



# Toowong Bridge Club Newsletter

## July 2019

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### From the President



Dear Members - The new committee elected at the recent AGM have been left in an enviable position by the previous committee. The number of initiatives successfully completed over the past year is truly remarkable.

There are however, a few “carry-over” projects that are either in a vulnerable early stage of development, or are still in the planning phase. One of the greatest responsibilities of any new committee is to ensure the previous year’s efforts do not go to waste.

The mentoring program introduced by our previous President Larry has resulted in unquestionable skills improvement in newer players. A side benefit has been the delight of the mentors watching their ‘mentees’ perform at previously unobtainable levels. The process has effectively bridged the gap between elite and novice players so prevalent in all Bridge clubs. Maintaining and maximising the benefits already achieved from this program will be a major priority of this committee.

Increasing members’ participation in red point competitions remains an elusive goal for all Bridge clubs. The first meeting of the 2019/20 committee resolved to waive, on a trial basis, the \$5 entry fee for TBC red point competitions. The club has to buy red points from the Australian Bridge Association (ABF), so to keep the initiative cost neutral, table fees for red point events will be increased by \$1, and cash prizes for these events will no longer be awarded.

Over the past 12 months, a number of initiatives have been taken to facilitate members forming new Bridge partnerships. Chris Farr has approached the new committee with the suggestion of utilising technology to simplify this process.

The club has a computer program, known as Pianola, which enables electronic contact with and among members. The club already has about 85% of members on our Pianola database. The use of this program could be extended to enable members to find potential partners on demand. Members will be advised on how to go about finding partners on the system when it is set up and available. Thanks Chris – I would like to see a trial underway as soon as practical.

Personally, 2019 will be my third year as President, while also serving on the committee under three previous Presidents. My previous background has been primarily in the areas of business process improvement, corporate governance, strategic, financial, business planning etc.

Many improvements in these areas by recent committees have been made, but there is much more that can be achieved. I had agreed to further help this cause for the coming year, well before the question of my becoming president became relevant.

I can honestly say that after only a single committee meeting, I’ve never felt as positive, motivated, and enthusiastic about the year ahead as I do now. This is a fantastic club due to the innovative, open thinking, and enthusiastic execution of ideas, by a succession of outstanding committees. I am confident this committee will leave no one disappointed.

Cheers - Geoff

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## Welcome to Our Newest Members

Kurt Jorin  
Robyn Bagster  
Tere Wotherspoon  
Graham Francis  
Juliet Hall  
Patricia Gordon  
David Charlton  
Cheryl Rayfield  
Veronika Kenned

Welcome everyone. Happy Bridging at TBC.

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## Masterpoint Promotions

Graduate	Frank Kajlich Gerry Shannon Judy Corder Ria Mylrea
Club	Jan Carter Wendy Cuthbert Simon Fleming
Local *	Catherine Armstrong Peter Munro
Local **	Inta Devine
Regional	John Colledge
Regional*	Paul Letts
State	Raelene Clark Kay Hurman
State*	Ingrid Hartel Gill Phillippo
National	Jim Porter Ming Shu Yang
National**	Sherell Cardinal Bobby Somerville

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## Bridge Lessons

For intermediate and advancing players, Pam Schoen conducts free intermediate lessons on the first and third Monday of the month from 3.00 – 5.00 pm. The next dates and topics are –

5 August - Watching out for entries

19 August - The hold-up play & avoiding the dangerous opponent

2 September - Managing the trump suit

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## Beginner Lessons

The next set of eight weekly lessons for those new to the game of Bridge get underway again in August. Participants can enrol in either the day classes or the evening classes.

Day classes –

Monday, 5 August, 9.45am – 12.00 pm

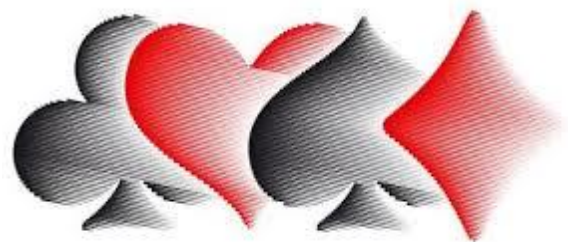
Evening classes –

Wednesday, 21 August, 6.30-8.45pm

Tuition is free. \$20 is charged for take home resources.

Pass the word around amongst relatives and friends who may be interested in taking up Bridge.

