

NEWCASTLE BRIDGE CLUB HISTORY

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The history has been compiled from recorded Club committee minutes dating back to 28th August 1969 and from club member recollections and reflections on development of the Club.

A review of the document in 2017 included updates to minor details.

Graham Rummey
Past Club Secretary
3 October 2017

In the Beginning

On 18th August, 1968 Fiona Chambers and Denise Soos met to discuss the possibility of forming a Contract Bridge Club. Fiona had organised a small group of bridge players at the BHP Central Research Laboratories and Denise had been secretary of the Penang Bridge Club. Jack Doczy who had represented Western Australia in Interstate competitions, and Bill Spinks with some knowledge of tournament directing were asked to join the committee and at a second meeting on 29th August the decision was made that the first meeting of the Club would be on 26th September.

Thirty four players came to that first meeting to play rubber bridge and for a demonstration on duplicate bridge. Thence duplicate sessions and rubber bridge nights alternated weekly. Rubber bridge evenings would not survive as even after a few months its popularity had declined as reflected by attendance on those nights.

The Club had grown from an amalgamation of three groups of players; the Postal Institute Auction Bridge Club, a group who played at the BHP Central Research Laboratories and players from Newcastle University. By November of that year 61 players had attended at least one session. Appendix I details a list of Club members at the time of the first AGM in 1969.

The early years and growth of the Club owe a great deal to the beginner bridge lessons provided by Fiona Chambers, by Denise Soos and by Jack Doczy. The contribution of Denise was recognised when she was granted Life Membership of the Club on 6th August, 1970.

Finding a Home

Now the Club had been established the next objective concerned finding suitable clubhouse facilities. At the 2nd Annual General Meeting held in February, 1970, Bill Spinks, president at that time, voiced the opinion that the long term aim of the Club is to possess its own premises. However, in the meantime and until that goal could be achieved bridge was played at many venues around Newcastle, initially on Thursday evenings and then also on Monday evenings. Those venues were:-

YMCA Mayfield

The Club's initial venue until May, 1970. The venue was not entirely satisfactory as recalled by Bill Spinks when the manager's wife insisted the kitchen lights went off after supper leaving members seated close to that area to play in near complete darkness. Even though compensation was offered to cover the cost of the little additional electricity used, the Association would not be moved.

RSL Adamstown

For a short period this venue was used until July, 1970. During that time, many a contract was defeated by a lapse in concentration brought about when play paused at 9:00pm every evening for the ode of remembrance.

Newcastle Bowling Club, King Edward Park

The venue here was established with the help of Adrian McDermott and lasted through to May, 1976. The limitation on the areas available for playing bridge meant that sessions were often split fields; not a popular move. Nor perhaps would have been the self-imposed ban of playing the poker machines before bridge.

Masonic Club, Newcastle

The move to this venue on 10th May 1976 proved an unsatisfactory arrangement. Playing conditions were not ideal and arrangements for hire of the facilities were less than desirable; not to mention the difficulties of parking in the CBD. The situation was tolerated until May, 1977 when Marg Williams pleasantly ended the relationship with the Masonic Club so well that the Club would be welcome to return at any time.

Newcastle International Sports Centre

On a suggestion put forward by Enid White, the venue's management was most co-operative to accommodate the Club. Play at those rooms commenced on 8th April 1977 and continued for 15 months until October, 1978 when KB United Soccer Club elected to cancel the lease arrangement.

Newcastle Tennis Club, District Park

The efforts of Col Newey achieved a move to these premises. The rather draughty, poorly lit conditions and a need for heaters to survive the cold winter were endured until November, 1979.

After many years of coping with adverse conditions, setting up and then packing tables away for each session the Club eventually came home.

Young Road, Broadmeadow

The first session of bridge at Young Road was on 29th November, 1979. As reported, the Newcastle Bridge Club became a club in the true sense of the word from that date.

Progressive development of the Club has been summarised in verse sung to the tune of 'Waltzing Matilda'. Those words are recorded in Appendix VII.

Purchasing a Home

The ultimate goal of purchasing club premises would not have been achieved without the foresight of Ian Walker who, despite Bernie Adcock's financial analysis of the almost impossible, associated difficulties involved, gained the wholehearted backing of members with the faith to believe in success. Having united members to the idea of buying a home, it was left to convince members how to establish some equity whilst looking around for a property that could be adapted to be suitable for bridge playing requirements.

