

# PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS BRIDGE ASSN INC

## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER, 2011



### SEPTEMBER CONGRESS

26 teams competed in the Swiss Teams Event on the weekend of the 10 and 11 September. Teams from Sydney, Newcastle, Central Coast, Ballina, Armidale and many local teams had a wonderful weekend of a well organised bridge tournament professionally directed by Nick Hughes.

My thanks go to Robyn Griffiths, Ray Ingielewicz, Allana Stevens and to the wonderful kitchen helpers, Maree Don, Bev Elliott, Wendy Foreman, Bob and Pat Hamilton and Marjorie Morris. We always NEED more helpers for our congresses, to maintain the good standard of our club and these twice a year tournaments.

Many comments were received from visitors that the spread of cakes and slices were too good not to indulge in. Thank you very much to all who provided this wonderful array of delicacies.

Photos on the website by our publicity officer Neil Badger are always a great reminder of the fun time enjoyed by all.

The winners of open section were the Price Team (Armidale) followed by the Hurley Team (Ballina) and our own team the Linder team third. The best restricted team was the Luick team and well done to Freya Luick, Kate Potts, Diane Henry and Mick Mills (Mick and his Harem)!

Bye for now and thanks again to all for another successful congress and keep enjoying your bridge.

Sue-Ellen Deacon  
Congress Convenor



Well done Kate, Diane, Mick (& Freya) –  
best Restricted Team.



Guess the score winners, Frank, Allana,  
Helen & Kath

## OUR DIRECTORS

Ray Ingielewicz and Neil Badger recently attended a directors' seminar hosted by the ABDA and the NSWBA held at the North Shore Bridge Club in Sydney. Ray and Neil, along with some of our other senior directors plan to hold a workshop so that they can pass on some of the knowledge cleaned at the seminar.

Directors' responsibilities include handling all law and rule infractions as well as running a smooth and pleasant game. Remember that the director is your friend but that does not mean that he or she will always rule in your favour. Players should accept the director's decision without argument to allow the session to continue with a minimum of fuss. If you are not happy with the director's decision, at the end of the session you may request it be put before the Club's Appeals Committee.

**CONGRATULATIONS to Arthur Anlezark who is now a C2 director which enables him to direct Championship Events. Several of our other directors are in the process of becoming C2 directors.**

**NEW MEMBER Fran Smith – please make her welcome.**

## MEET & GREET.... SHIRLEY ROSS

Shirley was born in the Sydney suburb of Croydon on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 1925. The family moved to Warrawee when she was five years old.

She attended Abbotsleigh Girls' School at Wahroonga, leaving after completing the Intermediate Certificate. She left school in 1942 and joined the Red Cross where she first worked at Sydney Hospital and then moved on to Warringah Convalescent Home. The patients were Returned Servicemen and although she was only 17 she took on many responsibilities, often being the only person on night duty to attend to the patients, some of whom were maimed or suffering from the effects of malaria or shell shock. We may ask, how did she manage to do this? Well, Shirley just put up her age. Can't we imagine Shirley in this situation?



In 1946 Shirley married John Ross (a long time friend of her brother). John's father owned a property 35 miles from Walcha. He abandoned a medical career and he and Shirley began their married life at this property – "Surrey Hills".

Life in the bush was great for Shirley and John. They had two sons and a daughter. Shirley said that these were wonderful times. The kids had correspondence schooling until they went to boarding school. Shirley supervised these lessons as well as helping John around the farm. Once the kids had gone off to boarding school Shirley became more involved in the farming activities (cattle and sheep), working alongside John drenching sheep, fencing, repairing holes made by wombats under the dingo fence. As well she gardened. Spinning and weaving were hobbies she pursued at this stage.

The property was fairly isolated – 35 miles from Walcha and the challenge was that there were 30 gates to get through on the way to town. Once a month they journeyed to Tamworth, a two hour trip, for supplies and to

attend the doctor or dentist. Despite the isolation there was a lively social life – Sunday lunches, Picnic Races, Bachelor and Spinsters Ball to mention a few.

Unfortunately the farm work took a toll on Shirley's back and she turned to yoga. She went to Walcha to attend classes and eventually became a yoga instructor.

In the early days the family spent their holidays camping at Point Plomer. A few years later they purchased a cottage in Port Macquarie on the site where the Historic Well now stands. In 1982 when the time came for retirement, their sons took over the farm. Shirley and John bought 5 acres on Cathie Road and built their retirement home. Unfortunately John's retirement was cut short. He died in 1987. Shirley felt the loss very deeply.

However, in true Shirley fashion, she met the challenge. She became heavily involved in the management of the RSL Loft. As well, she conducted yoga classes. After the closing of the RSL she took aqua aerobics at the Jindalee Rd pool.

In 1990 Shirley moved to Governor's Resort. After her previous busy life she wondered what activity she could take up for her leisure time. Florence Walker suggested bridge. Shirley joined Yvonne's classes and on many occasions she announced she was not continuing. However, fortunately for us all she was persuaded to continue.

At this stage bridge is an important part of Shirley's life, along with the movies, concerts and involvement with family. We all look forward to seeing Shirley's smiling face at our club for many years to come.

