

From the President

Welcome to your September Newsletter. It is full of interesting articles for you to read and enjoy.

The club held a Special General Meeting in July and made the following changes to the club's Rules:

- Quantified Rule 5 (3) to limit the total number of members of the club to 500.
- Modified Rule 12 (2) to extend the maximum time the Secretary or Treasurer may remain in the position to 5 consecutive years.

Lizi French commenced a new set of lessons for beginners in August. Hopefully at the end of the course late this month they will all join the club and start to play in our regular sessions. I encourage all members to show tolerance and understanding to these players who are just starting out in our great game.

The Management Committee always tries to manage the club in the best interests of the members. However, other members often have ideas, suggestions, questions or even complaints. If you have anything you would like the MC to consider it is more effective to write this in the Suggestion Book rather than putting it to individual MC members. Anything entered into the book is placed on the agenda for the next MC meeting and you will receive a response. The Suggestion Book is kept in the drawer under the microphone.

I am pleased to advise that Ted McNamara has accepted the position of Vice President for the remaining term. In addition, he will continue as Publicity Officer.

Finally, on a personal note, I was delighted to see that the Council has allocated some motor bike parking spaces in the area that was considered too narrow for car parking. This will avoid the need to park bikes in car spaces. It just goes to show that perseverance sometime pays off.



Ross Gyde

Charity Days



SC Riding for the Disabled Charity Day was on 7 June 2019. We raised \$2,100, our largest amount ever. So a huge thanks to all members for their generosity. The winning bid for the Mick Denigan Whip went to Phylly DeLacy. Congratulations!!



On 7 August our Charity Day was in aid of Oz Harvest. Our donation of \$1,600 has helped deliver up to 3200 meals to people in need. "Altruism is such a beautiful quality in humans & at OzHarvest we know that we are very fortunate, as our Founder CEO Ronni would say, to have "magnificent people" that support the work we do in the community, so we truly are grateful for your magnificent gesture." Natalie Wang, Assistant Accountant OzHarvest Ltd



KATIE ROSE COTTAGE HOSPICE

HOSPICE CARE ... WHEN EVERY MOMENT MATTERS

The next Charity Day will be 7 October for Katie Rose Cottage Hospice. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.



Member Achievements

9, 16 & 23 May - Noosa Pairs Championship

1st – Chrissie Baynes/Susan Rodgers

2nd – Peter Tall/Lyndon Sanderson

3rd – David Harris/Tim Ridley

20 & 27 May - Novice Pairs Championship

1st – June Drysdale/Phil Griffiths

2nd – Pat Lovell/Trudy Ryan

3rd – Eve Coombe/Maddy Nielsen

9 June – SC Zone GNOT Semi Final

3rd A – Geoff Olsen/Maureen Jakes

13 June – Noosa Pairs Congress

3rd A – Peter Tall/Ross Gyde

1st B – Graham Hugh/Russell Greenwood

2nd B – Don & Margaret Robertson

3rd B – Lesley Power/Chrissie Baynes

14 June – SC Imp Pairs

1st A – Geoff Hart/David Harris

2nd B – Rozanne Thomas/Sandy Long

3rd B – Renate Petit/Nannette Jones

15 June – SC Swiss Teams

1st B – Kiyomi Avunduk +++

19, 26 July & 2 August – Noosa Teams Championship

1st – Peter Hagan/Judith Hope/Bill & Geraldine Howard

2nd – Lorraine Vachon/Allison Walker/Di Jones/Ross Gyde

3rd – Maureen Jakes/Geoff Olson/Geoff Hart/Dick Trollope

4 August – SCBC August Teams

2nd A – Alison Dawson/Dick Trollope ++

10 August 2019 – Sunshine Coast Interclub Teams

2nd A - Rosie Green/Philippa Barnett/Tim Ridley/Sam Halvorsen

3rd A - Ines Dawes/ Geoff Olsen ++

2nd B - Don & Margaret Robertson/Adam & Dorothy Hertelendy

3rd B - Moira Gibbens/Peter Hagan/Maureen Wright/Bobby MacNee

3rd C - Sue Smith/ Des Ward/Meg Pace/ Helen Lawson

18 August 2019 – Redcliffe Matchpoint Pairs

1st B - Don & Margaret Robertson

24 August 2019 – QBA Open Teams

3rd B - Evelyne Mander +++

1 September 2019 – Sunshine Coast GNOT Final

1st A – Pam Hawkins/Peter Tall/Lorraine Vachon/Ross Gyde/Di Stagg

Around the Club



Congratulations to Life Member Laurie Cowled.

