

Northern Suburbs Bridge Club

Newsletter

November 2018

60TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR



www.northernsuburbs.bridgeaustralia.org

President: Andy Slater

Editors: Jeannette Wyman & Thora Pease

From the President

As a Bridge club we do have to prepare well beforehand for events that come up in our bridge calendar. Besides other events, in November we have one event to especially celebrate – I'm not talking about the Melbourne Cup, but the 60th anniversary of the founding of the club in 1958. Please keep an eye and ear out for announcements regarding this occasion as we do have something special planned. Monday afternoon, November 26, there will be a big event happening!

In December we have the International Volunteers' Day, which we would like to celebrate this year, our Teams of 3 event and of course, our Christmas Party on December 16. All of these events require a good deal of forward planning, so when you see our committee members with a furrow on their brow, you know the kind of things they'll be thinking about.

There was a great response to our request for volunteers to help with food and working in the kitchen. With events coming up, all help is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to Pam Cash and those volunteers.

Elizabeth Gibson will be looking after our noticeboards from now on, as well as our 'Statistical and Historical', so a big thankyou to Elizabeth for that.

We are still looking towards finding a replacement Treasurer for Pat, and there are one or two positive developments.

Another positive is that we have a group of new players who will be coming into the main playing area very soon. If you get to play with any of them, please just play their very simple system. Don't rush to teach them all about transfer bids; they're still trying hard to cope with Stayman. And of course, treat them gently. They are the future of our club.

I was extremely proud of the contribution of our members towards the Drought Appeal – with the donation of Thursday table fees, and further individual donations from members, we contributed just over \$1100 to the appeal. Well done the NS Bridge Club!

On Saturday, October 13, I played in the inaugural 'Derek Stringfellow Teams' at Caboolture, to celebrate his 90th birthday. Many of our members will remember Derek as an absolute gentleman, and, as a friend for over thirty years, I had the privilege of partnering him. What I loved about the day was seeing how important the bridge community becomes as we get older. Derek still likes to play golf and bowls (!!!), but bridge is increasingly – unsurprisingly - taking up more of his time. What a fantastic avenue for social interaction is this wonderful game that we play!

I'm hoping to get our 2019 calendar out in early December, so please make sure your details have been given to the Masterpoint Secretary (Margaret) if they have changed.

And finally, I would like to wish all our members the best of luck in the Melbourne Cup.

Regards, Andy Slater



From humble beginnings - 60 Years with the Northern Suburbs Bridge Club

- 26.11.1958 20 bridge players met at a private home in Woolloowin and agreed to form a bridge club to be known as the Northern Suburbs Bridge Club. A suitable venue had been checked out – the then RSL Hall in Wagner Road, Clayfield, and rent agreed at \$2.10s per Wednesday night. Table fees were set at 3/6 per night.
- 1962 The club moved to the Bar Jai Club in Railway Parade, Clayfield, and was now averaging 9 tables, with Wednesday night still the only session.
- 1981 The club moved again, to the Assembly Hall at Hendra High School. Playing sessions had now increased to 3 per week.
- 1984 The club was looking at establishing permanent clubrooms. A local councillor suggested applying for a lease of unoccupied land at Banister Park, Gerler Road, which was successful, and a building committee was formed, led by Jill Wilson.
- 1991 Building commenced, and in December the club moved into its specially designed building. The club was now open for play every day except Sunday, including 2 nights per week.
- 2007 An initiative for a separate teaching centre began and was brought to fruition by a building committee led by Elizabeth Gibson*.
- 2017 The new building was officially opened on 4th February.

(*and it was Elizabeth who planted the native hibiscus which enchants everyone at this time of year)



Meet our Members

Diana Dick (Grand Master and NSBC President 2003 – 2005 and 2017)

I first played bridge as a 9 year old. Our family then was four generations, from we three children to my grandmother's (ancient) aunt. Auction bridge was played regularly, and we children competed to be the fourth player. We all loved cards.

After long years at boarding school, the next chance for cards was at University. We taught ourselves Contract bridge – guidelines were a bidding table cloth and Goren's Bridge Complete. There were no bridge lessons.

We lived overseas for many years in England, and New Guinea where possession of a pack of cards was a crime. Returning to Brisbane with four daughters, there was little time for cards, but I played with friends at home as much as I could. Bridge club hours did not leave time for school pick ups etc. so I did not join NSBC until 1981. Play was in the Hendra High School hall, and I played on Saturday afternoon.

On my fourth visit, I was approached to learn the directing procedures and become the Saturday afternoon director – 37 years ago!

I continued directing and teaching from then, at NSBC and also QCBC and Toowong. I loved meeting new people and making new friends. I met Ross at the club, and we have played together for 35 years.

Bridge has given me a lifetime of enjoyment.



