



December 2019 Newsletter

From the President

Since our last Newsletter we have held two congresses. In October there was a one day Novice Congress. Thirty pairs participated mostly from our club with six pairs from neighbouring clubs. Some players were playing in their first congress and we had many reports of how much they enjoyed the day. This is a great way to develop your game and collect master points to progress through the ranks. We also held a two day Pairs Congress in November. There were fifty two pairs entered which was a big increase on last year. Players came from as far afield as Sydney, Darwin, Maryborough and Brisbane and included a total of 37 players ranked Grand Master or higher.

Our round of charity days has been completed for the year. They were held to support Riding for the Disabled, Oz Harvest and our annual recipient, Katie Rose Cottage. We also supported Bridge for Brains. All together we raised \$6,165. Well done everyone.

Our Christmas Party is coming up on 13 December. In accordance with the overwhelming preference of members who participated in our survey this will take the form of a cocktail party after bridge. We are also hoping to have enough interest to conduct our Orphans Christmas Day again this year.

This is the last Newsletter for 2019 and I take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe festive season.



Ross Gyde

**2020 SUBS ARE DUE
BY 31 DECEMBER 2019**



**merry
christmas
and
happy
new year!**

Around the Club

Charity Day

Our Charity Day for Katie Rose Hospice was held on 7 October 2019. There were numerous raffle prizes and a silent auction for a lovely Temple Jar.



Santa's Classy Helpers Christmas Appeal

During the week of 18-22 November we collected everyday pantry staples to support disadvantaged local families cater for their Christmas. Last year Santa's Classy Helpers assisted 300 families. What a great effort!



WELCOME

New Members & Beginners Lesson Graduates:

Claudia Barnes, Julia Caldwell, Steve Lobb, Beulah O'Shea, Marilyn Searle, Helen Wood

Past Members: Simon Fleming

Congratulations Gerald





Member Achievements



1 September – SC GNOT Final

1st A – Pam Hawkins/Peter Tall/Lorraine Vachon/
Ross Gyde/Di Stagg
2nd A – Geoff Olsen/Maureen Jakes++

8 September - Noosa Teams

3rd A – Alison Dawson/Dick Trollope++



1st B – Don Robertson/
Jennifer Hollingworth/
Carolann Verity/
Margaret Robertson



2nd B – Peter Hagan/
Maureen Wright/
Sandy Long/Moira Gibbens



3rd B – Susan Powley/
Jenny Mawson/Ray
Powley/Karin Glenning

15 September - Sunshine Coast Graded Pairs

1st A – Ann Mellings/Di Jones
2nd C – Dawn George +

7 October - Toowoomba Queens Birthday Pairs

1st A – Alison Dawson +
1st B – Bill Howard/Geraldine Howard

13 October – Gympie Teams

1st A – Tim Ridley/David Harris/Philippa Barnett/
Sam Halvorsen
2nd A – Di Jones/Allison Walker/Ross Gyde/Lorraine Vachon
2nd B – Phil Griffiths/June Drysdale/Margaret Robertson/
Don Robertson

14 & 21 October – Spring Pairs

1st A – Allison Walker/Di Jones
1st B – Phylly & Barry De Lacy
1st C – Eve Coombe/Maddy Nielsen

16 October – Noosa Novice Pairs



1st A –
Lesley Cobb/
Alexa Parker



2nd A –
Julie Scott/
Elizabeth Van Vugt



3rd A –
Barry DeLacy/
Sue Downs



1st B & 2nd Overall –
Meredith Bunn/Penny Bailey



3rd B –
James Taylor/Robyn Vincent

4 & 11 November - Memorial Event

1st A – Maureen Wright/Sandy Long
1st B – Susie & John Osmaston

16 & 17 November – Noosa Pairs



2nd B – Di Quigley/
Lizi French (absent)



1st C – Bobby MacNee
/Maureen Wright



Special Mention:
Persephone Lobb/
Althea Crowley

Please be precise when entering the lead in the Bridgemate. Inadvertent contract errors are more easily rectified if the correct lead card is recorded. Our Directors will be grateful.
Thanks, Di Quigley



Member Profile: Ed Beckett



Where's Ed? The dark figure at the far right.

