

Northern Suburbs Bridge Club

www.northernsuburbs.bridgeaustralia.org



President: Elizabeth Gibson

Newsletter



September 2016

Editor: Greg Gosney

From the President

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the New Building has been officially handed over to the Club. The building is free and clear of any debt and the Club's finances are in a healthy state. You (and the Council) are now the proud Owners – please put it to good use.

At the back of the Clubhouse we have provided a computer and printer for the use of Members. We have installed a number of games for your pleasure and there is also the facility to send and receive emails.

The early birds among you have already found the jigsaw table but I think you could use some help. Remember this activity also helps to keep the brain ticking over.

A reminder that it a requirement of this club (and any club) that when asked to move by the Director you must do so - preferably in a spirit of co-operation.

I am disappointed that I must remind people to keep their handbags closed and their wallets closer. Money has once again gone missing.

Finally, I am advising that at the AGM I will be standing down and I will not act in a holding capacity. The building is completed and the only thing to finalize will be the gardens - and perhaps not even that if we succeed in obtaining a grant. You need a President. Without the stress of building, the job will be a sinecure.

Elizabeth

"Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes." ~Jack Handey

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November 3 Final Lesson

The final Lesson 4 in this series covers a lot of Defensive ground:

-Leads: when to lead a trump (or not); when to defend passively or aggressively; list of opening leads

-Signals: Encouraging/Discouraging partner from continuing with a suit; indicating to partner which suit to change to

-Count: Asking partner how many cards he has in the opening suit led; letting partner know when to play his Ace.

As usual, the lesson will have many tips on bidding and play, and questions are encouraged throughout.

All lesson notes and hand records provided.

Hope to see you there.

Andy Slater

New Members

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

Barbara Hopley
 Anne Gooley
 Glenda Robinson
 Graham Killoran
 Diana Osbaldistan
 Denise Taylor

Melissa Weber
 Rodney Bell
 Mary Hanlon
 Jane Propsting
 Wendy Jory

Promotions

The following home club members achieved Masterpoints Ranking promotions in June, July and August. Congratulations and well done.

Graduate Master

Dympna Pitt
 Julie Forster
 Helen Bryant
 Kerry Baillie
 Robin Hawkins

Diane Thompson
 Lesley Peek
 Ghislaine Green
 Brooke Spencer

Club Master

Jennifer Ahern
 Margaret Low
 Christine Egan
 Philip Sullivan

Jane Mullins
 Kevin Fuge
 Alan Hayman

Local Master

Tiffany Mair
 Guy Horsley
 Jo-Anne Bauer

Neil Benson
 Wayne Hooper

*Local Master

Lin Kendall

Victor Bampton

**Local Master

Claire Mudie
 Sally Hadwen

Carlie Horrigan

Regional Master

Lesley Wallace

*Regional Master

Mary Hardy

Lee Horner

New Director



Albert Loh with Jane Kavanagh

Congratulations to Albert Loh who is now an accredited club Director. He was presented with his Director's certificate by Jane Kavanagh who is a regular Director for the club. Lately, Albert has been performing Director's duties on Tuesday mornings.

Sudoku

	6	2		3	7			
								9
		5	8			2		6
7				1		9		
2			3		4			5
		1		2				3
1		9			2	3		
6								
			6	7		4	5	

NSBC Competition Results

NSBC Imp Pairs (Sun 10 Jul)

- 1st Rosa Lachman & Bill Hunt
- 2nd Murray Perrin & Carmel Martin
- 3rd Ralph Parker & John Mills



Rosa Lachman & Bill Hunt

- 1st B Bruce Carroll & Paul Roberts
- 2nd B Lex Ranke & Jack Rohde



Bruce Carroll & Paul Roberts

- 1st C Mary Staley & Jennifer Vickers

Best Performing Novice Pair -
Jo Neary & Bill Hanlon

Best Performing Northern Suburbs Pair -
Abigail Wanigaratne & Nikolas Moore



Jennifer Vickers & Mary Staley



Bill Hanlon & Jo Neary



Nik Moore & Abi Wanigaratne

Hoffman Tray (Wed 20 Jul & 27 Jul)

- 1st Dorothy Gehrke & Errol Miller
2nd Larry Moses & Stephen Stening
3rd Lex Ranke & Ross Murtagh

Thursday Pairs (Thu 18 Aug & 25 Aug)

- 1st Mary Ryan & Sunil Mukherjee
2nd Paul Roberts & Gayle McCarthy
3rd Dorothy Gehrke & Errol Miller

Members' Achievements

These are successes by home club members playing in external Congresses since our last newsletter. Players listed in *italics* are not members of NSBC.

