

# What's Trumps?

The Newcastle Bridge Club Newsletter

#11 - July 2014

## Congress Results

No doubt in the period between What's Trumps #10 and this edition there has been wondrous representation by Newcastle members at local congresses. I have not searched the NSWBA webpage searching for specific results and request that in future if members wish their achievements to be noted then please let me know.

A few members attended the Australian National Championships held recently at Canterbury Racecourse with mixed success. Rosalie Broughton and Ken Wilks finished 19<sup>th</sup> of 72 pairs in Stage 1 of the Butler Pairs. They elected not to proceed to Stage 2 of that event but to play in the Swiss Pairs event where they finished 16<sup>th</sup> of 28 pairs. Normand MacLaurin, Wayne Morgan and Grant Cowen also played in that event.

A most noteworthy result was achieved by Rod Bell and Wayne Morgan. They finished 3<sup>rd</sup> of 36 pairs in the Restricted Butler Pairs.

Chris Williams played in the Women's Butler Pairs.

## Newcastle Congress

The following article has been provided by Anita to cover the success of the Club's 2014 Congress.

*At this stage, I'm unaware of the financial outcome of our latest Congress, but I understand we will be banking a profit. It seems to have been successful [according to comments received] in other aspects; the one exception being that, although the outside lighting to and from the car park was greatly improved; it was still not completely adequate. Also, some of the ceiling lights within the venue were not working, thus creating problems for some players.*

*Our Director, Matthew McManus, was, as usual, calm, efficient, pleasant and thoroughly professional. We are very lucky to have Matthew's expertise and he has been asked to return next year.*

*The number of players attending the Congress averaged those of previous years. Players from the Hunter Valley, the Central Coast, Bathurst,*

*Muswellbrook and Sydney were present. The field was split into Open and Restricted [including Novice] events for the first time for both Pairs and Teams. This new format met with general approval and should be continued in the future.*

*Prize winners are listed in the excellent report provided by Tony Wagstaff and posted on our website. Christine Williams kindly photographed winners and her snaps are also featured in the Congress section of our website. This information has been copied to John McIlrath for inclusion in the next edition of the NSWBA's Congress eNews.*

*The increase in prize money bestowed on winners and place getters this year was appreciated by most players, although some feel it was inadequate. I support the view that, as only a few people win prizes, and not all of them are members of the NBC, it is better that the bulk of any profit is used by the club for the benefit of all our members.*

*The work involved in staging the Congress had not diminished from the previous year and, once again, we relied heavily on the good will and hard yakka of stalwart members. It was still necessary to enlist two young men as paid helpers to load, transport and unload material from the club house to Jesmond and return. Players would have noticed a high school student in attendance on both days. Clayton was paid to assist with kitchen and caddy duties. His work helped to lighten the load and was most welcome.*

*Delicious slices, cakes, biscuits etc. were donated by members. It was noted, however, that the quantity of home baking was considerably less than last year. Fortunately, it was augmented by donations of biscuits etc. purchased by members from supermarkets. Other members agreed to our requests to do some heavy baking and cooking and provided date rolls, zucchini muffins, sausage rolls, meat balls, and quiches.*

*Gratitude is due to those special people without whom there would be great difficulty in presenting a Congress - and these are the dealers! Thank you all.*

*We also owe our appreciation to the following people who assisted in various ways:*

Garry Baunach	Jennifer Fowler
Helen Johnson	Normand Maclaurin
Alison Morris	Peter Peterson
Tony Wagstaff	Peter Wheatley,
Jeff Biddlecombe	Rosalie Broughton
Margaret Geddes	Una Lewis
Don Miller	Jocelyn Neale
Pam Robinson	Ellice Schrader
Ken Wilks,	Phil Hain
Judy Macansh	Wayne Morgan
Jan Nicol	Eileen Sellers
Bruce Webster	Colleen Wilson

*Thank you also to Toni Penfold and Margaret Carter who had volunteered to help in the kitchen but were called upon to play in the Restricted Pairs on Saturday instead. Had they not done so, it would have been necessary to send an unregistered pair home. Ian Walker and Joan Hewson did the same favour in the Open Pairs. And, of course, thanks are also due to all those who helped clean up on the Saturday and Sunday evening, and to Merlyn Pritchard - a visiting non-member who assisted in packing items to be transported to Jesmond. If I have overlooked anyone, please accept my sincere apologies.*

*A final thank you to all who attended and contributed to the good humour and pleasant atmosphere of the weekend. We look forward to seeing all of you again next year.*

Anita Stiller,  
Convenor,  
2014 NBC Congress

### **Member contact detail changes**

The Club's webpage now includes member contact details which may be accessed via the password protected member log in page.

