



September 2020 Newsletter



From the President

The big news at the moment is, of course, Covid-19. In the interest of our members' safety and to comply with government regulations we had to close the club for five months. We have now been re-opened for just over one month and many members have taken the opportunity to return to playing with their friends at the club. This has been made possible by a great deal of work by the Management Committee to prepare our Covid Safety Plan and modify the club to meet distancing requirements. We will need to continue with our safety procedures for the foreseeable future to ensure that we can stay open and protect our members. At this stage we are admitting members only to the club.

We were delighted to receive advice that our application to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for \$10,708 to replace some floor covering in the tea area and table and bench tops was successful. We also received a grant from the State Member's office of \$500 to assist with our restart expenses. Our state member, Sandy Bolton, will be visiting our club and giving a short talk at 12.15 on Monday 14 September.

The closure of the club for nearly half the year has not allowed us to stage our scheduled events. However, in the time left we have decided to run a limited programme of events that are open to club members only. In October we will conduct the Club Pairs Championship over 3 days and in September/October the Novice Pairs Championship over 2 days. We also have permission to stage another GNOT heat and this will be on 24/25 October. It will not lead to a final but will enable members to earn some gold points.

You may have noticed that our club sign at the roadside has been damaged. We are looking forward to replacing it with a large sign on the wall of the building. This will give better directions to the club as well as being out of reach for vandals.

I hope that you will all remain well and the Covid situation will continue to improve and we will soon be able to resume our normal club operation.

Ross Gyde

Around the Club



We have now been back in business for over a month and are pleased to say that everything has run smoothly. We thank you all for your co-operation and patience during these times.

Now that the virus has reared its ugly head again in Queensland, we must be mindful of when we travel outside of the Noosa Region and come back to the Club. Due to the extensive list of conditions applied by Queensland Health in order for us to reopen, the Committee found it necessary to restrict play to Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

There is much to adhere to, record and keep on file in the event we are visited by Authorities and more importantly just to keep members as safe as possible. Whilst the Committee is continually reviewing the current situation, it is unlikely the Club will be extending its hours of operation whilst COVID19 is around.

Sue Smith



2020 Noosa Bridge Club Inc.



Coming Events

- Monday 28 September & 5 October - Novice Pairs Championship
- Thursday 1, 8 & 15 October 2020 – Open Pairs Championship
- 24 & 25 October 2020 – GNOT Heat 2020



Past Member – Maris Dunworth

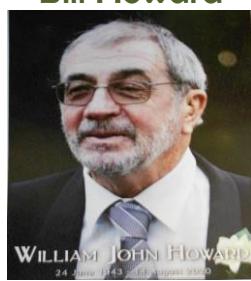
Fire Evacuation

The Committee has just completed their annual Fire Drill training. In this regard please take a moment to review the instructions to be followed in the event of a fire:

- **Calmly inform a Committee Member** about a suspicious occurrence.
- **Follow Committee Members 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.



In Memoriam Bill Howard



By the Way

Those of us who have been involved in the obligatory “meet and greet” and searching questions at the beginning of each bridge gathering have actually enjoyed our duties, time consuming as they are.

To begin with, it is a very pleasant start to our day to greet our members individually, and then to ask after ones’ health. It is also a very good opportunity to put a name to all of our members individually, and learn to remember all of your names.

The questions regarding health though they may appear searching, often afford us some mirth.

“Has anything changed with your health since we last saw you?” Some of the responses:

“Yes, I’ve got older.”

“Yes, my hair has grown.”

“Should I have changed my undies?”

“Yes, but please don’t tell my husband.”

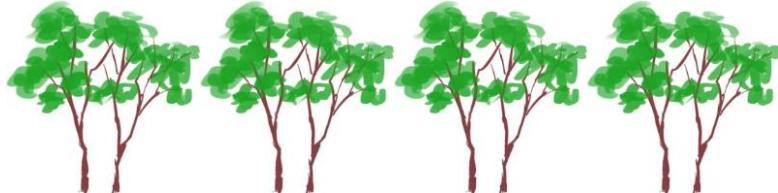
Perhaps the classic, *sotto voce*, “I’ve lost my libido.” I should report that we’ve all searched high and low in the Clubhouse for the latter, and are close to coming up with a solution.

‘I didn’t have a temperature until I came here to have it taken.’

We thank you all for being so long suffering and humouring us all in answer to all these searching questions. It is so good to actually all be able to gather for our games, rather than isolating completely. Keep smiling and answering and keeping us all amused, we really don’t mean to be dragons, but it is a ‘needs must’ just at the moment.

Your Committee





Card Play Technique

The hand below was the subject of Tim Bourke's column in the April/May 2020 edition of Australian Bridge* magazine.

