

What's Trumps?

The Newcastle Bridge Club Newsletter

#13 - October 2014

Congress Results

Mike Simes and Ken Wilks won the individual pairs event at the recent Great Lakes Congress. They then teamed up with the Mayo's to finish 5th in the teams event. Matt Blackham playing with Michele Tredinnick came 3rd in the teams event. The best truly Newcastle Team finishing 15th was Janet Ritchie, Cheryl Pletz, Wayne Morgan and Rodney Bell.

And at the Muswellbrook Congress, Anne and Normand MacLaurin came 2nd in the Pairs Final. In the same event, Rosalie Broughton and Ken Wilks finished 3rd and Mike Simes with Michael Johnson finished 4th. The grouping of Broughton, Wilks, Simes and Johnson finished 3rd in the Teams. Janet Hill, Bernie Adcock, Pam Robinson and Christo Muskovsky came 4th.

So you think you're a fast player?

With Matthew McManus' expressed consent to "spread the word" here are five issues you might wish to address as you play a session of bridge.

1. Are you ready to start? When asked to move to the next table are you still getting a cuppa, chatting or discussing the hand?
2. Do you travel light? Are you carrying unnecessary baggage?
3. Do you play before doing bookwork? Get the game underway by leading or tabling dummy cards before recording whatever details you find necessary to record.
4. Does taking an average upset you? If you are not asked to "take an average" often then you generally are not at fault. Otherwise if it happens often then something needs to change for the benefit of other players.
5. Do you track time? Always having to rush the last board suggests you are a slow player. It is good practice to pace yourself against the clock and play each hand comfortably.

Matthew's full article on the topic has been published in the October 2014 edition of eCongressNews, www.nswba.com.au/enews/. For

the benefit of others please read it and apply the principles.

The benefits of playing bridge

What do you think the combined ages would be of the ladies at one table during a duplicate pairs game on Wednesday 8th October.

It would be around 350. Their names are withheld by request.

Calling all Mentors

Transition to regular competitive sessions and initial exposure to experienced players can often be daunting for beginner players. Therefore, the Club is establishing a Mentoring Programme. Committee is seeking established players willing to act as mentors for beginners who have completed Wayne's lessons and have been attending supervised sessions. This way Committee hopes to facilitate a more stress-free transition of new "graduates" into one or more of the Club's competitive play sessions.

Mentors would be expected to play with one of the new players on at least four occasions [although not necessarily consecutive weeks] and thereby provide them with guidance and help build their confidence for competitive play. The mentor's commitment to the programme extends no further than the four sessions. If the mentor and beginner wish to continue their partnership beyond that, it is entirely their decision. However, mentors should bear in mind that there may be other beginners waiting in line to benefit from their generosity.

Mentors must be prepared to:

- play the basic Newcastle Standard System as taught by Wayne [system cards will be available];
- commit to four mentoring sessions with their assigned beginner;
- encourage the use of personal score sheets and analysing of hand records;
- spend time after each mentoring session discussing specific hands; and

- provide hints on bidding sequences (theirs and the opposition's), on leads and lines of play.

There will always be new players needing assistance and any time that you can volunteer as a mentor whether for a single four-session programme or for several times throughout a year, it will be of benefit not only to the beginner but to the ongoing success of the Club.

Any club member interested in supporting our Mentoring Programme is asked to contact Anita Stiller (Ph: 4950 2279 or email astiller@tpg.com.au).

Table Fee Slips

Ken Wilks has kindly submitted the following two articles to help members understand what happens behind the scenes.

Would all members please take care in completing the Table Fee Slips. When the slips are completed correctly the process of counting and reconciling table fees requires no guesswork and can proceed much more effectively.

Table Fees – NEWCASTLE BRIDGE CLUB

TABLE NO: _____ DATE: _____

SESSION: AM – PM – DAY – EVENING (circle)

½ Table – Director – Dealer – No. of Visitors _____
(circle)

North:	Tokens:
Signed:	Cash:

The significance for each entry may be explained as:

- Table No:** identification to which the slip applies;
Date: table fees are reconciled by date;
Session: circle the time of the session. This is especially important for Monday when there is a PM session and an EVENING session;
½ Table: to confirm that there should only be two fees at the table and to nullify the need to check if any fees are missing;
Director /Dealer: to confirm that there should be one less fee at the table;
No. of Visitors: the number of visitors at the table is important as the information is recorded in the reconciliation and visitors pay extra;
Tokens: enter the number of tokens – not the

dollar value of those tokens, and count the tokens to confirm that they have all been collected;

Cash: Enter the total cash paid to confirm that the correct fees have been paid; and most importantly

Plastic take the time to seal the plastic bags
Bags: to prevent cash or tokens from falling out.

Master Points

Master points are won by playing in club events or congresses. There are three types of master points that a player can win.

- Green Points – won at club events
- Red Points – won at special club events and congresses
- Gold Points – won at special ABF events such as the GNOTs , Gold Coast Congress, ANC etc

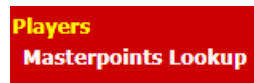
Masterpoints won by players over their lifetime are used to determine each player's master ranking. There are currently 21 different ranks ranging from Graduate Master to Diamond Grand Master. Players receive an official certificate with each rank promotion. Master rankings may be used to determine seedings in tournaments.

MASTER RANKINGS

Rank	Minimum Requirements		
	Total	Red & Gold	Gold
Graduate	2		
Club	5		
Local	15		
*Local	25		
**Local	35		
Regional	50		
*Regional	100		
State	50	25	
*State	100	50	
National	150	75	
*National	200	100	
**National	300	150	
Life	300	180	30
Bronze Life	400	240	40
Silver Life	500	300	50
Gold Life	750	450	75
Grand	1000	700	200
Silver Grand	2500	1900	600
Gold Grand	5000	4000	1400
Emerald Grand	10000	8500	3000
Diamond Grand	15000	13000	5000

Master points won at congresses are updated on a monthly basis. Master points won at club level are updated on a quarterly basis at which time new master point ranking lists are produced and distributed to all clubs.

The ABF maintains players master points via an on line system that is accessible to all players. To access the online system go to <http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/>. To look up your master point details click on **Masterpoints Lookup**, enter your ABF number and click on **Get Masterpoints**



Masterpoint Awards - By ABF Number

Awards can be searched by Player name, ABF Number, Club or Event. Choose your search basis below.

By Name

By ABF Number

By Home Club

By Event

Enter ABF Number

Get Masterpoints

The screen that appears lists full details of the players ranking. Name; ABF Number; Home Club; Rank; Requirements for the next promotion; Green, red, gold and total master points won; and A list of all Masterpoints won for the last 12 months. That list enables players to check the green, red and gold master points that they have won at:

- any clubs they have played;
- any congresses they have played; and
- any special events they have played in such as country teams, GNOTs, etc

Examples are:

1. for points won at the Quick Tricks and Newcastle Bridge Clubs

Jun-2014	2223	Quick Tricks	0.84
Jun-2014	2160	Newcastle	2.04
Jun-2014	2160	Newcastle	4.69
Jun-2014	2223	Quick Tricks	0.84

2. for points won at a congress

Sep-2013	GKC	Great Lakes Congress	3.49
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3. for points won in the GNOTs

Sep-2013	NCG	GNOT Newcastle Heat	3.00
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4. for points won in the CountryTeams

Aug-2014	2CT	NSW Open Teams Country Division	4.28
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There is a wealth of detailed information available to players about their master points. If players have any queries about their master points, they should check the on line system before contacting the masterpoint secretary.