

From the President

Here we are at the end of 2018. Time flies when you are a bridge player.

This is another big issue with many items of interest. Also, we are working on a Member Survey, as we have very little idea about the backgrounds of other members or what they do outside the club. If you haven't already, we invite you to complete the survey. Results will be published shortly.

We conducted a successful Novice Congress in October and by all accounts it was a very enjoyable day. There were quite a few members playing in their first congress and, now that they have their feet wet, hopefully they will be keen to enter future congresses at our club and also broaden their experience by playing at neighbouring clubs.

We also held an Open Pairs Congress in November. The number of entries, especially from Noosa, was disappointing. Hopefully more of our members will be able to enter our special events next year.

I hope to see you at our Christmas party and I wish you all a happy and safe festive season.



Ross Gyde

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(recent LESSON graduates)

Kim Adkins	Helen Hughes
Elizabeth Bergland	Roy Jones
Margie Charlton	Stephen Lovegrove
Jane Craig	Muriel Meyer
Anna Headlam	Helen Robson
Ian Hodgkinson	James Taylor
Pam Holm	Robyn Vincent
Chrissy Hordern	



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Charity Day

Once again a big thank you to all members for their generosity. We raised \$2,250 for the Farmers Drought Appeal & \$1,500 for the RSPCA Charity Day. That brings our 2018 fund raising total to \$8,190.



Rachel Wagner



Sue Bosch



Ruth Church



Elma Paull



Member Achievements

30 September & 1 October – Toowoomba Queens
 Birthday Swiss Teams
 3rd – Ines Dawes +++

6-7 October - Brisbane Zone GNOT Final
 1st - Alison Dawson +++
 4th – Abby Wanigaratne +++
 5th - Evelyne Mander +++

14 October – Gympie Teams
 A 3rd – Ken Dawson +++
 B 2nd – Peter Coppin +++
 B 3rd – Ruth Greentree/Nannette Jones ++

17 October – Noosa Novice Pairs



2nd A – Eugenie Mooney/ Anna Irminger



3rd A – Leonie Shanahan/ Sue Bosch



2nd A – David Harris/ Tim Ridley



3rd A – Terry O'Dempsey/ Evelyne Mander



2nd B – Ed & Jan Beckett



3rd B – Merrellyn Daly/ Gayna Ryan



1st B – Phil Griffiths/ June Drysdale



2nd B – Sally Simmons/ Meredith Bunn

3rd B – Sue Smith/Peta Mackay

Sunday 28 October – QCBC Open Teams
 3rd B – Ann Mellings/ Abby Wanigaratne ++

5-12 November – John Fell
 1st A – Jane Dalziell/Angela Hall
 1st B – Phil Griffiths/June Drysdale
 1st C – Peta Mckay/Sue Smith

11 November – SC Novice Pairs
 3rd B – Trudy Ryan/Pat Lovell

11 November – Toowoomba Swiss Teams
 1st – Ann Mellings/ Abby Wanigaratne

17- 18 November – Noosa Pairs Congress

25 November – Toowong Graded Teams
 2nd A – Geoff Olsen/Maureen Jakes ++
 2nd B – Abby Wanigaratne +++



Birthdays



Heather Mott - 90



Joy Coop - 95



Member Profile: Barry Midgley

Way back when the world and we were a bit younger, a country music fellow Lucky Starr seemed to be constantly on Aussie radio singing that he 'had been everywhere, man....' The poor chap hadn't of course, however much loved senior Bridge Clubber Barry Midgley appears to have done it, in spades.

A diplomatic career led the gregarious Barry and his wife Maureen to postings in Nigeria (Biafra), Iran, Finland, Cyprus, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and twice to Australia, where he finally ended up Consul-General.

In between postings in the mid 1980s the affable Yorkshireman had terrified diplomatic missions across the globe when he travelled around for two years checking staffing levels and that Foreign Office funds were being used exactly in the manner in which the Foreign Office had intended. Those forays encompassed Havana, Damascus, Hungary, Sofia, Dusseldorf, Munich, Hanover and Stuttgart, Tunisia, Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru, Mexico, Bolivia, Belize, Honduras and Costa Rica.



This extraordinary career started out fairly humbly when Barry was six and his police detective father died. As his mother had to go out to work, the diminutive Barrington was put in the care of the St Georges Police Orphanage in Harrogate. The timing was all up the spout, coinciding with WWII and the Blitz. York was only

a secondary target, but Barry and his pals were certain Herr Hitler's secret agenda was the demolition of York's famous choccy factories.

After Grammar School, Barry went to Aden with the National Service Yorkshire Infantry. He recalls fleet-

footed Dr Roger Bannister was testing soldiers' endurance abilities with different medications. Some disgruntled infantrymen (not Barry of course) took umbrage, and seemingly swapped pills with each other to confuse the research.

Back in beautiful York Barry met his future wife, who had been born in the same nursing home as himself. Maureen fell under the Midgley spell as Barry volunteered for work in the Civil Service. During the early years he supplemented his white collar career with a weekend job at the Green Man pub in Ealing, a hostelry renowned for its highly excitable Irish clientele. Meanwhile, Maureen was working in the private office of the Secretary of State for War, a chap called John Profumo.

