, twelve tricks can also be made, without having to rely on a defensive error. Assuming that East leads the Queen of diamonds, North wins the King, plays a diamond to the Ace, and ruffs a diamond. Then she cashes the Ace and King of spades, followed by the Ace and King of clubs and a spade ruff, leaving:

	—	
	A964	
	—	
	J	
97		—
KQ7		T53
—		J9
—		—
	—	
	J82	
	—	
	T7	

Now a small heart to the eight puts West in with the Queen, and she is endplayed. She must either lead away from her King of hearts or give declarer a ruff and discard.

AROUND THE CLUB ♣

WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS;-

The following people have applied for club membership. Please be friendly and helpful to these new players:-

FROM OUR CLASSES-

Catherine and Peter Fitchett

Peter Michie

Pamela Hueston

Anna Crighton

Jacqui Gavin

Claire Higgins

Lorraine Gibbons

Ingrid Read

Pauline Lane

Mary Reid

Sharon Sjeie

Alister James

Pam Boyles

Toni Jones'

Karen Weaver

Rose Gardyne



ALSO FROM OTHER CLUBS -

Jan Ellis

David Wilson

AND WELCOME BACK TO-

Judy Briggs

Sharyn Silcock

Yoska Eerens

Ian Brash

Rick Acland

Roy Kerr

Bridget Carr

TUESDAY NIGHT

Tuesday evenings are ticking along, with all players slowly accepting the changes in our temporary club rooms. As far as the setting up of sections are concerned we have had a few 'hick ups' which John Skipper has talked to us about, explaining the few problems we have envisaged and what is happening to our club rooms in Nova Place. (isn't it great to have a President who takes the time to come along and explain what our few problems have been and what is happening to our club rooms, make many of us feel 'it's all worth it').

The Judy Heaps Ladder was won by -

Anne Deaker and Sharon Jackson 58.30% and in 2nd place

Joe Brown and Brian Goulter 57.48%

Other events which have finished need scores and substitutes to be checked thoroughly before releasing them.

Partner finder (Veronica) for Tuesday has a change of phone -

351-1955 cell -027-7397-744

Veronica Rozier

MONDAY NIGHT

It is pleasing to note that the numbers playing on Monday night have come back to about the same as we were getting pre-quake. We celebrated Easter with Hot Cross Buns on the Monday prior to Easter and this seemed to be enjoyed by all.

Worthy of mention is 3 scores in the seventies.

18 April **Denise Bryce and Jan Armstrong** 73.75%

2nd May **Paddy McAdam and Paul Hobbs** 70.24%

2nd May **Lindsay Baxter and Keith Mabin** 70.13%

Congratulations to those members.

I did ask about scores for “Intermediate Pairs” and “Lion Foundation Cup Pairs” Senior reserve but as most of the matches were prior 22 February it is inaccessible from the computers in our Nova Place premises. I am not sure what the outcome will be but I am sure the committee will address the matter.

The “Cambridge Ladder” Intermediates and “John Hay Ladder” Senior Reserve finishes on 30 May

and it will also mark the end of the first 14 Grading nights.

Congratulations to all our members for the fine attitude at the tables I have not witnessed any bad behaviour, nor had any reported to me.

Happy Bridging everyone.

Bernice Young

THURSDAY EVENINGS have started to settle down and members are trying to be more aware of the noise levels.

The Thursday Senior Reserve Autumn Ladder was won by-
Keith Mabin and Fiona Smith 55.05% and in second place-
Jeanette and Dave Lawrence 54.04%

Other competition results continue to be elusive, but this problem is being solved shortly.

Sadly I would like to advise members I am standing down as a committee member and as Convenor. I enjoyed many years as joint convenor on Thursdays and then 2 years on Monday evenings where it was a pleasure to work with David Skipper as our Director.

I wish you all well in a time of many changes for all and for the club.

Jane Doig

TRYING TIMES

Our weekly Bridge fix is important to many of us as it normalises our lives - especially when we are facing anxiety and uncertainty with regards to our jobs, houses and sections, not to mention the continuing aftershocks. Haven't we done a great job. However it hasn't been without its challenges. An indication of just how fragile we are, is the large number of concerns being expressed.

- Level of noise.
- Lateness in starting.
- Not enough boards being played.
- Web movements.
- Howell movements.
- Directors' rulings.
- Directors' manner.
- Communication or lack of.
- Bridge pads.
- Scoring across the room or lack of.
- Closure of servery slide prior to play

This covers most, but by no means all. Our best efforts have gone into trying to solve or lessen the impact of these with noise appearing to be the biggest issue.

Directors and convenors (as well as all of you) have been asked to arrive early. One night we ended up with three phantoms because of people moving around, late arrivals and players seated at tables other than their own, having conversations. Frustrating for the directors.

The use of the bell is intended as a gentle reminder to lower conversation, and the closure of the servery slide prior to play is to have everyone seated so Directors can organise the room and start play on time. If everyone is seated by 7.20 this enables directors to set up the room quickly.

