

# Northern Suburbs Bridge Club

# Newsletter

December 2018

60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR



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

President: Andy Slater

Editors: Jeannette Wyman & Thora Pease

## From the President

It is close to the end of a very busy year, and I would like to reflect on some of the things that happened in 2018, and to look towards the coming year.

I'm particularly proud of the increased participation by so many more members in the daily life of the club. Our volunteer base has grown, and many of our newer players have been keen to help in any capacity they can. We applauded all our helpers in the week of December 5, the International Day of the Volunteer, and again I acknowledge their contribution.

We have had many new players join our ranks this year, and while most of them tell me of the kind reception they have received, the opposite can happen. Remember when you first started? It was a scary experience. So much work goes into their training, and it can all be ruined by an unfortunate experience. Maybe not kid gloves, but not boxing gloves either.

Our Congresses this year have been run very successfully, and much of the credit for this must go to Greg Gosney, our Congress Convener. Greg works hard to ensure everything is right on the day, and invariably it is. The Teams of 3 was great, and of course the Pat Clouston Christmas Teams was an enormous event, and all handled superbly.

A very successful event was our Christmas in July. The club was buzzing for ages!

Another event of great significance in 2018 was our 60th Anniversary, and notably celebrated with the naming of the Elizabeth Gibson Centre. That was very special indeed.

Looking towards the future, next year our trainee Directors and BridgeMate Operators will be getting more experience. Please support them in every way you can.

On Wednesday, January 9, we are having a 'Grandparents Day' where the grandchildren come along with their grandparents to play cards for a couple of hours – any game they like. If successful, it could become a regular holiday item. More details will be given shortly.

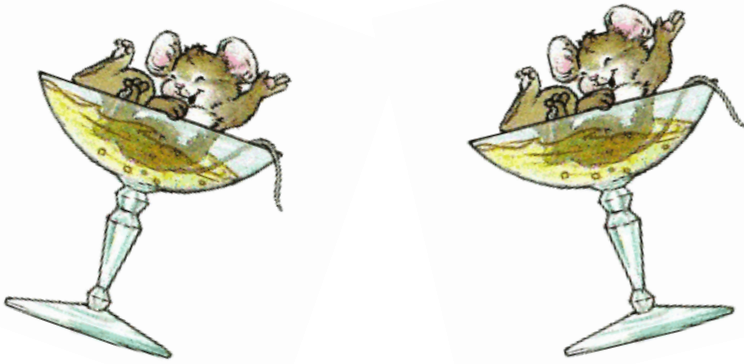
Our Committee has discussed an occasional outing next year for our members – please give this idea some consideration, and feedback to Committee Members would be much appreciated.

And lastly, I would like to thank you, all the members of the club, who have been very kind to me in this, my apprenticeship year as President. In life, as in bridge, I am constantly reminded of the fact that whatever happens, we are all doing our best. So despite my mistakes, my Committee is very forgiving, and for that I am grateful.

All my sincere and very best wishes for a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards, Andy Slater

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations



Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 2018, was celebrated with two free-for-all playing sessions, party food, champagne, an anniversary cake – and a small ceremony to mark the official naming of the Elizabeth Gibson Centre, which has been named in recognition of Elizabeth's tireless work for our club.



## NSBC Members' Recent Competition Place Results

### Congress Results

#### QCBC Open Teams October 28



2<sup>nd</sup> B: John Scrivens, Yolande Coroneo, Sunil Mukherjee and Jane Farquhar

#### QCBC Novice Teams October 28



2<sup>nd</sup>: Era Palit, Graham White, Carolyn McKinnon, Bruce Stephens

#### NSBC Imp Pairs - November 3 & 4



3<sup>rd</sup> A: Ewa Kowalczyk & Geoffrey Toon (above)

3<sup>rd</sup> B: Dennis Sullivan & Ann Smith

**Best NSBC Pair:** John Scrivens & Sunil Mukherjee



Sunday afternoon kitchen crew at NSBC Pairs

#### Toowoomba Teams November 11



**Winners:** Annette Hyland, Abby Wanigaratne, Ann Mellings & Fay Jeppesen

#### Toowong Graded Teams - November 25

1<sup>st</sup> A: Andrew Gosney, Janeen Solomon, Michael Pemberton, John Gough

2<sup>nd</sup> B: Abby Wanigaratne, Fay Jeppesen, Annette Hyland, Ross Murtagh.

