

Northern Suburbs Bridge Club



Newsletter

June 2019

www.northernsuburbs.bridgeaustralia.org

President: Andy Slater

Editor: Jeannette Wyman

From the President

There are many positives that have happened over the past few months. Players have done well in various tournaments (as itemised elsewhere), Beginners' lessons were completed in May and they are doing well in our Tuesday/Friday afternoon sessions. I would like to thank all our 'regular' players who have made the 'newbies' feel so welcome. Don't forget, we have new Beginner lessons starting in July, so if you know anyone who may be at a loose end, we'd love to see them come along.

Pianola seems to have been a popular move, especially for those players who work on their game and like to replay hands from sessions in order to improve. Like any sport, only by spending a bit of time learning can we hope to get better. I was very pleased at the turnout to my first lesson in June, and it certainly motivates me to keep up a teaching program for all levels of players.

With the departure of Greg Gosney as Congress Convener, Sumant Handa and Albert Loh have taken on that responsibility, and even though they have big boots to fill, I'm sure they will cope admirably once they get used to the tasks involved. Unfortunately Trish Hume has had to leave our committee due to family commitments, but thank you Trish for giving it a go.

As mentioned in my last report, Committee Members have taken on various responsibilities. If, at any time, you are asked if you would like to be seconded onto a sub-committee because of your experience, please consider it favourably.

I am endeavouring to put the car parking issue on Tuesday and Friday afternoons to rest. The afternoon players have been asked to give priority at all times to the departing players, and if necessary to take a drive around the block to give departees more leaving time and space. As a suggestion, departing players could exit to the left and proceed around the block? This would mean a quicker exit and less hold up for those behind. Early arrivals will not enter the playing area but instead gather in the EGC until the am session has been completed.

I do believe the situation is improving, but it does need goodwill and co-operation from all.

The Handicap trial is ending at the end of June and we will be looking at the statistics to see how well players who are lower ranked have come into a placing position.

Another trial that had good intentions, the non-showing of complete Bridgemate results, has been terminated due to all sessions overwhelmingly against it. However, I would ask:

- a) When looking at results, quickly and quietly is best, and
- b) Consider the feelings of the opponents whom you've just smashed – no need to say, "Top for us partner!" – perhaps, "We did well," will suffice.

There are always lots of good things to mention in my report, and only rarely does something unfortunate happen that I feel a need to mention. It wasn't mentioned in the last Newsletter because of the AGM Report, and that was an oversight on my part. But it should have been mentioned, and I have apologised to the players concerned. Names are unimportant, but what happened is something that someone in this club should be extremely ashamed and embarrassed about. Two of our stalwart members have received not one, but two abusive letters in the mail. Such an act is contemptible, and the author of these despicable letters should feel thoroughly ashamed of themselves. The letters are obviously bridge related, and I was horrified to think that a member of our club could have done such a thing. /over

I have assured the husband and wife that if I ever find out who perpetrated this pathetic act, the club would initiate proceedings to terminate the perpetrator's membership.

I am sorry to end this report on such a disappointing note, but there is enough wrong in the world without this happening on our overwhelmingly friendly doorstep.

Regards, Andy Slater



Everything you need to know about Masterpoints

One aspect of the of the Club Masterpoint Secretary role involves collating the masterpoints awarded to players in regular club sessions each month and forwarding these points to the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

Why do we have masterpoints?

Below is an extract from the *ABF New Member's Information Kit*.

Like other sports, bridge has a ranking system to provide an indicator of an individual's level of skill and achievement. In most countries around the world, Masterpoints are used but the scheme is different in each country. Our Masterpoints system provides ABF members with a 'ranking' from Graduate Master (2 masterpoints) to Diamond Grand Master (15,000 masterpoints).

Whilst ranking systems can be flawed, the ABF's Masterpoints system provides the best available indicator for an individual's level of play. The system is designed to encourage continuous enquiry, understanding and expertise to make our members aware that they are part of a learning community - *bridge is after all exercise for the brain*.

Masterpoints come in three colours.