Web and Howell movements have been dropped in the short term, although using such movements allows scoring across the room and assists equity and fairness. Last boards will be played by 10.30 no matter how few boards have been played, so no late finishes.

One night the travellers were in the wrong boards, so no more recycling of paper. Everyone is checking / double checking that boards and travellers are correct.

Some problems cannot be anticipated, such as the night the power pack to the laptop failed.

I ask all members to reflect how lucky we are in having a venue to play bridge, and for their tolerance and understanding when things are not perfect. Everyone can do their bit by :

- being seated by 7.20.
- showing support / understanding / appreciation for all those who work for the club.
- taking your concerns to your convenor/committee member or to me. Expressing your concerns to friends, taking frustrations out on directors or threatening to walk out or leave the club solves little, and affects others enjoyment of the night.

Lastly be assured, we do listen to your concerns and are focused at the moment on pleasant enjoyable bridge nights for all.

Bruce Anderson.

(Committee - Directors, Ethics / Complaints, Match)

SEEDING

The seeding is slowly coming right for Tuesdays and Thursday, Susan, our manager, and her helpers have spent many hours sorting through score sheets of past competitions played this year prior to the last Earth Quake, where overall details were lost on the old computer, therefore they are being calculated by hand on a spread sheet at the moment.

The only thing we ask of you is PLEASE PLEASE PUT ANY SUBSTITUTE YOU OR YOUR PARTNER USES IN CLEAR BOLD WRITING ON THE TABLE SLIP WITH THEIR COMPUTER NUMBER IF POSSIBLE, EVEN IF YOU UNDERLINE THEIR NAME WOULD HELP.

With the big change over and new system a few of these have not been entered on either the table slip or the computer.

From Veronica Rozier

JOHN HAY IS ON THE ROAD AGAIN - STORIES FROM HIS TRAVELS FOLLOW

Epistle Number 1

Hello all from sunny Turkey where we are having a break for a week to rest our weary brains after two weeks hard grind sightseeing in Egypt and Jordan. It was tough with day after day of relentless sunshine and hot temperatures. I don't know where its raining, but it certainly isn't here in the Middle East. We have been on a tour of Egypt and Jordan with twelve other Aussies and Kiwis.

About Egypt-

Old stuff - We saw the three pyramids at Giza which are far bigger than I had expected from pictures. The biggest two are absolutely massive, both over 100 metres high. Then it was to the Egyptian museum for their collection with the highlight being the treasures exhumed from the tomb of Tutankhamen. It is easy to see why these are so valuable – they are exquisitely carved and I can't see how the mask has been made as the surface is completely smooth. Maybe a mechanical engineer might be able to say how?

We visited the Valley of the Kings where many of the pharaohs were buried, including Tutankhamen. We ventured down into three of the tombs and all the walls, ceilings and floors were decorated with murals depicting the life of the Pharaoh and material goods that he might like to take to his next life such as camels, food, an army, servants, etc.

Abu Simbel, too, was a highlight. There are two massive rock temples built by Ramses II in the 13th Century BC depicting himself as a God. This was not only done for self aggrandisement, but as a means of controlling his subjects. If they thought of you as a God it was more difficult to attack you. Again, they were decorated with murals like the tombs in the Valley of the Kings. When the Aswan dam was built, these two temples would have been submerged so UNESCO spent a few billion moving them about two hundred metres, but they would have been an enormous loss to the world had they disappeared beneath the water.

Religious – I climbed 2000 metres up a track to the top of Mt Sinai to see and photograph the sunset and this was quite an achievement. We were told the following day by another tour that they were advised not to go unless you were quite athletic!!! I don't think walking the golf courses of Christchurch was good training. The view from the top is of a vast expanse of mountains devoid of any vegetation. A cave was at the top, supposedly used by Moses, and if so, he smoked a lot during his forty days at the top, as there are hundreds of butts littering the cave floor.

Cultural – We spent four days cruising up the Nile from Luxor to Aswan stopping on the way to view more temple complexes such as Karnak which covered, from memory, 154 acres. This cruise was fun. The boat was a traditional Nile cruiser with cabins decked out in 1930's fashion, and we expected Agatha Christie to pop out and ask if we had access to any pink gin. However there were no murders on the River Nile while we were there.

Cairo is an interesting city having 22 million people living there, many of them struggling to survive. The place is noisy with a constant clamouring of car and truck horns even during the night. The roads are populated with cars, trucks, motor bikes, buses, horse and carts, donkeys, and even the odd camel, all wanting the same piece of road space.

Political – We spoke to a number of people, both young and old, and it was apparent that the Mubarak regime was hated. There are many rumours about how many billions was squirreled away by the rulers, but the whole society is corrupt. Everybody expects a backhander for doing anything for you, and apparently there are standard rates for the more expensive functions. For instance, our guide admitted she got her car drivers licence by bribing the Police which is easier than the test which the Police make extremely difficult to pass. Such is life in a corrupt country.

Now that Mubarak and his hated Police force has gone, the people are looking forward excitedly to the elections in September expecting great changes but I think all that will happen is a change from one corrupt regime to another. They need a major shift in attitudes before any great economic progress will be made. They need a Mandela or Lee Kuan Yew to make good things happen, and there doesn't appear to be one on the horizon.

