

Northern Suburbs Bridge Club



Newsletter

February 2020

www.northernsuburbs.bridgeaustralia.org
President: Andy Slater

Editor: Jeannette Wyman

From the President

The Christmas months of December and January tend to be extremely busy months for a few very dedicated volunteers in our club. I'm talking about our Membership Secretaries, who have to send out nearly 800 subscription notices. These are not all emails. There are many members who do not wish us to use electronic communication – and that's fair enough – so they receive their subs in the post. Think of all the work involved. New contact information has not been provided, so emails bounce back; players have moved addresses and so on. 70 or 80 phone calls have to be made, as we do not wish to cancel membership until all efforts at communication have been made.

I am writing this in the second week in February and there are still 150 subs unpaid. They were due by January 31 because the club has to pay both the ABF and the QBA their share of the levies. It reached a point where we had to exhort players to pay their dues by announcing that they would have to be paying visitor fees, and masterpoints could not be allocated as members would be deemed unfinancial! When subscription notices are sent out at the end of 2020, I will be repeating this message – please get your subscriptions paid in time. If not renewing, don't wait to be contacted, pick up the phone or the mouse and let us know.

As you know we are trying to be a more environmentally friendly club and reduce the amount of plastic we use. We encourage our members to use their own water bottles or use the ceramic cups in the box placed near the water fountain. This has meant a drain on the number of cups being used by the club, so if players can keep their cup for the whole session, that's a help. What has become an issue is getting the cups cleaned in a proper fashion. The procedure is that 'stained' cups are given a bleach rinse before being put into the dishwasher. However, it is often easier to do this with all cups rather than go through the process of separating them. So, if players could put their finished cups back onto the bench as soon as possible, that may give the kitchen staff time to complete the process. Of course, any cups not cleaned will be done the next day, but if we could reduce the number of cups waiting on the bench, so much the better.

In Canberra, they were trialling small plastic water bottles - hopefully degradable. Felt pens were there to put your name on the bottles. But I was astounded at the cavalier disregard for this initiative. Bottles were discarded into bins after a single use, no names on them; players would use several bottles a day, every day. So, let's stick with ceramic and get them cleaned.

Talking of Canberra – it was hot, smoky, the venue was overcrowded (long queues for coffee between sessions); one toilet for each gender, and the bridge wasn't so great either.

Give me the Gold Coast any time. If you've never been to the GC Congress, do give it a go. There are always special events for any grade of player, and it can be great fun being with friends and playing the game you love!

/over

I would like to thank every player who contributed to the Bushfire Appeal. A total of \$706 was raised, and I know of many players who were generous in their donation.

.A couple of years ago we had a hugely successful Xmas in July event, organised by Lori Sexton and Jayne Lansdowne. This was a wonderful initiative on their part, and I would hate to see that initiative go to waste. Sadly, last year was cancelled, due to Jack Wighton's illness, but I would like to do something again this year. What I am thinking is this:

Saturday bridge finishes around 4pm. Starting at 4.30, anybody and everybody would be welcome to pop in to the EGC for afternoon refreshments – nothing too heavy, but just a chance to do a bit of socialising with a glass of cordial in the hand, and to really get to talk to people. We don't get a chance to do this at the bridge table. Maybe some entertainment, who knows, and be home by 7/7.30.

The date is July 25. Rose and I would love to see you there! Put it in the diary.

There are a few other things I will mention elsewhere in this newsletter, but I would like to tell you that we have well over 50 learning players in our Bridge Classes on Monday evening and Tuesday morning. Undoubtedly this number is because of your encouragement of friends and family to come along and give it a go. Well done, and thank you for this great support.

Regards, Andy Slater



Using the EGC

The Elizabeth Gibson Centre (the EGC) is a wonderful venue. It's perfect for teaching with everything there that's needed to inspire our newbies. And of course it's always great to be able to use it as an overflow when the JW building is full. But how else can this resource be used?

When I turned 70 – hard to believe, I know – my family hired the building and had a wonderful evening. It's certainly a minimal cost, so if you know of anyone or any organisation that may need such a venue, let the committee know and we will contact them.