1. Club session wins will gain **green** masterpoints (*how many depends on the size of the field*).
2. Placing in competitions and congresses run by your club and other clubs will gain **red** masterpoints. (*Each club is allocated a certain number of red point sessions per year.*)
3. National events and club events such as the GNOT will attract **gold** points.

Information about the number of masterpoints you will need to work your way up the rankings, together with the colour/s required, is provided on the back of your ABF Registration Card and the "ABF Rankings Certificates".

How are the masterpoints that you receive calculated?

- For a normal Mitchell movement with two winners (N/S and E/W), the winners are awarded $0.02 \times$ the number of tables (rounded up if there is a half table) $\times 1.5$ green masterpoints. So, for 10 tables, the winners receive $0.02 \times 10 \times 1.5$ which is 0.30. This formula is used for up to a maximum of 30 tables.
- Only the top half of the field (rounded down if there is a half table) is awarded points for a pairs session. The second placegetters receive 70% of the points awarded to the winners, the third placegetters receive $\frac{1}{2}$, the fourth placegetters receive $\frac{1}{3}$, the fifth placegetters receive $\frac{1}{4}$ etc. So, in a 10 table movement, 1st gets 0.30 green, 2nd gets 0.21, 3rd gets 0.15, 4th gets 0.10 and 5th gets 0.08.
- If it is a red point session the formula is $0.02 \times$ the number of tables (rounded up if there is a half table) $\times 2.5$ red points which is 0.50.

- For a red point session, where the field is restricted to players below a certain masterpoint standing, a Master Factor is included in the calculation. This factor is determined by the masterpoint ranking of the median player in the field. For the Newstead Novice Shield held recently, the median player had a ranking of Club Master, so a master factor of 0.5 was applied.

Here are some facts that you may or may not know about masterpoints:

- Clubs pay for the masterpoints they issue to members. Currently green masterpoints cost \$1.84 per point, red cost \$1.47 and gold cost \$1.26.
- The number of red point sessions that a Club can hold per year is dependent on the number of green points earned in the previous 12-month period from October to September.
- All masterpoints awarded at club red point sessions must be approved by the State Masterpoint Secretary. This involves the Club outlining the number of sections for each session. For each of these sections, the number of tables, the number of winners (1 or 2), the points awarded for first and the total points need to be given. The State Masterpoint Secretary will give an Authorisation Number on approving the amount of red masterpoints requested.
- For a session to be masterpointed at the regular rate, a minimum of 24 boards must be played (except where there is a sit out).
- For a session to be masterpointed, players must play at least 75% of the boards in play (boards missed because of a sit out can be counted).

Some other interesting facts about the Masterpoint Scheme.

- Around 43% of the Active ABF members have fewer than 20 masterpoints. For NSBC, this figure is around 46%.
- No Australian player has reached the rank of Diamond Grand Master.
- Only 9 players have attained the rank of Emerald Grand Master (10 000 total points including 8,500 red and gold and 3000 gold). All nine of these players are active ABF members so perhaps one of these days there will be a Diamond Grand Master in Australia!

Margaret Plunkett
Masterpoint Secretary



The Leita Leiper trophy is awarded each year to the NSBC member who has achieved the most green masterpoints for the year. Robert Ross won this trophy in both 2017 and 2018. Congratulations, Robert!

NSBC Members' Recent Competition Place Results

Club Competition Results

NSBC Championship Teams May 11



1st: Joan Mills, Andy Slater, Judy & Gary Mitchell



2nd: Greg Gosney, Margaret Plunkett, Abigail Wanigarante, Andrew Gosney



3rd: Paul Roberts (abs.), Jacqui Fardoulys, Yolande Coroneo, Jane Farquhar

Rosebowl June 14 & 21 Friday a.m.

