

Northern Suburbs Bridge Club

Newsletter

July 2018

60TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR



www.northernsuburbs.bridgeaustralia.org

President: Andy Slater

Editors: Jeannette Wyman & Thora Pease

From the President

It's amazing the things you learn about the day-to-day running of a club when you take on Committee work. For example, where to go if we need a hammer and nails? Well, there is a toolbox in the cupboard between the toilets, a toolbox that I've been updating with some tools in case of emergency! Just thought I'd share that minor thing with you.

However, some major things are happening.

The famous Ron Klinger will be giving a teaching session on Friday afternoon July 20. I have been to Ron's sessions and they are excellent. There is no better teacher for improving your skills, whatever level you are. I would certainly advise you to attend if possible. There will be no regular Friday afternoon bridge that day.

You may have heard the whispers about the 'Christmas in July' get-together on Saturday July 28. I am really looking forward to meeting so many real-life partners, and getting to know our members on a more personal basis, not just what system they play!

I congratulate Lori Sexton for proposing the concept and working hard to bring it to fruition. As a caring and responsible club we do have to look after and care for our members' wellbeing, and this is a great step forward in that direction.

I have talked before about the greater inclusion of our members into the many and varied tasks that have to be done for the smooth running of the club – the toolbox being but one small example. I will go into a bit more detail about this in a separate article, but again, I would ask all members to consider stepping up if they can help in any way whatsoever.

And once more, thank you Jeannette and Thora for your work in producing this newsletter; the feedback from everyone I spoke to has been overwhelmingly positive. In the same vein, my hat goes off to Greg Gosney for doing such a good job on the Newsletter for a long time, all by himself. It was a huge task, and I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say, loudly and clearly, "Thank you Greg!"

Regards, Andy Slater

Committee News

From the Secretary

Hello all,

As some of you may have noticed, the minutes of the previous committee meeting are on the noticeboard next to the results noticeboard. At the last committee meeting, it was decided to begin publicly displaying the minutes of the meeting for all club members to see, to provide more clarity as to what is happening behind-the-scenes at NSBC. As such, from now on, each month's committee meeting minutes will be displayed in the same location on the noticeboard. If you have any queries about the minutes, please contact the club e-mail nsbc4011@optusnet.com.au and I will help as best I can.

Of course, I couldn't resist adding something bridge related, so here is a hand from the Sunshine Coast Pairs on the 16th of June, that shows my partner's exceptional bidding. As East, I was holding this hand, E dealer, E/W vulnerable.

♠ 96
♥ T65
♦ K9
♣ KQJ972

This hand is decent, but not bid-worthy at this vulnerability, so I pass as dealer, as does South. Partner opens 1♠ and North overcalls 2♣! Obviously, my bid is pass, with South also passing. Partner thinks for a moment, and makes the bid I had been hoping for, a double! This gets passed out and North is in 2♣X. Here is the full hand:

♠ AT4
♥ K8
♦ J43
♣ AT654

| | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| ♠ J8753 | | ♠ 96 |
| ♥ AQJ2 | Dlr: E | ♥ T65 |
| ♦ QT52 | Vul: E/W | ♦ K9 |
| ♣ - | | ♣ KQJ972 |

♠ KQ2
♥ 9743
♦ A876
♣ 83

I must commend Abby for 2 reasons: For opening that hand, and for the choice of double. Some may be scared off by the unfavourable vulnerability and the mere 10 points, but that hand is extremely strong. There are 3 choices of where to play (Spades, Hearts or Diamonds), the honours are well supported (♥AQJ together, ♦Q supported with the ♦T, ♠J has 4 pips and a void to support), partner doesn't need to have a full opening hand to make game (If partner's points are outside of clubs), and there are options for rebids depending on the rest of the auction.