The army is in charge of the country and are everywhere. Our tour bus was stopped many, many times but the soldiers were always very polite and friendly, and welcoming us to their country. But it is still scary being stopped at a check-point and having a BIG gun on a tank pointing at our bus. Lesley and I never felt scared for our safety while in Egypt, just hassled by the noise, the hawkers, etc, but we are glad we visited.

About Jordan -

Old stuff - The main highlight was a visit to Petra, with the tombs of many people and the famous Treasury, one of the most photographed sights in the world. It really is remarkable and our guide got us there just in time for the morning light to fall on the face of the temple. What a sight. This tour of Petra took most of a day but our tour group were all impressed.

Cultural and political – We visited and stayed the night at a Bedouin camp about ten kilometres into the desert from Wadi Rum. This was an interesting experience being driven there in a couple of trusty old Toyota pickups then sitting down drinking sweet black tea and chatting to Solomon, our young and apparently attractive Bedouin leader. He candidly answered any questions we had and just before the dinner they had prepared we all got to ride on camels for ten to fifteen minutes. Nice animals and fun to ride.

Jordan was a much nicer and more friendly place to visit, but still with corrupt political and financial systems. It appears that the ruling Hussein dynasty provides a stable and forward looking monarchy that curbs some of the major excesses evident in countries such as Egypt, Syria and Libya. The monarchy seems to be very popular among the Jordanians.

Turkey –

We are now at Kusadasi in Turkey for a much needed rest, and visits to restaurants and beaches and catching up on reading and the internet will be in the pipeline for the next few days. Next weekend we will lose our internet capability so any comments will be welcome before then. Incidentally, it is now just after 5pm and Lesley is out on our balcony with her feet up, sipping a Turkish red and reading a book. Nice. I must go and join her.

Bye for now. **John**





***You don't stop laughing because you grow old,
you grow old because you stop laughing***

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbour and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbour asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster

Her neighbour decides to go over and help with the puzzle.

She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table. He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says,

"First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then," he said with a deep sigh

"Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."

I was out walking with my 4-year-old daughter. She picked up something off of the ground and started to put it in her mouth.

I took the item away from her and I asked her not to do that.

'Why?' my daughter asked.

'Because it's been on the ground; you don't know where it's been, it's dirty, And probably has germs,' I replied.

At this point, my daughter looked at me with total admiration and asked, 'Mum, how do you know all this stuff? You are so smart.'

I was thinking quickly and replied, 'All mums know this stuff. It's on the Mum Test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Mum.'

We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but she was evidently pondering this new information.

'Oh....I get it!' she beamed, 'So if you don't pass the test you have to be the dad.'

'Exactly,' I replied with a big smile on my face.

WHERE is my SUNDAY paper?!"

The irrate customer calling the newspaper office, loudly demanded to know where her Sunday edition was.

"Madam", said the newspaper employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow, on SUNDAY".

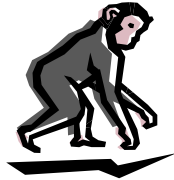
There was quite a long pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition as she was heard to mutter, ..

..."Well, that explains why no one was at church either

A blond lady motorist was about two hours from San Diego when she was flagged down by a man whose truck had broken down. The man walked up to the car and asked, "Are you going to San Diego?"

"Sure," answered the blond, "do you need a lift?"

"Not for me. I'll be spending the next three hours fixing my truck. My problem is I've got two chimpanzees in the back which have to be taken to the San Diego Zoo. They're a bit stressed already so I don't want to keep them on the road all day. Could you possibly take them to the zoo for me? I'll give you \$100 for your trouble."



"I'd be happy to," said the blond. So the two chimpanzees were ushered into the back seat of the blonde's car and carefully strapped into their seat belts. Off they went.

Five hours later, the truck driver was driving through the heart of San Diego when suddenly he was horrified!! There was the blond walking down the street and holding hands with the two chimps, much to the amusement of a big crowd.

With a screech of brakes he pulled off the road and ran over to the blond. What the heck are you doing here?" he demanded, "I gave you \$100 to take these chimpanzees to the zoo."

"Yes, I know you did," said the blond, "but we had money left over---so now we're going to Sea World."

Sister MaryAnne was out making her rounds visiting homebound patients when she ran out of petrol.

As luck would have it, a Shell Station was just a block away.

She walked to the station to borrow a can and buy some petrol. The attendant told her that the only petrol can he owned had been loaned out, but she could wait until it was returned. Since Sister Mary Anne was on the way to see a patient, she decided not to wait and walked back to her car.

She looked for something in her car that she could fill with petrol and spotted the bedpan she was taking to one of her patients.

Always resourceful, Sister Mary Anne carried the bedpan to the station, filled it with petrol, and carried the full bedpan back to her



car.

As she was pouring the petrol into her tank, two Baptists watched from across the street.

One of them turned to the other and said, "If it starts, I'm turning Catholic."



Anniversary Pairs



Canterbury Congress