Kenneth Grahame summed it up perfectly in *Wind in the Willows*, when Ratty explained to Moley “*there is absolutely nothing, half as much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.*” Be it a sailing cargo ship up the Amazon, a submarine under the Arctic ice, skippering in the Sydney to Hobart, or cruising the world with Jan, Ed Beckett has done the lot.

Most of his first couple of years of life were, however, spent under the dining room table, the only place in the house deemed safe enough while Herr Hitler tried to wipe out the Port of Liverpool. Father was in the Merchant Navy, paying fleeting visits home. Mother finally decided she'd had enough of Adolf and his bombs, so they moved to Holy Island, off Angelsey Island, on the west coast of Wales.

They lived in the idyllic seaside village of Trearddur Bay, 200 metres from a sandy beach and the Irish Sea. Some 300 metres in the other direction lay the waters separating the two islands. Young Ed and his siblings called this the 'Inland Sea' and took to it like ducks to water. Ed sailed dinghies across the expanse and enterprisingly charted the lot, named bays, points and islands and took depth soundings, creating a chart of the whole area.

He attended what was then called Holyhead Grammar. Ed wanted to follow his father's career, so he was enrolled in the Merchant Navy College *HMS Conway*, which had been a 19th-century wooden sailing ship in the Menai Strait, separating Angelsey from the mainland. Ed's timing was a bit out, as that same year the historic vessel ran aground and was wrecked while being towed for a refit. By the time he started, the college continued as *HMS Conway*, but consisted instead of Nissan huts.

It was a world of regimentation, right down to the initiation ceremonies. Hung on the *Rangitata* dormitory wall was a painting of that NZ passenger liner. When laid on the floor, new recruits had to kneel and kiss the painting, while their seniors walloped them on the bottom.

At the age of 17 Ed left the walllopers behind to join the same shipping line as his father, as an officer cadet crewing cargo vessels around Bombay, Cochin, Sri Lanka, Madras and Calcutta. At one stage they loaded grain in Canada, building the stabilising shipping boards in two days, loading the 15,000-ton cargo in one. Back in Calcutta, six four-person teams off-loaded the grain, carefully sewing it into sacks, working 24 hours a day for six weeks.

He joined a refrigerated shipping company sailing between Buenos Aires and Montevideo, loading chilled beef to be raced back to London. As a member of the Royal Navy Reserve he then spent five months training in anti submarine, biological and chemical warfare,. At 21, Ed was the lowest form of naval life, a Probationary Acting Sub Lieutenant.

Then fate took a turn and made him Third Officer on a NZ shipping company's vessel, the very same *Rangitata*. No indignities this time. As they had first-class passengers, along with third class and cargo, officers had to don naval uniforms to dazzle them in the evening. Outward journeys carried migrants bound for Wellington, homeward they were mostly New Zealanders off to discover England and Europe.

Then came nine months of submarine training before his vessel took part in exercises from Londonderry to Portsmouth, in the Channel and the Atlantic.

They finally journeyed with another sub up to the Arctic, travelling along for a couple of hundred miles under the ice, conducting experiments on transmission of sound under cold water. You had to surface in order to recharge the batteries, watching for a welcoming hole in the ice.



Their sub in the Arctic



Aged 24, Ed became Second Officer on the *MV Vamos* running between New York and the Amazon. Their route included the Windward islands, Martinique, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago. In Ed's half a dozen trips they carried a few passengers - often missionary families - backwards and forwards between New York and Belém, going 400 or 500 miles up the Amazon, mainly loading plywood. On one occasion they loaded a cargo of pitch from a lake in Trinidad, and carried it well over 2500 km up the river from Belém to Iquitos in Peru.

At sea, Ed was watch keeper and navigator (no Sat Nav in those days — you'd swing your sextant towards the noonday sun) and also the meteorological officer, often also in charge of cargo stowage - which sounds a little simpler than it actually was. Cargo on one side of the ship could be destined for and had to be accessible for six different ports, and able to be unloaded without capsizing everything else.



Surfacing from under the ice

He travelled all around the world, but rarely saw areas beyond the ports, and his boyhood idealism of a seaman's life soon disintegrated as he observed the disjointed lives led far away from families. Determined not to be caught in the same trap, in 1964 Ed switched careers radically to work as a trainee manager with Littlewoods General Stores, a Marks & Spencer wannabe.

