

What's Trumps?

The Newcastle Bridge Club Newsletter

#9 - February 2014

Congress Results

Members have been active at Canberra's Summer Festival of Bridge. From my search of the webpage the following successes are noted in no particular order:-

- National Seniors' Teams:
Normand MacLaurin 11th of 49.
- National Life Masters' Teams:
Robyn Fletcher 3rd of 36.
- South West Pacific Teams:
Dibley, Seldon, Smith, Cowen 36th of 156,
Ken Wilks, Michael Simes 45th,
McGrath, Fletcher, Parfait 49th,
Broughton, Geddes, Adcock, Walker 125th,
Blackham, Tredinnick, Battista, Hunter 142nd,
Judy Atkins, Janet Hill 154th.
- National Open Swiss Pairs:
Normand MacLaurin 33rd of 208,
Ken Wilks, Michael Simes 62nd,
Wayne Smith, Chris Dibley 70th,
Ian Walker, Bernie Adcock 118th,
Rosalie Broughton, Margaret Geddes 120th.
- National Restricted Swiss Pairs:
Jack Carson, Anne Reilly 62nd of 90

Well done to all. It is a hard school at which to shine.

My apologies if anyone has been omitted. Full results for all congresses are available through the NSWBA website.

Programme changes

A review of prize monies for 2014 has revealed an imbalance between member participation and prize allocations to the various sessions of play. Accordingly your committee has seen fit to include two additional competitions in the programme.

Those events are;

Saturday March Pairs to be held on March 8, 15 and April 5; and

Wednesday November Pairs to be held on November 5, 12 and 19.

Please make a note of those changes in your calendar.

Club History

In conjunction with making an effort to tidy the office space at the club premises I have been looking back through the recorded minutes of committee meetings from 1968, the year in which the Club was conceived. Call me mad but the ultimate goal was to provide a comprehensive history of the Club. The exercise has been most interesting and at times quite revealing.

I am seeking further anecdotes from members to round the story. Roy Low has published on the Club's webpage an interesting article from the early days. I would ask that if you feel you have any more to add to Roy's article then please provide me with the details. Your input does not need to refer to those early days as many changes have been introduced since that time.

The end result will be the ideal place to acknowledge all those members who have quietly worked behind the scenes to grow the Club to its present sound organisation. Please do not hold back.

Directors' Meeting

Peter Peterson recently held a meeting of Club directors to discuss issues causing concern and not being applied consistently. The next few editions of *What's Trumps* will include articles covering those issues. The desired outcome from all of the issues raised was to ensure that a consistent and equitable environment was created in which members could expect to play bridge.

Directors will be occasionally announcing those decisions but *What's Trumps* will be used to reinforce and explain the logic behind those decisions.

The first item deals with the policy regarding persistent slow play. It is desirable that there be consistency across the Club in relation to policing slow play. At present when the 3-minute warning bell sounds, no new boards should be started. A new board is adjudged to have commenced only after the cards are removed from the card holder.

Starting a board after the warning bell has the cumulative effect of delaying other members. In the spirit of equitable play, members should be prepared to forego a board every so often to ensure that play flows smoothly. One board represents approximately 3% of your total score on the day and if that is an average it will not critically affect your overall result.

Members should accept this decision willingly and avoid starting a new board without the need for the Director reminding them. South players are in the best position to keep an eye on the clock and should the table appear to be falling behind time they could be expected to give a gentle reminder to that effect.

The directors agreed that this policy would be implemented across all sessions. Directors will retain discretionary powers to exempt pairs under special circumstances. However, the fact that a director has been called to adjudicate at another table does not exempt him or her from the general policy.

Members should be aware that the first responsibility of Directors, as playing Directors, is as **Director**. This may sometimes require them not to play a board (take an average) because of lack of time, or because they have had to examine the cards at another table to determine a ruling. Occasionally members at the director's table may be asked to take an average through no fault of their own.

Thanks Roy Low

Something like 25 years ago, Roy Low saw the need for our Club to have become involved in the age of computers and the benefits it would provide for members. With great resolve he set up systems for the Club to use and, ultimately, the website with which most of you are quite familiar. Since then Roy has been continuously committed to implementing changes and upgrades to meet the evolving needs of our Club. These things cannot go forever though and Roy has realized the time has arrived for him to step back from his role as the Club's webmaster and computer things generally. He considers it is time for another member to take up the reins.

Late last year, a sub-committee was formed to tackle the unenviable task of finding a new way to provide a website and of dealing with the numerous

other computer-related issues that Roy has so ably managed for us. At a meeting in February, Committee accepted the sub-committee's recommendation to engage *Shaneweldon web development* to design a Newcastle Bridge Club web site. Comment received from those tendering for this work reinforced what Club members would or should already recognise; that Roy has provided an outstandingly professional service, indeed so professional that no single person could take over and run the present site as effectively. That assessment led to the conclusion that design of a new website was the appropriate step to take. Shane Weldon has indicated that the new website could be in operation by early April.

The Club will be eternally grateful for the time and effort Roy has willingly devoted to initially setting up the site and then maintaining it whilst improving its functionality for member's enjoyment. This has been a huge contribution to the development of our Club. The Committee, on behalf of the members, extends to Roy our sincere appreciation of a job excellently performed.

Thank you Roy, and well done.