Interesting Hand - Bidding Slam with a Yarborough

	North		
	♠ -		
	♥ 84		
	♦ A976543		
	♣ K1083		
West		East	
♠ AQ106		♠ KJ9	
♥ AKJ1097		♥ Q6532	
♦ KQ		♦ J108	
♣ A		♣ QJ	
	South		
	♠ 875432		
	♥ -		
	♦ 2		
	♣ 976542		

West	North	East	South
2♣	2♦	2NT	3♠
Dble	4♦	Dble	5♣
5♥	6♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Dir: W
Contract: 6♣xS

This hand shows that points are not everything. NS had only 7 points and South had a yarborough, yet the contract makes!

West led A♥, which declarer trumped. He led a small club and West played his singleton Ace. West returned K♦ and lost to declarer's ace, who then played K♣ which took East's Queen.

Declarer then cross trumped: Diamond, Spade, Diamond, Spade, leaving 3 established Diamond tricks in dummy and the last 2 trumps. A small slam with a yarborough and 33 missing points

Promotions

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

National**

Dennis Sullivan
Deborah Dwyer

National

Bob Thomas

Regional *

Patricia Collins
Robert Ross

Regional

Shelley McCready
Vic Bampton

Local Master**

Vad Furminger
Yvonne Flanagan
Rex Meadowcroft
Margaret Pilgrim

Local Master*

Teresa Salvati
Anne Johnson

Local

Phil Sullivan
Maxim Wilson

Club

Diana Hotchkis
Karyn Aaker
Cathy Clem
Jill Diggles

Graduate

Peter Fagan
Jane Propsting
Julie Navruk

Sandy Chapman
Kerry Diggles
Marion Inglis

70% Club

In September and October, the following members achieved results over 70% in Club play:

Albert Loh & Dennis Sullivan 73%
Diana & Ross Dick 71.7%
Annette Hyland & Fay Jeppesen 71.3%
Joan Mills & David Lehmann 70.2%

NSBC Members' Recent Competition Place Results

NSBC Club Competitions

Monday Shield Sept 3 & 10

1st: Chris & Bob Thomas
2nd: Yolande Coroneo & Jacqui Fardoulys
Best Novice Pair: Voyko & Vesna Markovic

Thursday Pairs October 11 & 18

1st: Herold Rienstra & Peter Stride
2nd: Bill Hanlon & Barbara Holmes
3rd: Rob Ansell & Jan Morrow
Best Novice Pair: Phil & Marj Sullivan

Congress Results

Sanctuary Cove Novice Pairs Sept 16

Championship Winners:
Eugene Pereira & Rex Meadowcroft

Toowoomba Swiss Pairs Sept 29:



1st B: Yolande Coroneo & Jacqui Fardoulys

This pair came fourth overall in a field of 54 pairs and also won the **Nancy Penfold Memorial Shield** for the highest placed ladies pair.

QBA Open Pairs October 13 & 14 at NSBC

Delicious Winners from Pam Cash's team:



Noosa Novice Pairs October 17

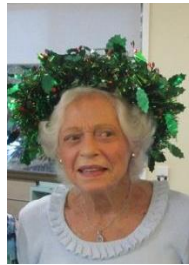
1st: Sumant Handa & Rex Meadowcroft

Upcoming Club Competitions



Pat Clouston's Christmas Teams – Sunday 16th December starting at 9.30

This event is sponsored by Pat Clouston and is the most enjoyable club event of the year. Get a team together and start work on your hat, ready for a day of fun.



Upcoming Congresses

NSBC Imp Pairs - November 3 & 4

QBA Individual – December 16

GRADED EVENTS:

Sunshine Coast Novice Pairs November 11

Toowong Graded Teams - November 25

QBA Teams of 3, December 9 at NSBC

Our club will again host the QBA Teams of 3 on Sunday, December 9. This event is a great opportunity for less experienced players to compete in a competition with an experienced player as captain of their team. Many of the captains are among the top players in Queensland.

Get together a team of 3 and a captain will be assigned to your team.

New Members September & October 2018

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

Bill Mallan

Alan Miller

Robert Barr

Allan Brown

Joanne Clacher

Denise McEniery

Margaret Male

Liz Bowman

Sandra Miller

Debbie Grimmer

Robyn Lehton

John Collins

Lynette Owen

Jane Strange

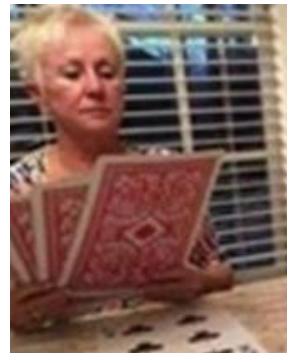
Reminders

The NSBC Programme booklet for 2019 is currently being prepared.

Have you notified the Secretary of any change in **phone details** which you want included in the 2019 booklet? To ensure that the correct telephone details are included, you will need to notify the Secretary in writing by November 10.