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## Coming Events

25 July - Thursday Afternoon Pairs

29 July - Monday Pairs

3 September - Toowong Charity Day (morning & afternoon)

4 & 11 September - Wednesday Morning Teams

21 September - Toowong Open Pairs & Novice Pairs Championship (TBC members only)

11 & 18 October – Friday Morning Pairs

15 & 22 – Tuesday Morning Pairs

31 October – Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs <300 MP (afternoon)

5 November – Melbourne Cup Pairs & Lunch

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## Mentor Program

The success of the Thursday evening mentoring program has prompted the introduction of a second day time session. The aim of the program is to engage developing players with more expert players. The introduction of the second day time session is in response to feedback from those attending the sessions, testifying to the value the mentoring experience has made to their game.

The mentoring program is on every Thursday night at 7.00 pm and every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 3.00 pm.

The invitation is open to experienced players to join the sessions, to share their experience as mentors, to upcoming players who are looking to lift their game to a higher level. Players may come with or without a partner. Larry Moses convenes the sessions.

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## Bridge Retiree

A TBC member of long standing is our very own Sybil Gilmore who has just celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday. On the eve of her birthday she decided to put down her bidding pencil, put away her cards, and retire from Bridge. Sybil played her final game at her beloved TBC a couple of weeks ago, on a Wednesday, in partnership with Barbara Goss.

If you are thinking Sybil is losing her marbles and probably should be tossing in the towel anyway, you had better think again, because you are wrong. In her final game with TBC, Sybil and her partner Barbara came FIRST NS with a handy 57%. Sybil is doing fine and just thought it was time to play Bridge closer to home.

We will miss you Sybil. All your friends at TBC wish you well and all the best for happy Bridge retirement days. The hope is though, that you will follow Dame Nellie Melba's shoes, and make many a come back to your friends and fans at TBC.



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## Toowong Imp Pairs with Restricted <150mp

This event, held on 30 June, attracted a large field of 92 players in the open section and 36 in the restricted section. It was a strong field and the going was tough. Richard Fox, who has generously given of his time and expertise to support the TBC mentoring program, was rated in the B section with his partner Christine Newbery, whom he has been mentoring. Nevertheless, Richard and Christine topped the field to take overall first place in the A Grade section. Taking the honours for the day were -

### Open:

- A Grade – 1<sup>st</sup> Christine Newbery  
Richard Fox  
2<sup>nd</sup> Neville Francis  
Tony Hutton  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anne Lamport  
Paul Gosney
- B Grade - 1<sup>st</sup> Peter Nilsson  
Alan Boyce  
2<sup>nd</sup> Loraine King  
Helen Standfast
- Consolation:  
Sherrell Cardinal  
Neville Clatworthy

### Restricted:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sumant Handa  
Eugene Pereira  
2<sup>nd</sup> Voyko Markovic  
Vesna Markovic  
Plate: Darren Brake  
Oliver McCarthy

As always, a big thank you to Alan Gibson who so ably directed the day; convenors Caroline Nelson and Susan Wootton; and Jane Ramus who, with Anthea Stevenson and Kim Robson organised the catering. Thanks also to the many members who donated the delicious slices, cakes and savoury items that were enjoyed by all throughout the day.

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Richard Fox & Christine Newbery – 1<sup>st</sup> A Grade



Alan Boyce & Peter Nilsson – 1<sup>st</sup> B Grade

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## Honour Board

The Australia Wide Novice Pairs is an Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) event for players with less than 100 masterpoints. Players compete against 2,800 participants in 90 clubs around the country, with scoring across the field.

TBC players participated in the event on Tuesday afternoon on 28 May 2019. Congratulations go to TBC members –

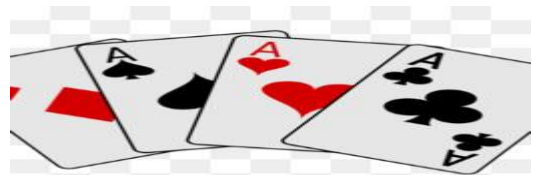
Heather Andrews and Jane Carter

Not only were they the top Queensland pair in the event, they were also in a four-way tie for 5<sup>th</sup> place, overall. The achievement of Heather and Jane, along with the other placings in the event, were noted in the Bridge column in the Saturday *'Australian'* newspaper. The paper also noted they played at TBC.

While it is not often we see them as partners, they practiced together at Toowong the week before the event. Heather and Jane are also regular players at the Indooroopilly Golf Club Bridge day, held on the second Monday of the month. This keen group, with TBC member Vicki Foots as President, introduces new players to Bridge by encouraging them to join in their friendly competition.

The Australia Wide Novice Pairs is an interesting event for those players with less than 100 masterpoints. Red points are awarded to those achieving above 57%. All players receive a booklet of the hands with the recommended bidding and items of interest from the play. Players are also eligible for discounts from the *Australian Bridge* bookstore.

Give it a go next time it comes around.