3<sup>rd</sup> C: Sumant Handa, Eugene Pereira, Rex Meadowcroft, Pam Cash

#### QBA Teams of 3, December 9 at NSBC



1<sup>st</sup> A: Abby Wanigaratne, Andrew GOSNEY, Debbie Gibbards, Gary Gibbards



2<sup>nd</sup> A: Eugene Pereira, Sumant Handa, Rex Meadowcroft, Paul ROBERTS



Best Hat: Maree Filippini



3<sup>rd</sup> B: Peter NILSSON, Wendy Casey, Barbara Moni, (Pat Eather)



2<sup>nd</sup> Best Hat: Lesley Wallace

"I like coming to this club. It is well run, very welcoming & hospitable, nice premises and the food is always great"

3<sup>rd</sup> Best Hat: Vad Furminger



*A visiting player's comment at this event*

## NSBC Club Competitions

### NSBC Christmas Party December 16

We had a record 44 tables at the Clouston Christmas Teams event this year – and judging by these photos, everyone had a very enjoyable day.

Most wore a hat of some description, except the President, who made a beauty but forgot to bring it to the party!

Many thanks once again to Pat for her generosity in sponsoring this event.

## More Winning Hats



4th Best: Maggie Low



5th Best: Margaret Plunkett



6th Fay Jeppesen

## Team Results



1<sup>st</sup> A: Andrew Gosney, Margaret Plunkett, Abby Wanigaratne, Greg Gosney



2<sup>nd</sup> A: Robyn Burnage, Jan Hoffman, Gordon Gemmell, Mary Ryan



3<sup>rd</sup> A: Richard & Helen McLauchlan, David Lehmann, Joan Mills



4<sup>th</sup> A: Marcella Waller, Eunice McLeod, (Jenny Douglas, Rosemary Hoffmann)



3<sup>rd</sup> B: Albert Loh, Eugene Kaiser, Rob Ansell, Jack Wighton



1<sup>st</sup> B: Catherine Flowers, Greg Kerswell, Alan Anderson, Andrea Parkins



4<sup>th</sup> B: Jill Dowling, Margaret Munro, Beryl Quinn, Gloria Proberts



2<sup>nd</sup> B: John Connors, Wayne Davies, Voyko & Vesna Markovic



1<sup>st</sup> C: Vic & Jan Bampton, Lori Sexton, Jayne Lansdown



2<sup>nd</sup> C: Ros Francis, Judy Endean, Georgina Blum, Jill Lukin



3<sup>rd</sup> C: Maxim Wilson, Bruce Stephens, Anne Johnson, Neil Benson



4<sup>th</sup> C: Christine Egan, Jennifer Jenkins, Margaret Hetherington, Jan Schultz



## Upcoming Club Competitions

Tuesday Pairs AM – February 5 & 12

## Upcoming Congresses

NSBC Open Teams – Sunday 20 January

NSBC Gnots – March 2 & 3

## Promotions

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

Silver Life Yolande Coroneo

Bronze Life

Rob Ansell  
Anne Clarke

State

Eugene Pereira  
Marge Sullivan  
Graham White

Regional \*

Margaret Munro

Local\*

Liz Deane

Regional

Pam Cash  
Rex Meadowcroft  
Rosemary Nosovich

Local

Kerry Baillie  
Maggie Low  
Bruce Stephens  
Megan du Plessis  
Christine Egan

Club

Mary Hanlon  
Barbara Andre  
Anne Higgins  
Shauna Kiernan  
Margot Perrett  
Lynette Rose

Graduate

Karen Gosney  
Carmel McIntosh  
Liz Bowman  
Bill Earnshaw  
Ann Sauer

## New Members December 2018

Frank Killbey, Norma Hansen

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

## Beginner Lessons

Tuesday 29 January 2019 at 9.30 a.m.