Should those details not be correct or more importantly should they change, then please let a member of committee know and the page will be updated.

### **Tournament Directors' Word Hesitations (again)**

In an earlier edition of "What's Trumps?" I wrote a brief article about Hesitations. The main point of

my article was the importance of bidding without taking account of any extraneous ("unauthorised") information. I want to say a bit more about this matter because it is one of the most contentious areas in Bridge Law. There seems to be a general feeling that if the Director is called to the table because of a perceived hesitation, the person calling the Director is accusing the opponents of 'cheating'.

The first thing I want to emphasise is that there is nothing wrong with pausing to think about what to bid or what to play, after all, we are not machines and we do have to ponder problematic situations. However, it is important to recognise that pausing to think indicates that there is something to think about. So the pause gives your partner information.

Where the Law comes in to play is in relation to your partner's actions. There is nothing wrong with a hesitation BUT it gives unauthorised information, and there is something wrong with your partner taking advantage of that information.

A clear example would be the following bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
P	2D*	3D	P (after pause for thought)
Pass	3S	All Pass	

South's 2D was alerted and explained as a weak 6-card major. It turns out that South holds:

♠ KT9863  
♥ 63  
♦ KQ  
♣ 972

In general, a player who pre-empts is not expected to bid again unless his partner comes into the bidding. The preemptive bidder has 'said his all' in his first bid so why did South bid again in this auction? A reasonable conclusion would be that he was encouraged to believe that his partner held some values – had some reason to think about what to bid – and therefore it was worth pushing a level higher. This is exactly what the Law forbids and the Law is actually tougher than that as it does not allow South to argue that "I was always going to bid again", or some such argument. If South's bid could have been suggested by his partner's hesitation, the Director is likely to disallow it.

Another similar case would be if South opens 1NT, West overcalls 2S, North passes after a hesitation, and East passes. Again, the 1NT opening has fully described South's hand, and he is unlikely to have found extra values to justify reopening the bidding, so the Director may well rule that any further

bidding by South was influenced by partner's hesitation.

Remember, hesitation is not in itself a violation of the Law BUT partner must not draw any inferences from that hesitation. The hesitation suggests there is something worth thinking about and that by itself is unauthorised information. If the Director is called, it is to protect the rights of the opponents. It is not a criticism of the player who has paused for thought, and it is not necessarily a problem for partner if his bid is clearly justifiable. It is simply the way that the Law is written to keep the game of Bridge fair and enjoyable for all.

Peter Peterson, Tournament Director

### **Italian Day**

From Stewart Roach, your occasional reporter.

*The Tuesday group certainly raised the bar as far as entertainment is concerned when more than 60 players of the record-equalling 19 tables celebrated Italy's Republic Day after their tournament on June 3<sup>rd</sup> with a luncheon hosted by regular members Tony and Enza DiStefano.*

*The hall was decorated in the national colours of red, white and green with special table cloths to protect the playing tables as the members feasted on Italian fare to the strains of Dean Martin and other traditional music. The top three placegetters in the competition also received chocolates as prizes.*

*Tony's mother cooked the traditional Pizzas from his native Abruzzo area of central Italy while Tony manned the barbecue to cook the spicy Italian sausages. Enza missed the tournament to stay home and cook the Italian pasta and collect the pizza's to go with Effie Roach's fresh salad. Tony even supplied the Montepulciano D'Ambruzzo red wine to wash down the main meal, then switched hats to brew his famous "short black" coffee to complement Effie's fruit salad and Marion Smith's Gelato.*

*Popular Irishman John Burns changed nationality for a day and produced his antique accordion to entertain the members between the end of the tournament and the start of lunch which included all the members serenading Jill Cattell for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

*Regular Tuesday lunch "chefs" Bernie Adcock (BBQ) and Jill Blenkey (kitchen) took the day off to play as a team and set a Tuesday record of 71.8% (he and Janet Hill had a club record 72.2% the previous night) to be matched by Peter Peterson and Helen Johnston the following Tuesday. But it will certainly be difficult to "match" the DiStefano's Italian experience in upcoming Tuesday functions.*

*Records keep tumbling as on 24<sup>th</sup> June Tuesday's attendance reached 20 tables playing two sections of 30 boards.*

Did you miss it? Tuesday sessions continue to be the most popular. Hopefully an explanation as to why they are so popular can be derived from an analysis of your responses to Eileen's recent survey questionnaire. Your comments should provide some thoughts for the committee to consider for a means to increase attendance at the evening sessions.