At the AGM of 1976, Ian tabled a proposal for realising capital through investment in property. That proposal was accepted and the Club subsequently purchased 16 Bryant Street, Tighes Hill for \$22,000. The finance was raised via a bank loan of \$16,000 and unsecured member loans of \$6,000. Had that finance not been realised, Shelia Elliott's husband Jack was prepared to loan the whole amount. Fortunately that generous offer from a non-bridge player was not required and the Club now had breathing space in which to search around for a permanent residence.

After many false leads 12 Young Road, Broadmeadow eventually surfaced as a building with the potential to meet the Club's requirements. The building was serving as a church hall under ownership of the Plymouth Brethren. However, it was available and from a detailed inspection of its fabric and layout principally by Bernie Adcock it would be suitable for the Club's purpose. The question remained, would Council allow the property to be used as premises in which to conduct bridge sessions? Committee minutes dated 20th May 1979 report that Council's consent had been granted.

The Club's offer to purchase the property for \$38,000 was accepted. The Club was now in the situation of needing to raise that amount plus any extras for legal costs and relocation costs. Bryant Street was duly sold for \$21,000 and a second bank loan was approved for \$15,000. Through the willingness of members to purchase unsecured loans at \$100 each the Club was able to raise \$7,000 enabling purchase of what would be for the foreseeable future a permanent clubhouse. If those funds could not be raised, Wal Wallis was prepared to underwrite the cost.

Acquisition kicked off a period of frenzied working bees when members became painters and decorators or plumbers. The entire building was painted inside and out with some notable performances from Pran Chopra and George Putsay. Bruce Dyson and Brian McLaughlin were instrumental in relocating access to the ladies toilets away from the kitchen area. Rosemary Willis and Catherine Wileman were instrumental in purchasing chairs for the clubhouse and play could

commence. Roy Hardy who was president at that time recalls he “had the pleasure of being carried into the building on the first playing night by Gloria Campbell” and he reflects that “it was a real team effort by a young bridge club to have the will, means and the drive to have its own premises”.

Committee could report in minutes dated 18th March 1993 that all debentures had been repaid and that the Club no longer had an overdraft with any financial organisation. A second loan had been required to implement major renovation work to the front of the building undertaken in 1992 and detailed below. Recognition of members who through their generosity at the time made both purchases achievable is acknowledged. A schedule of those contributing members is included as Appendix II.

Growth of the Club

Membership

The strength of the Club is in the willingness of its members to give freely of their time in order to make the Club a successful organisation. Members recognised for their contribution have been listed in Appendix II. That list includes members given Life Membership, some by merit of financially supporting the Club's development and three for their outstanding contribution of time and effort over the years. Denise Soos was rewarded for her efforts to establish the Club, Bernie Atkins has given unstintingly of his time to improve clubhouse facilities and the citation for life membership being granted to Ken Wilks refers to his outstanding contribution to Club administration, his strong support of club events and his regular, creditable representation of the Club at State and National events.

The Club's webpage provides a list of the members who have held executive committee positions from its inception.

Membership Growth

At the end of the first year of its inception Club membership is recorded at 66. Over the years the Club has grown from a handful of friends where everybody knew each other to an organisation where those close relationships between all members are harder to maintain. Numbers have fluctuated but generally membership has shown a steady growth to a level of 350 towards the end of 2017 and the Club is being administered as a small business.

That growth of those numbers may be attributed to the many sessions of beginner lessons conducted by members who have a keen interest in divulging their knowledge to the benefit of many future members. Retention of learners to persist in extending their abilities with the game provides problems. Intermediate lessons have been provided on occasions for those sufficiently keen to improve but bridge is a game to be played at whatever level suits your ability and comfort. Teaching players with the intention of building the membership was not the sole reason for providing lessons but more for the growth of bridge player numbers in general. The benefits were there if new players joined the Club.

Members who have given lessons are included in Appendix III.

Social Activities

The spirit of the Club has extended beyond turning up simply to play bridge. Whenever members could find an excuse for holding a social event, they did not let it pass. Anniversary dinners, themed Christmas parties, Bi-centenary celebrations; all opportunities were used as a reason for an enjoyable and often hilarious evening.

