

Tournament Organiser's Report for 2015

First I would like to praise our very able directors:- Peter Berzins, Colin Mitchell, Leyla Moncelet, Ronnie Ng, Matt Raj Mal, George Boettiger and Leon Babinski. Thank you guys for a job well done, and, an extra big thank-you, to our retiring Chief Director Peter.,

Our special committee news is that Julie Sadler and David Bowerman attended the directors' course this year and Julie has already begun her training.

In 2015 we were the first club to hold our Grand National Teams. This made the first half of the year rather congested with team events. Next year we will be the second cab off the ranks and hopefully that will allow a more even spread of pairs and team events.

This year we did not have as many red points to allocate as we did last year. Consequently, we still ran our Valentine's Cup (which, we had only resurrected the year before), for the trophy, yes ,but, unfortunately only for green points. Our allocation of red points is based on the number of green points earned in the previous year. And, these in turn are based on the number of players participating in each tournament, be it a special event, or just a normal club day. Our eclectic events i.e. Jumping January, are an attempt to earn extra green points. The more people who play in the event the more green points we can distribute as extras. In Jumping January, 4 pairs received extra 'greens' with the top pair, Gwen White and Jacqui Wilson, receiving an extra 0.71 points . In total Jumping January added 1.81 green points to our yearly tally. So keep participating.

The Bridge for Brains competition earns us external red points. This year 34 pairs competed and of these 20 pairs earned red points. State qualifying events also earn players red points. So, to this effect, we again ran our Mixed Pairs Championship as a State Qualifying event and we ran an extra State Open Pairs Qualifying event as well retaining our own Pairs Championship .

Each September we hold a Regional meeting where we discuss, co-ordinate and fix the dates and times for the 3 GNOT's , our Charity and Bridge for Brains days and all Championship events. Last AGM I reported, that, we would opt for the Country Carnival Pairs to be dropped as a club event and simply run on a Regional basis. At 2014 September's meeting we were asked to give it another go as a club event, which we reluctantly did. The next committee will decide if the event was a success and should be retained or dropped to allow a less crowded calendar. I also submit for consideration that 'Bridge for Brains' be held on a Thursday to bring it into line with the other clubs to avoid our results being published and thus giving an advantage to players in the other clubs.

Also at that meeting , the State body asked us to set aside 3 Tuesdays the 4th, 11th and 18th August for a Beginners/ Novice/Restricted event whose format was still not finalised. At the beginning of June, we were notified that it was to be replaced by something in September/ October. So we are instigating an event primarily for local* masters and below. It will be interesting to see how well it will be patronised and , If, there is a need in our club, to hold an event targeting our newer members to Bridge.

We have tried this year, to give, as many as possible players the opportunity to compete in Regional and State events. Consequently, we have sent 3 teams and/or pairs to advance from the club level except in the State Open Pairs Final and Country Open Pairs where we sent 4.

Each month the committee reviews all calendared events after they had been played to see if anything could be learned from and used to improve future tournaments. We also plan the director, the movement and anything relevant from the last year's running, for each of the next month's calendar gazetted days. We also discuss matters pertaining to the smooth running of sessions and the comfort and mobility of players, such as, the use of the monitor during play, seating arrangements and the numbering of same, the air-conditioning and the best way to set Bridgemates so that the session runs smoothly.

Since the last AGM your Tournament committee has made the following recommendations, which have been ratified by the General Committee.

- 1) A change to Tournament Regulations that "After the results of a playing session have been posted on the internet, members have 48hrs to notify the Director of any errors that require correction."
- 2) A new appeals form.
- 3) That the fixed East/ West or North/ South "sit outs" be scrapped, so that Directors can arrange it best, for the players, who are attending on that day.
- 4) That the Recorder accept verbal reports of any alleged breaches of etiquette at tables .
- 5) In the second half of 2014, George Boettiger to facilitate an informal bridge discussion group at 11am on a Thursday morning at no charge.to attendees - The group averaged at least 8 people until nearing Xmas when the numbers fell and it was disbanded. (Hopefully, it may be resumed again, at some later date, in maybe pods of 6 weeks ?).

I would like now bid a temporary farewell to the committee and to thank the club for allowing me to be your Vice President and consequently,, your Tournament Organiser. I am so gratefully for the opportunity that I have had to learn , what these roles entailed and for the wealth of Bridge knowledge that I have been able to gather in the last 5 years. I apologise for any mistakes I have made along the way, but hopefully, you agree, that, the only way to make mistakes is, to attempt something you have not done before. (Please remember that with all new committee members).

I would like to wish Rosanne and the new committee the best of luck. And lastly, to thank the excellent Presidents, Marilyn, Wendy and Dorothy, with whom I have been lucky enough to work, and , the workaholic committee members who have set me such a good example.

Thank you everyone and I sincerely hope that, one day, you will allow me to re-join the Committee.

Yours in Bridge,

Dianne