

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS BRIDGE ASSN INC

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER, 2010



SEPTEMBER CONGRESS CONVENOR'S REPORT

The recently held Swiss Teams Congress saw 24 teams participating, with players travelling from Armidale, Ballina, Central Coast, Canberra, Coffs Harbour, Great Lakes, Nambucca Heads and Taree. We were all very grateful to Mr Nick Hughes from Sydney, who took over the Director's duties at short notice. Nick directed the event in a very professional and efficient manner, posting the session results in record time.

There was high praise extended by the visitors on our well presented clubhouse and all were delighted with the fine array of cakes and slices provided by our members.

My thanks to all who assisted with the preparations and various tasks

...we could not do without you.....and special thanks to Allana who helped with board dealing and printing of the score books and hand records.

The success of the event must be attributed to fine team work by one and all. Many thanks.....



Elaine Moss, Convenor.

Our Restricted Champs

*Lesley Neville
Len Pascoe
Margot Nelson
Freya Luick*

MASTER PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following members on their recent master point promotions:

June Cook	Graduate
Denise Franklin	Graduate
Jo-Anne Marzato	Club
Bob Kohut	Club
Dave Maitland	Club
Marjorie Morris	Club
Judith England	Local**
Margaret Seymour	Local**
Rita Pearson	Regional
Marie Hannon	Regional*
Lyn Slattery	State
Lance Moors	State*
Margaret Thorn	Gold Life

RULING THE GAME – MAKING A CLAIM

The Director in particular will be appreciative whenever you speed up the game by stating how many of the remaining tricks that you are going to win. However the claim still has to be made in the proper manner.

A simple statement such as “The rest are mine” often won’t suffice, and may on occasion be regarded as discourteous

You should instead state your line of play, in particular mentioning how you intend to handle the matter of any outstanding trumps.

Asking about the bidding

When someone asks you to explain a bid you are **required** to give as full an explanation as possible. (see Law 20). You are **NOT** required to give opponents the benefit of your bridge knowledge. You do not have to tell opponents what you "think" a bid means. A lot of time can be saved if you look at your opponent's convention card first - that's why it is there. And it is best not to ask a question of opponents during an auction unless it affects whether you will bid or not. (see Law 20 B 1 (a)). There is a proper time to ask questions if you are going to defend. The person who is on lead may ask questions before he does so and his partner, after the lead is **face-down** on the table. The question to ask yourself is: Why do I want to help my opponents clarify their bids during the auction? Once the auction is over, questions may be answered by either opponent (so corrections can be made)

Every player should strive to make sure
That opponents have in no way been
Harmed through incomplete or misleading
Information as to the meanings of his pair's
Conventional calls and treatments.
An aggressive approach along these
Lines on the part of each and every
Individual will do much to make sure
That Bridge remains the game that
You enjoy so much.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CLUB CONSTITUTION

In July this year The Department of Fair Trading initiated changes to Associations Legislation. *The new Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010 commenced on 1 July 2010.* The reforms will help more than 35,000 associations across the state operate more effectively and make it easier to manage their affairs.

The changes are designed to modernise the law, reduce red tape and allow more flexibility for associations. Most of the day-to-day procedures and operations of associations will not be directly impacted. The new laws have been carefully designed to make the transition as smooth as possible for associations.

To ensure there is no unnecessary work for associations, the current 'rules' of an existing association will be taken to comply with the requirements of the new Act until the association chooses to lodge changes. When the association lodges changes they will need to ensure all other aspects of their constitution comply with the new requirements. Larger or 'Tier 1' associations with gross annual receipts of more than \$250,000, will need to have their annual accounts audited and lodge a copy with NSW Fair Trading, unless exempted. Smaller or 'Tier 2' associations will still only need to lodge an annual summary of their financial affairs.

The Committee asked Carol Briscoe, Arthur Anlezark and Margaret Walker to look at this new legislation and make recommendations on bringing our Constitution up to date. Their recommendations are now being put to members for adoption at the Annual General Meeting on 6 November. Copies of our current Constitution, the DFAT Model Constitution and the proposed amended Constitution are in folders for members to peruse prior to the AGM. Members can also access all this information on the NSW Fair Trading website www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au. There will be no cost to Clubs when they adopt an amended Constitution.

ENERGY SAVING UPDATE

As many members would be aware, we have a sub-committee of John Schwab, Rowan Ferguson and Len Pascoe working hard to reduce the cost and consumption of electricity at our Club. We have received their first report and have taken the following steps on their recommendations.

- Timers have been placed on the instantaneous hot water system and the water cooler.
- The second fridge has been turned off and will probably only be used in future for congresses.
- The general hot water system's thermostat has been turned down.
- Lights are no longer left on in the Clubhouse at night time as we have outside security lights.

Following a suggestion from Bob Hamilton, there will be a change in the way movements are run when we have 8 tables so that only two banks of lights need to be used. We are also looking at 'time of use' billing to ensure we are using our electricity efficiently.

John has alerted us to the fact that the NSW Government now has Community Savers funding available for community and other not-for-profit organizations. They can apply for up to \$40,000 to undertake simple and low-cost water and energy upgrades to their facilities. Quotes are currently being sought for the work to enable us to apply for this grant – the closing date is 25th October. For those interested, full details of the grant are available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on Saturday 6th November commencing at 11.45am. Members should have received their notice of meeting by now – if not please see Margaret Walker and she will give you one. The Treasurer's Report will be emailed to all members one week prior to the meeting and it will also be on display on the noticeboard.