w e l c o m e

New Members – Althea Crowley & Phillippa McCormack

NBC Regulations

The Management Committee of the Noosa Bridge Club in consultation with the Tournament Committee have approved the following in house regulations to apply from Monday 8 July 2019.

Weak 2's (either natural or via multi) are restricted to a 6 HCP range e.g. 5-10 or 4-9. This point range must be stated on the system card and those opening the above hands on fewer than 5 HCPs must pre-alert, i.e. announce the point range prior to commencement of bidding.

Forcing 1C is a red system and as such is not permitted in Club sessions. Therefore, any systemic 1 level response with fewer than 5 HCPs will be considered outside allowable systems.

These regulations have been introduced to minimize disruptive bidding and thus provide some measure of protection to weaker pairs. Failure to adhere to these regulations may be subject to an adjusted score being awarded in consultation with at least two Directors.

Di Quigley



Funnies

Helen Sobel was once asked how it felt playing with a great expert (Charles Goren). "Ask him," she replied.

[Source: www.kantarbridge.com]

'Why are you so glum?'

'The doctor told me I can't play bridge.'

'Aha. So he's played with you, too?'

[Source: www.RonKlingerBridge.com]





Why does our bridge club have a stash of money in the bank?

Last year, when members were asked to volunteer to wash our soiled playing cards, many scratched their heads and muttered with \$70,000 in cash reserves (as at 31/12/18) can't we afford new cards.

There is a feeling among some, that the Club doesn't need so much money in reserve that we have to 'penny pinch' on such seemingly cheap essentials as cards. Other items in this category are tea, coffee and biscuits, all cheap and while appreciated, still could be a lot better (even though they might cost more).

Well, here is the drum!

Those seemingly cheap items cost around \$80,000 per year.

Running the Club in a financially responsible way is critical to its survival which ensures that our members are not burdened with debt problems like those that have sunk other community based not-for-profit organisations such as the Perigian Beach Surf Club.

Our reserves are there primarily to meet forecast, essential capital expenditure. In the coming three years, the Club needs to provide funding for replacement bridgemates, exterior painting, roof replacement and other minor works which have been estimated at \$132,000.

The Committee is working hard to submit and qualify for grants offered by Council, Government and other organisations to fund the most pressing and costly of these requirements. Our toilets were renovated a year ago by partly grant funding. In this way we can keep members' annual subscription and table fees at reasonable and generally affordable levels.



Ted McNamara

Christmas Appeal



As we did in 2015 NBC will again participate in Santa's Classy Helpers the group supporting disadvantaged local families by supplying everyday pantry staples to help them to cater for Christmas.

From 18-22 November, a collection point will be set up inside the Club at the Director's Desk. A list of suggested non-perishable items will be displayed on the noticeboard near the Kitchen, closer to the collection dates. Please do not gift wrap items.



“GUESS WHO?”



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2

ANSWERS TO LAST “GUESS WHO?”



ANNA JADACH



KATHERINE COLLINS



Member Profile: Sam Halvorsen

Ever discerning, even as an infant, Sam chose a fascinating Norwegian family of famous boat builders on the paternal side. When selecting his mother he found a lovely woman who was Australia's answer to Lucille Ball : hilarious catastrophes awaited her around every corner. For a blissful childhood he opted for a home on Sydney's Lane Cove riverfront, as he rather fancied fishing, sailing, crabbing with a net and finding prawns by torchlight. They had a pool and a tennis court, engendering in Sam a life-long affection for ball sports.

