



Five Minutes With...

David Anderson



You have probably all come across David Anderson at some stage in your Bridge career. After all, he has been a member of SA Bridge Association for nearly 60 years and chief tournament director for most of that time. He was club manager for 15 years and has been club President, also club Secretary. He was granted Life Membership in 1983. David also directed, and sometimes convened, the Autumn Nationals for more than 20 years.

Until recently he directed most of the congresses and several of the state events in South Australia. He has also run national congresses, reflecting his strategic bridge capabilities. He now does Monday nights at Unley, the occasional weekend event, and a session each week at Bridge in the City, where he is club president.

As an administrator David founded the SA Bridge Federation which he said he occasionally regrets. He managed SABA when it was at its peak (weekly attendances were 250 tables), and has been the ABF's Masterpoints authority for far too long he jokes!

David came from a card playing family 'so learning the basics of bridge one lazy Friday afternoon at Adelaide University wasn't a problem.

'We were only in the Uni Bridge Club's lounge because the Administrators had banned card playing in the refectories,' he said. In his second year at Uni, he joined the Adelaide Uni Bridge club.

David, who is a Gold Grand Master, has also been a top player in his time, having played in four national teams, won most of the national championships, and represented SA at the National Championships on more than 20 occasions.



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As David said, he joined our club in January 1966.

'It was the next natural step after Uni' he said.

'The Uni group provided at least a dozen SABA members who represented the state at Interstate competitions,' he said.

'I made the Open State Team in '67, was chief club director from '72 onwards, later club secretary and '85 to '86 club president.

'I was the first club manager filling that role from 1990 to 2001, then 2006 to 2009,' he said.

Reflecting on a few highlights of his bridge journey so far:

'There have been many highlights in my career as a player, a successful club manager, and as the convenor and director of the early Autumn Nationals (ANC),' he said.

'The first time my team won the ANC, and the first time I made the Australian Open team, were probably the most memorable,' he said.

What does David consider to be the main benefits of playing Bridge?

'The people you meet, and the mental exertions required,' he said.

As to the ideal number of bridge games to play weekly:

'It depends entirely on the person, their reasons for playing bridge, and the amount of time they have available.

'For myself it's no more than two, unless I am playing in a major championship,' he said.

David reflected on some of his Bridge partners:

'I had several National successes playing with both Zolly Nagy and George Smolanko, however my favourite must be the recently deceased Ian Hilditch.

'We were very compatible and were literally on fire during the 2019 ANC in Melbourne, where we won the Open Teams and also the award for the best Open Pair,' he said.

While bridge at many levels takes up a lot of David's time, his home life and other pastimes are important to him.



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'My home life with my wife Sharmini, our dogs, the garden, roaming around Blackwood and Coromandel Valley, my birds, also films, books and music fill my other time,' he said.

We are most grateful to David for so generously sharing his bridge talents, leadership and organisation with the bridge community, locally, across the state and nationally. Here's to many more David!