A 10th Anniversary Dinner at the International Sports Centre on 26th September 1978 went over very well with good support from members. A 20th Anniversary Dinner was held at the clubhouse in 1988

and was again a resounding success. The 25th Anniversary dinner held at the Madison Motor Inn on 29th September 1993 was well supported but very poorly catered. Probably as a result of that experience the enthusiasm to hold celebratory dinners fell away as the next recorded event in recognition of 25 years occupancy at Young Road was held at the clubhouse on 2nd May 2004.

To enhance the spirit of a relaxed atmosphere at social functions, in August 1985 Doone Mitchell kindly donated a piano to the Club. The piano was put to good use on many occasions and especially at annual Christmas parties to accompany singing of the Club song. Two versions of the song have surfaced both of similar ilk with references to stalwart members of the Club. Words to those versions came via the inventiveness of Gloria Campbell and Catherine Wileman and it was this versatile pair who was responsible for the apt rendition of a song in the style of vaudeville stars Gallagher and Shean. Those songs are reproduced in Appendix IV.

After many years of sitting against the back wall behind Bill Spinks at Table 1, in September 2004 it was bequeathed to the home of a deserving club member.

Bridge Sessions

At the beginning alternate sessions of rubber bridge and duplicate bridge were held at the Club. Duplicate bridge was more favoured and the better attended evenings to the early demise of rubber bridge. However, in later years keen members have been known to stay behind after the normal session and into the early hours of the following day simply to play that format of the game.

Initially playing only one session per week on Thursday evenings, by the mid 1970's one session had become two on Mondays and Thursdays. A Wednesday evening beginner session was tried in the early 80's and was persisted with despite poor attendance. Those sessions were eventually abandoned by March 1988 but by 1990 a Wednesday daytime session had started. A fourth session was started on Friday daytime. That session was introduced following encouragement shown during a 12 week trial period run from February 1990.

Several attempts were tried to play sessions at week-ends but members never really warmed to that proposal, not until late 2005 when a more social session was started on Saturday afternoons to which members without partners could attend. The walk-in partnership concept has changed but playing on Saturdays is currently one of the better supported sessions, only bettered by the social sessions held on Tuesdays.

Tuesday sessions were introduced in April 2004 initially as supervised play following beginner lessons conducted by Neryl Babbage essentially for members who wished to consolidate their newly acquired knowledge. The success of those sessions was such that the sessions became a regular inclusion in the Club's programme. That outcome can be attributed not only to Neryl but to the enthusiasm of the Goodwin brothers, Allan and Peter, and to the number of members who have a preference for playing bridge in a social relaxed atmosphere rather than with a more competitive approach.

Monday afternoon sessions were commenced in August 2008.

By 2017 the Club was holding two supervised sessions and a restricted session on Thursdays as a means of transitioning new players into more competitive sessions. That raised the number of sessions being provided each week to 9. The Club also offered three sessions at which a stand-by partner would be available for single players.

The Club has two major events, the Club Pairs Championship and the Club Teams Championship. In addition it holds a further notable event, the Peter & Anne Gallagher Mixed Pairs Championship. Winners of those events may be found via the Club's webpage.

Property Improvements

External improvements

Over the intervening years there have been many changes and additions to the property for the purpose of improving the environment in which to play bridge. Favourable engineering structural reports had implied that the building was in a sound condition and that encouraged expenditure on improvements knowing the money would not be wasted.

The general appearance of the property has been enhanced in several ways. Floor levelling was completed in 1985 and concrete pier foundations were replaced in 1996. Brick paving has been laid to the rear of the building to provide an area for socialising away from the intensity of the bridge table. New fencing has been installed at the rear and front of the block and here a special mention is made to the planting of two pencil pines either side of the front gate by long-time member June Davidson.

One major alteration worthy of mention was completed in March 2005 when the asbestos roof sheeting was replaced with metal cladding. That work had always been avoided in the past as its implementation required strict observance of occupational health and safety regulations.

