

Gold Coast Bridge Club Monthly Newsletter – December 2011 (No 63)

Message from the President

It is good to back at the club after taking a short break during which I flew to Rome and caught a cruise ship visiting the ancient ruins and sites in Greece, Turkey and Egypt.

Being President of the club involves confronting many day to day issues that arise, the disruption caused by the light rail project has been on going with no immediate end in site and I do not believe that it has caused any major loss of attendances as member grin and bear the traffic turmoil.

Of more major concern is the decrease in recent attendance of late, the number of members who no longer attend owing to health or transport problems, the increasing number of members who are suffering major health issues, some members alleged dissatisfaction of perceived issues within the club, unacceptable behaviour and conduct at the table, alleged grievances some members have with other members. It is difficult to deal with these issues unless I receive a complaint from the aggrieved member on a first hand basis.

As President of the club as they say the buck stops with me and if any member has any issues that concern them I urge them to contact me as it is my responsibility to deal with them. I am very approachable and compassionate about the welfare and well being of all members and in a position to deal with these issues.

I am at the club 3 or 4 days a week although I must admit that I do not know or get involved with the members who only attend on Tuesday or Thursday. If members have any matters of concern, or ideas how to improve the manner in which the club runs, please contact me on 0402 417 584 or by email at neil.raward@bigpond.com.

When I first became President in 2006 I introduced the edict *enjoy your bridge and please come with a smile and leave with a smile and treat your partner and opponents with respect and dignity*. During my 4th year as President I still strongly believe in the same philosophy and I urge all members to also adopt this policy as well.

On a lighter note directors of the club recently received a training session from Peter Busch regarding the use of Compscore and the Bridgemate.

Board Matters

At the November Board meeting there were no major issues and members can be rest assured that the executive of the club are working as a cohesive unit with the aim of providing the best environment for members whilst they attend the club.

Diary for 2012

After many years and a lot of hard work Heather Reid has finally retired from producing our diary. I have taken over from her and you can be assured that the production of the diary is a very difficult and painstaking task. Trust me as I have found out for the first time in undertaking this job.

We have lost a couple of corporate sponsors for 2012 and on speaking with these sponsors I get the same story that they were not getting value for money. It is important that members support our very generous sponsors.

The diary has undergone very minor changes for next year and most of these changes are to the benefit of the sponsors who want to gain a higher profile within the diary.

Heather on behalf of the club I would like to sincerely thank you for all the years you have been associated with producing the diary.

Sponsorship for 2012

In 2011 the club received \$8,000 in sponsorship which included a one off donation \$1000 from the provider of the Bridgmate and Compscore program.

I am pleased to report that the same amount has been raised this year through the generous support of our corporate sponsors and the many members who provide prize money for events throughout the year. The club also contributes \$1300 in prize money to the winners of the honour board events at the Christmas function.

I believe that our club would have the biggest pool of prize money for events of any club in Queensland and all of the money raised from our sponsors is paid out in prize money, unlike some clubs who retain some the sponsorship pools to cover incidental expenses in running an event. The introduction of handicap events, allows this prize money to be equally contested by all competitors.

Eclectic Events

Eclectic events are based on the average of the best 3 scores for the 4 or 5 scores that players achieve over a month for a particular day or night time event. For example if a player plays every Tuesday for a month then that player's best 3 scores are averaged and at the end of a month a list of players who qualify are published and placed on the notice board with the top half of the field gaining additional green points.

During the year members will sponsor an eclectic event on a handicap basis and the first 3 place getters will receive a cash prize thus giving everyone a chance of competing for these prizes. In January there will be a handicap eclectic sponsored by members for Monday and Monday night players.

All Day Red Point Teams – Sponsored by L J Hooker, Broadbeach

This event was held on Friday 18 November with 12 teams competing. I would like to thank Eva Berger once again for conducting this event which once again was an outstanding success, although numbers were down on last year. I would also like to thank L J Hooker, Broadbeach and if you have any real estate issue please contact Bill Rex who will be only too happy to look after you.

January Congress

Our largest congress of the year will be held on Sunday 8 January. Last year we had 38 teams competing and all those players thoroughly enjoyed the day.

I would urge members who have not played in one of our congresses put together a team of four players and compete. The congress is arranged such that players with lower master points will normally play teams of their standard, thus taking away some of the apprehension that may linger in their minds regarding the competition.

Flyers are available from the QBA website or at the club. Eva Berger is the congress Convenor

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 10 December commencing at 11am. The winners of the honour board events will be presented with their prizes; there will be a couple of Christmas presentations followed by a buffet lunch and champagne which has been kindly donated by Vilma Makin who is the area manager of Simplicity Funerals who have been very generous supporters of our club over many years. Members are asked to seriously consider taking out a Guardian Plan with Simplicity Funerals thus providing a peace of mind for family members in the future. **This year members attending are asked to dress with a Christmas theme in mind and prizes will be awarded to pairs who adopt this theme.**

December Birthdays

1st - Willie Han, 2nd - Stuart Wismer, 3rd - Shelley Moodie, 4th - Barbara Jackson, 6th - Edda Strong, 10th - Charlie Howard, Patricia Weld, 11th Patricia Kennelly, 12th - Heather Reid, 18th John Bell, 19th - Nancy Bellini 21st - Ruth Young, 23rd - Keith Archos, Ann Bullock, 25th - Christine Holloway, 26th - Saftica Popa, 27th - Anna Heppleston, 28th - Yoka Case, Linley Jenkins, Ron Duke, Margaret Williamson, 29th - Guy Eschembrenner, 30th - Richard Cunliffe, 31st - Anita Hoffman

Bridge over Xmas/New Year

Normal bridge sessions will be conducted on every other day as listed in the new diary. There will be no kitchen staff working on Boxing Day and New Years Day.

Future Events

Members are asked to consider being involved in the following future events:-

- **Christmas Pairs sponsored by Danny Hatcher** – (Thursday nights 1, 8, & 15 Dec)
- **Christmas Party** – Saturday 10 December commencing at 11am
- **January Swiss Teams Congress** - (Sunday 9 January 2012) – sponsored by **Daydream Island Resort and Spa**

Bereavement

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Laila Dib a long time member of our club. During 2011 the following members sadly passed away, Richard Kahn, Maurice Nirens, Barbara Weathered, Don Lynton and John Fine.

Electronic Banking

The club has electronic banking available to members details are as follows: - Bank – Suncorp, BSB 484 799, Account No – 354187431, Name – Gold Coast Bridge Club. Please use your club number or name to identify yourself. Electronic Banking can be used to purchase tickets, ticket for parties, congress payments and membership renewals. Members are encouraged to utilize this facility.

Enjoy Your Bridge

Neil Raward

Please come with a smile and leave with a smile and treat your partner and opponents with respect and dignity

Players who require a partner - contact Denise Richards on 55 205 087

Or restricted players contact Shelley and Jim Moodie on 55 912 135

Member's Welfare – Denise Richards

*On behalf of the Board I would like to wish all members
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*