Wednesday 30 January 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

*Please support our Sponsors*

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## Interesting Hand – To be or not to be ...?

To sacrifice or not to sacrifice, that is the question that frequently perplexes players during the heat of a bidding contest. This is the occasion when the relative vulnerabilities of both sides are of the utmost importance.

Defeated contracts – <b>Not Vulnerable</b>		
Number of tricks down	Not doubled	Doubled
1	50	100
2	100	300
3	150	500
4	200	800

Defeated contracts – <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Number of tricks down	Not doubled	Doubled
1	100	200
2	200	500
3	300	800

The perfect opportunity for a sacrifice occurs when you are green and your opponents are red. It may appear that they will make 4♥ or 4♠ easily for a score of 620. Since you are green you can afford to bid to 5♣ or 5♦ to go 3 tricks down, doubled, for a score of -500. That is still a comparatively good outcome. Most experienced players are avid exponents of this well-rehearsed art.

On the other hand, what options do you have if you occupy the other side? You may bid to the 5 level, with the risk of going one down for a score of -100. Otherwise you must double the 5♣ or 5♦ as a matter of principle. They are expecting to go down for a worthwhile sacrifice. If you are not in the habit of doubling the opposition, this is the occasion to develop the art.

Consider the board below which was played 23 times on a Thursday.

<b>BD: 32 ♠ 93</b> ♥ J85 ♦ AT3 ♣ T7632 ♠ AKJ8 ♥ T63 ♦ J985 ♣ A4 ♠ 4 ♥ KQ2 ♦ 762 ♣ KQJ985	<b>Dir: W</b> <b>Vul: E-W</b> ♠ QT7652 ♥ A974 ♦ KQ4 ♣		
♣ ♦ ♥ ♠    N T			
N	2 - - - -	5	
S	2 - - - -	13	11
E	- 4 3 4 2	11	
W	- 4 3 4 2		



The probable bidding sequence was

1♦ Pass 1♠ 2♣

2♠ 3♣ 4♠ 5♣

X

Hence the contract was 5♣X played by South. Clearly the contract belonged to 4♠E making 10 tricks. Was this a worthwhile sacrifice? The results of the 23 players were as follows.

Contract	Tricks made	Score	How often?
4♠E	10	620	6
4♠E	11	650	9
5♠E	10	-100	1
5♠E	11	650	1

Contract	Tricks made	Score	How often?
4♣S	8	-100	1
5♣S	8	-150	1
5♣S	9	-100	1
5♣SX	9	-300	2
6♣SX	9	-500	1

Clearly the results showed that a club sacrifice was the opportunistic and optimum bid. Even 6♣SX for a score of -500 was still a reasonable score under the circumstances. One player was forced into 5♠ making 10 tricks for a bottom board.

One quarter of the players sacrificed and performed well. Perhaps players should be more courageous to go to 5 of a minor, expecting to be doubled and still expecting to get away with it. When you were able to bid this confidently and maintained your poise without displaying any skerrick of concern in declarer play, then your bridge expertise had matured to another level altogether!

The skilled players did it as part and parcel of their game. Even if you were less experienced you should be brave enough to try it at some stage.

It would be obviously foolhardy for you to attempt this sacrifice if you were red and your opponents were green. What if both parties were green? Would the sacrifice still be worthwhile? Would there be any major difference if both parties were red?

Albert Loh  
December 2018



## Library News from the Bookworm

This issue is all about doubles, featuring take out doubles and penalty doubles.

The first book reviewed and recommended is by Audrey Grant and is titled “Improving Your Judgment – Doubles” and deals with takeout doubles – the game’s most versatile (and often misused) bid.

There are four chapters – The Take Out Double, Responding to a Take Out Double, Doubler’s rebid and Subsequent Action, and Balancing and Other Doubles. Each theme is explained with examples and quizzes. At the end of each chapter are four deals incorporating the concepts discussed along with tips on bidding, play and defence. Each hand includes a suggested auction and opening lead. There are 16 additional practice hands at the end covering a mixture of concepts throughout the book.