Surfacing of the parking area had given cause for concern up to the time a decision was taken to provide a structurally sound, engineered solution to seal the surface. Sub-standard drainage of the relatively level area had caused all previous attempts to satisfactorily seal the surface to be inadequate. Making use of the road design skills of Peter Goodwin supported by engineering advice from Graham Rummey, a 'professional' solution was devised and implemented. Though surface run-off is still an issue, the final product provided a more stable, long term solution.

For the surfacing to be worthwhile, a few trees were removed from that area but in keeping with thinking at the time, compensatory plantings of sasanqua camellia bushes were planted beside the parking area. Rosalie Broughton and Sharron Marton were instrumental in the success of that project.

Internal improvements

The layout of the property has been altered to improve functionality of the available space especially the kitchen area, the toilet amenities, including adding disabled facilities, and the administrative office. The office, affectionately known as The Bill Spinks Room was ceremoniously opened on 31st May 1992 and a memorial plaque donated by Ian Walker attached to the door. The office was added following the 1989 Newcastle Earthquake using compensation money claimed for damage to the front portico. The Club's insurers took a deal of convincing by Helen Johnson to honour its responsibility on its contract but paid up eventually. An additional building society loan was required to complete those renovations and when unforeseen extra works went over budget, personal loans from Gwyn Robertson and Ian Walker covered the shortfall.

Each change has required to varying degrees a redecoration of the premises, internally and externally.

Furnishings

Several changes have improved the standard of tables and chairs provided for members. A set of soft padded, timber framed chairs were acquired from Newcastle Golf Club on a donation by Kevin Burrows. Before those chairs could be used, some renovation work on their stability was required. That effort was provided by Ken Cruise and Graham Rummey. Those chairs lasted until they were replaced in March 2005. Committee accepted advice researched by Julie Gleeson to proceed with the purchase of a metal framed, soft padded chair, some with arms intended for north-south pairs, and some without.

Cloths for playing tables unfortunately do not last forever. Jocelyn Savage donated a set of cloths in 1986. Since then, several members have assisted with their upkeep and maintenance, notably Joan Hewson in 1996, Jenny Atkinson in 2002 and Sharron Marton in 2012. Those cloths also need to be laundered. Appreciation is extended to any members willing to undertake that task.

Bridge Facility Improvements

A few progressive decisions to introduce and/or purchase items to facilitate the functions now taken for granted when playing bridge.

Bidding Pads

Silent bidding was introduced in May 1979 and the committee authorised purchase of bidding pads in May 1981. The use of Bidding Boxes was never fully accepted by the members.

Support for Office Administration Duties

Installation of a telephone was proposed on 18th November 1981. As interest in the Club's activities grew, acquisition of a telephone would enable the Club to respond to any enquiries. Application for installation was initiated in December 1981 and at the AGM in November 1982, the secretary could report that the telephone had been installed. As there were times when the premises would not always be occupied by members, a proposal was put forward at the AGM in 1985 to install an answering service to support the telephone.

To ease the burden on secretarial work by volunteers, a typewriter was acquired in June 1985. However, it was not until March 1990 that a photocopier was installed. Such was the demand on photocopying that by November 1990 that first machine was reported as inadequate and it was replaced in 1991 to be further upgraded in July 2004. Ultimately, the typewriter became redundant after a computer was installed in the office.

Employment of a part time administrative secretary was proposed at the 1991 AGM. That proposal was revisited in January 1996 and the Club eventually deemed it appropriate that those services would be beneficial support to what had become an imposing onus on the incumbent treasurer and secretary as the Club grew. The first administrative secretary was engaged in March 1996. The Club has not been without assistance since that date having employed six more secretaries for various contract periods. The Club now employs an Office Assistant with duties that expand those of a secretarial nature to include administration of both the webpage and the computer programmes.

Session Timer Clock

Purchase of a timer to control sessions was initially opposed at a general committee meeting held on 20th June 1982. However, that proposal was presented a second time to an extraordinary meeting held on 29th July 1982 and was then accepted. The decision to proceed with a purchase was based upon the reasoning that controlling movements using a timer would "simplify the task of the director". The secretary's report to the 1982 AGM indicates that the timer had been installed.

A second timer was deemed necessary for whenever split sessions with differing round timings were set up. In April 2017 the second timer was installed to further enhance the Club's capabilities.

PA System

First muted in February 1987 that a PA System would be useful, it was not until October 1988 that the purchase of such equipment was recommended and a system eventually installed in April 1989.

