

What's Trumps?

The Newcastle Bridge Club Newsletter #12 - September 2014

Congress Results

The request is still open that in future if members wish their achievements to be noted then please let me know.

I have gleaned the following results not previously reported and I suppose while I still do this then no-one will feed me the details. Here they are:

Maitland Novice Congress:

- 1st Lesley and Charles Bowen-Thomas
- 3rd Judy Dwyer and John Burns

Taree Teams:

- 2nd Broughton, Geddes, Simes, Johnson

Brisbane Waters Super Congress:

Open Teams

- 1st McGrath, Fletcher, Quittners
- 2nd MacLaurin, Smith, Draper, Limaye

Novice Teams

- 1st Bale, Carter, Ritchie, Pletz

Novice Swiss Pairs

- 1st E/W, Ronnie Antill and Tracey Evans

Toronto Teams

- 1st Broughton, Geddes, Walker, Wilks
- 2nd Wagstaff, Cafe, Atkins
- 3rd Charlton, Simpson, Corneys

Central Coast Novice Congress

Pairs

- 1st John Jeffery and Peter Wheatley
- 2nd Alan Hemmingway and Bruce King

Teams

- 2nd Black, Lewis, Burns, Dwyer

Port Macquarie-Hastings Teams

- 1st Broughton, Wilks, Simes, Johnson

Well done to all of you, especially to our newer members doing so well in deeper waters.

2014 Annual General Meeting

The AGM was successfully held on 13th September with 29 members in attendance. Proceedings ran smoothly with encouraging reports submitted by the Treasurer, Secretary and President. Bruce's

time as vice president came to an end and his efforts were given appropriate acclaim. Officers were elected for the coming year. Members of your committee are:

President	Tony Wagstaff
Vice President	Rosalie Broughton
Treasurer	Jeff Biddlecombe
Secretary	Graham Rummy
General members	Janet Hill
	Alison Morris
	Pam Robinson
	Eileen Sellers
	Anita Stiller

Ken Wilks and Peter Peterson have agreed to continue as Masterpoint Secretary and Tournament Director respectively.

Lively discussion centred on ways in which newer players could be encouraged to move into more competitive sessions. Those ideas will be considered as part of the Development Subcommittee's brief to transition new players on from beginner status.

A copy of the minutes from the AGM has been posted on the noticeboard.



James Hart, Frank Douglas and Bruce enjoying the post-AGM sausage sizzle,



ably distributed by Bernie Adcock and Janet Hill

Member contact detail changes

Another reminder to members to keep your contact details current. Please let a member of committee know of any changes whence the Club's webpage can be updated.

Tales from the Bridge Table

Are there any budding authors amongst the ranks of bridge players at the Club? Trumps Bridge Club is running a competition in which it states:

"We seek human interest stories with minimum technicality and maximum entertainment that illustrate why bridge is a passion, not just a game. Submissions, anecdotes and other creative bids will be judged by an independent panel and prizes awarded. What is your best tale?"

Anyone having a story and interested in submitting it for consideration may obtain further details from that Club's webpage trumps.net.au.

Tournament Directors' Word

Alerts – why, when and how

Success in Bridge requires effective communication with your partner. However, that communication must be 'out in the open'; you are not allowed to send secret messages. Any communication with your partner must be according to the Law, and must be interpretable by the opposition.

One way of ensuring this is the case is the requirement for "Alerts". An alert warns the opponents that partner's bid may require an explanation.

In any bidding system, there will be bids that are 'artificial' or 'conventional'; they carry a meaning that is different from their face value. A simple example would be an opening 2C bid that does not mean "I have a lot of clubs and want to play in Clubs", but rather simply states that you hold a strong opening hand. If your partner makes an artificial bid, you MUST ALERT that bid; i.e. you are alerting the opposition to the fact that the call may need an explanation. If you do not alert an artificial bid, and this causes problems for the opposition, the Director may well award an adjusted score in favour of the opponents.

What bids need to be alerted?

- Any bid that means something other than "I want to play in this suit" is by definition a conventional bid and must be alerted.

- This includes bids that show the suit named plus another suit. So, for instance, if you play multi-2s, and an opening 2H bid shows hearts and another suit, that bid is conventional and must be alerted.
- It also includes bids that you are forced to make by convention; e.g. if you play the Lebensohl 2NT convention, a bid of 2NT (alerted) requires a response of 3C, and that response must be alerted.

Exceptions:

- Do not alert any double or redouble. These bids are deemed to be self-alerting.
- If your partner opens 1C or 1NT, you immediately 'announce' the meaning of that bid. This takes the place of alerting for those bids.
- Do not alert cue bids; i.e. when your partner bids a suit already nominated by the opponents.
- Do not alert any bid above 3NT.

How to alert

If your partner makes an alertable bid, you must indicate this **immediately the bid is made**. If you alert the bid after the next player has called, that player may have the right to amend his/her call, and should call the Director if he/she wishes to exercise that right.

Alerts are made by audibly saying "Alert" and circling the bid on the bidding pad. The ABF Alerting Regulations require **both** the statement and the circling; just putting a circle on the pad is not sufficient.

Some important notes

- Do not explain your alerted calls unless specifically asked to do so.
- If you know that partner's bid is alertable but you can't remember what it means, you should nevertheless alert the bid. If asked what it means, explain that you can't remember what it means. The Director should be called immediately, and will probably send you away from the table so that your partner can explain the meaning of the bid to the opponents.

Peter Peterson, Tournament Director