Another suggestion that's been put forward is perhaps using the venue for pre-bridge activities. For example, our Wednesday game starts at 10am, our Saturday game at 1pm.

What about a book-club meeting? A yoga or exercise session - someone I know has a great teacher, and cost free. Mah-jong anyone? A social bridge game perhaps?

Again, you, and some friends, may be able to use the building as a get-together place.

If interested have a chat to one of the committee and we'll see what we can do.

Andy Slater



NSBC Ruling

At the most recent NSBC Committee meeting, the Committee agreed to provide some clarity as to the official ruling on averages when time for play expires, as per the NSBC Club Rules.

As is written in both the NSBC Member's Booklet and on the Club Rules document attached to the website, the official rule at NSBC is:

"If the allotted time for playing boards expires before dummy has been tabled, then no play may continue, and the Director must be called."

The committee is aware this is unusual, as many clubs have a ruling that, unless the opening lead is made 2-3 minutes before the end of the round, the board must be averaged. Directors were contacted to provide their views on the current rule, and whether this should be changed, and those who replied were happy to leave the rule as it is. As such, the Club's official rule regarding averages remains unchanged.

Andrew Gosney, Secretary

VALE

ROSS DICK passed away 17 February 2020.

A player, teacher and author – a legacy spanning 40 years. He is gone but not forgotten.

NOTICE OF AGM 2020

The NSBC AGM will be held on Saturday, 4 April.

As requested last year, the meeting will have a later start this year, and will begin at 11.15am, to be followed by bridge (red points) at 1 p.m.



2019 in Review

Special mention should be made of the outstanding achievements of a number of our members, both Home Club and Alternate, during 2019.

More than 125 of our members received Ranking Promotion Certificates with three, Joan Mills, Geoffrey Toon and Peter Nilsson being promoted to Grand Master. Congratulations to all.

Each year, the Queensland Bridge Association (QBA) presents the James O'Sullivan Awards to the players who earn the most masterpoints in the year in each of the ranking categories. Congratulations go to Eugene Pereira who received the award for first in the State Master category of these awards.

Similarly, the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) ranks players on a national level based on their masterpoint earnings for the year. The following members are to be congratulated for their achievements at this national level.

- ◆ Rex Meadowcroft 2nd in the Regional Master category
- ◆ Eugene Pereira 4th in the State Master category
- ◆ Raelene Clark 4th in the **Local Master category
- ◆ Annette Hyland 6th in the Gold Life Master category
- ◆ Abby Wanigaratne 6th in the Life Master category
- ◆ Vesna and Voyko Markovic equal 6th in the **Local Master category
- ◆ Peter Nilsson 8th in the Gold Life Master category
- ◆ Dennis Sullivan 10th in the **National Master category

Listed below are the top 10 Home Club masterpoint earners over the past twelve months.

1	Geoffrey Toon	115.27
2	John Scrivens	114.44
3	Eugene Pereira	89.17
4	Margaret Plunkett	81.15
5	Joan Mills	79.23 =
	Greg Gosney	79.23
7	Gordon Gemmell	78.28
8	Yolande Coroneo	77.03
9	Sunil Mukherjee	75.56
10	Andrew Gosney	75.02

Based on the number of green masterpoints players earned during 2019, the club has one more Red Point session this year than last year.

Margaret Plunkett
Masterpoint Secretary

NSBC Members' Recent Competition Place Results

Club Competition Results

President's Tray Mondays a.m. Feb 3 & 10

1st: John Scrivens & Joan Mills

2nd: Margaret Plunkett & Greg Gosney

3rd: Peter Moffat & Dennis Sullivan

Members' Congress Results

Summer Festival of Bridge, Canberra Jan 8-19

Swiss Pairs: 4th Andrew Gosney & Abigail Wanigaratne

Gold Coast Teams Jan 5 - Overall Winners:

Anne Lamport, Ewa Kowalczyk, Gheorghita Belonogov, Paul Gosney

Arana Congress Feb 16

A3: Andy Slater, Helen & Richard McLauchlan, Ken Dawson

Upcoming Club Competitions

Tuesday Pairs April 21 & 26

Upcoming Congresses

Gold Coast Congress February 21 – 29

NSBC GNOTS Qualifying March 7 & 8

Toowong Novice Pairs March 8

NSBC Muriel Goodman Pairs April 19



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Masterpoint Promotions 2020

Since the last Newsletter, the following home club members have achieved masterpoint ranking promotions. Congratulations to all.

