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Hello Again...

To all club administrators:

Welcome to the second issue of Insight. If you happen to have missed the first issue of this newsletter, it is a publication for all those involved in the administration of bridge clubs across the state. This time around, there are reports on a new model constitution for clubs, useful information available online via the NSWBA website, and developments in support for Directors.

I'd like to remind all clubs about the State Mixed Pairs: please ensure that you run a qualifying session before the Final which is scheduled for 27-28 May (see the "Tournament information" section of this issue).

Also note that 31 March is the deadline for the annual updating of your information in the ABF membership database (via your login to the ABF masterpoint centre). You need to ensure that information about home club members is correct, because this is how each club's ABF capitation fee is calculated.

The next Regional Representatives meeting is on 20 May. If clubs have issues they want raised, they should contact their Regional Representatives (information about who's who for each region is on the NSWBA website via Clubs>Affiliated Clubs> Bridge Tree>NSW Regional Representatives

We welcome questions from you, or contributions for a future issue of Insight. Please write to either Wing Roberts (Office Manager, NSWBA) or Rakesh Kumar (Council member) with news, ideas, or suggestions (email addresses for both can be found on the NSWBA website via About Us>Officials).

Julian Foster
Chairman NSWBA





from the NSWBA Council

Model Constitution Available

Following new amendments to the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, NSW Fair Trading promulgated new Regulations effective from 1 September, 2016, with an updated “Model Constitution”. A version for bridge clubs is now available via the NSWBA website, on the Clubs > Affiliated Clubs landing page.

Get Involved in State Events

The Tournament Committee has streamlined the mailout of information and regulations for state events to affiliated clubs, focusing on significant changes. Noteworthy for 2017 are:

1. Qualifying rounds of the State Mixed Pairs and State Open Pairs can now be held in clubs and red masterpoints awarded, with no requirement to send pairs to the State Final in Sydney.
2. The substitution and augmentation rules for the Country and Metropolitan Teams (sections of the State Teams Championship) have been significantly relaxed.

Updating the NSWBA Constitution

As reported in the last issue of Insight, the NSWBA recently undertook a first set of revisions to its Constitution, to comply with current legal requirements. This was approved at the Annual General Meeting on 21 December, 2016. A working party is now

considering the various alternative approaches to comprehensively updating the Constitution, with the goal of recommending further amendments to a subsequent AGM. This is a “nothing is off the table” review and will hopefully lead to a much improved document.

Girl Power

At its most recent meeting, quite appropriately held on International Women’s Day, the Council welcomed initiatives to promote Women’s bridge. Particular emphasis will be on mentoring for “rising stars” who might become members of future (winning?) NSW teams competing in Interstate events.

It’s a Hyperlinked World...

The Council is currently reviewing the NSWBA website. Everyone acknowledges that it is a very rich source of information, but it can be tricky to find exactly what you’re looking for, so there may be a case for updating the menu structure. Meanwhile, in this issue we thought we should draw your attention to the treasure trove of information you can glean from the site.

Behind one of the current top-level menu items hides almost everything that a club administrator might need to know. If you go via Clubs>Affiliated Clubs, you will reach a page that has a menu down the left-hand

side, which expands as you put your mouse pointer over it. This is a rich resource, based on the old FABC handbook but thoroughly updated, with information about e.g. Teaching, Directing, Marketing and Masterpoints. There are numerous links to additional information and other relevant pages on the NSWBA site.

Possibly one of the most valuable sub-menus is Tournaments>Running a Congress (also accessible directly via Clubs>Congress Information). This covers all the nuts and bolts of making your own congress happen, from a basic how-to guide all the way through to regulations and ethics.

And if you really wanted to know who’s where in the bridge world of NSW, check out the Find a Club>Maps page. You can find all the NSW clubs on a Google Map, or search more selectively by region, or click on a club name to work out just where they are. Then clicking on the location pin brings up all the contact and website information you could wish for – magic!

After all that, if you still can’t find what you’re looking for, try the Site Map or type some key words into the Google Custom search at the top right of the screen.

NSWBA warmly acknowledges the enormous amount of work undertaken behind the scenes by our webmaster, Pauline Gumby. 

Tournament Information

Information about the GNOT has recently been sent to your club.



Be part of National Events

Information about the GNOT has recently been sent (email and snail mail) to your club. If your club didn't receive it, check with the NSWBA Office to see if your contact details are up to date. While the ABF has announced a reduction in size of the field for the National GNOT Final from 64 to 60 teams, the NSW allocation of 22 teams is not affected. You can find all relevant information at <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2017/gnot/>. Follow either the Metropolitan or Country Regions link, as appropriate.

This year, Bill Powell will be looking after masterpointing for GNOT heats held in Country regions - all results/format/masterpoint files should be sent to Bill at gnotmp@nswba.com.au. Michael Wilkinson gnot@nswba.com.au will continue to handle all aspects of the GNOT in the Sydney Metropolitan region.

