

# Northern Suburbs Bridge Club



## Newsletter

April 2019

[www.northernsuburbs.bridgeaustralia.org](http://www.northernsuburbs.bridgeaustralia.org)

President: Andy Slater

Editor: Jeannette Wyman

### From the President

This report is a condensed version of my report at the AGM. I reported on my five goals -

**Membership:** Even though we have had about 80 new members, our overall membership has declined due to ill health of members and of course, sadly, some members are no longer with us. All we can do is continually encourage those we know to come along to lessons.

It would be remiss of me not to mention in particular the passing of Jill Wilson, and at the AGM it was voted unanimously to name our main Club building after Jill.

**Club Facilities:** Quite a few changes have happened in the past year to make our main playing area a more congenial place to play bridge; plants, trophy displays, bathroom renovations, noticeboards, new technology, new tablecloths and a new kitchen fridge.

**Improving playing skills:** Seminars by Ron Klinger and Andy Hung, lessons given by myself, the introduction of Pianola, splitting Tuesday and Friday players into two graded sections, and Bridgemate and Directing coaching have all helped to upgrade our members' skills.

**Club Procedures and Protocols:** We are still working towards a streamlining of our roles and responsibilities within the club, and this will be my main task in the coming year.

**Greater 'ownership' of the Club:** I believe that the more members there are who are actively involved in task management, the more it helps foster a sense of 'belonging', which is great for club spirit.

I don't have space to mention them all here, but let me say how pleased and proud I am of all the members who have stepped up in the past year to make life easier for the 'old guard'.

It has been a busy year. Some more notable events have been the publication of our new Newsletter, Xmas in July, the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the club, the naming of the Elizabeth Gibson Centre, renovations, and the Handicap trial.

As a Committee we have to look 'Towards the Future'. We are fortunate to have been given sponsorship by Aveo Clayfield, Bernboro Ascot and TBIB. How long this continues is uncertain, but sponsorship may take on more significance as numbers continue to decline.

Pianola gives a wonderful way to disseminate information to our members. We have new monitor screens in the playing area, new split screens in the office, and later on this year we will be introducing electronic timers on screens as seen in large tournaments.

Giving back to the Community has always been a function of our club via Charity. The Zephyr Foundation for disadvantaged children is always well supported and this year, The Good Samaritan Housing Project was organised by Pat Shine and had terrific support.

Some of our Committee members have stood down: Margaret Plunkett, who is also standing down as Membership Secretary, but will remain as Masterpoint Secretary; Greg Gosney who will be concentrating on our technology needs; our Treasurer Pat Shine; Sandy Handfield, our Provodore; and Warren Brown.

All of these Committee members have been thoroughly conscientious and hard working Committee members and on my, and your behalf also, I thank them for all they have done. /over

I am proud to be the President of the Club again for the coming year.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all, the rank-and-file membership of the club who come along and play bridge for all sorts of reasons, and make our club the friendly and social club it is, because of your good heartedness and good cheer.

You are the lifeblood of the Club, and it is for you that we do the things we do.

Regards, Andy Slater

## NSBC AGM

About 40 members attended the AGM on Saturday 13 April and a new Committee was convened:



*Peter Fagan, Margaret Pilgrim, Kate O'Donnell, Andy Slater (President) Daina Geise, Andrea Parkins (Treasurer), Michael Cohn, Trish Hume, Andrew Gosney (Secretary), Sumant Handa (Vice-President), Albert Loh (absent)*

## Trophy Presentation at the AGM



Hoffmann Tray: Greg & Andrew Gosney; President's Tray: Sunil Mukherjee (& John Scrivens abs.); Friday Rosebowl: Greg Gosney (& Lex Ranke abs.)

## Vale, Jill Wilson – 9 March 2019

In 1984 the NSBC was looking at establishing permanent clubrooms, and a building committee was formed, led by Jill Wilson. A successful application was made to the Brisbane City Council for a lease of unoccupied land at Banister Park, Gerler Road, Hendra, and Jill offered her own house as collateral for a bank loan for the building.

The new Northern Suburbs Bridge Club clubhouse was officially opened on 26th January 1992.



“In 2013, the 21st anniversary of the opening of the new building was celebrated with a seminar conducted by Alex Smirnov and Andy Hung, and attended by 98 bridge enthusiasts.

At the conclusion of the lecture an anniversary cake was cut by Jill Wilson and Margaret Drewe - the driving force behind the hard working committee responsible for the facilities enjoyed by members and visitors today.”

*(Extract from QBA Bulletin 2013)*

**At the recent 2019 AGM, it was voted unanimously to name the Club’s main building after Jill Wilson.**



## WANTED - Keeper of the Plants



Do you have green fingers?  
If so, please let Andy Slater know.  
We really need someone to look after our pot plants.