BBC Graded Teams (Sun 24 Jul)

- 1st A Jane Farquhar, Yolande Coroneo,
Mary Ryan, Sunil Mukherjee



Mary Ryan, Jane Farquhar, Yolande Coroneo,
Sunil Mukherjee

Moreton-Bribie Swiss Teams (Sun 31 Jul)

- 1st B Gregory Gosney, Margaret Plunkett,
Lex Ranke, Jack Rohde



Greg Gosney, Margaret Plunkett, Lex Ranke,
Jack Rohde

Redcliffe Graded Pairs (Sun 21 Aug)

- 2nd Paul Roberts & Bruce Carroll

QBA Graded Pairs (Sat 3 Sep)

- 1st C Andrew Gosney & Jack Luke-Paredi

Events for Novices

The events listed below are suitable for novice players (generally less than 100 Masterpoints). All are Red Masterpoint Congresses. Some of the events are exclusively for novices. Others are graded and will be divided up in to separate sections based on players' rankings. In a graded event you only play against other players within the section you are allocated to.

Novices Only

- Oct 30 QCBC Novice Teams
Nov 13 Sunshine Coast Novice Pairs
Dec 11 QBA Teams of Three (Kenmore)

Graded Events

- Oct 22 Surfers Paradise Graded Teams
Nov 20 Gold Coast Graded Teams
Nov 27 Toowong Graded Teams
Dec 4 Redland Graded Teams
Dec 11 QBA Teams of Three (Kenmore)

Coming Events

Coming events for the next few months are as follows (excludes Novice events):

- Oct 1 Toowoomba Swiss Pairs
Oct 2-3 Toowoomba Swiss Teams
Oct 15-16 QBA Open Pairs
Oct 16 Gympie Teams
Oct 22 Surfers Paradise Graded Teams
Oct 30 QCBC Open Pairs
Nov 5-6 Northern Suburbs Imp Pairs
Nov 13 Toowoomba Swiss Teams
Nov 13 QBA Senior Pairs (Gold Coast)
Nov 19-20 Noosa Imp Pairs
Nov 20 Gold Coast Graded Teams
Nov 27 Toowong Graded Teams
Dec 4 Redland Graded Teams
Dec 18 QBA Individual

Articles from Members

Tuesday Afternoon Sessions

(by Jo Neary)

2015 saw the emergence of the Tuesday afternoon session. It began as an informal "Social Bridge" session where players could come on their own and a partner would be provided. It was also a session where Learners, who had finished Help With Play, could play in an environment that wasn't intimidating and still be offered help and advice. Jim Taylor kindly offered to come and give short revision lessons on Novice topics and then help the group with their play. There were no masterpoints attached to results and participants could improve their play by asking for some help – usually with their bidding.

The numbers quickly grew and I was asked to be involved and help out with the Bridgemates and afternoon tea.

Stephen Stenning was the next to join "the help" and is using the session to gain experience towards becoming a director and learn the Bridgemate. He also plays with people who turn up without a partner.

Today it has grown into a session averaging 16 tables. Because masterpoints are now attached to the results, players cannot ask about a hand until the end of the round if there is time or at the end of the day.

The afternoon is very relaxed with novice and social players combining to make the sessions fun and helpful. Learners are welcomed and our "more experienced" players help them understand the routine i.e. table movement etc. Extra time is given for each hand – usually 6.5 minutes although this can go up to 7 minutes if a new group of learners join us straight from lessons. A little more table talk is allowed than in a normal club session – although really not encouraged.

Earlier this year we had some very experienced players volunteer their time and stayed back one Tuesday afternoon to explain the finer points of bridge. Masterpoints were not attached to this

session but the players were grateful for any help.

We are fortunate that our club runs a mentoring program throughout the year. Some mentors use the Tuesday session as a friendly environment in which to help the players they are mentoring. The other players also benefit from having these good players amongst them. Often the mentor goes home exhausted with the number of questions asked by the group during tea or afterwards.

In May, players signed up to play in the Australia Wide Novice Pairs. NSBC fielded 20 tables (with some couples in reserve if necessary). It was the largest field in Australia!

It is a pleasure to be there on Tuesdays to watch learners enjoy bridge and improve their play. After all we all had to start somewhere. Many of our players are starting to venture forth into other club sessions and find it all the more pleasant for the experience they have gained in the Tuesday Afternoon sessions.

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Bridge Basics and Interesting Hands

(by Greg Gosney)

We all have occasions when we struggle with bidding. Less experienced and newer players sometimes struggle even with the basics of bidding. As half our club members are ranked as Local or lower, I will cover three situations which come up too often at the bridge table in club sessions. Two are about bidding and one is on the opening lead against a suit contract.