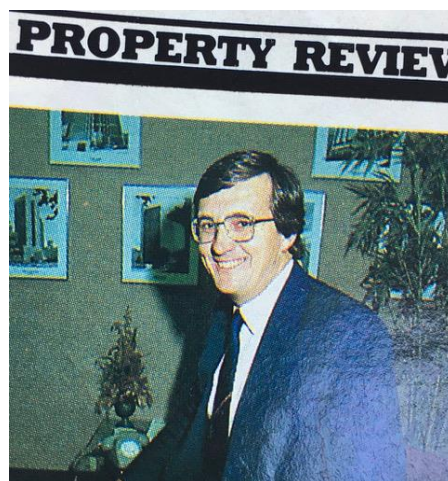
Born south-west of Oslo, his father Bjarne was one of the sons of Lars Halvorsen the founder of the Halvorsen cruiser empire that bewitched boat lovers across Australia. The name 'Halvorsen' was synonymous with excellence and the dream of many a boat-lover. After Lars's death, Bjarne continued boat-building in his own business.

Sam was educated at Shore (more prosaically known as the Sydney Church of Grammar School) and then at the prestigious North Sydney Boys High School, the academically selective school open only to those with an abundance of grey matter. Awarded (of course) what was then known as a Commonwealth Scholarship to University, Sam chose Law School. After five weeks, he un-chose it, deciding the Law was just not going to be his forte. His decision drew congratulations from the Dean of Law, who totally agreed with him and was delighted he had found out in just five weeks, whereas most people took years.

Sam's next foray was into the dizzying depths of being an office boy in a stock-broking firm. He quickly swam to the top of the gene pool and found himself working with the well publicised Rene Rivkin for a few years. After the

surging stock market came to its senses, he explored several career paths. They included eight months as a jackaroo in the bush near Moree, a grocery/liquor business in Paddington, and then a stint with Hertz Car Rental where he became the group's first national sales manager.

Being Sam, he taught himself the art of selling, (presumably rather well indeed) and was then lured by a friend to join Raine & Horne in Sydney, selling not triple-fronted brick veneers but office buildings in the CBD, his largest sale clocking in at \$38 million. In 1985 that was rather a large amount of money. The financial press was, dare we say it, impressed — and wrote an article listing Sam with a few other young bloods it termed the MEGABUCKS SUPERSTARS, which these days would probably attract a lawsuit from Starbucks.



"Megabucks Superstar"

Life was rather good, very good. He lived in Northbridge, with his first wife who was from Tasmania. They had a son and a daughter and in 1986 decided to let the Sydney CBD fend for itself and move to beautiful Hobart. Sam then started the smallest business in the world : a commercial real estate consultancy, run from his home. It still is, 33 years later.

During games at Sydney's Australian Golf Club (he played off 9 in Hobart) Sam had become friendly with Richie Benaud and when the cricketer came to Hobart to commentate Sam would cart him off to golf. Through Richie he met baggy green greats like Mark Taylor, Ian Healy and the Waugh brothers. Eventually he became interested in the idea of managing sports people. This was a field in its infancy in the early 90s.



The Tasmanian hierarchy put him onto a bloke they described as 'rough around the edges' who just happened to be sensational at cricket. That bloke was Ricky Ponting. He and Sam teamed up in 1993, working together for 14 years. Later joining the Halvorsen stable were Andy Bichel, Brad Haddin and Mitchell Johnson, whom Sam continued managing until just last month. At one stage he was representing three players in the first Eleven. He toured with them in the United Kingdom, India, the West Indies and New Zealand; dined in the Committee Room at Lords, celebrated wins with drinks at Lords. Away from the cricket pitch, he managed Wallaby legend George Gregan.

Along with that razor-sharp intellect comes a large heart. On the Royal Hobart Golf Club Committee for five years, ever energetic Sam also ran fund raising for Camp Quality in Tasmania for five years, has trekked Kokoda with his son, volunteers for Meals on Wheels in Coolum and created the popular 'Picitup' bag concept. It has now been successfully adopted by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council — and five others in Australia. The black hessian bags are proudly taken on daily beach walks between Coolum and Peregian by residents keen to remove rubbish from our shores.



Andy Bichel & Ricky Ponting with Sam & the 2003 World Cup in Johannesburg



In between all this of course there is Bridge. The family played when Sam was a child. His late sister was married to Stephen Burgess, reputedly the best bridge player in Australia, and formerly the bridge partner of Simon Andrew. (If you want to follow in the Burgess footsteps, you have to accumulate 4906.09 points, as at the ABF's last reckoning.)