Regional*

Bill Hanlon

Local*

Diane Ainsworth:

Rhonda Robertson

Wayne Hooper

John Walters

Regional

Ann Sargeant

Local

Diana Hotchkis

Jason Cooney

Aileen Arnold

Ann Sauer

Karyn Aaker

Anne Higgins

Susan Painter

Club

Barb Barnett

Cheryl Diehm

Leanne Rooijmans

Jim Ritchie

Graduate

Robyn Wells

Sally Huxley

Margaret Inglis

Graham Porter

Sheena de Jager Miles

New Members

Aileen Moorhead

Home

Carmel Fox

Home

Oliver McCarthy

Away

Helen Sitcheff

Away

Jan McRobbie

Away

We welcome our new members and wish them all a long and happy association with our club.

Dealers Wanted

Without dealers, we cannot play the game of duplicate bridge as we know it.

If you can give an hour or so of your time each week to help in this area, Ros Frost would love to hear from you on **3359 6554**.

First-Aid

The club is going to purchase some First-Aid signs to put on the cupboard doors where the First-Aid box is. I'm happy to investigate having a First-Aid course run here at the club, but I would need members to indicate to the committee their interest in attending.

Given the age demographic of our club, it could be a great course to attend.

Andy Slater

Lost Umbrella

Did anyone take Diane Ainsworth's umbrella home by mistake on Friday 7 February? It is blue with butterflies, has a cane handle, and has great sentimental value, having shielded her from the rain for 23 years. Her phone no. is 3263 6836.

Mistaken Call

You are at the bridge table and during the auction one of the opponents makes a call which is promptly alerted by their partner. You may wish to make a bid of your own, so you ask their partner for an explanation of the alerted call. At the end of the auction you become declarer.

During play of the hand it becomes obvious that the explanation of the alerted call is not consistent with the opponent's hand. The Director is called to the table. It is determined that the explanation provided is systemically correct and the Director requests play to continue. At the completion of the hand, the opponent explains they had simply made a mistaken call.

As an example of a mistaken call, a partnership had been playing an opening call of 2♦ as a weak two in diamonds for several years. Recently, they decided to change the meaning to a Multi-2♦ showing a weak 6-card major or strong balanced hand. During an auction, one of the players has a hand perfect for a weak 2♦ opening and momentarily forgets about the recent change to their system, so they make an opening call of 2♦. The call is alerted by partner who explains it as a Multi-2♦ when asked. The explanation is correct according to their current partnership agreement.

Genuine mistaken calls by players do occur. Players can occasionally forget which conventions or systemic calls they are playing with their partner or about any recent changes to their partnership agreement.

Sometimes the mistaken call can be a disaster for the partnership. For the opposition, they may not find their optimum contract, play of the hand, or opening lead.

What do the Laws of Duplicate Bridge say about mistaken calls?

Firstly, opponents are entitled to a full and proper explanation of all calls made by you and partner (Law 20F1).

As for mistaken calls, Law 75C says

When the partnership agreement has been explained correctly, the mistake being the call made and not the explanation, there is no infraction. The explanation must not be corrected (nor must the Director be notified) immediately and there is no obligation to do so subsequently. Regardless of damage, the result stands...

There are three important points to note regarding a **mistaken call** followed by a **correct explanation**:

- There is no infraction,
- the explanation must not be corrected, and
- the result stands.

An infraction is a player's breach of Law or of Lawful regulation, so a mistaken call cannot be regarded as an infraction.

The player who makes a mistaken call must not 'correct' partner's explanation if that explanation has accurately disclosed their partnership agreement. To do so would provide unauthorised information to their partner and that is an infraction of the Laws. So, the player must be quiet and not in any way indicate that a mistaken call has been made.

If the opponents are damaged due to the mistaken call, unfortunately there is no recourse. Law 75C clearly states *the result stands*. Often, they will benefit from their opponents' bidding mix-ups.