♠ 8 5 3 2

♥ 6 4 2

♦ A Q 6 5

♣ A 6

♠ A J 4

♥ A K Q

♦ K J

♣ K Q 8 4 2

South plays in the contract of 6NT and West leads HJ. Declarer South counts tricks and comes to a possible 13, if the Cs break evenly. But such a friendly break is against the odds and the clearance problem in the D suit has to be managed.

Decide on your line of play before moving on. After winning the HQ, did you cash the DK and DJ, before playing over to the CA, then cash the DA and DQ, before returning to CQ or HK in hand?

If you did, your contract fails, as E holds Jxxx in Cs and 5 diamonds. Best technique is to play a small C from each hand before embarking on the line of play described above.

This technique of giving up a possible loser first, while all controls are still in place, is one to remember.

* Our Club subscribes to Australian Bridge magazine. The most recent few years of magazines are filed in white binders in the library. They are available for members to read, in the Club.



Geoff Hart

Did you know?

- ❖ 200 million people worldwide play bridge
- ❖ Pro bridge players can earn \$3000/day
- ❖ The current Australian 'Top Player All Time' has 13,686.62 MP. [ABF Masterpoints Centre]
- ❖ Warren Buffett spends 8 hours a week playing the 'only game' at which he may be better than Bill Gates.

[Source: <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/02/25/warren-buffett-plays-bridge-8-hours-a-week-and-can-beat-bill-gates.html>]



The only thing we have to fear is fear itself
and 5-0 Trump breaks.

Where's the hand you held in the bidding?

A day without bridge wouldn't kill me,
but why take the chance.

I only play bridge on days ending in Y.

[Source: <https://www.cafepress.co.uk/+bridge-game+greeting-cards>]

PROTECT YOURSELF & THOSE AROUND YOU



STAY AT HOME IF
YOU'RE UNWELL



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR
FACE, NOSE AND MOUTH



STAY 1.5 METRES AWAY
FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE
COUGHING OR SNEEZING

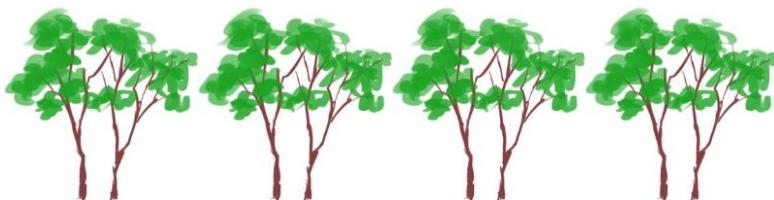


COVER COUGHS AND
SNEEZES



WASH HANDS
REGULARLY





Member Profile: Peter Hagan

Quietly spoken, somewhat laconic, Peter Hagan does not readily speak of past glories, but if you Google, he's excelled at practically everything. Major titles in the Northern Territory included Director of Public Works, Director of Roads, Director of Transport Planning and finally Assistant Secretary. He was also President of his Apex Club and the Darwin Veteran Golfer Club and Treasurer of the Arafura Bridge Club, Deputy Chair of the Northern Territory Road Safety Council and a member of the Civil Engineering Advisory Committee to Darwin University and he's a Fellow of Engineers Australia.

On a more frivolous note Google insists Peter even had a stint as Vice Chairman of the Northern Territory Cat Association. That appointment we must blame on wife of 52 years Rose, who was apt to breed Tonkinese and Burmese champions at the drop of a hat. Nowadays there's not a cat in sight, as the pair gaze out over their tranquil Tewantin waterfront. But Peter has been there, done that, in every possible way as an outstanding civil engineer, helping to pull Darwin out of the mayhem of Cyclone Tracy, working to develop roads and townships in much of the Northern Territory over several decades.

A boyhood in Brisbane's Auchenflower was fairly uneventful. Then with a Commonwealth Scholarship to University under his arm Peter chose Civil Engineering. Although he confesses lunchtime games of Bridge were so fascinating sometimes lectures were skipped, the Commonwealth tracked him down as an outstanding student, paid him a cadetship salary while studying and signed him up for the first four years of his adult career.

The choice was Canberra (brrr), Papua New-Guinea or Darwin, where he had already spent several Uni vacations working for the Government. Darwin won, not for four years but nearly 50.

In the early bachelor years the place was rather like a frontier town, a transient population, many escaping the law and cold realities like child maintenance, many on two-year contracts from the big smoke. There was a lot of drinking and sport (football for our Pete), a strong military presence and projects out in remote places like the Gove Peninsula. There his Commonwealth Department of Works team was building a tracking station for the Blue Streak Rockets from Woomera. Out in the middle of nowhere, the site is now the town of Nhulunbu. In those days a DC3 would arrive once a fortnight with supplies, most of the workforce in tents, a generator for power and troops sent out to fish and hunt buffalo to supplement rations.