## Pianola

NSBC is trialling a web application for Bridge players called Pianola. All club members, whose email addresses are listed with the club, will have received an email from Pianola with instructions on how to create an account, with a login name and password. Once this is done, you will receive an email each time you play, with an analysis of your results.

Pianola is a web-based service designed to help Bridge players improve their performance and to let Bridge club management communicate more easily with members.

Being web-based means that a user doesn't have to download and install an application on their computer or tablet. All that's required is a device with a web browser, such as Safari or Internet Explorer, and all devices come with a web browser these days. You just go to the Pianola web site and log in. The web site is located at: <https://www.pianola.net/> /over



For a player, Pianola offers the following benefits:

1. A personal results history displayed on graphs.
2. Performance analysis that shows your scores with different partners and in the roles of declarer and defender. It helps you decide the best way to improve your play.
3. You can share your contact details and results history with other club members.
4. You can find players who are looking for partners and you can advertise for one yourself.

For club management, Pianola offers the following benefits:

1. An easy way to send mass emails. This is currently done using Word and is difficult and prone to error due to the email system getting clogged. An example is sending this newsletter to members via Pianola.
2. The ability to target emails to specific groups of members such as directors, Bridgemate operators and players with a given number of master points.
3. Membership administration and renewal notices.

The cost of Pianola is borne by the club.

Pianola also sells another product, Pianola Plus, which allows members to replay any hand from a session and see how to make the maximum number of tricks, assuming best defence. It also has graphs showing your bidding accuracy and card play over time and helps you decide the best way to improve your game.

Pianola Plus is paid for by the member, not the club. The cost is \$10/month or \$84/year. It can be trialled for a month and starting a trial does not require your credit card details.

*Peter Fagan*



## Interesting

The World Bridge Federation announced that the world's top-ranked bridge player, Norwegian Geir Helgemo, has been suspended after testing positive for two banned substances at the World Bridge Series in Orlando, U.S. late in 2018. The Federation said in a statement that "an anti-doping charge was brought against the player and he accepted a provisional suspension pending consideration by the Anti-Doping Panel." The WBF is recognised by the International Olympic Committee, so the Federation is subject to the same rules laid out by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The Norwegian Bridge Federation issued a statement saying the substances the card player tested positive for, (synthetic testosterone), were "not performance-enhancing and many substances on the WADA list do not have any performance-enhancing effect in bridge."

"It can therefore seem a little strange that bridge players must follow the same rules as practitioners in more physical exercises," reads the statement. "The bridge organisations should work to get a regulation that is adapted to our sport."

On top of the suspension, the WBF revoked all titles, medals and awards that Helgemo achieved during 2018.



## Two New Grand Masters

### Joan Mills – Grand Master

Joan always enjoyed playing cards with her family, which led her to learn bridge about 17 years ago. Lorraine Fredericks at Arana was her teacher.

The highlight of her bridge career was being part of the team that won a Restricted Teams event at the Coffs Harbour Congress.

Joan would like to thank her partners, team members and teacher for helping her achieve this milestone.



## Geoffrey Toon - Grand Master

When I was 19, I took a year off my studies and started working in the computer department of the local steelworks. There were approximately 110 people in the department. When I learned that more than 20 of them played bridge, in an attempt to fit in better, I decided to learn to play. I attended classes every Wednesday night at the local YMCA, and after a month I felt it was time to get some "table practice", so I attended the company bridge club on a regular Tuesday night session with my bridge teacher. We played Acol (as did everyone else), and on my first night I vividly remember that my teacher opened a vulnerable 1NT (12-14). After a Double on my right, I passed with a zero count 4-3-3-3. My LHO passed, turning the t/o into a penalty, and that is where we played. After the opening lead, I apologised for my hand, and put down 4x2's, 4x3's, 4x4's and a C5. My partner took 2 tricks!

After a further six months, I returned to my studies, and never sat down to play bridge again until my early 40's, when I moved up to Mount Tamborine to run the local newspaper. I met Harry Beaumanis, who persuaded me to restart my bridge career and join the local club. A year later, I moved back down to Brisbane and started playing in earnest. I played regularly at BBC on a Thursday night (at that time, the strongest session in town). One year, they ran an individual competition, taking the best two scores with any partner out of 3 Thursday night sessions, and after a reasonable 58% in the first week, I managed an exciting 76% with Magnus Moren from the Gold Coast in the last week in order to win. I then moved to Windsor and as I was using public transport at this time, and because of the terrible attitude of some players, I let my club membership lapse and did not play again until 2011, when my good friend Val Matheson persuaded me to have a few games with her. By this time, I had moved to Nundah, so as it was only a 5 minute walk to Toombul bus station, and the bus from there took me directly to the NSBC clubhouse, I joined NSBC.

