

## From the President

This is the last "From the President" message for my first term as President of NBC. It has been an enjoyable year largely due to the great Management Committee I had to work with. I also thank all the other members of the club who willingly gave their time to perform the many functions needed to keep the club operating smoothly.

There has been a downturn in numbers at our congresses and our normal club sessions and, consequently, a reduced income. We are looking at ways to reverse this trend. In the meantime it has been necessary to trim some areas of expenditure so that we do not eat into our reserves.

Sadly, we lost some of our long time members during 2018. It is unfortunate that many of us do not find out what full and fascinating lives they have led until they are gone. The Member Profiles in our newsletter provide an insight into the lives of some of our members outside of the bridge club.

Another interesting article in this issue is one on ethics and behaviour by Andrew Robson clarifying a few situations that occur at the bridge table. Andrew is widely regarded as one of the finest player/teacher/writers in the world today.

I wish you all a happy and successful 2019.



Ross Gyde

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Friday 15 March 2019, 10.30am**

**Closing Dates:**

**Motions – 22 February 2019**

**Nominations – 1 March 2019**

**Please see notice board for further details.**

## Around the Club

We said goodbye to long standing member Muriel Loveday in December. She has lived alone with her much loved little dog for many years and has now moved to be with her daughter.



Ross Gyde, President &  
Muriel Loveday

Muriel joined the club in 2004 and served on the Management Committee for 11 years & as Treasurer for a total of nine years in three terms. During that time we always knew that the club's financial management was in good hands. Muriel was known for her strong views on some matters and she always had the best interests of the club at heart.

We wish Muriel well in this next phase of her life.



### New Members

Fran Bailey, Di Barlow, Lyn Patterson,  
Des Ward & John Whiteley

## Member Achievements

1-2 December 2018 - ABF GNOT Finals

9<sup>th</sup> – incl. Alison Dawson

12<sup>th</sup> – incl. Ken Dawson

35<sup>th</sup> – Philippa Barnett/Rosie Green/David Harris/  
Tim Ridley/Sam Halvorsen

9 December 2018 – SC Zone Graded Pairs

A 1<sup>st</sup> – Dick Trollope +

A 3<sup>rd</sup> – Alison Dawson +

3 February – Qld Senior teams

1<sup>st</sup> B – Ed & Jan Beckett/Hilary French/Janelle Kipping

2<sup>nd</sup> B – Pam Hawkins/Merrellyn Daly, Gayna Ryan/  
Peter Tall

3<sup>rd</sup> B – Don & Margaret Robertson/Peter Coppin +



# Prize Winners 2018

## Club Pairs Championship

Winners – Geoff Hart/Maureen Jakes



Runners Up –  
Tim Ridley/David Harris



Plate – Bill Howard/  
Jean Pearce (absent)

## Novice Pairs Championship



Winners – David & Mary Lane



R/Up – Joan & Simon Reeve

## Club Teams Championship

Winners – Philippa Barnett/Rosie Green/David Harris/  
Tim Ridley



Runners Up –  
Hilary French/ Peter Tall/  
Pam Hawkins &  
Janelle Kipping/Carole  
McDonald (absent)

## President's Trophy



Open – Lyndon  
Sanderson /Lizi French



B – John Downs &  
Brian Manuel (absent)



C–Margot McKellar/  
June Drysdale

## John Fell Pairs Nett



A – Jane Dalziell/  
Angela Hall (absent)



B – June Drysdale/  
Phil Griffiths



C – Sue Smith/ Peta  
Mackay

## Swoop Trophy – Best Noosa Team at GC Congress



Penny Sykes/Di Quigley/Lizi French/Ross Gyde

## Swoop Trophy – Best Noosa Non-Open Team at GC Congress



Peter Coppin/Adam Hertelendy/ Margaret & Don Robertson



**Joan Rathbun Trophy**  
Novice who gained most points -  
Trudy Ryan



**Encouragement Award**  
Best performing Nil Master –  
Di Blount

## Coming Events

- 15-23 February – Gold Coast Congress
- 4 March – President's Trophy
- 9-10 March – QBA Mixed Teams
- 14, 15 & 17 March – Noosa GNOT