The Annual Subs notices will be emailed (or posted) early in December.

Have you notified the Secretary of any change in **email or postal address**? To ensure that the notice is received promptly, please notify the Secretary of any change, in writing, by November 25.



Can't find your reading glasses? There are several pairs in the drawer in the office

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Vale

Margaret Fardoulys, passed away 26.8.2018.

John Kavanagh, husband of Jane, passed away 6.9.2018.

Cynthia Taylor, passed away 26.10.2018

Our condolences to the families and bridge partners of these NSBC members.

Another Interesting Hand - Trumping with the Ace

♠ 62
♥ 53
♦ 764
♣ AQJ763

Dir: E
Vul: N-S
Contract: 4♥ S

♠ A5
♥ J984
♦ AT5
♣ 8542

♠ T9
♥ AKQT62
♦ KJ3
♣ T9

♠ KQJ8743
♥ 7
♦ Q982
♣ K

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	2	-
S	-	-	-	2	-
E	-	1	4	-	4
W	-	1	4	-	4

	7	
9		13
	11	

You sat E playing a 4♥ contract.

S led the singleton ♣K to be overtaken by N with ♣A, a smart move by N because she had Q and J as well, and was long in Clubs. N then won with Q on trick 2 and S confirmed the ♣ singleton. You had lost the first 2 tricks.

N then led ♣J on trick 3. You could trump with the risk of being over-trumped. However, a quick check of your trump strength showed you had the rare luxury of 7 of the top trumps. There were only 3 trumps outstanding, hence you must trump with the A or equivalent down to the 8. Playing the 6 of trump to be over-trumped by the singleton 7 (ouch!!) was very loose and lazy play!

In this case you needed only AKQJ to safely trump with the A. If you had a total of 9 trumps then you would need AKQJT to trump with the A in order to guard against a freakish 4 – 0 break that was offside. *

A second consideration was this: N was unwise to play ♣J on trick 3 because she knew some serious trumping was bound to occur. The Jack was simply being wasted for no good reason. It was incumbent upon her to play ♣3, keeping ♣J to cover the ♣8 on the table. Friendly bridge was being elevated to unprecedented levels by players showering gifts on each other!

Now that ♣J was played, however, you did not even have to remember that ♣8 was a winner during the end play. You led ♣8 from dummy, duly followed by ♣7 by N (that was her highest club then). You knew that S was out of Clubs

and out of Trumps too. Hence ♣8 was a natural winner, and you could discard the losing spade to make 10 tricks.

If you were confused and trumped ♣8 instead, you would make only 9 tricks.

If you combined this with trumping with the A on trick 3 plus a ♦ finesse you would have made 11 tricks.

Depending on the skill of the declarer, 9, 10 or 11 tricks were all possibilities. Having the 8 as a winner in the suit on the 4th round was indeed a rare occurrence, but it was all laid out for you, the declarer.

As a matter of interest the board was played on 10 occasions in a 4♥ or 5♥ contract. Two players made 9, six made 10 and two made 11 tricks. Several players were in a 4♠ or 5♠ contract for a sacrifice.

* However, many players still trumped with the A even with only 4 top trumps in a 9-card trump fit. The most likely split was a 3 -1 (50%), or 2 – 2 (40%), both of which posed no danger. In essence they were playing the odds, the 4 – 0 split being only 10%, or 1 in 10 occasions.

Statistically the percentages are as follows:

For **4 outstanding trumps**,

2 - 2 split 40%, 3 – 1 split 50%,
4 – 0 split 10%

For **5 outstanding trumps**,

3 – 2 split 68%, 4 – 1 split 28%,
5 - 0 split 4%

Albert Loh - October 2018

The following article was forwarded by the QBA management, with their tick of approval, for inclusion in our Newsletter.

All about Alerts

Alerting is about drawing the opponents' attention to your side's unusual bidding. It is controlled by a set of regulations issued by the Australian Bridge Federation. That document runs for 11 pages (!) so I'll save you some reading here.

With written bidding you alert *your partner's* unusual bid by circling it and saying "Alert". Don't explain anything: wait to be asked. If using bidding boxes, say "Alert" and optionally fish around in the box in the hope of finding the Alert card.

The definition of an "unusual bid" is somewhat opaque, but the general principle is that, if a bid's meaning is not what it sounds like, then it should be alerted. Usually this involves bidding a suit that does not show length in that suit, or bidding no-trumps when it does not indicate a desire to play in no-trumps. It also includes bids that have an unexpected HCP range. Examples of alertable bids:

- Transfer bids
- Unusual No-trump or Lebensohl
- Multi 2♦ opening
- 'Pass or correct' bids
- Weak jump responses
- Inverted minor raises

Self-alerting bids

Some bids are defined as self-alerting, meaning they do not require an actual alert as they are "obviously unusual". These are:

- Doubles and redoubles
- All bids above 3NT (except unusual high level opening, e.g. NAMYATS)
- Cue bid of opponents' suit
- 2♣ response to a 1NT opening bid

Asking

You can ask about any alerted bid, or un-alerted bid for that matter, but only at your turn to bid or play. Most people only ask if the answer may affect their upcoming bid or play, but it is entirely up to you whether or not you ask.