Computers

The use of a computer to help with the production of results was first recorded in minutes back in August 1984. Minutes from that time frequently refer to the Club giving consideration to acquiring a computer but only for the use of scoring and on the condition that results can be produced within 20 minutes of the end of the session. Eventually committee gave approval to go ahead and purchase its first computer at the meeting on 16th May 1991. The secretary's report presented to the 1991 AGM states "Our thanks go to Julie Gorton (Gleeson) who has undertaken the initial scoring and then

offered tuition to Club members". The president's report that year records "It is my pleasant duty to thank Julie (Gorton), Roy (Low) and Audrey (Monteath), in particular, and all others who have helped with the introduction of the computer".

The first computer was replaced during 1994 and that second computer upgraded in December 2002. The Club now runs three dedicated, networked computers. One is the general office computer used for administrative tasks and data storage, one is used purely for dealing the cards, and the third model is used for scoring sessions and for managing images on a large monitor screen.

Scoring by computer over the years has been achieved using the programmes ASE8, Scorebridge and CompScore2. Dealing cards has used the programme Dealmaster Pro with analysis of those hands by Deep Finesse. Those programmes provide hand records for members to critically analyse their systems and playing techniques. Members have required training to apply those programmes and over the years their support has always been readily available.

Roy Low has been successfully involved with all club activities now controlled by computers including design and establishment of the Club's initial webpage. Club members are indebted for the time and effort dedicated by Roy over the years to that intimidating task. Eventually the time came for Roy to stand back from that responsibility. In 2014 professional services were engaged to design and implement a new webpage for the Club.

Dealing Machine

Warily accepted by members, a card dealing machine was purchased in 1998. Gone was the need to deal and record each hand played but removal of that onus did not remove doubts that the hands were being manipulated.

Popular acceptance of the original acquisition was reflected by the decision in 2006 to purchase a second unit.

Bridgemates

These table top devices enabled even quicker scoring of sessions without the need for a member to stay back after a session to complete the laborious task of entering scores from travelling scoresheets. Though installed not without teething problems, what a bonus those units have given. Instant scoring and tentative ranking after the last hand has been entered.

Incorporation

General

At the Special General Meeting held on 29th June 1992 the then president, Ian Walker outlined the distinct benefits of the Club becoming an Incorporated Association. A proposal was moved that the committee take the necessary action to that effect. That proposal was carried unanimously and so began the process of establishing The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984.

The Club would now become an association receiving recognition as a legal entity separate from its members with protection for office holders from any debts or liabilities incurred by the activities of the organisation provided the organisation did not make a profit for its members. The Club would now be in a stronger position to expedite business.

In order to be considered for incorporation under the Act it was necessary to submit evidence that specific basic requirements had been satisfied. Those requirements were that a name for the association had been registered, the organisation had written aims and objectives, a constitution had been adopted, a public liability insurance policy was in place and that a meeting of the organisation had taken place to approve Incorporation.

A name for the organisation and objectives of the group had been defined in the initial constitution prepared in 1969 and adopted at the first Annual General Meeting on 13th February 1969. That name was *The Newcastle Bridge Club* and the objectives were:

- to advance the interests of the game of bridge'
- to organise and conduct tournaments;
- to co-operate with approved Bridge Associations and Leagues; and
- to engage in any activity which will promote all or any of the above.

Application for incorporation went ahead with final acceptance received in 1993. The association (Club) became *The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated*. At the approval meeting in June 1992, Bernie Adcock was elected unopposed to fill the Public Officer rôle. The incumbent executive committee members automatically become the nominated Office Bearers for the association.

At the Club's AGM held on 15th September 1994 a motion was accepted that The Red Cross Society would be the nominated incorporated association in which any surplus property would be vested should the Club cease to be an association.

NSW Fair Trading over the years has introduced minor changes to the Act with minimal impact on the Club. Annual reporting of its audited accounts is required as is notification of a change of public officer or changes to the constitution.

Constitution

At the Annual General Meeting dated 13th February 1969, the Club's first constitution was adapted from a copy of The Peninsular Bridge Club's constitution. Minor amendments have been incorporated into that document over the years but its essence has remained the regulations under which the Club has functioned. Those minor amendments, approved at the Special General Meeting held on 8th April 1976, include defining how life members may be elected to the Club. The meeting also approved the appointment of three trustees to administer the Club's affairs. Those trustees were Ian Walker, Roy Hardy and Jill Johnstone.

