



Five Minutes With...

Judith and Leanne



Judith Cross and Leanne Goodes met at Beginners Classes, conducted by Justin Williams and Jeff Travis in Sept 2019. Since that time, they have become friends and bridge partners.

Prior to retiring from full-time work in 2020, Leanne had a long list of things she wanted to do in her retirement and one was to learn and play bridge. Leanne played cards with her family as she was growing up. She recalls her grandmother playing bridge and so Leanne is paying homage to her.

Along with her bridge partner Judith, Leanne plays at Glenelg North and other venues, generally playing three times per week and an additional online session. Of bridge Leanne said: 'it's a great game and a fascinating and inexpensive hobby'.

Judith was introduced to basic bridge by her mother when she was 14. The family travelled in a camper around Europe for nine months and most evenings found them playing cards, often contract bridge.

Judith retired from work in 2016 and had in mind to formally learn bridge which she did in 2019, coincidentally in the same beginners class as Leanne. This was the beginning of their bridge partnership and friendship. Judith recalls the excellent support of Therese De Marco and Ray Dohnt in supervised bridge at Glenelg North. To further her bridge skills and knowledge she and Leanne attended 'Building on the Basics' with Justin and Jeff at Unley.

Looking at the many benefits of the game they both agree that it's a great game for improving your memory and strategizing on card play as well as the social component bridge offers.

Judith says, 'I enjoy bridge holidays which have taken us to various locations around Australia and also overseas.'

'It's a great leveller. You think you are improving and then you don't make your contract, and it brings you down to earth,' she said.

'One drawback is ruminating over your own stupid mistakes, in bidding or card play,' she said.

One of the keys to success in bridge for both Leanne and Judith is working on their bridge partnership. While they occasionally question each other's bidding or card play, they are focused on learning all the time. They both agree that Leanne is the bigger risk taker in bidding whilst Judith is the better card player. They also agree



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that while they are of course competitive...it's important to maintain a sense of humour!

Judith records the bidding which forms part of their joint analysis. They also look at what others did and what was achievable; this learning together strengthens their partnership.

Of their bridge partnership, Leanne highlighted some key factors;

'Recognising each other's strengths and understanding each other's approach to the game,

'I like a system card with wriggle-room, allowing for some creativity in the game,

'It's important to be kind to your partner; they are your best ally,' Leanne said.

Along with Judith, Leanne enjoys their bridge holidays to congresses and extended bridge learning opportunities. They have been to the Gold Coast Congress twice and have also made several trips to Noosa with John Roberts. In 2023 they did a two-week holiday to Penang with Finesse Bridge and went to Tasmania last year, also with Finesse. They both really enjoy combining bridge with their travel experiences.

Outside of bridge, Judith is an active grandmother to her two grandchildren. Leanne took up painting and drawing as well as philosophy at the same time as taking up bridge and suggests that 'How we play bridge often reflects how we live our lives'.

Leanne and Judith demonstrate an admirable approach to a successful bridge partner, with good communication being a key factor.