When asking, ask in general terms, not using leading questions. So say: "what does 2♣ mean?", not "does 2♣ show clubs?" (which could be interpreted as code for 'I have clubs'). At the end of an auction that had multiple alerts, if on lead you should say: "explain the auction please", rather than asking about one specific alerted bid. If not on lead, wait until partner has led face-down and then ask your question.

Answering

You are required to explain your partnership agreements, nothing more. If you're not sure what partner's bid means or have forgotten your agreements, try not to guess. Just say: "I don't know" or "I don't remember". (The director will adjust the result if your opponents are damaged by this failure of memory.)

If you haven't discussed a bid, say: "it is undiscussed". Again, do not offer a possible explanation, or how you are going to take it.

Partner fails to alert, or mis-alerts, or mis-explains

Happens all the time right? You must stay shtum for the moment. Then ...

At auction's end, with your side declaring:

Before the opening lead, draw your opponents' attention to the problem. Explain what you think went wrong.

If your side ends up defending:

You can say nothing until the end of play, at which point you should identify the issue./over

Pre-alerting

At the start of each round, you should pre-alert your opponents to any unusual convention that they may need to arrange a defence against. Main examples are:

- Switched responses to 1♣
- Very unusual 2-level openings (e.g. 2NT for the minors) ... the Multi scheme does not need a pre-alert, as it's so relevant
- A system other than some form of Standard American: e.g. Precision, Acol

Source: VBA Bulletin, Editor Bill Jacobs



Melbourne Cup Day

Northern Suburbs Bridge Club

When: Tuesday, 6th November

Play Starts: 10:15 am (**please be seated by 10:00 am**)

Lunch: 1:15 pm

Race starts: 2:00 pm



Everyone welcome.

Combining our usual Tuesday morning and afternoon sessions.

Normal table fees.

Bring a plate of food to share.

No morning tea break.

Red points.

Sweeps and prizes for best hats.



LIBRARY NEWS from the Bookworm

The last issue of library news revealed David Bird to be the most prolific bridge book author of all time. We have several of his books in the library as he has co-written with Tim Bourke, Marc Smith, Taf Anthias and Barbara Seagram as well under his own name. The Bookworm is a long-time fan, not only because of the quality of his publications, but mainly because most of his books are brief – well suited to someone with a short attention span like the Bookworm. Most are restricted to 60 pages, all crammed with valuable tips.

The old maxim of “If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail” is our entree to three of the Bird/Smith books reviewed in this issue:-

Planning in Defence has 5 chapters covering subjects such as Signals and Discards, Opening Leads, Basic Defence at No Trumps, Defence against Suit contracts and Counting. The chapter on signalling and discards is quite brief as another of their books is devoted to this subject.

It is interesting that their recommended system of discarding is quite simple – keep winners and discard losers, whilst at the same time giving count!

Planning in Suit Contracts has chapters titled How to Plan a Trump Contract, Ruffing Losers, Manoeuvres in the Trump Suit, Establishing Suits, Keeping the dangerous defender off lead and Ruffing in the Long Hand.

Planning the Play in Notrump covers How to Plan a Notrump contract, The Hold Up and subsequent play, Which Suit to Attack, Combining Chances, Communications Play and Running the Long Suit.

These are great little books, ideal for the beginner. If they don't pique your interest, try these:-

Bird and Smith

Deceptive Card Play
Entry Management
Eliminations and Throw Ins
Reading the Cards
Safety Plays
Tricks with Finesse
Tricks with Trumps
Squeezes made simple

Bird and Bourke

Defending No Trump Contracts
Defending Suit Contracts
Elimination Plays
Planning in Defence
The Simple Squeeze

Seagram and Bird

Planning the Play of Bridge hand
Four Suit Transfers
Jacoby 2NT
Roman Key Card Blackwood
Splinter Bids
Stayman Auctions



On the subject of good books, look out for “Brisbane Houses with Gardens” by Beth Wilson. This book was nominated for the The Courier-Mail People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year awards and, on October 23rd, was announced as the winner! Beth is a Landscape Architect and has worked on projects such as Brisbane City Botanic Gardens, Queen Street Mall, Suncorp Stadium and more.

In her spare time, Beth has been learning to play bridge in our beginner lessons, and is now a member of NSBC. And it was Beth who oversaw the purchase of the new greenery in our two buildings.



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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