The Bookworm is a fan of Audrey Grant because of her teaching style and the excellent sample hands. This is a great book for beginners as it will give them the artillery and the confidence to compete in the bidding.

The second book reviewed is titled “Wielding the Axe – the Vanishing Art of the Penalty Double” with Augie Boehm as the author. There are 24 brief chapters devoted to various doubling situations and a final chapter with 14 sample test hands and the solutions. One chapter is devoted to trump leads and a further chapter looks at those doubled contracts where declarer has to overcome a trump stack. This chapter alone would be reason enough for members to give it a go.

Recommended reading for those seeking to pick up some juicy match points (or extra IMP’s) at the table.



## Umm...Er...Pass Hesitations...the bane of a Director’s existence.

This article is more for the experienced player. However, novices should still read.

Playing in an important event, my partner transfers to 2S, after my 1NT opening bid, by bidding 2H. Right hand opponent (RHO) is obviously startled by this, twists and turns before Passing.

I obey and bid 2S, and then my LHO comes to life by now bidding 3H.

I reserve my rights by asking, “Do we agree there was a hesitation by RHO?” Disappointingly, but perhaps not unexpectedly, LHO says she didn’t notice a hesitation.

I call the Director who rules that the bidding should proceed and he’ll have a look at the hand later on.

Now, there may be reasons why LHO didn’t overcall 2H initially over the 1NT bid, but to be coming into the bidding at the 3 level is a bit strange, and you would reckon she must have a pretty decent suit.

What happened for the rest of the auction and the end result is immaterial, but when I found out that LHO had 8hcp (two Aces!) including A8532 of Hearts I was pretty annoyed, and the result was changed in our favour.

But what happened is something I see too often. In essence, the hesitation is being treated as some kind of bid, saying to the effect, “Partner, I’ve got a decent hand here but I don’t know what to do with it, so if you have anything at all, I’d appreciate it if you could bid something!”

Please be aware that if you make a call based on nothing else but simply the fact that your partner hesitated, your hand may be given the scrutiny it deserves.

Of course we all need to stop and have a think at times, but if you then Pass your partner cannot use the hesitation as an excuse to bid without the proper values to back it up.

I still remember playing a well-known, highly ethical player, who was put in a similar situation. After his partner had made a long hesitation, he stated, "I think my partner would like me to bid, but now I can't!"

Andy Slater



### Melbourne Cup Day

64 members enjoyed a day of bridge, delicious food, sweeps and the Race - with varying degrees of success.

Well deserved prizes for the best hats went to Andy Slater and Margaret Williamson.



*Margaret Williamson & Andy Slater and enjoying the day: Liz Bowman, Anne Higgins, Mary Ewing & Janet McPherson*

Before the start of play, Glenn Carroll, Sales Manager of Lendlease, spoke briefly about the new apartments for over 55s being developed on Doomben Racecourse. An information session with cocktails and canapes was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and attended by 20 members.

Lendlease have donated \$500, plus ten \$50 vouchers, to our club.



## Meet our Members - Brigitte Christmas (Bee)

### The Christmases between the years 1942 to 1945

#### 1942

All around us, tremendous noise and a dramatically lit sky because we have an air raid overhead, lighting up the sky!

We are in our little flat in the second storey of a modest apartment in Berlin. My father, mother, two sisters and I. However, no air raid shelter for us because my father is on leave from the Russian front and we are relishing our precious time together. Tragically, by March 1943, he is posted as missing. I still remember the telegram arriving with that sad news.

#### 1943

Such a contrast. We are now in German occupied Poland, living on a vast estate, "Frederikenhof", a mansion with sweeping staircases, and a ballroom with a grand piano, frequently played. In the usual way of the world, as it was for us, we were allocated two attic rooms under the roof, with a view over the front approach to the Mansion. This estate originally belonged to a Jewish German woman, Frederika Kempner, a poet and a writer.

Life for us was glorious. Much delicious food with a Polish influence in the cuisine, journeys to far flung places – in the summer by carriages, in winter in sleighs drawn by horses festooned with bells. We walked to the local Polish school, through cornfields sprinkled with cornflowers and daisies.