Greg Gosney



Jobs

There are some jobs going at the club. I don't expect to be knocked over in the rush, but just on the slight chance that someone may decide that now is a good time to help our club – you never know.

Catering Convener: This job entails making sure that our Tournaments are catered for as necessary. Volunteers help with provision of food and being helpers on the day.

Social Committee: Friendly and sociable people to help organise events and to help others when necessary.

History Buff: This job would appeal to a member who likes history and can enter information regarding the club's past onto a database.

Andy Slater

Slam Hands

Here are some slam hands which were played during club sessions. I was sitting north each hand. They are presented primarily as a matter of interest. I hope you enjoy reading about them.

Slam Hand One

♠ AK109753		♠ J862
♥		♥ J8654
♦ K		♦ Q87
♣ AKQ43		♣ J
♠	Dir: N	
♥ KQ97	Vul: E-W	
♦ 105432		
♣ 8765		
♠ Q4		
♥ A1032		
♦ AJ96		
♣ 1092		

With a strong hand, 19 HCP and two losers, I opened 2♣. At the end of the bidding I placed the contract in 7♠.

On seeing dummy, 13 tricks looked cold – except for the possibility of all four trumps to the jack being in east's hand. What are the odds of that? With only four cards out, the chance of a 4-0 split is about 10%. Therefore, the chance of the four trumps being in east's hand is 5%. So, 13 tricks can be made with normal play at least 95% of the time.

The ♣J was led and on winning the trick in hand I led a small spade to my ♠Q. Alas, west showed out and I made no more than 12 tricks as east eventually won with the ♠J. Only a 5% chance of not making 13 tricks and it just happened to be on this hand. So sad.

Slam Hand Two

♠		W	N	E	S
♥ AJ96			p	p	1♦
♦ 93		1♥	p	2♥	2♠
♣ QJ109873		p	3NT	p	4♣
		p	5♦	p	6♦
		All pass			
♠ A1084		♠ 752			
♥ Q1074	Dir: N	♥ K8532			
♦ KJ	Vul: N-S	♦ 86			
♣ K62		♣ A54			
♠ KQJ963					
♥					
♦ AQ107542					
♣					

All bids in the auction were natural. My partner, Margaret, sitting south opened 1♦ in third seat and west overcalled 1♥. I had 8 HCP and hearts stopped, but I felt uncomfortable about bidding 1NT with the void in spades. Margaret didn't open spades, so maybe east had a long spade suit. I also considered bidding the club suit, but for better or worse and with some reluctance I decided to pass knowing partner had the opportunity to bid again. East raised their partner's 1♥ overcall to 2♥.

Margaret bid 2♠ showing spades as a second suit. I knew from the reverse bid (second suit bid at the two level was higher ranking than the opening suit bid at the one level) that my partner had extra values, about 16+ HCP. With my 8 HCP, stoppers in hearts and the good long club suit I decided to bid game in no trumps.

/over

To my surprise, Margaret bid 4♠. I knew then that my partner had at least five spades because she rebid the spade suit. Diamonds must be longer as she opened diamonds and not spades. So, her hand had at least six diamonds and at least five spades. With my two diamonds in hand and no spades, I bid 5♦ as a preference.

My partner was full of surprises on the day and bid 6♦. Margaret did make 12 tricks on this hand.

The odds of being dealt a 7-6-0-0 hand pattern are 17,970 to 1. To put that in perspective, if you played two 28-board sessions each week, you could expect to be dealt such a hand no more than once every six years.

Slam Hand Three

♠ KQJ65
♥ KQ3
♦ 108
♣ Q109

W	N	E	S
p	1♠	p	4NT
p	5♦	p	5♥
p	6♥	p	7♠
All pass			

♠ 32
♥ 96542
♦ J753
♣ 64

Dlr: W
Vul: None

♠ 107
♥ 1087
♦ 942
♣ J8753

♠ A984
♥ AJ
♦ AKQ6
♣ AK2

I surprised my partner, Margaret, by opening this hand 1♠. Margaret's hand had 25 HCP, so she wasn't expecting a one level opening by me. She didn't waste any time investigating slam. The 4NT bid asked for key cards (four aces and king of trumps). My rebid of 5♦ told her I had 1 or 4 key cards.