The choice to double was perfect with that hand. As I mentioned before, there are 3 places to play, and they are all valued equally. Having already shown 5 spades, bidding spades again is pointless, and the double shows that there are options, instead of potentially pigeonholing partner into a bad fit. Also, if in the balancing seat like on this hand, with a singleton or void in the opponent's suit and no extra length in the first bid suit, a double is necessary in case partner is sitting there with a hand like mine.

The result was +300 to us, which was a great board, as only part-scores were available on this hand. Surprisingly, of the 8 North-South pairs in clubs, only 3 were doubled! It also seemed that some pairs were opening 3♣ with this hand. My main argument against this choice is that vulnerable against not, it is best to be extremely accurate with how the hand is bid, especially when pre-empting, so a 6-card pre-empt here would only make life difficult. This is to help partner make good judgements about which game to play in (3NT or 5♣ for example).

In this event, we finished 3rd out of 64 pairs overall, which was a great result as is, and my best result in an open tournament, but we were only 1 board away from winning the event. The teams the next day resulted in us achieving 6th place out of 32 teams, another great result in a very rewarding and exciting weekend.

Andrew Gosney

Jobs for the Boys – and Girls

As your President, one of my hopes is that our members can take on roles and responsibilities for the smooth running of the club. Our Committee work extremely hard to keep things running efficiently and of course we must all be grateful to them for what they do, but it comes at a cost in terms of time. Here are some ideas on the sorts of jobs that the other members in our club could help out with...

-Notice boards: These have to be regularly culled, tidied up, and I would like to see the boards themselves made more attractive to look at.

-Office Person: The office does get untidy and needs someone once a week to step in and have a clean around.

-Tables and chairs: Ever wonder how come the tables and chairs in the room magically realign themselves and look as good as they do? Perhaps if one or two people at the end of each day session could straighten things up, we won't have to rely on magic.

-Side tables: These are necessary of course to put boards, cups, papers etc on. But they do seem to grow legs and move around the room. Perhaps if you like an extra table, would you mind taking on the job of moving it back at the end of the game?

-Media Manager: How about someone to regularly keep the local media updated with news items about what's happening at the club? That could be good publicity for our club and perhaps generate new membership.

-Beginner Player Liaison Officer: There is work involved in keeping our newer players going until they are fully comfortable within the bridge scene - partnerships, worries, uncertainty about protocols... This is a thoroughly satisfying part of my job, but...it all takes time!

-Historian: There is a lot of history when a club is approaching its 60th anniversary, and someone who likes research and maintaining archival material could find the experience very satisfying.

-Keeper of the Keys: This job entails a constant updating of who has what keys to the building, and there are security concerns in making sure that all keys are accounted for.

-Master of the Roles: Again, a constant updating of who does what, and when!

No doubt you can think of other areas where you may have particular expertise and could be more involved in what's happening at your club. If you would like to help, in any way whatever, I would be happy if you drop me an email and we'll see what can be arranged.

Andy E: bramble_bay@bigpond.com

Members' Forum

Last month's questions/issues for the Committee and their answers:

Q. What has happened to the overhead screen and why is it not operating?

A. *It's up and running now, and will also be used to display announcements before a session. Thanks to Greg Gosney for his efforts in restoring the screen, which turned out to be a not easy task.*

Q. Could an event be included in the Club Calendar for members with fewer than 100 Mps?

A. *This event will be included in the 2020 calendar.*

New Q. Could someone please define the "I'm the declarer so I can pick that card up" rule, which some players are taking to the extreme ...

Meet our Members

In our 60th Anniversary Year, we will hear from some of the earliest members of the club. This month's bridge career story comes from:

Tony Jackman (Gold Grand Master)

"I learnt a new game last night – bridge" said my friend Tony Graham as he walked into our students' common room early in 1959. " 'Show us' some said, and soon we had a four. Not too hard to get the basics – all were card players, not only of poker but also of trick taking games like 500 and solo (whist). All bought Goren's Bridge Flipper and we were away. Shortly after one of us saw a newspaper mention that National Championships were underway at the (old) Lennons Hotel. I went down – was stung for five shillings to get in and found myself in a large room with several tables in play. I watched a hand at one, saw 6D bid, the cards played in front of each player, then gathered and put back into individual S, E, N and W slots in what was called a 'board'. This was picked up, and taken, through a door to another table to be played again. I got the idea and followed to watch again. Almost immediately, several 'heavies' descended on me, muttering things like "You must be a NSW spy, you have entered the 'closed' room," and I was soon out on George St.