The Finals of the State Mixed Pairs Championship will be held at the NSWBA on 27 – 28 May. All clubs are encouraged to run qualifying sessions for these Finals: there is no longer any requirement to send club representatives to the Finals in Sydney in order to award red masterpoints with a higher weighting factor (3.75). Also note that at the club qualifying sessions, everyone can play, including non-mixed pairs – although of course they can't qualify to the Final. Further details at <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=smp>. The regulations for the event have recently been updated to explain how to deal with non-mixed pairs in club qualifying sessions.

The State Wide Pairs is a one-session matchpoint pairs event that runs in your club during the first week of August (July 31 – Aug 6, 2017). Red

masterpoints at level B4s are awarded. Dealing files and hands records are provided and there's a booklet providing a brief commentary on each deal. The event is scored across all participating clubs to determine the overall winners. There are many prizes (cash, Bridge Shop gift vouchers, certificates) and special prizes for players in Under-25, Under-50 and Under-100 masterpoint categories. See <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=swp> for further details. If your club wants to participate, you need to register by submitting the Online Entry form at <http://www.nswba.com.au/forms/statewidepairs.asp> 





Youth Bridge

Johnno Newman, the ever-modest but very effective Youth Co-ordinator for NSWBA, sent in the following about the gathering of the young ‘uns at Batemans Bay:

“This year, 20 of our youth troupe descended on Batemans Bay to play the pairs and teams, in what has become a tradition. Newer players get a chance to partner different friendly experts, and fresh faces are welcomed into the fold. Numbers were slightly down on last year due to late cancellations and one organiser rather than three, but the players’ feedback suggests it was a more successful outing (because feedback was taken into account).

NSWBA, BFACT and FOYB generously subsidised the event, which many ‘broke’ university students appreciated. Not only does the event improve the standard of youth bridge and provide a relaxed foray into competitive bridge for new players, this year I also used it as an opportunity to mentor Ailsa Peacock and the McMahon brothers, who will represent Australia in Korea in May.”

If your club would like to get involved with promoting youth bridge, please send an email to youth@nswba.com.au. 



For even younger bridge players and potential bridge players, in early January Sydney Bridge Centre offered a 3-day Junior Bridge course for children from 6+ years. Will Jenner-O’Shea was the teacher, assisted by Johnno Newman, and the event was a great success. Parents or grandparents were also catered for, as they were able to play in a duplicate side game – some long-lost players were seen on the day. NSWBA successfully obtained sponsorship from StudioCanal for this event, with tickets to the musical fantasy film “Ballerina” as gifts. 





Directing

A recent significant development at national level has been the appointment of John McIlrath as the National Director Development Officer for the ABF. Clubs in NSW are fortunate to be able to call upon his expertise, to provide training for their directors.

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John has recently held 3 workshops for directors, at Manly Leagues Club (focusing on CompScore2 Training), Castle Hill and Bathurst. These have been well attended and there has been very positive feedback about the benefits for club directors.

NSWBA subsidises travel and accommodation for workshop attendees (\$60 per person for attendees travelling > 100km). You can apply using the form available on the website via Clubs>Affiliated Clubs>Financial>Grants and Assistance.

John McIlrath is also seeking feedback from players about the characteristics and attributes of a “good” director vs a “poor” director. He ran a survey at the Gold Coast Congress and you might want to ask your members to fill in the survey anonymously, for you to send the forms in to John (or they could email him at nddo@abf.com.au). The survey form is the last page of the 19 Feb GCC Bulletin – it’s available here: http://www.qldbridge.com/gcc/2017/bulletin_02.pdf 