At the Special General Meeting held on 4th January 1979, appointment of Bernie Adcock as a trustee to replace Jill was approved. When the Club became incorporated those trustees were relieved of their commitment. Individual members no longer were liable for the affairs of the organisation.

Redrafts of the Constitution were accepted by the membership in 1991, 1995, 2003 and again twice in 2017. Redrafts of the constitution have been submitted to the Department of Fair Trading when appropriate to ensure that the constitution continues to be recognised under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1984*.

Appendix I - Newcastle Club Membership in 1969

Mrs Elizabeth Abraham
Mr Andrew Alliston
Mr James Alliston
Mrs Carole Bailey
Dr Russell Balandin
Mrs Mina Bremmell
Mr D Cameron
Mrs D Cameron
Mrs Gloria Campbell
Mrs Fiona Chambers
Mr Michael Chambers
Mr Steve Dobrianskyh
Dr Jack Doczy
Mr Norm Druett
Mrs Margaret Dyson
Mr Bill Elder
Mrs Molly Elder
Mr Charles Encsy
Mrs Margaret Fearon
Mrs Shirley Firkin
Mrs T Galbraith
Mrs Glad Gavenlock
Mr Ray Gilford
Mr Roy Hardy
Miss Nance Hawdon
Mrs Joan Hewson
Mr Nick Horner
Mrs Ruth Jackson
Dr Bruce Keating
Mrs Helen Keating
Mrs Suzanne Larke

Mrs Gwen Larkin
Mrs Margaret Leisham
Mrs Judy Macansh
Mr Adrian MacDermott
Mrs Norah MacDermott
Mrs Patsy Morris
Mrs Ailsa McKensey
Mrs Judy McLaughlin
Prof Fred Romberg
Mrs Glad Morrison
Mr Col Newey
Mrs Lilian Newey
Mr Ken Page
Mr Jeremy Platt
Mr Con Putsay
Mrs Margaret Robinson
Mrs Lola Rose
Mrs Elizabeth Scobie
Mrs Denise Soos
Mr Bill Spinks
Mrs Kate Stewart
Mrs Valerie Traill
Mr Quentin van Abbé
Dr Ian Walker
Dr John White
Mrs Enid White
Mrs Catherine Wileman
Mrs Margaret Williams
Mr Keith Willis
Mrs Rose-Mary Willis
Mr Alec Yakimoff

Appendix II - Notable Newcastle Club Members

Life Members by recognition

Mrs Denise Soos
Mr Ken Wilks

Mr Bernie Atkins
Mr Graham Rummey

Life Members by donation

Mr Bernie Adcock
Mrs Marg Dyson
Mrs Judy Macansh
Dr Michael Parfait
Mr(s) P Thompson
Mrs Catherine Wileman
Mrs Rosemary Willis
Mrs Joyce Norton
Mr Roy Hardy

Mr Bruce Dyson
Mrs Margo Fraser
Mr George Putsay
Mr Bill Spinks
Dr Ian Walker
Mrs Marg Williams
Mr Bill Elder
Mrs Audrey Monteath

Debenture Donors - for purchase of 16 Bryant Street, Tighes Hill, 1976

Mrs Val Adams
Mr Jack Doczy
Mrs Marg Fearon
Mr Roy Hardy
Mr John Kisi
Dr Brian McLaughlin
Mrs Del Manning
Mrs Joyce Norton
Mrs Jocelyn Neale
Mr Norma Pickles
Mrs Elizabeth Scobie
Dr Ian Walker

Mrs Gloria Campbell
Mr Bill Elder
Mrs Edith Furner
Mrs Kay Higgins
Mrs Carmel Kisi
Mrs Judy McLaughlin
Mr Adrian MacDermott
Mr Col Newey
Mr P O'Ryan
Mr Con Putsay
Mr C Tracy
Dr John White

Mr(s) V Deschamps
Mrs Sheila Elliott
Mrs E Henderson
Dr Maurice Hurst
Mrs Audrey Monteath
Mrs Patsy Morris
Mrs Nora MacDermott
Mrs Lillian Newey
Mrs Pam Peschar
Mr G Renwick
Mrs J Tracy
Mrs Enid White

