



Five Minutes With...

Anne Davey



Anne is our Director at SA Bridge Association on Thursdays and Saturdays at Unley.

Not only a competent and convivial Director, she is a National Junior champion who has competed successfully on the world stage.

With her mother's encouragement, Anne started her bridge journey when she was 16 years old.

'My brothers and I took the five-day Beginners' Course in January when I was about sixteen, because Mum was excited for us to learn and play. I didn't play again until I graduated high school since I didn't have enough time for it', Anne said.

'When I started again, I played with my Mum and my brother Fletcher in the supervised section while I tried to remember how to play again!' she said.

The youth bridge scene has been formative in Anne's bridge journey.

'I've attended youth sessions in Adelaide since I started playing again, and I really enjoy making friends and playing with other young people who are also excited about the game.

'I've played a few Australian National Championships (ANCs) for the South Australian Youth Team and from those and my time at Youth Week in Canberra in 2024, I've met some amazing youth players from across the country.

'During the first couple of weeks this January, I'll be playing in Youth Week again, which is such a fun event for youth players to connect and play bridge together,' she said.



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Anne is clocking up some amazing bridge experiences and successes and she clearly has an outstanding bridge journey ahead.

'In 2024 I was very fortunate to be on the Australian Under 26 Women's Team which competed in Wroclaw, Poland last July and finished in fourth place' she said.

'We were all super excited to perform so well as we had fundraised to send ourselves over and all worked really hard in the preceding months to play the best we could.

Anne recognises the benefits of insights and mentoring from more experienced bridge experts: 'I played with a few expert players at a range of congresses, night-time events, and national competitions in the lead-up to this competition, which was also very exciting for me! Their support and wisdom was invaluable in helping me gain experience and knowledge, especially as all of them played the game a little differently,' she said.

Anne's national bridge success came early and is memorable:

'One of my standout bridge weeks is from my very first Australian National Congress (ANC) in Adelaide in 2022.

'As the least experienced player on the SA youth team, I was very stressed about playing my best and not letting the team down.

Throughout the competition I received lots of support from my team, partner, and captain which made the whole experience more enjoyable and insightful for me. We battled it out in the qualifying and the final to defeat Victoria and win the youth category!' she said.

Anne sees many benefits of playing bridge and recognises the value of complete concentration when at the bridge table. She also values the social benefits.

'There are always new mistakes to make in bridge, so I love that I'll always be learning more about the game.

'When I play bridge, I always forget about everything else and focus on the game. Because of this, bridge can be very therapeutic (depending on how well I'm doing that night), and whatever else is on my mind that week is forgotten about for a few hours.



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'Above all, I think bridge is very good for bringing people together and letting us socialise. We already have the game in common, so it's easy for us to ask each other about tricky hands after a session and make new friends over the game,' she said.

Anne believes that if players want to improve their bridge, they need to play frequently.

'For me, if I'm playing only once a week I don't improve my game, so I think the ideal number of bridge games to play weekly is as many as possible! I don't always subscribe to this as it's hard to find the time sometimes, but my goal is two or three times a week,' she said.

Anne sees the value in youth learning to play bridge:

'I think it's great for schoolchildren to learn bridge, as it's a skill they can come back to whenever they're ready.

'My two brothers and I have all had various breaks from bridge over the years, whenever we're too busy or disinterested.

'Youth players in SA have amazing support and can get some awesome opportunities from playing bridge.

'Additionally, I have really enjoyed meeting new youth bridge players over the years,' she said.

Anne is quite involved at our club as a player, director and volunteer.

'I've worked at SA Bridge Assoc for a few years now, but I do also volunteer a bit.

'I help run the bar with my Mum on Tuesday nights, help out at some social events throughout the year, and also help format the bimonthly Declarer, she said.

Outside of bridge, Anne has plenty happening:

'Outside of bridge I also enjoy reading, music, and watching too much TV! I was lucky enough to go to four concerts in 2024, including Taylor Swift in Melbourne, and whenever I can I love listening to music,' she said.



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'In 2024 I had a gap-year after finishing my Bachelor of Arts, which has given me time to spend a few months travelling through Europe. I'm not too sure what 2025 will bring for me, but I'm hoping to keep playing lots of bridge and learning more', Anne said.

We wish Anne well as her career and bridge paths unfold. She is a valued, talented, pleasant, unassuming and very helpful member of our club. She is also is a life-long learner. Watch this space!