Then came the night when I saw the owner, clad in his blue striped pyjamas, being roughly handled into a black car. The men, whom we later discovered were Gestapo, all dressed in black leather. A few weeks later we heard that he had committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide tablet.

#### 1944

No longer welcome here, we move to Rychtal, about eight kilometres away. A small town, where we live in two large rooms on the first floor of a red brick building. It has oriel windows and a small pot-bellied stove for heating and cooking. It is deep winter.

All is peaceful until we sight four Russian tanks in our backyard. They do not approach us, but we frantically burn all the photos of my father in his Wehrmacht uniform.

My mother approaches them the next day to beg for food. They give nothing, but terrifyingly, aim their pistols at her.

The Germans return and a terrifying battle rages around us. The Germans gain the upper hand and advise us to flee. Of course, we do. Walking all day through deep snow, tank trenches and so many dead - civilians, men in uniform, even friends. We walk until we reach a military camp, where we are given some black bread and placed on a train – destination unknown.

Through a circuitous route, we find our way to Triptis in Thuringen, which is taken by US forces, commanded by General Patton... Because of the Postdam Agreement, after three months we then came under the rule of Russia. So once more we need to escape, this time on an open coal train. And by October, we are back in Berlin again.

And now it is 1945...



# Holiday Crossword

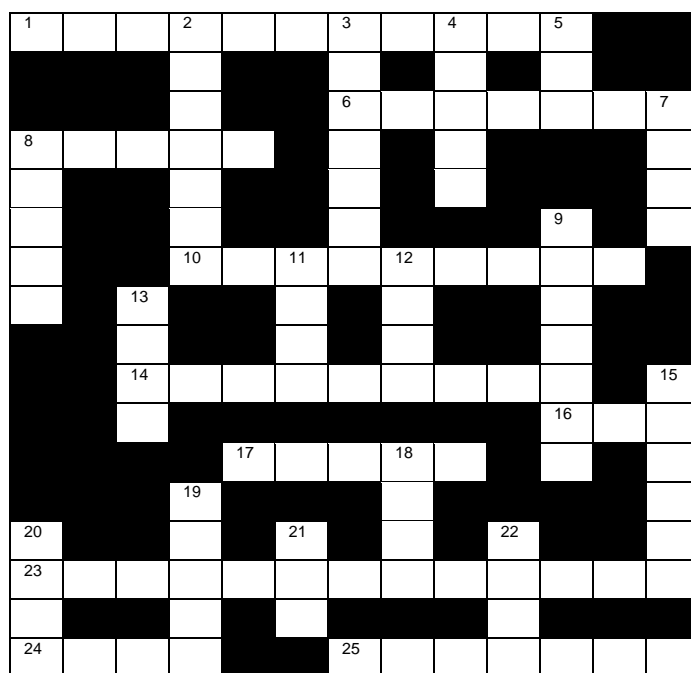
Across

1. Useful friends 11
6. Winners & losers should be 7
8. There's one at every table 5
10. Double bridge session? 9
14. Tennis games? 5-4
16. Top card 3
17. Often the 4<sup>th</sup> best 5
23. Veteran board filler 7-6
24. Honours 4
25. Evading 7

Down

2. Valuable card 7
3. Copy cat bidder 7
4. U.S. winner? 4
5. 4 bridge players 3
7. A kind of interference 4
8. Bookworm 5
9. It takes 8 points to stop him 7
11. It's just a wish without this 4
12. Cheeky competition players 4
13. Low spots 4
15. Who has the Aces? 6
18. Chilly game 4
19. Avoiding is partly useful 5
20. Oriental bridge players 4
21. Nom de plume 3
22. This card sings 4

(All clues/answers are bridge related)



A Judge in Honolulu ruled that bridge 5 nights per week is grounds for divorce. Mrs X testified that when her husband was not playing, “he talked nothing but bridge”. The judge granted the divorce on grounds of cruel treatment.



*Merry Christmas everyone.  
May all your stockings be filled  
with tricks and imps* ED.



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