Building 'Beef Roads' was another big programme, to help the cattle industry access the Katherine abattoir. One of those Hagan projects is now the Victoria Highway. By then Peter was married, with a home in Darwin. He would wave Rose goodbye on Mondays and return every fortnight for a weekend at home, flying to Katherine before driving another six hours to the job. And that's where Peter was when Neil Armstrong transfixed the world with a giant leap for mankind.

He was still with the Commonwealth late one December, attending mandatory Christmas Eve parties, returning home at 8 pm to Rose and their two tiny girls when it became rather windy. When the steel (protection against termites) power poles started bending, they thought it was time for the bath. Peter clambered in at one end of the old cast iron tub, Rose the other and the 10 month old and two year old were popped on top. A bit later on the plaster ceiling joined them in the tub too. Peter was irritated his portable radio could not find the usual station before he realised there were no stations at all. When the noise abated they braved it to look outside the bathroom. Of their family home one kitchen wall remained.





A neighbour's house was not too badly damaged so everyone gathered there, stepping gingerly over cables. Their tiny daughters had no shoes, no nappies. When Rose was evacuated to Brisbane they still had no shoes and also there was no money. These were the days before credit cards: you had cash or a cheque book. Problem was, the banks had all been obliterated, along with their cash and their records.

Disaster planning was in existence, but plans had been based on the assumption one strip of Darwin would be damaged, the remainder able to provide support. Tracy was thorough, wiping out the entire area. Free meals were provided at a couple of surviving hotels and a chuck wagon toured feeding work gangs, with people dossing down in swags wherever they could. A free supermarket opened at the high school. Halfway up the promotional ladder by then, Peter's responsibility was water and sewerage. Major General Alan Stretton was appointed to coordinate recovery, in Peter's book he made just one bad mistake. Stretton declared there would be no New Year's Eve celebration, but the tough Territorians just ignored him and the ice works helped keep the booze cold. Recovery was achieved remarkably quickly, with a superb response from other States sending up trucks of materials, men and supplies.

Back on the home front, their car had been sheltering under the house. We must digress a little : As a bachelor Peter bought a very sporty little Honda S 800, red of course as they go faster, and later the very blonde Rose would drive it to high school where she taught. While Pete was working in the bush someone told him they had a new car. Without consultation, Rose had decided on a Ford Falcon, and in early December 1974 they had its duco transformed to a beautiful green. Post-Tracy it was a beautiful green with a lot of big dents. The insurance company called it a write-off, so they bought the wreck back for \$400, found a pot of grey primer and painted all the dents. Thereafter the unfortunate vehicle was called 'Measles'. (On the topic of automobiles, we must include the tale about the Hagans driving out of their place one day to be greeted by lots of people waving at them. It was all very pleasant but unusual, and then they found one of Rose's favourite cats, hanging grimly onto the roof of the car.)

The family expanded with the arrival of a son and in 1978 Peter joined NT Transport Works. One of his more challenging roles was in representing the NT at

various national forums, putting forward the Territory position on the variety of issues reflecting the region's remoteness — often overlooked by city bureaucrats.

He was involved in building the town of Jabiru in Kakadu National Park to service the uranium industry and was on the Town Development Authority for several years. He was President of the Engineers Australia Northern Division and as the Judge for Engineering Excellence Awards for the NT travelled across the Territory for a number of years, visiting projects aimed at improving life for remote residents. These included a trip to Groote Island to inspect solar power being developed for small indigenous communities.



Wearing one of his many senior hats one day Pete took the Minister to look around roads in the Kakadu area. Unfortunately they also spent time looking around in the middle of a creek crossing. By the next day someone had arranged a sign 'Hagan's Hole', the photograph of which the Minister had on his wall until he left Parliament. Its caption read :

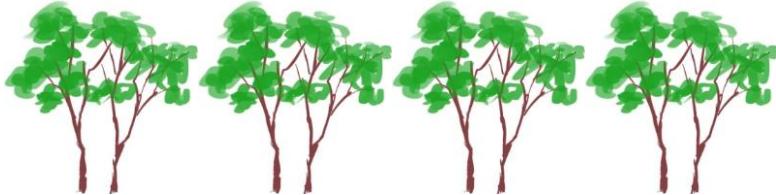
*and all that remains is a simple sign,
that serves to remind me of the time,
to the depths I plunged with thoughts not sinister,
that day I tried to drown The Minister.*

Along with Bridge (at the Darwin and Arafura Clubs), and lots of international travel, golf was a great interest. Although retiring in 2000, it took until 2012 before they finally chose Noosa and their blissful riverside retreat at Tewantin.



Family history is now a passion. Pete cannot find any convicts, but great-great-grandfather John Hagan was a British soldier who brought his family, along with 200 convicts, to Australia in 1845. Nearly 200 years later, the people of the Northern Territory have much to thank him for.

by Susie Osmaston



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