She knew a grand slam was very likely. She then asked if I had the queen of trumps with her bid of 5♥ (next non-trump suit above my response). As I held the trump queen, I bid 6♥ which also told my partner I had an outside king, specifically the ♥K.

From the bidding, Margaret knew I had opening hand values, at least five spades to the KQ and the ♥K. She bid 7♠ and east led the ♣5. I claimed all 13 tricks.

When dummy went down on the table, I could see we had 38 HCP between us. What are the chances of a combined 38 HCP being held between your hand and your partner's? I knew you would ask. It is 50,025 to 1. Once again, to put it in perspective, if you played two 28-board sessions each week, you and your partner could expect to be dealt a 38 HCP distribution no more than once every seventeen years. Margaret and I have a very long wait for the next one.


(Note: The probabilities I have used were obtained from various sources online.)


Greg Gosney

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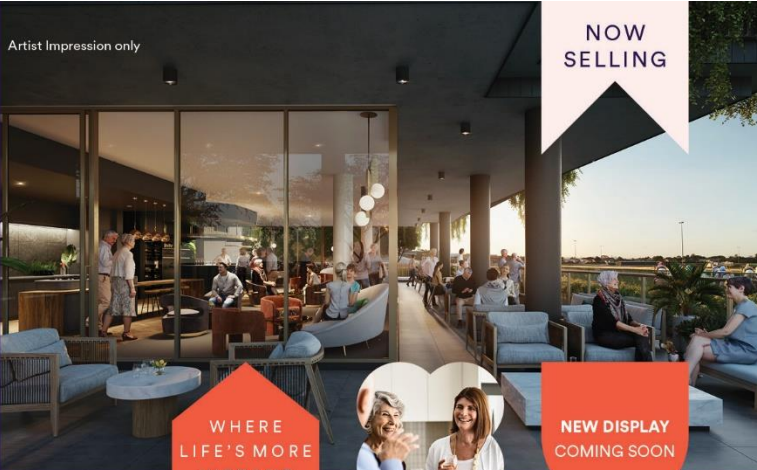
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The South West Pacific Teams in Canberra – January 2020

This was a mixed bag for me, finishing the event with a result of 4 wins, 1 draw, and 7 losses. Despite the result, there were some epic hands from the event.

Board 2 from Round 7 was a fascinating result. As East, I held this hand, and the bidding proceeded as follows:

♠ AK632
♥ A86
♦ QJ5
♣ K4

N	E (Me)	S	W	
	1♠	P	2♦ ¹	¹ Game Forcing, 5+ Diamonds
P	3♦	P	4♠	² RKCB
P	4NT ²	P	5♦ ³	³ 1 or 4 keycards
P	5♥ ⁴	P	6♦ ⁵	⁴ Queen of Spades?
P	6♠	All Pass		⁵ Yes + King of Diamonds

Playing a 15-17 1NT, I opted to open 1♠ rather than 1NT, upgrading with the 5-card spades and well-placed honours. This choice allowed partner to show her diamond suit, her strength, and her spade support, which would have been difficult over a 1NT opening. Being aware of the double fit, I pushed on to slam, as 12 top tricks were very likely (5 spades, 5 diamonds, 1 heart and likely a club or 2nd heart).

BOARD 2					
BD: 2	♠JT974		Dir: E		
	♥Q		Vul: N-S		
	♦7				
	♣QJ9532				
♠Q85		♠AK632			
♥J942		♥A86			
♦AKT86		♦QJ5			
♣8		♣K4			
	♠				
	♥KT753				
	♦9432				
	♣AT76				
	♣				
	♦				
	♥				
	♠				
	NT				
N	4	-	-	-	6
S	4	-	-	-	10 17
E	-	5	3	3	4
W	-	4	2	3	1

Amazing slam, especially on the ♣A lead, but spades are 5-0! Only needed the spades to be 3-2 (68%)! I ended up going off 2 for -100. Surprisingly, of the 110 teams at the event, only 11 were in 6. Even more surprisingly, the board was flat! Our opponents were only in 4♠ and also went off 2! Some excellent defence by our teammates!