But I had got the bridge bug. Soon after, with Tony Graham, then Peter Noble, I joined NSBC – then in a cold draughty hall in Clayfield. It was a new club, split away from what was, at that time, the Brisbane Bridge Club – not Centre – that later became the QCBC. Kivas and Josie Tully and Arthur Hoffman were leading lights at NSBC but they also played at QCBC and often took me there. It was a tougher venue, with genuine overseas toplineers, such as George McCutcheon, Denis Priest, Bob Williams and local Harold Hiley, in action. They were kind enough to play with me from time to time. I learned a lot from them and soon switched to that club.

In 1965 I married Clare and put aside ambitions to travel and play overseas – three fine children and eight grandchildren confirm that decision was right. Meanwhile I had some bridge success. Something like 30 state, and nine or ten national championships, have come my way, as well as several Gold Coast Congress victories, Australian team selection and a McCutcheon Trophy (most masterpoints won in one year). One, possibly unique, achievement was the winning of club, state and national Mixed Pairs championships in the same year – the NSBC Harry Sarafov with Jan Kirk, the Qld with Verna Graham, and the Australian with Elaine Poulsen.

I hope I have given something back to our game as an administrator – as QBA Vice-President and delegate to the ABF for more than a dozen years, and GCC Convenor for even longer.

Late 2015 I had a stroke and, later, a bad fall. These left me mobility and memory impaired and pretty much finding one session of bridge enough, and easy access important. NSBC was suitable in every way. So, in early 2016 I rejoined, was made most welcome and now much enjoy my one or two games a week – and am happy to give advice when requested.



Somerset Maugham once said: "If I had my way, I would have children taught bridge as a matter of course, just as they are taught sport or dancing. In the end it would be more useful to them. You can play bridge as long as you can sit up at a table and tell one card from another. In fact, when all else fails – sport, love, ambition – bridge remains a solace and an entertainment."

Promotions

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

Graduate Master

Robyn Whitfield
Mary Hanlon
Donna Chin

Club Master

Diane Thompson
Helen Bryant
Carol Jelley

Local Master

Rex Meadowcroft
Michael O'Rourke
Margaret Peel

*Local Master

Eugene Pereira
Neil Benson

**Local Master

Tiffany Mair

Regional Master

Keith Hawken
Lyndel Hewitt
Jennifer Jenkins

*National

Jacqui Fardoulis

NSBC Members' Competition Place Results since 12 May 2018

NSBC Competitions

NSBC Championship Teams May 5 & 12

1st: Sunil Mukherjee, Mary Ryan, Ewa Kowalczyk, Geoffrey Toon
2nd: Greg Gosney, Margaret Plunkett, Andrew Gosney, Abby Wanigaratne
3rd: Richard McLauchlan, Helen McLauchlan, Andy Slater, Joan Mills

Rosebowl May 18 & 25

1st: Greg Gosney & Lex Ranke
2nd: Gary Mitchell & Judy Mitchell
3rd: Joan Mills & Mary Ryan

Sarafov Cup (Mixed Pairs) June 6 & 13

1st: Dorothy Gehrke & Bert Luchjenbroers
2nd: Yolande Coroneo & Peter Nilsson
3rd: Andrew Slater & Joan Mills

Newstead Novice June 12 & 19

1st: Robyn Harrison & Lynette Rose
2nd: Jo-Anne Bauer & Vicki Lloyd
3rd: Carolyn Gleeson & Cheryl Diehm