**The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you sit at the bridge table.**

**Congratulations to.....**

**Margaret Thorn & Arthur Anlezark, 1<sup>st</sup> Lindner Shield**

**CONGRATULATIONS to the following members on their recent masterpoint promotions**

Graham Gilbert	Graduate Master
Denise Franklin	Club Master
Neil Badger	** Local Master
Bob Jess	* State Master
Margaret Walker	National Master
Jill Reid	* National Master
Robert Palasthy	** National Master
Colleen Berry	Life Master

***DID YOU KNOW??***

That you are allowed to take advantage of anything done by your opponents at your table, but you are obliged to ignore any unauthorised information gained from your partner's actions or from other tables. In fact if you do obtain unauthorised information from your partner, you should not only ignore it but be prepared to prove that you have done so. This means that if you are involved in any kind of close decision you ought to take the action opposite to the one indicated by the information from your partner. For example if during the bidding your partner passes after a hesitation, you must pass too unless you have a cast iron case for bidding, otherwise you

might be accused of making use of the unauthorised information that your partner had nearly enough strength to bid.

It is quite within the rules to make deceptive bids and plays to confuse the opponents - as long as these are not part of an undisclosed partnership agreement. You are free for example to play a card different from what might be expected from your holding. This is known as false carding and involves playing a card which one would not normally play in order to mislead declarer/defender in the hope of defeating the contract or gaining an additional trick. Similarly you are free to make a bid which is inconsistent with your system to upset the opposition, provided that this is as much of a surprise to your partner as it is to the opponents.

*Two old ladies have played bridge together for many years, and naturally have gotten to know each other pretty well. One day, during a game, one lady suddenly looks up at the other and says, "I realise we've known each other for many years, but for the life of me, I just can't bring it to mind ... would you please tell me your name again dear?"*

*There is dead silence for a couple of minutes, then the other lady responds, "How soon do you need to know?"*

#### **COMING EVENTS....**

- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October - Briscoe Shield - two sessions, 9.15am start. BYO lunch.
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Cains Novice Teams - two sessions 9.15am start. BYO lunch.
- Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November - Melbourne Cup Day - starts at 9.30am
- Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, AGM - 11.45am - followed by final session of Briscoe Shield.
- Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November - Anniversary Pairs - two sessions 9.15am start BYO lunch.
- Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> November - Peg Webb Shield Teams - two sessions 9.15am start BYO lunch.
- Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Party

## **The Rewards of Bridge**

### **ADVENTURE**

"Every Hand an Adventure" is what bridge is all about. It is the ultimate in intellectual competition. As you learn more, ever-increasing vistas unfold for your experimentation and enjoyment. Once you try it, you'll never give it up.

*- Bob Lipsitz*

### **LONGEVITY**

Because every hand is different, the intellectual challenge of bridge never ceases. Besides, and more importantly, my father often noted that, "If you don't play bridge, you'll have a miserable old age." Since that time is getting closer, this is no time for my interest in bridge to lag or diminish.

*- Rudy Boschwitz*

### **VARIETY**

Bridge presents all the challenges we know of. It is a human game, yet it is an intellectual game. If I sit down to play, I am likely to run into some sort of situation that I've never seen before.

*- Edgar Kaplan*

Perhaps the best one-sentence description of how bridge players feel about their game is playwright George S. Kaufman's parody of a famous remark: "I'd rather be South than be President."

## YVONNE'S CONVENTION CORNER

### THE GOLDEN RULE OF DUPLICATION – SPLINTER BIDS

Partner opens 1S then shows a void in diamonds. Which hand would you prefer to hold?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a)     A765             or             b)     A765<br>432   KQJ<br>AKQ                                        432<br>432                                        432 |  |
|---|--|

This is partner's opening bid:             KQJ982  
   A765  
   -  
   A76

Note that 6S makes easily with hand (b) but has no chance with hand (a). With hand (a) 3 losers can be discarded in one suit but there are still 2 losers in the other suit.

With (b) you can discard a losing club on the heart Ace, making 12 tricks.

### SHORTAGE OPPOSITE WEAKNESS IS GOOD

For example, a singleton opposite 432 is a good sign because it means the high cards will be in the long suits where they are pulling their weight. But STRENGTH OPPOSITE A SINGLETON IS A WASTE. e.g.

West   AKJ875 98 972 K3	East   A765 KQJ 432 432
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These two hands make a good slam because West has nothing wasted in East's short suit. If West's diamond K was changed to club K slam would not be possible. Accurate slam bidding calls for one partner to show short suits they hold so that the other partner can write off any wasted strength. One convention that slows you to pinpoint shortage after a major suit sit is:

### SPLINTER BIDS

This is a useful tool for slam bidding. Over partner's 1H or 1S opening a response of 4C or 4D shows a shortage (singleton or void), 4+ card support and 10-13 HCP. It is similar to raising partner's major suit to game and showing a shortage on the way. This allows a slam to be bid with 26TP provided they are outside the short suit.

Partner opens 1H – what do you respond?

i) AQ54 KQ43 5 8754	ii) KQ4 AJ84 98652 -	iii) AJ873 532 6 AK64	iv) J87 KQ873 - J8765
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- Answers:
- i) 4D – shortage & 4 trumps
  - ii) 4C
  - iii) 1S – you do not have 4 trumps so do not splinter
  - iv) 4H – preemptive raise – shorts & little defence

### JUDGING SLAM AFTER A SPLINTER BID

When your partner makes a SPLINTER BID you can count on 10HCP. You need 26TP for slam, excluding the short suit. E.g.

i)	AQJ86 92 KQ2 J74	1S - 4D ?	Bid 4S – only 13 HCP Diamond honours cannot be counted TP = 23, not enough for slam
ii)	AK4 KQJ643 6 983	1H - 4C	Bid 4NT asking for Aces. You have 16TP – if partner has 2 Aces you will make a slam

Remember – you will not be able to use 4C as an Ace ask!! Ace ask can be done in other ways and Splinter Bids are a great asset in slam bidding.



HAPPY BRIDGING ☺