Board 13 from Round 8 was another exciting slam. As East once again, I held this hand, and the bidding was as follows:

♠ AQ63
♥ A
♦ Q853
♣ AQT4

N	E (Me)	S	W	
P	1♦	P	2♦ ¹	¹ 10+, 4+ Diamonds, no 4-card Major
P	4♦ ²	P	4NT ³	² Minorwood
P	5C ⁴	P	5♦ ⁵	³ 2 keycards, no Queen of Diamonds
P	6♦	All P		⁴ King Ask ⁵ No Kings

From the moment partner bids, I'm immediately interested in slam. Despite partner denying any kings, slam appears to be on 1 of 2 finesses in the blacks. (Really, the lack of kings just stopped me bidding 7!)

BOARD 13					
BD: 13	♠KJ842				Dir: N
	♥J643				Vul: Both
	♦				
	♣J963				
♠5				♠AQ63	
♥T97				♥A	
♦AKJ976				♦Q853	
♣875				♣AQT4	
	♠T97				
	♥KQ852				
	♦T42				
	♣K2				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	2	1	-
S	-	-	1	-	-
E	4	6	-	-	4
W	4	6	-	-	4
					6
				8	18
					8

A perfect contract and nailing the club suit brought in 13 IMPs! This one was a bit more common, with 28 pairs making the slam.

Finally, a board for when luck is on your side: Board 17 from Round 9.

- ♠ K42
- ♥ T
- ♦ KT94
- ♣ QJ1075

N	E (Me)	S	W	
P	P	P	1♣ ¹	¹ 2+
P	2♣ ²	P	2NT ³	² Maximum pass, 5+ Clubs
P	3NT	All P		³ Stoppers in both majors

I opted to commit to a 2♣ bid as I had strong suits and the shortage in hearts for a potential club game. Partner's 2NT bid dashed those dreams. At this point, a thought popped into my head. One of 2 things is going to happen on this hand: either partner and I are going to have an absolute misfit and we're going to struggle to make 1NT, or our cards will work and a skinny 3NT might present itself. We're already at the 2 level, so following that logic, 3NT is the best way to gain. Also, the club suit is likely to be a good source of tricks, and the contract has extra chances with the good intermediates in Diamonds.

BOARD 17					
BD: 17	♠J853				Dir: N
	♥J54				Vul: None
	♦AQ5				
	♣962				
♠AQT9				♠K42	
♥AQ92				♥T	
♦J62				♦KT94	
♣84				♣QJT75	
	♠76				
	♥K8763				
	♦873				
	♣AK3				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	4	1	3	3
W	4	4	1	3	3
					8
				13	9
					10

Despite the horrendous misfit and missing the ♣AK, clubs breaking 3-3 secures the contract, as we have too many stoppers for them to set anything up before the clubs set up (not to mention every time they lead they actually set up tricks for us). Only 12 pairs were in this contract, but the choices made gave us a nice 7 IMPs.

Despite these successes, we had our fair share of disasters, but given that I hadn't played a national congress in 2 years, it felt good to be back in the swing of things once more! With the Open Trials and the Gold Coast Congress coming up, there will be plenty more opportunities to pull out some of these results again!

Andrew Gosney



Avoiding Penalties

I'm always looking for ways to improve my bridge, and one of the ways I look to improve is avoiding giving away large negative scores. While I was in Canberra, Liam Milne (multiple-time champion of various national competitions and Australian Open Team representative) gave a lesson on competitive bidding. In his lesson, he shared 4 factors to consider when overcalling in an auction.

1st Factor: Whether or not Partner has passed

If partner has passed, the likelihood of the opponents making a penalty double increases. The opponents can identify quickly that they likely hold the balance of the points, and partner is less likely to hold any values or cards of much use.

2nd Factor: Length in the opponent's suit

Holding length in the opponent's suit is great for defending, not playing. For example: if you have 3 cards in the opponent's suit, and partner also has 3 cards, you immediately have 3 losers. However, say you have 3 cards in the opponent's suit, and a singleton diamond, you might get 1-2 ruffs if the opponents play in their suit. It's also worth noting that even if you have 4 or 5 cards in the opponent's suit, it doesn't mean partner is short! Opener's partner could be the one who is short, in which case your opponents will be the ones trumping in!