Congress Results

QBA Mixed Pairs at Toowong May 19 & 20

1st C Div: Andrew Gosney & Abby Wanigaratne

Toowong Novice Pairs May 20

2nd: Wendy Casey & Barbara Moni

Australia Wide Novice Pairs May 29

Two NSBC pairs finished in the top 50 in this event, in which there were over 1000 entrants Australia-wide:

11th: Rosemary Porter & Yvonne Flanagan
21st: Voyko Markovic & Eugene Pereira
Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events for Novices

QBA Teams of 3 for Novices at Toowong

July 14 - NSBC is sending four teams to this event.

Novices Only

Sept 9 Kenmore Rookie Pairs (0-50mps)

Graded Events

Jul 15 QBA Graded Teams - QCBC

Jul 22 BBC Graded Teams

Upcoming Club Events

Hoffmann Tray

Wednesdays 18 & 25 July starting at 7.15 pm

Jill Wilson Championship Pairs

Saturday 4 August

NSBC Imp Pairs

Sunday 12 August starting at 9.30 a.m.

This is an extract from an article written for the Club's 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2008:

The Hoffmann Tray is a two session Red Point competition played on Wednesday evenings, and has been played each year since 1967. The event is named in honour of Arthur Hoffmann, who was one of the 27 foundation members of NSBC when it began in 1958. In 1967, the Winners were Arthur Hoffmann and Harry Sarafov, who received \$2 each.

In 1967, NSBC had a total membership of 93 and the only session was played on a Wednesday at the Bar Jai Club in Railway Parade, Clayfield.

The average number of tables was 20 per session.

Arthur Hoffmann was a tireless worker for NSBC over many years. He served as the Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and eleven terms as President of the Club. His name is also on the Honour page of the Gold Coast Congress as a contributor to its success in the early years. In 1979, Arthur became only the 5th person in Queensland to attain Grand Master status.

In 1973, Arthur was made an Honorary Life Member of NSBC for his significant contribution to the club and was one of its special guests at the fiftieth anniversary celebrations.

INTERESTING HAND (from Andy Slater)

I was shown this hand by an eagle-eyed member, who was puzzled as to how NS can make all 13 tricks.

| | | |
|------|-------|------|
| | KQT87 | |
| | AKQT5 | |
| | J | |
| | J9 | |
| 42 | | 653 |
| 843 | | 62 |
| T843 | | KQ65 |
| K763 | | 8542 |
| | AJ9 | |
| | J97 | |
| | A972 | |
| | AQT | |

It seems that there are just five Spade tricks, five Heart tricks and two minor Aces to make 12 tricks. That is all you can make in No Trumps, but the computer says you can make all thirteen tricks in seven Spades or seven Hearts.

And the computer software is never wrong!

Anyway, have a think about it, and the answer will be on **Page 7**

Bridge's Strangest Hands

A rubber bridge player in California dealt himself a hand with 13 hearts, and smugly bid 7♥. But his euphoria was short-lived when his partner shot him for trumping his ace!

New Members since May 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.

Cheryl Diehm Peter Stride
Vanessa Wells Alan Webster

Teaching Programme

Ron Klinger Workshop

Topic: Defensive Strategies

Friday 20 July, 1:15-4:00 pm

Cost: \$20 per person

Please contact the club to register your attendance.