## Member Profile: Tom Stephenson

At the bridge table sometimes we notice the dazzling diamond rings alongside the aces, the amazingly manicured nails or the watches. Most of us do not sport a Rolex. But the very unassuming Tom Stephenson has a beauty : 1976 vintage, engraved "Australian Yachtsman of the Year" and presented on behalf of Australian Sailing by famed yachtsman and winemaker Jim Hardy.

Young Tom was a Balwyn boy, went to Camberwell Grammar (Distinction in English Literature) and following in his builder/developer father's footsteps did a Bachelor of Building degree at Melbourne University. (While there, he discovered he had been born with a hole in the heart, the size of a golf ball; and became an early candidate for open heart surgery. He now has a pacemaker, vintage 1998.)

Back to young Tom : aged eight he started sailing at the Sandringham Yacht Club and absolutely adored it. In his last year at Uni he built a 30' half ton racing yacht. Finishing Uni with a flourish (three years as stage manager of the hilarious *Architecture Revue*), he promptly went to Sydney to compete in the *Australian Half Ton Championship*. Of course he won.

That qualified him to attend the *World Half Ton Cup* in Chicago the same year. To get there without forking out an airfare Tom sailed over as part of the crew on a big 73' racing yacht owned by poker machine maestro Jack Rooklyn. With a crew of five, Tom was organiser, helmsman and aged 25 when they won.

With the new Rolex on his wrist (now in its 44th year of daily duty) he gave up plans for a building career and spent ten years or so sailing in every big race around the world. Crewmen in those days had expenses

covered and were paid a few hundred dollars a day. Tom was a trail blazer in helping to change the rules so keen young sailors could make a living. From an amateur sport enjoyed by the very rich, it was transformed into a professional sport funded by sponsorships. At the same time he was building boats for the recreational market : about 160 of them, from 23' to 50'.

His first full-time job offer was from quixotic broadcaster Rod Muir of MMM fame, who had decided to branch out into yachting and try for the *Admiral's Cup*. Working out of the MMM tower in Sydney, Tom organised an overseas buying trip, suggesting they find an old maxi racing yacht. After searching the UK and Holland, in Florida they settled on the illustrious *Windward Passage*. Their great mutual friend the late Ian Kiernan was keen on competing in the *BOC Solo Around the World Race*. Becoming tired and emotional one evening, Ian and Rod decided the latter would fund a boat for the former to sail; Tom would build it. The highlight of Ian's single-handed career was making it first into Sydney.

Tom also started to make meticulously crafted models of famous yachts, initially inspired by the 50th Anniversary of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's famous *Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race* in 1995. Over a couple of years he completed models of the 50 winners. The Club was delighted, bought the lot and gave him a lifetime contract to do one every year. To date he has crafted about 1025 models of various vessels, ranging in price from around \$1200 to \$30,000.



Tom with the Cruising Yacht Club's  
*Sydney to Hobart* models



In his role as *Clean-up Australia* founder Ian Kiernan wrote his book '*Coming Clean*'. It was launched for him by then Prime Minister Paul Keating. In appreciation, Kiernan presented Keating at Admiralty House with a Stephenson model of Vim, the first boat Paul Keating had ever sailed on (also Sir Frank Packer's first 12 metro prior to Dame Pattie and Gretel's onslaught on the *America's Cup*).