Debenture Donors - for purchase of 12 Young Road, Broadmeadow, 1979

Mrs A Russell
Mr B Lindsay
Mrs Helen Johnson
Mr Bernie Adcock
Dr Michael Parfait
Mrs Judy Macansh
Mr B Dorman

Mr Bruce Dyson
Ms Kate Withycombe
Mr Bill Spinks
Mr Don Willis
Mr Wal Wallis
Dr Bruce Keating
Mr Jim Bartlett

Mrs Marg Dyson
Mr Peter Peterson
Mr George Putsay
Mrs Margo Fraser
Mrs Marg Williams
Mrs Catherine Wileman

Loan Donors - for maintenance repairs,

Mrs Gwyn Robertson

Dr Ian Walker

Donations

Mrs Val Adams
Mrs Margot Frazer
Mr John Kisi
Mrs Pam Peschar
Mrs Gwyn Robertson
Mr Bill Spinks

Mr Kevin Burrows
Mrs Sybil Jenness
Mrs Doone Mitchell
Mrs Eileen Pomfrett
Mrs Jocelyn Savage

Mrs Sheila Elliott
Mrs Carmel Kisi
Mrs Irene Nicolle
Mr Jack Pomfrett
Mrs Elizabeth Scobie

Appendix III - Bridge Lesson Leaders

Fiona Chambers

Denise Soos

Jack Doczy

Norah MacDermott

Connie Mitchell

Bill Spinks

Wally Wallis

Kim Morrison

Neryl Babbage

Charles Klassen

Chris Dibley

Denise Soos

Roy Hardy

Paul McGrath

Normand MacLaurin

Wayne Morgan

Paul Hudson

Eileen Pickles

Ken Wilks

Appendix IV - Bridge Club Songs

Our Bridge Club in the North

Sung to the tune 'Much Binding in the Marsh'

At our bridge club in the north
We had our bridge debut first at the uni
At our bridge club in the north
Our mouths were dry our voices weak and puny
Fiona & Denise were tops we were the also rans
The nervous bids, outrageous play our limp and shaky hands
Those Thursday nights were hell with frequent visits to the can
At our bridge club in the north

At our bridge club in the north
The next venue was Mayfield at the Y.M.
At our bridge club in the north
Professor Romberg then was in his prime
'your bid madam' he would say your confidence would wane
Tops would turn to bottoms and your game go down the drain
One wonders how we found the nerve to front up once again
To our bridge club in the north

At our bridge club in the north
The next sojourn was Adamstown R.S.L.
At our bridge club in the north
The lights were dimmed willy nilly pell mell
The pokies stopped the cards were poised 'The Last Post' softly sounded
When the lights went up some eyes were round and faces quite astounded
You pinched my seat, you trumped my ace, sneaky gotchas had abounded
At our bridge club in the north

At our bridge club in the north
The Bowling Club was across from Shortland Clinic
At our bridge club in the north
The nuts 'we' had were Bazil and Ross
The cynics Geoff and Ari, Roy and Bob were an all male studded show
Geoff was known for southern charm and Ari for picking his toes
But at the party Pam stole the show when she turned up both her toes
At our bridge club in the north

At our bridge club in the north
We moved downtown to be at the Masonic
At our bridge club in the north
The P.A. system was rather supersonic
The air conditioning was too cold, the indoor bowls a bore
Upstairs, downstairs in the lift you had to be quite sure
not to hesitate or else you'd get your ???? caught in the door
At our bridge club in the north

At our bridge club in the north
Then we were ensconced at the Sports Centre
At our bridge club in the north
We were quick to smoke our fags before we entered
They kicked us out without a bye your leave
We didn't drink enough beer.
The tennis club
Was next on the list but we only lasted a year
The time was ripe, the deal was made and now at last we're here
At our bridge club in the north

Last verse

At our very own bridge club in the north
We're here to stay for future generations
At our bridge club in the north
And to all involved our heartiest congratulations
We've scraped and painted plumbed and tiled, wallpapered in the loo
Just cast your eyes around you and revel in the view
Ain't it bloody lovely and it's all been due to you and you and you
At our 2, 3, 4 bridge club in the north

