

## Another Productive, Enduring Partnership

Jan Russell and I met in Beginner's Class in 1991. When I decided to take up bridge, the only card-playing experience I'd had was childhood Rummy and Penny Poker. I sat in a class in the Manning Street QCBC Club feeling bewildered by unfamiliar terms – counting points, take-out doubles, negative doubles etc. When the teacher said, 'Now find yourself a partner', I thought a particular lady seemed nice – not likely to attack me if I played the wrong card. I asked her if she had selected someone to play with and when she said "No", I asked her if she would play with me and she agreed. Thus began our twenty-one year partnership. **Rita Gorman**

And from Jan:

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 1991, I fronted at 17 Manning Street to join the bridge world – and what a frightening and intimidating experience it was. But fortunately, I paired off with another lost soul - Rita Gorman – who for 21 years has been my partner and great friend and the very reason I persisted with this wonderful game.

To summarise what has contributed to this long partnership takes some thought. But I guess first and foremost, we both accepted from the very start that we both make mistakes and at all times are trying to play seriously enough but conscious of each other's feelings.



We are always open to each other's new ideas or conventions and can discuss pros and cons without risking conflict. Thanks to bridge we have a beautiful friendship which has been very valuable support and understanding during personal experiences – both happy and not so good.

I moved to the Gold Coast in 2001 and have been commuting to "The Gabba" twice a week ever since – such is the value I place on our bridge partnership. **Jan Russell**