That same evening, a telephone call came to the Stephenson household: "Paul Keating here." He liked the Vim model so much he wondered if Tom had one of the classic yacht Cambria. Tom had; the Prime Minister bought it. Keating then ordered a third: a famous old international J Class yacht called Ranger, saying he would 'swing past' some time to collect it. Swing he did. Paul and Annita Keating popped in to the house the evening before the 1995 election. "How do you think you'll go tomorrow Paul?" asked Tom. "We're gone, we're gone," exclaimed Keating, proceeding to say what he thought of the Opposition. (But we don't talk politics at the bridge table.) On his last evening in office, the Prime Minister took his boat and jetted back to Canberra and lost the election. We all know about his antique clocks, his Italian suits, but not about Paul Keating's love of boats and his beautiful old Halvorsen cruiser.

When Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett decided to stage the *1999 World Sailing Championships* on Port Phillip Bay prior to the 2000 Olympics, Tom was headhunted as Event Director, hosting sailors from around the world. After that two-year project, he returned to Brisbane.



Model of the famous 70' Odyssey

In between all the boat building and racing Tom married his first wife Penny, producing two keen sailors. Tom's son has a degree in Environmental Management; his daughter has just completed her PhD in Constitutional Law. All was going well with life in Scarborough where Penny had a yacht brokerage business, then the worst of times descended upon them. Penny was undergoing tests for possible cancer and suffered a devastating stroke. A couple of days later the family was told she also had inoperable cancer. After six terrible weeks she died.

However, Cupid was rather fond of Tom. At University he had struck up a warm friendship with a girl whose parents had named Elizabeth. Her baby brother found the word unpronounceable and settled on Likky. And that's how she made it through life, to the horror of her Headmistress who thought it a highly unsuitable name for a young lady at Lauriston. Likky eventually married a surgeon and lived in the United States, working in medicine before returning to Australia. She and Tom bumped into each other again and Cupid let out a long sigh of relief.

Another great mate was brilliant local architect John Mainwaring. Tom and Likky came to Noosa to visit 'Mainboat' when his art collection was donated to the Sunshine Coast University in 2012. It was Likky's first visit to Noosa. When Tom turned the wheels home towards Brisbane his wife asked why. They returned to spend a longer holiday at Little Cove, found an apartment for sale and now walk down to the beach for a swim, every morning of the year.

Tom retired, took up the ukulele, painted watercolours, became involved with the Men's Shed, but was called back to making models by demanding clients. And he also took up Bridge. Why? In Newport, Rhode Island the yachties frequent a restaurant with sayings engraved into beams, on the walls, etc. One of them reads: "*No activity, except perhaps lovemaking or playing Bridge repays concentration with greater dividends than steering a sailboat.*" Tom figured he had mastered two of them, it was time to try the third. And if you espy a lady wandering around from Lizi's latest class with the name badge 'Likky', you will find it is now a family affair.

by Susie Osmaston



## On ethics & behaviour at duplicate clubs

By Andrew Robson

As appeared in The Times, January 2015. Printed with permission.

Why are fewer and fewer playing in many duplicate bridge clubs – whilst the game is growing in popularity at a social level?

Online bridge is undoubtedly taking people away, but the fact that friendly, welcoming duplicate clubs are all thriving points to a different reason. I fear a few regular duplicate players put newer players off by their rude, officious, critical even intimidating behaviour. The chasm of difference between the encouraging classroom is too much for many. They quickly back off and play with friends. Lost to duplicate bridge. Forever.

I'm far from alone in thinking this. Fellow Bridge teacher Harold Schogger asked me to tackle this subject and so I am doing my bit to help educate and reform.

Experienced duplicate players should be welcoming new players to the club, not frightening them away. At my club I operate a zero tolerance rule: no bad behaviour of any sort is allowed. Ever. You should greet new opponents with a cheery hello, smile a lot and thank them as you finish the round. I know I'm largely preaching to the converted. But it only takes one bad experience to put a new player off for life.

Continuing our look at Ethics and Behaviour, here's a quiz. Which of these is allowed and which not allowed:

- A. To open 1NT (ostensibly 15-17) when holding 14 points?
- B. To bid after your partner has hesitated?
- C. To hesitate when you have a singleton?