I was diagnosed with throat cancer in May 2012, and spent 62 days in the ENT oncology ward, losing 54kg in the process. To everyone's surprise I survived, and even survived a blood clot in the lung in February 2013. I was then on twice daily injections for nearly a year, but kept playing bridge to keep my sanity, and some consistency in my life. I struggled through to November 2016, when I started putting on weight rapidly and my GP sent me to Holy Spirit for an echocardiogram and only a minute after my arrival, the tech left the room and a doctor returned with a wheelchair. He took me over to Prince Charles casualty, and I was immediately admitted with heart failure. In the next 12 days I was treated for fluid retention and lost 24 kg. While I was there I complained about pain in my neck again, and referred back to RBWH for further investigation, and a neck biopsy in the first week of the new year confirmed a recurrence of throat cancer, this time in my left side chest lymph nodes. I went into surgery in February 2017, and after 11.5 hours on the table they had removed the infected lymph nodes, the radiation damaged skin, and the cooked muscles after my radiation treatment in 2012. This required major reconstructive surgery, but once again I seem to be one of the lucky ones.

Since then I have thrown my efforts into a quest for gold & red points in order to complete my Grand Master qualification before I die, because I know I am living on borrowed time. I have learned that good partners, who are on the same wavelength as you, and understand what you are trying to achieve with your bids, and more importantly with your defence, are more than worth their weight in gold.

The most important thing I have learned during my bridge career is that with only steady bidding and average declarer play, you will win tournaments if your defence is first class. Remember, only 30% of the time do you need to "attack" or be aggressive with the opening lead; 70% of the time a "passive" or safe lead which gives nothing away, is the best starter for the defence.

There are a few people who have made a major contribution to my success over the years; firstly, Ashraf Chaudhry, with whom I played Precision during the 90's with great success. In recent years, I have been lucky enough to play regularly with Ewa Kowalczyk, who is an excellent all-round player, and a fierce defender. Recently, I have taken up a partnership with Siegfried Koenig, who has introduced me to his complex canape system with relays. We did wonderfully well at the Gold Coast recently; in the penultimate round of the Ivy Dahler Butler Pairs, we beat the current Australian representatives Warren Lazer and Pauline Gumby by a score of 15.64 to 4.36, putting us into 2<sup>nd</sup> place only 0.08 VP's behind the leaders in a field of 120 pairs.

*Geoffrey Toon*

## NSBC Members' Recent Competition Place Results

### Congress Results

#### Gold Coast Congress – February 15-23

Wednesday U50MP Pairs:

2<sup>nd</sup>: Eugene Pereira & Rex Meadowcroft

Monday Open Butler Swiss Pairs:

2<sup>nd</sup>: Andy Slater & Ken Dawson

#### Qualifying Teams from NSBC GNOT Heat

1<sup>st</sup>: Dennis Sullivan, Ann Smith, John Scrivens, Pam Horton

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sunil Mukherjee, Bert Luchjenbroers, Geoffrey Toon, Ewa Kowalczyk

3<sup>rd</sup>: Paul Roberts, Bruce Carroll, Donna Krosch, Elizabeth Litzow

4<sup>th</sup>: Gary Mitchell, Judy Mitchell, Gordon Gemmell, David Lehmann, Herold Rienstra

#### Toowong Novice Pairs March 10

1<sup>st</sup>A: Eugene Pereira & Sumant Handa



## NSBC Club Competition Results

#### President's Tray – March 11 & 18 a.m.

1<sup>st</sup>: Gheorgi Belonogov & Ewa Kowalczyk

2<sup>nd</sup>: Robert Barr & Errol Miller

3<sup>rd</sup>: Yolande Coroneo & Jacqui Fardoulys

### Upcoming Club Competitions

NSBC Championship Teams May 11

Newstead Novice Shield May 14 & 21

Rosebowl June 14 & 21 a.m.

### Upcoming Congresses

QBA Novice Pairs Sunnybank May 5

QBA Mixed Pairs Toowong May 18 & 19

Australia-Wide Novice Pairs NSBC May 28 p.m

QBA Butler Pairs QCBC June 8 & 9

## Promotions

Since the last Newsletter, the following home club members have achieved Masterpoint Ranking promotions. Congratulations to them all.

