

Tournament Secretary's Report 2019

By Gary Barwick

Well that was an interesting year with droughts, bushfires, and an ongoing pandemic. We did however manage to play some bridge. This year was my second time as tournament secretary with the CCBC, and I was more prepared for what I was getting myself into. There are lots of mundane aspects of being a tournament secretary so I will avoid those and talk about a few of the more interesting things worth mentioning.

New Movements

For far too long we have been using simple (and often unfair) duplicate bridge movements, most of which were developed in the late 1880's when Whist was popular. Since then we have a plethora of new advanced movements available to use that provide fair-balanced competition for all playing. It takes a little bit of effort for directors to learn and you may have been in my sessions where I used a Web-Mitchell or Howells with individual printed player movement cards. These movements bring us on par other clubs in our region and throughout Australia. I hope to see continued use of officially accepted movements at our club in the future. It would be a shame to step backwards to the old ways.

New Challenge Events

We have several trophy events held each year with strange names like BEP, BAMl, and Wamberal Cup. At their hearts these are good challenges, however the event formats have changed numerous times over the years due to decreasing player participation. This year I decided to keep the original intent of these events however to revamp the format and name so that it will mean a bit more to today's players and hopefully result in wider participation. These became the new challenge events, the 100 Masterpoints, 500 Masterpoints and Open Challenges. These are multi week events that where the best three scores out of five will be counted. If you and your partner have less than 100 or 500 masterpoints combined, you will be automatically entered into the event. In the open event all members who play will be automatically entered. These are events designed to test your consistency as we can all have a good day, but can you back it up over a series of sessions?

Our Novice Members Are Improving

What has been wonderful to see is increased participation in competition and congress events from our members with fewer than 100 masterpoints known as the novice category. A few of our novice players are really working hard, and it has shown with great results at congresses even on the national level. What I have tried to encourage and hope to see continue is that our novice players who are keen to advance their bridge to also start playing in sessions outside of social Thursday Afternoon. Going head to head with more advanced players really helps your bridge and many will help you with advice if you ask, especially about tricky bids or plays. Everyone makes mistakes, even Grand Master (they just make fewer... generally). Stay encouraged, stay ambitious, graciously accept your partners mistakes in the same way you would like them to accept yours.

Thanks for the good bridge and all your support I wish you all the best with your bridge in the future.

Cheers, Gary Barwick.