- 1st: Ewa Kowalczyk & Gheorghii Belonogov
2nd: Richard Fox & Raelene Clark
3rd: John Scrivens & Sunil Mukherjee

Newstead Novice Shield May 14 & 21

- 1st: Yvonne Flanagan & Rosemary Porter
2nd: Peter Fagan & Julie Navruk
3rd: Margaret Pilgrim & Jennifer Ahern



Rosemary Porter & Yvonne Flanagan

Congress Results

QBA Novice Pairs Sunnybank May 5

- 3rd C: Vanessa Wells & Helen Baran

QBA Mixed Pairs Toowong May 18 & 19

- 1st A: Ewa Kowalczyk & Gheorghii Belonogov
1st B: Abby Wanigaratne & Andrew Gosney

Australia-Wide Novice Pairs NSBC May 28

The Australia-Wide Pairs is an annual event run by the Australian Bridge Magazine and is conducted across Australia in participating clubs. There is a Novice event in May and an Open event, which will be held in August.

This year the Novice section was for players with fewer than 100 masterpoints and our top scoring pair were Paulette Bourke and Jan Moore, who came 43rd out of 1433 pairs nationwide.

Arana Imp Pairs June 1

- 2nd B: Abby Wanigaratne & Andrew Gosney
2nd C: Christine & Bob Thomas

Upcoming Club Competitions

Jill Wilson Championship Pairs July 20

Jill Wilson's family will be attending the presentation following this event, when the Jill Wilson Building will be officially named.

Hoffmann Tray Wednesday PM August 21 & 28

Upcoming Congresses

Toowong Pairs June 30

QBA Graded Teams Sunday QCBC July 7

QBA Teams of 3 (0-50mp) QCBC July 13

NSBC Imp Pairs Congress August 11

QBA Open Teams Toowong August 24 & 25

QBA Graded Pairs QCBC August 31

Promotions

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

Gold Life

Sunil Mukherjee

National **

Albert Loh

Regional

Alex Shearer

Michael Shine

Elizabeth Peters

Rosemary Porter

Club

Sandi Pirozzo

Pat Miller

Anne Fulton

John Wright

Kaye Wright

Maggie Moncrieff

Virginia O'Rourke

Silver Life

Jane Farquhar

State

Lyndel Hewitt

Margaret Munro

Local**

Marea Reed

Local

Don Bitcon

Graduate

Margaret Johns

70% Club

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Robert Ross & Keith Hawken | 74.2% |
| Ghislaine Green & Mike Palmer | 73.6% |
| Gary Mitchell & Deidre Taylor | 72.4% |
| Vad Furminger & Barb Hopley | 71.1% |
| Barbara Andre & Sue Wilson | 71.3% |
| Natalie Bloch & Richard McLauchlan | 71% |
| Jacqui Fardoulys & Paul Roberts | 70.94% |
| John Scrivens & Jacqui Fardoulys | 70.9% |
| Helen Baran & Vanessa Wells | 70.5% |

Beginners' Lessons

The next Beginners' lessons will be held on Tuesday mornings, beginning on July 16th at 9.30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings, beginning on July 17th at 7 p.m.



9AM WEDNESDAY
14TH AUGUST 2019

Charity Bridge Day

\$40/PERSON
INCLUDES MORNING TEA & BRIDGE
PLUS
LUNCH WITH A GLASS OF WINE/SOFT DRINK

In aid of
Good Samaritan Housing
Providing much needed accommodation & support to women &
children
suffering domestic violence

Northern Suburbs Bridge Club
116 Gerler Rd Hendra

Please RSVP for catering purposes by
12th August to patm15@bigpond.com
Phone 0411 597 781

Zephyr Education

This post will be on Zephyr Education Inc.'s Facebook page:

"Huge thanks to Andy Slater, Greg Gosney, Margaret Pilgrim and all members of NSBC who yet again contributed to the much needed collection of lunch boxes and other donations for Zephyr's ever growing number of children.

From January 1, almost 1700 children have been provided with whatever they needed for their educational needs, from uniforms, shoes and socks, booklists etc. to i-pads and computers. The Bridge community was behind Zephyr from the outset and, 6 years later, continues to be a massive support with financial and other donations, moral support and wonderful encouragement for our cause.

We salute you, Northern Suburbs Bridge Club!"

Admin. Assistant

Our newly appointed part-time Office Administrator is Jacqui Dudorovic.

She will take up the position on July 1st.