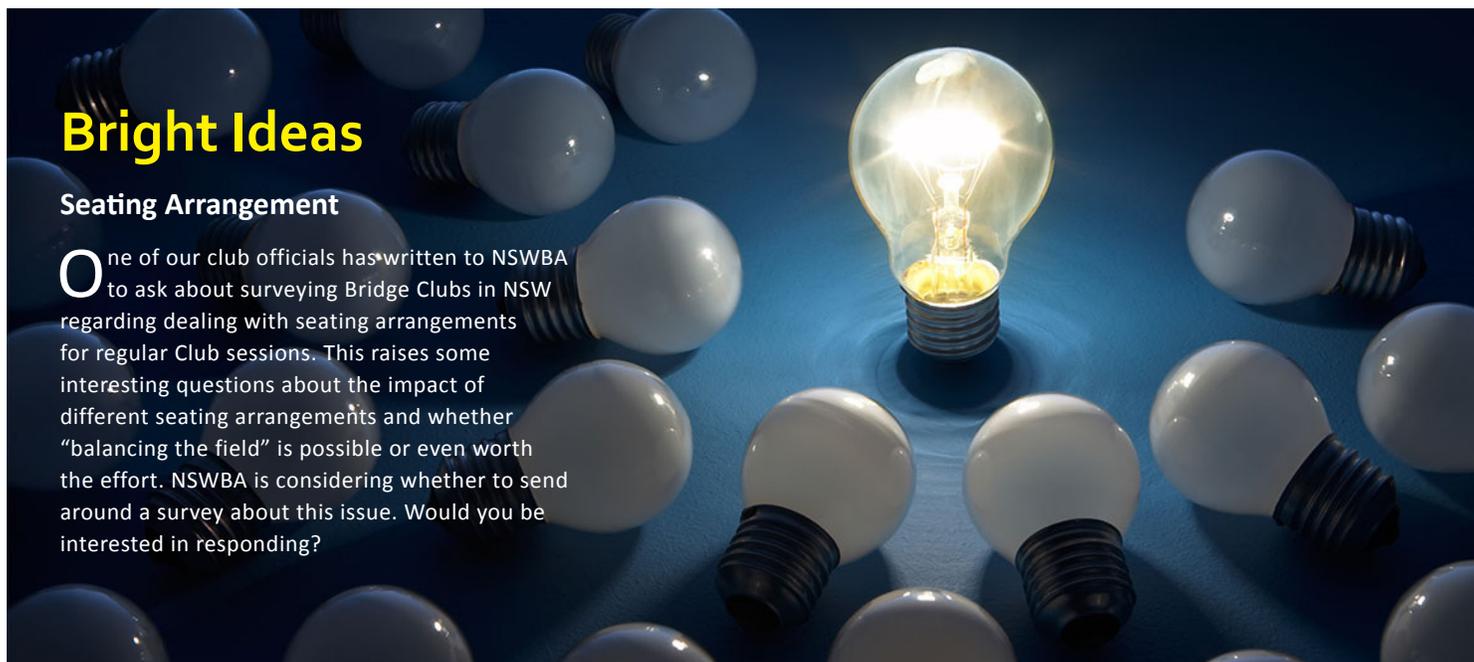


Marketing

Sandra Mulcahy, the ABF National Marketing Officer, recently ran a very successful marketing workshop at Nambucca Valley Bridge Club. At the invitation of Kaye Hart, the South and West Country zonal NSWBA representative, workshops are being organised for Wellington and Griffith in April/May.

Tentative plans have also been made for another marketing workshop to cater for clubs in inner western Sydney. NSWBA would like to hear from any clubs that would like to be involved – please contact us at office@nswba.com.au

NSWBA strongly supports these marketing and promotional activities and will gladly assist clubs elsewhere in the state to organise a similar event. 



Bright Ideas

Seating Arrangement

One of our club officials has written to NSWBA to ask about surveying Bridge Clubs in NSW regarding dealing with seating arrangements for regular Club sessions. This raises some interesting questions about the impact of different seating arrangements and whether “balancing the field” is possible or even worth the effort. NSWBA is considering whether to send around a survey about this issue. Would you be interested in responding?

Travel Tips

Tips and advice provided by the ABF insurance partner, Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers.



Travelling Soon?

We quizzed the ABF insurance Partner, Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers, on the most important things to consider before travelling

1. Check your pre-existing medical conditions are covered.

There is a huge number of travel insurance policies on offer however many will exclude some or all pre-existing medical conditions. Check the policy carefully before making your purchase

2. What limits apply? In particular Medical Expenses

If you are travelling overseas, Medical Expenses cover is essential. However many policies on the market limit the cover. If you are travelling to countries with high medical costs, such as the USA or Canada, Unlimited Medical Expenses cover is essential

3. Save money when Hiring a Car

Some Travel Insurance policies will include Hire Car Excess cover. This covers the Rental Vehicle excess if you have an accident and damage the car, or it is stolen. The insurer will reimburse the excess up to the stated limit. Check your policy and save \$ next time you hire a car

4. Monkey Madness!

During a trip to Malaysia, a client of ours fell victim to a Monkey when the animal took a liking to their expensive camera. Luckily for them the policy covered valuables up to \$5,000.

Many policies have limits of just \$1,000 or lower – be sure to check all your items fall within the limits of cover, and if they don't – speak to your broker.

5. Golf, Cruises, Safari, Skiing, Bungee Jumping, Shark Cage Diving!!

What do all the above have in common? They are some of the diverse activities we are asked to cover. Make sure your policy covers the activities you planning to enjoy on your next holiday. If you are unsure that you're covered – call us.

The point here is that while you may be venturing into the unknown on holidays, please don't do the same with your insurance.

For advice on your travel insurance speak with Steve Weil or Joshua DeJun at Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers on 07 3252 5254 or email steveweil@tbib.com.au or joshuadejun@tbib.com.au. 🇳🇿



**Tony Bemrose
Insurance Brokers**