There will be no Friday afternoon bridge that day

Next Beginner Lessons

Tuesday mornings (9.30 am – midday) –
July 10 – August 28 and

Wednesday evenings (7.30 pm - 10:00 pm) –
July 4 – August 29

Andy Hung

Risks versus Rewards (this overview from Pam Varcoe)

Have you ever thought of Bridge as a game of "risks versus rewards"? This was the subject matter covered by Andy Hung at NSBC on the Sat 20th May in his workshop: "Tips and Tricks to Improve Your Pairs Scores." We were privileged to explore topics such as:

Overtricks and Undertricks

Partscore Bidding

Sacrificing

Scoring is perhaps an area of Bridge that many of us may leave 'to the gods', but Andy got us really thinking about how we can milk a little extra from our contracts. For example, going down three doubled for -500 against the opponents making vulnerable game of -620 can make the difference between an average board and an average plus board. e.g. See over page

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|-------|
| Board 5 | ♠ A J 10 7 3 2 | | |
| North Deals | ♥ K 7 3 | | |
| N-S Vul | ♦ K J 9 | | |
| | ♣ 6 | | |
| ♠ 8 4 | | ♠ 5 | |
| ♥ A J 10 4 | | ♥ 6 5 | |
| ♦ 8 7 3 | | ♦ A 6 5 | |
| ♣ K 9 7 5 | | ♣ Q J 10 8 4 3 2 | |
| | ♠ K Q 9 6 | | |
| | ♥ Q 9 8 2 | | |
| | ♦ Q 10 4 2 | | |
| | ♣ A | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1 ♠ | 3 ♣ | 4 ♠ |
| 5 ♣ | Dbf | All pass | |

Over South's 4♠ bid, West should sacrifice with 5♣ at this (favourable) vulnerability. Over 5♣, North has no reason to compete to 5♠ and doubles 5♣. Yes, on the actual deal 5♠ makes, but imagine if South had the same hand without the ♥Q. South would still jump to 4♠ in the bidding, but now 5♠ would be down 1 or 2 whereas 5♣X would go down 3 for +500! In 5♣X here, East should not risk the heart finesse as -500 is expected to be a decent score vs. -620.

Andy's lessons are always informative, well presented in interactive format, and clearly communicated with complete notes for personal follow up. Hopefully there will be further opportunities to meet with Andy this year.



Andy with club members after the lesson

Answer to the Interesting Hand

In 7S, win the opening Diamond or Heart lead and then set about trumping the three losing Diamonds in the South hand with top Spades in the North hand. Trump with SK, SQ and ST, using SA, SJ to get back to the South hand and taking out trumps at the same time. Finally back to the South hand with CA to take out the last opponent trump with S9 – and then enjoy all the Heart tricks discarding the last two clubs in the South hand, making all thirteen tricks – three Spades, 3 diamond ruffs, two minor Aces and five Hearts. A similar process will succeed in 7H, the difference being the care needed to cope with the H8 in the West hand.

Now you know the technique, see if you can work it out.

This technique is a 'Dummy Reversal' – the long trumps in Dummy are used to trump losers, and the hand with the short trumps is used to take out the opponent's trumps, which is the reverse of what usually happens!

And of course, you really do need most of the high trumps for this to work.

Well done if you worked it out!

Andy

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R.I.P. Alf Cardillo

Alf's Funeral was held on 22nd June 2018.

Social News

Dorothy Lane

Our well-loved member, Dorothy, turned 90 in May, and sadly, has chosen this milestone to retire from Bridge. She has been playing at NSBC for 21 years. Thanks for playing bridge with us Dorothy.



Mary McKeering

Mary McKeering featured on the front page of the Bayside Star in June, as one of the early students of Sacred Heart School at Sandgate, which is celebrating its 125th year. Mary was also a long time member of NSBC.



COMMITTEE OF NORTHERN SUBURBS BRIDGE CLUB INVITE MEMBERS, SIGNIFICANT PARTNERS AND FRIENDS TO CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT THE NEW CLUB HOUSE

SATURDAY 28TH JULY

4.30 - 7.00 PM | \$5 PER PERSON
DRINKS AND CHRISTMAS FINGER FOOD PROVIDED
ENTERTAINMENT BY SUE WIGHTON (JACK WIGHTON'S DAUGHTER)

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE THE EVENT BY **TUESDAY 24TH JULY**
FROM PAT SHINE, JAYNE LANDSDOWN OR LORI SEXTON