Congratulations to

Sue & Arthur Lindner, Noelle Kebby, Tony Woolford	2nd	Open Team September Congress
Len Pascoe, Margot Nelson, Lesley Neville & Freya Luick	Best	Restricted Team September Congress
Robyn Griffiths, Margaret Dunlop, Bob Jess, Mike McElhinny	Best	Local Team not in 1 st 3 placings Sept Congress
Jan Campbell & Helen Carr	3rd	Grand National Pairs Final
Margaret Thorn & Arthur Anlezark	1st	October Pairs
Colleen Berry & Jan Campbell	1st	Spring Pairs

YVONNE'S CONVENTION CORNER

BALANCING BIDS

When your opponents open the bidding followed by 2 passes, the player in 4th seat is said to be in the balancing seat.
e.g. 1H – Pass – Pass – you are now in the balancing seat.

When you consider whether to balance you are not only bidding your own hand but protecting partner. Why does partner need protecting? This situation happens frequently – partner may have an opening hand but does not have the right shape to double or overcall. Consider the following:

West opens 1H – partner holds

♠	98
♥	AK35
♦	AJ6
♣	J965

He is not strong enough to bid 1NT, has no 5 card suit to overcall and has the wrong shape to double (he has length in opponents suit and shortage in the other major).

Since partner cannot bid in the direct seat the 4th seat (balancing seat) must take some action.

How much less do you need to balance?

In the balancing seat you must be more aggressive. A good guide is to add a K (or 3 points) to the value of your hand.

- Bids:
- i) x with 10+ HCP
 - ii) 1NT with 12-14 (adding 3 points to your hand)
 - iii) Simple overcall 8-11 with a 5 card suit
 - iv) Jump overcall shows 12-14HCP with a good 5 or 6 card suit (Note: this is not a weak bid)

How do you bid after partner balances?

As partner has mentally added 3 points to his hand you must deduct 3 points from yours. When deciding how high to bid facing a balancing bid by partner take this into account.

No trump bids illustrate this point. These are the normal point ranges for NT ranges in response to a direct takeout double.

e.g. 1H – x – Pass – 1NT (8-10), 2NT (11-12) 3NT (13+)

But if partner balances with a double you must have a king (or 3 points more)

e.g. 1H – Pass – Pass – x

You bid 1NT (11-12). 2NT (13-14)

Note: Make a judgement

-	with a poor 13 just bid 1NT
-	with a good 13 bid 2NT

Another Balancing Situation

If the opponents stop at a low level having found a fit feel free to make a takeout double (with right distribution) or an overcall even with fewer values than you would normally need for this action.

e.g. 1H – Pass – 2H – Pass – Pass – x (your double here shows a shortage in hearts).

Remember: if opponents have a fit, you and your partner usually have a fit.

Some examples of bids in 4th seat

1D - Pass - Pass	East holds:	♠ 864 ♥ A7 ♦ KJ96 ♣ A1086	Bid 1NT Add King to your hand You would not bid 1NT in West's position
1D - Pass - Pass	East holds:	♠ K42 ♥ K8652 ♦ 8 ♣ 9852	You would not overcall 1H in the direct position (West) because your suit is poor and you have a weak hand but be aggressive in 4 th seat (adding 3 points) and bid 1H.
1D - Pass - Pass	East holds:	♠ 10873 ♥ AJ83 ♦ 82 ♣ KQ8	x is East's bid – mentally give yourself a K in spades or hearts and you have a normal takeout x
1D - Pass - Pass	East holds:	♠ KQ8 ♥ A8 ♦ A1084 ♣ K1073	East has 16 HCP. You cannot bid 1NT – your normal bid in direct seat as it is 12-14 HCP in balancing seat. So x first then bid 1NT.

NT bids in balancing position

12-14: 1NT

15-17: x then bid NT at lowest level

18-19: x then bid 2NT

20-21: 2NT e.g. 1D - Pass - Pass - 2NT (NOT for minors – same as opening 2NT)

Responding to balance bids

1H - Pass - Pass - x	East holds:	♠ J3 ♥ 82 ♦ K862 ♣ AQ973	If partner had doubled in the direct position you would have jumped to 3 ♣ but opposite a balancing x you need a better hand to jump (deduct 3 points)
1H - Pass - Pass - x	East holds:	♠ K83 ♥ Q1073 ♦ Q865 ♣ J5	If partner had made a direct takeout x you would bid 1NT. After the balancing x this would be a significant overbid as 1NT is 12-13, 2NT is 13-14. Note: 13 can go either way depending on fillers. Bid 1♦ on this hand!

YVONNE has kindly agreed to hold a special 'brainstorming' session on NEW MINOR FORCING which was explained in the August Newsletter starting at 11.45am on Saturday, 30th October. Don't miss this opportunity!

NEW MEMBER.....

A special welcome to new member Nellie Oonk

SAD NEWS.....

Members were saddened at the recent deaths of two valued Club members – Ken John and Nara Butler. Condolences have been conveyed to both families on behalf of members.