The Foreign Office then took over their lives. The couple's introduction to Australia was via the High Commission in Canberra. There was no lake in those days, but lots of cricket and soccer — where for some reason Barry played with the German side and was the diplomatic link between



Germans and Austrians — all of whom simply refused to pass the ball to each other. On the home front, Maureen gallantly gave up her career for motherhood & produced the first two of their children.

Then came a stint in Enugu E.Nigeria, which was somewhat of a shock after Australia. They arrived just after a massacre in the north and managed to spend seven months there before being evacuated during the Biafran crisis. Thanks to a tip-off from his driver, Barry was arrested because the constabulary did not like the Lagos plates on his diplomatic car. Released after a few hours, he was told the High Commission had been terribly worried .. whether the car was safe. The place was shelled and bombed; Maureen and the children left first and by the time Barry got away, all their possessions had been looted.

The frugal Foreign Office showed its concern by offering a £600 loan, interest-free. With this (the F.O. told them on a Friday) they were to re-kit, buy another car and get themselves to to a new posting in Tehran by the following Monday. En route they parked the car outside their hotel in Naples, where of course everything was looted once again.



The sea crossing to Beirut nearly wrote Maureen off but Tehran turned out to be beautiful. Barry was Consul. The traffic was awful; the climate extreme; but the jasmine, pomegranate bushes, birdlife and nightingales serenades were delightful. They did a lot of exploring and driving in the beautiful mountains. One time they were halted by horsemen, leading hundreds of horses owned by the then popular Shah to fresh pastures.

Inevitably, soccer entered the equation. Mountain shepherds would venture down from their fields to join in their game. Barry's casually garbed team played for the UK versus an immaculately uniformed West Germany at the Stadium prior to an Iran-Pakistan International match. Unfortunately the UK goalie wore glasses. At half-time organisers turned on the floodlights; he was bedazzled and blinded; they lost.



The couple returned to London for a few years during which time Barry made his mark in the House of Commons. An adjournment debate was to discuss deaths of pilgrims in Mecca stampedes. Barry's colleague in charge of Middle East affairs fell ill, so his mantle fell on the young Midgley. He entered the House in great

trepidation, following the Speaker, whose role it would be to write and pass to Barry any questions raised in the debate. All that trepidation was wasted : no questions were asked, perhaps due to the presence in the House of Commons of merely two Members.

With three youngsters to their credit, the couple set off in 1972 for a post in Finland and far too much winter. As a founding member of the Helsinki Cricket Club, (he has the tie to prove it) Barry ventured to Stockholm, where all of his team mates had put their occupations down as 'wicket-keeper'. The meticulous Swedes were unimpressed and woke them at 1.00 am to fill out their forms again. On the pitch things degenerated further: many of the Swedish side turned out to be West Indians, married to blonde Scandinavians.

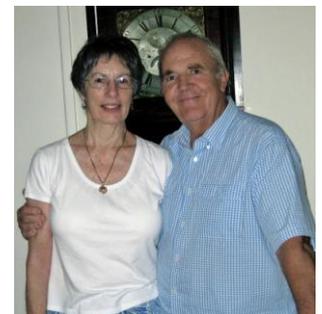
Cyprus was next on the agenda, just following the Turkish invasion. Barry and Maureen loved the place and the big-hearted people, but the locals were confused and very sympathetic when after three years Barry was transferred ... to Turkey. Again, the Midgleys

saw the glass as half-full, loving the countryside, the friendly local residents, visiting Gallipoli before it became overrun with tourists, touring Roman and Greek ruins, braving the bitter winters, poor air quality .. and medical facilities to match.

Back to London, Barry embarked on his three x three monthly trips around the world each year checking that Embassies were watching the petty cash and not so petty cash carefully. Then in 1987 they went to Riyadh, where Barry was Consul-General for three years. Life was carefully regulated by local custom, with even television shows interrupted by the five daily calls to prayer. One example was a few colleagues from different Embassies were over to watch the UK Cup Final when a call to prayer halted the program for 10 minutes. When it came back on they had missed the goals!

Barry's last diplomatic posting was for five years in the early 1990s as Senior Management Officer and Consul-General in Canberra. By the time retirement loomed, Maureen had very sensibly fallen in love with Australia, but her husband yearned for the UK so they settled at Bournemouth, exchanging houses with people at Mossy Point in NSW for three months each year. They retired to Canberra in 2001 after a couple of years failing to settle back to life in the UK. After six years in chilly Canberra they discovered Noosa and on their first propitious morning awoke in Gympie Terrace to the sound of birdsong. They rose and walked the riverfront, fell for the place and came to live here in 2008. Although the three children and four grandchildren hold Australian passports, and after all his service for the Crown, Barry and Maureen are still waiting to be granted permanent residence in Australia.

Back to that six-year old Barry and his orphanage : its founder was a Miss Catherine Gurney, who had been awarded the OBE in 1930. St Georges prided itself on keeping up with and celebrating the achievements of its children.



