



BFACT News



Editor: Rebecca Plush

December 2004

From the President:

Hi – Best wishes for the Festive Season and 2005 from the members of the BFACT Council. I am happy to be spending this special time in Brisbane and Melbourne with my children, grandchildren and friends.

The Council is beginning to set some goals for achievement in 2005. The first of these major projects is the organising of the GNOT qualifying events for ACT Open and Provincial players in this region. To achieve this goal the following Committee has been set up (Val Mitchell and Mark Abraham from BFACT; Earl Dudley, Daniel Geromboux and Ian Thomson from the CBC; and Roy Nixon from South Canberra. If you have views on how we could improve this event for all players that would assist us, please phone me on 02 6282 3322 or email me at vmitchell@netspeed.com.au.

The second is the `Interclub Championships`, when Restricted and Senior teams compete against other clubs in the region to become the Champion Team in their selected category. We are keen to widen and increase the number of clubs in the region who participate in this event. Dates for the event are: Saturdays 9th April, 18th June and 24th September. Any ideas? Please contact as above.

The feasibility of producing a `History of Bridge in the ACT` is being investigated initially by John Brockwell and myself. We are looking for assistance from members and friends of bridge for, at this stage, any photographs of the early days and information of where and how bridge began in the ACT. Please contact me as noted above.

I have in the last month started my visits to bridge clubs in the region at the Capital

Bridge Club and the South Canberra Bridge Club. I hope to meet many members of clubs in the region at the Summer Festival of Bridge in January.

Merry Christmas and happy bridging in 2005.

Val Mitchell, President.



GNOT Results:

This year BFACT sent three teams to the GNOT in Sydney – Canberra 1 (Ian Thomson, Richard Brightling, Margaret Bourke, Arjuna de Livera, David Lilley and Khokan Bagchi); Canberra 2 (Griff Ware, Daniel Geromboux, Nye Griffiths, Stephen Winkler and Mark Abraham) and the ACT Provincial Team (Ian Neill, Ashok Tulpule, Peter Giles and Jim Collier). Canberra 1 and 2 were Open teams, and ACT Provincial was a restricted team (all team members either had to come from outside the ACT (so Cooma, Cootamundra) or have less than 300 Masterpoints.

The GNOT is one of the toughest events on the calendar, with the best players from around the country. I am pleased to report the Canberra 1 made the semi-finals and but was defeated by the eventual winners (Sydney 1). Canberra 2 finished a most respectable 12th and the ACT Provincial Team beat their seeding by finishing 45th.



South Canberra AGM:

South Canberra Bridge Club recently held their AGM. An interesting discussion was had floating the idea to change the name of the club to include the name of the club the meet in (the Southern Cross Club) to thank them for their support. An excellent idea.



The 2005 Summer Festival of Bridge:

This is a repeat of an article I included in December 2004, updated for the latest info for the 2005 event. This is one of the premier events on the Australian bridge calendar and it is right on our doorstep! More info available at www.abf.com.au.

Events

Warm-up Pairs – This is simply a walk-in pairs event with CASH prizes.

National Women's Teams – This event starts with a nine round Swiss teams. The top six teams will go through to the semi-finals, with the top two from this playing in the final. As the name suggests, all team members have to be female. Teams of four, five or six can enter.

National Seniors' Teams – This event follows the same format as the National Women's Teams. The qualifying factor is that all team members must have been born on or before 14/01/1950. Teams of four, five or six can enter.

National Non-Life Masters Teams – This an eight session Swiss event. Players must not have achieved the rank of Life Master (check the back of your ABF card for what this means) by 30 September 2004. Players eligible to represent a country other than Australia are ineligible. Teams of four, five or six can enter.

Nation Novice Teams – This is a new eight session Swiss event. There are four categories: 0-49, 0-99, 0-149 Masterpoints. Teams can be 4, 5 or 6 players.

Pairs Championships – This year there are five pairs events running concurrently, but scored separately. They are the Seniors Pairs, Women's Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Men's Pairs and Novice Pairs. All have the same eligibility criteria as the team events of the same name.

National Swiss Pairs – This is an eight match event held on Sunday. Entries close at 10am on the day. This event is a Butler pair event. The first two matches are

random, then the remaining matches are Swissed (you play pairs doing about the same as you are). This is a great event which gets you in the mood for the South West Pacific Teams (SWPT).

South West Pacific Teams – This is the premier event of the Summer Festival. There are 17 teams matches (16 boards to a match) over five days. The top eight teams from each venue (110 teams play at Rydges, the rest at the National Convention Centre) go through to the National Open Teams. You can be a team of four, five or six. Having played in this a few times myself, I have to say that a team of six works well – that means every pair gets a session off a day (because, of course, only four are needed per match). It is a Swiss event after the first round.

There are a number of trophies awarded in various categories for those teams that do not make the final 16.

- 1st Qualifying Highest VP score.
- 1st Womens. All team members must be female.
- 1st Mixed. All teams must play at least one male and at least one female in every round.
- 1st Seniors. All team members born before 1/1/1950.
- 1st Veterans. All team members born before 1/1/1940.
- 1st Country. All team members Australian residents who do not reside in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth or Sydney.
- 1st Youth. All team members born after 16/1/1980.
- 1st Novice. All team members having less than 150 masterpoints as at 30/9/2004.

National Open Teams – Entry is only available to the top eight teams from each venue of the SWPT.