After Back to Basics, I have included a few hands from recent competitions. One is on declarer play which is intended to be instructive and helpful. I hope you find all three hands interesting.

Enjoy.

"I hate housework! You make the beds, you do the dishes and six months later you have to start all over again." - Joan Rivers

Back to Basics

2NT Response

Players often respond in no trumps when they don't have a fit with their partner's suit, have less than 4 cards in a major, and are reasonably balanced. If you open one of a suit and your partner responds 2NT, how strong is their hand? If you don't know the answer to this question then you need to discuss it with your partner.

I have seen players respond 2NT with anything from 10 HCP through to 20 HCP. Many times the contract has been passed out in 2NT with declarer making anything up to 13 tricks. It is import that you and your partner are clear on the point range for a 2NT response, and equally so for 1NT and 3NT responses.

Some play the 2NT response as 13-15 HCP and 3NT response as 16-18 HCP. It is more common for players to respond 2NT with an invitational hand of 10-12 HCP (or 11-12 HCP) and 3NT with 13-15 HCP. I suggest the following range for no trump responses with a balanced hand:

1NT	6-10 HCP
2NT	11-12 HCP
3NT	13-15 HCP

My experience is that the two point range for the 2NT response is better as it makes it easier for partner to judge whether the invitation to game should be accepted. It is also a tad safer if your minimum 1-level opening is 11 HCP.

It is usual for the no trump responses to deny a 4+ card major. One exception is when the bidding sequence is 1S – 1NT. Partner may have four or more hearts but not enough points to bid at the 2-level.

Game Values and Support Opposite One of a Major Opening

How do you bid your hand when partner opens one of a major and you have 3+ card support and 13+ points? Sounds too easy but on occasions I have seen players raise to four of partner's major immediately with such a hand. It is better to reserve the immediate raise to the 4-level for a weak hand with excellent trump support and good shape. For

example, opposite a 1S opening with the following hand jump to 4S:

♠ Q8653
♥ 2
♦ QJ7
♣ 10954

This hand is called a "weak freak", a preemptive raise, because it is 5+ card support, short in one suit and has weak values (a maximum of 6 or 7 HCP). The hand must be bid to the 4-level immediately for two reasons – it shuts out the opposition and there is a good chance your partner will make 10 tricks. This type of hand comes up often enough that it is worthwhile for the 4-level raise to show such a hand. Also, if your partner has a strong hand it will discourage them from looking for slam. On the flip side, if you have opening values and jump to the 4-level immediately and partner has a strong hand, slam may be missed as partner will think you have a "weak freak".

To show 3+ card support and game values, first respond in another suit and raise the major to the 4-level on your second bid. It is okay if the other suit is only three cards in length as you intend to raise partner's suit to the 4-level. Responding with a three card suit is allowable and does not need to be alerted.

When partner opens 1M and you have 3+ card support, you may wish to use the following as a guide when raising partner to the correct level:

2M	6- 9 points
3M	10-12 points (this is a Limit Raise)
4M	maximum 7 HCP, normally 5+ card support, singleton or void in side suit
4M	(After bid of another suit) 13+ points

It is worth mentioning that some players prefer to make a Limit Raise only with 4+ card support. With exactly 3-card support, they will bid another suit first (or 1NT forcing if playing 2/1) then 3M on their second bid. Expert players argue on which way is better, so you and your partner should just go with whichever you prefer.

"The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room." - anonymous

Avoid Leading Away from an Ace against a Suit Contract

If the opponents are in a suit contract and you are on opening lead, it is unwise to lead away from an ace. The reason is you risk giving up a trick to the opposition that they may not otherwise have made.

Declarer may have a singleton king in the suit which they will win and can then trump your ace if it is played later. Or declarer may win the first trick with the king and discard any losers in the suit before you have an opportunity to play the ace.

Remember, this applies only when the opponents are in a suit contract. Against no trump contracts it is okay to lead away from an ace if you are trying to establish tricks in a long suit.

How to Play?

Here is a board from the ANC Swiss Pairs. Dealer is north, all vulnerable and the contract is 4♠ by west with no interference by opponents. As west, how would you play the hand when ♥8 is led?

West	East
♠ KQ5	♠ J9732
♥ 964	♥ A75
♦ Q3	♦ A982
♣ AKQ72	♣ J

In the actual event, a few players made only nine tricks, thirteen made 10 tricks and ten made 11 tricks. First of all, how many losers can you see? You will definitely lose to the ♠A and possibly a diamond and two hearts for nine tricks.