On the home front, his first marriage ended in 1991 and in 1995 Sam met Barbara and they have been together ever since. Originally an international Qantas stewardess, Barb now helps him run the world's smallest business, which amongst other clients boasts two public companies. For one of them Sam has been consulting for 28 years; the other a mere 25. They moved from Hobart to a beautiful sea view at Coolum Beach in 2001. With two children from his first marriage, Sam is now a blissful grandfather, trains daily at gym or with hard solid walks. He joyfully admits he is living the dream : working for himself, in control of what he does and beholden to no-one.

Sam continued playing in his 20s and is now a stalwart at our Club, where he served as President for two and a half years from 2012. His light-hearted lessons have endeared him to novices. If he started teaching sales techniques, of course, we could all sell \$38 million buildings. For the moment we will have to content ourselves with the occasional slam.

Susie Osmaston



Sam with high-flying Barb

Prepaid Vouchers



Your Club is now offering vouchers for paying for your bridge sessions. Printed on A4 perforated sheets they are 10 vouchers for \$50. Vouchers are not redeemable for cash but are transferable. The Club will not be responsible for loss or theft so please write your name in ink on each voucher straightaway. Where you would normally write \$5.00 on the table money slip, please write P.V. Buy vouchers from Ross, Syl, Ian or Gerald.



Astronomy & Bridge

What do astronomy and bridge have in common? Just one thing: the number of possible bridge deals is truly astronomical – approximately 5.36×10^{28} (source: Encyclopedia of Bridge). That means, in English, the numeral 5 followed by 28 zeroes or, more precisely, 536 followed by 26 zeroes. For those uncertain of how these large numbers work, they are spoken as 10 to the twenty-eighth or ten to the power of 28. Each time you increase the superscript by one, you multiply the previous number by ten (or add a zero). To give you an idea of how big this number is (10²⁸, that is), the cosmic event horizon (the visible universe) is about 4.4×10^{28} centimetres distant (46.5 billion light years), in the same order of magnitude. On the other hand, the estimated number of stars in the universe, according to the European Space Agency, is rather smaller, somewhere between 10²² and 10²⁴. A much bigger number is the number of atoms in the Earth, estimated at about 10⁵⁰.

The number of 13-card bridge hands (as opposed to deals of 52 cards) is approximately 6.35×10^{11} . Just 233,224 of those contain an 11-card suit. To illustrate how rare that occurrence is, Tom Townsend estimated that if you played a session of 26 boards a day, every day of the year, you'd come across an 11-card suit about once every two-and-a-half centuries. All this, of course, is a preamble to tell you about a deal containing an 11-card suit that occurred in February 2019 in London, at the Lederer Memorial Trophy, a 10-team invitational event held annually at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. Here's the board and how the players handled it:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ A J 10 8 7
♥ K 5 2
♦ J
♣ 10 9 3 2

♠ 9 2
♥ Q J 9 7 6 4 3
♦ -
♣ Q J 8 5

♠ K Q 6 5 4 3
♥ 10 8
♦ 7
♣ A K 7 4

♠ -
♥ A
♦ A K Q 10 9 8
6 5 4 3 2
♣ 6

Match #1: GILLIS versus ALLFREY. Thomas Paske for the ALLFREY team took centre stage with the South hand. The auction went like this:

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Jones	Brogeland	Paske
—	—	1♠	Double
2♦ 1.	Pass	2♥ 2.	3♥
4♥	Double	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Transfer to hearts
2. Some tolerance for hearts

Paske doubled 1♠ in the hope of slowing the auction down (colloquially, "Walking the Dog") and getting as much information as he could about the deal before committing himself to 6♦ or 7♦ (imagine his distress if it had gone all-pass!). The slow auction convinced Peter Bertheau and Boye Brogeland to defend rather than take what would have been a very-profitable sacrifice in 6♥ doubled (had they been allowed to play it). Bertheau led a spade and Paske spread his hand, claiming all 13 tricks for +1390. Bertheau commented wryly, "Why are we all playing this game?"

By John Carruthers
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