Novelty Pairs – This is a social night of lots of fun bridge on Friday evening after the SWPT.

Australian Mixed Teams – The final event on the calendar. This is a ten match event run over the final weekend. The requirement is that you play a mixed gender team each match – so at least one male and one female. Teams of four, five or six may enter.

Walk-ins – There will be a number of walk-in sessions held at the venues, Rydges Lakeside and the National Convention Centre. Red masterpoints and CASH prizes!

Partnership Desk – Val Hopwood is running the official partnership desk. So if you need a partner or pair for any event of the Summer Festival, contact Val on valhopwood@optusnet.com.au or (02) 6286 4985 or 0412 632 790 or “Belmont” 67/3 Heard St., MAWSON ACT 2606 or see her at the CBC sometime! When you contact her give your name, contact details, which event(s) and your masterpoint rank. There is a small fee of \$22 for a partner and \$44 for a pair.



Summary of new ABF system classification regulation:

The ABF has just introduced a more accurate method of classifying bidding systems. The complete regulation is available at www.abf.com.au.

1. One-level opening bids

The nature of a system’s one-level opening bids classify a system according to this colour-code:

Green (natural) systems

Examples: Simple Acol systems or simple Standard American systems.

Blue (strong club/strong diamond) systems

Examples: Simple Precision systems or simple Symmetric Relay systems.

Red (artificial) systems

Examples: Polish Club systems or Transfer Symmetric Relay systems.

Yellow (highly unusual method) systems

Examples: Forcing Pass systems and Random Overcall systems.

2. Pre-emptive bids

Brown sticker conventions

The nature of a system’s pre-emptive bids can further classify a system. If a partnership uses multi-meaning pre-emptive bids (which do not guarantee a specific suit), then they must place brown stickers on their system cards.

Exception: The European multi-2♦, whose only weak option is to promise an unspecified major, does not require a brown sticker.

Orange sticker protected pairs

In events or sessions where the Regulations allow pairs to claim "Protected Pair" status, a "Protected Pair" is a pair where both players are below the status of National Master, or one player is below the status of Local Master, and which chooses to play a Green System without the use of any Brown Sticker conventions throughout an event or stage of an event.

To claim "Protected Pair" status, the pair must display on the front of their Systems Card a green sticker (which designates they are playing a Green System), together with an orange sticker (which designates their claim for protection against Red/Yellow Systems and Brown Sticker conventions/treatments). The opposing pair must then not employ their Red/Yellow methods nor any Brown Sticker convention or treatment during the round in question.



Other Interesting Stuff:

Noel Bugeia correctly guessed that Richard Hills wrote the ditty in the last edition!

PLEASE submit articles! Send them to me at bfactnews@dpsect.net or leave hard copy for me at the Canberra Bridge Club (I have a pigeon hole there).



ABF Alert regulations summary:

It is an essential principle of the game of bridge that you may not have secret agreements with partner, either in bidding or card play. The fact that your system card explains the meaning of a call does not remove the obligation to alert it when required by the regulations. General bridge inferences, like those that a new partner could make when there has been no prior discussion, are not alertable, but any inferences that can be drawn from partnership experience must be disclosed.

Alert Stages

There are three stages of the alerting process. All are important.

- (a) The pre-alert before bidding starts
- (b) Alerts during the auction
- (c) Delayed alerts by the declaring side before the opening lead

The pre-alert before bidding starts

At the start of a round or match, pairs should acquaint each other with their basic system, eg. length of their one level openings and the strength and style of their opening 1NT. This is the stage to which you should draw the opponents' attention to any unusual agreements you have which might surprise them, or to which they may need to arrange a defence.

Alerts during the auction

Self-alerting calls – There are four different types of self-alerting calls:

- Doubles.
- Redoubles.
- Cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit.

*(For the purposes of these Regulations, a **cue bid** of opponent's suit is defined as a bid of any denomination bid by the opponent or of a suit shown by the opponent's bid.)*

- All calls at the four level or higher.

These calls carry their own alert and should not be alerted.

Conventional calls – You must alert a call if it is conventional (unless it is self-alerting). All opening bids and overcalls that show two or more suits, even if one of the suits is named, are by definition conventional. It is construed that an opening bid of 1C or 1D which may contain less than 3 cards in the opened suit does not indicate 'willingness to play' and hence such bids are conventional.

Alertable natural calls – Natural bids with unusual meanings that the opponents are unlikely to expect must be alerted (unless they are self-alerting). Examples:

- Responder's first round jump shift on weak hands.
- A non-forcing suit response by an unpassed hand to an opening suit bid.
- A natural 1NT overcall in the direct position, which does not promise a stopper in the overcalled suit.
- A jump raise of opener's one level bid which may be weak or pre-emptive.
- A single raise of partner's suit which may be strong or forcing e.g. 1D – 2D forcing.

Delayed alerts by the declaring side before the opening lead

At the end of the auction, the **declaring side** should draw attention to any unusual features, particularly any unusual self-alerted calls. **Defenders MUST NOT**, at this time, voluntarily offer explanations.

Players should be aware that these Alert Regulations, which came into effect for National events on 1 January 2004, are in force for all BFACT events.

For a full copy of the Alert Regulations, see: <http://www.abf.com.au/members/alertingregs.html>.

If you have any questions about bids that may or may not be alertable, it is probably wise to ask a Director before play.

[Reprinted from April 2004 BFACT News, written by Richard Hills]