After a few years around Wrexham, Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh he was enticed to come to Australia to work for Walton's. Coming out in 1968 as a £10 Pom (Walton's generously refunded the tenner), Ed, his first wife, daughter and baby son landed in Sydney. Retail in Australia was like a breath of fresh air, compared to England's stiff and stilted industry. Their first posting was to Canberra where Ed soon became manager. In 1975 he transferred back to Sydney, settling at Davidson, with Dee Why for beaching.

After six years of enduring a 3-hour daily commute in Sydney traffic, Ed took his wife and now three children back to Canberra. Another career change saw him invest in a naval consultancy, headed by two naval

commanders, one an architect and one an electrical engineer, specialising in assisting businesses to tender for government contracts, representing the sorts of companies that seek to build Australia's submarines or frigates.



Ed the businessman

The only problem was that the two principals detested each other. So one left, Ed bought out his share and eventually the other followed suit. The most viable component was their printing arm, which Ed developed to become a very successful enterprise.

In the 1980s he joined a yacht syndicate which raced *Nadia IV* and soon had Ed sailing it back from Hobart and racing it in the Gosford to Lord Howe. He later organised another syndicate for *Portobello*, an Adams Naut 40', and participated in three Sydney to Hobart races, first as a crew member, then navigator then skipper.

His first marriage over, in 1994 Ed met Jan, who ran the Australian Business Chamber in the A.C.T. and Southern Tablelands. Ed chaired one of the top printing industry bodies. He finally sold the printing business in 1998 and put a deposit on a house in Noosa Springs, having come here first in 1996 with Jan. After much debate they decided Noosa was the place to retire and arrived in 2000.

Ed had been playing Bridge since childhood and he and Jan joined our Bridge Club in 2002. When then President Colin Regan wanted to retire, he talked Ed into the job, which he held from 2005-2008.



Ed & Jan

They now live close to the Noosaville riverfront. Both have grown up families and grandchildren, love life and love Noosa. Messing around in boats still happens, but these days it's with his beloved Jan, on the decks of an ocean cruise liner.

By Susie Osmaston



Congress Musings

Apparently, conversation among members after the Novice Pairs Congress in October included comments about the cost of the event.

This year the cost of playing in a congress was reduced by \$5 when we followed the trend of many clubs by going the route of BYO lunch. The cost became \$30 per player for a one-day event – like the Novice Congress.

This Novice event was changed from a Sunday to a Wednesday in 2018 when a survey indicated that this was what many of our members would prefer. But an increase in participation has not eventuated. This year the Congress registration was 30 pairs (six of whom were visitors).

Because of the costs of running a congress the entry fee of \$30 per player cannot change (after all, it is this much or more in all clubs).

- Cash prizes for winners & place-getters
- Director's fee
- QBA fee
- ABF fee
- Beer / Wine / Bubbles / Soft Drinks
- Party food at end of event
- Appreciation vouchers for volunteers
- Postage

At the end of the day, the Club's profit for this event was approximately \$2 per participant which goes toward normal operation costs such as electricity, air conditioning, cleaning, tea & coffee.

A viable congress is a congress with big participation. This Novice Congress will happen again in 2020 on a Wednesday but its continuation thereafter on the Noosa Bridge Club calendar will depend on numbers. Events like congresses are great for player development and our Club encourages the support of all members.

Ted McNamara & Gerald Schaaf



DID YOU KNOW?

That the classic card suits found today (Spades, Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs) were established by the French and represent the class system in Europe at the time: Spades: Nobility; Hearts: The Holy Clergy; Diamonds: Merchants; Clubs: Peasants. Maybe a game of cards helped inspire the French Revolution?

[Source: www.casinosource.ie]



Thanks to **Graham Hugh**, Noosa Bridge Club Inc. is still involved with Paul Marston's Noosa Bridge Week. Graham has been dealing the boards for Paul for several years now. This year he dealt 846 boards. WOW!

That despite the contention by some that bridge was invented in an insane asylum in Constantinople in 1870, the game can be traced to its forerunner – whist – in the 16th century. Whist was a partnership game with a trump suit determined by chance.