Neville Clatworthy & Sherrell Cardinal – Consolation



Sumant Handa & Eugene Pereira – 1<sup>st</sup> Restricted

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At the Annual General Meeting held on 15 June 2019 the opportunity was taken to nominate and induct a new TBC Honorary Life Member. This is an honour reserved for those members who have meritoriously served the Club. This honour was awarded to Sue Eix. Her thank you speech below shows why her nomination was so warmly embraced, and why she is such a deserving member to take her place in the TBC honour board of honorary life members.

## Honorary Life Member Sue Eix



I grew up in a card-playing family, learned all the kids' games with my grandparents (that's our job, you know), then Euchre and 500. I was occasionally called upon to make up a table for Bridge. It was "auction" in those days, and remember when my brother brought home "contract" to introduce to my parents.

When I retired, I enrolled in Diana Dick's classes, moved to Supervised Play with Ross Dick, and then took the leap into open play under their watchful eyes on Tuesday morning. It was Ross who

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announced they were looking for volunteers to score, and along with Libby Yap, I put up my hand. We were trained by Kay Hogan and the job entailed collecting the travelling score cards, entering the scores into the Scorebridge program, printing and uploading the results, and then preparing the prizes in small gold envelopes - \$3, \$2 and \$1 in coins, carefully packed away and clearly labelled – rarely to be won by me. I have to say that the Club's best players were our worst record-keepers. Their travelling scores cards were messy. I became familiar with working out what had happened so I could check the movement and match signatures.

It's common to hear that there are many people behind an award like this and this is certainly true in this case. While Bridge is our game, it is our members who make this our Club and I've really enjoyed coming to know them. From those early days as a beginner, I'm thankful to those who welcomed me to the game, gave encouragement and advice in the Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon sessions. As Masterpoint Secretary, I've also enjoyed meeting our new members as well as following the success of our competitive and representative players. I've worked with scorers, directors, dealers and our congress convenor, Janet Lovell. In fact, I actually developed a real interest in Bridge administration.

I commend members of our Committee - past, present and future - who take on responsibility for the good management of our Club. I recognise the work of Lee Rogers who led us through the 2011 Brisbane floods and getting us back to Bridge as soon as possible, and to Barry O'Donohue and Diane Swan who continued through to the reopening of our renovated clubrooms later in the year. I thank all I've cajoled into being the next competition standby, organising the raffle for a fundraiser, or providing tasty treats for a congress supper. And part of the fun has been my bridge partners, faithful Maureen Fisher, wonderful Bernice Shaw and precious Kay Conway – thanks for your patience and forgiveness.

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But it's my long-time good friend Margaret Prentice who has been there for me all along. When she joined the Committee as treasurer in 2010, I agreed to help with the cashbook. We'd meet every Saturday morning to enter the details into the accounting program. This gave me a real understanding of the life of the Club, who did what and when, what we didn't know, and how we should find out. We also tried to find time for Bridge and to work on our game. Margaret, I truly value your friendship and support.

In 2016, I began teaching beginners and in 2017-18, I passed on several of my major jobs to others when I started directing Wednesday afternoon. Now my focus is education – teaching beginners, taking supervised play, supporting Pam Schoen's 2 intermediate lessons, and organising Bridge workshops. I'm fortunate to have the assistance of the education subcommittee, Anna Griffith, Anne Griffin, Barbara O'Connor, Margaret Prentice and Marsha Knoll.

I've loved it all, and after 10 years of volunteering it's time to move on in my personal life. I thank Larry Moses and the Committee, especially Geoff Saxby and Neil Strutton for backing my nomination. It is indeed a great honour to become a life member of this Club, and it's my privilege to accept this prestigious award.

I urge everyone to consider how they can contribute to the success and development of our game and this Club through the years to come.



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## TBC Committee 2019-2020

At the recent AGM, thanks were extended to the outgoing President Larry Moses for his tireless work during his presidency. Thanks were also extended to outgoing committee members Karen Sweep (Treasurer), Wal Brake, Ming Shu Yang, Bernice Shaw and Chris Garvey, for their valuable contribution over the term of their office.

The new committee for the ensuing year is –

President:	Geoff Saxby
Vice President:	Neil Strutton
Secretary:	Lena Darlington
Treasurer:	John Densley
Committee Member:	Diane Swan
	Terry Higgs
	David Sydes
	Janet Lovell
	Angela Lawson
	Margaret Prentice

The committee is off to a running start, building on some of the recent initiatives, and newly developing some others. Check out President Geoff's remarks earlier in this newsletter.



From the back left: Dian Swan, Terry Higgs, David Sydes, Janet Lovell, Angela Lawson, Margaret Prentice, John Densley, Neil Strutton, Geoff Saxby, Lena Darlington

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