### Grand(1000+ points)

Joan Mills

Geoffrey Toon

### State\*

Elaine Crommelin

### Regional

Margaret Richards

Clare Mudie

### Local\*

Vicki Lloyd

Margy Roskam

### Club

Vanessa Wells

Helen Baran

Graham Killoran

Dympna Pitt

Ann Sauer

Geoff Green

Jane Propsting

Mary Kennedy

### National

Lorraine Pescatore

### State

Jennifer Adam

Claudia Gibson

Era Palit

### Local\*\*

James Spence

Glyn Stickland

### Local

Marie Lincoln

Carolyn Gleeson

Carolyn McKinnon

Kathleen Sherman

### Graduate

John Davies

Roberta Turner

Pat King

Helen Henzell

Alex McWilliam

## 70% Club

Robert Ross & Keith Hawken 74.4%

Peter Fagan & Julie Navruk 73.5%

Joan Mills & Paul Roberts 73.1%

Donna Krosch & Marcella Waller 72.3%

David Lehmann & Bert Luchjenbroers 72.1%

Natalie Bloch & Richard McLauchlan 71.4%

Albert Loh & Jeannette Wyman 71.11%

Deidre Taylor & Garry Mitchell 70.2%

## DVD Exchange & Bookcase

The Committee would like to implement a DVD Exchange to be run on similar lines to our Book Exchange. Members are invited to donate DVDs of reasonable quality or genre, which can be exchanged on a one for one basis with DVDs on the shelves. If anyone has a bookcase gathering dust and which they may wish to donate for this purpose, please talk to Margaret Pilgrim or any Committee member.



## An Introduction to Directing for New Club Directors

Date: **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Start Time: **9:30 am**

Finish Time: **12:00 Noon**

Where: Elizabeth Gibson Centre  
Northern Suburbs Bridge Club

Presenters: Greg Gosney – Bridge Movements  
Andrew Gosney – Compscore / Bridgemates  
Albert Loh – Laws of Bridge 2017

This free session is for aspiring Northern Suburbs Club Directors. Bridgemate Operators are also welcome to attend.

The purpose of the session is to provide an **overview** of

- Bridge movements commonly used.
- Bridgemates and the scoring program Compscore2.
- Some of the Laws of Bridge which cover the most frequent calls for Director.

Please contact any of the presenters if you have any questions.

### BRIDGE LESSONS

These lessons are for players with some experience but still wanting to improve their game.

Every Tuesday morning in June

**June 4, 11, 18, 25**

*The lessons will start at 9.45 and finish at 11.45 - in time for lunch.*

- Improve your Bidding System
- The Law of Total Tricks
- Tips on Defending and Playing the hand
- Communicating better with partner
- Doubling / Signalling – and much more

Lesson notes, plus a record of hands played, together with a hand analysis, will all be provided.

**Andy Slater**

### New Members since last Newsletter

Jennifer Harte	Jason Cooney
Julie-Anne Redfern	Sue O'Brien
Lesleigh Fritz	Diana Jago
Carolyn Hawken	Fiona Hales
Kerry Barridge	Bev McLean
Robyn Wells	Rosemary Martin
Margaret Harrington	Audrey Napier
Robert Messer	Maree Messer
Kaye Low	Jane McKenzie
Meredith Smith	Jeff Borg
Olivia Jackson	Yamin Yu
Dot Turnbull	John Turnbull
Jan Morgan	Jacky Norman
Annemarie & Walter Hugentobler	
Sheena de Jager Miles	

We welcome our new members and wish them all a long and happy association with our club. Please give them your encouragement and support.

### Zephyr Education



In the **first two weeks of May** we will again be collecting donations of water bottles and lunch boxes for Zephyr Education.

Please support the Zephyr volunteers who help children in domestic violence shelters by supplying them with their school needs.

#### Please support our Sponsors

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## Just bid what you've got

A competitor was called away on an emergency from a bridge tournament, with the last board still to play. So the players asked a by-stander to take his place, although he knew nothing about the game. They told him "Just bid what you've got and follow suit". He sat South and the following bidding sequence ensued:

Dealer:	♠ A9	West	North	East	South
South	♥ AKQ65	-	-	-	1♣
Both Vul.	♦ AK	pass	2♥	pass	2♠
	♣ Q1054	pass	3♣	pass	3♥
♠ KQ108	♠ 76542	pass	4NT	pass	7♦
♥ J1097	♥ 8	dbl	all pass		
♦ Q10	♦ J9				
♣ KJ8	♣ 987632				
	♠ J3				
	♥ 432				
	♦ 8765432				
	♣ A				

The king of spades was led, taken with the ace, then declarer cashed the ace and king of trumps, came to hand with the ace of clubs and played all his diamonds.

On the last one, West was squeezed in hearts and spades, and finally discarded a heart, whereupon South made the last four tricks in hearts.

When the opposition saw South's hand, they called the director, who asked for an explanation of the bidding, and got the following reply:

"I was told to bid what I've got, and I have one club, 2 spades, 3 hearts and 7 diamonds!"



### Exclusive living for over 55s at Doomben Racecourse.

Part of an emerging precinct in the established Brisbane Racing Club, Bernborough Ascot is an exciting new project designed to put you where the action is. Think resort-style facilities, a thriving community and everything at your fingertips.

With expressions of interest now open, secure your new home by calling Glenn Carroll on 1800 411 601

[bernboroughascot.com](http://bernboroughascot.com)



**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](http://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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