3rd Factor: Vulnerability

This is the most obvious factor, as even from beginner lessons, all players know about the difference between vulnerable (red) and not vulnerable (green). When you are red, the bonuses are much larger, both for making game and slam contracts, and for taking contracts off. If the opponents have opened, the chance of making game decreases, so often you are making a bid to find a part score/sacrifice or to give partner a lead. As such, the main reason vulnerability matters is if the contract is going off. When you are red, even going off 1 doubled for -200 can be costly, whereas going 1 off doubled when you are green is only -100, which is worth less than most part scores the opponents could play in.

4th Factor: Suit Quality

Suit Quality is important for the same reasons as vulnerability: you are typically bidding for a part score/sacrifice, or to give partner a lead. If your suit quality is poor, the opponents will have trump control if you play in your suit, making it difficult to avoid losers. If you end up defending and partner leads your suit, lacking suit quality will result in the opponents making their contract, when partner's natural lead was superior and takes the contract off. There is also one other reason to have good suit quality: opponents are less likely to penalize. It is much harder to penalize someone holding 4 small cards in their suit than it is to penalize holding KQxx.

Liam's lesson (and others from various speakers) is on the Summer Festival website (<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/not/2020/>) which goes into heavy detail about the different factors and provides a variety of examples. I highly recommend reading through his lesson, as I have provided just a brief summary of my own understanding of the lesson. The other lessons available are all presented by some of the best players in Australia, and cover bidding, play and mentality.

Andrew Gosney

Library News from the Bookworm

The final instalment in the 25 series is the Seagram and Bird publication “How to Take More Tricks As Declarer”. This book has been reviewed previously in this column so I do not intend to add anything further other than to recommend it to our beginners. This an ideal publication to add to your reading list if you are keen on improving your declarer play.

For those players new to bridge who are struggling to unravel the mysteries of bidding, here is a short list of publications you may find useful:

- Bridge Basics by Ron Klinger
- The Language of Bidding by Paul Marston
- Introduction to Bridge by Paul Marston
- The Club Series by Audrey Grant
- Learning to Play Bridge by Gary Brown

Some time in late January, some forgetful soul forgot to return the library key to the office. For two weeks nobody could use the library until we located a spare key. If you are a recent library user, please check your purse, pockets or at home. The club would like the key returned.

Borrowers are reminded that books may be borrowed for 4 weeks only. If you need longer, re-borrow the publication – i.e., mark it as returned and borrow it out again. Some recent borrowings have exceeded 4 months!



Thanks from Zephyr Education

Pat Clouston has sponsored our Christmas Party teams event for several years and club members who enter are asked to donate a children's activity book or lunch box to support Zephyr Education.

The following is an excerpt from Zephyr's Facebook page:

“Zephyr wishes to express gratitude and warmest thanks to Pat Clouston and the committee and members of Northern Suburbs Bridge Club, who once again collected an avalanche of beautiful goods to send to our children in the 103 shelters that Zephyr Education supports.

Happy Christmas to all the wonderful members at Northern Suburbs Bridge Club and ALL our supporters in the Bridge Community!”



46 Christmas teams December 2019

Welcome to our new sponsor – The Clayfield retirement community, by Aveo.

The Clayfield is located on the previous site of St Columban's college. With over 150 residents residing in the beautiful apartments and enjoying the landscaped gardens, restored heritage buildings such as Highlands House and community spaces, it truly is a beautiful community.

The beautiful gardens and buildings are maintained by the team onsite. No need to worry about maintenance of a large home or garden, let the onsite team do the work! This means that you will have more time to do the things you love to do – like Bridge!

The Clayfield also has an exceptional restaurant with a qualified and experienced chef offering a delectable à la carte menu.

To support your health and wellbeing, residents have easy access to health services and there are a variety of activities to do including swimming, billiards, Tai Chi and more. You will also have peace of mind knowing that care & support is available 24/7.

Find out more at www.theclayfield.com.au or Call 13 28 36 to book a tour today.



The Clayfield Lawn & Highlands House.



2 bed, 2 bath apartments from \$439,000*

*Price correct at 23/08/18. Image is of apartment S403



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