

## **NEWSLETTER JUNE 2015**

### **From the President**

There have recently been queries from some members asking why the entry fee for red point events has increased to \$10. Table money has not been increased for a number of years even though capitation fees and other costs have increased. I will endeavour to explain the rationale for the increase. The club derives income from members through annual subscriptions and table money. As soon as the director of the day unlocks the door, switches on lights, urns, air conditioning etc., there is a cost incurred whether we end up with 4 tables or 14. Indeed, there are overheads that need to be paid even when the building is locked up. Members may not be aware that the club pays the ABF for master points. We run 7 or 8 sessions every week and must pay for all master points issued at these sessions. At red point events, more points are issued and the cost is higher. Also for red point events the club pays a non-playing director; pays prize money to the winners and pays for the name strip to go onto the honour board. In some events we also pay for multiple sets of boards to be prepared. The Management Committee has decided that it is reasonable to expect that all costs incurred by running a red point event should be covered by the entry fee for players.

For the sake of comparison, 3 sessions of 10 tables for green point pairs events costs \$17.64 for green points, \$0 for a director and \$0 for prize money. The table money collected goes towards covering overhead costs. A similar red point event of 3 sessions of 10 tables costs \$48.30 for red points, \$210 for a director, \$200 for prize money and between \$18 and \$30 for the honour board name strip, depending on the length of the names. This means that the club is incurring costs of close to \$500 over and above the normal running expenses. I have noticed that some clubs in Perth are charging \$12 or \$15 dollars for red point events. I am playing in a 2 session event in the ANC in July for which the cost is \$40 per person and bring your own lunch.

The Event Regulations recently adopted by the Management Committee also allow for the Committee to vary the entry fee although this is only likely to happen if there are a large number of entries over and above the minimum of 10 tables required to run a red point event.

Ann Shalders

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>JULY</b>	Beginning Mon 6th	Jackpot Week
	Thurs 16th	Event Catering Meeting at 11am.
<b>AUGUST</b>	Beginning Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jackpot Week
	Wed 12th	Special Teams
	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Australia Wide Open Pairs
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Beginning Mon 7th	Jackpot Week
	Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Best 3 out of 4 event
	Mon am 7 <sup>th</sup>	Very Novice Pairs (Less than 15 Mps at 1 July 2015, Min 6 tables)
	Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> - all day	Jack Rowse Novice Pairs (Less than 50 Mps at 1 July Min 10 tables)

May and June have been busy months for Mandurah Bridge Club. The club was used as a venue to raise funds for 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea', a function organised by Anne Wheel and Rosie Elphick. A sumptuous morning tea (that also did for lunch and afternoon tea) was served.

A total of \$3,826.00 was raised from raffles, donations, an auction and bridge table money. Congratulations to Anne and Rosie for a wonderful result.



## COMPETITION RESULTS



The GNOT qualifying rounds were played over two consecutive Wednesdays, with the event giving a comfortable win to Kathy and Phillip Power.



The Australia Wide Novice Pairs were held the following week with fifteen tables participating. Winners were Beryl Ellis and Diana Moorhouse with 65.4% which placed them 28<sup>th</sup> in the country.



The Handicap Pairs were keenly contested over three consecutive Tuesdays with a pleasing field of sixteen tables. Results varied from week to week making it an exciting contest. Congratulations to John Griffiths and Bill Webb who topped the consolidated final result, followed by Rose and Colin Hunter who were only two points behind.

The best three out of four Friday competition completed on Friday 26 June was won by Roman Gdowski and Andrew Marsh, followed by Jean McLarty and Robina McConnell in second place.

## HELP!

Each year Mandurah Bridge Club organises five major events.

Three of these are Congresses at which we provide morning and afternoon teas as well as lunch for the participants. The other two events are social, for the benefit of members who look forward to the Melbourne Cup Lunch and the Christmas Party. This year they all occur within a relatively short time frame – i.e. October 2015 to early February 2016.

In the past one person has taken on the catering organisation of all of these events, a daunting task for anybody. The Committee have decided it will be a good idea to try and spread the load. It is proposed that one Committee member will take on the responsibility of coordinating the events. We plan to interest a different group of volunteers to run each event. Each group will have a leader who will liaise with the coordinator and take the responsibility of delegating tasks to their team.

A meeting will be held on Thursday 16th July at 11:00 am. We will explain the organisation needed for each event and request your help to form teams to run them. There are numerous roles for volunteers, both for men and women. You can show your support for your Club by your attendance. BYO lunch and join us for bridge in the afternoon. For more information call Di Schupp on 95351638

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

## UNAUTHORISED INFORMATION FROM PARTNER

I am sometimes surprised to learn that even experienced bridge players are not aware of some of the **basic laws of bridge**. Anything your partner says or does during the auction, **except for their legal calls** (i.e. bids, doubles, passes), **is unauthorised information to you**, and you must not factor that into your bidding or play. This includes explanations of your bids they may make to opponents when asked. It also includes their alerts of your bids and also their failure to alert what you believe should be alerted.