In 1990 John Barrington Midgley was also awarded the OBE, by Her Majesty in person. Barry does not want any of us to know about it as he thinks it is pretentious. So we will not mention it here.

by Susie Osmaston



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, eg 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.

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 (eg 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

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Source: VBA Bulletin, Editor Bill Jacobs



Paul Marston Visit

The beginners' lessons class of 2018 had finally stopped laughing.

They were ready to start practice play for the day when Lizi announced that she had a surprise. "Everyone, I would like you to meet Paul Marston."

Paul graciously thanked everyone, offered encouragement and signed the copies of his book which Lizi uses for the lessons.

After Paul left we finally got going.

What a great thrill for everyone.

Don Robertson

Coming Events

- 14 December – Christmas Party



In Memoriam

Wilma Lewis

Di Whitton

***Thank you
To all who have
volunteered to make
this Club as great as it is.
We appreciate you!
Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year.***



Fire Evacuation

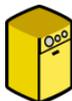
- **Inform calmly a Committee Member** about a suspicious occurrence.
- **Follow CM directives for evacuation** through Eastern and/or Southern and/or kitchen exit.
- **Keep track of your partner** - that is the only way to know everybody is out.
- **Help people** with walking aids.
- **Muster point is the field car-park.** Keep driveways free for fire-brigade.

Did you know?



That we are now recycling soft plastics: biscuits wrappers, zip lock bags, plastic bags etc. There is a small bin in the kitchen for this purpose, which when full will be taken to Woolworths or Coles & placed in the recycle bins provided.

Reminder



The Club's dishwasher is designed to cope with crockery, glasses & teaspoons that require minimum cleaning. It does not cope with food scraps. If you use a plate or a fork or knife to eat food, please scrub it clean at the kitchen sink before putting it into the dishwasher tray. Also, the dishwasher does not cope with lipstick; please use the cleansing "gizmo". And, some members are leaving dishes or plastic ware in the kitchen sink overnight! This is a no-no because the cleaner will then not clean the kitchen sink. Please be considerate.



One Wish

A bridge duffer was polishing a lamp and ... poof! Out popped a genie who said, "I will grant you one wish." The duffer unfolded a map of the world and said, "Let all of these countries live in peace and harmony." "You've got to be kidding! I'm only a genie." The duffer thought for a while and then suggested, "OK, then make me a winning bridge player." "Hmm..." the genie pondered. "Let me see that map again."

From Richard Pavlicek "Bridge Jokes"





“GUESS WHO?”

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE



PHOTO # 1



Be Polite



Respect Directors



Introduce yourself



Don't discuss until end of session.



Greet your opponents



Enjoy the game

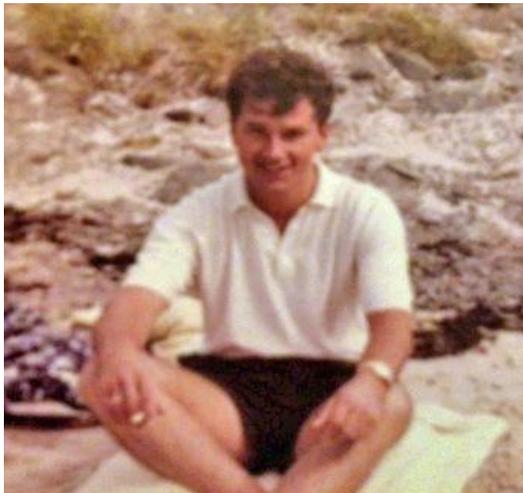
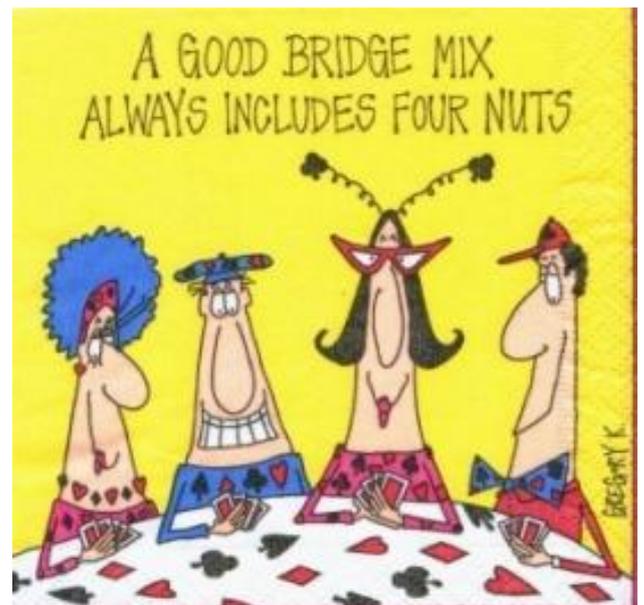


PHOTO # 2



Source: <http://www.milnertonbridgeclub.co.za/what-is-bridge>

ANSWERS TO LAST “GUESS WHO?”



PHOTO 1
Bill Howard



PHOTO 2
Peta Mackay



PHOTO 3
Don Robertson