A. Perfectly legitimate. If you decide that your 14 looks like 15, open 1NT. If your opponents tell you that you're cheating, they are completely wrong, and totally missing the point. High-card points are only a guide to bidding, no more.

B. Allowed, but only if you were going to bid anyway. If the opponents believe you have bid based on partner's pause rather than your hand, they are entitled to call the Director. However, (a) they should give new players

lots of leeway here and (b) if they do feel the Director should be called, they should do so politely and gently. Don't shout "DIRECTOR". Say to the opponents, "would you mind awfully if I asked the Director to come over?" before putting up your hand and saying calmly "Director, please". He will then decide whether the bid was acceptable.

C. Not allowed. Cheating. You can never pause with the deliberate intention of misleading; only pause when you genuinely have something to think about. If you find that you've paused inadvertently (easily done in a distracted moment), say "sorry, I had nothing to think about".

"DIRECTOR". If you've played at a "scary" duplicate club, you'll know that cry.

There's no "please". There's no consultation with the other players before the shout. No wonder new players look to play elsewhere; no wonder the club has a falling membership.

Harold Schogger thinks that it is the new player who should be calling the director, not the die-hard: to complain about his high-handed, rude and intimidating behaviour. Harold's correct.

Harold reports incidents of the die-hard trying to claim back two tricks on a revoke at trick 12 (you can't revoke after trick 11). Or claiming you've cheated if you've downgraded an 18-point hand and opened a 15-17 1NT. You haven't.

I'm pretty hopeless at the Laws. Penalties for leading out of turn, revoking etc. can all get quite technical. So get the Director over – in a nice way. That's what he's there for (as well as moving the boards).

I will say one thing though: if a player inadvertently drops two cards on the table (or a similar unintended minor infraction), think twice before you shout "EXPOSED CARD – DIRECTOR". You're perfectly within your rights to say "Oh dear, I'm so sorry, perhaps we should get the Director over". But I know what I (and a few other top players e.g. Zia Mahmood) do in such a situation. "Oh, pick it up".

I go back to my primary message. Behave to your partner and opponents as though you're hosting a tea party. Then duplicate bridge will start to thrive again – it's such a fabulous game.



# “GUESS WHO?”



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2

## ANSWERS TO LAST “GUESS WHO?”



PHOTO 1  
JAN GALVIN

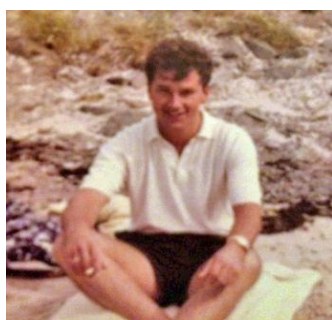


PHOTO 2  
ED BECKETT

## Did you know?



That the Library now has a comprehensive list of web based resources available for your perusal.



That the Christmas Party was enjoyed by most but not all!!! A few members decided that the charge could not be borne. A few more decided that the lunch was not worth the charge. The majority thought everything was ok.

Here are the facts. The Club had pre-advised that for the first time there would be a charge of \$25 to attend the Party (with an explanation of financial restraints). Accordingly, 140 members attended (compared to 190 the previous year). Please bear in mind that the food on the tray for each table was not the only food of the day. In addition there were the fruit platters plus the fruit mince pies and coffee, tea and milk plus fruit juices and over four hundred dollars worth of alcohol. If you then add in the cost of decorating, electricity, amenities & stationery plus \$1 per head extra from the caterer (\$26) plus the loss of a day's table fee income you will find that the Club actually paid out approximately \$1500 to hold the Party.



That the reason we require your SUBS form to be completed & returned with your payment is that we have an obligation to keep accurate membership records, both for our Association and the ABF. Having the correct details ensures your Masterpoints are allocated correctly.



Recently a member tripped over a carelessly placed handbag with big straps protruding. An accident was averted because of the person's agility. But, **please** put bags away carefully.