The laws say that even though you know you and partner are not on the same page, **you are not allowed to know this**. You must keep **bidding in accordance with your original plan**, and only deviate from that plan if it is apparent from the subsequent auction or play that you are at odds.

This can be tricky in some cases. For example assume you open 2NT strong which your partner alerts and tells the opponents it is 5/5 in the minors and weak. Partner responds 3C which is they believe a simple preference for clubs over diamonds. You know this because of the explanation you have heard, but you must not base future bidding on it - **you must assume partner knew you were showing a strong balanced hand and has bid 3C in response**. For most people that would be some sort of Stayman bid asking for a major, and you would need to respond accordingly, even though you know it's not. Likewise if partner bid 3D meaning to prefer diamonds over clubs, you need to interpret that based on your original plan and this may be a transfer to hearts in your system. Where it goes from there depends on many factors including the hands themselves and the partnership agreements, and in some cases you might legitimately end up in the best contract.

The confusion may become evident to the opponents who are allowed to make any deductions they like from this - for example if they ask partner about your 2NT opening and partner says "minors and weak", and ask you about partner's 3C bid and you say "Stayman", they will know there's a problem and this is authorised to them, even though it's not authorised to you or your partner.

An interesting way to look at this is to compare it to when players play behind screens, which happens in major events. A diagonal screen is placed across the table in such a way that you cannot see your partner and can only see one of your opponents (your screen-mate). The difference with alerting is that you alert your screen-mate of your own alertable bids and your partner's alertable bids in a way that your partner cannot see, and when the bidding pad or box moves to the other side of the screen, your partner will do the same. Likewise with explanations - when asked for an explanation by your screen-mate, you do not speak to them but you write down the meaning, and your partner will do the same with their screen-mate. This way neither player knows whether or not their partner has alerted their bid, nor do they know how their partner has interpreted their bid. This is a very "pure" environment, and it is a test that will be applied by the director at your table to help decide if UI was a factor in your subsequent bidding.

In short, and as with all such issues, if in doubt call the director.

## CLASS OF MAY/JUNE

Nine people finished the last of six lessons on Wednesday 17 June, these being the second set of beginner lessons for this year. The lessons were conducted by Rose and Colin Hunter, assisted by Di Schupp on lesson days. Materials, including videos, hands designed to reinforce teaching points and a text book developed by Joan Butts were used and proved to be user friendly for both students and instructors.

All in the group were extremely keen with virtually 100% attendance over the six weeks. The group was a mix of people with some starting with no knowledge of bridge, whilst others had been so some lessons or were participating to refresh their skills. President Ann presented participants with invitations and incentives to join our club.



Four more lessons designed to help the students be better prepared for club bridge are being conducted over the next few weeks and are advertised on the Club website.

We hope that all those involved in the lessons will use their vouchers and go on to become active club members.

## 2015- 2016 COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 20 May set a new record in brevity with all reports accepted as read and new Management Committee members elected unopposed.

The Committee welcomes Brian Murphy as Vice President and Val Bell and Michael Turner as Committee members. Pat Gaines thanked retiring members Freda Badger, Doug Hardman and Ian Jones for their contributions during their time on the Committee. The meeting was all over in nine minutes. Adhesive inserts have been prepared for insertion into the Club handbook.



Val Bell



Brian Murphy



Michael Turner

*New Management Committee Members*

## Joan Butts



*President Ann thanks Joan Butts*

Well known Bridge Teacher Joan Butts visited the Club on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June to provide a lesson on opening leads for suit and no trump contracts. Thirty members attended and were given the opportunity to play hands to practice the different options. Joan emphasised the importance of the opening lead providing a message to partner for the play following. Lead preference was given 4<sup>th</sup> best (especially in no trumps), followed by top card of sequence.

An interesting concept introduced was the Rule of 11, where the 4<sup>th</sup> highest is led. If for example this is a 5, this number is subtracted from 11 making 6. This means there are 6 cards higher than the 5 in the other three hands. This knowledge can guide the defence to knowing whether to continue or switch, and also helps the third player to know how high to play to the lead. It can also be used to advantage by the declarer.

### Event Regulations

The Event Regulations adopted by the Mandurah Bridge Club provide a set of rules and recommendations to apply to general play and competitions. It is strongly recommended that all members make an effort to read the regulations which are available on the Club website ([www.mandurah.bridgeaustralia.org](http://www.mandurah.bridgeaustralia.org)).

### Social Club Bubbles

Champagne served by the Social Club has proved very popular with members, although the plastic flutes received some complaints.



If you are a bubbly drinker please be aware that the smaller sized (larger value) gold coin is preferred when putting in your donation for your drink.

## One Wish

### Did You Know?

43.6 percent of all slam contracts fail.

62.7 percent of all bridge players are women.

97.8 percent of all bridge statistics, including these, are made up.

A bridge duffer was polishing a lamp and... poof! Out popped a genie who said, "I will grant you one wish."

The duffer unfolded a map of the world and said, "Let all of these countries live in peace and harmony."

"You've got to be kidding! I'm only a genie."

The duffer thought for a while and then suggested, "OK, then make me a winning bridge player."

"Hmm..." the genie pondered. "Let me see that map again."