If you win the first trick with the ♥A and begin to draw trumps conceding control to the opponents you will lose two hearts, a spade, and possibly a diamond. The best line of play is to win with the ♥A and discard two heart losers in dummy on the high clubs in hand before drawing trumps. After winning the first trick play the ♣J from dummy and ...?

If you allow the ♣J to run by playing a low club from your hand, you will have created a major problem for yourself. You will not be able to get back to your hand safely without

the opponents gaining control. It is important to overtake the ♣J in hand.

Play the remaining two club honours discarding the two heart losers in dummy. You lose two tricks only to the ♠A and a diamond honour. If the third round of clubs is ruffed by the opponents you will still make 10 tricks.

There was a lot going on in the play of the hand - counting losers, retaining control, delaying drawing trumps, managing entry to declarers hand and discarding losers. The full board is shown below.

♠ A106		
♥ 82		
♦ K654		
♣ 10964		
♠ KQ5		♠ J9732
♥ 964	Dir: N	♥ A75
♦ Q3	Vul: Both	♦ A982
♣ AKQ72		♣ J
	♠ 84	
	♥ KQJ103	
	♦ J107	
	♣ 853	

What to Bid?

Here is a board from an imp pairs event. EW are vulnerable and the dealer is east. East passed, south opened 1♠ and I was sitting west with the following hand:

♠ J108632
♥ Q7
♦ AK8
♣ 75

I passed, north passed and I was hoping my partner would double which I would then pass for penalty. Instead, he cue bid 2♠ which showed at least 5-5 in hearts and an unspecified minor with high card values in both suits. As my partner was a passed hand he had less than 11 HCP.

South passed and I found myself in a most unusual bidding dilemma. Sitting west, what would you have bid opposite east's 2♠ cue bid?

With unfavourable vulnerability, I wasn't keen on bidding 3♥ nor 2NT to find out my partner's minor suit. It could have been diamonds but it was more likely to be clubs. Knowing that at least five of the missing spades were on my right with south and with six spades in hand I felt 2♠ was playable. I chose to pass and the hand was passed out at 2♠.

My partner made eight tricks and we were the only EW pair in 2♠. Of the EW pairs in 3♥ about half made only 8 tricks. The full board is shown below.

♠ 7 ♥ K106 ♦ J95432 ♣ QJ4 ♠ J108632 ♥ Q7 ♦ AK8 ♣ 75 ♠ AKQ54 ♥ 952 ♦ Q7 ♣ K98	♠ 9 ♥ AJ843 ♦ 106 ♣ A10632 Dlr: E Vul: E-W
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A Rarity

Andrew played for the Queensland Youth Team at the ANC in Brisbane this year. He was sitting south when he picked up one of the best hands ever. Here is the full board.

♠ 862 ♥ 92 ♦ KJ953 ♣ K85 ♠ J109 ♥ J653 ♦ Q1084 ♣ 109 ♠ AKQ7 ♥ AKQ ♦ A ♣ AQJ43	♠ 543 ♥ 10874 ♦ 762 ♣ 762 Dlr: E Vul: N-S
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Did you count the high card points in south's hand? There are twenty nine of them! Have you ever held a bridge hand with that many high card points? The bidding proceeded as follows:

W	N	E	S	
-	-	p	2♣	
p	2♦ ¹	p	4NT ²	
p	5♣	p	5NT	1. Waiting
p	6♥	p	7NT	2. Blackwood

With so many high card points, and all the aces and kings Andrew made a spirited 7NT bid. As the saying goes "No guts, No glory". The lead was ♦4. Barring a 4% 5-0 split on the clubs, thirteen tricks is cold. The ♠7 can be thrown on the ♦K, making the spade break irrelevant. Of the teams competing, only one in Open, three in Seniors, and two in each of Womens and Youth bid to 7NT.

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Another Interesting Hand

(by Andrew Gosney)

Stacking the Odds

Here's another hand from this year's ANC Teams championship that I think showed a clever way of turning "probable" into "certain". After a line of bidding with no interference from the opponents my partner and I ended up in 6♥ as South on this hand:

North	South
♠ KJ8	♠ A103
♥ A742	♥ KJ103
♦ A8632	♦ 105
♣ Q	♣ AKJ2

On this hand the ♣10 is led. How do you play? Take a moment to think about what you're missing and the plays you will need to make to cover those gaps. Got your plan? Good. Does your plan involve a spade finesse? If it does, give up now. You have a diamond loser you can't get rid of (throwing diamonds on the top clubs still leaves you with the ♦8 in dummy and the ♦10 in hand), so you can't afford to lose any more tricks. If you try to finesse the spades, you have a

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