The world's first recognized authority on card games, Edmund Hoyle, wrote "A Short Treatise on Whist" in 1742. It sold for 1 guinea. The book said nothing about the inadvisability or trumping partner's trick. Hoyle lived to the ripe old age of 96 or 97. His year of birth was known (1672) but not the specific date, and he died in 1769.

Now fast-forward to the first attempt to remove the luck element from the game by having different foursomes playing the same hands and comparing the results. The first game of duplicate whist was supposedly in London in 1857. No doubt at least one competitor still complained that he "didn't get any cards." Chicago followed in 1880. For the games metamorphosis from whist to the current version of contract bridge there are competing accounts.

For the several centuries of whist, there was no auction, no bidding. The auction principle was introduced early in the 20th century in India or England. This was a great step forward in the history of bridge. Now you can blame partner not just for bad play, but for bad bidding as well.

[Source: The Denver Post, Dec 2015. "Bridge Tidbits, facts & trivia on whist & other card games"]



Bidding Big Hands

During October, Don Robertson and I convened a couple of discussions on this subject, before play on Wednesdays.

We had both observed that some inexperienced players were having trouble tailoring their bidding to best describe strong hands of varying shapes. There was a tendency to open the bidding 2C with any hand having a point count of 18 or above.

Provisions of Standard system

We began by summarising the usual structure available to bid strong hands, in the normal Standard system. For balanced hands the available bids are:

- to show 15-17 hcp, open 1NT
- to show 18-19 hcp, open 1suit and next jump in NT
- to show 20-21 hcp open 2NT
- to show 22+ hcp, open 2C and then bid NT

The usual structure for bidding a strong (say 17+hcp) 2-suited hand is to bid the longer one first and then jump bid your second suit. If two equal-length suits are touching, start with the higher one.

Hands "bigger" than these standards require special treatment; often a forcing 2C opening, but not always.

Opening other very strong hands

Very strong single-suited hands, two-suited hands with concentrated honours and balanced hands are usually best opened 2C.

- ♠ AKQ9872 ♥AKQ ♦ - ♣ 974 (treat as S hand)
- ♠ K5 ♥AKQ72 ♦ KT3 ♣ AKT (treat as NT)
- ♠ AKQ86 ♥A ♦ AK763 ♣ A3 (after 2C, bid S then D)

Two-suited strong hands, where you cannot count 8+ playing tricks, are best opened at the 1-level, with a jump bid planned for second turn. With highly distributional hands, you can go slowly to gauge partner's support, as further bidding is very likely.

- ♠ A ♥A 8 6 5 4 ♦ K 7 ♣ A K Q 7 4 (open 1H)
- ♠ - ♥ - ♦ AKQxxx ♣ AKQxxxx (open 1D, and rebid 7C)

Continuations

As the hand of a 2C opener can start with a wide range of shapes (incl. voids), it is recommended that responder always answers 2D, thus giving the opener maximum room to describe his or her hand.

It is further recommended that the partnership agrees to a "2nd negative" bid, after a starting sequence of 2C: 2D: 2H/S, specifically 3C. Thus after the auction starts 2C: 2D: 2H/2S, responder now bids 3C signalling extreme weakness.



Geoff Hart



ANSWERS TO LAST "GUESS WHO?"

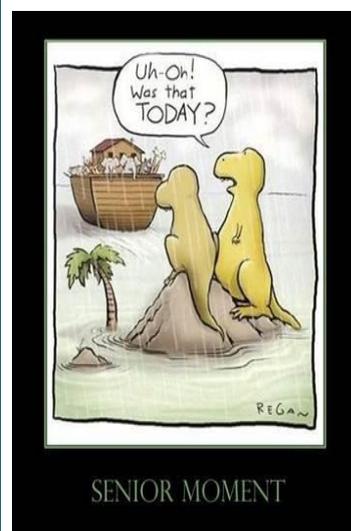


PHOTO 1
JOHN OSMASTON



PHOTO 2
TED MCNAMARA [RIGHT]

Thanks to **Don Robertson** our verandah has a new look. Four new benches have been created and built by Don so that you can be seated at the correct height for the counter and for enjoying the view. Along with the new chairs, it's a more attractive area. Well done!

Source: Dan Regan Creative