Tablecloths (1)

I am putting a couple of notes into our Newsletter this month, regarding our tablecloths, as I am sure you will have noticed the ink marks on many of them as you move around.

These marks can easily be eliminated if we remember to tap the table with the **end** of the pen, (while we are thinking of that brilliant bid), and **not the pointy end!**

This will save lots of washing of the tablecloths and make them last longer!

Sandy Handfield

Tablecloths (2)

I am looking for some **Volunteers** to take care of the tablecloths while I am away for two months, **July and August**. It is not a very arduous job, especially if we have a few volunteers to share the load.

I find *soaking the cloths* for an hour or two is the best way to remove the ink stains after *covering the area with liquid or washing powder*, this works well. I do **not** wash them in the *washing machine*, and find they need to be *rinsed very well*, before giving a *short spin*.

It is not a big job, if a few girls (or boys!) check the cloths on the days they are playing and just take a few home. The more players that get involved, the less work there is for any one person!

If you are interested in helping, could you please email me **before the end of June**. That would be wonderful.

Sandy Handfield

sandrahandfield@gmail.com

On the subject of pens ... please support our Sponsor.

Guy Horsley

Licensed Real Estate Agent and Auctioneer
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New Members since last Newsletter

Pam Horsley

Ann Tilbury

Margaret Brock

Richard Fox

Pamela Horton

Alexia Lennon

Leanne Rooijman

Geoff Saxby`

Sallyanne Baron

Mary Doneley

Tracy Heading

Anne Lamport

Sonya Pozzi

Pam Horsley

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

Christmas in July



INVITATION TO MEET AND MINGLE

The club "Christmas in July" event is an opportunity for Members and their significant partners, friends or family to enjoy a social, non-bridge gathering at our wonderful facility.

This year there will be no cost but if possible, could you please bring a small plate. Soft drink will be provided by the Bridge Club and you are welcome to BYO Alcohol.

DATE:

SATURDAY 27TH JULY.

TIME:

5:30pm

BRING:

ANYONE AND A SMALL PLATE

ENTERTAINMENT: THE FABULOUS SUE WIGHTON

Please confirm your interest and number of invitees.



Car Key found

A car key with a yellow tag was found across the road from the club. It is in the office.

Vale

Rita Davis - Passed away 22nd April, 2019

Robin Knight – Passed away 13th June, 2019

Andy's June Lessons

This is a quick summary of my Tuesday lessons, conducted in June.

If you would like a copy of the lesson notes, please let me know.

Lesson 1: The focus was on the proper use of Doubles.

The Takeout Double: Showing an opening hand and support for the unbid suits.

The Negative Double: They interfere 1H...your double = 4 Spades, a bid of 1S shows 5 Spades

They interfere 1S...your double = 4 or 5 Hearts, but cannot bid 2H
because a) only 4 (unlimited points) or b) 5 Hearts, but less than 10hcp.

The Balancing Double: In 4th seat (The Pass Out, or Balancing Seat) you need to push the opponents higher if they are will be playing at the 1 or 2 level if you pass. Double simply tells partner to bid his best (longest) suit. You must have points if they are not going further.

Lesson 2: The focus was on Good Defending

We looked at: - when to defend passively - opening leads, and when is it a good idea to lead trumps - encouraging or discouraging partner's suit as necessary – suit preference signals to indicate to partner which suit to play – holding up when there's a long suit in dummy, and your partner will give **count** on the suit to let you know when to play your Ace.

Lesson 3: The focus was on Overcalling with 2-suited hands, 7-10hcp

Two-suited hands are great if you can let partner know immediately what they are!

Michael's Cue Bids: If you bid their minor suit, you are showing both Major Suits.

If you bid their Major suit, you are showing the other Major + a minor suit.

Unusual 2NT: If they bid a Major, your jump to 2NT shows both minor suits.

If they bid a minor suit, your jump to 2NT shows the two lowest unbid suits.

e.g. 1D – 2NT= Clubs and Hearts, 1C – 2NT= Diamonds and Hearts

Most of your High Card Points should be in your two suits when you make these overcalls.

Imagine how tough it is for the opponents after you've taken away all their bidding space!

