

TOURNAMENT ORGANISER'S REPORT for 2014

As Vice president I carry out the duties of Tournament Organiser. I take overall responsibility for all our club tournament days as well as Red Point Events and those tournaments held on Special Days. I also hold monthly meetings with the directors to review past events and plan all upcoming tournaments.

Since our last AGM. Matt Raj Mal and Leon Babinski have been endorsed as directors
Congratulations guys! This means we now have 7 regular directors with Lorraine Lindsay as a very able reserve.

We have still had a few glitches with bridge mate and it's settings, but, I'd like to thank the directors for all their hard work and time spent in trying to resolve mistakes so that in future all sessions will run smoothly. This year has been another steep learning curve and I thank you, each and everyone. I believe it has been a good year and the directors have done a great job.

We had an extra Red point to award this year, so we resurrected Valentines Day. Unfortunately, with, our falling attendance numbers in the past 12 months we have not earned the green points to maintain that extra day.

We, also, introduced 3 Pot Luck Teams days this year and I would welcome any feedback on whether to continue these days or even hold them more regularly.

More importantly

1) We replaced our Club Mixed Pairs Championship session which earned Green D points with the State Mixed Pairs Qualifying event which now earns us Red B4s and

2) We added to our calendar the State Open Pairs Qualifying which also earns Red B4s while still retaining our Club Open Pairs.

3) Then well after printing of our programme, we were informed that this year, the NSWBA had introduced a Country Carnival Pairs catering for Novice, Restricted and Open in the Australian National Championships and we were asked to run a 2 session qualifying event. We did this, but believe:- it was not well patronized; we had difficulty finding pairs to go to the Regionals and our calendar is already a full one and lastly should we lose 2 more ordinary sessions? We have already begun discussions that we drop the Country Carnival Pairs as a Club Event and simply, run a regional final in the 3 fields that anyone can enter. This would be similar to the Central Coast event held at the Community Club, Bateau Bay last year to choose pairs to play in the Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs at the Spring Nationals in October.

We have continue our policy of sending as many entrants as possible,(usually 3) to all Regional, Divisional and Championship Finals. Our policy has been to give as many people as possible experience, at a level, other than club. Consequently:-

Nationally we sent 3 Teams to the Regional Finals of the Grand National Open Teams

At the State level I am pleased to report that we sent 3 Pairs to the State Mixed Pairs in May. For the first time the field was divided into 2 parts" State Mixed Pairs and Country State Mixed Pairs. All entrants were asked to nominate the division in which they wished to compete and I am pleased to announce that Gary Heyting and Dorothy Berzins won the inaugural Country State Mixed Pairs.

We also sent 2 pairs to the State Open Pairs Championships held in Oct. 2013 and 3 teams to the Country teams Divisional final held on 28th & 29th June.

At our Club level

We again successfully ran 2 intra Club teams Days.

In December we ran a special day to raise money for the Philippine's Disaster and presented the money to Vicky Morris to help her to pack relief parcels for the residents of her former home island. We competed in a well patronized and successful Bridge for Brains Day and the social committee headed by Ros. Ransley and later by Robyn Ivers ran the Best Ever Charity Day. And we were able to present cheques to both Pandora and Wild Life Ark.

Decisions made during the year

- 1) With the full time use of Bridgmate it was decided that if members wanted to play in that session they must be seated 5 mins prior to commencing time, e.g. 12:30 pm for most sessions so director could set play. Anyone arriving after that time would not be eligible to play.
- 2) Consequently the office is closed to all except the director when office door is closed, especially prior to game,
- 3) When playing a Howell players are to follow the directions in Bridgmate.
- 4) After the scores have been entered into the bridgmate, all 4 players have equal access.
- 5) Online entries - all events which require pre-entry can now also be made on the club web-site
- 6) Standby was reinstated on a Mon. night.
- 7) In all club sessions, any pair below *local master or any pair with 1 player below local graduate master can request protection from brown sticker conventions. (N.B. not in Red point or championship games)

Lastly I would like to farewell and thank Wendy my president of the last 2 years. She has been a tower of help, patience and strength. I especially want to thank her for resuming my duties during my recent incapacity. To the directors and committee for their support I also say a big THANK YOU

Yours in Bridge
Dianne March.