© Lyrics by Catherine Wileman and Gloria Campbell circa 1979

Our Bridge Club in the North - Version 2

Sung to the tune 'Much Binding in the Marsh'

At their bridge club in the north
This years' been known for lots of Women's action
At their bridge club in the north
But it's time the husbands were the star attraction
The girls all say as spouses we hate bridge and its fangle
They say we only view it from a chauvinistic angle
And if we put our foot down they get their 'whoo - hoo' in a tangle
At their bridge club in the north

At their bridge club in the north
The whole darn week revolves around a Thursday
At their bridge club in the north
Bad luck when it falls upon your birthday
They sit around on Fridays and groan and skite and moan
They wonder who the scorer is and then reach for the phone
And twenty phone calls later she might throw you a bone
At their bridge club in the north

At their bridge club in the north
We spouses think that we are hardly done by
At their bridge club in the north
And sometimes sex is very hard to come by
You plan an adult weekend in some isolated cove
You buy a see through nightie. It's sexy and it's mauve
But she says 'Congress Darling your dinners on the stove'
At their bridge club in the north

At our bridge club in the north
Your life's in strife when married to a player
At their bridge club in the north
And if your marriage lasts then you're a stayer
You expect the hot tamale as you climb into your bed
She's cranky and she's snarly and she hits you on the head
Why didn't you lead my spade suit? (Sniff) and all your dreams are dead
At our bridge club in the north

Last verse at our bridge club in the north
The answer to this problem is so simple
At our bridge club in the north
You'll have to play apart or else stay single
Ron and Suzie Klinger Anne and Richard Grenside too
Are speaking to each other all starry eyed and true
So follow their example or else we'll all shoot thru
From our 2, 3, 4 bridge club in the north

Oh Mrs Campbell - Yes Mrs Wileman

Sung to the tune 'Mr Gallagher Mr Shean' by Bing Crosby and Bob Hope

Have you heard about that shocking game called Bridge
Why the things I've heard them say positively turn me grey
And from people you'd expect to be more rigid

For example Roy – he was acting quite coy
When he tried a little end play with finesse
He tried a little squeeze but his partner jiggles her knees
And was seen to fall to the floor in some distress

And what about Jack, he was under attack
When he played with Rosemary he was quite obscene
He forced his suit upon her but the dear girl kept her honour
And Jack went to bed with a queen

They discard their suits try to look astute
And the opposition wished they'd had a void
Some women show a bust & their partners leer with lust
With such behaviour there's a field day here for Freud

They're a lot of snobs like to mix with nobs
Seems they'd rather have a major for the game
They Howell about their movements but there are some
New improvements cos they even have a table for the byes

Shall we join them Mrs W
Absolutely Mrs C

© Lyrics written by Catherine Wileman and Gloria Campbell



Standing:

??, Barry Ilsley, Helen Johnson, Marg Klassen, Marg Ingold, Moira Wonders, Eileen Pickles, Ilma Kavanagh, Pam Robinson, Col Pickles, Rhonda Spence, Fay Larkin, Paul McGrath, Val Adams, Bernie Adcock, Peter Carmichael, Hilda Spencer, Peter Gallagher, Anne Gallagher, Bruce Dyson, ??, Pat Walker, Jocelyn Savage, Bill Spinks, Sheila Grey, Jack Doczy, Judy Macansh, Mary Duggan, ??, Jean Stokes, ??, Marge Birt, Pam Peschar, Enid White, Hannah Blades, John White, Mike Seldon, Audrey Monteath.

Middle row:

Chris Dibley, Mike Parfait, Marg Williams, Charles Klassen, Alec Yakimoff, Marie O'Shea, Patsy Morris, Chris van Wyck, Jenny Keegan, Roy Hardy, Kay Rich, Nita Lazer, Marg Dyson, Claire Stone, Mike Simes, Peter Peterson, ??

Front Row:

George Putsay, Adrian MacDermott, Gloria Campbell, Jim Bartlett, Joan Hewson, Ian Walker, Nina Raftos, Kevin Burrows, Sybil Jenness, Sheila Elliott, Mike Covill





Past Presidents:

Roy Hardy

Mike Parfait

Bill Spinks

Ian Walker