Lesson 4: The focus was on Declarer Play

A good declarer is a good detective – he will make deductions from the bidding and from the opening lead. Dummy will be studied closely, working out which losers can be eliminated. Finesses will be used as a last resort. How best to deal with two-way finesses? Our good declarer will lead towards honours whenever possible. Can he get the opponents to lead into his AQ or KJ tenaces? Frozen suits – (Qxx opposite Jxx) - will the opponents play the suit for him? Good Declarer play comes with time – but lessons and reading make it a quicker process.

Thank you to all those who attended.

Andy Slater



One of our novice players was playing with an experienced player, who opened 1NT. His partner dutifully announced "16-18", and passed.

Dummy came down showing 18 points -



16 – 18 ...



Library News from the Bookworm

Calling all beginners and players looking to advance their bridge play.

Apparently, **25** is the magic number and over the next few issues of Library News I will introduce you to a series of books by Barbara Seagram (one of north America's premier bridge teachers) and Marc Smith or David Bird, based on this number.

In this issue, we will look at the following two books:

- 25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know, and
- 25 More Bridge Conventions You Should Know

Each publication is divided into Three sections – Learn these first, More complicated, and Sophisticated stuff.

Each convention is explained succinctly, simply and clearly. A review type quiz follows each chapter with sample hands, followed by a summary of the key points.

These are very good books as they focus on some useful conventions. Don't be put off by the so called more advanced options. As with anything in bridge, use what suits you and disregard the rest.

P.S. You will notice that there is a number of bridge books stored separately on one of the lower shelves in the first cabinet. These books are either donated or are surplus/obsolete, and members are invited to either take or borrow these – no need to enter in the borrow record.



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I came across this the other day. Worth a read.

ATTITUDE

Bridge is an engaging and enjoyable GAME, which requires adherence to the following guidelines.

1. Courtesy – a player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times. This involves greeting and interacting with each other in a friendly way as well as refraining from criticizing partner or opponents.
2. Encouragement of Less Experienced Players - experienced players should go out of their way to help novice players feel at ease, and make allowances for lapses or errors.

Referring to #1, my personal experience relates to the very first time I played at a bridge club, my only lesson being a ten-minute summary in the car as we drove to the club.

Nervous as a cat on a hot tin roof, I greeted my first opponent, “Hello, how are you?”
The answer? “Do you really want to know or are you just being polite?”

I have never forgotten that introduction, and perhaps it explains my emphasis on the need for courtesy.

Referring to #2, I couldn't agree more!

Andy Slater

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Meet our Members - Jack Wighton

Jack celebrated his 95th birthday this month and was discovered partying at one of his haunts.

A special poem has been written for him:

Here's our Jack –
(well really it's John Daniel, but who can find anything that will rhyme with that?)
In days of yore, he went to war,
A sailor boy was he, in the Aussie Navy.
Now, the old song tells us that
"All the nice girls love a sailor"
And Jack can tell you all about that.

The years rolled by with work, home and family
And not forgetting the Top Pub at Nundah and Friday nights...

But you know the adage
"All work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy"
So it was squash, tennis, cricket and golf –
He played them all
Until arthritis took its toll.

Then tragedy – he lost his love, his wife,
Grief and despair now filled his life –
Until – tralah! – He discovered BRIDGE!
Thought it might help a smidge – and it did!

A successful finesse – Oh Boy!
Bidding and making a Grand Slam – Oh Joy!
The attention of all the lovely ladies – Ahoy!

So here's our Jack – slower, but still very much alive –
Dear Friends, let's toast him
'cos Jack's 95!



Anon.



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



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



HAVE YOU GOT YOUR ABF MEMBERS' TRAVEL INSURANCE FOR 2019?

The policy for the 2019 is available online right now.

You can apply completely online – just visit our website www.tbib.com.au and follow the links to **ABF Travel Insurance**.

Policy benefits include:

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- Your choice to include or exclude coverage for North America
- Your choice to include or exclude pre-existing medical conditions
- Access to TBIB's claims advocacy service
- Simple online application process
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Please refer to the PDS for full terms & conditions

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and we'll be happy to help